

Parish of

Saint Mary the Virgin, Kenton

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2023

Administrative information

The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin is situated in Saint Leonard's Avenue, Kenton. It is part of the Harrow Deanery in the Diocese of London within the Church of England.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Kenton is registered with the Charity Commission.

Parochial Church Council (PCC) members who have served from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent / Chairman	The Rev'd Richard Norman	
Vice Chairman	Mr Kenrick Elliott	
Self-supporting Minister	The Rev'd Mike Still	
Churchwardens	Miss Johnette Clarke Mr Kenrick Elliott	
Representatives on Deanery Synod	Prof Luke Anand Mrs Leila Bullard Miss Johnette Clarke	(from 14 th May 2023) (to 14 th May 2023)
Elected members	Prof Luke Anand Mr Robbie Anand Mrs Janet Cameron Mrs Gloria Cowans Mrs Patricia Edwards Mrs Erma Fernandes Mr David Griffiths Ms Angela Haines Ms Beauty Huntley Ms Bernadette Labastide Ms Joanna Service Mr Ioan Tinca Ms Jean Williams Mrs Cynthia Yorke	(to 14 th May 2023) (from 14 th May 2023) (to 14 th May 2023) (to 14 th May 2023) (from 14 th May 2023) (to 14 th May 2023)
Co-opted member	Mrs Grace Afriye	(from 25 th June 2023)

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

BANKERS

Barclays Bank plc, Harrow Group, 355 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2AN

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

The Incumbent / PCC Chairman

The Vicarage, 3, St. Leonard's Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 8EJ

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1132234

WEBSITE www.stmaryskenton.org

Background

The Parish of St Mary The Virgin Kenton is in The Diocese of London, part of The Church Of England. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary The Virgin Kenton, co-operating with the Incumbent, has the responsibility of promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ and mission of The Church, within the parish and more widely. The Church of England has been described as the one institution that exists for the benefit of those outside. Due to the established nature of the Church, and for the public benefit, everyone within the geographical boundaries of the parish can look to St Mary's as 'their' parish church, offering a place of worship for anyone who wishes to attend. We are always glad to welcome people into the family of the Church.

Practically, the Incumbent and PCC have responsibility for maintaining the Church plant, together with the Church Hall and the former Curate's flat at 268a Kenton Road, which is rented out.

The Parish Church

For 97 years the parish has held full catholic privileges and was built for anglo-catholic worship. The original missionary parish and temporary church was dedicated to St Leonard. Fr Johnson (1st Vicar) was then given a sum of money towards the building of the actual parish church from the sale of St. Mary's Church, Charing Cross Road, on condition it was dedicated to Our Lady, hence the two dedications. St Leonard is now our secondary Patron.

Let it be clear that St Mary's welcomes everyone and values each person who comes through her doors. Our passion is God's passion for souls. We want to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with everyone. All are valued and welcome. Saint Mary's is a field hospital for sinners.

Introduction

The year 2023 saw fresh momentum animate many areas of parish life. We are pleased to share further details of these developments in this Annual Report. At the same time, we remember and honour the contributions of Malcolm Walker and Mary Haines, faithful parishioners who died this year – and we pray for the repose of their souls.

Worship

Our daily worship continues to sustain our ministry and mission. Average Sunday Attendance increased year-on-year by 25% (to 55, including 5 children); attendance over Easter (169) was the second-highest in ten years, with Christmas attendance steady. There was one Baptism in 2023; however, seven candidates were presented to the Bishop of Fulham for Confirmation, during a very well-attended Mass in honour of St Leonard, our secondary patron. We welcomed many guests to this celebration, including five further candidates for Confirmation from Little Stanmore.

Guest preachers in 2023 included the former Bishop of Willesden, the Rt Rev'd Pete Broadbent. The Willan Singers sang Fauré's *Requiem* during a special Mass in October. Communion in both kinds was restored in Advent. The clergy officiated at 10 funerals.

Members of the congregation supported other churches locally, and wider church activities - for example attending and participating in the Kenton Group of Churches Walk of Witness on Good Friday, and the World Day of Prayer. A large group travelled to the Pilgrimage for Healing and Renewal at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham: this was organised in conjunction with the parishes of St Andrew, Kingsbury and St Andrew, Willesden, with whom we also took part in a residential pilgrimage to Walsingham, and the Bishop of Richborough's Festival at St Alban's Cathedral. Members of the congregation attended Choral Evensong in the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace.

We continue to livestream all services at St Mary's, facilitating the participation of the housebound and those who may be travelling.

Mission, Ministry and Fellowship

With a growing number of teenagers as part of our parish fellowship, we continued to organise youth group activities – an evening of pizza and discussion in the Vicarage, and an outing to LaserPlanet. Ninety children from Kenmore Park School took part in a Christmas Workshop, for which we are grateful to the Lady Peel Trust and the Bishop of Willesden's Mission Fund for financial support. Classes from Elmgrove School also visited the church, to learn more about Christianity.

We welcomed the Bishop of Willesden to Mass and breakfast, as he embarked on a walking pilgrimage of his episcopal area; we likewise hosted a meeting of Harrow Deanery Synod, and received a Visitation from the Archdeacon. Well-supported and well-organised social events included a Coronation lunch, parish barbecue and a Christmas Fair (which generated £1,200 for parish funds).

The new website was launched, and new external signage erected. Invitations were hand-delivered around the parish in advance of Easter and Christmas. A group of students from the University of Westminster filmed in the church.

St Mary's continues to enjoy a good relationship with the Stanmore Choral Society, welcoming audiences to a number of their performances.

Fabric

Works to the fabric of the church and Hall included the installation of emergency lighting in the tower staircase, and repair of the security lighting above the pathway next to the memorial garden; the rerouting and replacement of the drains to the south of the church, and the installation of trial lighting to illuminate the tower. Both an Energy Audit and a full Electrical Installation Condition Report were carried out, and the PCC is reviewing their findings. £7,500 was spent on works to the Flat at 268a, Kenton Road.

We continue to benefit from the presence of Community PayBack, who are able to undertake some of the more arduous tasks in the church grounds.

Electoral Roll

At the time of the Annual Church Parochial Meeting in May there were 111 (2022: 109) people on the Electoral Roll of whom 55 (2022: 54) were resident in the Parish. Grateful thanks to Mrs Cynthia Yorke who is making sure that the Electoral Roll is kept up-to-date.

Stewardship

The stewardship campaign during Lent was highly successful, and led to the *doubling* of regular giving - with receipts higher than at any point over the past ten years (for which data is readily available). Our PayPal account (and associated Barclays bank account) were closed, and the parish instead registered with the Parish Giving Scheme. In turn, we were pleased to support charitable partners including Macmillan Cancer Care, the Additional Curates Society and the Mission to Seafarers.

The largest cost is the Parish Share of the Common Fund. This is the amount that we pay to the Diocese of London which is our contribution towards administration, salaries and pensions of all those who are employed by the Diocese (including our own Incumbent - but also the Finance Advisers, Safeguarding Teams etc.) Each Parish makes an offer annually of the amount they consider that is a viable contribution. The "target" figure is in excess of £85,000, but in 2023 we offered to contribute £50,000 as our Parish Share. It is always a struggle, but it is also a commitment as we are part of the Diocese and have to play our part. A 5% increase to our Common Fund payment has been agreed for 2024.

Safeguarding

It is imperative that we keep Safeguarding of young people, and the vulnerable of whatever age, at the top of our priorities. The Parochial Church Council has fully complied with its duties under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (and in so doing has taken due regard to The House of Bishops Guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults). Details of The Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and contact details of our Safeguarding Officer are clearly displayed in Church. There is information on our web-site and prominently displayed on noticeboards to explain what to do if there are any Safeguarding concerns.

Ministry to Children and Young People

Ms Joanna Service was this year appointed as the Parish Safeguarding Officer, and has completed all necessary training: Fr Richard Norman and Fr Mike Still are our lead recruiter and additional recruiter respectively. In-person Safeguarding training was offered in January to members of the PCC. In line with Diocesan policy, all those working with children and young people are required to hold an enhanced DBS disclosure.

Financial review

The Financial Assets of the PCC are held in 2 separate accounts.

- Barclays Bank plc holds the Current Account in which the weekly income is deposited and from which all expenditure is paid;
- The CCLA predominantly holds the Reserves.

As reported in last year's Financial Review, a decision was taken to close the account held by Birmingham Midshires, as the 100 Club (for which the Birmingham Midshires account was set up) was no longer operational. The account closed early in 2023 and the balance of funds (£4,518.69) was paid into the Barclays Account in February 2023. It was proposed that these funds were subsequently transferred to the CCLA account. At 31 December 2023, the CCLA balance was £9,842.25 (2022: £5,102.75).

The above-mentioned increase in congregational giving was in large part responsible for a year-end surplus. We were also able to renegotiate a number of contracts and rental agreements, and to attract new Hall users (Potters House Church, and the Grace Bible Reading Centre) – and successfully to bid for more than £10,000 of grant funding, from various sources. We are grateful to: the Lady Peel Trust and the Bishop of Willesden's Mission Fund (School's Christmas Workshop); the John Booth Foundation and Harrow Deanery Mission Fund (Noticeboards); Ascot Priory Trust, Benefact Trust and the Fellowship of St John the Evangelist (Web-site); Society of Mary (Pilgrimage assistance).

Expenditure on utilities was considerable: however, close attention to our energy usage meant that we were able to negotiate a new contract for gas and electricity (via the ParishBuying service) at significantly more advantageous rates for the coming year.

Thanks are expressed to Mr Steve Purcell (Saint Thomas, Hanwell) who has very kindly been on hand to assist our interim Treasurer with queries relating to the Finance Coordinator Software we use to manage the church accounts.

The Church Hall is leased to St Bertha's Nursery. The premises to the south of the main hall is a self-contained flat which is also rented out.

On 31 December 2023, the PCC total assets were £64,246 (2022: £57,903).

Reserves Policy

In 2013, the PCC considered and approved an amendment to its Reserves Policy which is to "maintain a balance in the General Fund, which equates to a minimum of three months expenditure".

Summary of the work of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) during the year

During 2023, the PCC met on 7 occasions for formal meetings. The Standing Committee met between meetings or transacted business by e-mail or WhatsApp. The following issues were discussed and decisions made:

- Reviewed the cost of utilities (in particular Gas and Electricity) to see where savings could be made in the light of escalating fuel costs; and the proportional allocation of costs to leaseholders;
- Reviewed existing contracts to identify potential reduction in expenditure;
- Held the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 14 May 2023;
- Appointed Ms Joanna Service as Parish Safeguarding Officer;
- Reviewed the Safeguarding Policies and Safeguarding Audit, and submitted these to the Diocese Safeguarding Team;
- Provided face-to-face Safeguarding Training for PCC Members;
- Commissioned surveys and reports on the electrical distribution; rainwater drainage and energy saving capacity of the church;
- Reviewed the provision for first aid and emergency procedures, assessing risks and the prevention of accidental injury; including the installation of emergency lighting in the tower; discussing the need for handrails on external steps;
- Arranged for an arboreal consultant to advise on best outcomes for a tree in the church grounds.

The PCC was concerned to hear of the accident which caused a significant injury to the Manager of the St Bertha's Nursery on the church hall premises.

Review of Meetings of the Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met for three sessions during the year with a time of worship led by the host church or school, who were invited to give a profile of the parish or school and its mission and ministries before the Synod prayed for them. Hosts also kindly provided refreshments. At each meeting reports were tabled or presented on the recent sessions by those elected to the Diocesan and General Synods. There was also a short business meeting held using the Zoom Software. During the year a new triennium started, and elections were held in preparation for the opening meeting.

The first meeting was held on 8 February at St Alban's North Harrow with the theme of "Modern Slavery – what is it and what can we do about it?". Pattie Gercke, Development Worker for the Compassionate Communities Team of the Diocese, gave a presentation on Modern Slavery. Modern Slavery is a serious crime in which people are coerced or deceived into a situation where they are exploited for the purpose of making a profit. The offence is punishable by up to life imprisonment under the 2015 Modern Slavery Act. She described the various forms of slavery, the victims, the signs to look out for, the resources available, and what we in the parishes can do about it. She then answered questions.

At the Parish APCMs new lay representatives on the Synod were elected. Elections were made for the Triennium. John Dolling was elected as Lay Chairman; Robert May as Secretary; David Green, Barry Hingston, Ajay More and Emma Webber as Clergy Members of the Standing Committee; Mary Abbott, Toby Partridge and Clive Scowen as Lay Members of the Standing Committee; Derek Taylor-Mew as Independent Examiner; John Spencer as Representative on Bereavement Care Management Committee and Clementina Pagano as Foundation Governor of St John's School Stanmore. The three representatives on Harrow SACRE (Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education) had agreed to continue and were confirmed (Revd James Power, Alison Stowe and Mary Abbott).

A meeting to discuss Synod business was held using the Zoom software on 15 June. Five applications for a grant from the Deanery Mission Fund had been received from St Mary's Kenton for notice boards, All Saints Harrow Weald for sound system improvements, St Peter's West Harrow for Messy Church equipment, Re:Generation Schools Work for equipment and materials and Holy Trinity Wealdstone for outreach events. These were all approved. The Deanery Accounts for 2022 were received and approved, subject to Independent Examination. Toby Partridge was confirmed as the Deanery representative on the Area Finance Committee.

The triennium opened with the 4 July session, which was held at St Mary the Virgin, Kenton and started with a Eucharist. Bishop Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy addressed the Synod and answered questions. Synod agreed to co-opt the Headteachers of two Church of England Schools to be members of the Synod. – Jo Hester at St John's Stanmore and Daniel Norris at St Jerome's Harrow.

The third meeting was held on 23 November at Bishop Ramsey Church of England School, Ruislip. Dr Hilary Macaulay, Headteacher, gave an introduction to the school and its vision and activities. Alison Stowe gave a report from Harrow SACRE (Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education). Ann Lynes announced that she would be stepping down as Area Dean. A By-Election had been held to fill a vacancy for a Lay Representative of the Synod on the London Diocesan Synod. Noah Kelly of St Alban's North Harrow had been elected to fill this vacancy.

Thanks

Although we endeavour to thank all individuals for the tasks they undertake and the contribution they make to the Parish, it is so easy to miss someone out and unintentionally cause upset by this omission. However, we do try to acknowledge where members of the congregation have taken on specific roles and responsibilities. Fr Mike Still contributes so much to the life and worship of St Mary's, and we so grateful for his Ministry amongst us.

At the APCM in 2023, three members did not seek re-election. We record our thanks to Mrs Erma Fernandes, Mr Ioan Tinca and Ms Angela Haines. Angela had been Parish Safeguarding Officer for several years, and we extend thanks for all she did in this role. Ms Jean Williams stood down as PCC Treasurer at the beginning of the year, but kindly agreed to continue as a PCC member. We thank her for keeping our financial records in good order.

The Vicar and Parochial Church Council wish to formally thank the Churchwardens, Miss Johnette Clarke and Mr Ken Elliott. They are officers of The Bishop. We are blessed with exemplary Churchwardens who care for people first and foremost. Their other work is important (and takes much time), but looking out for individuals is vital. It is a privilege to work alongside them. Sincere thanks to Mr David Griffiths - our Honorary PCC Secretary, interim Honorary Treasurer, Gift Aid and Stewardship Co-ordinator and Parish Administrator! Much of his work is "behind the scenes", such as producing this Report. However, it is vital work to ensure that we comply with all the requirements of the Diocese and the Charities Commission. We express our thanks likewise to our new Independent Examiner, Sheila Burt.

Mrs Cynthia Yorke is Head Server and also responsible for the Sacristy. Thanks to all those who serve at the Altar, especially those new to serving this year.

We are grateful for the contribution of Mr Peter Crawford, our organist, and the few faithful singers who comprise our small choir.

Work continues in the background to ensure that our church is kept in tip-top order, and we have the usual suspects to thank for this. Mrs Gloria Cowans, as prime mover behind our social and fundraising events, is supported by a team of willing helpers to ensure that our event-catering remains at a notably high standard. Gloria also leads the flower-arranging team. Thanks also to Mrs Lorna Abbott, who does so much work behind the scenes. Church cleaning is a tiring job, but is undertaken faithfully.

These are just some of the "front of house" people who, together with greeters, sidespeople, readers, intercessors and Eucharistic Ministers contribute so much to the life and mission of St Mary, Kenton.

Approved by the PCC on Sunday 21st April 2024 and signed on their behalf by The Rev'd Richard Norman. (Incumbent & PCC Chair)



Date 21 / 04 / 24

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin Kenton

Registered Charity Number 1132234

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>General</u> £	<u>Restricted</u> £	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
<i>VOLUNTARY INCOME</i>					
Standing Orders / Direct Bank Payments (Gift Aided)		20,915		20,915	14,052
Envelopes (Gift Aided)		3,661		3,661	485
Parish Giving Scheme		50		50	0
Freewill Offering Envelopes		13,392		13,392	7,461
Loose Plate, Good Box & Collection Boxes		2,676		2,676	1,542
Gifts & Donations		5,398	1,000	6,398	2,163
		46,092	1,000	47,092	25,703
Tax recovered on Gift Aid		8,514		8,514	4,779
		8,514		8,514	4,779
<i>OTHER FUNDS GENERATED</i>					
Grants	(4)	6,066	4,760	10,826	2,641
Fund-raising Activities		2,200		2,200	164
4th Kenton (St Mary's) Scouts closure		0		0	15,000
Other Funds Generated		2,272		2,272	920
		10,538	4,760	15,298	18,725
<i>INVESTMENT INCOME</i>					
Interest Received		334		334	192
		334		334	192
<i>RENT FROM LAND OR BUILDINGS</i>					
Rent from Flat (268A Kenton Road)		16,529		16,529	16,093
Rent (St Bertha's Nursery)		41,891		41,891	54,904
Rent (Orthodox Church / Romanian Church)		5,700		5,700	3,370
Lettings (Church Hall)		7,550		7,550	320
		71,670		71,670	74,687
<i>INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</i>					
Fees		1,787		1,787	160
		1,787		1,787	160
<i>OTHER INCOME</i>					
Insurance Claim		0		0	7,156
Sequestration		1,350		1,350	0
Tenant's Deposit	(9)	0	1,750	1,750	0
		1,350	1,750	3,100	7,156
TOTAL RECEIPTS		140,293	7,510	147,803	131,405

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as pence are not shown.

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin Kenton

Registered Charity Number 1132234

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

RESOURCES EXPENDED	<i>Notes</i>	<i>General</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
COST OF GENERATING FUNDS					
Costs of Fund-raising & Stewardship Campaign		378		378	228
Payment Processing Charges		413		413	7
		<u>791</u>		<u>791</u>	<u>235</u>
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
Charitable Donations		1,276	290	1,566	100
Bishop of Fulham's Discretionary Fund		0		0	360
		<u>1,276</u>	<u>290</u>	<u>1,566</u>	<u>460</u>
London Diocesan Common Fund		50,000		50,000	60,000
Repayment of Diocesan Loan	(5)	2,000		2,000	2,000
		<u>52,000</u>		<u>52,000</u>	<u>62,000</u>
Clergy Expenses					
Incumbent Working Expenses		2,468		2,468	0
Vicarage (Decorating, Phone, Water Rates etc.)		525		525	1,316
Education/Training		25		25	252
		<u>3,018</u>		<u>3,018</u>	<u>1,568</u>
Parish Training and Mission		1,838	1,160	2,998	0
Insurance		8,121		8,121	7,406
Church Telephone and Internet		630		630	1,089
Music and Organ Repairs		7,113		7,113	7,556
Church Maintenance and Repairs	(6)	22,086	300	22,386	10,927
Upkeep of Services		1,706		1,706	3,400
Upkeep of Churchyard		521		521	81
Administration	(7)	1,496	3,464	4,960	1,455
Visiting Clergy (including Interregnum)		207		207	3,776
Church Electricity	(8)	2,318		2,318	1,557
Church Gas	(8)	5,978	2,641	8,619	5,603
Church Water		995		995	1,283
Energy Audit		330		330	0
Hall Electricity	(8)	6,131		6,131	2,787
Hall Gas	(8)	2,192		2,192	0
Hall Repairs and Maintenance		2,791		2,791	566
Church Major Repairs & Installations		0		0	8,595
Flat and Grounds Maintenance		7,833		7,833	9,653
Photocopier/Printing/Postage		3,437		3,437	3,954
Children & Youth Mission		588		588	283
Data Developments		48		48	59
		<u>76,359</u>	<u>7,565</u>	<u>83,924</u>	<u>64,776</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS		133,447	7,855	141,303	125,647
TOTAL RECEIPTS		140,293	7,510	147,803	131,405
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		6,846	(345)	6,500	5,758

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as pence are not shown

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin Kenton

Registered Charity Number 1132234

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	General	Restricted	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds Last Year End	57,630	273	57,903	52,145
Net of Receipts (Payments)	6,846	(345)	6,501	5,758
Transfers Between Funds				
<i>General Fund (Undesignated)</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Curate's Fund (Restricted)</i>	(2,658)	2,658	0	0
<i>Reserve Fund (Designated)</i>	0	0	0	0
Cash Funds This Year End	61,818	2,586	64,404	57,903

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at Barclays Bank	52,614		48,983	
Petty Cash	40		40	
Birmingham Midshires	0		4,500	
Central Board of Finance (CCLA Account)	9,842		5,102	
Landlord's Bond	1,750	64,246	0	58,627
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		64,246		58,627
LIABILITIES				
Agency Collections		157		(724)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		64,403		57,903
REPRESENTED BY				
General Fund (Unrestricted)		47,080		47,914
Fabric Reserve (Designated)		(260)		(5,000)
Children & Youth Fund (Designated)		14,998		14,716
Web-site (Restricted)		885		0
Noticeboards/Signage (Restricted)		(50)		0
Curate's Fund (Restricted)		0		(2,658)
Bosnia Fund (Restricted)		0		290
Church Heating Grant (Restricted)		0		2,641
Landlord Bond (Restricted)		1,750		0
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		64,404		57,903

**NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP 2014.

The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis. The financial statements include all transactions 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 which are informal gatherings of church members.

b. Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted Funds:

the General Fund, which can be used by the PCC for ordinary purposes;

Designated Funds:

the Fabric Reserve Fund and Children & Youth Ministry Fund, are set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes;

Restricted Funds:

a number of grants that were received during the year were restricted on account of the conditions related to the purpose of the grant application.

c. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are accounted for gross and recognised when received.

d. Resources used

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over.

Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for when paid. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31st December will be shown in the following year's accounts.

e. Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income will appear in the following year's accounts. See Notes below.

2) STAFF COSTS

The Organist receives remuneration as Organist on a sessional basis. Organists' fees were paid gross.

3) FUNDS	2023	2022
	£	£
Restricted Funds		
Balance 1 st January	273	(2,368)
Receipts	7,510	2,641
Payments	(7,855)	0
Transfers between funds	2,658	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	2,313	2,641
Balance 31st December	2,586	273
General Fund (unrestricted)		
Balance 1 st January	57,630	54,513
Receipts	140,293	128,764
Payments	(133,447)	(125,647)
Transfers between funds	(2,658)	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	4,188	3,117
Balance 31st December	61,818	57,630

Occasionally monies are received for specific small projects. These are spent in the same years as they are received.

4) GRANTS

In 2023 the following organisations and charitable trusts gave grants towards costs for specific projects:

Lady Peel Trust	£1,000	School's Christmas Workshop
Bishop of Willesden's Mission Fund	£ 500	School's Christmas Workshop
John Booth Foundation	£1,000	Noticeboards
Harrow Deanery Mission Fund	£ 540	Noticeboards
Ascot Priory Trust,	£1,310	Web-site
Benefact Trust	£ 750	Web-site
Fellowship of St John the Evangelist	£1,000	Web-site
Society of Mary	£1,160	Walsingham Pilgrimage
Willesden Area Buildings Fund	£3,252.90	Emergency Lighting in Tower Staircase

5) LOAN REPAYMENT

In 2019, a Grant was made for the replacement of the Church Heating Boilers. There was also a loan of £10,000 from the Diocese of London which is being repaid over five years and will have been fully repaid by December 2024.

6) CHURCH MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

During 2023, most of the recommendations in the 2022 Quinquennial Survey were addressed. This included a full Electrical Inspection (£3,592), Lightning Conductor and Fire Extinguisher checks; and resolving issues with the rainwater drainage on the south side of church. We were fortunate to utilise the services of Community Payback in carrying out various tasks to clear and tidy the church grounds, however this necessitated the hire of several skips!

7) ADMINISTRATION

The Church Noticeboards and Web-site were updated in 2023. Costs for these were covered by Grant funding (as above).

8) UTILITY COSTS

As with all domestic and commercial consumers, the costs of electricity and gas increased significantly in 2023. This was a major concern which was addressed by reducing consumption (yet still receiving considerably higher bills).

9) LANDLORD BOND


To comply with current legislation, the tenant's deposit of £1,750 was received from the Willesden Area (previously held by them when they sub-let the flat at 268A Kenton Road) for the PCC to place in a Tenancy Deposit Scheme.

Approved by the PCC on Sunday 21st April 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

The Rev'd Richard Norman (Incumbent & PCC Chair)


_____ Date 21/04/24

Mr Kenrick Elliott (Churchwarden & PCC Vice-Chairman)


_____ Date 21/04/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of Saint Mary the Virgin, Kenton

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As Trustees of the charity, the members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

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

Basis of 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 PCC concerning any 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 statements below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no other matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the 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.

Sheila R Burt

Date 26/4/2024

Sheila Burt

7 The Beeches
193 Boston Road
London
W7 2JU