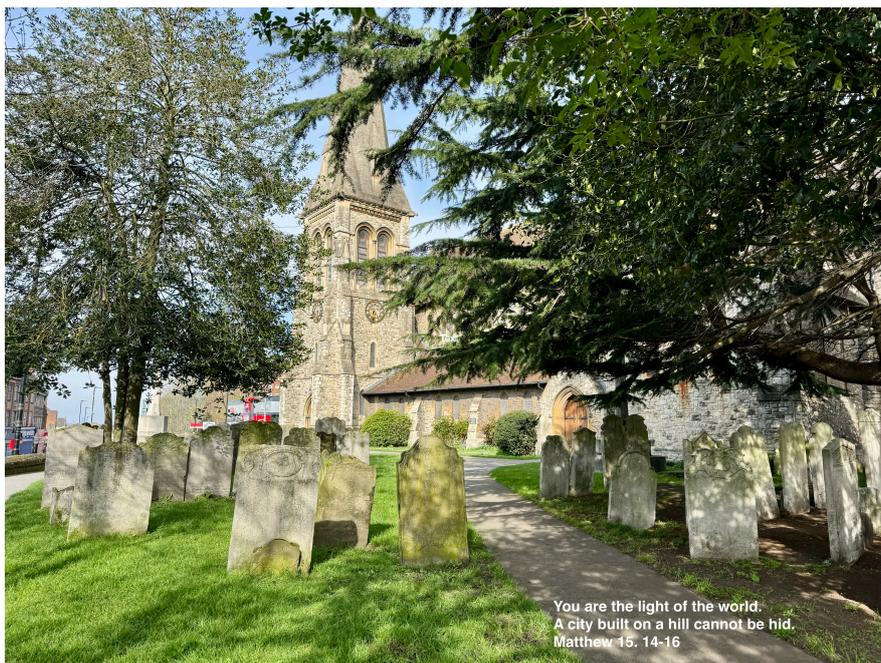


**Eltham Parish Church of
St John the Baptist**

ANNUAL REPORTS

**PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING HELD ON 5th MAY 2024**



Vicar:

Revd Caroline Risdon

Bank:

Barclays Bank UK plc

Independent Financial Examiner:

Beracah Administration Ltd
Incorporated Financial Accounts
37 St Johns Road
Sidcup
Kent DA14 4HD

Background

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent or (during an interregnum) the churchwardens, in promoting to the Ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the responsibility for the maintenance of the church building and the hall attached to the north side of the church.

PCC Membership

Membership of the PCC includes Churchwardens, who ex-officio, representatives on the Deanery Synod and others elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). In accordance with Church Representation Rules and in addition to the ex-officio members it consists of members elected for a three year term with a third retiring each year. Elected members may serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

During 2023 the following served as members of the PCC:

Vicar	Revd Caroline Risdon
Curate	Revd Caroline Wyman
Hon. Clergy	Fr William David
Churchwarden	Alberta Rosenior
Treasurer	Patricia Gooding
Secretary	Nola Delury (until June 2023) Robert Lawrie (co-opted from July 2023)
Deanery Synod	Alberta Rosenior, Michaela Radulescu
Elected Members	Jill Bayliss Michael Cheesman Michelle Gefferie Patricia Gooding Jean Harker (Electoral Roll Officer) Stuart Hodgson Josephine Macaulay Colin MacKenzie Dianne Slack Dorian Woodward

The PCC met six times in 2023 with a good average attendance. Minutes are filed in the church office and available to see on request. Committees met between PCC meetings, reports being made available for PCC deliberations and approval.

Committees

The PCC is able to appoint sub-committees which meet between full meetings of the Church Council. At present, no sub-committees are appointed.

The PCC must appoint a Standing Committee which includes the Parish Priest and churchwarden(s) and at least two other PCC members.

Standing Committee

Revd Caroline Risdon	Chair
Alberta Rosenior	Churchwarden
Dorian Woodward	Fabric
Patricia Gooding	Treasurer

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. A short meeting will be held after the APCM to elect nominated PCC and Standing Committee members for the year ahead.

Safeguarding Officer(s)

Alberta Rosenior

Church Website Maintenance

Revd Caroline Wyman (Curate)

The Incumbent and churchwarden(s) are ex-officio members of all committees.

Church Attendance

There were 117 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll at the time of the 2024 APCM, 37 who were residents of the Parish together with 80 who were non-residents.

The average weekly attendance, counted in October, was 76 adults and 21 children.

Christmas Eve: The Christingle Service was attended by 63 adults and 48 children.

Christmas Day (two services): were attended by 98 adults and 14 children.

Easter Day Service: was attended by 122 adults and 25 children.

**Eltham parish church
St John the Baptist**

Sunday 5th May 2024

2023 Annual Vestry Meeting

AGENDA

1. The Minutes of the last meeting on 21st May 2023 (see below)
2. Election of Churchwardens

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting Sunday 21st May 2023

Chair: Revd Caroline Risdon

Present: 24 Parishioners

Minutes of the meeting held 22nd May 2022

Proposed by Patricia Gooding and seconded by Jill Bayliss that the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record.

All present agreed

Election of Churchwarden

The waiver of the six year continuous service disqualification of the Churchwarden was applied.

Nomination for Churchwarden was received for Alberta Rosenior, proposed by Jill Bayliss and seconded by Gill Hayes.

All present agreed

Signed.....

Dated.....

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024

AGENDA

1. Announcement of the election of churchwardens
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 21 May 2023
3. Matters arising
4. Elections
 - a) Parochial Church Council: Nominations received from Jill Bayliss and Robert Lawrie
 - b) Deanery Synod Members re-election will be in 2026

5. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner

The PCC approved the retention of our current Independent Financial Examiner, Neal Rogers, Beracah Administration, at its 17 March 2024 meeting.

6. Reports for the 2024 APCM
 - a) The Vicar's Report
 - b) Deanery & Diocesan Synod Report
 - c) Safeguarding Report
 - d) Churchwardens' Report
 - e) Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements

These reports follow Agenda Item 7 below

7. Matters of General Parochial Interest 2023 APCM

(See the page following the Minutes of the APCM 21 May 2023)

2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday 21 May 2023

Present: 24 members of the congregation

1. Election of Churchwarden

Revd Caroline Risdon declared the result of the election of Churchwarden that Alberta Rosenior has been elected as Churchwarden for next year.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 May 2022

Proposed by Robyn Price and seconded by Stuart Hodgson

All present agreed.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Elections

a) Parochial Church Council

Five (5) nominations were received

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>	
Stuart Hodgson	Dianne Slack	Adam Kennedy	All present agreed
Dianne Slack	Miriam Hodgson	Stuart Hodgson	All present agreed
Michelle Rai	Jenny Crease	Dorian Woodward	All present agreed
Michael Cheesman	Jill Bayliss	Jean Harker	All present agreed
Patricia Gooding	Jenny Crease	Nola Delury	All present agreed

b) Deanery Synod

Michaela Radulescu	Nola Delury	Jean Harker	All present agreed
Alberta Rosenior	Dorian Woodward	Nola Delury	All present agreed

5. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was proposed by Patricia Gooding and seconded by Alberta Rosenior that Neal Rogers of Beracah Administration Ltd our current independent examiner be retained for the coming year. All present agreed

6. Church 2023 Annual Report

The following annual reports were included in the presentation document; the vicar's report; deanery synod report; churchwardens' report; safeguarding report; treasurer's report and the Financial report and statements for the year ending 31st December 2022. Copy of the 2023 report is held on file and is available to view on request.

The motion to accept the accounts and financial statements was proposed by Dorian Woodward and seconded by Sheila Squires. All present agreed.

7. Matters of General Parochial Interest 2023 APCM

Questions:

- a) Request to clarify numbers of regular givers from the congregation
25 by standing order; 11 through the Parish Giving scheme.
- b) Update on attendance
*Average attendance through the year from 48 communicants to 57.
Average weekly attendance 73 adults and 18 children.*
- c) Security
*Security report has been completed. Recommended CCTV and improved lighting.
Home Office grants are available, but final plans are required to progress this. A
craftsperson has been appointed to fix the locking systems on both the Main door
and the South Porch door at a cost of approximately £600 plus VAT.*
- d) Wash hand basin
Reported that the tap is constantly dripping and requires a plumber to fix.
- e) Financial position
*Further work is needed on the roof. Estimates awaited. The newly appointed
Architect has submitted the updated Quinquennial report. He is monitoring all
estimates of works needed for church repairs etc.*
- f) Decorating the inside of the church
It is planned to produce a 3-5 year building plan for consideration.

Overhaul of the organ

Additional toilet facilities

Cleaning of the interior walls

Clarify the question about the different title of Junior Church.

6. 2023 Annual Reports for the 2024 APCM

The Vicar's Report

Vicar's report – Revd Caroline Risdon

St John the Baptist Church, Eltham

APCM to be held on 5th May 2024

Each year we hold our APCM as I approach an anniversary of being the Vicar of the Church- this will be my third! It is a useful opportunity to review all that has taken place and anticipate what the next year may bring.

Part One- Review of the past year:

It is hard to reflect on the past year without thinking automatically about the boiler being condemned, leading to the coldest winter inside the Church. In trying to warm the building with electric heaters, we discovered that the wiring is safe but not fit for purpose. Which is one reason why our Church clock is not working! So, we are at the early stages of a building project. We have already had the Heating and Organ Advisers from the Diocese visit and we now need to commission feasibility studies on the works we would like to undertake.

The building project has been placed within the context of my Vision for our Church community- as the Church built on a Hill. Together, we explored how we can be rooted in God, open, welcoming, environmentally sustainable, and financially sustainable. Thank you for all your interest and feedback about my Vision and about what you would like for the Church over the next 5-8 years. There is a lot of work to do but it is an exciting opportunity for the life of our Church.

Major building work aside, we continue to grow as a Church family. Our pattern of worship is now established and includes a range of options from all age to sung choral. It has been a joy to me that our numbers keep growing, especially the numbers of people taking communion which often reaches 65. Importantly, people are also taking steps to deepen their faith. Early admission to Communion will once again be offered at Pentecost; and we continue to learn together through our Lent groups and Advent reflections. Several adults and children have been baptised and we had five Confirmation candidates in October 2023.

Curate Caroline began two groups: Little Lights for under fours; and Out of the Wilderness for parents. We also started using the Diddy Disciples materials in Children's Church and find it offers both our children and their parents a wonderful way of getting to know God.

2023 was also the year in which we buried three of our longstanding and beloved congregation members; Joan, Mary and Patricia. Each of their funeral services was a meaningful tribute to a woman who had a significant impact on our lives, both in Church and outside it. I have a strong sense of standing on the shoulders of the generation that went before- these women prayed and offered service in our Church for decades; in spaces we now occupy. While they have each left a legacy to us, I would like to mention the generous financial gift Patricia left to us, which will prove extremely useful in the years ahead.

Of course, the work of leading a Church never rests with one person only. I am thankful for all that Father William and Curate Caroline offer to me as the Vicar and to our Church life. Please join me in thanking Caroline for her ministry among us and in praying for her as she seeks her first Incumbency. We look forward to welcoming our new Curate, Joanne McCrone, in June. I'd also like to thank Alberta for her tireless work as our Church Warden and to Dorian for stepping in to help in her absence. Theo continues to build up our choir and ensure our music is beautiful. Although it is impossible to name all who help, I'd like to thank Jean, who stands down not only as a member of the PCC but as our long-serving electoral role officer. I appreciate all the small and large acts of kindness, help and support offered over the years. Thank you.

Ongoing issues:

Just to tie up a few loose ends:

- Our application for the Places of Worship Security Funding has been received and is being processed. We had anticipated an outcome to our application in November 2023 but this has been delayed. The application is for further security measures to be put in place following the physical attacks that happened in early 2023.
- We now have wifi in the Church and Hall!
- Our new website is nearly ready for launching so watch this space!
- We have two new seasonal booklets (Advent and Easter) to use as we try to reduce our paper usage.

Part Two- the year ahead:

The year ahead is likely to be filled with the building project!

- We need to commission feasibility studies on all aspects of the potential work. These reports give us the information we need to choose between options (like whether to go for solar panels or air to air pumps); as well as providing a full break down of costs.
- We will begin the significant task of fundraising for the project. This will include writing bids for various charities and trusts; gift days within the Church community; activities with the school and other community groups.
- It will be sad for us to wish Caroline goodbye when the time comes. Until then, we have the joy of welcoming Joanne as our new Curate and having two Curates at one time!
- The Hall remains an asset we are not yet using for hire and income generation. A small group have been trying to bring this up to a 'hire-able' standard and the new website will provide some infrastructure for hiring. We need someone to administrate enquiries, bookings, access etc.
- Underpinning all the busy-ness and work, is prayer and our regular acts of worship. These remain the place where we build our relationships with God and one another.

A building project can often cause us to feel unsettled because we don't know when and how things will turn out. But we have a sure foundation in God and it is to God's greater glory that we undertake this work. St Johns is a thriving, happy place to be and I look forward to seeing all that will happen over the next year.

God bless,
Caroline
19th April 2024

Deanery & Diocesan Synod Reports

2023 Deanery Synod/Forum Report for the 2024 APCM

The Churches of Eltham and Mottingham Deanery come together about 4 times a year for the Deanery Synod, also called the Deanery Forum. These meetings are open to all and you are warmly invited to join us. We try to focus on areas where we can share ministry or learn together.

The first Deanery Forum of 2023 took place on 16th March, at St Edwards Church, Mottingham. Our focus was on building a Mission Action Plan (MAP) for the Deanery and to hear about and pray for each Church as they build up their MAPs. Through discussion over the evening, it was agreed that the Deanery priorities would remain: children and young people; the environment; and the anti-racism charter. Those topics became the focus of our next meetings.

On 5th July, at St Barnabas Church, a presentation was given by Imani and Jo from the Diocesan team for children and young people. We discussed the joys and challenges of reaching out to younger people and encouraging them; as well as the resources available from the Diocesan team.

On 26th September, we met on Zoom, to discuss Eco Church and becoming more environmentally sustainable and responsible. Each Church was encouraged to sign up to the A Rocha Eco Church scheme. There are a series of questions to answer which show how environmentally-minded your Church is. The Diocese would like as many Parishes as possible to achieve the bronze award, or higher.

Our final meeting for the year took place on 21st November, here at St Johns, with a presentation about Unconscious Bias. The Diocesan team came to present this and it was very well-received, helping us to have discussions about bias in an open and useful way. We were advised that guidance is coming out relatively soon to help parishes engage with the anti-racism charter and find ways of implementing it.

Overall, the Deanery Forums are a great way to meet people from other Churches and work and pray together. We share our learning to try build up the ministry in our local area. At the end of 2023, we found out that Revd Dr Catherine Shelley would be moving to a new Parish in a different Diocese. We thank her for all her hard work as our Area Dean and we pray for the ministry of Revd Annette Rose, our new Area Dean.

Revd Caroline Risdon
Vicar
19 April 2024

Diocesan Synod Report March 2024

The Meeting started with Bishop Christopher's usual presidential address which was mainly on the various challenges in our churches and in turn the world. He reiterated that despite the challenges facing us our resolve lies in our strength as we strive to be Christ-centred and Outward focused, which happened to be his theme for this year's meeting.

There was an update on the environment and Net Zero Carbon by Jack Edwards, the Diocesan Environmental Officer who spoke about the progress towards achieving Eco-Diocese Silver award in 2027. He announced that the Diocese has since received 2 funding Grants from the National Environmental Team in the last year. This was initially for a temporary role to oversee the development of a Diocesan Net Zero Action plan which has now been completed and secondly for a permanent NZC programme Manager. He further urged members of the various deaneries and parishes to encourage the completion of the Energy Footprint Tool as part of the data for parishes and deaneries by July. This he reiterated will contribute to the planning and understanding of the Diocese's Carbon footprint and to Net Zero Carbon. There is support and training available for this initiative.

With regards to financial update, Mark Rhodes Director of Finance raised the awareness that the Diocese is currently operationally robust financially and thanked parishes for their continued generosity and support via the Parish Support Fund, of which the collection rate was 99%. He was further able to inform the meeting that a full divestment of Fossil fuels as endorsed by the Diocesan Synod would come into operation by the third and fourth quarter of the year.

There was a plea of encouragement concerning the forthcoming diocesan synod elections from both chairs of the Laity and Clergy. Their particular focus is to raise the representation of the United Kingdom Minority Ethnic Majority Heritage (UK/ME/ GMH) as the Implementation of the Anti- racism Charter progresses.

Nicola Thomas the Diocesan secretary briefly unveiled the roadmap and communications of the Southwark Vision for 2024 – 2035 as endorsed by the November Synod 2023 reinforcing and endorsing the theme and central tenet of Christ-Centredness and outward focussing diocese. she further advised that additional resources are currently available online.

The Diocesan investment Programme.

Members of the group presented an overview of the planned funding application to the Strategic Mission and monitoring investment Board in April. This is a 9- year funding partnership programme linked with Southwark Vision. Funding potential ranges from resourcing churches, revitalisation projects, children and young people, innovation, funding estates, lay and bilingual ministries. The total funding cost of the programme is in the region of 40 million pounds of which 30 million from the SMMIB and 10 million from the diocese; 88% of the whole DIP budget is for frontline parishes, whilst the rest will be to enable programme delivery.

Synod members discussed in groups these initiatives and how practicable they will be in individual parish and deanery contexts.

Bishop Christopher moved that

1. The synod supports and endorses the scope and scale of the Diocesan Investment Programme, for which the diocese will seek funding by application and submission to the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board in April 2024
2. There should be annual reports to the Diocesan Synod on the implementation of the Southwark Vision which will specifically include initiatives in the Diocesan Investment programme.

Voting resulted in overwhelming support for the two initiatives with only one abstention.

Eucharist and Commissioning.

There was Holy Communion, presided over by the Bishop Christopher, after which, he commissioned and licensed the Revd Charles Lamont (Dean of Revitalisation) and Revd. Guy Hewitt (the National Church's Racial Justice Director) respectively.

Lastly the meeting settled on the reflection of the Anti-Racism Charter by the Rev. Guy Hewitt the National Church's Racial Director who spoke about the international Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21st March. He emphasised and encouraged members to the focus on the importance of engaging in debates and accurate reporting of data to track progress on inclusion.

He informed the meeting that the Anti-Racism Charter is fully embedded within the Diocesan Vision and Governance structures inclusive of the Board of Education. Rev. Charlie Lamont emphasised the intentionality of focus in enabling Parishes and Deaneries to embed the charter in their respective areas. This will include pilots and funding over the summer period from the National Church geared solely on racial justice, provision of training and resources for parishes with an interactive racial justice programme for children and young people.

Rosemarie Mallet Bishop of Croydon in response to the perceived criticism of taking the Gospel to Africa pointed out that there will be no apologies for taking the gospel per se to Africa rather we should be apologising for the gospel that was taken; which was a stripped back version of a non- Jesus centred gospel 'were people of Africa / people of colour were deemed to be subhuman and were deemed to be able to be stripped of their heritage, stripped of their names, their languages to be shipped across the Atlantic. To be used as beasts of burden, to have their children taken away from them at birth so that they could be used as hands of labour, for the men to be used as tools and the women to be used for their bodies to bear new members of the labour force on Plantations owned by the church.' These people were branded as slaves of the plantation belonging to Plantation USPG in Barbados for example.

Apologies should be made for the fact that knowingly the gospel taken was not of Jesus Christ, which meant that the understanding received was that of inequality of one group of people being superior to the other and those who were not superior will not be welcomed, neither should they see themselves as made in God's image.

Jackie Pontin, deputy Diocesan Secretary's focus was on provision of resources from the National Church in the form of Minor Repairs and improvement Grants along with Church Buildings Support Officer who will help Parishes to apply for various grants and schemes. Grants are already available via the website to be applied for of which two have already been awarded.

Adrian Greenwood the chair of the House of Laity and a member of the General Synod gave an update on the February Synods' group Sessions. There were various discussion

and debates on the various topics like Clergy Pensions, Safe-guarding, Land and Nature etc.

Alberta Rosenior

Churchwarden

Safeguarding Report

St. John's - 2023 Safeguarding Report for 2024 APCM

St John the Baptist Eltham does take the safeguarding policy very seriously. This is based on the Church of England's safeguarding policy and practice; which underpins the provision of a safe and secure environment for all and particularly for the voiceless and vulnerable adults and children. It is a standing item on the PCC's agenda.

Sunday school leaders encourage children in their care to report any inappropriate behaviour.

All confidential safeguarding documents continue to be housed securely.

All members of the PCC bar those who have recently joined (1) have completed the basic safeguarding course. Rev Caroline Risdon and the current safeguarding officer, Alberta Rosenior as well as the curate and Rev. William David have done further courses in their respective leadership areas, meaning more than the basic course as required by the diocese.

The previous Area Dean, Rev. Catherine Shelley offered a Foundation Level safeguarding training coupled with a food Hygiene Course on a face to face basis during the month of July for those who wished to update their training and found it difficult to access previous training opportunities.

Safeguarding policy is renewed yearly and in response to legislative changes within the year.

Fire and safety regulations have been sought so that Parishioners are updated as to the evacuation of the building in the event of a fire. Subsequent practice evacuations are planned in the year.

Following a series (2) of break-ins as reported last year, there have been a series of inspections by the police and Local authorities resulting in a number of proposed preventative measures envisaged for keeping the building safe; such as extensive illumination and possible some sort of perimeter fencing of the church area, installation of a gate and a more functional CCTV camera, which hopefully will encourage seclusion and prevent entry into the grave yard and church area from those who leave their drug paraphernalia around the vicinity of the church.

Quite apart for the above, more robust safety locks have been either installed, and others reinforced to prevent forced entry.

Safeguarding Launch is scheduled for after the APCM where the hope is to have an additional safeguarding officer in place to help current one.

All activities within the church's remit are risk assessed and in the employment of new recruits safer recruitment measures are rigorously used.

Alberta Rosenior

Safeguarding Officer

Churchwardens' Report

Terrier and Inventory

With regard to acquisitions we were pleased to receive the gift of two new sofas from our school in Roper Street. In addition, we have leased a new and more sophisticated printer which we now house in one of the upstairs meeting rooms. This has proved to be a great boon. A good deal of clearing up has been undertaken in the meeting rooms and the storage area under the stairs but no major items have been thrown out. Various certificates relating to routine inspections etc are available for inspection.

Heating and Wiring

Most members of the congregation will be aware that during 2023 our heating system stopped working. This was due to the boiler failing its annual safety check. Attempts to heat the Church using portable electrical heaters overloaded the hard wiring system and highlighted the deficiencies of this system. The result is that we are now facing the necessity of undertaking a major project involving substantial expense in order to rectify these problems. The key to meeting this challenge successfully will be around securing the necessary technical and professional advice and grant funding. We are pleased to report that this process has already started. We are fortunate that this winter has been one of the mildest on record.

Safeguarding

We continue to require all relevant members of the congregation to attend or complete online safeguarding courses. The resultant certification must be renewed every three years. Documents concerning child protection are safely stored in the Parish Office.

Log Book

The usual routine maintenance has been undertaken. This has included some fairly major works to the roof and guttering and minor works to the lightning protection system.

Following a couple of attempted break ins at the Church various security works have been carried out to the main entrance doors and also to the south porch entrance. The possibility of doing further security works remains under active consideration. As a result of one of the break ins one of the leaded glass windows at the main entrance was replaced.

Organ

Fortunately, there have been no major problems or maintenance issues with regard to the organ this year. However, the expert advice we received some time ago indicates that a major overhaul is necessary soon. This will necessitate a substantial fund-raising effort on our behalf but given the unique and historic importance of this instrument we feel this is a challenge that we must meet.

Faculties

It has not been necessary to apply for any faculties this year

Church Yard

Workers under the supervision of the Community Payback Scheme have continued clearance and maintenance work. This is particularly useful as we receive a surprisingly large number of enquiries from people seeking to locate the graves of relatives. Many also wish to visit the graves once located which did use to prove problematic in the past given the overgrown nature of the Church yard. It is no exaggeration to say that it has been many years since the Church yard has been so well maintained.

There is an issue with the Lychgate roof in that slipping tiles are presenting a genuine safety hazard. The advice from the Diocese is very clear that the responsibility for repair lies with the Royal Borough of Greenwich and we have therefore asked them to undertake the necessary work as soon as possible.

Lettings

Unfortunately, the current heating and electrical problems have had an entirely predictable effect on our ambitions to benefit from more lettings. However, it remains our intention to generate wider interest as this provides much needed income as well as the satisfaction that comes from opening our facilities for community use.

Volunteering

We are sure that most members of the congregation are fully aware that our Church would not function properly without a huge amount of help being given on a voluntary basis. With this in mind we would encourage more members of the congregation to give their time and talents. There is a wide variety of ways in which you can become involved. Many of these do not require any specific skills or experience. If you feel you could answer this call please don't hesitate to approach your Churchwarden or the Vicar.

Conclusion

Looking forward the Vicar has already started consultation on a comprehensive plan to tackle the problems relating to the physical fabric of the Church. The overall aim is to solve the heating, electrical supply issues etc while at the same time ensuring that any works enhance our letting potential and re-enforce St. John's role as a community hub.

We would like to record our appreciation for all the work undertaken by the PCC and by other members of the congregation during 2023. In particular we thank both our Vicar and our Curate for all their efforts on our behalf in what has proved to be an unusually challenging year. We would also like to thank the congregation for their patience and forbearance in connection with our heating problems.

We can all look forward to a brighter and warmer 2024.

Alberta Rosenoir

Churchwarden

March 2024

Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements

2023 Treasurers Report for 2024 APCM

The year did not start off well, but by the end of 2023 the church financial balance had recovered to £25,000 despite having to spend £32,227.51 on maintenance and repairs, including to the leaking church roof.

Unfortunately, at the end of 2023 church the boiler was condemned and then just as Advent was starting the electrical system was found to be deficient and will therefore need replacing.

Vicar Caroline has a wonderful vision for the future of St. Johns and these problems will be encompassed in this so it is anticipated the necessary costs will be covered by grants and fund raising etc. for the entire vision project.

The fully audited accounts and statements for the year ending 2023 were approved by the PCC at its 17 March 2024 meeting and immediately follow this report.

Could I please thank you all for your continued financial support and help for St. Johns.

Patricia Gooding

Treasurer

March 2024

ELTHAM PARISH CHURCH
Saint John the Baptist

ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR TO
31 DECEMBER 2023

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ELTHAM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

Receipts and Payments Account

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts						
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>						
Planned Giving		30,723	-	-	30,723	32,304
Collections and other Giving	5a	10,431	-	-	10,431	10,078
Income tax recovered		9,356	-	-	9,356	7,691
		<u>50,510</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,510</u>	<u>50,073</u>
Other voluntary receipts	5b	-	3,532	-	3,532	4,909
Receipts from Church Activities	5c	2,146	-	-	2,146	3,323
Activities for generating funds	5d	70	-	-	70	137
Investment income	5e	1,128	-	23	1,151	1,132
Other income	5f	-	-	-	-	-
		<u>53,854</u>	<u>3,532</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>57,409</u>	<u>59,574</u>
Payments						
<i>Church activities</i>						
Diocesan parish share		12,000	-	-	12,000	10,200
Other payments	5g	60,332	2,812	-	63,144	39,437
		<u>72,332</u>	<u>2,812</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,144</u>	<u>49,637</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		<u>(18,478)</u>	<u>720</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>(17,735)</u>	<u>9,937</u>
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-	-
		<u>(18,478)</u>	<u>720</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>(17,735)</u>	<u>9,937</u>
Bank accounts 01.01.2023		41,741	1,694	496	43,931	33,994
Bank accounts 31.12.2023		<u>£23,263</u>	<u>£2,414</u>	<u>£519</u>	<u>£26,196</u>	<u>£43,931</u>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ELTHAM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<i>Investment Assets</i>						
46 CBF Church of England Investment Fund shares at market value	2	£-	£-	£1,040	£1,040	£950
<i>Cash Funds</i>						
St Johns Community Account		23,152	2,414	519	26,085	42,094
Churchyard Current Account		-	-	-	-	1,738
Cash in hand		111	-	-	111	99
		<u>£23,263</u>	<u>£2,414</u>	<u>£519</u>	<u>£26,196</u>	<u>£43,931</u>
<i>Represented by:</i>						
Unrestricted Funds		21,058	-	-	21,058	39,406
Designated Funds	3	2,205	-	-	2,205	2,335
Restricted Funds	4	-	2,414	-	2,414	1,694
Endowment Fund		-	-	519	519	496
		<u>£23,263</u>	<u>£2,414</u>	<u>£519</u>	<u>£26,196</u>	<u>£43,931</u>

Approved by the PCC on
Signed on their behalf by

.....
Chairperson

.....
Churchwarden

.....
Member

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ELTHAM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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.
2. The Endowment Fund must be retained as a capital fund, but the income arising is to be spent on the upkeep of the churchyard. It is invested in CBF Church of England Investment shares and is shown in the accounts at market value.

3. The movements in designated funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal c/fwd
Social Club Fund	484	-	-	-	484
Music Fund	1,310	-	-	-	1,310
Worship Fund	411	-	-	-	411
Joan's Celebration	130	-	130	-	-
	<u>2,335</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,205</u>

4. The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal c/fwd
Christian Aid	2	625	627	-	-
Childrens Society	-	73	73	-	-
Churchyard/Fabric	1,140	-	-	-	1,140
British Legion	-	296	136	-	160
Diddy Disciples	-	376	120	-	256
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	-	40	40	-	-
South London Church Fund	552	2,122	1,816	-	858
	<u>1,694</u>	<u>3,532</u>	<u>2,812</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,414</u>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ELTHAM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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5. Receipts and Payments Analysis

5a Collections and Other Giving

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Collections	7,592	-	-	7,592	5,229
Sundry Donations	2,839	-	-	2,839	4,849
	<u>10,431</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,431</u>	<u>10,078</u>

5b Other Voluntary Receipts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Christian Aid	-	625	-	625	615
Childrens Society	-	73	-	73	-
Diddy Disciples	-	376	-	376	-
Joan's Celebration	-	-	-	-	250
South London Church Fund	-	2,122	-	2,122	4,044
British Legion	-	296	-	296	-
Other	-	40	-	40	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,532</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,532</u>	<u>4,909</u>

5c Receipts from Church Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Sundry Income	15	-	-	15	1,425
Fees – Weddings, Funerals & Searches	885	-	-	885	580
Hall Lettings	1,246	-	-	1,246	1,318
	<u>2,146</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,146</u>	<u>3,323</u>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ELTHAM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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5d Activities for Generating Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Annual Bazaar	-	-	-	-	-
Small Sales	70	-	-	70	137
	<u>70</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>137</u>

5e Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Dividends	28	-	-	28	28
Churchyard – Endowment Interest	-	-	23	23	4
Beadles – Rental Income	1,100	-	-	1,100	1,100
	<u>1,128</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>1,151</u>	<u>1,132</u>

5f Other Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Insurance Claims	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ELTHAM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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5g Other Payments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Christian Aid	113	627	-	740	613
Childrens Society	-	73	-	73	-
British Legion	-	136	-	136	-
Joan's Celebration	130	-	-	130	120
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	250	40	-	290	-
South London Church Fund	-	1,816	-	1,816	3,608
Clergy Expenses	2,275	120	-	2,395	1,058
Light and Heat – Hall and Church	3,065	-	-	3,065	4,836
Water – Hall and Church	213	-	-	213	152
Telephone	279	-	-	279	60
Insurance	6,930	-	-	6,930	6,323
Repairs and Maintenance	33,889	-	-	33,889	15,381
Piano and Organ Maintenance	1,373	-	-	1,373	228
Sanctuary	521	-	-	521	814
Bell-ringers Fees	260	-	-	260	260
Professional Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Copyright Licence	417	-	-	417	385
Church Flowers	-	-	-	-	-
Organist Fees	8,360	-	-	8,360	4,625
Publications and Subscriptions	212	-	-	212	257
Church Management and Administration					
- Printing, Postage and Stationery	1,065	-	-	1,065	492
- Independent Examiners Fees	225	-	-	225	225
- Bank Charges	-	-	-	-	-
- Sundry Expenses	755	-	-	755	-
	<u>60,332</u>	<u>2,812</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,144</u>	<u>39,437</u>

6. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion, which relates to their function as PCC members. No other payments were made to PCC members.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ELTHAM**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year to 31 December 2023, which is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144 (1) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 of the Act and to be found in the *Church Guidance*, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with these records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulationshave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

NEAL M ROGERS FFA.
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
BERACAH ADMINISTRATION LIMITED
INCORPORATED FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANTS
37 ST JOHNS ROAD
SIDCUP
KENT DA14 4HD

23.02.2024