

Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthew, Perry Beeches, Birmingham

Trustees' Annual Report for year ended 31 December 2023

Reference and Administrative Information

St Matthew's Church and Centre is situated at the corner of Aldridge Road and Birdbrook Road, in the Great Barr area of Birmingham.

The office address is:

St Matthew's Parish Office, Birdbrook Rd, Birmingham, B44 8RA.

The Revd Trevor Thurston-Smith is the Incumbent

and his address is:

St Matthew's Vicarage, 313 Beeches Road, Birmingham, B42 2QR

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC powers measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2022) and is registered with the Charities Commission, Registered Charity No. 1164756.

Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc.

Independent Examiner:

Data Developments

First Floor

The Chubb Buildings

Fryer Street

Wolverhampton

West Midlands

WB11HT

The Parish is part of Handsworth and Central Deanery, in the Church of England Diocese of Birmingham.

The PCC is responsible for working with the Incumbent to promote the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical - in the Parish of Perry Beeches. This includes the life of the Parish Church of St Matthew, including the church centre complex comprising the large hall,

lounge and family room, and grounds, and the general and restricted funds required for the operation of the church and centre, and for the mission of the Parish.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected annually by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The ministers licensed to the Parish and Churchwardens are members by virtue of their office. Deanery Synod representatives are elected at the APCM and hold office for three years. Other members of the PCC are elected at the APCM. Up to two additional members can be co-opted by the PCC.

The membership of the PCC in 2023 was as follows:

'Ex officio' members:

Revd Trevor Thurston-Smith	<i>Vicar</i>
Revd Thomas William Ruston	<i>Assistant Curate (until 18/6/23)</i>
Revd Br Martin John Price SSF	<i>Assistant Curate (from 25/6/23)</i>
Peter Conabeer	<i>Lay Minister (until 20/2/23)</i>
Tim Bartlett	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Janet Cook	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Paul Phipps	<i>Lay Minister and Deanery Synod Rep.</i>
John Hope	<i>Deanery Synod Rep (until 21/5/23)</i>
Carolyn Phipps	<i>Deanery Synod Rep (from 21/5/23)*</i>
Ann Harrison	<i>Deanery Synod Rep.</i>
	<i>Parish Administrator/Treasurer</i>
	<i>& Electoral Roll officer</i>

Elected members:

Adrian Deverell	<i>PCC Secretary</i>
Judith Deverell	<i>Safeguarding Officer</i>
David Gadd	
Laura Harrison	<i>(until 17/10/23)</i>
Susan Kyte	
Vera Lawrence	
Andrew Mitchell	
Robert Moulds	
Carolyn Phipps	<i>(until 21/5/23)*</i>
Rodney Williams	<i>Vice-Chair</i>

Electoral Roll

In April 2023, there were 59 names on the Electoral Roll. Three names have been removed during the course of the year due to death; no new names have been added.

Usual Sunday Attendance

Our main act of worship on a Sunday is the 10.00am Parish Mass. During 2023, the average attendance at this service was 29 adults, 3 children under 16 and 30 communicants.

Usual weekday attendance.

Throughout 2023 we maintained 3 weekday celebrations of the Mass:

Monday 7.00pm Average Communicants: 3

Thursday 10.00am Average communicants: 7

Friday 10.00am Average communicants : 2

Other services:

We have maintained a weekly 'phone-in' service for those who are no longer able to physically attend 'in person' worship. Average 'attendance' at these services is between 13.

Morning and Evening Prayer is said at fixed times on most weekdays either in person (average attendance 1) or on 'Zoom' (average attendance 3).

On Wednesdays Evening Prayer is said in person by clergy and lay representatives of the four parishes of our 'Oversight Group' and rotates around the parish churches of St Bernard Hamstead, St John Perry Barr and St Paul Hamstead along with St Matthew's, with an average attendance of 7.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC makes all decisions corporately, except that the Standing Committee has delegated powers to make decisions between PCC meetings, subject to keeping the PCC fully informed.

The PCC is responsible for all parish finance, its management and control, including the appointment of the treasurer. The work of the PCC is supported by its committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC. These are:

Standing Committee – Consisting of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Parish Treasurer, Vice Chairperson, PCC Secretary, and one other member of the PCC elected by the PCC. They have power to transact the business of the PCC between PCC meetings, reporting to the full PCC as appropriate.

Fabric and Finance Committee – Including the Parish Treasurer, the Churchwardens, the Vicar, other PCC members as appointed, to ensure adequate skills and representation and other invited members with appropriate knowledge and skills regarding our buildings and their maintenance. They are responsible for the production of reports and recommendations for the PCC.

Church Growth Group – established after the PCC's annual review in 2016, this includes the Vicar, another member of the PCC, the Clerk for Baptisms & Marriages, and other appointed members with appropriate knowledge and skills. During 2023 this group was effectively temporarily superseded by:

The 'Diamond Jubilee Planning Group' whose role is to plan various services, events and missional opportunities to be held throughout 2024 in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Dedication of the current church building.

Objectives and Activities

Mindful of its responsibility for the mission of the Church in Perry Beeches Parish, the PCC seeks to provide a welcoming spiritual home and community resource for all in the neighbourhood. Our worship is firmly rooted in a modern and inclusive Catholic tradition centred on the Eucharist, but we recognise that God's love and saving grace are not limited to the confines of the church building and its institutional life. St Matthew's bears witness to this through its on-site life, where the sacred space sits side-by-side with the hall which draws in many people from the wider community.

Our specific aims and objectives are:

- The provision of Regular public worship open to all.
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.
- Celebration of the 'Occasional Offices' (Baptism, Marriage, Funerals)
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved
- Teaching Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- Leading Collective Worship (Assembly) in schools and welcoming schools on church visits and for specific services (e.g. Easter and Christmas)
- Promoting Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, the distribution of literature and the use of Social Media.
- Promoting the whole mission of the church through provision of activities for people of all ages and abilities.
- Encouraging and enabling individuals to be faithful and effective disciples of Jesus Christ.

- Organising and/or hosting Community Events
- Making our buildings available as a resource to local Community Groups.

PCC Secretary's report 2023

The PCC met on eight occasions during 2023 with an 87.5% attendance of its membership recorded.

The APCM held in May, saw the election of three new Deanery Synod members who were each appointed to serve for a three-year term.

Following an initiative by the Diocese, our new curate Br Martin John who joined us in June, was appointed as our Parish Environmental Contact.

Apart from routine matters, the PCC agreed to the setting up of a working group to plan and organise events to mark the existing church's sixtieth anniversary in 2024 and agreement was reached to search for and appoint a new Independent Examiner in 2024 to succeed Wychbury Lee.

It was with sadness that we recorded the death during the year of Peter Conabeer, who was a long standing and committed member of the PCC. His passing was marked with a Requiem Mass, in recognition and celebration of his significant contribution to church life.

Adrian Deverell
PCC Secretary

Children and Families Worker:

We appointed Rosalind Hardy in September 2020 and she continued to work, along with volunteers, with the Children in the benefices of St. Matthew's and Newtown and Lozells until funding for the post expired in September 2023.

We have maintained a Sunday School on most Sundays, coinciding with the Parish Mass, but attendance is poor. We also run a 'Messy Church' session in all school holidays, with 5 sessions during the long summer holiday, with an average attendance of 20 children and 15 adults. We are currently short of volunteers to help run both the Sunday School and Messy Church.

We have gradually re-established relations with local schools, most notably Glenmead and Greenholm Primary Schools, having hosted church visits, School Services for Christmas and Easter and taken part in Assemblies, and we plan to extend this work to other schools in the area.

We hope to be able to appoint a full-time Youth, Children and Families Ministry Leader in the course of 2024, subject to funding, whose role will be to expand existing projects, to develop new initiatives, and to recruit, train and supervise volunteers to assist.

Prayer & Spiritual Development.

The spiritual life of the parish centres on the **Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer** which are said according to the following pattern:

Sunday:	9.15 in person (Chapel)
Monday:	9.00 on 'Zoom' and 17.00 on 'Zoom'
Tuesday:	Said in private
Wednesday:	9.00 on 'Zoom' and 16.00 in person (rotating venue in 'Oversight Area')
Thursday:	9.00 in person (Chapel) 17.00 on 'Zoom'
Friday:	9.00 in person (Chapel) 17.00 on 'Zoom'
Saturday:	Said in private

The celebration of **The Eucharist** is also at the heart our tradition and takes place at the following times:

Sunday:	10.00
Monday:	19.00
Thursday:	10.00
Friday:	10.00

A **Julian Group** meets for contemplative prayer once a month.

Our team of **Lay Pastoral Assistants** regularly visit the sick and housebound members of the parish, and assist in taking Communion to those unable to attend Mass.

Paul Phipps, our Reader in training, is a valued member of our Lay Minister team. Sadly, Peter Conabeer, a Licensed Reader of many years standing, died in March 2023.

The council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Thanks to the people of St. Matthew's we were able to deliver Cards at Easter and Christmas to all of the parish.

In 2023 there were 3 **Baptisms**. Baptism is offered either as part of the 10.00am Mass or as a separate stand-alone service, usually at 12.00pm.

Most **funerals** take place at Perry Barr Crematorium. In 2023 6 funerals took place in church and 10 at a Crematorium or Cemetery Chapel. There was 1 **wedding** in church.

A Fun Day marking the Coronation of King Charles III was held in May and an annual Christmas Fayre in December, both of which were well supported and most appreciated by the people of the parish.

Regular Coffee mornings were held on Fridays during Advent and were well attended by both church members and members of the wider community, and it is planned to continue with this initiative during and beyond Lent 2024.

Church Fabric Our grade 2 listed church building (Murray & Maguire, 1964) provides an exceptionally user-friendly space for prayer and worship. It is also potentially an excellent space for concerts and other events, but has been currently underused in this regard as there were issues of lighting and sound that needed to be addressed. These issues are now partly resolved, and a number of concerts and other events are being planned for the 2024 Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Church cleaning, flower arranging, and gardening are carried out by volunteers. The Parish is very conscious of the value of all the volunteer hours that we depend on every day.

Partnership with other Christians

St Matthew's participates fully in the life of the Diocese and Deanery. Our Parish enjoys a friendly informal partnership with the neighbouring Parishes of St John's, Perry Barr and St Paul's and St. Bernard's, Hamstead. This partnership is set to become more formalised as an 'Oversight Area' under the diocesan initiative 'People and Places'.

There is an established ecumenical relationship with Beeches Evangelical Church and Perry Beeches Baptist Church, with the ministers meeting together regularly for discussion, prayer and mutual support. Sadly, joint services and pulpit exchanges are currently on hold due to significant differences regarding St Matthew's firm commitment to inclusivity, specifically on LGBTQ+ issues, reflecting tensions on this matter in the wider church. The Ministers, however, are all committed to working together despite their differing views, and are keen to re-establish a regular pattern of joint services if and when the appropriate authorities in the churches concerned give their consent. In the meantime, it is a cause of great sadness to St Matthew's that this one area of disagreement has been allowed to result in the temporary discontinuation of ecumenical projects. We look

forward to the matter being resolved and being able to work once again with our ecumenical neighbours in sharing God's love unconditionally with the whole community.

Julian Group Report

We have met on the first Monday of the month throughout the year to spend some quiet time in prayer .

We start with a reading then spend thirty minutes in silence, we then have our intercession prayers, and end with a reading from Julian of Norwich.

Then we have tea and cakes and friendship,

I am so pleased to report that this year we have had three new people join us from various parts of Birmingham, as last year our numbers were slowly dropping due to people unable to join us anymore through various reasons.

Anyone is very welcome to join us. It is a time spent with God in quietness .

The feeling afterwards is one of joy and peace within yourself .

Anne Gadd

'Phone In' Services

Throughout the year we continued to hold a weekly Phone-In Service (as developed during the Covid lockdown) and have now entered the fourth year of 'Phone -Ins' with a weekly attendance of between 12 and 15 loyal attendees.

The fellowship is split approximately 50% who also attend our weekly Sunday Morning church Mass, and 50 % who in the main are either no longer able bodied and housebound or have moved out of the area.

In the service we endeavour to stay in line with the Lectionary readings and Collects and we observe the Principle Feasts of the CofE calendar where possible.

We cannot overstate the benefit to the wellbeing both spiritually and mentally for the housebound isolated former congregation members who join in fellowship with others in Worship. It does remain a life line to St Matthews for them. Many of them call early so they can enjoy a pre worship chat with like-minded fellow Parishioners.

Paul Phipps

Financial Review

We rely on St Martin's Trust to pay our Vicar's stipend, our administrator, our organist, and (until September 2023) our Children and Families worker. They also assist with office expenses and contributed to the housing costs of the previous Curate (until June 2023) and now contribute to the travelling expenses of our new Curate.

St. Matthew's regular charities, Malawi and 'Embrace the Middle East' have still been supported this year through our online giving scheme, albeit with a reduced contribution.

Our common fund payment in 2023 was £23,600 (£1778 short of our requested total of £25,378).

We must acknowledge the generosity of our congregation. Many of them contribute to the Church via the Parish Giving scheme, standing orders and envelope contributions, as well as plate donations at services in Church.

Hall hire during 2023 has seen an increased number of regular groups hiring during the week. This has been profitable for the PCC. Although the hall was also opened up in 2022 for private party hire, this has not proved as profitable as we had hoped. Damage caused during a private party has resulted in a PCC resolution to host Children's Parties only.

Church wardens Reports

The Terrier, listing land belonging to the church, and the inventory of items belonging to the church have been checked and all items are accounted for. All Church's insurances are in place and up to date.

Our car park kept getting flooded causing us to have to have a portion of it dug up to find the cause which was a broken pipe. This has now been repaired.

Thanks to grants we were able to purchase a new cooker and kitchen equipment which has been of great benefit to all.

We have had additional spotlights fitted in the Church which has helped with the lighting in the sanctuary. Unfortunately, we have not been able to get our sound system upgraded yet.

Thanks to an anonymous donation a new set of sanctuary bells have been purchased and are in use.

As we came to the end 2023, we started planning for our Diamond Jubilee year and plans are well underway to put on many events to celebrate this occasion.

Janet Cook
Tim Bartlett

Social Activities and Entertainment

During 2023 we had a number of social events and days out.

In March we had a Skittle evening and in May we had a fun day for the King's coronation where we again had a bouncy castle in Church as well as crafts and games and a splendid tea in the Church Hall. In June we had a book sale.

In September ten members of the congregation went to Obhan for a week's holiday. While we were there, we had many days out and also made the bus journey to Lochgilphead to visit Father Simon Mackenzie, a previous vicar at St. Matthew's. Despite our homeward train been cancelled due to the Scottish weather we all got home safely and enjoyed the companionship of our time away.

In September we had a Macmillan coffee morning and then during Advent two of the congregation ran a coffee morning every Friday, and these were well attended. We now have a small band of volunteers, and Friday Coffee mornings are set to continue weekly throughout the year.

2024 is our Jubilee year, when we will be celebrating 85 years of a Church at Perry Beeches and 60 years of the present Church building. We have great plans for this year, including another fun day, photo exhibitions, concerts, and services.

With the help of the congregation, we continue to deliver 6,500 Christmas and Easter Cards to all the houses in the Parish. On the cards we give details of the services and special events as well as all our regular services.

Janet Cook

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Each year we are required to review the following key tasks in relation to our work with children and young people and vulnerable adults.

- To ensure that copies of the latest policies and the Pocket Guide to Safeguarding are made available to volunteers.
- To ensure that volunteers undergo safeguarding training, including instruction on what to do if they receive information or have concerns about possible abuse. This should be renewed and updated as required.

- To ensure that volunteers and staff are aware of the expectations upon them, particularly in relation to social media and the use of text messaging with those under 18.
- To complete and update risk assessments for activities and to ensure that adequate insurance is in place for them.
- To clarify our first aid needs and to train volunteers as appropriate.
- To continue to ensure that consent forms for under 18s and contact details for volunteers are in place and up to date.
- To be sure that confidential details are kept securely and where they need to be shared are done so according to correct procedure and are GDPR compliant.

We use the Church of England Birmingham Safeguarding dashboard to constantly monitor our progress in all of these areas.

Safeguarding Officer Report 2023

During the year, the Safeguarding, Domestic Abuse and Recruitment of Ex-offender policies were reviewed along with the Safeguarding Action Plan.

As a result of the requirement for DBS checks to be conducted every 3 years as opposed to 5 previously, an ongoing programme has been implemented in order to bring these up to date.

In December, the Safeguarding Officer underwent training to enable them to conduct training as and when required within the church environment.

Judith Deverell

Safeguarding Officer

Vicar's Report 2023

Like most years, 2023 proved to be an interesting mix of 'Highs' and 'Lows'.

Amongst the significant 'Highs' were two Parish Pilgrimages – first, a day Pilgrimage to St Albans for the marvellous annual commemoration of Britain's first Christian Martyr – and second, a five-day Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Both provided welcome opportunities for spiritual refreshment and were much enjoyed by all who took part.

Other positive developments included the steady deepening of our relationship with two local schools – Glenmead Primary and Greenholm Primary - through class visits to Church, School Assemblies and Church

services for Easter and Christmas, and with James Watt College through our involvement in an interfaith presentation on Food and Religious Customs and plans to engage with the College as part of a Franciscan Mission in 2024.

Plans for the recruitment of an Anglo-Catholic Missioner (funded by the Church Commissioners) to work in a five-year pilot project with St Matthew's and four other Anglo-Catholic parishes came to fruition with the appointment of Mother Charlotte Gibson, who will take up her new role in April 2024. We look forward to welcoming Mthr Charlotte and working with her.

Church of England Birmingham's 'People and Places' initiative also progressed well over the year, and our new Oversight Area, comprising St John's Perry Barr and St Paul's and St Bernard's Hamstead as well as St Matthew's, will be formally launched early in 2024. We look forward to exploring how best our parishes can support one another and work together.

In May, we marked the coronation of Charles III with a free Community Fun day which was well supported and much appreciated. Once again, the bouncy castle in church was particularly well received!

During Advent, successful Coffee Mornings were held weekly on Fridays, and there are plans to repeat this during and beyond Lent 2024, with the hope that in due course, if suitable partnerships can be forged, this may develop into a Community Café.

So much for the 'Highs'.

The 'Lows' included three significant farewells.

Peter Conabeer who had faithfully served St Matthew's for many years as a Licensed Reader and PCC member died on 20th February and his funeral took place on 4th April. A Memorial Requiem Mass was also held on 22nd May and this was an opportunity for the parish and diocese to give thanks for Peter's long and distinguished ministry here.

Our Curate, Fr Tom Ruston left us in July in order to continue his Curacy in the diocese of Chester and to marry his fiancée Amy. Whilst we're sorry that his time with us was so brief, it was nevertheless good to have him around, and we wish him and Amy every blessing in their respective ministries.

Funding for our Children and Families Worker, Ros Hardy, ended in September. Ros had faced a number of challenges after coming into post in 2020 – first Covid and Lockdown, then an interregnum in both the benefices

in which she was based - here at St Matthews and at St George's Newtown and Saints Paul and Silas, Lozells. Working between these very different churches was in itself a significant challenge. Ros nevertheless managed to maintain our Sunday School and Messy Church (mainly during school holidays) and supported the Noah's Ark Mothers and Toddlers Group as well as working alongside the Clergy in developing our ministry to schools. Whilst we were sorry to see Ros leave, we are grateful for all that she did in her time with us, and we wish her well in her new post. We are delighted that husband Tim and daughter Anwen – and indeed Ros herself when her present duties permit – still worship with us on a regular basis.

The ending of the Children and Families Worker post has created the need to further review our ministry to young people – which is an area of weakness at the moment - and as a result, funding is now being sought, and has been partly secured, for a full-time Youth, Children and Families Ministry Leader whose three-year role will be more developmental and mission-focussed. We hope that this project will be up and running by September 2024.

It was a particular sadness for me that a sudden retinal detachment, which resulted in my having emergency surgery and then being off sick for three weeks, meant that I was not around to say farewell to Fr Tom, nor to be present for the ordination of our new Curate – Brother Martin John SSF.

Br Martin showed what I now know to be characteristic humility and patience as he waited for his Curacy to begin, but once he arrived, it felt as if he had always been here! Although he is only with us on Sundays and (usually) two other days a week, Br Martin has quickly proved to be a great asset to the parish. I know that many people value his quiet and gentle spirituality, and I'm delighted to have him as a colleague. Having a Religious working in the parish is a new experience for all of us, and both Br Martin and I are keen to see how this might develop in the future. In the meantime we look forward very much to his ordination as Priest in July 2024.

Most importantly of all, throughout all of these 'Highs and Lows' we have maintained our pattern of worship which focusses firmly on The Mass. We have held to our principles of genuine inclusivity and our 'Modern Catholic' tradition; the Parish Mass on Sunday remains at the core of our life and work, and this year we once again observed a full Holy Week, with all the appropriate liturgies.

I wish to express my particular thanks to those who contribute to our worship in any way, whether it's by preparing beforehand in the sacristy, serving, reading, flower-arranging, running the Sunday School, or contributing to the

music. Thanks are also due to Paul Phipps, our Licensed Reader, for his contribution to our Sunday worship and his leading of the weekly Telephone Service for those unable to attend church, and to Anne Gadd for running the monthly Julian Group meetings.

Throughout the year we have continued to accommodate many Community groups in our Church Hall and other rooms. We have also reached out into the local community by hosting occasional Community events and by developing the weekly Coffee Morning. This is an important part of our Christian service to the local community, and I wish to record my thanks to all those who volunteer to support this aspect of our life.

It would be a particular joy if some of those who come to St Matthew's for coffee and cake would also come to receive the bread and wine of the eucharist and join our church family in worship. I believe our services are every bit as friendly and welcoming as our social events, and we all have a role to play in inviting and encouraging people to experience, and give thanks for, the love of God in worship. For those who may be unable to attend on Sunday, our Friday Mass is a brief and simple service held just before the Coffee Morning starts, and it would be good to see it better supported.

Whether we like it or not, running a Parish nowadays involves ever-increasing managerial and administrative responsibilities and legal obligations. I wish to record my profound thanks to all those who share and lighten this burden in any way – to Ann our administrator, and to those who give of their time and energy voluntarily – especially our Churchwardens Janet and Tim and all members of our PCC. All that you do – and the good grace with which you do it – is greatly appreciated.

We are also very grateful to our patrons, The St Martin's Trust for their continuing financial support.

The coming year is, of course, our Diamond Jubilee, as we celebrate sixty years of the current Church building and eighty-five years of an Anglican Church occupying this site. Many varied events are being planned to mark this celebration and it will be a very busy year. Nevertheless, it will present us with several new opportunities for Mission, and it promises to be a very exciting and memorable time in the life of St Matthew's.

So, as we look back over the last year with thanks, let us also look forward to the coming year in expectation and with a readiness to seize the many opportunities and enjoy the various 'Highs' that it will hopefully present.

Fr Trevor

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthew, Perry Beeches, Birmingham

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 02 to 14.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church'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);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

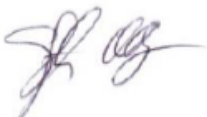
Basis on Independent Examiner's Report

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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all of the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 2011 Act; and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met: or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should have been drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Stephen Hendy
Date 18th March 2024

Data Developments, First Floor, Chubb Buildings, Fryer Street, Wolverhampton, West Midlands
WV1 1HT

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MATTHEW, PERRY BEECHES, BIRMINGHAM

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	34,852	3,795	31,045	—	69,692	81,537
Income from charitable activities	4,647	23,113	—	—	27,760	28,510
Other trading activities	—	606	—	—	606	—
Investments	95	137	—	—	232	(41)
Other income	889	123	3,609	—	4,621	4,332
Total income	40,482	27,774	34,654	—	102,910	114,339
Expenditure on:						
Expenditure on charitable activities	40,561	20,510	34,219	—	95,289	102,281
Total expenditure	40,561	20,510	34,219	—	95,289	102,281
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(79)	7,264	436	—	7,621	12,057
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	228	1,845	1,395	—	3,468	8,995
Gross transfers between funds - out	(828)	(2,640)	—	—	(3,468)	(8,995)
Other recognized gains / losses						
Net movement in funds	(679)	6,469	1,831	—	7,621	12,057
Total funds brought forward	11,248	40,020	12,399	—	63,668	51,610
Total funds carried forward	10,569	46,489	14,229	—	71,288	63,668

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MATTHEW, PERRY BEECHES, BIRMINGHAM

Balance sheet at 31 December 2023

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Current assets			
CBFFUND	CBF CoE Fixed Interest Securities Fund	356	356
CHSAVER	Church Saving Accounts	25,496	19,229
CHURCHCURR	Church Current Account	23,016	22,985
HALLCURR	Hall Current Account	25,014	16,781
Z05	Accounts Receivable	1,319	5,789
	Total Current assets	75,201	65,142
Liabilities			
6699	Agency collections	293	1,474
Z04	Accounts Payable	3,620	—
	Total Liabilities	3,913	1,474
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	71,288	63,668
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	7,621	12,057
Z01	Starting balances	63,668	51,610
	Total Reserves	71,288	63,668
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	10,569	11,248
	Designated	46,489	40,020
	Restricted	14,229	12,399
	Endowment	—	—
	Total	71,288	63,668

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on _____ and signed on its behalf by:-
 The Revd Trevor Thurston-Smith (PCC chairman)

The notes on pages 04 to 15 form part of these accounts

As the charity's income is than £500,000 during the year a cash flow statement is not required.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MATTHEW, PERRY BEECHES, BIRMINGHAM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31st December 2023 (continued)

1 Accounting policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's, and within the Regulations' "true and fair" provisions.

ASSETS

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable Church Furnishings

These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. In this case the item is not capitalised, but all items are included in the Church's inventory in any case.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or else, for gifts-in-kind, at a reasonable estimate of their open market valuation on receipt.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the capitalised cost of fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual fair value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| • Land | Nil |
| • Fixtures & Fittings | 20 years |
| • Computers | 3 years |

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets currently exceeds 50 years. So that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

An impairment review is carried out at each year-end and any resultant loss identified is included in expenditure for the year.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange or whose value derives from them are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at PCC's best estimate of value.

Short term deposits

These are the cash held on deposit with CCLA or at the bank.

FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are there for not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment Funds

These are restricted funds which must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all of their restrictions are shown in the notes to the accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MATTHEW, PERRY BEECHES, BIRMINGHAM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31st December 2023 (continued)

2 INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year	
Donations and legacies						
Parish Giving Fund	20,960	—	—	—	20,960	19,469
Envelope Scheme	709	—	—	—	709	951
Other Planned Giving	1,740	—	—	—	1,740	1,936
On-Line Giving	108	—	—	—	108	211
Open Plate Donations	4,043	—	—	—	4,043	2,961
Other One-off Donations	514	150	—	—	664	1,381
Donations for Parish Parties	118	—	—	—	118	113
Parish Giving Gift Aid	4,852	—	—	—	4,852	4,510
Other Gift Aid	1,808	—	—	—	1,808	1,329
Recurring Grants	—	795	30,695	—	31,490	35,124
One-Off Grants	—	2,850	—	—	2,850	13,554
Donations for Flowers	—	—	350	—	350	—
Total	34,852	3,795	31,045	—	69,692	81,537
Income from charitable activities						
Fees for Weddings and Funerals - Do Not	—	—	—	—	—	33
Charitable Events - Christmas Fair	2,885	—	—	—	2,885	2,941
Other Charitable Events	103	—	—	—	103	570
PCC fees for weddings and funerals	1,220	—	—	—	1,220	845
Vergers Fees	—	—	—	—	—	25
Heating Income from Weddings/Funerals	300	—	—	—	300	320
Income from Book Sales	139	—	—	—	139	—
Noah's Ark Income	—	800	—	—	800	271
Messy Church Income	—	45	—	—	45	37
Bowler's Income	—	150	—	—	150	200
Church Centre Commercial Rent	—	14,383	—	—	14,383	13,390
Church Centre Community Rent	—	6,150	—	—	6,150	8,679
Church Centre - Private Party Rents	—	1,585	—	—	1,585	1,200
Total	4,647	23,113	—	—	27,760	28,510
Other trading activities						
Cheques Received from Church Account	—	606	—	—	606	—
Total	—	606	—	—	606	—
Investments						
Bank Interest	95	137	—	—	232	29
Return on CBF Investment	—	—	—	—	—	(70)
Total	95	137	—	—	232	(41)
Other income						
Embrace the Middle East	—	—	215	—	215	191
Donations for Reserved Accounts	—	—	—	—	—	700
Rent from Land and Buildings	75	—	—	—	75	75
Solar Panel Income	770	—	—	—	770	714
Insurance Claims	—	—	—	—	—	2,652
Sundry Income - Church	43	123	3,394	—	3,560	—
Total	889	123	3,609	—	4,621	4,332
INCOME TOTAL	40,482	27,774	34,654	—	102,910	114,339

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MATTHEW, PERRY BEECHES, BIRMINGHAM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31st December 2023 (continued)

3 EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on charitable activities

Office Stationery, Hall etc.	—	309	—	—	309	336
Office Phone and Broadband	—	389	—	—	389	402
Photocopying	—	858	—	—	858	758
Office Stationery Church etc	—	27	—	—	27	295
Church Hall Electricity	—	1,115	—	—	1,115	701
Church Hall Gas	—	3,518	—	—	3,518	2,558
Church Hall Maintenance	—	334	—	—	334	863
Church Hall Cleaning	—	4,582	—	—	4,582	4,409
Church Hall Boiler	—	454	—	—	454	523
Church Hall Capital Projects	—	1,964	—	—	1,964	10,996
Noah's Ark	—	403	—	—	403	317
Sacristy Services and Equipment	943	—	332	—	1,275	2,035
Common Fund	23,600	—	—	—	23,600	23,100
Organist Fees	—	—	3,300	—	3,300	2,979
Relief Vicars Expenses	139	—	—	—	139	253
Church Electricity	7,120	—	—	—	7,120	5,405
Church Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	2,122
Church Capital Projects	1,176	—	—	—	1,176	—
Garden Maintenance	40	—	—	—	40	53
Lounge and Servery Maintenance	25	—	—	—	25	—
Centre Hygiene	—	593	—	—	593	—
Centre Maintenance	—	3,753	—	—	3,753	1,957
Centre Insurance	3,763	—	—	—	3,763	3,454
Water Bill	—	155	—	—	155	84
Insurance Excess	—	—	—	—	—	250
Marketing costs	318	306	—	—	624	600
IT Costs	—	—	—	—	—	70
Refreshments for Church Events	652	—	—	—	652	716
Administrator Wages	—	—	15,372	—	15,372	14,719
Children and Families Worker Wages	—	—	9,824	—	9,824	13,941
Children and Families Worker Expenses	—	466	—	—	466	275
Parish Party Costs	214	—	—	—	214	343
Trips and outings	225	—	—	—	225	—
Christmas Fair Expenses	—	499	—	—	499	231
Flowers	—	—	414	—	414	175
Embrace the Middle east	—	—	240	—	240	180
Bowls club Expenses	—	150	—	—	150	150
One-off charity Donations	210	—	—	—	210	—
Vicar's Expenses	266	—	—	—	266	—
Vicarage Expenses	928	—	—	—	928	—
Curates Accommodation Costs	—	—	4,599	—	4,599	6,430
Curates Expenses	266	—	138	—	404	6
Miscellaneous - Church	100	—	—	—	100	203
Miscellaneous - Church Hall	—	30	—	—	30	388
Sundry Donations	76	—	—	—	76	—
Cheques paid to Church Hall Account	—	606	—	—	606	—
Governance costs - examination/audit	500	—	—	—	500	—
Total	40,561	20,510	34,219	—	95,289	102,281
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	40,561	20,510	34,219	—	95,289	102,281
GRAND TOTAL	(79)	7,264	436	—	7,621	12,057

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MATTHEW, PERRY BEECHES, BIRMINGHAM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31st December 2023 (continued)

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

4 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE INCLUDING ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Direct costs £	Support costs £	TOTAL Charitable Expenditure £
Charitable expenditure excluding support costs	78,643	16,646	95,289

5 STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
Wages and salaries	£25,916	£28,660
Average number of employees	2	2

5(a) RELATED PARTIES

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have been related to his services as chairman of the PCC.

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

Donations from related parties (PCC members) during 2023 were £6,760.

6 ANALYSIS OF TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS

£3,628 was transferred between funds during 2023. This was in respect of transfers to the Vicarage Decoration Fund, to the Fabric Fund transfers from St Martins Initiative Fund and St Martins Capital Fund.

7 FIXED ASSETS

7(a) The charity has no tangible fixed assets

7 (b) The charity has no investments

8 CURRENT ASSETS

8(a) The charity has £356 invested in CBF Fixed Interest Securities. The amount has not changed from 31/12/2022.

8(b) Debtors (Designated Funds)

The charity was owed £1,319 for unpaid room hire invoices at 31/12/2023 (31/12/2022 £5,789)

9 CURRENT LIABILITIES

	£	2023 £	£	2022 £	£	£
	General	Designated	Total	General	Designated	Total
Parish share	2,000		2,000	-		-
Electricity	1,000	120	1,120	-	-	-
Independent Examination Fee	500		500	-		-
Total	3,500	120	3,620	-	-	-

10 FUNDS

Fund name	Fund type	Purpose of Fund
Church General fund	Unrestricted	The Church's General Fund
Church Hall General Fund	Unrestricted	The Church Hall's general fund.
CoE Investments	Unrestricted	Investments
Noah's Ark	Unrestricted	Noah's ark is a mothers and toddler's organisation set up by the church. They meet one a week and pay no rent.
Unallocated funds in the Saving Account	Unrestricted	Money in the savings account not allocated to specific funds
Christmas Fair Set up Fund	Designated	A fund set up to cover the set costs of the annual Christmas fair
Friday Cafe	Designated	Funds remaining from a Café that we ran before the pandemic.
Insurance Claim for water leak	Designated	We received a payout from our Insurance company for damage caused by a water leak. The damage is now repaired and balance of this fund transferred to PCC Fabric Fund.
Messy Church	Designated	Income/expenditure generated by the Messy church events
PCC Fabric Fund	Designated	Fund to pay for improvements and repairs of the Church and Church Hall
RIP Sheila Rooke	Designated	A donation in memory of an ex-Sunday school teacher and member of the congregation
St. Martind 2023 Capital fund	Designated	A one off donation in 2023 to purchase replacement IT equipment.
St. Martind 2023 Revenue fund	Designated	An Annual donation from St,Martins to cover Office operating costs.
St. Martins initiative fund	Designated	A one off donation from St. Martins trust to use however the PCC decide
Vicarage Decoration Fund	Designated	A fund set up to meet the cost of redecorating/repair of the Vicarage at a chage of incumbant
Vicar's Charity fund	Designated	A donation to the previous vicar for charitable purposes before he left the parish.
Altar Cloth 2023	Restricted	A anonymous donation for the specific purpose of acquiring a new Altar Cloth

BDBF Energy Extra Costs	Restricted	A donation from the Diocese to help with increasing energy costs.
Childrens and Family Worker Fund	Restricted	This is actually a combination of two funds Wages and Expences. It is awaiting the employment of a new Children and Families worker, hopefully later this year.
Church Floor Grouting	Restricted	A grant to repair the grouting between the brick floor of the Church.
Curates Accomodation	Restricted	Set up to cover accommodation costs of Curate.
Embrace the Middle East	Restricted	A charity to which various members of the congregation donate on an ad hoc basis and we pay a regular monthly amount,
Flowers	Restricted	Church Flowers
Furniture - Lord Austin 2022	Restricted	a fund for the purchase of new furniture for the lounge
Kitchen Equipment - Harlow 2022	Restricted	A fund to purchase new equipment for the Kitchen
Slabbing amd Church Windows from 2017 Grants	Restricted	An old grant for improving the entrance garden and inspecting the Church windows. We have never had enough funds to commence this work.
St. Martins Admin Wages	Restricted	This is for our Admin Assistant wages, a regular grant is set up, but can vary by small amounts from actual wage costs.
St. Martins Music Funds	Restricted	Employment of the Church Organist
Thursday Bowlers Club	Restricted	This really should be an agency fund. The bowler club are a group of the congregation who meet weekly in the hall, pay rent and save in the Church Account for a Christmas meal.

11 SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Journals	Closing
Altarclth - Altar Cloth 2023							
Designated	—	150	—	—	—	—	150
Sub-total for Altarclth	—	150	—	—	—	—	150
VaterLeak - Insurance Claim for							
Designated	2,652	—	1,310	(1,342)	—	—	—
Sub-total for VaterLeak	2,652	—	1,310	(1,342)	—	—	—
Vicarage - Vicarage Decoration							
Restricted	—	2,025	—	600	—	—	2,625
Sub-total for Vicarage	—	2,025	—	600	—	—	2,625
BDBF-Elect - BDBF Energy Extra Co							
Designated	2,634	—	—	—	—	—	2,634
Sub-total for BDBF-Elect	2,634	—	—	—	—	—	2,634
Kitch - Kitchen Equipment -							
Designated	3,064	606	2,570	—	—	—	1,101
Sub-total for Kitch	3,064	606	2,570	—	—	—	1,101
Furniture - Furniture - Lord Aus							
Designated	1,000	—	—	—	—	—	1,000
Sub-total for Furniture	1,000	—	—	—	—	—	1,000
General - Church General fund							
Unrestricted	11,248	40,482	40,561	(600)	—	—	10,569
Sub-total for General	11,248	40,482	40,561	(600)	—	—	10,569
CHGeneral - Church Hall General							
Designated	16,636	22,118	13,542	—	—	—	25,211
Sub-total for CHGeneral	16,636	22,118	13,542	—	—	—	25,211
SavGeneral - Unallocated funds in							
Designated	7,702	137	—	—	—	—	7,839
Sub-total for SavGeneral	7,702	137	—	—	—	—	7,839
Investment - CoE Investments							
Restricted	356	—	—	—	—	—	356
Sub-total for Investment	356	—	—	—	—	—	356
CFW-Exp - Childrens and Family							
Designated	—	123	466	—	—	—	(343)
Sub-total for CFW-Exp	—	123	466	—	—	—	(343)
CFW-Wages - Childrens and Family							
Restricted	5,147	6,705	9,824	795	—	—	2,824
Sub-total for CFW-Wages	5,147	6,705	9,824	795	—	—	2,824
StM-Admin - St. Martins Admin Wa							
Restricted	(8)	15,600	15,372	—	—	—	220
Sub-total for StM-Admin	(8)	15,600	15,372	—	—	—	220
StM-Music - St. Martins Music Fu							
Restricted	2,528	3,200	3,632	—	—	—	2,095
Sub-total for StM-Music	2,528	3,200	3,632	—	—	—	2,095
STM-IF - St. Martins initiati							
Designated	500	—	—	—	—	—	500
Sub-total for STM-IF	500	—	—	—	—	—	500
STM-23Cap - St Martins Capital F							
Designated	—	1,075	—	(225)	—	—	850
Sub-total for STM-23Cap	—	1,075	—	(225)	—	—	850
STM-23Rev - St.Martins 2023 Reve							
Designated	—	2,570	1,570	(570)	—	—	430
Sub-total for STM-23Rev	—	2,570	1,570	(570)	—	—	430

Cur-Accom - Curates Accomodation							
Restricted	(1,279)	6,558	4,737	—	—	—	543
Sub-total for Cur-Accom	(1,279)	6,558	4,737	—	—	—	543
Flowers - Flowers							
Restricted	226	350	414	—	—	—	162
Sub-total for Flowers	226	350	414	—	—	—	162
PCCfees - PCC Fees							
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for PCCfees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Verger - Verger Fees							
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Verger	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
XmasFair - Christmas Fair Set u							
Designated	69	—	499	—	—	—	(430)
Sub-total for XmasFair	69	—	499	—	—	—	(430)
HeatingFee - Heating fees from Fu							
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for HeatingFee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Noahsark - Noah's Ark							
Designated	559	800	403	—	—	—	956
Sub-total for Noahsark	559	800	403	—	—	—	956
Messy-Ch - Messy Church							
Designated	43	45	—	—	—	—	88
Sub-total for Messy-Ch	43	45	—	—	—	—	88
Cafe - Friday Cafe							
Designated	459	—	—	—	—	—	459
Sub-total for Cafe	459	—	—	—	—	—	459
Bowlers - Thursday Bowlers Clu							
Designated	300	150	150	—	—	—	300
Sub-total for Bowlers	300	150	150	—	—	—	300
Gp-Outings - Outings and Trips							
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Gp-Outings	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
EME - Embrace the Middle E							
Restricted	199	215	240	—	—	—	174
Sub-total for EME	199	215	240	—	—	—	174
FabricFund - PCC Fabric Fund							
Designated	3,679	—	—	1,342	—	—	5,021
Sub-total for FabricFund	3,679	—	—	1,342	—	—	5,021
HBR - Hall Boiler replacem							
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for HBR	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
VicarsFnd - Vicar's Charity fund							
Designated	250	—	—	—	—	—	250
Sub-total for VicarsFnd	250	—	—	—	—	—	250
S-Rooke - RIP Sheila Rooke							
Designated	475	—	—	—	—	—	475
Sub-total for S-Rooke	475	—	—	—	—	—	475
LNGE-ROOF - Replace roof over Lo							
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for LNGE-ROOF	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HeatRefub - Church Heating Re-fu							
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for HeatRefub	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slabing - Slabbing amd Church							
Restricted	4,030	—	—	—	—	—	4,030

Sub-total for Slabing	4,030	—	—	—	—	—	4,030
GroutFloor - Church Floor Groutin Restricted	1,200	—	—	—	—	—	1,200
Sub-total for GroutFloor	1,200	—	—	—	—	—	1,200
Grand total	63,668	102,910	95,289	—	—	—	71,288

12 SUMMARY OF ASSETS BY FUND TYPE

General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year	
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
Church Saving Accounts -	(4,891)	19,095	11,305	—	25,509	19,243
Church Saving Accounts -	—	—	(13)	—	(13)	(13)
Church Current Account -	18,968	1,174	2,874	—	23,016	22,985
Hall Current Account -	(7)	25,021	—	—	25,014	16,781
Totals	14,070	45,290	14,166	—	73,526	58,996
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	—	1,319	—	—	1,319	5,789
Totals	—	1,319	—	—	1,319	5,789
Current assets - Investments						
CBF CoE Fixed Interest Securities Fund -	0	0	356	—	356	356
Totals	0	0	356	—	356	356
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	293	—	293	1,474
Totals	—	—	293	—	293	1,474
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Accounts Payable -	3,500	120	—	—	3,620	—
Totals	3,500	120	—	—	3,620	—
Grand total	10,569	46,489	14,229	—	71,288	63,668

13 PRIOR PERIOD COMPATIVE SOFA

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 December 2022

For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	33,959	7,698	39,880	—	81,537	82,000
Income from charitable activities	3,511	24,999	—	—	28,510	20,298
Other trading activities	—	—	—	—	—	—
Investments	19	10	(70)	—	(41)	13
Other income	789	2,652	891	—	4,332	1,140
Total income	38,277	35,360	40,702	—	114,339	103,451
Expenditure on:						
Expenditure on charitable activities	38,908	14,653	48,721	—	102,281	88,037
Total expenditure	38,908	14,653	48,721	—	102,281	88,037
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(631)	20,707	(8,018)	—	12,057	15,415
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	2,011	4,664	2,321	—	8,995	23,061
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,693)	(4,334)	(2,969)	—	(8,995)	(23,061)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	(313)	21,037	(8,666)	—	12,057	15,415
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	11,561	18,984	21,065	—	51,610	36,195
Total funds carried forward	11,248	40,020	12,399	—	63,668	51,610

Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthew, Perry Beeches, Birmingham

Trustees' Annual Report for year ended 31 December 2023

Reference and Administrative Information

St Matthew's Church and Centre is situated at the corner of Aldridge Road and Birdbrook Road, in the Great Barr area of Birmingham.

The office address is:

St Matthew's Parish Office, Birdbrook Rd, Birmingham, B44 8RA.

The Revd Trevor Thurston-Smith is the Incumbent

and his address is:

St Matthew's Vicarage, 313 Beeches Road, Birmingham, B42 2QR

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC powers measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2022) and is registered with the Charities Commission, Registered Charity No. 1164756.

Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc.

Independent Examiner:

Data Developments

First Floor

The Chubb Buildings

Fryer Street

Wolverhampton

West Midlands

WB11HT

The Parish is part of Handsworth and Central Deanery, in the Church of England Diocese of Birmingham.

The PCC is responsible for working with the Incumbent to promote the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical - in the Parish of Perry Beeches. This includes the life of the Parish Church of St Matthew, including the church centre complex comprising the large hall,

lounge and family room, and grounds, and the general and restricted funds required for the operation of the church and centre, and for the mission of the Parish.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected annually by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The ministers licensed to the Parish and Churchwardens are members by virtue of their office. Deanery Synod representatives are elected at the APCM and hold office for three years. Other members of the PCC are elected at the APCM. Up to two additional members can be co-opted by the PCC.

The membership of the PCC in 2023 was as follows:

'Ex officio' members:

Revd Trevor Thurston-Smith	<i>Vicar</i>
Revd Thomas William Ruston	<i>Assistant Curate (until 18/6/23)</i>
Revd Br Martin John Price SSF	<i>Assistant Curate (from 25/6/23)</i>
Peter Conabeer	<i>Lay Minister (until 20/2/23)</i>
Tim Bartlett	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Janet Cook	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Paul Phipps	<i>Lay Minister and Deanery Synod Rep.</i>
John Hope	<i>Deanery Synod Rep (until 21/5/23)</i>
Carolyn Phipps	<i>Deanery Synod Rep (from 21/5/23)*</i>
Ann Harrison	<i>Deanery Synod Rep.</i>
	<i>Parish Administrator/Treasurer</i>
	<i>& Electoral Roll officer</i>

Elected members:

Adrian Deverell	<i>PCC Secretary</i>
Judith Deverell	<i>Safeguarding Officer</i>
David Gadd	
Laura Harrison	<i>(until 17/10/23)</i>
Susan Kyte	
Vera Lawrence	
Andrew Mitchell	
Robert Moulds	
Carolyn Phipps	<i>(until 21/5/23)*</i>
Rodney Williams	<i>Vice-Chair</i>

Electoral Roll

In April 2023, there were 59 names on the Electoral Roll. Three names have been removed during the course of the year due to death; no new names have been added.

Usual Sunday Attendance

Our main act of worship on a Sunday is the 10.00am Parish Mass. During 2023, the average attendance at this service was 29 adults, 3 children under 16 and 30 communicants.

Usual weekday attendance.

Throughout 2023 we maintained 3 weekday celebrations of the Mass:

Monday 7.00pm Average Communicants: 3

Thursday 10.00am Average communicants: 7

Friday 10.00am Average communicants : 2

Other services:

We have maintained a weekly 'phone-in' service for those who are no longer able to physically attend 'in person' worship. Average 'attendance' at these services is between 13.

Morning and Evening Prayer is said at fixed times on most weekdays either in person (average attendance 1) or on 'Zoom' (average attendance 3).

On Wednesdays Evening Prayer is said in person by clergy and lay representatives of the four parishes of our 'Oversight Group' and rotates around the parish churches of St Bernard Hamstead, St John Perry Barr and St Paul Hamstead along with St Matthew's, with an average attendance of 7.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC makes all decisions corporately, except that the Standing Committee has delegated powers to make decisions between PCC meetings, subject to keeping the PCC fully informed.

The PCC is responsible for all parish finance, its management and control, including the appointment of the treasurer. The work of the PCC is supported by its committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC. These are:

Standing Committee – Consisting of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Parish Treasurer, Vice Chairperson, PCC Secretary, and one other member of the PCC elected by the PCC. They have power to transact the business of the PCC between PCC meetings, reporting to the full PCC as appropriate.

Fabric and Finance Committee – Including the Parish Treasurer, the Churchwardens, the Vicar, other PCC members as appointed, to ensure adequate skills and representation and other invited members with appropriate knowledge and skills regarding our buildings and their maintenance. They are responsible for the production of reports and recommendations for the PCC.

Church Growth Group – established after the PCC's annual review in 2016, this includes the Vicar, another member of the PCC, the Clerk for Baptisms & Marriages, and other appointed members with appropriate knowledge and skills. During 2023 this group was effectively temporarily superseded by:

The 'Diamond Jubilee Planning Group' whose role is to plan various services, events and missional opportunities to be held throughout 2024 in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Dedication of the current church building.

Objectives and Activities

Mindful of its responsibility for the mission of the Church in Perry Beeches Parish, the PCC seeks to provide a welcoming spiritual home and community resource for all in the neighbourhood. Our worship is firmly rooted in a modern and inclusive Catholic tradition centred on the Eucharist, but we recognise that God's love and saving grace are not limited to the confines of the church building and its institutional life. St Matthew's bears witness to this through its on-site life, where the sacred space sits side-by-side with the hall which draws in many people from the wider community.

Our specific aims and objectives are:

- The provision of Regular public worship open to all.
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.
- Celebration of the 'Occasional Offices' (Baptism, Marriage, Funerals)
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved
- Teaching Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- Leading Collective Worship (Assembly) in schools and welcoming schools on church visits and for specific services (e.g. Easter and Christmas)
- Promoting Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, the distribution of literature and the use of Social Media.
- Promoting the whole mission of the church through provision of activities for people of all ages and abilities.
- Encouraging and enabling individuals to be faithful and effective disciples of Jesus Christ.

- Organising and/or hosting Community Events
- Making our buildings available as a resource to local Community Groups.

PCC Secretary's report 2023

The PCC met on eight occasions during 2023 with an 87.5% attendance of its membership recorded.

The APCM held in May, saw the election of three new Deanery Synod members who were each appointed to serve for a three-year term.

Following an initiative by the Diocese, our new curate Br Martin John who joined us in June, was appointed as our Parish Environmental Contact.

Apart from routine matters, the PCC agreed to the setting up of a working group to plan and organise events to mark the existing church's sixtieth anniversary in 2024 and agreement was reached to search for and appoint a new Independent Examiner in 2024 to succeed Wychbury Lee.

It was with sadness that we recorded the death during the year of Peter Conabeer, who was a long standing and committed member of the PCC. His passing was marked with a Requiem Mass, in recognition and celebration of his significant contribution to church life.

Adrian Deverell
PCC Secretary

Children and Families Worker:

We appointed Rosalind Hardy in September 2020 and she continued to work, along with volunteers, with the Children in the benefices of St. Matthew's and Newtown and Lozells until funding for the post expired in September 2023.

We have maintained a Sunday School on most Sundays, coinciding with the Parish Mass, but attendance is poor. We also run a 'Messy Church' session in all school holidays, with 5 sessions during the long summer holiday, with an average attendance of 20 children and 15 adults. We are currently short of volunteers to help run both the Sunday School and Messy Church.

We have gradually re-established relations with local schools, most notably Glenmead and Greenholm Primary Schools, having hosted church visits, School Services for Christmas and Easter and taken part in Assemblies, and we plan to extend this work to other schools in the area.

We hope to be able to appoint a full-time Youth, Children and Families Ministry Leader in the course of 2024, subject to funding, whose role will be to expand existing projects, to develop new initiatives, and to recruit, train and supervise volunteers to assist.

Prayer & Spiritual Development.

The spiritual life of the parish centres on the **Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer** which are said according to the following pattern:

Sunday:	9.15 in person (Chapel)
Monday:	9.00 on 'Zoom' and 17.00 on 'Zoom'
Tuesday:	Said in private
Wednesday:	9.00 on 'Zoom' and 16.00 in person (rotating venue in 'Oversight Area')
Thursday:	9.00 in person (Chapel) 17.00 on 'Zoom'
Friday:	9.00 in person (Chapel) 17.00 on 'Zoom'
Saturday:	Said in private

The celebration of **The Eucharist** is also at the heart our tradition and takes place at the following times:

Sunday:	10.00
Monday:	19.00
Thursday:	10.00
Friday:	10.00

A **Julian Group** meets for contemplative prayer once a month.

Our team of **Lay Pastoral Assistants** regularly visit the sick and housebound members of the parish, and assist in taking Communion to those unable to attend Mass.

Paul Phipps, our Reader in training, is a valued member of our Lay Minister team. Sadly, Peter Conabeer, a Licensed Reader of many years standing, died in March 2023.

The council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Thanks to the people of St. Matthew's we were able to deliver Cards at Easter and Christmas to all of the parish.

In 2023 there were 3 **Baptisms**. Baptism is offered either as part of the 10.00am Mass or as a separate stand-alone service, usually at 12.00pm.

Most **funerals** take place at Perry Barr Crematorium. In 2023 6 funerals took place in church and 10 at a Crematorium or Cemetery Chapel. There was 1 **wedding** in church.

A Fun Day marking the Coronation of King Charles III was held in May and an annual Christmas Fayre in December, both of which were well supported and most appreciated by the people of the parish.

Regular Coffee mornings were held on Fridays during Advent and were well attended by both church members and members of the wider community, and it is planned to continue with this initiative during and beyond Lent 2024.

Church Fabric Our grade 2 listed church building (Murray & Maguire, 1964) provides an exceptionally user-friendly space for prayer and worship. It is also potentially an excellent space for concerts and other events, but has been currently underused in this regard as there were issues of lighting and sound that needed to be addressed. These issues are now partly resolved, and a number of concerts and other events are being planned for the 2024 Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Church cleaning, flower arranging, and gardening are carried out by volunteers. The Parish is very conscious of the value of all the volunteer hours that we depend on every day.

Partnership with other Christians

St Matthew's participates fully in the life of the Diocese and Deanery. Our Parish enjoys a friendly informal partnership with the neighbouring Parishes of St John's, Perry Barr and St Paul's and St. Bernard's, Hamstead. This partnership is set to become more formalised as an 'Oversight Area' under the diocesan initiative 'People and Places'.

There is an established ecumenical relationship with Beeches Evangelical Church and Perry Beeches Baptist Church, with the ministers meeting together regularly for discussion, prayer and mutual support. Sadly, joint services and pulpit exchanges are currently on hold due to significant differences regarding St Matthew's firm commitment to inclusivity, specifically on LGBTQ+ issues, reflecting tensions on this matter in the wider church. The Ministers, however, are all committed to working together despite their differing views, and are keen to re-establish a regular pattern of joint services if and when the appropriate authorities in the churches concerned give their consent. In the meantime, it is a cause of great sadness to St Matthew's that this one area of disagreement has been allowed to result in the temporary discontinuation of ecumenical projects. We look

forward to the matter being resolved and being able to work once again with our ecumenical neighbours in sharing God's love unconditionally with the whole community.

Julian Group Report

We have met on the first Monday of the month throughout the year to spend some quiet time in prayer .

We start with a reading then spend thirty minutes in silence, we then have our intercession prayers, and end with a reading from Julian of Norwich.

Then we have tea and cakes and friendship,

I am so pleased to report that this year we have had three new people join us from various parts of Birmingham, as last year our numbers were slowly dropping due to people unable to join us anymore through various reasons.

Anyone is very welcome to join us. It is a time spent with God in quietness .

The feeling afterwards is one of joy and peace within yourself .

Anne Gadd

'Phone In' Services

Throughout the year we continued to hold a weekly Phone-In Service (as developed during the Covid lockdown) and have now entered the fourth year of 'Phone -Ins' with a weekly attendance of between 12 and 15 loyal attendees. The fellowship is split approximately 50% who also attend our weekly Sunday Morning church Mass, and 50 % who in the main are either no longer able bodied and housebound or have moved out of the area.

In the service we endeavour to stay in line with the Lectionary readings and Collects and we observe the Principle Feasts of the CofE calendar where possible.

We cannot overstate the benefit to the wellbeing both spiritually and mentally for the housebound isolated former congregation members who join in fellowship with others in Worship. It does remain a life line to St Matthews for them. Many of them call early so they can enjoy a pre worship chat with like-minded fellow Parishioners.

Paul Phipps

Financial Review

We rely on St Martin's Trust to pay our Vicar's stipend, our administrator, our organist, and (until September 2023) our Children and Families worker. They also assist with office expenses and contributed to the housing costs of the previous Curate (until June 2023) and now contribute to the travelling expenses of our new Curate.

St. Matthew's regular charities, Malawi and 'Embrace the Middle East' have still been supported this year through our online giving scheme, albeit with a reduced contribution.

Our common fund payment in 2023 was £23,600 (£1778 short of our requested total of £25,378).

We must acknowledge the generosity of our congregation. Many of them contribute to the Church via the Parish Giving scheme, standing orders and envelope contributions, as well as plate donations at services in Church.

Hall hire during 2023 has seen an increased number of regular groups hiring during the week. This has been profitable for the PCC. Although the hall was also opened up in 2022 for private party hire, this has not proved as profitable as we had hoped. Damage caused during a private party has resulted in a PCC resolution to host Children's Parties only.

Church wardens Reports

The Terrier, listing land belonging to the church, and the inventory of items belonging to the church have been checked and all items are accounted for. All Church's insurances are in place and up to date.

Our car park kept getting flooded causing us to have to have a portion of it dug up to find the cause which was a broken pipe. This has now been repaired.

Thanks to grants we were able to purchase a new cooker and kitchen equipment which has been of great benefit to all.

We have had additional spotlights fitted in the Church which has helped with the lighting in the sanctuary. Unfortunately, we have not been able to get our sound system upgraded yet.

Thanks to an anonymous donation a new set of sanctuary bells have been purchased and are in use.

As we came to the end 2023, we started planning for our Diamond Jubilee year and plans are well underway to put on many events to celebrate this occasion.

Janet Cook
Tim Bartlett

Social Activities and Entertainment

During 2023 we had a number of social events and days out.

In March we had a Skittle evening and in May we had a fun day for the King's coronation where we again had a bouncy castle in Church as well as crafts and games and a splendid tea in the Church Hall. In June we had a book sale.

In September ten members of the congregation went to Obhan for a week's holiday. While we were there, we had many days out and also made the bus journey to Lochgilphead to visit Father Simon Mackenzie, a previous vicar at St. Matthew's. Despite our homeward train been cancelled due to the Scottish weather we all got home safely and enjoyed the companionship of our time away.

In September we had a Macmillan coffee morning and then during Advent two of the congregation ran a coffee morning every Friday, and these were well attended. We now have a small band of volunteers, and Friday Coffee mornings are set to continue weekly throughout the year.

2024 is our Jubilee year, when we will be celebrating 85 years of a Church at Perry Beeches and 60 years of the present Church building. We have great plans for this year, including another fun day, photo exhibitions, concerts, and services.

With the help of the congregation, we continue to deliver 6,500 Christmas and Easter Cards to all the houses in the Parish. On the cards we give details of the services and special events as well as all our regular services.

Janet Cook

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Each year we are required to review the following key tasks in relation to our work with children and young people and vulnerable adults.

- To ensure that copies of the latest policies and the Pocket Guide to Safeguarding are made available to volunteers.
- To ensure that volunteers undergo safeguarding training, including instruction on what to do if they receive information or have concerns about possible abuse. This should be renewed and updated as required.

- To ensure that volunteers and staff are aware of the expectations upon them, particularly in relation to social media and the use of text messaging with those under 18.
- To complete and update risk assessments for activities and to ensure that adequate insurance is in place for them.
- To clarify our first aid needs and to train volunteers as appropriate.
- To continue to ensure that consent forms for under 18s and contact details for volunteers are in place and up to date.
- To be sure that confidential details are kept securely and where they need to be shared are done so according to correct procedure and are GDPR compliant.

We use the Church of England Birmingham Safeguarding dashboard to constantly monitor our progress in all of these areas.

Safeguarding Officer Report 2023

During the year, the Safeguarding, Domestic Abuse and Recruitment of Ex-offender policies were reviewed along with the Safeguarding Action Plan.

As a result of the requirement for DBS checks to be conducted every 3 years as opposed to 5 previously, an ongoing programme has been implemented in order to bring these up to date.

In December, the Safeguarding Officer underwent training to enable them to conduct training as and when required within the church environment.

Judith Deverell

Safeguarding Officer

Vicar's Report 2023

Like most years, 2023 proved to be an interesting mix of 'Highs' and 'Lows'.

Amongst the significant 'Highs' were two Parish Pilgrimages – first, a day Pilgrimage to St Albans for the marvellous annual commemoration of Britain's first Christian Martyr – and second, a five-day Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Both provided welcome opportunities for spiritual refreshment and were much enjoyed by all who took part.

Other positive developments included the steady deepening of our relationship with two local schools – Glenmead Primary and Greenholm Primary - through class visits to Church, School Assemblies and Church

services for Easter and Christmas, and with James Watt College through our involvement in an interfaith presentation on Food and Religious Customs and plans to engage with the College as part of a Franciscan Mission in 2024.

Plans for the recruitment of an Anglo-Catholic Missioner (funded by the Church Commissioners) to work in a five-year pilot project with St Matthew's and four other Anglo-Catholic parishes came to fruition with the appointment of Mother Charlotte Gibson, who will take up her new role in April 2024. We look forward to welcoming Mthr Charlotte and working with her.

Church of England Birmingham's 'People and Places' initiative also progressed well over the year, and our new Oversight Area, comprising St John's Perry Barr and St Paul's and St Bernard's Hamstead as well as St Matthew's, will be formally launched early in 2024. We look forward to exploring how best our parishes can support one another and work together.

In May, we marked the coronation of Charles III with a free Community Fun day which was well supported and much appreciated. Once again, the bouncy castle in church was particularly well received!

During Advent, successful Coffee Mornings were held weekly on Fridays, and there are plans to repeat this during and beyond Lent 2024, with the hope that in due course, if suitable partnerships can be forged, this may develop into a Community Café.

So much for the 'Highs'.

The 'Lows' included three significant farewells.

Peter Conabeer who had faithfully served St Matthew's for many years as a Licensed Reader and PCC member died on 20th February and his funeral took place on 4th April. A Memorial Requiem Mass was also held on 22nd May and this was an opportunity for the parish and diocese to give thanks for Peter's long and distinguished ministry here.

Our Curate, Fr Tom Ruston left us in July in order to continue his Curacy in the diocese of Chester and to marry his fiancée Amy. Whilst we're sorry that his time with us was so brief, it was nevertheless good to have him around, and we wish him and Amy every blessing in their respective ministries.

Funding for our Children and Families Worker, Ros Hardy, ended in September. Ros had faced a number of challenges after coming into post in 2020 – first Covid and Lockdown, then an interregnum in both the benefices

in which she was based - here at St Matthews and at St George's Newtown and Saints Paul and Silas, Lozells. Working between these very different churches was in itself a significant challenge. Ros nevertheless managed to maintain our Sunday School and Messy Church (mainly during school holidays) and supported the Noah's Ark Mothers and Toddlers Group as well as working alongside the Clergy in developing our ministry to schools. Whilst we were sorry to see Ros leave, we are grateful for all that she did in her time with us, and we wish her well in her new post. We are delighted that husband Tim and daughter Anwen – and indeed Ros herself when her present duties permit – still worship with us on a regular basis.

The ending of the Children and Families Worker post has created the need to further review our ministry to young people – which is an area of weakness at the moment - and as a result, funding is now being sought, and has been partly secured, for a full-time Youth, Children and Families Ministry Leader whose three-year role will be more developmental and mission-focussed. We hope that this project will be up and running by September 2024.

It was a particular sadness for me that a sudden retinal detachment, which resulted in my having emergency surgery and then being off sick for three weeks, meant that I was not around to say farewell to Fr Tom, nor to be present for the ordination of our new Curate – Brother Martin John SSF.

Br Martin showed what I now know to be characteristic humility and patience as he waited for his Curacy to begin, but once he arrived, it felt as if he had always been here! Although he is only with us on Sundays and (usually) two other days a week, Br Martin has quickly proved to be a great asset to the parish. I know that many people value his quiet and gentle spirituality, and I'm delighted to have him as a colleague. Having a Religious working in the parish is a new experience for all of us, and both Br Martin and I are keen to see how this might develop in the future. In the meantime we look forward very much to his ordination as Priest in July 2024.

Most importantly of all, throughout all of these 'Highs and Lows' we have maintained our pattern of worship which focusses firmly on The Mass. We have held to our principles of genuine inclusivity and our 'Modern Catholic' tradition; the Parish Mass on Sunday remains at the core of our life and work, and this year we once again observed a full Holy Week, with all the appropriate liturgies.

I wish to express my particular thanks to those who contribute to our worship in any way, whether it's by preparing beforehand in the sacristy, serving, reading, flower-arranging, running the Sunday School, or contributing to the

music. Thanks are also due to Paul Phipps, our Licensed Reader, for his contribution to our Sunday worship and his leading of the weekly Telephone Service for those unable to attend church, and to Anne Gadd for running the monthly Julian Group meetings.

Throughout the year we have continued to accommodate many Community groups in our Church Hall and other rooms. We have also reached out into the local community by hosting occasional Community events and by developing the weekly Coffee Morning. This is an important part of our Christian service to the local community, and I wish to record my thanks to all those who volunteer to support this aspect of our life.

It would be a particular joy if some of those who come to St Matthew's for coffee and cake would also come to receive the bread and wine of the eucharist and join our church family in worship. I believe our services are every bit as friendly and welcoming as our social events, and we all have a role to play in inviting and encouraging people to experience, and give thanks for, the love of God in worship. For those who may be unable to attend on Sunday, our Friday Mass is a brief and simple service held just before the Coffee Morning starts, and it would be good to see it better supported.

Whether we like it or not, running a Parish nowadays involves ever-increasing managerial and administrative responsibilities and legal obligations. I wish to record my profound thanks to all those who share and lighten this burden in any way – to Ann our administrator, and to those who give of their time and energy voluntarily – especially our Churchwardens Janet and Tim and all members of our PCC. All that you do – and the good grace with which you do it – is greatly appreciated.

We are also very grateful to our patrons, The St Martin's Trust for their continuing financial support.

The coming year is, of course, our Diamond Jubilee, as we celebrate sixty years of the current Church building and eighty-five years of an Anglican Church occupying this site. Many varied events are being planned to mark this celebration and it will be a very busy year. Nevertheless, it will present us with several new opportunities for Mission, and it promises to be a very exciting and memorable time in the life of St Matthew's.

So, as we look back over the last year with thanks, let us also look forward to the coming year in expectation and with a readiness to seize the many opportunities and enjoy the various 'Highs' that it will hopefully present.

Fr Trevor

