



St Laurence Church Catford
37 Bromley Road
London, SE6 2TS

Regd Charity: 1101092

Annual Report and Accounts 2023

2023 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Laurence Church, Catford

Aim and purposes

St Laurence's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon Charles Pickstone, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Laurence Centre.

Objectives and activities

The mission of the parish, as expressed in the parish mission statement, is 'to offer, on behalf of a place that God loves, namely Catford, the praise that it has largely forgotten to express'. The PCC is committed to inviting as many people as possible to worship God, and if they feel so called to become part of the parish community at St Laurence's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. Concomitantly, we invite local people to express their worship of God in altruistic service to their local community.

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

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

To facilitate this work, we regard the maintenance of the fabric of the church of St Laurence and St Laurence Centre as of great importance.

Achievements and performance

The focus of the previous two years had been to continue to assist in the recovery from the challenge that Covid presented to both the church community and the wider community of Catford. 2023, by contrast, saw an increased confidence and better use of St Laurence's facilities by congregation and community alike. By the end of the year, the congregation was back to an average Sunday attendance of 100, which, although less than the average 120-140 of the pre-Covid era, is a viable number. The Church Hall and Community Centre are also much better used, with every room in use every day of the week, and some at capacity. The church continues to make its hall and ancillary rooms available to local people (of every faith and none) as cheaply as possible, to allow for the growth of community locally. The facilities are used for public and private meetings, social events, training sessions, exercise classes, funeral wakes, blood donation, luncheon clubs, meetings of the local assembly, and Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

Four particular achievements stand out.

We continue to gain recognition for our environmental efforts, particularly in being chosen as the venue for the Mayor of London's launch event for the expansion of the ULEZ zone in August. This recognition highlights the church's commitment to becoming a zero-carbon building and its use of air source heat pumps.

We have had a number of successful fundraising events. The church organised various fundraising events throughout the year, including a Community Fair and a dinner and dance event that made the most money of any social event at St Laurence's in many years. These successful events allowed the church to support charities such as Sense, St Christopher's Hospice, and Lewisham Churches' Care.

Third, despite the challenges posed by the conflict in the Holy Land, St Laurence's managed to maintain interfaith dialogue and cooperation. The church along with local Jewish and Muslim leaders agreed on a joint statement calling for reconciliation and a just solution to the ongoing conflict.

Fourth, thanks to much hard work by Richard Swann, the parish manager, we entirely refurbished all the WC's in the Church hall; this unglamorous but necessary task underlines our commitment to community building, allowing St Laurence's to play a lead role in the local community by hosting concerts, social

gatherings, and many different types of event. Notable this year, as well as the use of the building for weekly rehearsals by Lewisham Choral Society, the largest in south-east London, were a concert by our local primary school, and two concerts by young people organised by Lewisham Youth Music, who take children from across the Borough, but especially from the large local authority estates in this part of the Borough. The church also engaged in various charitable activities, including providing support for older people through organizations like Ageing Well in Lewisham, the hugely popular Hummingbird Club for Caribbean elders, and Lewisham Elders' Forum. The church's facilities were used to benefit the diverse communities of Catford, demonstrating our commitment to serving the broader community beyond its regular parishioners.

Financial review

We made a surplus, after gains on investments, of £102 in unrestricted funds. Voluntary income was considerably lower than the previous year, as there had been no need to apply for large grants. Giving by the congregation increased satisfactorily, despite the cost of living crisis that continued to affect many households. We contributed £71,000 towards Diocesan funds. The increased value of our investments was used to fund the work of renewing the toilets in the Church hall. Staff costs went up due to the increased number of lettings necessitating extra caretaking; also, there was a considerable increase in the London Living Wage, which we pay as a minimum to all staff.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least six months' unrestricted payments during normal times. This is equivalent to around £150,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow, to meet emergencies and to protect members of staff in the case of failure. The balance of our unrestricted reserves at the year end was £151,948 which is just above our target.

The balance of £12,023 in the fabric fund is retained towards meeting the upkeep of the Church Hall, Church and Flats, while the £13,439 restricted fund is money that has been given specifically to renew the church lighting. 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.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who have worked so hard over so the year to enable the church and community centre to survive financially and morally, to care for the congregation, and to keep everyone who does enter the building safe. In particular, we want to mention our churchwardens Mrs Baker and Ms Mayne, who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf. We have an estimated 50 volunteers who contribute time and energy to the running of the Church and Community Centre, and the entire community of congregation and Centre users are extremely grateful to them.

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, no 1131092.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Laurence's, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar) and other licensed clergy, churchwardens, the Chair of the Centre Management Committee, the safeguarding officers, the readers and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. The Director of Music, Parish Accountant and Parish Manager are required to be in attendance when invited. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 75%. Given its responsibility for managing St Laurence Centre, the PCC has a Centre Management committee dealing with the running of the Centre. This committee is responsible to the PCC and reports back to it regularly, minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative information

St. Laurence Church is situated at 37, Bromley Road, Catford. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Parish Office, 37, Bromley Road, London, SE6 2TS. Registered charity number 1131092.

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

Ex officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Charles Pickstone (chairman)

Clergy & readers: The Rev'd Olukayode Oyebode, Mrs Grace Blyth

Wardens:

Mrs Joan Baker

Ms Marva Mayne (from April 2023)

Ms Beverley Chin (to April 2023)

PCC hon treasurer

Ms Beverley Chin (from April 2023)

Deanery Synod representatives:

Mrs Grace Blyth, Ms Florence Browne-Marke

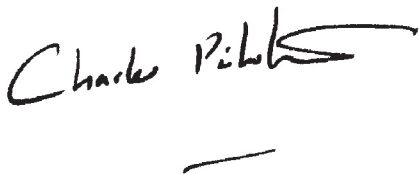
Elected members: Ms Corinne Browne-Marke (from April 2023); Ms Elaine Dixon; Ms Leanne Harvey-Thompson; Ms Lesley Ihekuna; Mrs Bylinda Lundie (to April 2023); Ms Marva Mayne (to April 2023); Mr Victor Obasogie; Mr Paul Omondiale; Ms. Alice Prince-Gilbert (from April 2023); Ms Bridgit Sam-Bailey; Ms Jennifer Thorne.

Chair of Centre Management Committee: Mr Ray Williams

Church Council Secretary: Ms Joyce Turpin

Approved by the PCC on 20th March 2024, and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Canon Charles Pickstone (PCC Chairman)

Charles Pickstone



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Laurence Catford Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on the subsequent pages, which show that expenditure exceeds income by £4,572. The net assets are valued at £329,781.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



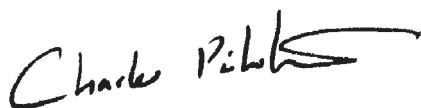
26th March, 2024
Gavin Ellis
Accountant
34 London Road
Hailsham
East Sussex
BN27 3BW

Parochial Church Council of St Laurence, Catford
Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	5	108,061	95,925
Computer equipment		1,207	2,415
Boiler		186,589	196,410
		<u>295,858</u>	<u>294,749</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	6a	25,696	57,695
Short-term deposits	6b	5,500	12,570
Cash at bank and in hand		49,780	15,989
		<u>80,976</u>	<u>86,254</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors – due within 1 year	7	<u>47,052</u>	<u>46,651</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		33,924	39,603
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>329,781</u></u>	<u><u>334,353</u></u>
PARISH FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	9	139,925	131,170
Designated funds	9	12,023	12,023
Restricted	8	13,439	18,113
Boiler reserve	8	164,394	173,047
		<u>329,781</u>	<u>334,353</u>

The notes on the succeeding pages form part of these accounts

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 20th March 2024 and signed on its behalf
 by



The Rev'd Canon Charles Pickstone (PCC Chair)

Parochial Church Council of St Laurence, Catford
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		Total funds	
	2023		2023		2023	
	£	£	Boiler	Other	£	£
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income	58,765				58,765	238,083
Activities for generating funds	72,902				72,902	64,348
Income from investments	2,902				2,902	2,941
Church activities	183,564				183,564	168,008
TOTAL INCOME	318,132	-	-		318,132	473,380
Expenditure						
Church activities	326,686			4,674	331,360	306,114
Raising funds	578				578	862
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	327,264	-	-	4,674	331,938	306,977
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS AND LOSSES & RESERVE TRANSFERS	(9,132)	-	-	(4,674)	(13,806)	166,404
NET GAINS /(LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS	9,234				9,234	(13,512)
BOILER RESERVE TRANSFERS					-	(173,047)
NET INCOME	102	-	-	(4,674)	(4,572)	(20,155)
Transfers	8,652	(8,652)			-	
Total funds brought forward	143,193	173,047		18,113	334,353	354,508
Total funds carried forward	151,947	164,395		13,439	329,781	334,353

Notes

- 2(a) Voluntary income
- 2(b) Activities for generating funds
- 2(c) Income from investments
- 2(d) Church activities

- 3(a) Church activities
- 3(b) Raising funds

5 NET GAINS /(LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS
BOILER RESERVE TRANSFERS

Total funds carried forward

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations’ ‘true and fair view’ provision. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

ASSETS

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of ‘charity’ by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings

These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. In this case the item is not capitalised, but all items are included in the Church’s inventory in any case.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or else, for gifts-in-kind, at a reasonable estimate of their open market value on receipt.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the capitalised cost of fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual fair value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Land: nil

Boilers, fixtures and fittings: 20 years

Computers: 3 years (starting from the first full year after purchase).

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets currently exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

An impairment review is carried out at each year-end and any resultant loss identified included in expenditure for the year.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange or whose value derives from them are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at PCC’s best estimate of market value.

Short term deposits

These are the cash held on deposit either with the Deposit Protection Fund or at the bank.

FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its ‘free reserves’ as disclosed in the trustees’ report.

The Church Council consider it appropriate to keep approximately six months of expenditure as unrestricted reserves.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spend on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

2. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	£	£	£	£
2(a) Voluntary income				
Planned giving: Gift Aid donations	31,618		31,618	30,783
Tax recoverable	9,784		9,784	8,355
Other planned giving	7,298		7,298	7,819
Collections (open plate)	7,626		7,626	6,939
Grants		(1,813)	(1,813)	174,889
Donations, appeals, etc	2,725	1,527	4,252	9,299
	<u>59,050</u>	<u>(286)</u>	<u>58,765</u>	<u>238,083</u>
2(b) Activities for generating funds				
Fundraising	6,968		6,968	2,848
Rent—temporary let of clergy flats	65,934		65,934	61,500
	<u>72,902</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,902</u>	<u>64,348</u>
2(c) Income from investments				
Dividends on CCLA Investment Fund	2,902		2,902	2,941
	<u>2,902</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,902</u>	<u>2,941</u>

2(d)	Income from church activities				
	Fees for weddings and funerals	3,235		3,235	4,461
	Church Centre lettings-local community use	177,795		177,795	162,885
	Other Income	2,534		2,534	663
		<u>183,564</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>183,564</u>	<u>168,008</u>
	Total income	318,418	(286)	318,132	473,380

3. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	
	£	£	£	£	
3(a)	Church Activities				
	Missionary & charitable giving, (note 11)	3,167		3,167	1,183
	Ministry: diocesan parish quota	71,000		71,000	70,000
	Other ministry cost	2,469		2,469	2,347
	Church running & maintenance	132,997		132,997	113,203
	Major repairs	29,440		29,440	29,090
	Printing, postage & stationery	3,626		3,626	3,106
	Bank charges	1,409		1,409	1,555
	Director of music, organist, tuning	19,882		19,882	17,888
	Caretaking	65,036		65,036	52,197
	Events	1,286	1,048	2,334	15,545
		<u>330,312</u>	<u>1,048</u>	<u>331,360</u>	<u>306,114</u>
3(b)	Raising funds				
	Costs of refreshments	578		578	862
		<u>578</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>578</u>	<u>862</u>
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	330,890	1,048	331,938	306,977

4. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages & salaries	114,398	97,857

No. of permanent employees 10 7

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the previous or current years.

During the year, the PCC employed a Parish Manager, Director of Music, a Finance Officer and a number of caretakers.

5. FIXED ASSETS

Investments	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts invested with CCLA		
Amounts held in trust by CCLA through The South London Church Fund and the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance in respect of monies in connection with:		
Sale of 34 Canadian Avenue (1987)	36,811	36,811
Miss Hilda May Augusta Marsh & Miss Pansie Beatrice Edney bequests (1989)	3,180	5,648
	<u>39,991</u>	<u>42,459</u>
These funds are principally invested in units of the CBF Church of England Investment Fund		
Market value of 4,646.20 units at 01 January 2023 (2022:5,408.89)	95,925	126,496
Sale of 0 units during 2023 (2022:899.16)	-	(20,000)
Cost of 134.14 additional units purchased during 2023 (2022:136.47)	2,902	2,941
Increase/(Decrease) in Market Value during the year	9,234	(13,512)
Market value of 4780.34 units at 31 Dec 2023 (2022:4,646.20)	<u>108,061</u>	<u>95,925</u>

	Units	Value (£)
Cost of additional units		
34 Canadian Avenue	113.54	2,456
Marsh & Edney	20.60	446
	<u>134.14</u>	<u>2,902</u>
Units at Dec 31st, 2023		
34 Canadian Avenue	4,046.46	91,471
Marsh & Edney	733.88	16,590
	<u>4,780.34</u>	<u>108,061</u>

6. CURRENT ASSETS

6(a) Debtors and prepayments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayments	-	-
Accrued income	8,000	15,500
Debtors	16,588	42,195
	<u>24,588</u>	<u>57,695</u>

6(b) Short term deposits

Deposits with Nat West Bank	100	7,170
Deposit protection scheme	5,400	5,400
	<u>5,500</u>	<u>12,570</u>

7. LIABILITIES

Amounts held on behalf of others

	2023	2022
	£	£
Vicar's Discretionary fund	2,194	2,194
Women's fellowship	1,649	1,849
Choir holiday fund	268	268
Choir Bursary fund	2,247	2,247
Minichoir fund	337	337
Choir Concerts Fund	55	511
Benevolent Fund	200	200
Toilet Twinning	-	-
Other	260	583
	<u>7,211</u>	<u>8,189</u>

Flat deposits held	5,400	5,400
Other creditors and accruals	34,155	33,062
	<u>46,765</u>	<u>46,651</u>

8. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The restricted funds have evolved as follows:

	Balance 31/12/2022	Donations 2023	Expenditure 2023	Transfer 2023	Balance 31/12/2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Church Lighting Fund	18,113	-	4,674	-	13,439
Green Boiler Fund	173,047	-	-	(8,652)	164,394
	<u>191,160</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,674</u>	<u>(8,652)</u>	<u>177,834</u>

9. SUMMARY OF UNRESTRICTED FUND MOVEMENTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Designated unrestricted funds		
Church maintenance fund		
Balance 1 January	7,679	7,679
Transfers during the year	-	-
Balance 31 December	<u>7,679</u>	<u>7,679</u>
Centre maintenance fund		
Balance 1 January	4,344	4,344
Transfers during the year	-	-
Balance 31 December	<u>4,344</u>	<u>4,344</u>
Total designated funds	<u>12,023</u>	<u>12,023</u>
Unrestricted and undesignated funds		
Balance 1 January	131,169	141,325
Surplus and transfers during the year	8,754	(10,156)
Balance 31 December	<u>139,924</u>	<u>131,169</u>

	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted & undesignated	Total
	£	£	£	£
Total reserves at 31st December 2023	<u>177,834</u>	<u>12,023</u>	<u>139,924</u>	<u>329,781</u>

10. SUMMARY OF ASSETS BY FUND

	unrestricted funds	restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Investments & other fixed assets	131,463	164,394	295,858	294,749
Debtors & prepayments	25,696	-	25,696	57,695
Short term deposits	5,500	-	5,500	12,570
Cash at bank and in hand	36,341	13,439	49,780	15,989
less creditors due within one year	(47,052)	-	(47,052)	(46,651)
	<u>151,948</u>	<u>177,834</u>	<u>329,781</u>	<u>334,353</u>

11. CHARITABLE DONATIONS

	2023	2022
	£	£
London Hearts		752
Lewisham Refugee Migrant Network		431
Lewisham Churches Care	500	
St Christopher's Hospice	500	
Sense	500	
Smile Train	500	
Melqosh Mission	500	
Friends of the Holy Land	500	
A Rocher UK	125	
Royal British Legion	42	
	<u>3,167</u>	<u>1,183</u>

12. SUMMARY OF GRANTS RECEIVED

The PCC wishes to record its gratitude to the following generous donors:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Kirby Laing Trust (eco boiler)		5,000
London borough of Lewisham (eco boiler)		20,000
Greater London Authority (eco boiler)		50,000
Viridor (eco boiler)		50,000
HLF (gyratory project)		5,750
London borough of Lewisham (gyratory project)		4,500
London Borough of Lewisham (restart grant)		4,000
The SLCF and SDBF (school singing project)	925	
London borough of Lewisham (The Big Help Out)	50	