

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ended 31 December 2023



Team Rector The Reverend Helen Hancock (until 1st October 2023) 20A Kingsdowne Road Surbiton KT6 6JZ

Registered Charity Number in England: 1143978 Registered Name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthew's, Surbiton in the benefice of the Tolworth Hook & Surbiton Team Ministry

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthew's, Surbiton

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. St Matthew's forms part of the Tolworth Hook & Surbiton Team Ministry working alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ at St George's, Tolworth and St Paul's, Hook.

PCC MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

PCC membership is for a three year term of office. It is permitted to hold the office for two consecutive periods after which it is our practice for the member to stand down in order to spread the responsibility of this position more widely amongst the congregation. The term each member is serving is indicated below.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:				
Team Rector:	Revd. Helen Hancock (resigned 1.10.2023)			

Churchwardens: Mrs Jackie Farris Mr Dave Hill

Representatives on the Deanery Synod (term of office expires April 2024):

Mr Mark Curzon Mrs Sheena Evans Mrs Sue Fraser

Elected representatives of the laity:

Mrs Chika Ripley (second term)
Mrs Brenda Tyrrell (second term)
Mr Keith Hudson (second term)
Mrs Jessica Johnson (second term)
Sue O'Hagan (first term)
Niluma Ponweera (first term)
Miss Wendy Richmond (second term)
Tim Lucas (second term)
Mr David Carter (first term)
Mr Dave Farris (first term)
Mrs Mary Edwards (first term)
Mrs Harriet Pennington (first term)

From 1.10.2023., Dave Farris has taken the role of Lay chair of PCC We are very grateful to all those who have served as PCC members this year.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The Electoral Roll was revised in preparation for the APCM in April 2024. Following this revision the Electoral Roll stands at 165 people, a slight increase on the previous year (162 people). Of our 165 members 60 reside within the parish of St Matthews, and 105 reside in other parishes, in the Team parishes, elsewhere in Surbiton and beyond. *Judith Jones. Electoral Roll Officer. January 2024*

OCCASIONAL SERVICES

The number of baptisms, marriages and funerals were as follows:

Baptisms	6
Weddings	0
Funerals (conducted both in our church buildings but also	23
by a member of our ministry team elsewhere)	

Occasional Services present the opportunity variously to mourn, offer comfort and celebrate with those in our Parish and beyond. All of these services allow us to speak into the life of the individuals concerned and witness to our faith both in our parish and the wider society as we seek to share the love of God.

Thanks to The Revds. William Allberry and Carolyn Lucas who assist Helen in this important ministry and Julie Huggett the Deanery Funerals Administrator.

THiS Team Matters

Trusting in the Father, Honouring the Son, Serving in the Spirit

In 2023 we were able to have a team weekend which included a joint service on the 5th February hosted by St Matthews, it was a lovely occasion to be able to meet together for the first time in a couple of years

In Lent the team shared a sermon series exploring a number of spiritual disciplines over three Sundays, during which we were also able to have pulpit swaps and hear Helen, Luke and Nicholas at all three churches

Between Ascension and Pentecost, ably organised by St George's we were able to share in Thy Kingdom come, each hosting prayer meetings as well as having one on zoom

The autumn brought a team farewell for the Rector Helen Hancock at St Pauls on the 24th September, before her final farewell to St Matthews on the 1st October; and the year ended knowing that as Luke leaves to take up a new role in the new Forest, the team will start 2024 without two full time incumbents and facing a year of change, opportunity and expectation.

Bereavement Friendly Church

The Pastoral team is meeting every three months to discuss the needs of the wider church family and to decide on plans of action. We are in regular contact by email and WhatsApp to share concerns and prayer requests.

Those of our church family who are no longer able to attend church are supported by visits and offered Holy Communion in the home.

A service of Holy Communion is taken each month at four of the care homes in the area.

We continue to focus on being a Bereavement Friendly Church. Our annual service of Remembering and Thanking was held in November and was attended by



those in the parish who have suffered the loss of a loved one. We continue to run The Bereavement Journey course twice a year. We have been encouraged by the positive feedback from guests who have completed the course. A Bereavement Walking Group and a Bereavement Café, both held monthly, are open to members of both the church and the wider community. These events have provided much needed sources of help and support for those living with the pain of grief.

View from the Vicarage

A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE. (and PEW)

You know that feeling when a chore becomes a pleasure? I used to feel that way a bit when I had to write the 'View from the Vicarage' for the Annual Report. What started out as being something which 'had to be done', became an encouragement and a delight as it caused me to reflect over the preceding year. Before I left, I was asked if I could prepare some of the highlights of 2023, from January until September. Thanks to Dave Farris for completing the rest of the year.

In January, as we have done for some years now, we launched our Motto Verse for 2023. "For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; Instead His Spirit fills us with power, love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7. Later, in July, we held a well-attended study night in church to look at the implications of the Motto verse for our own lives.



Following the resignation of Julie Usher as Parish Office administrator of many years, we were able to appoint Steve Blevins to take over. His admin talents are greatly appreciated by the church. Into February and we saw St Matthew's hosting a THiS Team Games afternoon in church. It was lovely to see folks from all 3 churches engaged in friendly competition across the tables, and eating cakes. Uniquely, the THiS Team Lent sermon series this year was based upon Richard Foster's 'Celebration of Discipline' with clergy traveling around to deliver the same sermons at each of the three churches.

As we encourage more involvement of our children and young people in the life of St. Matthew's, it was wonderful to see our Pathfinders preparing the Mothering Sunday flowers in March. When the season moved to Spring we had a better than ever Spring Clean on Easter Saturday with many volunteers joining in the preparation of our church and grounds for the Easter celebration. Also in April we had the hugely successful 'How can I help?' campaign; launched at the APCM; to equip the church with even more volunteers.

When King Charles III was crowned in May it was wonderful to be part of church and community coming together for the Coronation Watch Together and Street Party.

Also in May we offered training for Explorers and Pathfinders to carry out tasks in church – most popular proved the bell ringing and the trips up the Tower! For those who were interested we offered the 'Hope Explored' course across the Team, and united for the 'Thy Kingdom Come' events.

Our children's admission to Holy Communion classes started in June, and that month was our Choir's outing to sing Evensong in Rochester Cathedral along with the Choir from St Andrew and St Mark's. We also held our annual School Welcome Sunday for those due to start at St. Matthew's School, and the Surbiton High School 'action in the community' day saw their girls come and begin work on the church floor. It was also during June that I announced my departure.

Over half way through the year now and in July we held our annual Welcome Breakfast for newcomers to the church; thank you to those who catered. The Discipleship and Ministry team organised an evening for all to come and explore this year's church Motto verse. Then in August we experienced again the depth of faith our congregation has as several of them shared their journey in the 'Why I'm a Christian' sermon slots that month. With Simon's impending departure it was time to advertise, interview and appoint our new musical director. We were delighted that Jason Edge accepted the offer to join us at St, Matthew's.

Another successful maintenance morning was held in September that enabled many outstanding garden and building jobs to be completed. And as I prepared to leave so the gradual handover of responsibilities continued. We gathered in St. Paul's Hook for a THiS team service and social. Sadly this month saw the closing of the Balance café that had been held weekly in the Sitzler room.

In October we said a formal farewell to Helen and Simon, followed by a 'bring and share' lunch, and began settling in to church life without an incumbent.

After what seemed a long time in coming, we were blessed by Michael Novotny joining us part time as our youth worker. We've prayed about having such a resource for many years and how wonderful that our prayers were answered. We began the process of filling the vacancy left by Helen's departure; engaging with the congregation and parish to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and congregational talents that would help us to understand what our church and parish looks like, and from that build the profile that prospective candidates would read. A huge thank you to Carolyn Lucas and William Allberry for taking on the task of leading the majority of the Sunday services.

Our church away day in October at Shrewsbury House school was led by Revd Mary Hawes and focussed on the theme of children and young people with the title 'Growing Younger'. What an inspirational day that was, and so much learnt then is now being put into practice at St. Matthew's.

In November we held our annual Remembering Service, and the new Ignite youth group for 14-18 year olds began with Michael and Ashleigh leading. Throughout December, with William and Carolyn's help, we offered a full complement of services, and kept our presence known in the community by our musical director leading community carols at The cornerHOUSE and the congregation delivering the Christmas service leaflet through every local door.

Alongside all the special events wherever they are mentioned in this Annual Report, the weekly and monthly ministry of church life (which is carried out by so many) continues unabated, especially in this time of vacancy. Care Home Communions and Home communions for the housebound are two of the aspects of ministry and mission which often go unreported as are School assemblies, school services in church, pastoral visiting and other aspects which contribute towards our Seven Whole Days Vision. Thank you everyone for all you do to ensure that St. Matthew's serves both church and community.

Reports

Treasurer's report for the year ended 31st December 2023.

In 2023, there was a surplus of £39,661 on unrestricted funds and £6,592 on restricted funds. As a consequence, unrestricted funds increased to £905,886 (of which £680,00 is represented by the property in Ellerton Road) and restricted funds to £28,541.

1. Income

Total unrestricted income was £210,239 in 2023 and restricted income £8,992, giving a total of £219,231 (2022 £198,041). The increase from 2022 to 2023 was primarily a function of the receipt of legacy income of £48,0888 in 2023 (£0 in 2022). This was partially offset by lower grants (mainly VAT recoveries) which amounted to £2,602 in 2023 and £25,445 in 2022. Levels of giving (including Gift Aid reclaims) were down around 3% year on year while interest and dividends increased from £1,549 in 2022 to £7,195 in 2023 due to increased interest rates. Receipts from church events decreased (down from £5,685 in 2022 to £969 in 2023) because there was no weekend away in 2023.

2. Expenditure

Total expenditure on the unrestricted funds was £170,578 in 2023 and on restricted funds £2,400, a total of £172,978 (2022 £207,298). The main reason for the reduction year on year was the fall in the expenditure relating to major works on, and repairs to, the church building (£11,928 in 2023 v £51,186 in 2022). The largest categories of expenditure were the diocesan parish share £83,500 (2022 £81,900), insurance £15,716 (2022 £13,322), mission and charitable giving £14,307 (2022 £14,624), gas, electricity and water £14,180 (2022 £6,885) and major works and repairs. The increase in insurance largely reflected an increase in the rebuilding cost of the church and hardening insurance

rates, while gas and electricity costs rose as contracts expired and new ones were entered into at much higher prices.

3. Transfers between Funds

There were no transfers between funds in 2023.

4. Balance Sheet

The primary assets as at the end of 2023 were the property in Ellerton Road which was valued at £680,000 (2022 £680,000) and £244,455 (2022 £199,074) in cash and short term deposits.

5. Free Reserves

Free reserves (ie the reserves of the unrestricted funds net of fixed assets) amounted to £222,715 at 31st December 2023 (2022 £181,468). This continues to be in excess of the minimum required by the reserves policy.

Churchwardens' Fabric Report

Thanks go to all who have helped to maintain our beautiful Church building this year – whether this was by volunteering at a maintenance & gardening morning or by other acts of quiet service. This all contributes to making St Matthew's a safe and inspiring place for all. The tasks undertaken are set out here chronologically.

At the 2023 Spring Clean:

Within the Chapel, Jason Pennington worked to replace a defective ceiling tile and undertook to repair what had been the damaged and uneven floorboards in one section of the room.

In addition, the Tower & Spire was thoroughly cleaned, as was the kitchen, which was also thoroughly sorted, labelled and re-organised including installation of shelving for the urn. The flower arranging cupboard was secured to the wall.

A key safe was installed at the front door for use by anyone getting inadvertently locked in. On the south elevation of the Church the cast iron downpipe was repaired.

Contractors were used to repair broken roof tiles.

Quinquennial Jobs undertaken:

The gutters on the tower roof were repaired and the spire floorboards were replaced.

Wood stain was used on the high ceiling windows in the Sizzler room.

Contractors:

Contractors were engaged to carry out specialist work on the roof tiles and to repair roof flashing.

A decision was taken to lift the carpet tiles (in the main nave area towards the back of the Church.) as it was acknowledged that these tiles were in very poor condition. Underneath the carpet tiles the original floor tiles could then be seen. Whilst these original floor tiles are impressive, some of them are in poor condition, with some areas of only partial cover. We are grateful to Surbiton High School who brought along a group of willing girls who as a Community Project lifted many of the carpet tiles and cleaned the floor superbly

At the September maintenance day:

There was another enthusiastic response to the request for volunteers with cheerful teamwork amongst all who attended. The Church Noticeboard was cleaned and repaired. The gardening team were out in force and there was much good work carried out including major work re-organising the front garden. Major pruning and weeding was undertaken in all areas of the garden.

Guttering repairs were carried out in addition to drains being cleared. The concrete slabs outside of the kitchen were power washed. The benches were oiled to treat and preserve the woodwork.

All the work achieved was done with a willing spirit. Thank you once again for giving up valuable time and energy for the preservation of the heritage in our Church, which is for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Dave Hill and Jackie Farris

Safeguarding



During 2023 the Parish Safeguarding Officers, Brenda Tyrell and Sue Fraser, ensured that St Matthews Church continued to 'promote a safer church' in line with the Diocese Safeguarding Policy.

We ensured that our new volunteers within the church completed DBS checks and safeguarding training and that existing volunteers renewed their DBS checks every 3

years and completed any new safeguarding training as needed. The diocese brought in a new 'Safer recruitment and People management course' which was completed by clergy, churchwardens and Parish Safeguarding Officers.

During the church's annual dedicated Safeguarding service we raised awareness of our roles within the church and how and when we could be contacted. Safeguarding continued to be an item on every PCC meeting agenda throughout the year.

Brenda Tyrell will step down as Parish Safeguarding Officer at the end of 2023, we thank her for all her hard work over many years. Heather Cummins has kindly agreed to take over her role.

Brenda Tyrrell and Sue Fraser

Eco Church

Although deprived of a clergy lead with Helen's departure, and a technological one when Chika decided to switch her focus, four very welcome new members joined the team: Melissa, Andi, Jo and Jason. Unfortunately, however, the first three of these, and also Sheena, have suffered illness or other setbacks during the year. This has prevented us from undertaking any major new initiatives. We have, however, maintained our silver award status under the main headings of the A Rocha Eco Church scheme.



Within <u>teaching and worship</u>, the Climate Emergency theme is always present in our prayers, and Elliott Newton, the enthusiastic local authority environment officer, led a special service in June focused on biodiversity within the borough. We maintained the economical lighting and heating of our <u>building</u>, and will ensure that any decisions made about the floor once the old carpet tiles are removed are in line with our net zero carbon objectives. <u>Lifestyle</u> changes continue to be encouraged through weekly Ecotips, while any food and drink bought for the church is where possible Fairtrade and organic, office supplies are recycled and cleaning materials non-toxic.

We continue to increase biodiversity on our <u>land</u>, witnessed by the annual Count for Nature; and during July completed the Mediterranean Garden with stone chips, at first helped by Surbiton High School volunteers. Some good ground clearance was done on a maintenance day in September, and the faithful volunteer gardeners are continuing their work on every second Saturday. Under <u>community and global engagement</u>, liaison with St Matthew's school has begun, two of us went to a Diocesan Eco Church gathering at St Luke's in April, and two of us also attended the launch of the Kingston Biodiversity partnership in September.

Sheena Evans

Music and St Matthew's Choir



2023 was a year of change for music at St Matthew's. We said (and sang) a fond farewell to Simon (and Helen) Hancock with heartfelt performances, including Sarath Weerasinghe singing Jim Reeves' 'May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You' and Sheena Evans' new song 'Au Revoir Hancocks'. I was grateful to spend September working with Simon as he handed over the 'baton' before departing. It is a true testament to Simon's work over the years that I feel have inherited a music 'department' of faithful and dedicated people. Though I am unable to say much about the year prior to arriving in September, I happened

to be singing - representing the choir of St Andrew's and St Mark's (SASM) - at our joint Evensong at St Matthew's in preparation for then singing Evensong at Rochester Cathedral. I am thoroughly enjoying working with the choir and band at both of our regular Sunday services. At the time of writing, the choir has already learnt and performed 19 new anthems! I am full of admiration and grateful thanks to everyone in these two groups for their steadfast dedication and devotion to our mission to enhance our worship and deepen our experience of God through music. I am also hugely grateful to individual people such as Nigel Palmer, Sue O'Hagan and Hazel Crossley, who are so generous in giving their time and skills to cover services in church and/or in the community. Grateful thanks too to Imogen (Helen and Simon's daughter) for playing the trumpet and flugelhorn at our Remembrance service in November. There will be an opportunity to enjoy more of Imogen's music at a concert in church later in 2024. Our year ended with a very successful Advent and Christmas season. We began with a morning rehearsal workshop at the start of December for member of our extended 'Super' Choir. This was so well received that we are making this monthly event and opening it to anyone who enjoys singing (without the need for a regular commitment). And all the work culminated in our Carols by Candlelight service - with our choir on top form, supported by the delightful skill of Gareth Giles at the organ. I am very much looking forward to developing our musical life at St Matthew's. Thank you for making both Catherine and me feel so welcome and at home in the short time we have been here.

Jason Edge Director of Music

Discipleship & Ministry Team



We began the year with our new Motto verse encouraging us to overcome our fear and trust in the Lord to help us to bring positive change and love to the world around us. We followed up on this with study in House Groups of the verse itself and its meaning. A lively and well attended evening of discussion took place in midyear, focusing on how we can achieve our aims in practical ways.

During the year our Seven Whole Days drive continued as did our focus on retaining new members of our church, such as a newcomer's breakfast and a renewed focus on parents of children about to enter St. Matthew's School. During Lent, the Hope Explored 2023 course was run, examining how faith can explored, discussed, questioned and discovered. In the autumn we had our Awayday with a memorable speaker in the form of Mary Hawes talking about "Growing Together" which challenged us to think about how we can achieve more inclusivity across separate groups in our church, especially different age groups. One of the many things this led to is a new determination in our church to increase focus on how to include children and young people more in every single thing that we do, and not separately but included as a core part of our activities. Later in the year, we began to explore how prayer can be grown as part of our everyday life, of which more we shall hopefully see in 2024.

David Itcovitz

Report on Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met three times this year, twice in person and once online.

Our February Zoom meet focussed on encouraging collaboration and support amongst the churches within our Deanery. Including participating in ecumenical courses and social events.

In June we were hosted by St Andrew's Ham. Over light refreshments followed by a service of hymns and words - in the form of Desert Island Hymns, where he was the castaway - it gave those present the opportunity to meet Bishop Martin, the newly appointed Bishop of Kingston. A great way of getting to know him, and a really enjoyable evening.

Our own major parish news in the October Synod gathering at St Mark's Surbiton Hill was that St Matthew's is now in interregnum as Revd Helen Hancock is moving on to take up the ministry position at St John's Churt.

The meeting opened with a talk and prayer relating to the Kingston multi faith forum. Support and participation for the forum has grown significantly since the start of the Israeli / Palestinian conflict. The forum mission statement was read out included within which is condemnation of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and any other form of hate crime

A change of Area Dean was also announced at the meeting. The Revd Adam Rylett, Vicar of St Paul's Kingston Hill, is newly appointed in place of Revd Robert Stanier. In his keynote speech, Adam set out his "Hopes for Synod".

Keen to raise the profile and involvement of the Deanery Synod within our member churches. Particularly looking to encourage and support (including assistance with enrolling on the appropriate courses) new readers or involvement in other senior laity positions.

Sheena, Sue and Mark

Children's Groups

Scramblers and Climbers (Scrimblers)



Our Scrimblers group (3 year olds to school year 2) happily welcomed lots of new members this year and we now normally have between 6 and 10 children each week. Starting in 2023 the leaders created a new 2 year syllabus aimed at ensuring the children:

- Understand that God loves them
- Enjoy coming to church
- Celebrate church festivals and key dates, and
- Become familiar with key stories and lessons from the bible

We have also enjoyed coming back into services at the end to tell the congregation what we have been doing. This has helped the children feel part of the church family and has helped them gain confidence.

In late 2023 we put out a call for new volunteers to act as helpers and we gained 4 new helpers. We now have 4 leaders and 7 helpers. A big thank you to all leaders and helpers, old and new, but a special thank you to Julie Usher. Julie stepped down as one of our Scrimblers Leaders in autumn 2023. She has been a Scramblers (then Scrimblers) lead for a number of years and led our team of volunteers, putting together our syllabus, training us and supporting us. We want to take this opportunity to thank Julie for all the time and energy she devoted to our children and young people. You can see the fruit of some of Scrimblers' activities in the photos above"

Judith, Melissa, Wendy, Will, Julie, Mary, Gee, Niluma, Harry and Rochelle

Explorers

Explorers is open to our St Matthew's children and young people aged 7-11. Key Stage 2 school years, 3-6.

We rely on a wonderful band of dedicated leaders and helpers in running the group.

Weekly attendance varies, around an average of eight in the last year. Staffed by a leader and a helper,

we meet each Sunday in the Sitzler Room, during the all age Morning Worship service.

In our time together we encourage the children to consider



how we can relate our Christian faith to our own day to day lives and experiences.

Taking a specific Bible passage and working through either a single or a variety of (hopefully, fun!) activities designed to demonstrate the key message, within a flexible but structured session framework. Including personal news of our preceding week, and prayer.

Mark, Jessica, Stuart, Lesley, Keith, Anne, Lila, Heather, Sue

Pathfinders



Pathfinders is a group for young people aged 11-14 (or so) which meets every Sunday morning for Bible-based discussions and games - and refreshments! It provides a safe space for the young people to share their thoughts and ask questions of each other and of their leaders. On the third Sunday of every month, the Pathfinders stay in the main service for Holy Communion. Throughout the year, we also plan several social events to grow in faith and friendship together. There are three Pathfinder leaders – Sue, Sarolta and Ian and it has been great to have Michael, our Youth Worker, join the team. We

would be delighted to welcome any young people in school year 7 and up to come and spend a morning with Pathfinders and hopefully choose to become one themselves.

Ian, Sue, Sarolta, Michael

Fuel

Fuel youth group meets once a month for an hour on a Sunday evening in St Matthews church. We offer a chance for the young people from all the churches in THiS team to come together, play games, have fun and think about faith and what it might mean for them.

We are aimed at year groups 6 – 10 but prior to the introduction of the new Ignite group we also welcomed any older young people that wanted to continue attending. Ignite has started in November 2023 and we are really pleased that the older youth now have their own group to 'graduate' to. Numbers attending the group vary but average around 12 per session. In September we saw an influx of new members from year 6 and also said a fond farewell to some of our older young people. Everyone who left has now been invited to attend Ignite. The majority of the young people at Fuel attend St Matthews church on Sundays but we have representation from all three churches in THiS team and it's lovely watching the young people getting to know one another and forming friendships across the team.

Our first meeting back in September was a joint Fuel and Pathfinders party which had a great turnout and was lots of fun. Thank you so much to Ashleigh and the other Pathfinders leaders for coordinating this.

Please pray for Fuel, our young people and our leaders – Simon Rowe and Becky Whiting.

Becky Whiting and Simon Rowe

Ignite

Ignite is a spinoff of Fuel that aims to give 15 - 18 year olds a space that is their own. This programme is led by St Matthew's Youth Worker Michael Novotny and Ashleigh Wakefield. The group will be meeting two Sundays a month, the first Sunday of each month in the afternoon and the third Sunday of each month at 5pm to align with the monthly Fuel meetings. Currently there have been around 6 young people who have participated in the first two sessions, meeting on the third Sunday evening of each month. Our goal is to provide a safe space in church for young people to come together to experience Christian fellowship, engage with young people their own age, and explore their faith and existence in the world free from outside influences. The objective goal for the rest of the school year is to bring in young people of this age to engage with the church and form fond memories of bonding with people their own age. Eventually the goal will be to provide young people with opportunities that excite them regarding their lives and existence in the world. This is an exciting new programme at St Matthew's, one that we hope can continue on into future school years.

Michael, Becky and Ashleigh

Other Church Groups

Delta Homegroup

Delta Housegroup meets on a Thursday evening between 7.30 and 9.30pm usually at Joan Scriven's house. There are now eight members in the group. Each week we start with coffee and chat, catching upon each other's news – this is an integral part of any housegroup as it's a time when we share our successes, joys and worries and so we know how to pray for each other during the week. We then start with prayer followed by studying a book or part of a book of the Bible. This year, we've studied books on Women of the Bible, Psalms, Spiritual Gifts and James. We also led a service in June highlighting the Clewer Initiative and its work with modern slavery. If you don't already belong to a group do think about joining us or one of the others, as it is a brilliant way to learn more about your faith, yourself and to get spiritual support to see you through the week.



Brenda Tyrrell

Inspire Homegroup



We continue to meet most Mondays for a mix of fellowship, study and prayer. The conversations, exploration and sharing are always stimulating. Our group has been able to get back to meeting in members houses, and we relish sharing hospitality. It is interesting to see how we are growing in faith, friendship and confidence. Running a 10.45 service seemed a daunting prospect; we are now planning to do more during the vacancy.

Being in a house/home group is a wonderful way of supporting each other as we all try to be Seven Whole Day Christians. Life has a way of disrupting our plans, and knowing that we have a group of sympathetic and encouraging friends is important to us. We can't always be around for the meetings, but we each know that our fellow members are thinking of, and praying for us.

Ian Davies

Sigma Homegroup



The Sigma house group is named after the Greek symbol for 'the sum of' and reflecting that we are diverse, yet come together for a single purpose. The group is hosted by Dave & Jackie Farris. The group of have gathered on Thursday nights since the beginning of June 2017 and studied many differing aspects of the Bible, as well as having social evenings that naturally involved

food. This year we've changed our meetings to blocks of 4 weeks with a break of 4 weeks which has worked well.

An increasing sense of God's presence during our times together is a blessing

Dave Farris

Brunch Bunch

Monday mornings sees Brunch Bunch members assemble in the Sitzler room at church for a time of bible study prayer and fellowship to start the week. Despite our name we don't indulge regularly in brunch (although some people bring their own coffee. We do however have lunch together from time



to time (the Brunch Bunch munch lunch).

We started 2023 part way through a study of the book of Genesis, picking up the story as Joseph came to a position of power in Egypt, noting that at every stage of his life God was with him. During Lent we followed the Tearfund study entitled "Open", with various Brunch Bunch members leading sessions.

After Easter we followed the thought – provoking study Tenants of the King, produced by Operation Noah, a Christian charity working with the Church to inspire action on the climate crisis.

The rest of the year was taken up with a bible study series on the book of Acts, following the story of the apostles through Pentecost to the spread of Christianity

to Jew and Gentile throughout the Roman world.

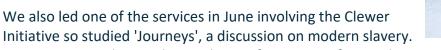
Following our Christmas party (complete with Norma's famous cracker jokes) we joined the Community choir who meet in the Church at the same time for some carols, and they sang for us some of the pieces they'd been practicing, a lovely way to end the year.

Judith Jones

Beta Homegroup

The Beta Homegroup meets on a Wednesday evening each week and we have a regular group of around 8 members following a range of topics throughout the year. We typically offer a Lent course in March, welcoming new people from our own and other churches. We particularly enjoy following courses with engaging videos or CD commentaries. During 2023 we discussed a number of interesting subjects including some topics from the Homegroups website. These included:

What on Earth is Heaven? A six-part study exploring what the Bible says about heaven and the afterlife
Hope A 4-session study by the Bible Society exploring Hope in a faithful God, using scripture and prayer.
Change – Knowing the Unchanging God





We continue to discuss the teachings of Franciscan friar and ecumenical teacher, Father Richard Rohr

who bears witness to the deep wisdom of Christian mysticism following on from our studies the previous year. We typically attract one or two new members each year, so do reach out to us and come along!

Nigel Palmer and Simon Hancock

SMArties Craft Group



Smarties embroiderers have been adorning the walls of St George's and St Matthew's since 1996! We renamed to Craft Group this year as people often bring in their knitting or crochet, instead of embroidery, if we aren't working on a current banner. However, we're about to start on a banner for the 150th anniversary next year.

Our artworks are now seen as St Matthew's 'New Heritage' and we have made a sign for the board in church. We also made an embroidered cross for Helen when she moved to Churt.

Do come and see us any Thursday morning, 10 - 12, for coffee and a chat, or we would be delighted if you wanted to join our happy group.

Gill Davies

Other Reports

St Matthew's C of E Primary School BELIEVING, ACHIEVING, SUCCEEDING



An incredible amount has been achieved over the last twelve months at St. Matthew's Primary School. The school team- governors, parents and carers, staff and pupils have worked hard on so many aspects that encompasses the school's vision of enabling 'our whole school community to live life in all its fullness' from ensuring the curriculum is designed to maximize knowledge retention and clear links that build upon previous knowledge, to ensuring representation and participation of all groups, to the de-colonization of the curriculum, to the implementation of our Racial Justice policy, to increased opportunities for varied extra-curricular clubs, to the construction of our Spiritual Garden and the burying of a time capsule in commemoration of the new King's coronation, to furthering our provision for regular Forest School experiences and the embedding of our Outdoor Play and Learning project as well as to foster good links in our local community.

Pam Dryden

The cornerHOUSE Community Arts Centre



We welcomed Chika Ripley who has joined us a PCC-appointed trustee. We are valuing her input; she brings a helpful fresh voice to the Trust, as well as a lot of useful experience from her role in the corporate world. The cornerHOUSE is increasingly busy and has added a folk music club to its roster of regular public-facing events. Overall the programme is extremely varied, with nationally known comedians one day and local children in a musical the next. We are particularly pleased to provide facilities for a range of activities for people with learning

difficulties, autism, and dementia. This provision for diversity is a priotiy for the Trust, and these activities encouraging participation in music, drama and singing for all are part of our strategic aims.

Ian Davies/Andy Keane/Joan Scriven

PCC appointed trustees to the Douglas Centre Trust operating The cornerHOUSE community arts centre

1st Tolworth (St Matthew's) Scout Group

Our Scout, Cub Scout and Beaver Scout sections have again had the opportunity to take part in the yearly programmes, meeting face to face going to camps, sleepovers, expeditions, outings, District and National competitions, all this and also fitting in the normal weekly meetings, offering fun, excitement and skills for life to our young members.

We have had another change in our Cub leadership, the new assistant leader we had last year has taken



over the role of leader when, due to relocation, the current leader had to leave. Our new Cub leader is being supported by his Fiancé who has joined us as Assistant Cub leader.

Our Beaver Colony also saw a change of leader; the current leader found that family commitments were too challenging for her to carry on. So in June we were pleased to enlist a new Leader for our Beavers, she is an experienced Guide Leader, but not wholly new to the Group, her connection with 1st Tolworth goes back a while as her son has been a Beaver, Cub and is now one of our Scouts. The Beaver Colony is thriving and currently there is a waiting list to join.

We thank the departing Leaders and are grateful for their time with us.

Without dedicated volunteers like these the Scout Group would not be able to function.

Our Beaver Colony had special Visitors when Sir Ed Davey and Cllr Andrew Wooldridge attended one of their meetings. Ed was himself a Cub Scout and a Scout and we are pleased to say that he agreed to be an honorary member of 1st Tolworth (St Matthew's) Scout Group.

The Beavers and Cubs have been busy working on earning their challenge badges, these challenges are not always that easy but are the building blocks for life.

The Scouts were also working on gaining challenge badges, which as a Scout lead up to earning and being awarded the Chief Scout Gold Award, we are pleased that this year Twenty-Eight of our Scouts achieved this award.

The Scout Troop attended an event called Strategy, which is a wide event in which many Scout Troops and Guide Groups take part in and they had the opportunity in practising and honing skills, and taking part in an array of fun events, over 600 people took part.

In the last week of July the Scout Troop enjoyed their Summer Camp at Huish Woods Scout Campsite, near Taunton, Somerset. On site they took part in Climbing, Shooting & Orienteering.

We were able to hold our St. Georges day service again. As you know this is the day when all Scouts renew their Scout promise. And we are so grateful to St Matthew's allowing us to hold this very special day in the Church. We along with other groups at St. Matthew's said thanks and a fond farewell to Reverend Hancock, we wish Helen and Simon good luck in their new venture.

Our November Fayre, again held at the Surbiton British Legion and opened by the Mayor of Kingston, was another success and funds raised help keep the monthly subs at a low level, much needed in the current cost climate.

The Group had a good attendance at the Surbiton War Memorial Remembrance Service.

As a group we stable and will continue to offer fun, learning and those important skills for life for the young people in our area.

We are and will proudly always be 1st Tolworth (St. Matthew's) Scout Group.

Martin Smith

Children's Society Report



The Children's Society is a United Kingdom national children's charity allied to the Church of England, working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect. The Society supports the many who are facing the most serious of life challenges. They need help to face a level of threat at previously

unseen levels while there are ever increasing pressures on families. Meanwhile, social and support services are stretched to the limit. The ongoing cost of living crisis means that fund raising to meet charitable needs is significantly restrained and the move towards a cashless society means that traditional methods of contributing are being impacted. Nevertheless, in 2023 St Matthew's Church raised £548.59 (including Gift Aid of £99.18) with House Collection Boxes and £231.01 with the collection at the Christingle Service. On behalf of the Society, thank you for your continued generosity. Please take a look at <u>www.childrenssociety.org.uk</u> to learn about the initiatives and activities taking place and see how you too can help by volunteering even a small amount of your time, by participating in campaigns, by raising money, doing a charity challenge or by donating to this important cause.

Paul Mackie

PARISH OF ST MATTHEW'S SURBITON

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2023

REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1143978

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 2 to 10.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);

• To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and

· To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently 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

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145(3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

• to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Tur Mr George Mitchell ACA 51 Langdon Park Teddington **TW11 9PR**

Dated: 25 Joneary 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Tota	l Funds
	<u>Note</u>	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
INCOME		£	£	£	£
Voluntary income	2(a)	180,812	8,992	189,804	168,757
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	4,487	-	4,487	4,994
Income from investments	2(c)	22,964	-	22,964	17,318
Income from church activities	2(d)	1,976	-	1,976	6,971
TOTAL INCOME		£210,239	£ 8,992	£ 219,231	£ 198,041
EXPENDITURE					
Church Activities	3	170,578	2,400	172,978	207,298
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£ 170,578	£ 2,400	£ 172,978	£ 207,298
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		39,661	6,592	46,252	(9,257)
NET GAINS ON PROPERTY/INVESTMENTS		-	-	-	30,000
Transfers between Funds	4	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		39,661	6,592	46,252	20,743
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		866,225	21,949	888,174	867,431
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		£ 905,886	£ 28,541	£ 934,426	£ 888,174

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	<u>2023</u> £	£	2022 £	£
FIXED ASSETS	6				
Tangible assets			683,171		684,757
CURRENT ASSETS	7				
Investments Debtors & prepayments Short term deposit Cash at bank and in hand		- 18,843 217,632 26,823 263,297		- 15,649 182,431 	
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	8	12,042		11,306	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			251,255		203,417
TOTAL NET ASSETS	9		£ 934,426		£ 888,174
PARISH FUNDS	10				
Unrestricted Restricted			905,886 28,541		866,225 21,949
TOTAL PARISH FUNDS		_	£ 934,426		£ 888,174

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 19th March and signed on its behalf by:

D.Farris (Chair)

T Lucas (Treasurer)

Thuead

The notes on pages 4 to 10 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention other than in the case of property. 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 main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the 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.

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

Income

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 and the amount can be asertained with reasonable certainty. Interest is accrued and all other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross. The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the PCCs' annual report.

Expenditure and liabilities

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement is probable and quantifiable. 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 paid or committed by the PCC to be paid in respect of the relevant accounting period. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is excluded from the accounts in accordance with s10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings

Movable church furnishings are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their anticipated useful economic life except where there is insufficient information about costs or where the cost is less than £1000. These assets are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected.

Other land and buildings

Other land and buildings held by the PCC are valued at estimated market value. A valuation is undertaken every three years. No depreciation is charged against such properties but any expenditure on maintenance is written off when incurred.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment.

Equipment used within the church, or church office, not falling into the categories mentioned above, and costing more than £2,500 is capitalised and depreciated on a straight line basis over its anticipated useful economic life.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC are shown as debtors. A provision is made if any amounts are uncollectable. Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either in the CBF Church of England fund or at a bank or other authorised financial institution.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2. INCOME

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total F	unds
		Funds	Funds	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
2(a)	Voluntary income				
	Tax efficient planned giving	97,131	2,130	99,261	100,903
	Other planned giving	4,554	-	4,554	5,675
	Collections	3,409	799	4,209	3,806
	Other giving and voluntary receipts	179	5,297	5,476	5,532
	Tax recoverable	24,848	765	25,613	27,396
	Legacies	48,088	-	48,088	-
	Grants (inc VAT recoverable)	2,602	-	2,602	25,445
		180,812	8,992	189,804	168,757
2(b)	Activities for generating funds				
	Fundraising events	29	-	29	180
	Church lettings	1,642	-	1,642	2,270
	Church hall income	2,816	-	2,816	2,544
		4,487	-	4,487	4,994
2(c)	Income from investments				
	Dividends and interest	7,195	-	7,195	1,549
	Ellerton Road rent	15,770	-	15,770	15,770
		22,964	-	22,964	17,318
2(d)	Income from church activities				
	Wedding and funeral fees	1,007	-	1,007	1,286
	Church events	969	-	969	5,685
		1,976		1,976	6,971
ΤΟΤΑΙ	-	£ 210,239	£ 8,992	£ 219,231	£ 198,041

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total F	unds
	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Church Activities				
Mission & Charitable Giving	13,000	1,307	14,307	14,624
Major works and repairs	11,928	-	11,928	51,186
Diocesan parish share	83,500	-	83,500	81,900
Music	6,570	-	6,570	5,551
Professional fees	750	-	750	5,988
Church maintenance	7,500	-	7,500	7,572
Insurance	15,716	-	15,716	13,322
Gas, electricity and water	14,180	-	14,180	6,885
Administration	9,610	-	9,610	7,366
Other	3,614	2	3,616	3,632
Ellerton road costs	1,272	-	1,272	2,153
Mission & ministry	2,937	1,092	4,029	7,119
TOTAL	£ 170,578	£ 2,400	£ 172,978	£ 207,298

4 ANALYSIS OF TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

There were no transfers in 2023.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5 STAFF COSTS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	
	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Salaries	12,259	-	12,259	8,805
Employers National Insurance	-	-	-	-
Pension Costs	-	-	-	-
	£ 12,259	£-	£ 12,259	£ 8,805

The average number of staff employed during the year was 2 (2022:2).

Payments to PCC members and associates

Simon Hancock was paid for part of the year for services rendered as Director of Music. He is the husband of the former PCC Chair. He was paid £2,000 in 2023 (£3,000 in 2022).

6 FIXED ASSETS

Tangible (unrestricte	d)	Freehold Land & Buildings
VALUATION	At 1 January 2023	680,000
	Revaluation	-
	At 31 December 2023	£ 680,000
		AV Equipment
COST	At 1 January 2023	7,927
	Additions at cost	-
	At 31 December 2023	£ 7,927
DEPRECIATION	At 1 January 2023	3,170
	Charge for the year	1,586
	At 31 December 2023	£ 4,756
NET BOOK VALUE	At 31 December 2023	£ 3,171
	At 31December 2022	£ 4,757
TOTAL	At 31 December 2023	£ 683,171
	At 31December 2022	£ 684,757

The freehold land and buildings comprises the house and land at 172 Ellerton Road. The AV equipment is being depreciated over 5 years on a straight line basis.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

7 CURRENT ASSETS

8

9

Debtors		2023	2022
Tax recoverable Prepayments and accrued interest Other debtors		13,657 0 5,186 <u>£ 18,843</u>	14,267 0 1,382 <u>£ 15,649</u>
The debtor split between funds is as follows			
Unrestricted Restricted		18,528 315	15,001 648
		£ 18,843	£ 15,649
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHI	N ONE YEAR		
		2023	2022
Deposits in advance Accruals Other creditors		200 1,899 9,943	200 1,801 9,305
		£ 12,042	£ 11,306
The creditor split between funds is as follows			
Unrestricted Restricted		10,099 1,943	9,964 1,342
		£ 12,042	£ 11,306
ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND			
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Fixed assets Current assets Current liabilities	683,171 232,814 (10,099)	- 30,484 (1,943)	683,171 263,297 (12,042)
Fund balance	£ 905,886	£ 28,541	£ 934,426

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10 FUND DETAILS

	Balance b/fwd at <u>1 Jan 2023</u> £	Income £	<u>Expenditure</u> £	Investment Gains/ <u>Revaluation</u>	Transfer to/from <u>Funds</u> £	Balance c/fwd at <u>31 Dec 2023</u> £
Unrestricted Funds:						
General	186,225	210,239	170,578		-	225,886
Property	680,000	-	-	-	-	680,000
Total	£ 866,225	£ 210,239	£170,578	£ -	£ -	£905,886
Restricted Funds:						
Organ	15,671	2,684	-	-	-	18,355
Special Offerings	-	1,308	1,308	-	-	-
Youth Mission	1,500	5,000	1,092	-	-	5,408
Gift Day	4,778	-	-	-	-	4,778
Total	£ 21,949	£ 8,992	£ 2,400	£ -	£ -	£ 28,541
Funds Total	£ 888,174	£ 219,231	£172,978	£ -	£-	£934,426

Fund Particulars

Property - the fund holding 172 Ellerton Road.

Organ - monies donated for major works on the organ.

Special Offerings - monies donated for mission and charities.

Youth Mission - monies donated to support mision amongst the youth of the parish

Gift Day - monies donated for various works on the building

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

11 CHARITABLE DONATIONS	2023	2022
KCAH (inc Joel Trust)	2,071	3,096
Church Mission Society	1,950	2,055
Church Urban Fund	1,950	2,055
Oxygen	1,300	1,370
Fircroft Trust	1,300	1,370
Church Pastoral Aid Society	1,300	1,370
Street Pastors Kingston	1,300	1,370
A Rocha	1,300	685
Momentum	1,300	-
Balance	0	685
Children's Society	117	282
African Vision Malawi	281	114
Embrace the Middle East	69	86
Kingston Foodbank	69	86
	£ 14,307	£ 14,624

Most of the above was funded from general giving.