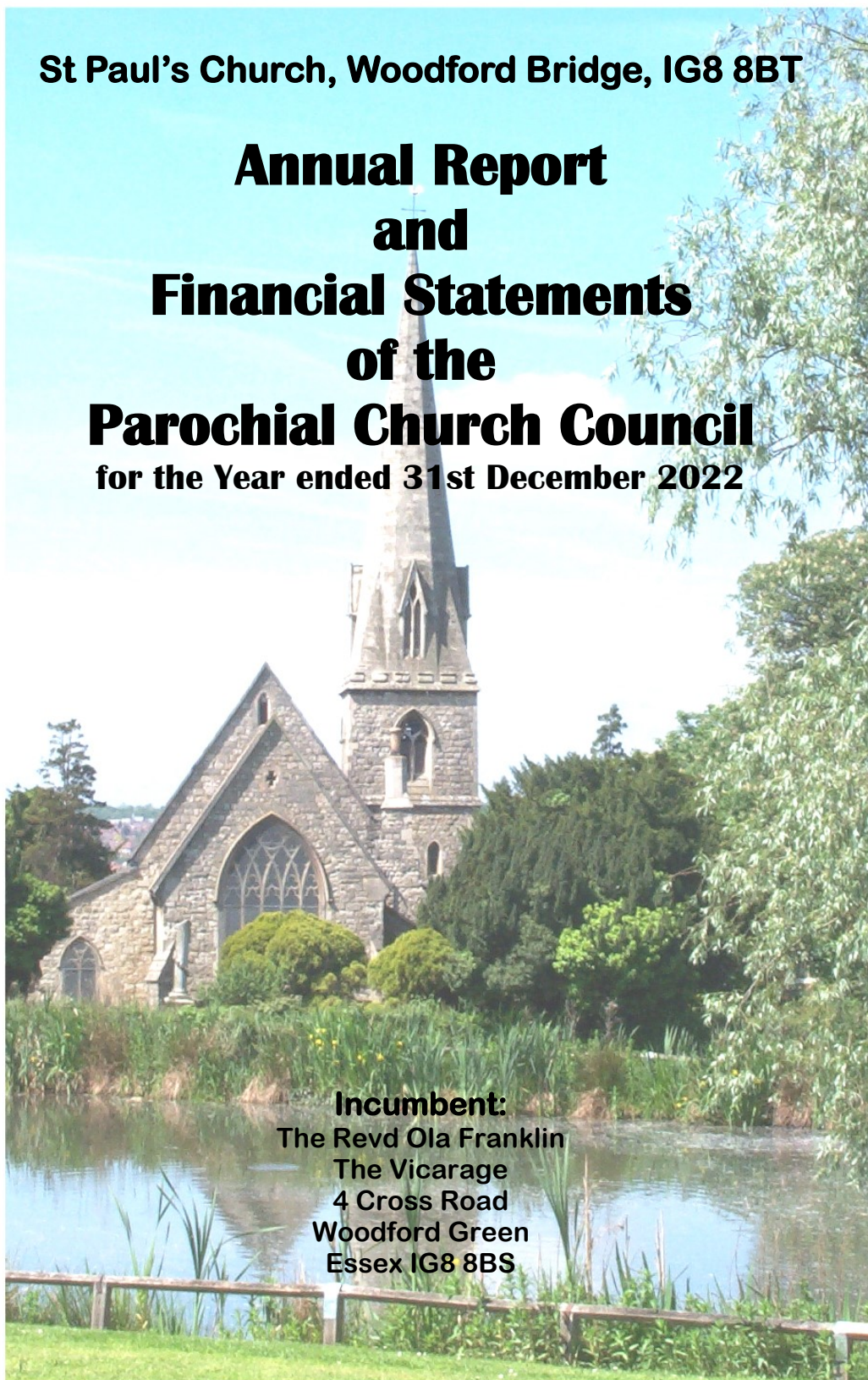


St Paul's Church, Woodford Bridge, IG8 8BT

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the Year ended 31st December 2022**



Incumbent:

The Revd Ola Franklin
The Vicarage
4 Cross Road
Woodford Green
Essex IG8 8BS

Bank:

Barclays Bank plc
Loughton and Woodford Branch
33 The Broadway
Woodford Green
Essex IG8 0HJ

**Charity reference
number 1128474**

Independent Examiner:

Mr Michael Green
41 Buckwoods Road
Braintree
Essex CM7 1D

[illegible]

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WOODFORD BRIDGE

Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023

Sunday 23rd April in Church after Parish Communion Service

AGENDA

1. Opening prayers

VESTRY MEETING

2. To elect two Churchwardens

3. Apologies for absence

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

4. Draft Minutes of APCM held on 24 April 2022 (attached)

To note

- 5 (a) Presentation of the Electoral Roll

(b) To appoint 3 PCC members for 3 years, resulting from:
the retirement after 1 years' service of Pam Varughese who was fulfilling a
1 year vacancy and two unfilled vacancies at the 2020 APCM

(c) To appoint 1 PCC member for 1 year,
resulting from the retirement after 2 years' service of Martin Lea leaving a one year period
unfilled.

(d) To appoint 2 Deanery Synod representatives

6. Finance:

(a) Treasurer's Report

(b) To receive the audited Accounts

(c) To agree that the PCC will decide who to appoint to audit the 2023 Accounts

7. To receive:

(a) Churchwarden's Report (attached)

(b) Deanery Synod Report (attached)

8. Any other business

9. Date of next APCM- TBC

10. Closing prayers

St Paul's Church, Woodford Bridge

Draft Minutes of APCM held on 24 April 2022

Present:

Cliffe Adams, Sheena Adams, Aimée Ayres, Nathaniel Ayres, Sophia and Oliver Ayres, Alan Bolding, Pauline Bolding, Yvonne Cartwright, Alan Clark, Sue Clark, Hazel Dawson, Anna Edwards, Christine Franklin, The Revd. Ola Franklin (Chair), Allan Graveson. Peter Hodges, Valerie Hodges, Vera Hunt, Jill Leonard, Mac Leonard, The Revd. Esther McCafferty, Peter McCafferty, Hermina Monk, The Revd. Ian Monks, Rosemary Monks, Sara Rivas, Len Stevens, Avril Tate, Clive Tate, Amanda Taylor, Val Trevellyan, Joanna Urbanek, James, Charmian and Tristan Winter, John Wooden (Minutes), Mary Wooden

Apologies – Pat Elgar, Paul Malam, Sue Malam, George Varughese, Pam Varughese

Vestry Meeting

1. Election of Two Churchwardens

Two nomination papers had been received for churchwarden. One for Paul Malam (proposed by Ian Monks and seconded by Mac Leonard) and one for Len Stevens (proposed by Nathaniel Ayres and seconded by Aimee Ayres). There being no other nominations, the Chair declared that the nominees were elected. Ola Franklin thanked Paul Malam and Len Stevens for all they do as churchwardens - much unseen.

APCM

2. Draft Minutes of previous APCM held on 25 April 2021

The draft minutes of the previous APCM held on 25 April 2021 were duly noted.

3.(a) Electoral Roll

There are currently 84 people on the electoral roll. 38 are resident in the Parish and 46 are non-resident. The Chair thanked Paul and Sue Malam for their work in maintaining the Electoral Roll.

(b) PCC - appointment of new members

Ola Franklin had received three nominations to fill three PCC appointments for three years so all were duly elected:

Aimée Ayres– proposed by Sue Malam and seconded by Len Stevens.

Nathaniel Ayres - proposed by Sue Malam and seconded by Len Stevens.

Sue Malam - proposed by Len Stevens and seconded by Aimée Ayres.

(c)

Ola Franklin said that Pam Varughese who had come to the end of a one year term, would remain on the PCC to fill one of the two outstanding vacancies for one year. The other vacancy was left unfulfilled. Ola Franklin thanked all members of the PCC for their service.

4. Finance

(a) Treasurer's Report

Len Stevens presented the accounts for 2021. He highlighted the apparent significant increase in St Paul's total money held at the bank, which had risen from £56,163 to £80,176. However, this represented monies which are owed to the Diocese after a decision was taken during COVID to reduce our Parish Share by 50%. The full amount will have to be made up. He also thanked the church for being so generous and for continuing to be so during COVID. This has meant that we had been able to maintain our normal level of support for Kenya. In response to a question, he said that the Lighthouse Church had only recently started to use the church again and had resumed Christian giving to St Paul's via the blue envelope scheme.

(b) To receive the audited Accounts

The audited accounts were received.

(c) To agree that the PCC will decide who to appoint to audit the 2022 Accounts

It was agreed that the PCC would decide who to appoint to audit the accounts.

Those present at the APCM gave a vote of thanks to Len Stevens for his stewardship of St Paul's finances during the last year.

5. Other Reports

To receive

(a) Churchwarden's Reports

The report of Paul Malam and Len Stevens had been circulated prior to the meeting and was taken as read.

(b) Deanery Synod Report

The report of Mac Leonard had been circulated prior to the meeting and was taken as read.

6. Any Other Business

Ola Franklin outlined the reasons for the delays in moving forward with the construction of the toilet in church, which has resulted in a new architect being approached to take on the project. If they do so, then we will proceed to re-tendering for the project.

Ola Franklin explained that due to ongoing financial struggles and impending retirements amongst the Playgroup staff, including its leader Delia Ware, the PCC has taken the very hard decision to close the Playgroup for good at the end of this summer term. A review will be undertaken into the future use of the hall space but it will not be used for a non-Christian playgroup.

Ola Franklin thanked Pauline Bolding for her considerable work as church hall manager.

7. Date of next APCM

11.15am on 23 April 2023.

8. Closing Prayers

The meeting closed with the Grace.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PAUL'S, WOODFORD BRIDGE, IG8 8BT
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021
Incoming resources					
<i>Voluntary income</i>	2a	61,552			58,939
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>	2b	8,155			4,180
<i>Income from investments</i>	2c	47			32
<i>Church activities</i>	2d	29,470			22,281
<i>Other incoming resources</i>	2e	18,000			13,180
Playgroup	10				
		<u>117,224</u>			<u>98,612</u>
Total incoming resources					
Resources expended					
<i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>	3a	0			
<i>Fund-raising trading costs</i>	3b	0			0
<i>Church activities</i>	3c	15,778			13,540
<i>Ministry Costs</i>	3d	90,678			62,643
Playgroup	10	()			
Total resources expended		<u>106,456</u>			<u>76,183</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources					
gains/losses, inc. Playgroup		-9,843			
<i>Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets</i>					
<i>Gains/(losses) on investment assets</i>	5				
Net movement in funds	6				
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2022		80,176			56,163
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2022		<u>82,458</u>			<u>80,176</u>
PLAYGROUP - balance 31/10/22		884			<u>(1988)</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PAUL'S, WOODFORD BRIDGE, IG8 8BT
CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1128474
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	1,130,000	1,130,000
Investments	6	0	
Total fixed assets		<u>1,130,000</u>	<u>1,130,000</u>
Current assets			
Stock			
Debtors	8	0	0
Cash at bank and in hand			
Covenant account - .		186	49,451
Total assets less current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	0	0
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	9		
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net current fluid assets			
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted Funds, including cash in safe	7	81,605	30,058
Endowment funds	10	0	
Restricted funds	10	667	667
Covenant account - as above.		186	49,451
<u>TOTAL HELD AT BANK:</u>		<u>82,458</u>	<u>80,176</u>
Playgroup balance carried forward 31/10/21		1988	(1,988)

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 20th March 2023 and signed on its behalf

O. Franklin

Revd Ola Franklin, Chair.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PAUL'S, WOODFORD BRIDGE, IG8 8BT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

2 Incoming resources	TOTAL		FUNDS	2021
	2022			
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	
	Funds	Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£	£
a				
<i>Voluntary income</i>				
Planned giving	34,178			30,897
Collections at all services	5,201			1,486
Donations and appeals, incl. charities	11,973			14,414
Income tax recoverable	10,200			9,142
Grants	0			3,000
Legacies	nil			
	<u>61,552</u>			<u>58,939</u>
b				
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>				
Fetes, bazaars and other fund-raising events	8,155			4,180
Bookstall sales and magazine adverts	0			0
	<u>8,155</u>			<u>4,180</u>
c				
<i>Investment income</i>				
Dividends and interest	47			32
	<u>47</u>			<u>32</u>
d				
<i>Income from Church Activities</i>				
Church hall lettings etc	24,070			15,625
Occasional Offices-weddings, funerals,etc	5,400			6,456
Textile group / Seniors club	0			0
	<u>29,470</u>			<u>22,081</u>
e				
<i>Other incoming resources</i>				
Party deposits received	0			0
Insurance claims	nil			0
Rent - School House	18,000			13,180
	<u>18,000</u>			<u>13,180</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>117,224</u>			<u>98,612</u>
Other: Fees to Chelmsford Diocesan				
Board of Finance - wedding/funeral fees	496			723

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PAUL'S, WOODFORD BRIDGE, IG8 8BT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

3 Resources expended	TOTAL FUNDS			2021
	2022			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	
	£	£	£	
a <i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>				
Stewardship costs				
Covenant account				
b <i>Fund-raising trading costs</i>				
Fete costs				
Bookstall	nil			<u>0</u>
c <i>Church Activities</i>				
Missionary and charitable giving:				
Overseas:				
Kenyan Street Children, Utugi Centre	8,000			8,000
Home: including 13 PCC nominated charities	5,278			3,100
Senior's Social Club	0			0
Other:	0			500
Trussell Trust - Redbridge Food Bank	2,500			1,940
	<u>15,778</u>			<u>13,540</u>
Ministry costs:				
Diocesan Parish Contribution	57,000			27,600
other clergy costs	0			0
Church running expenses	12,453			12,286
Church maintenance	1,081			642
Upkeep of services	457			0
Upkeep of churchyard	0			0
Parish magazine	0			0
Sunday Club / youth work costs	0			0
Church hall running costs	14,655			17,497
Bank charges / depreciation	500			235
Vicarage - utilities and decoration	0			0
Playgroup	0			0
Toilet Costs	4237			4383
IT microphones, etc	296			0
Total resources expended	<u>90,679</u>			<u>76183</u>
Other- Fees to Chelmsford Diocesan				
Board of Finance - wedding/funeral fees	<u>(496)</u>			<u>723</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PAUL'S, WOODFORD BRIDGE, IG8 8BT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

4 Staff costs	2022	2021
	£	£
a Wages and salaries	6,600	6,600
playgroup contribution 2019 -	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	6,600	6,600

During the year the PCC employed a hall cleaner, part time. The wages and social security costs related to the hall cleaner were met by her being included on the Playgroup payroll with the church funds reimbursing part costs to the playgroup account.

- b** Costs (£5018) to the playgroup account, and the Playgroup contributing the remaining £1479 in lieu of rent.

5 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Church equipment	TOTAL 2021
Cost or valuation	£	£	£
At 1 January 2014	1,130,000		1,130,000
Additions			
Disposals			
Revaluation			
At 31 December 2019	1,130,000		1,130,000
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2014			
Provided in the year			
Disposals			
At 31 December 2014			
Net book amounts			
At 31 December 2019	<u>1,130,000</u>		<u>1,130,000</u>

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Church Halls and the School House. For accounting purposes these were revalued in 2005.

6 Investments

£

Market value 31 December 2022	<u>nil</u>	<u>NIL</u>
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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PAUL'S, WOODFORD BRIDGE, IG8 8BT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

7 Analysis of Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds	Comparison 2021
Church assets : insurance valuation hall- 910,000;house- 220,000	1,130,000			1,130,000	1,130,000
Investment fixed assets					
Current assets	81,512	668		80,844	80,176
Current liabilities					
Long term liabilities					
	<u>1,211,512</u>	<u>668</u>		<u>1,212,180</u>	<u>1,186,138</u>

8 Debtors

Income tax recoverable (blue envelopes)		2380		2029
Prepayments and accrued income				
Other debtors (water rate)		0		300
		<u>2380</u>		<u>2329</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Deferred income - 2021 wedding fees	0	0
Accruals for utilities/ other costs - UWDC Dec energy used	0	996
Other creditors		
	<u>0</u>	<u>996</u>

Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

Wedding deposits for 2023	nil	0
		0

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PAUL'S, WOODFORD BRIDGE, IG8 8BT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1
0 Statement of funds

	Bal b/fwd 1 Jan 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Bal c/fwd 31 Dec 2021
Unrestricted Fund	£	£	£	£	
Covenant account	49,451	20,761	1,655	68,371	186
General accounts	17,713	86,090	96,801		7,001
Desig funds-a+b+c.	<u>6,576</u>	<u>9,488</u>	<u>8,000</u>	0	<u>8,064</u>
	<u>73,740</u>	<u>117,223</u>	<u>106,456</u>	(8,486)	<u>15,251</u>
	870	31/12 /21	cash in safe:	884	
Restricted Fund					
St Paul's playgroup	(1988)			0	884
Spire lighting fund	0				
Organ/piano	667	1	0	0	668
Other savings ac- counts			0		65,655
Total funds	<u>80,176</u>				<u>82,458</u>

Fees to Diocesan Board Finance shown in accounts

The unrestricted fund includes a designated sum of £8,064 which the PCC has set aside for the Kenyan Street Children project (a); £0 for the School House (b) and £0 for the halls (c).

The restricted funds comprise the organ / piano fund which is monies dedicated to the maintenance of these assets and other musical provision.

ST. PAUL'S CHRISTIAN PLAYGROUP FINAL ACCOUNTS

End of Term

Income

Fees Income
Lunchtime Club (Fee Paying)
Funding 3&4 yr olds
Funding 2 yr olds
Direct SEN funding
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)
Disability Living Allowance (DAF)
Funding from Church (exceptional income)
Donation Tax Refund from Church
Registration fees
Uniform - Income
Books - Income
Milk - Income
Other - Income
Fundraising Income
Photo Commission
Provision (Return from Balance Sheet)
Reconciliation - Income
TOTAL

SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	EOY
£ 5,016.00	£ 2,828.00	£ -	£ 7,844.00
£ 1,372.00	£ 1,610.00	£ -	£ 2,982.00
£ 10,169.52	£ 13,201.20	£ -	£ 23,370.72
£ 6,914.16	£ 5,426.98	£ -	£ 12,341.14
£ 5,496.00	£ 8,359.00	£ -	£ 13,855.00
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ -	£ 1,600.00	£ -	£ 1,600.00
£ -	£ 2,500.00	£ -	£ 2,500.00
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ 40.00	£ -	£ -	£ 40.00
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ 54.64	£ 43.02	£ -	£ 97.66
£ -	£ 590.25	£ -	£ 590.25
£ 357.55	£ 5,400.12	£ -	£ 5,757.67
£ 8.50	£ -	£ -	£ 8.50
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ 29,428.37	£ 41,558.57	£ -	£ 70,986.94

Outgoings

Wages (Payroll)
Wages (Non-Payroll & Lunchtime Club)
Pension Contribution
Tax & NI - Employer & Employee Liability
Repayment to Church
Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) fees
Course Fees & Training
Fees Refund
Rent Contribution
Rent Contribution (Lunchtime Club)
Insurance & Pre-School Membership
Uniform - Expenditure
Fundraising - Expenditure
Books
Farm Hire
New & Replacement Equipment
IT Equipment
Incidental costs (under £50) & PayPal
Costs - Other (eg Music, Bouncy Castle etc)
Playgroup Website & Broadband
Sundries
Milk
Stationery
Ofsted Registration
Accountancy, book-keeping & other fees
Provision (Send to Balance Sheet)
Reconciliation - Outgoings
TOTAL

£ 14,342.75	£ 22,433.53	£ -	£ 36,776.28
£ 5,140.78	£ 21,133.50	£ -	£ 26,274.28
£ 692.99	£ 1,119.78	£ -	£ 1,812.77
£ 1,094.51	£ 1,349.14	£ -	£ 2,443.65
£ -	£ -	£ 883.97	£ 883.97
£ 549.16	£ 35.00	£ -	£ 584.16
£ 200.00	£ 20.00	£ -	£ 220.00
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ 786.87	£ -	£ -	£ 786.87
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ -	£ 53.00	£ -	£ 53.00
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ 50.13	£ -	£ -	£ 50.13
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ -	£ 10.00	£ -	£ 10.00
£ -	£ 635.43	£ -	£ 635.43
£ 241.53	£ 252.90	£ -	£ 494.43
£ 651.61	£ 1,068.47	£ -	£ 1,720.08
£ 2.00	£ 1.35	£ -	£ 3.35
£ 205.17	£ 364.23	£ -	£ 569.40
£ 25.00	£ 25.00	£ -	£ 50.00
£ 180.00	£ 180.00	£ -	£ 360.00
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
£ 24,162.50	£ 48,681.33	£ 883.97	£ 73,727.80

BALANCE

£ 5,265.87	£ 7,122.76	£ 883.97	£ 2,740.86
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Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Paul's, Woodford Bridge

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are included in this report.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

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

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.
- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005), issued in March 2005, UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011'.

Basis of Independent Examiners Statement.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records have not been met;or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(Signed)



M Green.

23.2.2023

41 Buckwolds Road
Baintree

Vicar's Report: Church Life in 2022

St Paul's Woodford Bridge exists to worship God, lead people to Christ, build a loving Christian community, and serve a world in need.

As well as our regular Sunday services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of new life; in marriage, public vows are exchanged with God's blessing; and through funeral services, family and friends express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world, commending the person into God's keeping. Our parish registers show the number of these occasional offices during 2022: 11 baptisms, 3 marriages and 2 marriage blessings, and no church funeral services.

In January we joined the Woodford Fellowship of Christian Churches for a service marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, held at St Mary's. Woodford.

Our children's Holiday Club took place in July for 3 mornings of Bible teaching, games and craft based on the theme of God coming to the rescue, following the stories of the boy Samuel, Naaman at the River Jordan, and Jairus' daughter. Children from our Sunday Club were joined by children from the local area who don't come to St Paul's. We met again for a morning during the October half term, based on the story of Jacob and Esau.

Our Lent course for 2022 was Living in Love and Faith.

A monthly online Morning Worship continued until the summer, and then ceased due to lack of attendance, as most people had returned to attending church in person. In March 3 of our teenagers completed the Chelmsford Diocese Growing Young Leaders programme. We were delighted to hold a Commissioning Service for them at St Paul's in May.

During June and July we ran some sessions to prepare candidates for Confirmation. In October, 9 candidates from St Paul's were Confirmed by Lynne, Bishop of Barking.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work hard to make our church the community it is. In particular we want to mention our Churchwardens, Mr Paul Malam and Mr Len Stevens (also our Treasurer) who have continued to work hard and faithfully on our behalf.

The Revd Ola Franklin, Vicar

Safeguarding

Joanna Urbanek, the Parish Safeguarding Officer gave a report to the PCC in January. There were 30 members on the register for DBS checks, with some checks due for renewal in 2022. No other issues had been brought to attention. 4 members of St Paul's had attended the Redbridge Safeguarding webinar.

DBS checks will be phased in to a 3-year cycle, in line with other sectors such as education. By 2024 everyone will be on a 3-year cycle.

The PCC adopted Parish Safeguarding Policy at its meeting in January.

Joanna Urbanek stepped down from her role after serving for several years. The PCC appointed Aimeé Ayres as the new Parish Safeguarding Officer, and John Wooden as the DBS administrator. Safeguarding will be a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting.

Churchwardens' Fabric Report – 2022

There was very little change to the fabric and fittings register during 2022, with basic maintenance continuing thanks to the efforts of Peter Hodges and, principally, Rev Alan Bolding, throughout the year, and other matters were held in abeyance ahead of the toilet build in 2023. Nothing was added to or removed from, the furniture and fittings inventory of the church during the year.

Thanks are also due to the churchyard maintenance team led by Pauline Bolding, and with thanks to Redbridge Council for their continuing maintenance and care of the churchyard, and to the many church members whose willing hands made the church so clean and cared for.

The church hall underwent a transformation with the necessary adjustments made to storage space, etc with the closure of the Playgroup in July - once again many thanks to all involved.

Paul Malam and Len Stevens - Churchwardens.

Redbridge Deanery Synod Report 2022

Redbridge Deanery Synod met three times in 2022.

The first meeting was held on Wednesday February 23rd, live at St Margaret of Antioch, Balfour Road with attendance but not voting possible on Zoom. It opened with worship and a special prayer for the people of Ukraine. The Revd Samuel Maginnis, Assistant Curate of St John the Baptist, Loughton, gave a talk about the composition and work of the General Synod General Synod as it was beginning a new quinquennium. Synod then debated and approved a Deanery Environmental Motion which was carried with one abstention and one vote against. There were the usual Reports. In addition, it was noted that our new Bishop of Barking is now in place. Bishop Lynne Cullens had been consecrated as a bishop on 21 Jan 2022, and was to be officially welcomed to the Diocese on Saturday 26th February in Chelmsford Cathedral, to coincide with the Diocesan Synod. It was also announced that Maxine Paul was to be Diocesan Mothers Union President. She spoke about the Mothers' Union, reporting that there are 4 million members worldwide with 1094 in Chelmsford, and highlighting its composition and purpose. There were updates from the various MMUs, and a discussion concerning one church's change of Bank Account and the difficulties it had caused.

The second meeting was held on Thursday 23rd June at Christ Church, Wanstead. The main speaker at this meeting was Polly Taylor, Project Manager of the Church Urban Fund who spoke about "Growing Good" (<https://growing-good.org.uk>). "Grace" research (2017) led to "Growing Good" report (2020), and now the course. This initiative includes a Toolkit: a free, six-session course that can be used in churches e.g., as a Lent Course, to help to engage with and support their communities more effectively. One of the ways that CUF equips the church to make a difference in their communities. Churches that are growing holistically (through their social action and other ministries) shared five characteristics: presence – perseverance – hospitality and generosity – adaptability (integrating people of different backgrounds and cultures) – participation (getting people involved can be a pathway to discipleship). There was also an Introduction to and Overview of the New Parish Share Scheme. After an extensive survey across the diocese there is the aim for "mutuality" i.e. parishes supporting each other. There is also the aim of local agency. The outcome of the consultation is a hybrid model – cost-based and offer-based. The idea is flexibility, and the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee has been given a larger role in allocating the share among the parishes. There is an option for a parish to opt out of the Deanery scheme and to liaise directly with the diocese. This will be discussed with parish treasurers.

The third meeting was held on Thursday 1st December at St. Paul's Church, Goodmayes. Bishop Guli was present and gave an address. She spoke of her upbringing in Iran and the events which led to her exile to Britain. She spoke of her family and how she became Bishop of Chelmsford. She found a weariness in the Diocese but also a willingness to change. She is confident that together we will discern the way forward: we need to jointly discern what it means to be God's people and how we need to journey together. She sees the Diocese as a blessing and a gift. We must be faithful and trusting; she sees her role as empowering – we have a shared responsibility and accountability. She then answered questions on Living in Love and Faith, the future of Lay Ministry, the Diocesan response to climate change and Care for the Clergy. The 'usual' agenda items were discussed after a networking and refreshment break.

Mac Leonard, Deanery Synod Representative.

APPENDICES

Just for Girls (page 17)
Redbridge Foodbank (page 17)
Mothers' Union (pages 17 and 18)
Kenyan Street Children Appeal (page 18)
Sunday Church Club (page 18)
St Paul's Christian Playgroup (page 18)
Textiles Group (page 19)

JUST FOR GIRLS

The Just for Girls group meet fortnightly on a Tuesday morning from 10-12midday. We start with coffee and catch-up chatter. I usually read a few thoughts for the morning, we have a time of worship and a twenty-minute meditation. At the end of the morning, we have a time of prayer. Sadly, we lost one very dear member in January, our dear friend Pat Elgar died and we miss her very much. The group is open to women who are members of St. Paul's church, we meet in my home.

Pauline Bolding

REDBRIDGE FOODBANK

Throughout the year because of your generosity and that of some of the local people I was able to take to the Foodbank in Ilford tinned food, cans and bottles of drink, cleaning materials, hygiene products, laundry products, jars of jams and marmalade, packets of cereals, rice, spaghetti, and the sum of £2570 for them to purchase whatever they needed for those families that were finding it hard to manage and needed extra help to feed themselves.

I would like to thank all of you who have given so generously throughout the year and especially during December when Esther appealed for extra help over the Christmas period.

May God richly bless you all!

Vera Hunt

MOTHERS' UNION

We continued to meet regularly, on a monthly basis, following the restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic. Our meetings are on first Tuesday afternoons; our themes are both spiritual and social. We are a group of some 26 church members who enjoy one another's fellowship and company, and are always keen to welcome new members and enquirers.

Mothers' Union has a wider remit than just St Paul's, and to this end we welcomed three speakers from the Diocesan MU to summer meetings; Elizabeth Marshall in July to tell us of the English for Women project running throughout the diocese; Judith Meaden, past president in September, and Maxine Paul, current president, in October.

We wholeheartedly joined others in our church community to raise funds for the Kenyan Street Children feeding stations, and sent £8,000 last year, making a total of over £155,000 sent since 1998. Allowing for the cost of providing a meal in Kenya we have now provided over a quarter of a million meals to vulnerable children. The food is purchased and the meals prepared by Kenyan M U members, and the children receive one meal each week.

We were invited to grow a sunflower as a diocesan project and the tallest, and prize winner, was grown by Sue Clack of our branch.

Maxine Paul from our neighbour parish of Holy Trinity, Barkingside, is now Diocesan MU President (a three year appointment), so we now have the Diocesan President and Treasurer, Trish McCarthy, in Holy Trinity, Barkingside. Diocesan MU business administration comes closer! Following the disruption that the pandemic brought to our MU meetings, 2022 saw a return to more or less business as usual, although at the beginning of the year Covid was still rearing its ugly head as we had to cancel Pauline and Alan's January reflection as Alan had succumbed to the dreaded virus. Thereafter the meetings were able to proceed without too many problems. Thanks, as ever, go to Sue Clack for talking about her latest holiday venture sailing down the Nile, and to Ian and Len, always prepared to step in to give a talk, or in Len's case a quiz, to fill diary dates.

During last year we were fortunate in having three designated MU speakers; in July Elizabeth

Marshall updated us on the English for Women project, then in September Judith Meaden, past President, spoke of the past initiatives of MU and in October Maxine Paul, current president, covered current and possible future developments.

Whenever possible we do like to introduce food into our meetings. In addition to the strawberries and cream, kindly provided by Rosemary and Ian (June), we were also treated to pancakes in Lent and, of course, our bring and share Christmas party in December. This latter was a departure from the evening parties we have had in the past but I hope that members felt that a lunchtime gathering worked out well.

Len Stevens, Branch Leader.

KENYAN FEEDING PROJECT

We continue to support the Kenyan Feeding Project organised by the UTUGI children's home and school. Our Summer and Christmas Fayres were dedicated to the Project, raising £3,500, and with other generous donations we were able to send our usual £8,000 to UTUGI during the year thanks to the generosity of so many of the St. Paul's family.

The Kenyan initiative and the Redbridge Food Bank are now further supported by a fortnightly quiz evening on alternate Fridays in the Church Hall, with proceeds to these feeding projects. We raise between £50 to £100 per evening.

Len Stevens.

SUNDAY CHURCH CLUB

We have some 24 children on our register, some of whom we see infrequently but are delighted when they are able to be with us. We follow scriptural and Christian themes and work as two groups – older and younger. Many thanks to the parents who stay in the hall to help us each week since with up to 12 -15 children we need lots of adults present, and we are thrilled that Alex, Mia and Erica – three of our older, senior girls, are taking training as young leaders with a Diocesan team and are leading each week with our younger children. They are making a massive contribution. The weekly meetings involve Bible teaching, games and fun and a Kit-Kat to enjoy as we move to church to talk to Ola.

We decorate biscuits in Lent to sell afterwards in church for Christian Aid and we plant bulbs in the autumn time to give to mums on Mothering Sunday. We contribute to all-age family services and respect Remembrance Sunday. We teach via video and games and occasionally our assault course takes us under the stage! We learn by having fun.

Len Stevens.

PLAYGROUP REPORT 2022

In January 2022 there were five remaining staff members. One member needed time off for health treatment. The Playgroup was just on the brink of being able to manage the staff/child ratio. There were 24 children on roll with a waiting list. The team had given up their days off. In February Delia Ware announced that she would be stepping down from her post as Playgroup Manager at the end of the summer term. She will also relinquish her PCC membership. She said that her work has been a pleasure and an honour. One of the other staff members was likely to leave as well. John Ware would step down as Playgroup treasurer. The PCC thanked Delia for all her work over many years.

The PCC had the option replacing staff or closing the Playgroup. There had been an ongoing financial struggle to make the Playgroup viable. Some staff were on the minimum wage, which was due to rise in April.

Following a discussion on the options, the PCC proposed that the Playgroup should close at the end of the summer term. The PCC acknowledged the sadness of the situation.

Delia met with parents, who took the news of the closure well. Some children would move up to reception classes and others to new settings. One member of staff found a new job. There were some funds left in the account at the end of term to offset the redundancy pay. The play group closed on 15th July. Some of the equipment was given or sold to other settings. The PCC thanked Delia for all her years of service to the Playgroup. Gifts were given from the PCC to all members of the Playgroup staff.

The Revd Ola Franklin on behalf of St Paul's Christian Playgroup

TEXTILE GROUP

Once again, members of the Textile Group have been very industrious, sewing and knitting quality items for a number of causes.

We continue to hold a stall at the Summer and Christmas Fairs and this past year we have been successful in raising more funds at these events than in previous years, all for the Kenyan Street Children Feeding Programme, a charity close to our hearts. This was helped by the quilt raffles and also by generous donations from our congregation of wool, fabric and a sack of lavender, used to make lavender bags which were very popular. It has also become a tradition for us to have an Easter table at the back of the church, selling mainly chocolate goodies.

Thank you to all those who support our work.

Our very competent knitters continue to make teddies for our newly baptised children and hats and scarves for the Samaritans Purse shoeboxes. This year, they have also made poppies in aid of the British Legion and, in support of Ukraine, lovely blue and yellow brooches.

The Textile Group has made the decision to meet on Wednesday afternoons and apart from our core seven members, other knitters have joined us on occasions and others have made contributions to the items on our stalls, for which we are very grateful.

Mary Wooden

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They are also available at the Parish website <http://www.stpaulswb.com> .