

Annual Report

2024



st giles' CRIPPLEGATE

**St. Giles' Cripplegate
Parochial Church Council
Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Giles' Cripplegate, with St. Bartholomew, Moor Lane, and St. Alphage, London Wall and St. Luke, Old Street with St. Mary, Charterhouse and St. Paul, Clerkenwell [the PCC] present their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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1. AIM AND PURPOSES

St Giles' Cripplegate PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector to promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibility for the parish church, for the Roscoe Street Hall and for St Giles' Columbarium. In addition, it acts as Managing Trustee of the Cripplegate Church Sworder Foundation, a charity established by a Charity Commission Scheme for the maintenance of the fabric of the parish church.

2. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC provides public benefit by:

- Facilitating regular public worship open to all.
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- Taking religious assemblies in schools, school tours of the church explaining worship and history and hosting school services.
- Building community and promoting Christianity through the staging of events and meetings.
- The provision of performance space and instruments for educational activities benefiting local schools and colleges including the Royal College of Organists.

To facilitate this work, it is essential to maintain the fabric of the church of St. Giles' Cripplegate.

The trustees have complied with the duty imposed by section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to guidance (PB3 Public benefit: reporting) published by the Charity Commission in respect of public benefit.

Church and charity law require the PCC as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting period, and the PCC is also responsible for keeping proper books of account with respect to its affairs.

Mission

We are here to love God and make Christ known in word and deed. We are an inclusive church and welcome all comers.

Mission Action Plan 2023/24:

In a process of discernment, the PCC has identified two areas of special focus for 2023/24:

1. Welcome - especially on a Sunday morning at the 10am Parish Eucharist. To enrich and enliven our welcome to all who come to the Parish Eucharist, which is the heart of the Church and our life together.
2. To properly engage with serving the whole geographic Parish, by drawing people into the life of The Church - the greatest gift we have to give and the core of our calling as Christians: the worship of Almighty God.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The PCC Highlights and the Church's Mission

The following achievements for 2024 which contributed to fulfilling our objectives (in no particular order):

- Regular weekday services including weekday Eucharist, Morning/Evening Prayer and Bible Study continue to define the midweek life of St Giles'. They are growing in congregation numbers, and the demographic reach of St Giles' across the parish and wider. These services now represent a significant part of our mission and outreach, and our fulfilling of our vocation as a parish church. The balancing of worship with other events in the church midweek continues to be a healthy and embedded feature of life, drawing people into St Giles' and into worship.



- Fortnightly prayer meetings, led by Diana, which continued through the year, initially on zoom.
- Lent and autumn ecumenical study groups are lively expressions of our commitment to church unity. In 2024 we enjoyed a series on Mother Julian of Norwich, including a highly successful Pilgrimage to Norwich, led by Fr Edwin.
- Special services throughout the year including Welcome Back to those who had been married at St Giles 'and All Souls. Sung monthly Evensong and irregular sung Compline continue to be highlights.
- Advent Fair, which encouraged a much-increased number of people to visit church and feel part of our community.
- Social events continue to blossom with crisp-off and cheese-off amongst others
- Glorious and rich celebration of Holy Week and Easter.
- A new treasury team is in place and doing great work, with 'Tola our P/T Parish Administrator
- Jake's ministry of events continues to grow in scope, imagination and financial support to the church
- An al fresco service in St Alphage London Wall ruins for Remembrance Day for workers and residents and Livery. This service continues to grow and flourish.
- Successful group trip to Othona (Bradwell).
- A quarterly Book Fair in the church which is run by a team of around 40 volunteers, enriching the community and welcome provided by the church, and raised c. £33k for church funds.
- The annual RCO Organ School based at St Giles ran once again. It continues to have significant number of participants from across the country, and wider. It continues to educate, resource, and encourage church organists.



- Sunday services including a quartet of singers, Organist, Director of Music, Organ Scholar.
- David Freeman and Diana Morgan Gray received the St Mellitus Medal from the Bishop of London
- Supporting an organ scholar.
- Baptism and Confirmation at St Pauls of several adult and younger candidates.
- Deacon Lucy arrived as Asst Curate and immediately contributed to the life of the parish in church and school, and especially in the YMCA chaplaincy that she has refounded and is already thriving for the good of staff and residents. Including a wonderful outdoor community carol service by the Culture Mile BID-funded Christmas Tree.
- The PCC has also sent representatives to take part in wider church life including representatives at Deanery Synod.
- Church attendance has been consistently high throughout the year and grows steadily (even in August, which saw little drop off). Welcome and belonging to the population in the north of the parish has become part of our daily bread, thanks be to God.
- Christmas services exceeded all records held in the church archives, with over 3000 people through our doors for worship during Advent and Christmas.
- Guest preachers, new friends and old to continue to nourish our faith.
- Production of two leaflets for Holy Week and Advent distributed throughout the parish to create awareness of the churches programme and how to get involved in activities. These are thematic and enable a greater exploration of the life and mission of Jesus Christ not only for those who are of the Christian faith but more widely across the parish.
- St Luke's School: Fr Jack, Louise Hunter and Susan Steele all serve as Governors for our Church School, St Luke's. Together they appointed a new head after Mrs Ann Dwulit retired in 2024, having been awarded the St Mellitus Medal by the Bishop of London. Mr Tom O'Donnell started in September 2024. The school continues to thrive as a place of nurture, learning and faith. And St Giles' provides worship (weekly Collective Worship, half termly School Masses etc), governance, pastoral and financial (helping to broker support for the school with local partners) support. St Giles' and St Luke's are indivisible parts of our local church family



Charitable Giving

Charitable giving was reviewed with a congregational consultation. The PCC tithed our events income and supported; a poor parish in the northeast of England to be able to heat their church over the winter; the diocese of Kagera, in the Anglican Church of Tanzania; and Groundswell, a London homeless charity. This was financial giving, facilities and other partnerships.

4. FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS (No Archdeacon's Visitation this year)

St Giles' Cripplegate – The Parish Church

- Condition and Quinquennial Inspection: Inspection year before last.
- Tower and Bells – Nothing new to report no inspection this year.
- Organs and Piano - Following an increasing number of faults on the gallery organ, and after 16 years' use of the chancel and practice organs, we commissioned Mander Organs to inspect all three organs and recommend restoration work. We formed a committee to raise funds for the work, comprising Kathryn Elsbey (Treasurer), Elizabeth Day, David Freeman, Fr Jack, Jade Fletcher, Robert Andrews, David Wakefield, me (Secretary) and Ed Buckley, a direct descendant of 'Mr Buckley of Old Street', who funded the installation of the gallery organ in 1738. The committee appointed William McVicker as organ consultant, who proposed a more modest restoration scheme than Manders' first proposal. The committee approved this amended scheme in October 2024, appointing Mander Organs to do the work. An anonymous donor generously gave over £1,000 for the work on the two smaller organs, which was completed in December 2024. The committee assembled funds from the PCC, the Friends of St Giles and The Larkin Trust to commission Stage 1 of the work on the gallery organ, costing c£90,000 including VAT, and this work began in January 2025. Fundraising events for the organs included a concert of my organ students in March, the St Giles choir concert in July, the annual sale of used organ music in August and the continuing income from users of our practice organ in the church office. The practice organ was more popular than ever, used from very early morning until late evening with around twenty sessions each week. Our ever-efficient organist Elizabeth Day manages the booking system and all communications with the practisers. The Steinway B piano was frequently tuned in 2024, always at the cost of hirers. (*Anne Marsden Thomas*)
- Work during the year – Deterioration of the Purbeck limestone floor, as highlighted in last year's the Quinquennial Inspection, has been repaired by Skillington Workshop.
- Future plans – the boilers will need replacing in the near future and the PCC are assessing options for their replacement. The removal of the biomass boiler is in the planning phase and will be completed in 2026. The vacated space will be used as an extension to the columbarium.
- Property Register and Logbook - The Churchwardens inspected the Property Register in March 2025, and they confirmed that it provided an accurate terrier (a list of land belonging to the church) and inventory (a list of all the items belonging to the church) and logbook (a detailed record of all the alterations, additions and repairs carried out in relation to the church, its land and its contents).

Churchyard, St Giles' Church Hall and Columbarium

We continue to engage with the Corporation of London on restoration of the brick paving and underlying membrane, which is part of an estate-wide plan of improvements. No further progress has been made during this year.

The PCC now has maintenance responsibility for St Giles' Church Hall. This reverted to us in 2024. The Hall income and its occupancy by the nursery continues and is under review.

St. Alphege Garden

The parish of St. Alphage held a 1,000-year lease, from 1587, on its burial ground which is now maintained by the Corporation of London as a public park. St. Alphage was united with St. Giles' in the post-WW2 rationalization of City parishes, and we inherited the lease.

Roscoe Street Hall (was St. Luke's Church Centre)

The hall was leased to Kunstraum, a not-for-profit art gallery for five years in 2016. By 2021, Covid had curtailed their activities and they had restructured as Studio Roscoe CIC, a Community Interest Company supporting artists with origins in the African & Caribbean Diasporas and People of Colour of the world. The contract has been updated to reflect their new identity and rent. This rent is £2335 per month in line with the agreed plan set out in 2023. The rights over the adjoining flat are disputed with the Diocese. The LDF presumes complete ownership, this is clearly not the case given the parish's part in the cost of enlarging the flat, maintenance, and use over the years, as well as its designated function for the life and ministry of the parish. Discussions continue.

Net Zero Ambition

Buildings Supervisor Jake Kirner has made various attempts to reduce our carbon footprint relative to our activities. In recent years the number of services and events in church requiring heating has increased by around 50% but (e.g.) in 2023 our gas consumption fell to less than half of that of 2018.

Taking these questions and practicalities into account, St Giles' is exploring potentially carbon neutral options to succeed its gas boilers and replace or complement its central heating system.

5. PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE

Safeguarding

- Safeguarding Audits – We continue to use an online app, the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, to allow for regular reviews and self-audits of safeguarding actions and issues. The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard has replaced the safeguarding self-audit undertaken on an annual basis. Using the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard continues to highlight the need for refreshed safeguarding training for all clergy, licensed lay ministers, churchwardens and many lay officers both paid and volunteers. In addition to having Safeguarding as a standing item on the PCC agenda, we held a PCC meeting in 2024 focussed on Safeguarding.
- Safeguarding Agreement - We have a Safeguarding Agreement for the Protection of Children and Adults at Risk in place. The agreement is reviewed annually.
- Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) – In line with the current guidance, we will be renewing the DBS checks every three years and will be conducting those checks in relation to both children and adults.
- Lead Recruiter – Judy Guy Briscoe was appointed as Lead Recruiter in May 2023 and has updated the DBS checks and implemented the guidance from the Diocese.

Security, Health & Safety and Risk Assessment

There was one accident during the year. The PCC's Health & Safety Officer fell from a step ladder whilst lighting some candles. The only significant injury sustained was to his pride. The PCC subsequently replaced the step ladder, but not the Health & Safety Officer.

6. STRUCTURE, 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. Giles' Cripplegate the membership of the PCC consists of the Rector, the Assistant Priest, up to four churchwardens, twelve elected lay members, representatives of the Cripplegate Ward, Deanery Synod representatives and co-opted members. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The Churchwardens Measure 2001 provides for annual election of churchwardens.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be raised and spent. All are deemed to be "Fit and Proper Persons" under the terms of the Finance Act 2010 and are not disqualified from being a charity trustee under the terms of the Charities Act 2011.

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. Online Safeguarding training is offered to all PCC members.

PCC members are encouraged to attend Diocesan Training Events and to access documentation on the Parish Resources website (www.parishresources.org.uk) including "Trusteeship – An Introduction for PCC Members" and PCC Governance. Electronic copies of PCC minutes and reports, dating back to 2007, are accessible by all PCC members.

The PCC has met on five occasions during 2024 including the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in April. Meetings in person had an average attendance of 72%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has several committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly, minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Volunteers play an important part in the day-to-day life of the church supporting our mission and living out our faith. St Giles is lucky enough to have many volunteers from both the congregation and the local community. We would like to thank all the volunteers who give so generously of their time and skill.

Administrative information

St. Giles' is the Ward Church of Cripplegate Ward. The PCC is also known as St. Giles' Cripplegate PCC, or the PCC of St. Giles' Cripplegate with St. Luke Old St.

Diocese:	London
Archdeaconry:	Archdeaconry of London
Deanery:	The City
Location:	St Giles Cripplegate Church, Fore Street, Barbican, London EC2Y 8DA
Postal Address:	St Giles' Rectory, 4 The Postern, London EC2Y 8BJ
Church/Parish Office	Telephone: 07535442955 Email: tola@stgileschurch.com
Bank:	CAF Bank
Bank Account Name:	St Giles Cripplegate PCC
Account Number:	00034121

Sort Code: 40-52-40

An account is also held with NatWest (St Giles' Cripplegate Church, 56-00-23, 46985867).

Events and Buildings manager Jake Kirner
Administrator and Book Keeper 'Tola Adegboye

Director of Music	Anne Marsden Thomas	music@stgileschurch.com
Children's Champion	Rachel Free	childrens_champion@stgileschurch.com
Church Safeguarding Officer	Mark Hunter	safeguarding@stgileschurch.com
Lead Recruiter	Judy Guy Briscoe	dbs@stgileschurch.com
Champion for Vulnerable People	Diana Morgan Gray	vulnerable_champion@stgileschurch.com
Safety Officer	Tim Middleton	safety@stgileschurch.com
Data Protection Compliance Officer	Lorraine Mullins	data_protection@stgileschurch.com
Electoral Roll Officer	Penelope Sharpe	electoral_roll@stgileschurch.com
Stewardship Recorder	Malcolm Waters	stewardship@stgileschurch.com
PCC Secretary	Anthony Murphy	secretary@stgileschurch.com
PCC Assistant Secretary	Anne Marsden Thomas MBE	
PCC Treasurer	Ed Barnard	treasurer@stgileschurch.com
PCC Assistant Treasurers	David Archer and Louise Hunter	assistant_treasurer@stgileschurch.com
Independent Examiner:	The Revd Alan Clements	
Quinquennial Inspector/ Church Architect	Kelley Christ (A&RME architects)	
Legal Advice	Travers Smith LLP. The PCC are grateful for the advice and assistance received from Travers Smith on a fee-free basis as part of their charitable pro-bono commitment.	

In accordance with the Charities Act 2006, the PCC was notified by the Charity Commission on 16th September 2010 that it had been registered as charity number 1138077.

Churchwardens

The role of a churchwarden is described on the London Diocesan website at <http://www.london.anglican.org/kb/churchwardens/>. The website description finishes with "Churchwardens are not expected to do everything themselves, but to make sure that there are other people available to carry out the various tasks." At St. Giles' the "other people" include the PCC and its committees, task & finish groups, church officers, the parish administrator, the concert assistants, professional advisors and the many volunteers. The churchwardens can be contacted by email churchwardens@stgileschurch.com.

PCC Members

During 2024 the following have served as members of the PCC; they are either ex officio under the Governing Documents, or elected by the APCM, or co-opted, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules: -

Ex officio

Rector	The Reverend Canon Jack Noble*	Ex officio Chair
Assistant Curate	The Reverend Lucy Newman Cleeve* from July 2024 The Reverend Edwin Wilton-Morgan	
Churchwarden	Lorraine Mullins* Elected April 2015 and re-elected annually. (off from 2024 – 2026) Returns in 2026 until 2032	

Elected Members

Until APCM 2025

Mark Hunter
Dawn Runnicles
Lorraine Mullins (Lay Chair)

Until APCM 2026

David Archer
Kathryn Elsby
Anne Marsden Thomas MBE *
Catherine Urquhart

Until APCM 2027

David Price
Penelope Sharpe
Louise Hunter
Ed Barnard *

Until APCM 2028

Beverly Levy
Toby Orford
Mark Hunter
Dawn Runnicles
Lorraine Mullins (Lay Chair)

Ex officio as Deanery Synod Representatives until 30-June-2026

Gail Beer
Daniel Gerring

Ex officio as representatives of Cripplegate Ward

Alderwoman Elizabeth King
Two vacancies

Secretary

Tony Murphy 2023 - 2025
Peter Lewin 2025 onwards

PCC Committees

- Standing Committee: The PCC Standing Committee [members marked * above] has power to transact the business of the Council between the meetings thereof, subject to any directions given by the Council, and reports back to every meeting of the Council. Each of the other committees and groups [Worship and Liturgy, Stewardship, Parish Rate, Documentation of Financial Procedures and Administrative Restructuring] advises the PCC within the area of activity implied by its title but has no delegated powers as such.
- Worship and Liturgy Committee: The Worship and Liturgy committee comprised David Freeman, Diana Morgan Gray, Mona Henshall, Amanda Gibbon (chair), Revd. Canon Jack Noble, Revd. Edwin Wilton-Morgan, Anne Marsden Thomas (minutes). The committee welcomed the appointment of Deacon Lucy Newman Cleeve and she will join the meetings when available. 'Tola Adgeboye (Parish Administrator) attended the January meeting to discuss the rota, for which she now has responsibility. Poor health increasingly prevented the attendance of Mona Henshall and David Freeman.

The committee met three times in 2024, in January, April and September.

Throughout the year the committee focused on prayer. Diana ran a prayer survey which led to the introduction in late October of optional supported prayer in the Lady chapel during Sunday communion and invitations to join the Lectio Divina. There was renewed attention to the prayer board, whose entries were included in the weekday intercessions and a rolling programme was established to remove old prayers. Diana and Lucy addressed the reprinting of the prayer cards.

The committee celebrated the growing congregation and the increasing number of GSMD students attending on Sunday but expressed concern about the mysterious dearth of children (since turned around). There was again a record attendance at the Parish Carol Service. Sadly 'Little St Luke's' services struggled to attract a committed congregation, and the services were temporarily moth-balled, but they will be revived in a new format after Fr Jack's sabbatical, with support from a local charity.

The committee discussed Sunday services and the special services of the church year, especially those in Holy Week. Fr Jack designed and oversaw the printing of new orders of service for each season and for several annual services such as the Easter Vigil and Christingle. Lent ecumenical discussions were particularly successful, including a trip to Norwich. Advent sessions were called 'Seeing with Faith' and Dn Lucy planned the starting activity. 'God at Work' sermons by members of the congregation were particularly inspiring. The congregation chose the hymns for Sundays in August, as usual. St Giles Day fell on a Sunday and celebrations included Evensong, a lecture and a party. The Gardeners Company attended Harvest Festival in October. Dn Lucy led a 'Baby Loss' service in October with full choir. Local schools joined in Beating the Bounds on 15th October, finishing with tea and buns in church. Autumn services – All Saints, All Souls, Baby Loss, Remembrance, Armistice Day, and Sunday services in November – focused on death and dying well.

Although social events are beyond its remit, the committee recorded its thanks to volunteers who organised various successful gatherings, including the February progressive lunch, run by our professional soprano Penelope Sharpe.

The Worship and Liturgy committee aims to represent the views of the whole congregation, so it greatly welcomes suggestions and opinions, and any offers to join the committee.

- Stewardship Committee: The committee members: Catherine Urquhart (Stewardship Recorder), Amanda Dean, Christopher Gadsden and Malcolm Waters. The stewardship committee's role is to encourage giving to St Giles' by members of the congregation, other visitors to the church and those further afield.

In 2024, Malcolm Waters resigned from the committee after many years of service as a member and as chair. We are very grateful to Malcolm for all his work and encouragement as the current committee of Amanda Dean and Romha Berhane continue.

Despite a slight drop since 2023, we are glad to report that total giving was again well above pre-Covid levels. It is very pleasing that the vast majority of donations are made via Gift Aid, a higher proportion than in recent years. More detail is given in the table below.

The card reader remains a convenient way for visitors to donate to St Giles'. However, regular donations by standing order continue to be the main source of donations to the church. In 2024, the number of standing order donors decreased, bringing the total to 44. We continue to encourage standing orders because the predictability is so helpful for financial planning, but it may be a sign of the times that although St Giles' benefits from generous giving, the regularity of a standing order is difficult for many to commit to.

Donations (other than for furniture)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Donations supported by gift aid declaration	61,500	56,000	65,366	63,887	66,501	71,761
Stewardship and via card reader (with gift aid where applicable)	-	300	1,660	650	9,460	7,443
Open plate donations without a gift aid declaration*	8,700	1,400	1,118	3,342	6,522	3,497
Other donations made without a gift aid declaration*	5,600	4,800	3,448	5,046	3,504	1,540
Total	75,800	62,500	71,592	72,925	85,987	84,241

* Up to an extra £2,000 can be claimed on these donations under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, provided each one is for not more than £30.

We are still working on a new Legacy Leaflet for 2025, to encourage people to include St Giles' in their will.

We look forward to being in touch later this year with the Harvest appeal message.

- Sunday Club: In 2024 St Giles was blessed with presence of a good number of children. Older teenagers lead our worship by serving. Tweenies participate fully in worship. Younger children enjoy parallel activities within the worshipping assembly and have led our worship at the Nativity and Mothering Sunday. We also, of course, have an active children's ministry in St Luke's School and continue to host Duke of Edinburgh teenagers.



Music report

The superb team of four singers, an organist and an organ scholar remained consistent during 2024, and I suspect that we are unique in having a professional team so committed to the whole life of the church. Penelope Sharpe (soprano) is the PCC's Electoral Roll Officer, leader of the clothes stalls at the Advent Fair and organiser of the annual Progressive Lunch. Amanda Dean (alto) is now House Composer, and she sits on the PCC Stewardship Committee. Robin Whitehouse (tenor) plays the trumpet for the Remembrance services. Louis Hurst preached a 'God at Work' sermon in Lent, organised the choir concert in July and regularly leads the prayers in Sunday services, devising musical responses for the congregation in conjunction with Amanda's compositions. We all depend on Elizabeth Day (organist), not just for her beautifully crafted accompanying and her voluntaries, but also for her astonishing attention to detail; she also contributes to the Organ Restoration committee.

Our organ scholar Inga de Vegvar completed two and a half happy years with us as organ scholar at the end of 2024 and we wished her well as she enters the final stage of preparation for her 'A' levels and the next stage of her training as a musician.

Sunday services include more music than in previous years and we very much welcome Fr Jack's inclusion of printed music in his new orders of service. The choir included Gospel Acclamations throughout the year and the BCP services in Lent contain much for us to do.

Thanks to the increased attendance at St Giles, we were all pleased to be involved in more special services in 2024, too, with full choir at Easter Vigil, the Baby Loss service, Midnight Mass and Christmas morning.

After years of good intentions, and with many thanks to Daniel Gerring and Louise Hunter, contracts for all of us were eventually agreed and signed in June. We were grateful, too, to Amanda Dean, whose financial and business experience was invaluable.

We were delighted to have such strong congregational support for our choir concert in July, in aid of

the Organ Restoration Fund. The concert was called 'Lost Chords' and included an entertaining new piece by Amanda Dean.

The monthly Choral Evensong by the Solis Choir continues to draw a good and appreciative congregation.

The church continues to be rich with musical rehearsals, concerts and recordings throughout the year, thanks to Jake Kirner's brilliance in attracting bookings. The organs are usually heard between the bookings and the services, with the regular organists preparing for service, students taking lessons in church and practising in the office. The Royal College of Organists (RCO) holds regular classes at St Giles, and the RCO Summer Course (established 1997) continues to regard St Giles as its headquarters, gathering a large attendance. Having abandoned daily services on the 2023, the course reinstated them in 2024, and the final choral Eucharist was, as always, a moving occasion.

We all feel proud and grateful to be part of a church that sings, including three priests with beautiful voices, and we love the regular feedback from everyone after the services. Keep it coming!

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod Deaneries are small geographical divisions of the Diocese, within which parishes are grouped under the care of an Area Dean.

Each deanery is governed by a deanery synod. We at St Giles are part of the City of London Deanery, in the Two Cities area of the Diocese of London.

Each deanery synod is made up of clergy and lay members drawn from each of the parishes which they cover.

- to consider matters concerning the Church of England and to make provision for such matters in relation to their deanery, and to consider and express their opinion on any other matters of religious or public interest.
- to bring together the views of parishes of the deanery on common problems, to discuss and formulate common policies on those problems, to foster a sense of community and interdependence among those parishes, and generally to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.
- to make known and so far as appropriate put into effect any provision made by the Diocesan Synod,
- to consider the business of the Diocesan Synod, and particularly any matters referred to that synod by the General Synod, and to sound parochial opinion whenever they are required or consider it appropriate to do so.
- to raise matters, as the deanery synod consider appropriate, with the Diocesan Synod.

The deanery synod, in addition to the above synodical functions, also serves as an electoral college to various bodies, including the General Synod, Diocesan Synod and Area Councils.

In attending the City of London Deanery Synod as a representative of St Giles, my thinking often comes back to **Matthew, chapter 5**, which calls us all to reflect on Jesus Christ coming to earth to include the excluded and preach the good news for all.

The highlights of synod for me centre on our discussions around collaboratively spreading the Good News.

My hope for our synod is that we find more in common between its members as, too often, time is spent on matters which divide us. This was, sadly, underlined in 2023 by the creation of an alternative 'deanery chapter', by a group of City clergy in protest at the decision by the Church of England's General Synod to allow blessings for same-sex couples in churches which wished to offer them.

Please do keep all members of the City of London Deanery Synod in your prayers to support us working together, despite our differences, recognising our shared love of God and of our neighbours.

7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our income rose during the year to £421,450 (2023: £358,369). Notable increases in income were Roscoe Street Hall rental income (2024: £30,340; 2023: £15,800) and new rental income from the Church Hall Nursery (£22,942), commercial church lettings (2024: £63,814; 2023: £51,790), gift-aid donations (2024: £92,334; 2023: £83,238) and grants, mostly related to supporting a new curate (2024: £52,856; 2023: £47,582).

Our investment income, which includes interest on our longer-term deposit account, rose slightly this year to £43,861 (2023: £39,026) mostly driven by an increase in interest received, whilst dividend income on our investment portfolio remained stable.

Our expenditure for the year increased to £332,540 (2023: £288,649). Notable increases in expenditure resulted from a grant-supported new curate (2024: £17,041), organ maintenance driven by starting of the restoration works (2024: £34,288, 2023: £2,468), maintenance of the new Church Hall Nursery (£2,736) and increased special services and events expenditure (2024: £12,734; 2023: £3,389). There was an increase in staff costs (2024: £41,341; 2023: £39,418) whilst other church running costs broadly remained stable compared to 2023 along with a notable reduction in major repairs and restoration works (2024: £5,096; 2023: £30,379).

Our net surplus for 2024 was therefore £88,910 (2023: £69,720) before gains on investments

Statement of Financial Activities
For year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
		£	£	£	2024 £	2023 £
Income and endowments						
Voluntary income	2 (a)	99,315	69,796	-	169,111	158,727
Activities for generating funds	2 (b)	162,672	-	-	162,672	111,004
Income from investments	2 (c)	43,861	-	-	43,861	39,026
Income from church activities	2 (d)	45,805	-	-	45,805	49,611
Total income		351,653	69,796	-	421,450	358,369
Expenditure						
Church activities	3 (d)	291,930	15,956	-	307,886	262,801
Raising funds	3 (d)	23,634	1,019	-	24,654	25,849
Total expenditure		315,565	16,975	-	332,540	288,649
Net surplus/(deficit) before investment gains		36,089	52,821	-	88,910	69,720
Net unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	7 & 8	11,891	-	18,681	30,572	108,712
Investment during year		(165)	-	165	-	-
Net surplus/(deficit)		47,815	52,821	18,846	119,482	178,432
Transfers between funds	13	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		47,815	52,821	18,846	119,482	178,432
Total funds brought forward - adjusted		1,151,325	245,123	723,510	2,119,958	1,941,525
Total funds carried forward		1,199,140	297,944	742,356	2,239,440	2,119,957
		-	-	-	-	-

Balance sheet
As at 31 December

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets						
Tangible	6	350,000	241,409		591,409	588,978
Investments	7	531,413			531,413	519,521
Endowments	8			742,356	742,356	723,510
		<u>881,413</u>	<u>241,409</u>	<u>742,356</u>	<u>1,865,177</u>	<u>1,832,009</u>
Current assets						
Debtors and prepayments	9 (a)	22,151	-		22,151	28,136
Cash at bank and in hand	9 (b)	310,817	56,535		367,352	271,543
		<u>332,968</u>	<u>56,535</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>389,503</u>	<u>299,679</u>
Liabilities						
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	10	(15,240)			(15,240)	(11,731)
Net current assets		317,728	56,535	-	374,263	287,948
Total net assets		<u>1,199,140</u>	<u>297,944</u>	<u>742,356</u>	<u>2,239,440</u>	<u>2,119,957</u>
Parish funds						
Unrestricted	11 & 12	1,199,140			1,199,140	1,151,324
Restricted	11 & 12		297,944		297,944	245,123
Endowment	11 & 12			742,356	742,356	723,510
		<u>1,199,140</u>	<u>297,944</u>	<u>742,356</u>	<u>2,239,440</u>	<u>2,119,957</u>
Rounding diff		-	-	-	-	-

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to hold approximately one year's unrestricted expenditure in reserves to enable us to

- Plan effectively for the longer term.
- Invest in developing activities that further our mission.
- Respond strategically and responsibly to changes in the external environment.
- Manage our cashflow.

Our target for our reserves, defined as unrestricted net current assets, is £200k. Our reserves stood at £317,728 on 31 December 2024 (31 December 2023: £281,448), meeting this policy objective.

Investment Policy

It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and the remainder in the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund.

Approved by the PCC on 5th April 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

**The Reverend Canon Jack Noble
Rector**