

Charity number 1139018

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ST. PAUL'S STOCKINGFORD

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

2024 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of

St Paul's Church, Stockingford

Aim and purposes

St Paul's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, Reverend Kate Massey, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church buildings of St Paul's and the Parish Centre, Church Road, Stockingford.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Paul's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Paul's and the Parish Centre.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

This year we have been successful in welcoming more people and families into our church.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 89 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 39 of whom are not resident within the parish.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of their journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

Deanery Synod

Three members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Church Buildings and the Parish Centre

During the week, and the year, the church is used by various groups such as Stay and Play which is for young children and their parents, lunch clubs, theatre group drama, brownies and guides, a social group for ladies, and other single booking activities (e.g. polling station).

Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Arrangements are made to visit church members who have requested to receive communion at their homes. The pastoral care group organise visits and prayers for those who are sick or unable to get out for any other reason to keep them in touch with church life.

Mission and evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we raised £742.00 for Unicef, £1,364.00 for Coventry and Warwickshire MIND, £209.00 for Love The Ford, £893.16 for the Children's Society, £210.00 for Choir Charity and £1,283.35 for Christian Aid. (We also support Christian Aid week by making direct contributions.)

We also host a food bank, twice a week, and a monthly lunch club for the elderly.

During the year our growing faith family link worker felt unable to continue in post, but after a renewed recruitment process, we were able to appoint Sarah Marsden to continue and build on the work started by Donna. We are already seeing the benefits of Sarah's appointment.

We have a weekly newsletter which is printed for the Sunday and Wednesday services. It is also sent electronically to those on our contact list. This endeavours to keep people informed about activities and events within the parish, as well as give the readings etc. for the services.

Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £94,682.33 of which £46,713.97 was unrestricted planned voluntary donations, and a further £13,678.29 was from Gift Aid. Designated funds were £5,587.25 of which £4,770.00 was planned voluntary donations and a further £817.25 was from Gift Aid.

The planned giving through envelopes and banker's orders increased by 3.57% (2023 7.78% - increase)

£91,765.77 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St Paul's, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share that increased by 5.0% in the year and largely provides the stipends, training and housing for the clergy.

There was a small underspend on the restricted funds of £464.95'

Net movement in funds on unrestricted funds was £2,916.56 and the total fund balances during the year decreased from £106,245.36 to £105,765.84 of which £77,653.38 is unrestricted.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try and maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least nine months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £68,794. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the free reserves at the end of the year was £77,653 which is higher than this target. This policy will be reviewed in twelve months' time. The balance of £464.95 in the restricted fund is retained towards meeting the costs of employing a growing faith family link worker.

The cash balance of £13,394.76 in the fabric designated fund is retained towards meeting future repair costs of the church buildings.

It is our policy to invest our funds with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is.

Risk management

The PCC is aware of its risk management duties and has affirmed a number of policies, including the Notes of Guidance for PCC meetings and PCC responsibilities and Safeguarding. During the year a conflicts of interest policy and a safe use of images was adopted, and the PCC agreed the delegation of serious incident reporting to the charity commission. These risks are regularly reviewed, and systems and procedures have been put in place to manage these risks. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

All our trustees and youth and children's leaders are DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checked, as are those whose volunteering brings them into contact with vulnerable adults.

Our fire risk assessment, policies and fire safety equipment are kept up to date. The PCC approved a privacy policy and our data holding procedures were evaluated and amended where necessary to meet the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

Structures, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Paul's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), the churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how funds of the PCC are to be spent. This is delegated to management committees where appropriate.

The PCC met throughout the year with an average attendance of 85%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of management sub-committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These committees are worship and spirituality, social, buildings and finance, pastoral, and for this year 200 celebration. All are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative information

St Paul's Church is situated in Church Road, Stockingford, Nuneaton. It is part of the Diocese of Coventry within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Vicarage, 90 Church Road, Nuneaton. Registered charity number 1139018.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2023 until the date of this report was approved are:

Incumbent: Reverend Kate Massey

Wardens: Mrs Susan West

Mr Nigel Blease

Elected members:	Year elected
Phillip Corina	2024
Kim Fawcett (secretary)	2024
Lesley King	2024
Rob Jones	2023
Les Pipe	2023
Paul West (treasurer)	2023
Jane Udall	2022
Ann Pipe	2022
Mary Stewart	2022
Kathryn Taylor	2022
Andrew Godfrey	2022

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

David Spiers (lay chair) 2024

Rob Jones 2024

Nigel Blease 2023

Approved by the PCC on 13th April 2025 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Kate Massey

PCC Chairperson).

Reverend Kate Massey



ST PAUL'S CHURCH STOCKINGFORD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income:						
Envelopes including standing orders		46,713.97	4,770.00	-	51,483.97	49,705.01
Loose collections		1,076.97	-	-	1,076.97	949.35
Card machine & website		1,048.28	-	-	1,048.28	921.07
Weddings, baptisms & funerals		386.02	-	-	386.02	838.78
Gift Aid Tax Rebate		13,678.29	817.25	-	14,495.54	15,666.73
Donations & special collections		6,543.05	-	-	6,543.05	6,043.18
		<u>69,446.58</u>	<u>5,587.25</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,033.83</u>	<u>74,124.12</u>
Activities for generating funds:						
Bazaars & fetes		5,911.97	-	-	5,911.97	5,304.18
Centre & sundry income		1,676.39	-	-	1,676.39	2,761.18
Concerts & events		2,844.89	-	-	2,844.89	-
		<u>10,433.25</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,433.25</u>	<u>8,065.36</u>
Income from investments						
Investment income		2,538.50	-	-	2,538.50	1,485.17
Bank interest		-	770.92	-	770.92	613.94
		<u>2,538.50</u>	<u>770.92</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,309.42</u>	<u>2,099.11</u>
Income from church activities						
Fees to PCC		7,235.00	-	-	7,235.00	5,326.00
Church hall & parish centre lettings		5,029.00	-	-	5,029.00	3,814.70
		<u>12,264.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,264.00</u>	<u>9,140.70</u>
Other incoming resources						
Grants		-	-	7,828.00	7,828.00	3,461.00
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,828.00</u>	<u>7,828.00</u>	<u>3,461.00</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>94,682.33</u>	<u>6,358.17</u>	<u>7,828.00</u>	<u>108,868.50</u>	<u>96,890.29</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church activities	2(a)	91,725.77	10,219.20	7,363.05	109,308.02	87,123.13
Fund-raising trading costs	2(b)	40.00	-	-	40.00	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		<u>91,765.77</u>	<u>10,219.20</u>	<u>7,363.05</u>	<u>109,348.02</u>	<u>87,123.13</u>
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) BEFORE OTHER GAINS AND LOSSES						
		2,916.56	(3,861.03)	464.95	(479.52)	9,767.16
Total funds brought forward		74,736.82	31,508.54	-	106,245.36	96,478.20
Total funds carried forward		<u>77,653.38</u>	<u>27,647.51</u>	<u>464.95</u>	<u>105,765.84</u>	<u>106,245.36</u>

The attached notes on pages 7 and 10 form part of these financial statements.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH STOCKINGFORD

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible	4	<u> </u>	<u>14,059.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,059.00</u>	<u>2,997.00</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	5	3,500.87	193.75	-	3,694.62	4,259.75
CCLA Investment	6	50,364.17	-	-	50,364.17	47,825.87
Cash at bank and in hand	7	24,435.34	13,394.76	464.95	38,295.05	59,344.28
		<u>78,300.38</u>	<u>13,588.51</u>	<u>464.95</u>	<u>92,353.84</u>	<u>111,429.70</u>
LIABILITIES						
Creditors amounts falling due within one year	8	647.00	-	-	647.00	8,182.34
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>77,653.38</u>	<u>13,588.51</u>	<u>464.95</u>	<u>91,706.84</u>	<u>103,247.36</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>77,653.38</u>	<u>27,647.51</u>	<u>464.95</u>	<u>105,765.84</u>	<u>106,244.36</u>
REPRESENTED BY:						
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted	9(a)	77,653.38	-	-	77,653.38	74,736.82
Designated	9(a)	-	27,647.51	-	27,647.51	31,508.54
Restricted	9(b)	-	-	464.95	464.95	-
		<u>77,653.38</u>	<u>27,647.51</u>	<u>464.95</u>	<u>105,765.84</u>	<u>106,245.36</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on the 13th April 2025 and signed on its behalf by Mrs Susan West (Churchwarden), Mr Nigel Blease (Churchwarden) and Paul West (PCC Treasurer).

Mrs S West



Mr N Blease



Mr P West



The attached notes on pages 7 and 10 form part of these financial statements.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH STOCKINGFORD

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable accounting standard FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

FUNDS

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Designated funds represent sums set aside, out of ordinary funds, for specific designated purposes, which can be transferred back into general funds at any time.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

FIXED ASSETS

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis at the following rates:-

Church Organ - twenty years
Sound System Equipment - four years
Fixtures and fittings - four years
Projection equipment - four years
Altar furniture - ten years

ST PAUL'S CHURCH STOCKINGFORD

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RESOURCES EXPENSED	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£		£	£
2(a) Church activities					
Ministry					
Diocesan Parish Share	55,886.00	-	-	55,886.00	53,224.40
Fees to PCC	3,055.00	-	-	3,055.00	2,335.00
	<u>58,941.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,941.00</u>	<u>55,559.40</u>
Services					
Clergy	685.07	-	-	685.07	290.38
Elements	849.19	-	-	849.19	460.50
Vergers Fees	450.00	-	-	450.00	455.00
Organist	80.00	-	-	80.00	160.00
	<u>2,064.26</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,064.26</u>	<u>1,385.86</u>
ADMINISTRATION					
Administration	-	-	-	0.00	267.40
Printing & Stationery	393.28	-	-	393.28	335.98
Telephone	1,033.49	-	-	1,033.49	947.23
	<u>1,426.77</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,426.77</u>	<u>1,550.61</u>
MAINTENANCE					
Repairs & Maintenance	2,505.34	5,430.60	-	7,935.94	4,260.49
Photocopier maintenance	593.06	-	-	593.06	211.55
	<u>3,098.40</u>	<u>5,430.60</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>8,529.00</u>	<u>4,472.04</u>
UTILITIES					
Insurance	3,409.62	-	-	3,409.62	3,383.81
Gas	9,049.77	-	-	9,049.77	5,588.14
Electric	2,861.29	-	-	2,861.29	1,362.57
Water	93.30	-	-	93.30	78.03
Cleaning and wages	3,378.31	-	-	3,378.31	3,610.44
	<u>18,792.29</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,792.29</u>	<u>14,022.99</u>
MISCELLANEOUS					
Charitable donations	4,701.51	-	-	4,701.51	4,288.38
Growing Faith expenses	-	-	116.57	116.57	504.98
Growing Faith wages	-	-	7,246.48	7,246.48	2,708.78
Messy Church & Holiday Club	30.00	-	-	30.00	-
Miscellaneous	1,430.31	-	-	1,430.31	1,030.53
Concerts & events	615.70	-	-	615.70	-
Pastoral Care	119.50	-	-	119.50	212.75
Bank charges	506.03	-	-	506.03	506.81
Monthly Draw	-	300.00	-	300.00	300.00
	<u>7,403.05</u>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>7,363.05</u>	<u>15,066.10</u>	<u>9,552.23</u>
Depreciation					
Church organ	-	600.00	-	600.00	600.00
Sound & audio	-	3,887.60	-	3,887.60	-
Loss on sale of assets	-	1.00	-	1.00	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,488.60</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,488.60</u>	<u>600.00</u>
	<u>91,725.77</u>	<u>10,219.20</u>	<u>7,363.05</u>	<u>109,308.02</u>	<u>87,123.13</u>
2(b) Fund raising costs					
Bazaars	40.00	-	-	40.00	0.00
	<u>40.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>91,765.77</u>	<u>10,219.20</u>	<u>7,363.05</u>	<u>109,348.02</u>	<u>87,123.13</u>

ST PAUL'S CHURCH STOCKINGFORD
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3	STAFF COSTS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
	Wages and salaries	2,985.06	7,246.48	10,231.54	5,450.53
		<u>2,985.06</u>	<u>7,246.48</u>	<u>10,231.54</u>	<u>5,450.53</u>

During the year the PCC employed a caretaker and a growing faith family worker (all part-time) but no payments were large enough to attract social security costs in the year to 31 December 2024.

PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS

The only payments made to PCC or associated with the PCC were to one member in respect of wage costs, which related to the caretaking duties of the church buildings, no other payments or expenses were paid to any PCC member, or persons closely connected to them or related parties.

4	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS				
		Fixtures & Fittings (Unrestricted)	Altar Furniture (Designated)	Organ (Designated)	Sound & Audio (Designated)
	Cost				Total
	At 1 January 2024	36,901.34	9,833.00	11,995.00	11,428.17
	Additions	-	-	-	15,549.60
	Disposals	(11,886.81)	-	-	(11,427.17)
	At 31 December 2024	<u>25,014.53</u>	<u>9,833.00</u>	<u>11,995.00</u>	<u>15,550.60</u>
	Depreciation				
	At 1 January 2024	36,901.34	9,832.00	9,000.00	11,427.17
	Provision in year	-	-	600.00	3,887.60
	Disposals	(11,886.81)	-	-	(11,427.17)
	At 31 December 2024	<u>25,014.53</u>	<u>9,832.00</u>	<u>9,600.00</u>	<u>3,887.60</u>
	Net Book Value				
	At 31 December 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>2,395.00</u>	<u>11,663.00</u>
	At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>2,995.00</u>	<u>1.00</u>
5	DEBTORS	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Tax recoverable	2,990.50	193.75	3,184.25	3,959.75
	Other debtors	-	-	-	300.00
	Prepayments	510.37	-	510.37	-
		<u>3,500.87</u>	<u>193.75</u>	<u>3,694.62</u>	<u>4,259.75</u>

ST PAUL'S CHURCH STOCKINGFORD

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6	INVESTMENTS	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	CCLA Deposit Account	<u>50,364.17</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,364.17</u>	<u>47,825.67</u>

The above investment is held with CCLA Investment Management Limited on behalf of St Paul's Church, Stockingford, Parochial Church Council.

7	CASH AND BANK BALANCES	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Cash in hand	10.00	-	-	10.00	10.00
	Yorkshire bank current account	24,425.34	-	464.95	24,890.29	31,045.24
	Yorkshire bank fabric account	-	13,394.78	-	13,394.76	28,289.04
		<u>24,435.34</u>	<u>13,394.76</u>	<u>464.95</u>	<u>38,295.05</u>	<u>59,344.28</u>

8	LIABILITIES	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Amounts falling due within one year					
	Other Creditors	-	-	-	-	13.34
	Accrued income	-	-	-	0.00	7,828.00
	Accruals for utility and other costs	647.00	-	-	647.00	341.00
		<u>647.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>647.00</u>	<u>8,182.34</u>

9(a) FUNDS

The movement in unrestricted and designated funds during the year were:

Designated funds	Designated Funds (Building)	Unrestricted Funds
Balance at 1 January 2024	31,508.54	74,736.82
Receipts	6,358.17	94,682.33
	<u>37,866.71</u>	<u>169,419.15</u>
Payments	10,219.20	91,765.77
Balance at 31 December 2024	<u>27,647.51</u>	<u>77,653.38</u>

The building (fabric) fund represents accumulated donations and appeals for the maintenance of the church buildings.

9(b) The movement in restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Bal C/fwd
Restricted Funds				
Coventry Diocesan Mission Fund	-	7,828.00	(7,363.05)	464.95
	<u>-</u>	<u>7,828.00</u>	<u>(7,363.05)</u>	<u>464.95</u>

The restricted funds comprise grants received from Coventry Diocesan Mission Fund which is used to support a growing faith family link worker in the local community.

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St. Paul's, Stockingford

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of the 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

- (1) Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (2) To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (3) To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's 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 you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all 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 matters have 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 be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

R S Sohal
16 Binley Road
Coventry
West Midlands
CV3 1HZ

24th April 2023

St Paul's Church

Summary Schedules

31st December 2024

Centre Income	£
Stay and play	370.00
Coffee etc	1,230.89
Calenders	45.00
Printing	20.00
Book stall	10.50

1,676.39

Concerts and Events	£
Charity Events Concert	150.00
Flower Festival	309.49
Flower Festival Concert	612.00
Flower Festival Weekend	71.00
Rosie Goodwin	382.52
Lynn's Unsworth Talk	367.00
George Elliot talk	243.40
Gareth Davies Jones	221.00
Bedworth Brass	362.00
Carol Service	126.48

2,844.89

Parish Lettings	£
Masquerader	2,511.00
Charm Ltd T/a C	110.00
3rd Stockingford Brownies	306.00
2nd Stock Brownies	332.00
Warks Cava	80.00
David Adams	100.00
Nuneaton B C - Election room hire	600.00
Warwickshire Orchestra	150.00
Other	840.00

5,029.00

St Paul's Church

Summary Schedules

31st December 2024

Repairs and Renewals	£
Main fund	
Demonstration chair	35.94
Alarms etc	1,055.47
Gas service and boiler repairs	350.00
Warwickshire Fire	422.34
Clock repairs	376.80
Sundry repairs	264.79
	<hr/>
	2,505.34
 Fabric Fund	
Altar frontal	2,817.00
Chairs	2,613.60
	<hr/>
	5,430.60
	<hr/>
Total	7,935.94
	<hr/>

Charitable Donations	£
Unicef	742.00
Christian Aid	1,283.35
Coventry & Warwickshire Mind	1,364.00
Love The Ford grant	209.00
Childrens Society	893.16
Choir Charity	210.00
	<hr/>
	4,701.51
	<hr/>

Miscellaneous Expenses

G E wreath	15.00
Gifts	22.50
Roots for churches	149.00
CCLI - Performing and Music Licence	483.28
Womens Lectionary Licence	
Clergy Resources	Clergy Expenses
Christingle Expenses	Clergy Expenses
Kitchen supplies -	45.98
Resources re workshops etc	261.80
Christmas & Childrens Post cards	272.25
Fathers day Chocolates	76.80
Chocolate Coins Christmas/Advent	18.70
Oasis - donation re Narrowboat trip	25.00
	60.00
	<hr/>
	1,430.31
	<hr/>

Church Warden's Report for 2024 – presented at APCM May 2025

'Loving God- Loving The 'Ford'

This was the theme of 2024 as we celebrated 200 years of worship in Stockingford.

We started a busy year at our patronal festival in January with Bishop Ruth as our special guest. During Lent we followed a course considering 'Faith as a Verb' – not just being a believer but doing and living our faith. The events of Holy Week led us to Easter Day which we celebrated at dawn, and at a family communion at 10am (with Easter egg hunt).

April saw our flower festival and celebration of marriage weekend with a wonderful display in church, (thank you Mary for leading this) and knitted flowers all over Stockingford, (thank you Lesley for coming up with this idea). It was good to meet so many visitors and listen to shared stories. The weekend finished with a Songs of Praise service. Lots more visitors came to afternoon tea with renowned local author Rosie Goodwin. (Thank you, Deb, for overseeing this).

To celebrate Pentecost we held an open-air service and picnic on the school playground. Our regular Summer Gala in June proved to be as popular as ever and it was good to see queues at the gate drawn, in part, by the sound of Ben's fairground organ! During the summer holiday we held our family holiday club with lots of fun and a little learning.

In September we staged a heritage festival – Stockingford and St. Paul's Church through 200 years. This attracted lots of visitors and lots of interest in old photographs, documents, old maps of the area and a wonderful timeline. (Thank you to Marian and Lyn for putting this together.) Lyn gave an excellent talk about life and events of the time and the George Eliot Society gave a presentation reading. October saw scarecrows of sorts, shapes and sizes put up across Stockingford as we celebrated harvest. This year we invited donations to Trussel Trust Foodbank and, after a wonderful talk by Laura, to Coventry and Warwickshire MIND.

The Christmas Bazaar was as busy as ever with a record-breaking amount of money raised. (Thank you everybody). As Christmas approached, we staged a nativity festival - all sorts of images, models and representations of the Nativity, made, or lent by all sorts of people and groups. St. Paul's School arrived with life sized figures, including a donkey. To aid our advent preparations for Christmas Gareth Davies Jones led an inspiring meditation evening of music, songs and words. Christmas was very busy with school services, Christingle, beer and carols at 'The Miner's', carols round the tree at St. Paul's school, and our own church carol service. In the light of the troubles in the Holy Land, 'Embrace the Middle East', who support aid and peace, was chosen as our Christmas charity.

One project which had been ongoing all year came to its conclusion in January as we held our patronal festival for 2025. During this service of celebration to close our 200th year, a new, specially designed, and hand-worked altar frontal was unveiled and blessed for the use of this church as we move into our third century.

We have had an extremely busy and exciting year. To enable all this to happen so many people give their time, energy, skills and money to the everyday running of the church.

We need to thank those who keep an eye on the maintenance and cleaning of the building, indoors and out, those who ensure our bills are paid, all those who plan and organise or help at services and events, all those who help us reach out into the community, through work in schools, the Friday coffee shops, the Fairtrade stall, Lunch Club, and our Love the Ford fund, all the groups that use the building during the week, those who fill in forms and write documents to keep us safe, with policies, procedures, safeguarding and risk assessments, those who keep in touch when we are ill, all those who smile and welcome visitors and so on

There are too many people to try to mention them all. Thank you to everyone who supports St. Paul's and makes it the busy, welcoming, loving, inclusive place it is.

P.S. It is with mixed feelings, so pleased, yet tinged with sadness, that we will be saying goodbye to Kate and the family shortly as she takes up her new role as Canon for Arts and Reconciliation at the cathedral. We send her with our blessings and prayers.

Susan West

Nigel Blease

St Paul's Church, Stockingford APCM

21st April 2024, held within the 10am Communion Service

The AMP and APCM were held during the 10am Holy Communion Service, interspersed throughout the service. 59 members of the congregation were present.

Welcome and the Gathering

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

The minutes from the previous year's meeting (held 14th May 2023) were approved.

Two nominations had been received for the posts of Churchwarden:

- Nigel Blease, proposed by Andrew Godfrey and seconded by Andrea Godfrey.
- Susan West, proposed by Ann Pipe and seconded by Mary Stewart.

There being no other nominations, the above were elected.

Kate expressed thanks to Nigel and Susan for their hard work and support over the past year.

This meeting was closed and the service continued on to a hymn, Prayer of Preparation, Prayers of Penitence, Collect, then on to:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The minutes from the previous year's meeting (held 14th May 2023) were approved.

The APCM reports and accounts had been circulated to congregation members on the email list and hard copies were available in church.

The electoral roll stands at 87 (49 living within the Parish, 38 living outside the Parish).

Susan West (Churchwarden) presented the Churchwarden's report for 2023.

The service continued with the Bible reading, a hymn and the Gospel reading.

Deborah Blease (Safeguarding Officer) presented the Safeguarding report. David Spiers (Lay Chair) presented the Deanery report. No issues were raised regarding these reports.

Revd Kate presented the Incumbent's report. Revd Kate spoke about this Sunday being Good Shepherd Sunday and Vocation Sunday, as well as the APCM. Every Christian has a calling, and churches have a calling too. What is God calling us to be, in this place, at this time, as we celebrate 200 years of St Paul's? Revd Kate suggested that we are to be a joyous church, sharing the Good News, a welcoming church, and a 'Beate's church' – as we get by with a little help from our friends. We will reach out to the community and do things with the community, and do more than just get by!

The service continued with the Affirmation of Faith, Prayers of Intercession and the Peace.

Gary King presented the Treasurer's report and the annual financial statement was presented, independently examined by Mr Sohal. The report and financial statement were accepted. Mr Sohal was appointed to remain as the independent examiner via a unanimous vote of all people present.

Revd Kate thanked Gary for his hard work as Treasurer since 2007 as he steps down from the role.

Steve Marsden has stepped down from the PCC, Revd Kate thanked him for his contributions over the years. One member of PCC came to the end of their three year term and stood for re-election, and there was one other vacancy from last year. The following put themselves forward for election to PCC:

- Kimberley Fawcett – proposed by Ann Pipe, seconded by Susan West
- Lesley King – proposed by Anne Murray and seconded by Les Pipe
- Philip Corina – proposed by Paul West and seconded by Chris Smith

There being no other nominations, all the above were elected to PCC.

The current representatives for the Deanery Synod were approved to continue in their roles.

The service continued with the Offertory prayer, Eucharistic prayer, breaking of the bread, giving of Communion, and prayer after Communion.

During the dismissal, the Churchwardens, Safeguarding Officer, PCC members, Deanery Synod reps and Electoral Roll Officer were presented and commissioned.

The service ended with the Blessing.

Building and Finance Report 2024

It's been another busy year for the group in and around the church.

As always, the churchyard has provided a few challenges. Repair to the vicarage wall and the boxed grave with the deteriorating brickwork have become an ongoing topic of conversation. At present there is still no clear way forward for repairing the vicarage wall, but a more positive outcome has been identified for the boxed grave. The Council have agreed to cover the cost and Stephen Hill memorials will undertake the work subject to faculty approval. Alongside structural repairs keeping the churchyard looking tidy remains an ongoing task. The tree suckers on the lime trees seem to grow more quickly every year and the smattering of litter is an ever-increasing nuisance. Thankfully our group of regular volunteers are always at hand and giving up a day here and there soon restores the churchyard to its best.

During the year the sound system that had been malfunctioning for some time was finally replaced and I'm sure the clarity this has brought to the weekly services is being appreciated by all. The chairs provided for our comfort during services have also received quite a lot of attention to reduce the wobbles and creaks created by years of wear and tear. However, can I ask everyone to remain vigilant and report any issues encountered when using the chairs to either a member of the PCC, the Wardens or anyone on the Building and Finance committee. In addition to the regular seating, you may also have noticed that the folding chairs have also been replaced. After some careful consideration it was decided by the PCC that the old folding chairs, again after many years of use, were becoming worn around the hinge points and so time for replacement.

One task that has so far remained difficult to resolve is the removal of the flies from the clock tower. Despite numerous lengths of fly paper and a thorough vacuuming of floor and walls the fly infestation remains. Anyone that has any ideas of how this could be resolved without the removal of the clock and intensive fumigation, please let me know. During the summer a wasp nest was discovered in the loft space and did create some concern around the time of the summer gala as a few stalls keep their props and equipment in the vicinity of the nest. Thankfully the inconvenience of these small but irritating creatures proved to be less significant than first thought and I'm pleased to say they have now moved on. The access / entry point where the wasps entered the loft space will be repaired early 2025.

The group has again reviewed and updated the church Health and Safety policy which has been signed off until the next review.

Finally, no report would be complete without some reference to the finances. Earlier in the year Gary informed us all that he would be stepping down as treasurer after many, many years of sterling service. A very big thank you to Gary for continuing this very demanding job for so long. I think we all realised at the time this would be a very difficult role to fill. Not surprisingly no one came forward to take on the treasurer's role so following much soul searching and discussion Gary and Paul have agreed to share the financial duties collectively. A very big thank you must therefore go to both Gary and Paul for taking responsibility for this most important of all church roles.

Continuing the financial theme, the church (like many of us) is suffering the pinch created by the increased cost of utilities. So we have had to look more closely at the electricity and gas usage. The heating and lights take a great deal of gas and electricity, so more thought and care need to be applied when using the church. Lights and water boilers should be switched off when leaving the church and doors should be closed when the heating is on to preserve the temperature within the building. The 20 percent plus increase has added a great deal to an already significant cost required to heat and light the church and parish centre.

As always can I extend a big thank you to the parishioners who have continued to maintain their regular giving, many having reverted to bank transfers etc as without this continued income stream the church would simply cease to exist.

If anyone in the congregation fancies an evening of light problem-solving discussion (approximately every 8-12 weeks) I'd encourage you to join us – you may even find it interesting.

Les Pipe (Chair) on behalf of: Jane Udall, Paul West, Ray Bone, Gary King, David Griffith, Andrew Godfrey & Nigel Blease. (Kate in attendance at various meetings).

Deanery Synod Report

St. Paul's has four representatives on the Deanery Synod, Revd. Kate as the incumbent, David Spiers, Nigel Blease and Rob Jones, who are elected on a three yearly cycle.

The aim of the Synod is for elected members from each parish to meet together, worship, build a Deanery wide shared vision, exchange ideas, news and forthcoming events and build relationships so that each parish can feel part supported. To this end the Deanery has met three times this year, all in person, with an extra 'Deanery Gathering' being at the end of Bishop Ruth's two day visit to the deanery. The meetings follow a similar pattern, with some variation allowing for the individual style and preferences of the host church.

The meeting opens with some form of worship. This can be as formal as compline or as free as some worship songs. There is usually at least one main topic, with accompanying speaker, and most often two. Questions are encouraged and time available for group discussions and feedback. Finally Deanery news and information is shared

The Synod is run, organised and administered by a small group, usually referred to as the Standing Committee. It is made up of equal numbers of clergy and laity. The Lay Chair and the Area Dean alternate the leading of the Standing Committee and the full Deanery.

The meeting in Feb was held at St Paul's Stockingford. Hub Church: What they are and how can they help parishes. Church representatives were asked to identify areas where Hub Church personal could help parishes with projects. Pathway to Net Zero: Net Zero Carbon Project Officer shared information and resources that could help churches reduce their carbon footprint. In March, there was an extra Deanery Gathering, at Bulkington, where Bishop Ruth spoke about what she had noticed during her two days touring the Deanery. There was also an opportunity to ask questions, share concerns and hear the latest updates from the Deanery. The meeting in June was held at St. Nicolas Church. A Mission Development Update was given, where news was shared about events that were planned and reports were heard about activities that had happened. Mission to New Housing: Canon David Porter is working within the Deanery to identify potential partnerships within outside agencies. There was also a dedicated Prayer Time: where members were asked to particularly think about how we could inspire others. This meeting finished with a short service of Holy Communion. **Novembers** meeting was held at St Giles Church Hall. The main topic for discussion was AI; Opportunities, morality and how we should engage with it as Christians and as a Church. There were two presentations covering the history and development of it and how churches can or should use it. Questions were taken. Mission Hub News was introduced, a quarterly news letter that details events that are happening across the deanery.

A copy of each meetings minutes, along with any group questions that are asked and what responses were received, power-point presentations used and a copy of each quarters Hub Church News can be found on the Nuneaton Deanery Website at;

nuneaton-deanery.org.uk

David Spiers

St. Paul's Fair Trade Stall



2024 was the twenty-seventh year of trading for St. Paul's Fair Trade Stall.

Despite the demise of the Traidcraft brand, after careful research we were able to find several new suppliers and continue to stock and operate the stall in its permanent foyer setting, and also to run stalls at the Summer Gala and Christmas Fayre.

Much of our income is now taken by bank transfer, although we still accept payment via cash, cheque, card and mobile phone.

As is our usual practice, we were able to donate from our trading surplus to the Transform Trade charity (previously known as Traidcraft Exchange), which funds project work overseas. We made a donation of £250 in December 2024, which was then doubled by Transform Trade partners to £500.

St. Paul's remains committed to being a Fair Trade Church, and the stall continues to provide kitchen and cleaning consumables to the Church to support this. We also supply the Fair Trade hamper for the Church Christmas prize draw.

Remember, every time you choose to buy from the Fair Trade stall, you are contributing to changing people's lives and supporting real families, through an ethos of fairness, sustainability and justice.

We look forward to continuing to bring you a great range of ethical, sustainable and fairly-traded products in 2025. Please keep visiting the stall.

With many thanks

Andy Gazeley

St Paul's Fair Trade Stall Account

Statement of Accounts Year Ended:

31/12/2024

Receipts

Sale of Goods	£ 3,415.82
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TOTAL	£ 3,415.82
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Payments

Purchase of Goods	£ 2,655.84
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Donation to Transform Trade	£ 250.00
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TOTAL	£ 2,905.84
--------------	-------------------

Represented by:

Balance Brought Forward 01/01/2024	£ 726.64
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Receipts	£ 3,415.82
----------	------------

	£ 4,142.46
--	------------

Payments	£ 2,905.84
----------	------------

TOTAL REMAINING	£ 1,236.62
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I have examined the books and records of St. Paul's Fair Trade Stall and confirm that they show a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at 31st December 2024

P West

Treasurer

Love the Ford

What is Love the Ford?

Love the Ford is a microgrant fund set up by the PCC. It is designed to provide items to people experiencing hardship - one-off items/costs to prevent crisis: "Love your neighbour, love the 'Ford". LTF is to help people experiencing hardship who live within the Parish of St Paul's Stockingford, or who are on the electoral roll of St Paul's Stockingford, or who have children that attend the linked schools (if they are referred by the school). The microgrants cover one-off items such as a microwave, essential clothing, school shoes, bedding etc. They are not to cover ongoing costs such as energy bills or housing costs. We take applications via a simple form from professionals making a referral on behalf of people they work with/support. This allows us to be sure to a reasonable extent that the request is genuine and the person is eligible. A panel of at least five members, currently the Vicar, Kim Fawcett, Andrew Godfrey, David Spiers and Nigel Blease review applications which are circulated by email and a simple majority of 3/5 required to accept or reject the application. We had an initial limit of £200 for each application, but with the ability to consider applications over £200 in exceptional circumstances. The requested item is normally ordered online and delivered to the recipient. Cash is not given in any circumstance. The fund is intended to cover one-off items to avoid a crisis, so we would not expect multiple applications for the same person/family. However, the group could consider further applications for the same applicant in exceptional circumstances. An initial starter fund of £2000 was set aside by the PCC for this fund. We have received donations from the congregation and community to support LTF.

Love the Ford activity until Dec 2024

Since the fund was established in late 2022 until Dec 2024, we have had six applications for a microgrant. Despite informing all of our local schools of this fund, all our applications have come from St Paul's Church School where we have close links with the pastoral team. As our Growing Faith Project Worker continues to build good relationships with the other schools in our parish, the demand for support may grow.

Of the applications for support, two were for white goods (e.g. a freezer) to enable families to store cheaper and healthier food. The remainder were for bedroom furniture when families didn't have the basic bedding or storage they needed. Due to inflation and the cost of living crisis, our initial £200 limit has often proved to be too low for the needs referred to us, but as a panel we have been satisfied that the applications were essential and would improve people's quality of life and so have awarded grants up to £350.

Status of Current Funds

We received donations from SPOGs as well as some other individuals from the congregation. We also raise money for LTF at our annual Beer and Carols event.

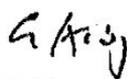
The fund is managed as part of our PCC accounts and therefore we do not have accounts to be audited. The total remaining LTF funds at the end of Dec 2024 were:

ST. PAUL'S LUNCHEON CLUB

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

Income	£
Meals	870.50
Donations	122.00
	<u>992.50</u>
Expenditure	
Food	637.10
Christian Aid Donation	30.00
Mothering Sunday Flowers	57.60
Mind	30.00
Embrace	40.00
Bingo Prizes & Napkins	17.30
Sundries, Christmas & Jo	33.00
	<u>845.00</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>147.50</u>
Represented By:	
Balance at 1st January 2024	
Cash	205.15
Bank	333.37
	<u>538.52</u>
Less Donation given to Altar Cloth from bank	(333.37)
	<u>205.15</u>
Excess of Expenditure over Income	<u>147.50</u>
	<u>352.65</u>
Balance at 31st December 2024	
Cash	252.65
Bank	100.00
	<u>352.65</u>

I have examined the books and records of St Paul's Luncheon Club and confirm that they show a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at the 31st December 2024



G P King - Assistant Treasurer to St Paul's PCC

St. Paul's Luncheon Club

Annual Report 2024

The Lunch Club takes place usually on the first Tuesday of the month.

It commences with a communion service at 11.30 am followed by a cup of tea and then a friendly group wholesome meal. After the meal we enjoy a game of Bingo.

Let's not forget the work that goes on prior to this.

Many thanks to the kitchen staff, Paul our cook, Ann, Sue and Pauline his helpers.

Also, thanks to Les who comes along to put up the tables and set them out for dinner.

Many thanks also to Ray, Keith, Joyce, Chris and Joan our team of servers, not forgetting Andrea who plays carols for us at our Christmas dinner.

Margaret Bone

Men's Group Report 2024

Not a lot to report for 2024 as we only had four events.

The first was on a very damp May evening when we had a walk from Corley Moor in a circle and back to the pub for a deserved drink afterwards. Whilst the rain just managed to keep off whilst we were walking the underfoot conditions were decidedly wet. I quickly found where the stitching on one of my boots had failed!

In June we assembled at Ben Pipe's for a pizza evening. Ben, and his helpers, had prepared the toppings and rolled out the dough, but each of us were able to decide which toppings to add to our pizza. We then watched them cook in the oven before consuming them, mostly accompanied by a small alcoholic beverage.

We obviously like eating as we met again in August for a BBQ. I'd made some garlic bread and prepared a small amount of salad but left the meat choice to individuals. Everyone cooked their own meat so that no-one else could be blamed for the upset stomach.

Our final session was organised and run by Dan Fawcett. He talked about his voluntary work with the missing person's search team, and then we had a go at several practical activities associated with the searches. I don't think that any of us were aware of the work of these search teams and the vital role that they often undertake.

Thanks to Les for helping me check the walk in advance, to Ben and Dan for organising their sessions and for all the preparation they put in, and to all who attended.

Paul

Oasis Report January 2024 – July 2024

This is the last Oasis report. After 13 years of service, we, Sue and John Cutts, have reluctantly stepped down from our posts. It was decided that the safeguarding guidance was too tricky to adhere to with only two leaders. So, after holding a farewell party in July 2024, the Oasis group was disbanded. The remaining £45 was spent on a farewell dinner later in the year

2024 was not such a good year. Two of our well-loved members died.

Most weeks we shared news (national, local and personal) which led to lively discussions, and we celebrated family arrivals and birthdays. We occasionally played board games, but our weekly word puzzle was our favourite activity over cups of tea, with biscuits and fruit. Members often brought cakes to share when it was their birthdays – there was always time for cake !

The group was financed by the weekly contribution of 50p per person. This small fund was also used to buy treats, the occasional ice cream, and to buy gifts to give to visiting speakers, such as the Wiltshire Foods representative, and donations to funerals

Off site, the group met for a soup lunch to raise funds for Christian Aid week. We also made local excursions to Poppies café and the Abbey theatre to see a pantomime and Oliver!. We also enjoyed seeing "Legally Blond" at Bluecoats School,

We were grateful to Church for the contribution to part-fund the group for our last annual Hargreaves Boat trip in June

Several of our members regularly attended Church, and some of the others choose to come to the monthly Parish lunch and service as well, extending our Church community. So, although the group has been disbanded, the members have formed such strong links over the years that they continue to care about each other and keep in touch via birthday cards, phone calls and shared activities.

Hopefully a new 'Oasis' will start again in the future.

Volunteers

Sue and John Cutts

Occasionally, one of our members, Marsha Smedley, helped with the sessions.

Pastoral Care Report 2024

Throughout 2024, pastoral care continued to be offered to members of the congregation in different ways.

Pastoral visits and calls are shared among the group and beyond depending on who has a link to the person concerned, but Norma Law in particular has faithfully kept in touch with people by phone during times when they cannot come to church. Please do let Norma know of anyone in the church family whom you know might benefit from a call.

Julia Gazeley continues to revise and distribute the regular prayer list - where congregation members volunteer to pray regularly for a few people over a couple of months. This is a quiet but vital ministry and we would value both people's suggestions for people to add to the prayer list and volunteers to pray. Please do keep the prayer list in mind for people going through difficult times and consider whether you might be willing to join the group of faithful pray-ers!

Julia and Kate continue to moderate our Emergency Prayer Circle where urgent prayer requests can be texted out to members of the congregation who are willing to pray in these circumstances. In the past year, we have had dozens of requests for emergency prayer – and many friends and family members grateful to know they or their loved one is held in prayer. If you would like to join the Prayer Circle, please speak to Julia or Kate.

Please see the separate report from Lunch Club with details of their activities.

The knitters of St Paul's continued making prayer shawls, which we have blessed and given to people in need of comfort and care. Beautifully wrapped by Julia, they have been such a tangible sign of our love and prayers to those who have received them.

Jan Jones co-ordinated the giving of small gifts to members of the congregation in particular need of pastoral care at Christmas.

Chris Smith keeps in touch with our baptism families for a year after their service, sending Christmas and anniversary cards and inviting them to church services and events

Mary Stewart faithfully sends cards to members of the congregation on significant occasions – happy or sad – from the church family assuring them of our love. This is another important but largely invisible task, and we are so grateful to Mary for her work. Please do let Mary know if there are people experiencing a significant big birthday, anniversary, birth of a child, marriage, illness or bereavement, so we can send our love and prayers.

Our WhatsApp group allows us to keep each other informed of any pastoral care needs. One of the constant challenges with pastoral care is ensuring that people know what they need to know to offer care without compromising confidentiality for those who need it. For each individual, their expectations around care and confidentiality can be different, so we do our best – and apologise if we do not always get things right. Please do let us know if we can do something differently to care better for you.

As ever, we encourage the congregation to get in touch if they know of any situation where some sensitive, caring contact from the church might be appreciated. We can only help if we know!

Thank you to Chris, Mary, Norma, Sue, Margaret, Julia, Angela and Jan for their work on the Pastoral Care Team. If you would be willing to join in this work – we could especially do with some men joining the team – we would love to hear from you.

Kate Massey

April 2025

St Paul's Church Stay and Play Accounts - Jan- Dec 2024

bbf January 2024	26.04	
income		
cash	986.84	
card reader	<u>175.00</u>	
total		1187.88
expenses		
refreshments	458.11	
activities/ equipment	57.30	
Christmas books	30.00	
donation to Christian Aid	40.00	
donation to Embrace	<u>30.00</u>	
total		<u>615.41</u>
income over expenses		572.47
paid to PCC		
direct by card reader	175.00	
in cash	<u>370.00</u>	
total		<u>545.00</u>
cash in hand January 2025		27.47

I have examined the books and records of St Paul's Church Stay and Play Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 and am satisfied that they show a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at 31 December 2024

G King

St Paul's Stay and Play Group Report - January to December 2024

This group has continued to meet each Thursday morning (during term time) to offer pre-school children and their carers a safe, stimulating environment in which to meet and develop new skills and friendships. We provide a range of toys and activities (and snacks) to encourage children to learn and grow through play, ending each session with a song or story time enjoyed by all.

During this year we have welcomed an average of 20-25 families each session and have had contact with over 80 families some of whom attend each week, some just occasionally. It is very rewarding to hear some of our visitors sing our praises and recommend the group to others, or to bring along a friend.

We advertise church, children's events and special services, encouraging families to join in. This year we did have lots of super donations towards our Christmas Bazaar toy stall and it was great to see so many of children visiting the event with their families.

We ask for a donation of £2.00 per family per visit and this covers our running costs with usually a little to spare. We were able, this year, to make donations from our funds to the church's collections for Christian Aid and Embrace and were able to present each child with a story book Christmas gift.

This group is totally reliant on a team of very patient, hardworking and enthusiastic volunteers Many, many thanks to them. We are actively looking for further volunteers to join us on a (approximately) monthly rota so if you feel you might like to help please have a word, or come along and see what goes on.

Susan West
on behalf of the team

Annual Report for St Pauls: Safeguarding 2025

Reverend Kate Massey and the Parochial Church Council are together responsible for ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures are implemented within the parish of St Paul, Stockingford.

The Diocesan policy on safeguarding is reviewed and accepted by the PCC every year, and amended according to Diocesan advice, complying with the duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding. The PCC has also approved various Diocesan policies and protocols during the year.

Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting. Copies of the Safeguarding Policy & Parish Safeguarding Statement are displayed in the entrance foyer of the Church building. Relevant posters with contact details etc. are placed around the Church Building, visible to all users.

A comprehensive register is kept in a secure place of all volunteer details so that we can ensure we are up to date with renewals, training etc. We have recently reviewed the register and have archived those on the register who are no longer active in the church. This means they can help in the future if training is complete. This year the Diocese have recommended that all helpers undertake the domestic violence training(DVT) in addition to usual basic and foundation as appropriate. With this in mind Rev Kate and Debs have organised an on- site Safeguarding Training session on: **May 17th at 10-12noon for the DVT and 12.30 -2pm for the foundation training to help people to complete their training in a supported environment together.** Other people can chose to update their training on line, in their own time. The commitment of our volunteers to keep up to date with training is much appreciated.

We continue to work hard to keep systems in place to make sure we follow Diocesan advice on Safer Recruitment, ensuring that all new volunteers are checked and appointed correctly. There is a change in who needs a DBS and is decided according to the role, however, all volunteers will be initially safely recruited.

Debs receives regular e-mail updates from the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. Kate receives clergy updates and training and Kate and Debs communicate regularly to ensure procedures and policies are being followed.

We have continued to update the Parish Dashboard which gives us acknowledgment for what has been done and an action plan for what still needs to be done. This is a very useful on- going tool which is shared with the PCC. We have achieved level three status which we are proud of, thanks for all of you who have worked to help us achieve this.

We continue to develop and update numerous risk assessments which have been drawn up, approved of and monitored during the year. These have, as

always, covered the safeguarding and general well being of both volunteers and church/parish centre users.

Systems are in place for safe keeping of any documentation relating to safeguarding.

Each group have their own safeguarding file with the required information and guidance in case they need to think about a possible or actual safeguarding issue.

Information on volunteers at church:

People with DBS =13

People safely recruited only, but active volunteers or available if needed = 16

Total number of Volunteers= 29

As Kate will be leaving us in May, Lyn Unsworth has kindly agreed to support Debs in her role as Safe Guarding Officer, this will be invaluable and greatly appreciated.

We have a new email for any Safeguarding correspondences:

SGinSTPauls@outlook.com please feel free to use it any time for questions, concerns and feedback.

Deborah Blease

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Social Committee Annual Report 2024

The Social Committee have been a little busier this year, either organising, coordinating or supporting other events.

We have helped with refreshments etc. for some of the 200 year Celebrations e.g. Patronal Festival, Flower Festival, Heritage Weekend & Junction 77 concert.

Christian Aid week was coordinated with several members organising coffee events, afternoon teas and breakfasts along with supporting events that other people organised.

The Summer Gala was held on what, once again, was a glorious sunny afternoon. Lots of fun was had by all as well as raising much needed funds for the work of our church. We invited all the Primary Schools to come & perform & were delighted when Park Lane School choir agreed to come along.

We thought we would try a different sort of event for Harvest this year, being mindful of the growing number of people not wanting to come out & attend an evening function. We tried to organise an afternoon tea dance, but unfortunately the response was very poor, so we decided to cancel the event.

Bad weather for our Christmas Bazaar meant we had to squeeze into church with just a few hardy stall holders (BBQ, mulled wine & hot chocolate) staying outside. Christmas music & carols played on a fairground organ drew quite a bit of attention from visitors & passers-by! We were delighted that we broke all records of money raised this year. A fantastic result reflecting the hard work of so many different people.

An Advent meditation evening with Gareth Davies Jones was organised by Lesley & although it would have been nice to have a few more people attending.....it was a brilliant evening for those who did go along.

After the success of our Makers Market last year, we were disappointed that the one organised for October did not attract enough stall holders to make it viable. We are not disheartened, however, & have already pencilled in two events for 2025.

Helping out at several Christmas events such as Christingle, Bedworth Brass & Carol Service kept the committee busy & it was great to be able to ask others to help out too!

The Social Committee members are **Andrea Godfrey, Lesley King, Liam Massey, Anne Murray & Ann Pipe**. Have a chat to any of them if you fancy joining us next year or if you have any suggestions for future events.

Ann Pipe (Chair)

SPOGS ACCOUNTS 2024

Income	
Subs carried over from 2023	£22.90
Subs Jan 2024 to Dec 2024	£185.00
Total income	£207.90

Expenditure	
SPOGs evening expenditure	£179.47
Total expenditure	£179.47

Expenditure Break down		
SPOGs evening expenditure		
Receipt 1	Aldi	£13.77
Receipt 2	Tesco	£4.10
Receipt 3	Tesco	£4.35
Receipt 4	Tesco	£6.10
Receipt 5	Tesco	£15.60
Receipt 6	ASDA	£2.50
Receipt 7	Aldi	£40.50
Receipt 8	Tesco	£3.50
Receipt 9	Tesco	£1.00
Receipt 10	Tesco	£8.80
Receipt 11	Aldi	£6.10
Receipt 12	Tesco	£6.40
Receipt 13	Poundland	£4.00
Receipt 14	Nisa	£4.03
Receipt 15	Poundland	£11.83
Receipt 16	Dunelm	£20.25
Receipt 17	Aldi	£2.10
Receipt 18	Tesco	£13.60
Receipt 19	Aldi	£5.94
Unreceipted		£5.00
Total expenditure		£179.47

Funds carrier forward into 2025	£28.43
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I have examined the accounts and found them correct.
P West

SPOGs 2024 REPORT

2024 has been a good year for SPOGs. With a leadership team of three we were able to run the majority of the term however we do need more volunteers if we are to keep SPOGs running on a weekly basis through each term.

The exploration of the Christian faith is at the heart of what we do as a group and we use various methods to do this from watching relevant films, through discussions, crafts, games nights and baking.

Lent started as always with a pancake night and this year we made Pancakes, a messy but fun evening enjoyed by all.

The spring term began with a Murder Mystery night. All the SPOGs dressed in their 1920's outfits and looked amazing. Sarah cooked a 3 course meal which was enjoyed by all.

This years Sponsored event was to raise money towards the 200-year celebrations of the church and saw the SPOGs travelling to London to walk the Bridges over the river Thames. This is a circa 12mile route crossing the bridges from Westminster to Tower Bridge. The SPOGs and the leaders had a great day although a little tired at the end. A total of £600 was presented to Reverend Kate. Thanks to all who supported the SPOGs it is very much appreciated.

participated in our annual walk talk and chips night. The summer term was rounded off with a BBQ in the church grounds. Due to the pressure of 6th form studies, we unfortunately lost 2 of our members. We wish the well for the future.

The SPOGs supported the Christingle service and also ran a stall at the Christmas Fayre. This year's Christmas party was a meal at the Sunnyside and was really enjoyed by all. Thanks go to the Landlord who really looked after and catered for all our needs.

The future of the group is looking good although we do need to recruit more members. Currently we have 8 SPOGs.

If you know of any young people between the ages of 11 to 18, that would like to become members, please bring them along any Sunday evening. SPOGs meet in the parish centre at 7pm and finish at 8.30pm, subs is £1.

A big thank you goes to the SPOGs for their continuing enthusiasm and contributions and to Steve, Sarah & Debbie, for the time and effort put in to each SPOGs meeting.

If you feel you could assist with ideas, assist in running an evening or would like to be part of the leadership team please let one of the leaders know.

Report of the Worship and Spirituality group – Jan – Dec 2024

This group continues to meet regularly throughout the year to plan and prepare services and other worship events for our church. Much of our planning is calendar led and based around the major festivals and celebrations. This year has been a special year – the 200th anniversary of St Paul's Church, Stockingford – and has involved lots of people helping to plan and organise all sorts of events for the church congregation and the wider community.

Some of the highlights of the year have been

- A special service with bishop Ruth to start our year of celebrations
- The Lent course, 'Faith is a Verb', looking at how we live our faith
- Easter day with a dawn service and Family Communion
- The Celebration of Marriage Flower Festival with wonderful displays, hundreds of knitted flowers and a Songs of Praise Service
- Pentecost Service and picnic on the playground at St Paul's School
- Harvest Celebration and Scarecrow Festival collecting donations to Foodbank and MIND
- The Heritage Week in which we celebrated the history of the church and the local area with displays, talks, lots of visitors and ribbons everywhere
- Advent music evening with Gareth Davies-Jones
- The Nativity Festival when the church was filled with so many different representations of the Christmas story
- And a very busy Christmas season with lots of events supporting the charity 'Embrace the Middle East'

Besides these events this group looks at, thinks about and discusses many, many other issues.

'Ponderings and Prayers' continues to meet twice a month. It tends to be small in number but an excellent opportunity to talk together and share views, ideas and questions raised by the Bible readings used in church that week. From Advent and continuing for the moment the church has been using a different lectionary by Wilda Gafney that offers a more feminist view of the scriptures. It has led to some interesting discussions regarding differences of translation.

The 'God Questions' course that was planned and advertised for the autumn only attracted one person and so became a series of 1:1 chats.

Our Growing Faith Project Worker, Donna, resigned for personal reasons and the post was readvertised. Sarah Marsden has now taken up this role which includes work with various schools and with children and families around church. Work in St Paul's School continues with the church supporting groups of children and worship times. Children from the school's worship leader team have led congregational worship in church.

The church has, after lots of work and research, had a new audio/visual system installed. This has greatly enhanced the quality of presentations and worship.

To commemorate and celebrate our 200th year a new altar frontal has been designed, created and now dedicated for our use.

This group is always open to feedback and new ideas and would welcome further members. Please have a chat with Kate, or one of the church wardens.

Susan West

Worship and Spirituality group