



Parish of Crookham

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
of
Christ Church Crookham

for the year ended 31st December 2023

Incumbent
The Reverend Steve Franklin
The Parish Office, Christ Church, Gally Hill Road, Church Crookham, Hampshire GU52 6LH

Registered Charity Number 1132174



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This report is arranged in two parts:

- Part A: Sections 1 to 13 are the mandatory sections as listed in Chapter 3 of the PCC Accountability Guide.
- Part B: Sections 14 to 18 are reports from the various committees and church groups, providing a reflection of church life at Christ Church Crookham.



Part A: Mandatory Information & Reports

This report was approved by the PCC on 7th April 2024.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Church Wardens are elected at the meeting immediately prior to the APCM, and to which anyone on the Electoral Roll or resident of the Parish may attend and vote. Churchwardens are automatically members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules (2020 edition with 2021 revisions). Deanery Synod Members are also appointed in accordance with the said rules at the APCM. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Vicar), Churchwardens, Deanery Synod members, Licensed Lay Ministers, and members elected at the APCM. Based on the numbers on the electoral roll our church has up to 12 elected PCC members and each stands for three years, with the intention of having approximately one third of the members elected each year. All those who attend our services or consider themselves to be members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. PCC members are inducted through a discussion of their role and function in the first meeting of the new PCC, and by going through a review of PCC policies annually. Specific training is provided by the Diocese in Safeguarding. Eligibility and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks are carried out.

The PCC meets sufficient times to carry out the required business, typically around six times per year. The PCC appoints a Standing Committee to transact PCC business between meetings of the full PCC, and consists of the Vicar, the Church Wardens, the Treasurer and at least two other elected members. It operates within the directions agreed by the full PCC. There are also sub-committees for Buildings & Churchyard and Pre-School Management. In addition there are a number of informal groups for specific areas.

The PCC employs a parish administrator and the staff for the Pre-school.



2. Administrative information

Christ Church Crookham is situated in Gally Hill Road, Church Crookham. It is part of the Diocese of Guildford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: The Parish Office, Christ Church, Gally Hill Road, Church Crookham, Hampshire GU52 6LH. The email and website addresses are: administrator@christchurch-crookham.com and www.christchurch-crookham.com

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under number 1132174.

PCC members for 2023

Incumbent

- Revd Steve Franklin

Licensed Lay Ministers (ex officio)

- Dr Avril Cross, Mrs Rosemary Fox

Churchwardens (ex officio)

- Mr Eric Barnfield, Mrs Briony Allen

Treasurer (co-opted)

- Professor Mark Cross

Deanery Synod (ex officio)

- Mr Michael Gibbons (until May 2023), Mrs Rosemary Fox

Elected Members

- Until 2024: Mrs Helen Anderton (moved away Nov. 2023), Mr David Pooley, Mr Kevin Fox, Mr David Holdway
- Until 2025: Mrs Marion Foreman
- Until 2026: Dr Keith Mundy, Mr Andrew Munnings, Mrs Jane Ash, Ms Emily Baker, Mr Peter Bradley, Mrs Mel Trundle, Mrs Sarah Griffiths

Other positions

PCC Secretary: Mr Ian Coward

Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Sue Foster

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Helen Anderton (until Nov. 2023), Mrs Briony Allen (from Nov. 2023)

Health & Safety Officer: Mr Eric Barnfield

Planned Giving Officer: Mr Andrew Munnings

Data Privacy Officer: Mr David Pooley



3. Aims and Purpose

The PCC of Christ Church has the responsibility of working with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the upkeep of the whole premises including the Vestry Hall, the Jubilee Annexe and the churchyard.

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

4. Objectives

Our overall activities fall into six main areas that map onto our ongoing development plan:

- **Worship.** Always of high importance, to ensure our worship caters for all ages, requirements, formal and informal, and also to include those unable to be in church in person.
- **Fellowship and discipleship.** To further encourage people to meet after/before Sunday services and at other times. We also recognise the value of the fellowship of groups that support our worship, such as flowers, choir, music group, bell ringers, job squad etc.
- **Service to the community.** To provide pastoral and physical support to the local community, as well as specific church groups, events for the community, and facilities available for use by the community.
- **Proclaiming the message.** To share the saving Gospel of Christ with all. Although this often overlaps with other activities, it is essentially a meeting with those who see themselves as outside the Church and the Kingdom of God.
- **Children & youth.** We encourage families and children to be part of our church community, through a number of channels including children-friendly services, community events, our pre-school, and our close links to Crookham Infant School.
- **Housekeeping & infrastructure.** To ensure Christ Church Crookham is well-managed, provides well-maintained facilities for use by the local community, is financially self-supporting, is compliant, committed to individual safeguarding guidelines and has effective communication channels.

5. Review of the Year and Achievements

Highlights of the year included the King's Coronation in May, a performance of The Messiah in November, our second annual Arts Festival in October, and our Christmas & Easter services. Our social events have adapted over the last year or so to being more focussed on being for the local community, and less about fundraising. Of course any money raised is always welcome to help the work of the church.

In August we were very pleased to welcome Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford to officiate at our two morning services, and to join us for refreshments between the services.

One significant change is that we acquired chairs to replace the heavy and uncomfortable wooden ones enabling us to use the space in the church more effectively. The purple colour gives a more



welcoming ambience to the space, and being cushioned they are much more comfortable for services and community events. As they are easier to move and can be stacked if required, giving us great more flexibility on how the space can be used. The church has a large number of hand-crafted hassocks which over the year have been reworked to be thinner and so more usable, while also ensuring the history behind them is maintained.

We thank Revd Steve for his energy and leadership over the past few years, but he has informed us that he is retiring as incumbent, leaving us in May 2024. The challenge to our church is to continue to be a reliable presence as part of the local community. Our church has gone through a time of considerable change over the past few years, and as we go forward through 2024 we need to carefully think about the coming transformation as we embark upon the process to find a new incumbent.

This document includes reports in detail from our various committees, work groups and individual office holders. Some observations of the past years are summarised below, mapped onto our ongoing development plan.

Worship

In 2023 we continued with the pattern of services at 9am and 11am, with coffee/tea between, and also once per month 'Cake Church' which is an informal service for families and children. One day each week we have Evening Prayer, and once per month we also have Night Prayer. In December we held the service for the commemoration of the faithful departed.

For those who particularly enjoy the music of the church we had special 'Songs of Praise' services, while at Christmas we had the Carol Service and also the less formal 'Christmas Cheer' with singing and refreshments.

Our annual services of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas were conducted with good attendance. Our two Christmas Eve Christingle Services were particularly well attended with altogether over 300 people. In the course of the year there were four weddings, 16 baptisms, six funerals held in Church and nine interments of ashes.

For those unable to attend a service in-person we continue to offer live-streaming of the 9am service on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. While few watch the service live, we usually have up to 20 'views' of each service after a day or so.

Our worship is enhanced by many groups, and we thank all those who contribute their time and expertise. These include the sacristans, the choir, the music group, the handbell team, the flowers team, those who provide tea/coffee, the live-streaming techies, and Jenny in the office producing the weekly service sheets and documents. A special mention and thanks to Derek Canfield for his ongoing support and skill playing the organ. Laura continues to lead 'JAM' (Jesus And Me) for the younger people during the 11am service, and we thank her for her ongoing work with this. The children did a much appreciated nativity play for both services the week before Christmas. We also recognise the contribution made by many others in the services, such as the sidesmen, the readers, and those preparing and saying the intercessions. A particular mention to LLM Ros Fox for her ongoing contribution in leading services or parts of services.

Fellowship and discipleship

During Lent, Ros led a course studying *Godforsaken: The Cross – The Greatest Hope of All*, by Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York. We also held regular 'Any Questions' and 'Face to Faith'. In September Ros organised a parish pilgrimage, walking mostly on cross-country paths to Fleet for a picnic followed



by a visit to the recently re-opened church of All Saints, Fleet. The PCC had an 'Away Day' in October to St Philip and James Church in Fleet to discuss where we are going as a church.

The buildings continue to be used by community groups, including by our own Pre-school every weekday morning, the Parents & Toddlers group known as "Little Bells", and "Coffee and Conversation" which is an informal gathering of friends at the church.

Led by Marion Foreman, the pastoral care team continues to provide a more formal structure to the existing network of friends, and to be a presence at church community events. The "Coffee and Conversation" sessions have been an opportunity for keeping in touch with the concerns of the congregation and friends in the wider parish. We thank all of those involved in this important work.

Service to the community

In 2023 we continued numerous community events as instigated the previous year. Many of these have been small, relatively informal events including Christmas wreath making workshops, Mothering Sunday craft day, fayres, seed exchange, plant sales, a Scottish supper and Mothering Sunday afternoon cream teas. We also organised three major events: the Summer Fayre, a performance of The Messiah, and our second Arts Festival. The Arts Festival was particularly successful, with many visitors coming to see and buy art works, listen to the live music and to partake in the splendid refreshments. This event raised over £4000 for church funds.

We continued to support our three main chosen charities, Christian Aid, The Children's Society and Royal British Legion, and we thank those who lead our initiatives for these important charities. The community Feed-A-Child project was again organised to help families at Easter, in the summer and at Christmas. These campaigns were very successful with donations providing much needed support in these difficult times, Judy Roberts and her team helping 34 families at Easter, 38 in the summer and then the Christians against Poverty team taking on the work helping 46 at Christmas.

Our Christians Against Poverty (CAP) team started one-off "Live well for less" sessions. These include Cook Well for Less workshops and Money Coaching sessions to deliver practical exercises such as budgeting, efficient energy usage, and money management.

The biggest project of the year has been the renovation of the School House; managed by Peter Bradley but involved many others as well. A tenant moved in at the end of the year.

Proclaiming the message

Engaging with people outside the Church is one of the hardest tasks we find in our culture of electronic communication. It often happens naturally between individuals, but the Church's message can be lost in the torrent of other messages. Proclaiming the message often takes place together with serving the community.

The four projects collectively owned by the Churches in Fleet and Church Crookham combine explicitly 'proclaiming the message' with 'serving the community':

- Fleet and Church Crookham Together in Schools (FACCTS)
- LivingStones Christian Centre
- Fleet Angels, the street pastors
- Hart Foodbank

We use a number of different routes to inform and publicise church events, including traditional methods such as the parish magazine, the weekly leaflet and noticeboards, but also have firmly adopted technology routes of our website, social media and emails. The parish magazine is also



available as an emailed document with 130 people receiving it this way. The website has around 20 visits per day on average, while our Facebook Group has nearly 220 members.

Children and youth

Our Pre-school continues to provide a much-needed service for children of ages 2-4, and where Revd Steve is a regular visitor. Close links are kept with the infant school and the junior school, with assemblies and visits.

Our thanks go to Sarah Griffiths for continuing to run “Little Bells”, the mother and toddlers group.

In the summer holidays we ran a Holiday Club every Tuesday for children of primary school age, for a chance to get together for games, crafts and competitions.

Infrastructure

Our financial position has significantly improved from last year although we need to recognise this was particularly due to significant legacies and a gift.

We had no major, unplanned expenditure, but we did carry out a number of modest repairs to church and grounds. Our events have been a successful mechanism for outreach into the local community, and also raised a significant amount of money over the year. The majority of the congregation now use planned giving with income tax reclaimed where applicable. This together with gifts and legacies has put the church finances on a good footing.

To make the church function requires many people working behind the scenes, and particularly we would like to thank Jenny in the office, and Eric and Briony our Church Wardens. We also thank those in the various church groups, working parties and subcommittees that make so many valuable contributions to the life of the church.

There are many other activities, chance encounters of pastoral care, administrative tasks, and acts of service which make up the life of our church community. Our thanks to everybody involved in supporting the work of Christ Church Crookham in whatever capacity.

6. Future Plans

The next few months are likely to prove challenging for our church community with the change of incumbent inevitably creating extra work for many, particularly the Church Wardens and our small ministry team. Our overriding aim will be to maintain the pattern of services and the many community events as we had throughout 2023, a case of ‘business-as-usual’.

We also intend to start taking specific action in the area of ‘eco church’, the Church of England’s Environment Programme to address climate change in faith, practice and mission. A significant project already underway is the north door where we intend to introduce a second set of doors to improve energy efficiency, and also to give a more welcoming ambience.

We also recognise the challenges as a result of events happening globally, nationally, within the local community and within our own church. While we cannot solve these we can provide a church that is caring, inclusive, supportive and welcoming, while also ensuring the facilities will continue to be here in the future.

Our activities will continue to be primarily steered by our development plan focusing on Worship, Fellowship, Service to the Community, Proclaiming the Message and Children & Youth, all supported



by 'Housekeeping & infrastructure' functions. We will commit ourselves to holding firm to what has sustained us; our faith in God, our bond of fellowship and our common mission to our Parish.

7. The Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll for 2024 has been updated from the 2023 roll in accordance with guidelines from the diocese. There are 148 names on the Electoral Roll for 2023. There are 133 people resident within the parish while 14 live outside of the parish and 1 in the category of other churches.

The updated Electoral Roll has been displayed in the church for inspection since the 7th April 2024.

8. Safeguarding Compliance

In 2023 Christ Church has continued to comply with the Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults (section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016), and also with changes to UK law, with the adoption of a Policy for the Recruitment of ex-offenders.

During the year ending 31st Dec 2023 three reports have been made to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, none are of ongoing safeguarding concern, and no further action was required.

The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, which provides a checklist of policies and requirements for our church and all the activities we undertake, stands at 75%. There are a number of non-urgent, ongoing actions required for completion. These are mainly review of documents we have, confirmation of roles and some outstanding training.

The Safeguarding section on the Guildford Diocesan website now has a list of the checks, levels and topics of training required for each role within the church, which has been helpful. Safer Recruitment training is now available as e-learning rather than via live Zoom sessions. Support can be given to any who would like help accessing the training. It has been good to hear that people have found the training helpful, and that it continues to promote a culture where all are responsible for ensuring our church is a safe place for all who come.

Safeguarding is overseen by the Representative, but it is everyone's duty to protect and support all users of our church, our parish and our community. I thank everyone who has shown their support for this vital work.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).



9. Report on the Fabric of the Church

There are still some items to consider from the Quinquennial Review inspection in 2020, including:

- A need to inspect the bell cote
- Repointing suggested at a number of locations
- Some stones have fallen out from above a lancet window

Work on the School House has taken priority in 2023, but the above issues are highlighted to be tackled in 2024, particularly repointing on parts of the north wall, and also the south wall, where there is also some loss of surface on the brickwork.

The security lights on the outside of the church have been fixed and the downpipes from the guttering on the annex were removed and unblocked. They have been replaced such that they can be removed more readily for cleaning to prevent further overflows.

Internally, the toilets have been painted and look bright and clean. New chairs were acquired and approved; they look well, are comfortable and have allowed better use of the church space for a variety of activities. Repairs to the clock have been made and are ongoing; thanks to Peter Bradley for taking this on.

In the churchyard headstones have been inspected for risk of falling over. There was a complaint about damage to graves; this proved to be caused by foxes. The dead/dying chestnut with a TPO was removed following permission from the council.

Routine maintenance and checks have been carried out, including fire-alarm testing, Legionella testing, PAT tests, general H&S checks, boiler maintenance and fire drills (preschool).

Thank you to all the volunteers who help maintain the church and grounds.

10. Deanery Synod

Aldershot Deanery Synod met in February 2023 at St Peter's, Farnborough and in October at All Saints, Fleet. Topics discussed included Modern Slavery and Youth strategy in the Deanery. The February meeting was attended by Mike Gibbons, Ros Fox (Lay representatives) and Revd Steve Franklin (Clergy). The October meeting was attended by Revd Steve Franklin (Ros Fox was on holiday). Mike Gibbons stood down as Deanery Synod rep at the last APCM, and a replacement has not yet been found.

Full reports of the proceedings of Aldershot Deanery Synod have been given to Crookham PCC.



11. Financial Report

The financial statements and notes to the financial statements are given at the end of this section, and provides an overview for parishioners who are not financial specialists. The references in brackets gives the relevant heading or note section of the financial statements.

2023 was a very active year in a number of ways which have impacted on the financial state of the church:

- We have had many more community events with two notable finance successes in terms of our Arts Festival in October featuring the work of 50+ artists together with eight musical groups and excellent refreshments, and also a wonderful performance of Handel's Messiah in November.
- After occupation by the same family for 57 years the School House on Gally Hill Road was suddenly vacated. The School House is owned by a Trust, the trustees of which are the Vicar and Wardens of Christ Church. The church has the responsibility to maintain the property and use any excess income in support of the young in the parish. Hence, the wardens, treasurer and a small team led by a PCC member Peter Bradley, set about a long overdue complete renovation of the house including the kitchen, bathroom, boiler, central heating, flooring, electrics and decorating as well as pointing etc externally. This task took some five months, involved a variety of contractors and cost about £28,000, most of which had been provided for from a projects budget in the prior year. The house was then ready for letting to a needy family in December through Hart DC social housing dept.

Aside from the work on the School House, during the year we carried out a range of fairly modest repairs including:

- The church toilets were renovated and redecorated (£1,265)
- Our church chairs had seen better days and needed replacing. A short term opportunity came up to acquire 175 chairs from a neighbouring church which were in excellent condition and fitted well with the décor of our sanctuary so we acquired them and are grateful to the DAC for subsequently granting a faculty. These chairs, which were a fraction of the price of new ones, now adorn our sanctuary and are appreciated by our congregations (£2,000)
- Our sound system (£325), electrical network (£180) and security system were all repaired (£329)
- We also acquired a new photocopier system sophisticated enough to print the magazine and other documents (£2,640)

The authorised spend on repairs and renovations has been limited and targeted at being effective for the congregation, whilst ensuring the fabric of the Church is well maintained.

A notable element of income and expenditure in these accounts is the operation of the Pre-school. This continues to be a very successful service to the community which is generally in high demand from families in the village. The recovery in 2022 in terms of child numbers was continued into 2023, as the socialisation problems from COVID became less apparent. The financial loss was mitigated to some extent by staff reducing their hours where they could. As such, our income in 2023 rose to £98,847 from £85,934 in 2022, which is now close to pre-pandemic levels. Because it is now very difficult to find staff who are qualified on entry into the profession as practitioners we expect to pay the cost of training new staff. During 2023 we began the training of a second member of staff (where the cost has been borne through external sponsorship for which we are grateful) and were delighted to be able to recruit another member with fully qualified teacher status. All of the Pre-school staff are well qualified – as qualified teachers, at level 3 in EYE or as a graduate. The Pre-school has direct costs of £70,157 which mostly goes on staff salaries. In addition, of course, there are a range of overhead



costs which this does not include (e.g. administrative support, cleaning, use of the Vestry Hall, clergy vestry, the dedicated storage area, etc.). During the course of 2023 the cost of energy has more than doubled and this just had to be absorbed by the Church and Pre-school.

Total donations to charities included:

Churches Together in Fleet & Church Crookham (£1350), The Children's Society (£258), 'Feed a child' – support for Crookham families in need (£1900), and a new venture to support those finding difficulty on managing with very limited budgets – Christians Against Poverty (CAP) at £1789.

Principal sources of income were:

- Pre-School income from Hampshire County Council, employer vouchers and parents together are the largest single source of income for the PCC at £98,847 [Note 2c].
- The majority of the congregation donate by planned giving, much of which can have income tax reclaimed. There are others who give in other ways, some of which is also income-tax reclaimable. The total of these [Note 2a] is £83,773, in line with earlier years (2022 being the exception). Our planned giving income this past year was up on previous years and together with the significant gift and legacies last year, has put the church finances on a good footing for the next year or two.

Financial Administration

Our finances are administrated by the following team:

- Treasurer: Professor Mark Cross
- Planned Giving Officer: Andrew Munnings
- Pensions Officer: Bruce Bulgin
- Independent Examiner: David Sprot

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain sufficient unrestricted funds to meet running costs of the Church's ministry, maintenance of the buildings and emergency situations. The Reserves are sufficient to sustain the church operation under normal circumstances for about six months should all income cease.

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

There are no funds in this category.

Financial Risk Management

The PCC income is less than £500,000 per annum so there is no requirement for a formal financial risk policy. However, it is sensible to consider the main areas of risk. These are considered to be:

- Costs arising from unplanned repair or maintenance work that is not covered by our insurance policies. The policies are believed to be adequate and are with Ecclesiastical Insurance, the recognised insurers for churches and PCCs.
- A Quinquennial Review inspection occurred in the summer of 2020, and although no serious issues were uncovered, there are some costs arising from the findings of our Inspecting Architect's report which was published in 2021. All of the urgent minor work from the 2015 inspection have been completed. It is anticipated that the costs can be contained within current income and special appeals if necessary.
- A significant amount of necessary tree maintenance work was carried out in 2017 and 2018 and any remaining is well within current income levels.



- Under normal circumstances, although the Pre-school income base is the subject of variation because of Government changes to the funding of early years education, its income is reasonably stable.
- There is always a risk of accidents in the church premises and churchyard with claims against the PCC. No specific financial contingency can be made. The risk can be reduced by ensuring adherence to Health & Safety regulations.
- The church is generally in good repair and the PCC has been diligent in ensuring the QI conclusions have been actioned. However, it is clear that some large ticket items such as the church window frames and the roof will need serious renovation in the next decade or so. The PCC will need to consider how best to raise a fund to support such renovations as this must surely be an intergenerational project – delivered by one for those who follow! In this current year some funds have been secured to deal with the 2021 QI recommendations.

Financial Summary

The church community is pretty much back to life in terms of activity and has been extremely fortunate to have been the recipient of legacies and a substantial gift which have transformed our medium term financial position. Our loss of £20,000 in 2021 has been turned into a surplus of £39,681 when reserved funds of £27,500 from 2022 are factored in, for which we thank God and our friends, through their gifts, and the fund-raising efforts which have made an immense difference to our financial outlook. However, our long term goals remain:- to a) pay off the remainder of our Diocesan debt as soon as possible now, and b) to put together a fund to enable the restoration and repair of the church window frames and the roof over the coming decade (a project in this coming decade for those that follow on!).



12. Independent Examiner's Report

This report on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ended 31st December 2023, as set out on pages 15 to 22, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply, and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2013 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respects the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached

D Sprot, ACMA



13. Financial Statements

		Unrest- ricted	Desig- nated	Restrict- ed	<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming resources from donors	2a	82,043	0	1,730	83,773	157,979
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	42,514	0	0	42,514	26,453
Income from charity & ancillary trading	2c	114,436	0	0	114,436	99,828
Income from investments	2d	18,647	0	6,489	25,136	25,525
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		257,640	0	8,219	265,859	309,875
RESOURCES USED						
Grants & donations	3a	3,690	0	1730	5,420	3,746
Activities directly relating to work of the church	3b	180,416	0	469	180,885	213,769
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	6,858	0	0	6,858	9,696
Church management and administration	3d	33,015	0	0	33,015	29,778
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		223,979	0	2,199	226,178	256,899
NET INCOMING RESOURCES/RESOURCES USED		33,661	0	6,020	39,681	52,976
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD		0	265,335	0	265,335	265,335
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		33,661	265,335	6,020	305,016	318,311
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible fixed assets	5				250,000	250,000
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6				11,112	12,168
Short Term Deposits					63,593	61,618
Cash at Bank and in hand					164,993	153,195
					239,698	226,981
Liabilities Falling Due within 1 year	7				(25,671)	(52,635)
Net Current Assets					214,027	174,346
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					464,027	424,346
LIABILITIES FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR					0	0
					464,027	424,346
REPRESENTED BY FUNDS						
Unrestricted					129,335	95,674
Designated	10				265,335	265,335
Restricted	9				69,357	63,337
Total					464,027	424,346



The financial statements on pages 11 to 22 were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 7th April 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Steve Franklin, Vicar, Chairman

Professor Mark Cross, Treasurer

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities as revised 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

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

Designated funds are part of the unrestricted funds set aside by the PCC for a particular purpose. Unrestricted funds are general funds, which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

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.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections, donations and fees 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. Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when due. Interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources used

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is an operational (though not a legal) liability



and is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) - FRS102 Statement

Crookham PCC participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

CWPF has two sections:

1. the Defined Benefits Scheme
2. the Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
 - a. a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic, and,
 - b. a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are the contributions payable (**2023: £4444, 2022: £3698**).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the 2019 valuation revealed a deficit of £4.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review effective 1 January 2024, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 6.7% to both pensions not yet in payment and pensions in payment in respect of service prior to April 1997; and a bonus on pensions in payment in respect of post April 2006 service so that the pension increase was 5% (where usually it would be calculated based on inflation up to 2.5%). This followed improvements in the funding position over 2023. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The next valuation was due on 31 December 2022. Calculations for this are currently under way.



The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, **Crookham PCC** could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the financial statements in accordance with section 10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property unless consecrated, and are not included in these financial statements. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice property and inalienable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is incurred.

Other buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes are valued at cost. No depreciation is charged against such properties, but any expenditure on maintenance or improvement is written off as incurred.

Other fittings and equipment used within the church premises, including assets acquired under a finance lease, are depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current assets

Amounts owed to the PCC at the year-end less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable are shown as debtors.

Short-term deposits are cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF CROOKHAM
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**



	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	<u>2023</u> Total	<u>2022</u> Total
2 INCOMING RESOURCES					
a Incoming resources from donors					
Planned giving	61,429	0	0	61,429	64,193
Collections at all services	2,146	0	0	2,146	2,773
Sundry donations	5,770	0	1,730	7,500	62,275
Income tax recoverable	12,698	0	0	12,698	28,738
	82,043	0	1730	83,773	157,979
b Other voluntary incoming resources					
Grants & donations	27,190	00	0	17,190	12,893
Fetes, Bazaars and other fund raising events	15,324	0	0	15,324	13,650
	42,514	0	0	42,514	26,543
c Income from charitable & ancillary trading					
Magazine	1,412	0	0	1412	1,608
Vestry contributions	2,695	0	0	2,695	3,099
Pre-School	98,847	0	0	98,847	85,934
Fees	11,482	0	0	11,482	9,187
	114,436	0	0	114,436	99,828
d Income from investments					
Interest receivable	1,975	0	0	1,975	800
Funds of School House Trust	0	0	6,489	6,489	8,259
Rent on Jubilee Drive	16,672	0	0	16,672	16,466
	18,647	0	6,489	25,136	25,525
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	257,640	0	8,219	265,859	309,875
3 RESOURCES USED					
a Grants & donations	0	0	0	0	0
Missionary & charitable giving UK	3,690	0	1730	5,420	3,746
b Activities directly related to the work of the church					
Ministry:					
Parish share	83,752	0	0	83,752	82,527
Clergy expenses	718	0	0	718	2,968
Vicarage expenses	516	0	0	516	388
Visiting Clergy	0	0	0	0	0
Church - running expenses	21,237	0	469	21,706	28,724

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF CROOKHAM
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**



Professional fees	1080	0	0	1080	970
Upkeep of services	2,956	0	0	2,596	648
Expenditure on magazine & library	0	0	0	0	0
Upkeep of churchyard	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-school Salaries & Pensions	64,725	0	0	64,725	65,411
Other Pre-School expenses	5,432	0	0	5,432	4,633
	180,416	0	469	180,885	186,269

c Fund raising & publicity

Costs of fetes & other fund raising events	6,858	0	0	6,858	9,606
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d Church management & administration

Telephone & internet	1,716			1,716	1,379
Computers & Photocopiers	5,644			5,644	2,547
Other administration expenses	1,568			1,568	1,570
Staff pay	19,082			19,082	18,230
Investment property expenses	4,726			4,726	33,286
Bank charges	279			279	266
	33,015			33,015	57,278

TOTAL RESOURCES USED	223,979	0	2,199	226,178	256,899
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4 STAFF COSTS

Remuneration				79,364	79,943
Social security costs				0	0
Pension costs				4,444	3,698
				83,808	83,461

5 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

Tangible fixed assets

	2023			2022
	FHL&B	Leased	Total	Total

Gross book value

As at January 1 st 2023	250,000	0	250,000	250,000
Additions	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0	0
As at 31st December 2023	250,000	0	250,000	250,000

Depreciation

At 1 January 2022	0	0	0	0
Charge for year	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0	0
As at 31st December 2023	0	0	0	0

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF CROOKHAM
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**



Net book value

As at 31st December 2023	250,000	0	250,000	250,000
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6 DEBTORS

Prepayments and accruals	1,612	1,668
Tax recoverable on covenants	9,500	10,500
	11,112	12,168

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Amounts due under finance leases	0	0
Parish Share	(23,635)	(23,635)
Other accruals	(2036)	(29,000)
Other creditors	0	0
	(25,671)	(52,635)

8 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Designated</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Fixed assets	0	250,000	0	250,000	250,000
Current Assets	155,006	15,335	69,357	239,698	226,981
Liabilities : amounts falling due within 1 year	(25,671)	0	0	(25,671)	(52,635)
Liabilities : amounts falling due within 5 years	0	0	0	0	0
Fund balance	129,335	265,335	69,357	464,027	424,346

9 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	<u>End 2022</u>	<u>Incoming</u>	<u>Outgoing</u>	<u>End 2023</u>
Christ Church Community Project	(9,265)	0	0	(9,265)
Funds of School House Trust	46,515	6,489	0	53,004
Parish share debt reduction	883	0	0	883
Organ maintenance	18,274	0	(469)	17,805
Flowers	415	0	0	415
Library - Joan Blundell bequest	275	0	0	275
Pastoral care	474	0	0	474
Supporting children of the Parish	5,766	0	0	5,766
Collections - UK charities	0	1730	(1730)	0
	63,337	8,219	(2,199)	69,357

10 DESIGNATED FUNDS

	<u>End 2022</u>	<u>Incoming</u>	<u>Outgoing</u>	<u>End 2023</u>
Investment properties	250,000	0	0	250,000
Building and Fabric	15,355	0	0	15,355
	265,355	0	0	265,355



Notes

2a – The vast majority of donor income arises from our planned giving programme where approaching 100 folk either have standing orders or give regularly through envelopes in the plate.

2b - The receipts for Churchyard Upkeep include £15 for the upkeep of a family grave and £30 from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for the maintenance of the war graves in the cemetery.

2c – Our income from ancillary trading comes principally from our Pre-school serving our young families and in the community use of our spaces.

2d – Our income from investments arises principally from the rental of our two properties – one on Jubilee Drive and the other on Gally Hill Road, both in Church Crookham.

4 - During the year the PCC employed organists, cleaners, a parish administrator, an assistant and Pre-school staff, none of whom earned more than £60,000 p.a. (2022: Nil). Together these employees equate to 5 full time employees (2022: 5).

Payments to PCC members and persons related to PCC members: The expenses paid to various members of the PCC may have included an immaterial proportion relating to their specific function as a member of the PCC.

No payments were made in 2023 to persons closely connected to members of the PCC (2022: Nil).

5 - An investment property fund was set up by the PCC in 2013, to buy the freehold property, which is held as an investment, and is let.

There are no endowment funds to report.

There are no contingent liabilities as at 31 December 2023 (2022: Nil)

The registration number of the Crookham PCC with the Charity Commission is 1132174.



Part B: Committees & Groups Reports

14. Infrastructure

Standing Committee

In 2023 the standing Committee consisted of the vicar, churchwardens, treasurer, GDPR officer, safeguarding officer, and a LLM. It met by Zoom every 2-3 weeks during the year. The main business of the SC is to manage and maintain everyday aspects of the church, and also to set the agenda for PCC meetings.

At each meeting, the treasurer reported on finance and human resources, especially regarding the Pre-school. The Churchwardens reported on practical matters, and a number of tasks and topics were discussed which included:

- The financial aspects of Christians Against Poverty (CAP).
- The management of trees – removing some and lopping others.
- The School House, including the need for extensive renovation, and tenant status.
- Pre-school printer and tablets
- Works on 10 Jubilee Drive
- New printer for the office
- Hampshire County Council grant for the Arts Festival

The SC considered works still to be actioned, especially those arising from the Quinquennial report. In order of priority they are:

- Bell cote
- External pointing
- Garage soffit boards
- Redecorate toilets

The SC also discussed forthcoming events and services.

Revd Steve Franklin

Pre-school Management

The Early Years Foundation stage Statutory Framework (EYFS) states that “children learn best when they are healthy, safe, secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them”. At Christ Church Pre-school we are this and more, as our small but dedicated team work together to provide a nurturing and supportive environment where every child, and their family, is valued.

The Pre-school goes from strength to strength, numbers are up with enquiries coming from parents for spaces nearly every day. From April 2024 the government are extending the funding for every 3 and 4 year old, to working parents of 2 year olds. This has to be carefully managed of course, as not every 2 year old is capable of being in a Pre-school setting for long hours and the ratios of staff to 2 year old children is slightly different, however we are pleased to be able to offer the funded places, especially to our most disadvantaged families.

We were delighted to be able to recruit another member of staff with a full Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in September. She has quickly slotted in and become a very valuable member of the team. Our lady that joined us last year started her apprenticeship but it quickly became clear that the training



provider was not up to scratch, so another trainer has been found who provides a much better and supportive learning environment. She will hope to complete her course during 2025. We have a new Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) who stepped up into the role after gaining her Early Years Level 3 qualification. She has had an immediately positive effect on the children and the whole team, as we work with her to improve outcomes for our children, as our ambitious curriculum has the same aspirations for them all. Our SENCO, not one to rest on her laurels, immediately applied for a fully funded Level 3 SENCO qualification in the Early years and I'm pleased to say has just completed it after months of hard work, and with some of the best feedback I have ever seen.

I am very proud to lead and work alongside such a fabulous team. The Early years sector as a whole is struggling to recruit qualified staff, so we are very fortunate to have two qualified teachers on board. However, there is a recurring theme whenever a job advert pops up on the internet. "Are you friendly, welcoming, warm and nurturing?" No matter how many qualifications you have, if you have these qualities in spades, along with patience, a hardworking attitude and a sense of humour, the Early Years is certainly the place to find it.

Tracy Jarvis, Pre-school Manager

I would like to endorse all Tracy's comments above. We are truly blessed with a dedicated team. As a church community hosting the Pre-school we try and provide the best physical environment base we can from within our available physical resources, but it's the team that provides the key experience for the children, and they are the stars here. Most of our children are funded by the government through the HCC which has simply not kept up at all with energy and pay costs over the last couple of years. Fortunately, the government has finally recognised the plight of the EYFS sector and made a reasonable award to help it recover, and so we look forward to a better funded Pre-school over the next year or two.

Mark Cross, Chair - Pre-school Management Committee

Buildings and Churchyard Committee

The Buildings and Churchyard business has been conducted under the Standing Committee.

2023 saw the refurbishment of the School House. This was an enormous project, and we are indebted to Peter Bradley who spearheaded the project, managed it throughout, and did a lot of the work himself. The transformation was stunning. Thanks also to all those who came and cleaned and gardened and encouraged. A tenant was able to move in at the end of the year and has settled in well.

Minor repairs and jobs were carried out as required throughout the year - the kitchen door handle, jobs and repairs for the Pre-school, and repairs at the Jubilee Drive property.

Eric Barnfield, Briony Allen

Health & Safety

The church wardens carried out a building inspection of the church in July and found a good standard of cleanliness, with rooms tidy, electrical items all in-date for Portable Appliance Testing (PAT), foodstuffs in the fridge and freezer were all in-date, and the fire appliances were all present and in-date. Two lamps needed to be replaced.

There have been a number of incidents recorded in the accident books. In February two members of a group got splinters from a broom handle, and in October a person fell on the steps after receiving



communion. To mitigate this from happening in future we ensure a helper is always present at the steps to assist when required. A more serious incident occurred in December when a person fell from the clock ladder. Injuries were sustained to his arm, shoulder and neck and was taken to hospital where he was kept in to recover for some time. Action has been taken to minimize the likelihood of this occurring again.

Eric Barnfield

Data Protection (GDPR)

I have not been notified of any breaches or potential breaches of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) or the Data Protection Act (DPA) during the last year.

During the next few months, we will be refreshing our data sharing agreement with you all. This will be a set of questions about how you would like your personal data to be stored, used and possibly shared.

It will also include a question about your planned giving and whether you would like Christ Church to claim Gift Aid on your contributions.

David Pooley

Job Squad

We are pleased to report that the Job Squad has had a successful year, meeting approximately three-weekly, and the church grounds are in good condition – neat and tidy. We have been especially careful to preserve the flora with some relatively rare wildflowers protected. As a result of our work, we are sure that more graves have begun to be tended by relatives.

Unfortunately, the box bushes continue to be badly affected by the box tree moth to such an extent that all the box bushes will have to be removed. We are looking to other shrubs to replace them. We are continuously uprooting brambles and holly, which, if left, would grow rampantly.

Our thanks go to Peter Dunkerley and his neighbour who have burnt all the non-compostable material on the tip at the south side of the church yard. The tip continues to be kept tidy and an enclosed compost bin composted has been constructed solely for the grass cuttings. The summer continues to be a battle with the grass to keep it neat and tidy.

The trees in the church yard have been surveyed and a large, sweet chestnut in the northeast corner, which has become life expired, has been felled.

Our very small but industrious team has carried on enthusiastically, fortified by coffee, hot cross buns and doughnuts. Unfortunately, with an aging team, we have lost the help of a further couple of members. We would very much like to sign up new members, who will be assured of a warm welcome. If you enjoy being outside and can spare a few hours every 3 – 4 weeks, please speak to us or the church wardens.

Ian and Jan Coward



Administration

The church requires a wide range of administration tasks to function smoothly, not just during normal working hours but also sometimes weekends and also from home when required. The office is generally open to visitors 11am-1pm, Monday to Friday.

Key responsibilities are summarised here:

- Phone calls, emails and in-person enquiries
- Production of the service sheets for the 9am and 11am services, plus special services such as at Christmas and Easter
- Ordering of items such as stationery, office supplies, items for church services, and general supplies
- Organisation and liaison for weddings, funerals, interments and baptisms
- Parish Magazine distribution, co-ordination, printing and subscriptions
- Fire alarm testing
- Venue hire (bookings, documentation and access)
- Office and other equipment management
- Parish returns
- Invoices for hall hire, funerals, interments, weddings, monuments and memorial services
- Co-ordination and promoting of events.
- Numerous ad hoc tasks
- Co-ordinating and briefing the cleaner

Areas where additional focus could be of great benefit:

- Increased focus on hiring of the church venues
- Website authoring

Jenny Baker

15. Worship

Bell Ringers

The Christ Church Crookham Handbell Ringers continue to enjoy meeting once a week to practise our change ringing and our tunes.

We continue to ring for a Sunday service most months, and during the year we also enjoyed playing at the Summer Fayre, the Art Festival and carols before the start of the Carol Service. Local groups sometimes ask us to ring for them, and these can be old favourites or Christmas carols, depending on the time of year. A resident from Bourley Grange residential home who attended the Arts Festival heard us and asked the home if they could invite us to ring at Bourley Grange. The home showed their efficiency in getting all their residents done and dusted by 10am that morning ready to enjoy some Christmas carols. One lady was singing away as we played and she told me the name of her choir, which made me, Diana, realise that we had been at the same concert at The Royal Festival Hall in the 1950s. Small world. Bourley Grange then invited congregation folk, who live on their own, to share Christmas Lunch with them at the home. They also delivered some food parcels to other church folk which were gratefully received.

We are always happy to visit care homes when asked, as long as the date required is in good time, so that we can ensure that seven people can all be at the same place at the same time!



We also offer to play for weddings, when we do change ringing as the bride leaves the church. Folk who have taken advantage of our offer are always grateful. The church charges £50 for the handbells at weddings.

We often get given a donation for Christ Church when we play away which we gratefully accept.

Diana & Peter White

Church Choir

The choir has continued to lead the singing during the 9am Eucharist service on the second and fourth Sundays each month, and also a number of weddings and funerals. Due to other commitments, rehearsals are generally only possible immediately before the Sunday service. However, we managed to fit in sufficient rehearsals to sing unaccompanied anthems on Easter Sunday and at the Christmas Carol Service.

Our numbers, again due to other commitments, fluctuate significantly service to service, with the eventual numbers often not known until the Sunday morning. Unfortunately, our core numbers have reduced during the year with two sopranos, one bass and our only tenor no longer available. Our repertoire has had to be reined back accordingly. Conversely, we were able to welcome Ruth Rose to our ranks during the year and are always looking for more.

Martin Dakin

Flowers

We've had another busy year producing flower arrangements in church for regular services and occasionally for weddings & funerals. We also produced arrangements to sell at the various church fund raising events throughout the year. The Christmas wreath workshops were again very successful.

In the Spring, the local Flower Club arranged a "Pedestal Arrangement" workshop which six of us attended and found very helpful.

As a team we continue to strive to be as environmentally friendly as possible particularly with the mechanics we use, reverting to good "old fashioned" techniques of pin holders and chicken wire which is reusable.

Our team currently consists of fourteen ladies, and I thank them all for their hard work, time, dedication and most importantly friendship. We love to have new members join the team so do come join us.

Angela Clarke

Live Streaming

In 2023 we live-streamed 21 Sunday 9am services, following the pattern of 2nd and 4th Sundays. Generally there are only few 'live' views, but after a day or two the figure usually increases to about 20. The Christmas Midnight Service was also live-streamed and had around 40 views. We also live-streamed two funeral services including that of Prudence Vincent.



The use of a second camera by means of a wifi connected mobile phone webcam ('droid-cam') has worked well, particularly useful when the high altar is used. It has also been used to provide a view from the back of the church during funeral services.

We continue to create a document containing the order of service, readings and hymns for displaying alongside the camera view.

My thanks to Mike Gibbons for his support as an additional live-streaming operator. Having another operator would be very useful as there were some Sundays in 2023 when we couldn't live-stream as neither of us was available.

Kevin Fox

Music Group

The Music Group has continued to provide live accompaniment for the 11am service on the third Sunday in the month, and has also played at the two 'Songs of Praise' services at 9am on the fifth Sunday in the month and for the two Christingle/Crib services on Christmas Eve. We now play in the south transept, enabling us to use the acoustic piano, and bringing us nearer to the congregation. Sadly, our keyboard player, Nicole, left us at the beginning of 2024, and we thank her for all that she added to our playing.

We have continued to introduce new items from the new Ancient & Modern hymn books, and have reduced our use of worship songs from the old book to just a handful. We will be consolidating the new items in 2024 rather than continuing to add new ones. Our singing group continues to provide a strong lead in services.

My thanks go to all the players and singers who contribute to our worship.

Ros Fox

Sacristans

In 2023 we found ourselves down to five people carrying out sacristan duties. Myself, Jenny, Emily, Lindsey and Douglas. I'm happy to do this work I've been doing over the past few months. One of the things Steve and myself have got sorted is the linen drawers. I will be making some extra purificators etc. from some of the old altar cloths, so we will be using all the white linen in the drawers.

I would like to thank all who have helped in the past year.

Pam Selwood

16. Fellowship

Coffee & Conversation

We continue to meet most Thursdays in the Lefroy Room from 10am for an hour and a half of chatting and laughter, and it has been a delight to see friends spending time being able to support each other in a relaxed environment. When the weather is warm enough we move our table and chairs outside onto the lawn so thoughtfully cared for by the Job Squad. We have biscuits to fuel our animated conversations covering an inexhaustible range of topics, but most importantly we have fun.



We have been pleased to welcome new people, some of whom have been able to make friends with others in church, while some are happy just to come and drink coffee while joining our wide and varied conversations.

Bring your mug from home and come and join the fun.

Norma Inglis, Pam Selwood, Katherine Gibbons

Coffee Drop

Coffee Drop is now an established part of the morning routine for many of the pre-school children and their parents. I unlock the south door and listen for the patter of little feet as the more confident children come scampering into church to find a teddy or check on their friends. This year taking the teddies up into the pulpit for a breakfast picnic has been a favourite activity. One child loves to find the board books and will take those up to read to the teddies and her friends. The children were delighted to discover three different Christmas trees on the three Wednesdays in December and everyone loved the open fronted Nativity.

Parents know they can come back into the church to pray or to join me for a coffee and chat after dropping their child at pre-school. It is lovely to welcome all visitors who have come looking for help or to visit the church for a specific reason.

Katherine Gibbons

Face to Faith

Face to Faith is the new name for the Bible Study group, chosen to emphasise that we seek to support and encourage each other as we look at the Bible together. Over the past year we have thought about how our faith affects our everyday lives, familiar quotes from the Bible (such as “going the extra mile”), the importance of the incarnation of Jesus at Christmas, and good and bad kings described in the Bible.

The evenings are fun as well as thought-provoking, and we are delighted to welcome friends from other churches amongst the eight to ten people who attend.

Face to Faith meets every fortnight on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Vestry Hall. All are welcome, and each evening is complete in itself so folk are welcome to come along for a single evening. We hope to welcome you to Face to Faith in 2024 – please contact me if you would like to be added to the email invitation list.

Mike Gibbons

Pastoral Care

Apart from the Sunday services and coffee time, Prayer Circle followed by Coffee and Conversation on Thursday mornings provides the main opportunity for keeping in touch with the concerns of the congregation and friends in the wider parish. The office has continued to pass on the names of those requesting prayer and there is provision in the church for prayer requests to be written.

We have continued to maintain a presence at church events such as church fayres and the Arts Festival, and to open the church whenever possible to those who wish to look inside the building or may wish to renew a personal connection even though they no longer worship with us.



There is a greater need for more practical support than we as a church are able to give and we are very grateful to all our caring church members who do what they can to visit, make phone calls, give lifts and help minister to our community in other ways.

Marion Foreman

17. Community

Christian Aid

I have now taken over as Christian Aid representative for Christ Church Crookham. I would like to formally offer our thanks for all the years that Cedric Dowe has serviced the church in this role - I have very big shoes to fill!

Those representing Christian Aid meet on a quarterly basis. The team of people from most of the local churches are a mixed age bunch but with endless enthusiasm, planning the annual events and inputting fresh ideas to support this wonderful charity. One of the most exciting and successful last year was a Carol Concert held at Elvetham Heath Church, supported by extremely gifted singers and musicians who were kind enough to donate their time and talents – this will be repeated this year.

Currently the Methodist Church and Basingbourne Baptist Church are not represented (due to the sad passing of Margaret Porter) in the Christian Aid team so we need to pray that people will be called to fulfil those roles.

During Christian Aid Week, May 2023, the total funds raised were in the region of £3,000 similar to the 2022 fundraisings. Christ Church raised £400 towards that total.

I felt led to approach the church for donations specifically for the Israel/Gazza situation and £280 was kindly donated by church members for Christian Aid to distribute.

There are a number of fund raising events planned as follows which I will request are advertised in our weekly notice sheet at the appropriate time:

- Cake and Plant Sale, Saturday 18th of May from 2:00 to 4:00 in P&J car park
- Christian Unity service will take place on Sunday the 19th of May
- Carol Concert the Sunday 1st of December
- Musical Concert date TBC

I am grateful for the support and interest of the Christ Church members and will endeavour to continue to keep them informed and engaged with the work of Christian Aid.

Mel Trundle

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

Over the last year the work of the Christ Church Christians Against Poverty (CAP) team has evolved. With the support and encouragement of the CAP area manager there has been a change of direction to provide focused 'Live well for less' one-off workshops, as the 'six week course' format was unsuccessful.

We have held four *Cook Well for Less* workshops in the Vestry Hall, where we have demonstrated how to make budget friendly nutritious meals, and are aimed at adults as well as children. The workshops are practical and hands-on cooking demonstrations where we provide all the ingredients and equipment to cook a nutritious meal in a cost-effective way from scratch using cost efficient raw



ingredients rather than expensive packets and sauces. We cook all the elements of a meal, such as chicken curry with sides dishes and pudding. Throughout the session, we introduce helpful topics like meal planning and shopping lists, which further encourages living well for less. In “kids’ corner”, we create a simple treat from scratch, eg. scones or cookies, from this children how to weigh ingredients, and they also share ideas and help each other. Older children are welcome to join the adults too. Everyone comes together at the end to the meal together, provide community, companionship and for attendees to bond. It has been joyous to welcome people from different parts of town and different walks of life to Christ Church, and we invite them to other community events taking place at the church for example Christingle and Pancake tea.

Another activity is the provision of CAP *Money Coaching* sessions. Myself and Bruce Bulgin have been trained to deliver the CAP profession budgeting programme designed to coach and empower people to live well for less. The sessions have practical exercises including how to build a budget, balance the budget, spend well, use energy wisely, navigate debt, using credit wisely, and save for the future. There are videos, practice budgets to build, easy to use workbooks, plus time for discussions. In the past six months we have run two evening groups at Crookham Park Community Centre, although attendance is low it gives us the opportunity to personalise the sessions.

Through the Christians Together in Fleet and Church Crookham Project teams, Bruce has been networking and interest is growing from other churches regarding the *Cook Well for Less* sessions. We have been successful in gaining grant funding to enable us to roll out the workshops in the area - so watch this space. The success of the workshops is down to the marvellous team of volunteers. We praise God for His guidance and open our hands and hearts to follow His lead to provide community workshops in 2024.

Jan Drummond

Fleet and Crookham Churches Together in Schools (FACCTS)

Christ Church is one of the ‘churches’ in the Fleet and Crookham Churches Together in Schools community youth project. As such our volunteers are involved in schools work in our parish. We welcome 160 Year 6 pupils from Crookham Junior School into Christ Church twice a year for the FACCTS Christmas and Easter Presentations of the real meaning of the season. Christ Church provides the venue, contributors and helpers to pack goody bags (which include leaflets with details of our church services) and to support the children at the craft tables.

On alternate weeks in term time a very small band from Christ Church, with the addition of players from other local churches, takes an ‘Open the Book’ dramatized Bible story into Crookham Infants School for a whole-school afternoon assembly.

Christ Church supports FACCTS and members are involved in a variety of regular and occasional roles.

Marion Foreman

Events Team

The Events team co-ordinates the calendar of events throughout the year. The events team comprises of Steve, Jenny, Eric and Emily along with other members of the congregation who help out. We have maintained a continual and varied range of events throughout the church year. A forecast of upcoming events is now standard in our parish magazine, on our website and in our weekly service notes. Events for the year April 2023 to April 2024 have included:



- Plant sales
- Autumn fayre
- Kids summer club
- Summer fayre
- Open gardens
- Art exhibition
- Scottish supper
- Christmas fayre
- Wreath making workshop
- Gift your gift table top sale
- Mothering Sunday cream teas
- Messiah concert

The plant sales were very popular again and have generated a healthy profit over three mornings. The summer fayre now takes place in the church and grounds rather than the Memorial Hall as the cost and effort of having it in the Memorial Hall were too high. The summer of 2023 was the first time it has been held at the church and it worked very well as both an outreach and fundraising event.

The Arts Festival, run by Andrew Munnings and Heather Bailey, was a great success again. This is the second year the event has taken place and looks to be an annual event now. This took place across the week of October half term and made a healthy profit and was a great community event. Huge thanks again to all who helped out.

The Messiah concert in November was also a highly successful and also generated significant sums for the church.

These events have generated thousands of pounds for Christ Church and moreover have increased our outreach and accessibility to our local community. We are now being as an integral cog in the parish with a wealth of activities for all and a warm welcoming place. The team would like to thank all those who have helped in any way to running these events, from organising to simply moving chairs on the day to help set up. Without each and every person who helps the events could not take place.

We would really like to see more people getting involved and showing their enthusiasm for the Church and these fantastic events! If you have a suggestion for an event please don't hesitate to contact Jenny, Eric or Emily via the office. We would love to hear your suggestions or help run your event! We would like to thank all those who offer their help and support at our church events.

Jenny Baker

Communications/Publicity

We inform our community about church services and events in a wide variety of ways:

- Notice boards (inside and outside).
- Leaflets.
- Notices in the weekly sheet and service booklet.
- Parish Magazine. This is available either as a traditionally printed booklet or as an emailed PDF document. In 2023 around 120 regularly received the magazine by email, and about 50 as a printed book. Thanks to the team of magazine editors for putting each edition together, and to all the contributors, who together make the magazine an interesting and informative publication.



- Website. On average this has about 20 visits per day. We ensure the website has up-to-date information about services, events, who's who, church groups, and a full church diary. The site also has a daily prayer cycle, provides links to our on-line streamed services, provides the capability for online donations, and a 'members' area showing rotas, documentation and APCM forms. The site will be having a major refresh during 2024.
- Facebook. Our Facebook group "Christ Church Crookham" has over 220 members, and is used regularly to inform of services, specific events and special notices. Any group member is able to make postings.

Events ticket sales. For major events such as the Arts Festival we adopted the 3rd party solution of Ticket Tailor for online ticket sales.

Our thanks go to everyone involved in the communication of all aspects of our church.

Kevin Fox

18. Children & Youth

Little Bells

We have had a really good year with the little bells. We have had an increase in numbers, averaging 8 to 12 carers per week, and a huge increase in babies under 1 coming to the group. To accommodate for this I have bought a baby pen and new mats. We were having trouble with older children running over the mats we were using before which wasn't safe for the tiny babies. We have then added a soft play area for the older children which has been really successful.

I still complete a deep clean and clearing out of old/broken toys once a term when the pre-school aren't there. We still operate on a donation payment method which encourages anyone to be able to come. I update the Facebook page regularly with any upcoming events.

A huge thank you for Briony who helps every week! I couldn't do it without her!

Sarah Griffiths

JAM and Jelly (Jesus And Me & Jam not yet set)

The age group for the year has been between two months and 16 years old. The older children are now part of the helpers team, which is enabling us to have one-to-one help for the younger children.

We again held our pancake tea, which 14 children attended. In December we were able to do a live nativity play with the children dressed up, and we were able to do the performance twice so both services could see the hard work the children had put in.

We hope that in 2024 the children will continue to join in, and that going forward there will be a greater cross-over between the 9 and 11 o'clock services.

Laura Roberts

Crookham CE Aided Infant School

2023 has been a mixed year for our school.

Crookham infant school has 180 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of white British heritage with a few who speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be



disadvantaged is below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is just above national averages.

At Crookham Infant School we aim to make learning irresistible so that as Team Crookham we all develop the life-long learning habits of resilience, resourcefulness, reflectiveness and reciprocity through exploring together the loving invitation of Jesus to 'live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

It has been a good year with a good atmosphere among both parents and children. The new Year R's have 'found their feet' quickly and the Year 2's have stepped up to their new year group. There are a small number of children who are anxious about coming to school which seems to be more prevalent since the Covid lockdowns.

During 2023 there was a change of chair of governors with Rob Harborne standing down after many years and Marianne Smallman taking over.

The School Improvement Plan has the target of maximising progress for all pupils and has three priorities: effective assessment for learning, embedding learning habits and strong middle leadership.

2023 has been a low birth year which is a challenging time for all schools in the country in hoping to sustain a Published Attendance Number (PAN), so it is a very good sign that the school has a waiting list of children whose parents would choose Crookham Infants.

The head teacher went off sick towards the end of the year, and after this continued into 2024, she later retired.

Crookham infants has maintained very good relations with Christ Church, holding Harvest, Easter and Christmas services at the church.

The Vicar is Foundation governor at the school, and participates in all meetings and training.

Steve Franklin