ST.John The Evangelist Wembley Parish Church

REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2025



CHARITY NUMBER 1140226

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF St. JOHN, WEMBLEY.

Annual report for the year ended December 31st 2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St. John's Church is situated in the Harrow Road, Wembley, close to the corner of Crawford Avenue. It is part of the Diocese of London within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is The Vicarage, 3, Crawford Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 2HX. The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John, Wembley is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, registration number 1140226.

The governing documents are the Parochial Church Council Powers measure (1956), as amended and the Church Representation Rules. The following trustees served as P.C.C. members in 2025.

Vicar	The Rev'd Chinenye Ngozi Njoku
Licensed Lay Minister (Reader):	Carole Bevis-Smith
Churchwardens:	George Onyemekara (To A.P.M.) Erica Elebiola (From A.P.M.) Uchechi Alioha
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Carole Bevis-Smith Catherine Miller-Baldwin
Elected Lay Members:	Adetokunbo "Toks" Ajayi Ifeoma Arinze Robert Barker Leslie Bevis-Smith (To A.P.C.M) Rita Chiamonwu Monica Hinds Leda Yousif (To A.P.C.M.) Hermine Barry-Clarke (To A.P.C.M.) Obiorah Nwanonye Dr. Joan Telford (To A.P.C.M.) Martina Vernon

Dr. Joan Telford, Nkiru Egbochuku and Yetunde Coker were co-opted to the P.C.C. at the May meeting, as personal circumstances prevented them obtaining nomination in advance, or attending the A.P.C.M.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of P.C.C. members is as set out in the Church Representation Rules. All adults who attend services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll, and stand for election to the P.C.C. The P.C.C. of a parish the size of St. John's, measured by having below 100 on its Electoral Roll, may have 9 elected lay members. Members of the P.C.C. serve for a term of three years, and traditionally one third of the membership retires by rotation at each A.P.C.M. Toks Ajayi and Robert Barker are due to retire by rotation in 2026. As the Electoral Roll is below 152, St. John's has two Deanery Synod representatives.

Throughout 2025, Ifioma Arinze has served as Treasurer and Robert Barker as Secretary. Dr. Joan Telford has been our Health & Safety Officer and Yetunde Coker our Safeguarding Officer.

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

St. John's P.C.C. has the responsibility of promoting within the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in co-operation with the Incumbent. It also oversees the operation of St. John's Community Centre, which it shares with representatives of the Incorporated Trustees of Workmen's Hall, through a joint committee.

The P.C.C. met on six occasions during 2025 for regular business meetings. Attendance at these meetings ranged between eight and twelve, the average figure being just under ten. This compares favourably with previous attendance, when the reduction of elected lay members is taken into account. Between three and five P.C.C. members unable to attend these meetings in person, participated through Zoom, an option which has been more popular than last year, and a Zoom Only business meeting will be trialled in 2026.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st 2005.

As memory of the Covid 19 years fade, we are able gradually to dispense with the precautions which were an integral part of our services earlier in this decade. Early in 2025, with social distancing a thing of the past, the Vicar, together with the preacher and leader, once again processed at the commencement and end of each service, to be joined by the choristers later in the year. Throughout 2025, we have continued to receive the Sacrament by intinction, though the option of receiving from a shared chalice has once again been offered early in 2026. Communicants still stand at the altar rail, rather than kneeling, which for most of us involved touching it. We have continued to exchange the Peace by remaining in our places and waving, rather than by time consuming circulating and shaking hands, which is a consideration as services are now longer with more music than in our "twin track" days. While on the subject of music, we have been unfortunate to lose the services of our talented young musician Idenna Odoemam, who has left the area.

Our services continue to be well attended, including by a significant number of children and young people, which bodes well for our future. The Congregation is also a community, as was shown when we held a Saturday Barbecue on August 2nd, also open to non-Church Members. Funded in advance with church money, the event was not only pleasurable, but made a profit. On the strength of this success, a Christmas Dinner was organised on Friday December 5th. Selecting the menu was a major balancing act, which offered traditional English fare and a range of beef, fish and vegetarian options. Guests of honour were Mason and Leda Yousif, who during their time with us became valued members of the Congregation, especially for operation of our projector. The thanks of us all are due to Tina Vernon and her team of helpers for making these events such a success.

It is well that these social events were both profitable, as the financial position of St. John's is a matter for concern. Offerings by the Congregation fall far short our running costs, and the parish as a worshipping community is heavily subsidised by the commercial operation of the Community Centre. This was stressed at the last A.P.C.M., but appears to have gone unheeded by all too many of us. The 2025 accounts show a nominal increase in offerings (what accountants call "voluntary receipts") from £40,110 in 2024 to £40,339. Taking inflation into account this is a decrease. An extra £1 per week, making £50 per year from each of us would make a real difference. Installation of a card reader was proposed in 2024, but not proceeded with and feedback as to whether such a device would make it easier to part with money would be helpful. The cold fact is that we find it difficult to meet the common fund payment asked of us by the Diocese of London to finance clergy stipends among other things, and using the pandemic as an excuse for making a reduced payment is no longer an option. Quite simply, without more offerings from the Congregation, our current rate of expenditure is not sustainable.

Since 2015, a regular source of income has come from the Gujarati Christian Fellowship U.K., which since 2023 has met weekly on Sunday afternoons at St. John's. On October 13th 2023, members of the Fellowship were confirmed into the Church of England. During 2025, they expressed a desire for the Fellowship to be incorporated fully into the St. John's congregation, This aspiration has the full backing and blessing of the Bishop of Willesden. Whether they would wish to continue meeting in the afternoon, or join in the 10.30 a.m. service has not yet been made clear. The P.C.C. felt that having part of the 10.30 a.m. service in a language other than English would not be well received. The feeling was that the integration would benefit G.C.F.U.K. more than it does ourselves, given our current financial position. At present we receive regular assured rent from them, which the Archdeacon of Northolt has recently advised us is too low. If integration takes place, we will forfeit that assured income stream, and be dependent upon offerings. Added to that, when G.C.F.U.K. members are added to our electoral roll, we are likely to be asked for a much increased contribution to the Common Fund by the Diocese. An Integration Committee has been set up comprising the Vicar, one or both Churchwardens, Simnbo Ajayi, Robert Barker and Carole Bevis-Smith, but it has not yet met with G.C.F.U.K.

A suggestion has been made by Mr. Olayemi Sobowale, better known to us as Yemi, a good friend to St. John's, who undertakes many small jobs for us in the Church and Community Centre. He has proposed making a Sensory Room in the balcony area of the Centre. This is a space where participants with sensory processing disorders, which might be caused by physical or learning difficulties, might explore and interact in a safe environment, thereby building up confidence and stability. A Sensory Room is a concept hitherto unknown to P.C.C. members, and no decision has been made. An administrative structure to cope with Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Bookings, Routine Maintenance etc. will need to be set up. This will be a prerequisite if applications are to be made for grant funding. We must make a choice between a facility of great benefit to a very few, and a room underused but available to all the community.

The Archdeacon of Northolt's advice came during a formal Visitation which took place on September 25th, a regular occurrence to inspect the fabric and contents of the Church, and ensure that all is in good order. On March 6th 2025, the Deanery Synod brought the Deanery Roadshow to St. John's, giving us a chance to listen to the Holy Spirit in the company of the Bishop of Willesden and the Archdeacon of Northolt. On April 10th 2025, St. John's hosted the Bishop of Willesden's Council.

Media attention has cast a spotlight on Safeguarding issues within the Church of England. Our Safeguarding Officer, Yetunde Coker, attended a training course on taking over from Hermine Barry-Clarke. Subsequently she made a perambulation of the Church with Angela Colman prior to updating our safeguarding policy, which should be accepted and updated annually after each A.P.C.M. Yetunde has since moved St. John's safeguarding portal from Level 1 to Level 3., and undertook further training in October. November 16th was designated as "Safeguarding Sunday".

In the 2024 Annual Report, there was an appeal for more volunteers to come forward to join the Friday Church Cleaning Team, which "fell on stony ground". It is an ideal way to give something back to St. John's by anyone in the "active retired" age group, and new recruits are still welcome. An outdoor working party to clear vegetation around the Church was organised on June 7th, and to our shame only the Vicar and one other person turned up. Newcomers will not be attracted to a church which looks neglected, surrounded by a churchyard full of litter, and the fire escape route from the doors north of the Church is even more overgrown than in 2024. We do not have funds to have this cleared commercially. We ought to be doing these jobs ourselves as service to the Lord, and enjoying working together as a Christian community.

If I might be allowed to end on a personal note, this is the thirtieth annual report which I have compiled. Put in perspective, 30 years is a sixth of the 180 years which the Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist, Wembley has existed. In an episode of the B.B.C. programme "Yes, Prime Minister", it was said that minutes do not record everything said at a meeting, but attempt to produce a coherent narrative from a jumble of disconnected statements made as people change their minds during a discussion. This is my chance to thank P.C.C. members past and present, for agreeing that 99% of what I have chosen to include represents a correct record of our meetings.

St. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, WEMBLEY.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING,

HELD ON SUNDAY MAY 11th 2025,

PRECEDED BY THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

Thirty church members, were present for the A.P.M., and the A.P.C.M.

No apologies for absence were received.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Proceedings commenced with the Secretary reading the notice convening the Meeting, after which the Vicar opened the meeting with prayer. She went on to apologise that printed copies of the Annual Report had not been available sooner, but for those for whom email addresses were available, it had been sent out electronically. The Vicar reflected on the way that we are losing a valuable contribution to the Church community through people leaving Wembley, especially Mason and Leda Yousif, shortly to leave London. She also thanked Leslie Bevis-Smith, who has chosen to stand down from the P.C.C., for his work caring for the fabric of the Church, and both maintaining and playing our organ. Carole Bevis-Smith was also thanked for her invaluable contribution to the smooth running of the Parish.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS: George Onyemekara was among those now leaving Wembley, and hence did not wish to stand for re-election. Erica Elebiola was nominated as Churchwarden by the Rev'd Ngozi Njoku, having expressed her consent and receiving unanimous support.

Uchechi Alioha was nominated by Toks Ajayi to serve as Churchwarden for a further year, which was supported unanimously. No other candidates came forward, so they were both duly elected. The meeting was then closed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was read by Robert Barker, the P.C.C. Secretary, at 12.20 p.m. at the end of the Annual Parish Meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF 2024 MINUTES

The minutes of the 2024 A.P.M. and A.P.C.M. could not be considered or accepted as the annual report had only been circulated on the morning of the Meetings. There were no concerns raised by those who had received an electronic version of the Annual Report. The Vicar accepted that this

should have been done a minimum of one week beforehand, and stressed to all concerned the need to submit their reports in a timely fashion.

ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE P.C.C.

Three elected lay members of the P.C.C., Obiorah Nwanonye, Dr. Joan Telford and Leda Yousif, were due to retire by rotation, having served their statutory three year term. Before the Meeting, Obiorah Nwanonye had been proposed for re-election by Robert Barker and seconded by Ifeoma Orinze. He was duly elected. Dr. Joan Telford was not present at the A.P.C.M. to submit a nomination form, and Leda Yousif did not wish to stand for re-election.

Reduction of the Electoral Roll below 100, required the number of elected lay representatives on the P.C.C. to be reduced. Despite reasonable efforts, the Secretary had been unable to ascertain its correct current size. However, in addition to Leslie Bevis-Smith and Leda Yousif leaving the Council, Hermine Barry-Clarke has also ceased to be a member on her resignation as Safeguarding Officer. This leaves the P.C.C. with seven elected lay members after the A.P.C.M.

ELECTION OF SIDESMEN AND SIDESWOMEN

Currently the only active sideswomen are Dr. Joan Telford and Kayleigh Telford. In their absence, they were invited to continue in post. No volunteers came forward to assist when they are unable to be present.

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

To comply with the Church Representation Rules, Toks Ajayi, the Electoral Roll Officer, had compiled a *de novo* roll in advance of the A.P.C.M. and a copy was given to the Secretary, Robert Barker. In 2024, the roll stood at 101, but it has become clear this figures was artificially high, and the current roll comprise just 79 names. Toks was thanked for his work compiling the new Roll.

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Secretary, Robert Barker, was not called upon to summarise or answer questions upon the Review of the Year 2024, which not all parishioners had time to read and consider. Should any questions come to light subsequently, members of the Congregation were invited to submit them to himself or the Vicar.

FINANCIAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS OF THE P.C.C. FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2024

The Vicar, The Rev'd Ngozi Njoku, began by thanking all those members of the Congregation who have increased their financial offerings to St. John's in the last year. Running the Church and

Community Centre costs us £5,000 per month, and though this is partly met from hire of rooms in the Centre, we need as a worshipping community, to increase our giving to cover our costs.

Concern was expressed about what was meant (page 4, note 4) by "Interest receivable from H.M.R.C." None had been received during 2024, but there was an accumulated £135 from 2023. Could this be reclaimed tax, or something to do with furlough arrangements? If not, what was it?

At the April 3rd P.C.C. meeting, Leslie Bevis-Smith noted that in the draft accounts, income from letting the Church appears in the financial statements as £111,794 for 2024 and £92,994 for 2023 on page 1, but this whole sum is assigned to the Hall in note 2c on page 3. The P.C.C. agreed that it wished the income from the Church building and the Community Centre to be differentiated, but this has not been done in the final version.

Robert Barker expressed concern about the income generated by the Woolley Trust Fund (page 6) which consists of an endowment fund of £9,904. Accumulated income is shown as £6,688 by January 1st 2024, and increased by £4,130 during the year. This was clearly incorrect, and from memory he thought that income in recent years had been was about £700-£750. Robert Barker would supply the information about the Trust in good time for the 2025 accounts to be compiled.

Subject to the above concerns being addressed in the 2025 accounts, it was proposed by Leslie Bevis-Smith, and seconded by Simnbo Ajayi that the accounts be adopted. They were then signed by the Vicar.

REPORT ON THE FABRIC AND ORNAMENTS

The Churchwardens mentioned briefly that there had been structural movement of the South East corner of the Church, behind the lectern, and the undercroft of the organ chamber. Leslie Bevis-Smith, on behalf of the Building Committee, was asked to explain further. Parts of the structure adjacent to an area which has already been underpinned is now sinking. The Committee has been aware that there has been a problem for some time, but it has recently worsened. Monitoring of cracks in the walls needs to begin well before the ground dries out in the Summer months, and he asked that it is given priority as an agenda item at the next P.C.C. meeting.

Robert Barker thought that it was time to refresh and update our notice boards. The one on the High Road still claims that we worship at 9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. It was agreed they present a poor image, and a cost effective way of updating them is being investigated.

DEANERY SYNOD

Carole Bevis-Smith, a St. John's representative on the Synod, pointed out that its prime function is to enable Brent's churches to know what is taking place in other parishes, and how they might learn from them, as well as to promote trends in the wider Anglican Communion.

APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

This was the first year when Mrs. Princess Christian-Iwuagwu had undertaken Independent Examination of our accounts. This had been undertaken competently and completed by the end of February. It was felt that some of the work undertaken by our previous Examiner had been more appropriate to a full audit, and with a price to match. It was proposed by Robert Barker, seconded by Leslie Bevis-Smith, and agreed unanimously that Mrs. Princess Christian-Iwuagwu be reappointed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER REPORTS

AS THOSE PRESENT HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO READ THE REPORTS IN DETAIL BEFORE THE MEETING, THEY WERE INVITED TO SEND ANY QUESTIONS TO THE REV'D NGOZI NJOKU OR ROBERT BARKER BEFORE THE NEXT P.C.C. MEETING.

MATTERS OF PAROCHIAL INTEREST

At the 2023 A.P.C.M., the precautions against the spread of Covid 19 were revised, and a year later, the time has come to abandon them altogether. The Congregation were happy to continue exchanging the Peace by remaining in their places and waving, and the Vicar felt it appropriate to bring the collection forward to be taken during the Peace.

She also wished more to involve the children who worship at to St. John's to participate in services, laying the foundation of the next generation of practising Christians. Specifically she proposed that the elements are carried to the altar at Holy Communion services by children. Until the Covid pandemic, wine was distributed by a shared chalice, and those present were given the opportunity to decide whether or not to reinstate it. It was felt appropriate to continue with intinction. No decision was taken as to whether or not kneeling at the altar rail for those who are able, should be an option.

The midweek service of Holy Communion, which hitherto had taken place on Thursdays will in future be celebrated on Wednesdays at 11.00 a.m.

The end of the pandemic makes it possible to reinstate a range of outreach and social activities. In the past we had hosted SWAY (Sudbury, Wembley & Alperton Youth), an inter-denominational exercise in "soft evangelism" to ensure that young people did not lose touch with the Christian faith. Catherine Miller-Baldwin hoped to reinstate the Saturday morning breakfasts, and the possibility was also considered of offering appropriate health advice.

VICAR'S REPORT

The Rev'd Ngozi Njoku began by relating that the inspiration for her ministry came from influences as diverse as the prophet Nehemiah and C.S.Lewis. The parish to which she has come is, she has

found, "Firmly grounded in Scripture and the Spirit of God", and blessed with members able to communicate the Message through their preaching. She also expressed her thanks for all who serve the St. John's community in any way, not least the Cleaning Team, the only thing wrong with which is that it needs more members. (Offers of help invited.)

The Vicar's vision for going forward remains

i) To be seen as a prayerful Church

ii) Preparing ourselves and the wider community to become more confident disciples through our worship, Bible study, evangelism and outreach.

iii) To become a more compassionate community through acceptance of our diversity and charitable work.

iv) To be proactive in looking after God's creation.

The meeting concluded with the sung Doxology at 1.15 p.m.

Independent Examiner's Report
to the PCC of St John, the Evangelist Church, Crawford Avenue, Wembley.

This report on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ended 31 December 2025, as set out, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations') and sections 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act')

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner
As members of the PCC, you are responsible for preparing and producing the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue the independent examiner's 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 43(7)(b) of the Act and are to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. The 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 respect the requirements
a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
b) 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Recommendation:
None

Signed:  Date: 25/05/2026

Print Name: Mrs Princess Christian-Iwuagwu
Qualifications: FCCA, CIPFA, MSc, BSc (Hons), Dip Theo, ICAN
Address: The Vicarage, 43A Village Road, Bush Hill Park, Enfield EN1 2ET

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John, Wembley
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary receipts	2a	40,339	0	40,339	40,110
Church statutory fees	2b	810	0	810	1,399
Church letting	2c	128,610	0	128,610	111,794
Grant	2d	2,250	0	2,250	0
Total receipts		172,009	0	172,009	153,303
Less resources expended					
Church activities	3a	136,827	0	136,827	123,551
Governance costs	3b	5,761	0	5,761	2,795
Total payments		142,588	0	142,588	126,346
Net income before depreciation		29,421	0	29,421	26,957
Less depreciation		0	4,000	4,000	4,000
Net income after depreciation		29,421	(4,000)	25,421	22,957
Other receipts					
Interest receivable	4	344	0	344	0
Income from investment	5	0	4,962	4,962	4,130
Net excess of income over expenditure		29,765	962	30,727	27,087

Statement of financial position as at 31st December 2025

		2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	6		344,000		348,000
Current assets					
Debtors	7	29,915		18,475	
Cash at bank, in hand and short term deposits					
Lloyd bank current accounts and in hand		133,892		114,898	
CBF Church of England deposit fund	8	114,606		109,644	
		248,498		224,542	
Total current assets		278,413		243,017	
Current liabilities					
Less creditors due within one year	9	(5,955)		(5,286)	
Net current assets			272,458		237,731
Total assets less current liabilities	10		616,458		585,731
Fund details					
Unrestricted	11		239,724		209,959
Restricted	12		366,830		365,868
Endowment	13		9,904		9,904
Total Parish Funds			616,458		585,731

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

Approved by the PCC on 11/05/26 and signed on their behalf by

The Rev'd Chinenye Ngozi Njoku (Chairperson)

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John, Wembley
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Notes

1 Accounting policies

The financial statement have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are available for general application purpose. The accounts 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 affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Restricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are donated for the application of specific purpose.

Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivables under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Grant and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amounts due are quantifiable and their ultimate receipts by the PCC is reasonable certain. Funds raised by fairs and similar events and the sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for gross. Income tax recoverable and all other income resources are recognised when it is receivable and accounted for gross.

Income from investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.
Expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and accounted for gross.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December 2025 is provided for in these financial statements as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditors in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by section 10 of the Charities Act 2011.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the value of the assets on a straight line basis over the expected useful economic life as follows:

Church hall: - over 100 years
Fixture, fittings and equipment: - over 4 years

Individual items of fixtures, fittings and equipment with a purchase price of less than £1,250 are written off when the individual assets are acquired.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December 2025 is respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.
Short term deposits including cash held on deposit and in hand either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John, Wembley
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
	Incoming resources				
2a	Voluntary receipts				
	Gift aid donations	15,614		15,614	15,566
	Collection open plate	3,675		3,675	4,369
	Tax recoverable	6,209		6,209	3,891
	Sundry donations	14,841		14,841	16,284
		40,339	0	40,339	40,110
2b	Church statutory fees				
	Funeral, wedding and other services	810	0	810	1,399
2c	Lettings receipt				
	Hall letting income	128,610	0	128,610	111,794
2d	Grant				
	Grant receipts	2,250	0	2,250	0
	Total incoming resources	172,009	0	172,009	153,303
	Resources expended				
3a	Church activities				
	Missionary and charitable giving	1,379		1,379	2,565
	Ministry: London Diocesan Fund	45,000		45,000	40,944
	Other ministry costs	100		100	180
	Musicians and music	1,970		1,970	1,670
	Organ repair and maintenance	462		462	0
	Repair and maintenance	978		978	150
	Utilities	9,006		9,006	9,925
	Insurance	4,200		4,200	4,134
	Music licence	975		975	933
	Bank charges	(150)		(150)	269
	Security and safety	1,527		1,527	1,306
	Supplies and sundry expenses	2,016		2,016	3,670
	Cleaning	560		560	550
	Church hall expenses				
	Salary, NI and pension	22,818		22,818	14,501
	Stationary, printing and postage	1,216		1,216	1,656
	Telephone and internet	2,427		2,427	2,307
	Caretaker	2,200		2,200	4,000
	Cleaning	5,518		5,518	9,738
	Utilities	9,309		9,309	(2,464)
	Insurance	1,932		1,932	1,879
	Repair and maintenance	7,274		7,274	8,240
	Security and safety	2,697		2,697	5,931
	Supplies and sundry expenses	5,608		5,608	4,058
	Waste and refuse	6,018		6,018	5,621
	Equipment rental	1,788		1,788	1,788
		136,827	0	136,827	123,551
	Total hall letting income	128,610	0	128,610	111,794
	Total hall expenses	68,804	0	68,804	57,255
	Hall letting gains	59,806	0	59,806	54,539

		Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
3b	Governance costs				
	Legal and professionals	2,961		2,961	0
	Accountancy fees	2,675		2,675	2,675
	Payroll costs	125		125	120
		5,761	0	5,761	2,795
	Total resources expended	142,588	0	142,588	126,346
	Other receipts				
4	Interest receivable				
	Interest - HMRC	344	0	344	0
		344	0	344	0
5	Income from investments				
	CBF Church of England deposit fund	0	4,962	4,962	4,130
		0	4,962	4,962	4,130

6 **Fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £
	Church Furniture & Equipment	Church Hall	
Cost			
At 1st January	45,693	400,000	445,693
Addition and/or revaluation	0	0	0
At 31st December	45,693	400,000	445,693
Depreciation			
At 1st January	45,693	52,000	97,693
Charge for the year	0	4,000	4,000
At 31st December	45,693	56,000	101,693
Net book value			
At 31st December 2024	0	348,000	348,000
A 31st December 2025	0	344,000	344,000

The expenditure in respect of St John's Community Centre has been capitalised and treated as restricted because the contribution made by The Incorporated Trustees of Workman's Hall in 2010 was on the basis that on the completion of the Community Centre, an underlease would be granted by Asra Greater London Housing Association Limited to the London Diocesan Fund (as trustee of the Parochial Church Council of Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John, Wembley) for a term of 125 years from December 2009.

		2025 £	2024 £
7	**Debtors**		
	Tax recoverable (Gift aid)	3,966	7,540
	Power generation (Feed in Tariff) income accrued	5,052	5,982
	Church hall hire income	11,266	0
	Church insurance	350	343
	CCLI licence	916	891
	Church security costs	862	829
	Church hall insurance	1,656	1,601
	Church hall safety and security	5,702	1,145
	Church hall rental	145	144
		29,915	18,475
8	**CBF Church deposit fund receipt**		
	Balance 1st January	109,644	105,514
	Interest receivable	4,962	4,130
	Balance 31st December	114,606	109,644
9	**Current Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year**		
	Church hall advance income	250	0
	Church bank charge	0	150
	Church musicians	200	0
	Church utilities	875	0
	Church hall utilities	1,010	0
	Church hall cleaning	0	869
	Church hall caretaker costs	0	400
	Church hall salary	483	422
	Church hall repair and maintenance	132	350
	Church hall waste collection	300	300
	Payroll costs	30	120
	Accountancy fees	2,675	2,675
		5,955	5,286

10 **Analysis of net assets by fund**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible fixed assets				
Church furniture and equipment	0	0	0	0
Church hall	0	344,000	0	344,000
	0	344,000	0	344,000
Current Assets				
Designated Funds				
Structural repairs and long term maintenance of the community centre and for the community action	59,502			59,502
General Funds	186,177	22,831	9,904	218,911
	245,679	22,831	9,904	278,413
Current Liabilities				
General Funds	(5,955)	0	0	(5,955)
	239,725	366,831	9,904	616,458

Fund details

		1st Jan 2025 £	Excess income over (expense) £	Transfers £	31st Dec 2025 £
11	Unrestricted Funds				
	Structural repairs and long term maintenance of the community centre and for the community action	66,122	(6,620)	0	59,502
	General fund	143,837	36,385	0	180,222
		209,959	29,765	0	239,724
12	Restricted Funds				
	Woolley Trust Fund	10,818	4,962	0	15,780
	Sudbury, Wembley, Aplerton Youth project	7,050	0	0	7,050
	Community Hall	348,000	(4,000)	0	344,000
		365,868	962	0	366,830
13	Endowment funds				
	Woolley Trust Fund	9,904	0	0	9,904
		9,904	0	0	9,904
	Total Parish Funds	585,731	30,727	0	616,458

The restricted funds comprise the dividends and interest of £15,780 received from the Woolley Trust Funds, restricted donations of £7,050 and £400,000 from the Workmen's Hall Trust (registered charity number 210454) less accumulated depreciation.

The endowment fund comprises the Woolley Trust Fund.

Looking Back: Reflections on 2025

About three years ago, during a midweek Holy Communion service, we read Mark 10:32–46, and verse 32 made a profound impression on me. Since then, I have held this verse at the centre of my faith.

The passage tells us that Jesus was walking ahead of his disciples; they were astonished, while others were afraid. For me, this is a reminder that Jesus is always ahead of every experience in our lives. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. This passage continues to give me hope that whatever situation we face, Jesus goes before us. He is the way, the truth, and the life. No wonder we are called people of the Way (Acts 9:2). Not the way of complacency, rather a way of life to prayer, trust, faith and above all love.

As someone who has visited the Holy Land, I know that walking through Jerusalem, especially within the Old City, brings these biblical stories vividly to life. This is the city David made his capital, where Solomon built the Temple, and where Ezra and Nehemiah returned after exile. Jerusalem was not simply a city; it was the place where God dwelt among his people. It spoke of God's faithfulness, provision, and blessing. The same God continues to work in us and in our families today.

With grateful hearts, we praise God for his unfailing love and mercy towards us as his children here at St John's Wembley. Last year brought many joyful moments. We enjoyed a wonderful summer BBQ, and many still remember Margery dancing with such joy. We also held a successful Alpha Course and Christmas dinner, and it was a great joy to baptise Yash during the Christmas Day service. To God be all glory and honour.

We also give thanks for the generosity shown through food and drink donations from local stores, organised faithfully by Catherine, with others helping distribute them throughout the community. Neighbours remain deeply grateful for this ministry.

Much of our church and community work happens quietly in the background. The Noah's Ark Toddler Group, led by Carole, the Memory Café, led by Catherine, and the Community Nursery continue to serve faithfully and strengthen our links with local families.

We especially remember those who experienced their first Christmas without their husbands, including Esme Collymore and Mary Stedman. We pray for God's comfort and strength for them and their families.

Finally, I thank everyone who helps make things happen in this church. We still need volunteers, for we are all on a journey towards God's Kingdom a world of peace, where suffering will end and we shall see God face to face in his love and glory.

Vicar: Rev'd Ngozi Njoku

COMMUNITY CENTRE JOINT MANAGING COMMITTEE.

Unlike other committees of the P.C.C., this body has shared membership with another local registered charity, and its own legal existence. The Workmen's Hall Trust (Wembley), like St. John's Church, was founded by local philanthropists Frances and Anne Copland. From their inception, the two bodies have worked closely together, and currently the P.C.C. and Trust share the same Secretary. The Joint Committee is legally constituted to comprise four representatives of the Church, including the Incumbent, *ex officio,* Carole Bevis-Smith, and Catherine Miller-Baldwin, plus two members of the Trust.

The Centre exists both to provide a social facility open to the wider community, and to subsidise the Parish Church, which can not otherwise cover its costs. Three income streams are generated by the Community Centre: use of the Main Hall from Monday to Friday by Wembley Central Nursery School, hire of the smaller rooms on a regular weekly basis, and casual hire for private functions.

At the very end of 2024, a combined meeting took place between the Community Centre Joint Committee and the Buildings Committee, in response to a discussion paper concerning outstanding works submitted to the P.C.C. by Leslie Bevis-Smith. Of particular relevance to the C.C.Jt.C., were the degree security on the door of the Plant Room and the emergency exit gate from the Centre garden. The latter has to be designed bearing in mind that it must be of a height which makes it easily opened by adults but not small children, to comply with the recommendation of the Fire Risk Assessment. Conversely, it must not be capable of access by a potential intruder bent on violating a safe space. The agreed solution is a shoot bolt, secured by an FB padlock, the key being housed in a "Break Glass" container. There is also, within the Plant Room, a potentially dangerous situation on the control board, which incorrectly shows that the gas supply has been turned off. It was confirmed that a current Electrical Safety Certificate had not been obtained by December, something which is a legal requirement and demanded urgent attention.

An E.I.C.R. inspection of the electrical system in the Centre was subsequently conducted by J. Fitzgerald, an approved Multi-service Contractor, based in Luton. An Electrical Test Certificate was granted, subject to further works being undertaken. A quotation was submitted on August 31st, for £21,440 + v.a.t., covering labour and materials. The Workmen's Hall Trust has provisionally offered a grant of £10,000 towards this work, a sum approximately equal to its annual income. The W.H.T. members of the Committee have expressed the hope that receipts from hiring our facilities will be sufficient to enable the work to go ahead at an early date. The Trustees have funded a new computer in the office, used for bookings, and have also offered to pay for a new refrigerator to go in the kitchen.

Yemi Sobowale has now fixed the gate from the Nursery Garden in a manner compliant with the Fire Risk Assessment. He also undertook refurbishment work on the floor of the Main Hall late in 2024, taking advantage of a time when the Wembley Central Nursery was not operating. No work has been done on the floor surfaces in the Centre during 2025.

A resident in Crawford Avenue complained to Brent Council about noise nuisance from evening functions. The Vicar undertook a survey of Gilbert Scott Close residents, all of whom live nearer to the Centre than the complainant. They did not share the sense of nuisance, and only one thought events should end before 11.p.m. A copy of the findings was forwarded to Brent's Noise Control Officers, who have responded positively.

Sunday School and Young St John's Report

Sunday School serves as a safe space where children and young people meet to learn about the teachings of the bible and develop core Christian values at their own pace. Sunday School sessions are planned and based on the children's learning capabilities. The number of children attending Sunday School has significantly reduced this year, reflecting the demographic of communicant membership at Church as well as the local community. There are currently 8 children on the register.

The objectives of the Sunday School sessions are different for every child. During this Church year, the younger children have enjoyed learning about bible stories and characters as sessions are taught in a way that highlight moral foundations and steer the children to connect these stories to everyday life and expected Christian behaviour. The older children learn more about developing their personal relationships with God and are encouraged to engage in discussions that link bible truths to adolescent life and how they apply Christian values in word and action. All children are continually encouraged to become more confident in praying, reading the bible and memorising simple bible passages.

Christian learning and development are not limited to Sunday School sessions as the children are also taught the importance of service and helping in the main Church. Communion is celebrated together with the rest of the congregation on the first Sunday of each month and as well as during important Church feasts. The children have been involved in some of these Church Feasts such as Easter Sunday and Mothering Sunday. It has been a pleasure to see the children grow in their Christian lives as they led prayers, read bible passages and one of the young people, Jacques has occasionally accompanied the Music Group on the drums.

A highlight of the year was when the children teamed up with members of the congregation for the Nativity skit. We are grateful to Emmanuel, Obi, Pat and Robert and to our Vicar, Reverend Ngozi for supporting the children.

And finally, God bless the hard work and diligence of Sunday School teachers, Morin and Maka who despite the sporadic attendance, have been creative and spontaneous in planning and organising activities for our children and young people at St John's.

Simbo Ajayi
For Sunday School and Young St Johns

Noah's Ark

St John's Pre-school Toddler Group

Noah's Ark is St John's outreach mission to pre-school children and their parents and carers in the community. We offer structured 'stay-and-play' sessions, 10.00am – 12 noon and 1.00 – 3.00pm on Thursdays during school term time. Noah's Ark has been part of St John's ministry for over 40 years and meets in the Evans Room of the Community Hall.

We operate with an open door/drop-in policy, so people come when they are able. Although the sessions are structured, there is plenty of opportunity for children have fun without realising they are learning; using their fine motor skills during pretend play and their gross motor skills for the half hour before departure when the slides and sit-on rides come out. There is always a break between these activities for refreshments during story and song time. At this point we also celebrate birthdays, achievements of the children and catch up on family news and church activities. Unfortunately, we do not do as many craft activities as we used to, as there is enough to clear up after a session without picking playdough or glue out of the carpet. On the positive side of using the Evans Room, when the weather is good the balcony extends the play area, and everyone can enjoy the fresh air and outdoors safely. At these times there is the opportunity to have 'Messy Play' with sand and water trays. At the end of each term, we hold a Service followed by a 'Bring & Share' party.

Noah's Ark was one of the founder members of the Brent Parent and Toddler Network, which has since grown to be London-wide and supported by the Diocese. Before the pandemic there were 53 stay-and-play groups in Brent, but since lockdown and the end of restrictions there are now only 15. So many babies and young children are now missing out on a vital part of their development, and parents and carers on the support they need. As a governor in a local primary school, I am aware that many children from this area enter nursery education with lower-than-average basic skills, which worsened due to the isolation and lack of social interaction of the pandemic. The service that St John's provides for the children and parents of our community through the playgroup is vital, and has helped 68 families over the past year

Since September, when many of our children moved on to begin their formal schooling, moved away or found nursery places, as the Government has reduced the age limit of free funded hours there has been a significant drop in numbers attending the sessions. It would be a better use of resources to have only one session on Thursday instead of the current two. I propose to have morning session only from September 2026.

Many thanks go to Rochelle, who has been helping during the morning sessions for the past few months.

Carole Bevis-Smith

Deanery Synod/Anglicans in Brent Report

There were three meetings of Deanery Synod/AIB in 2025.

In **March** our meeting was held here at St John's, where **Bishop Lusa, Archdeacon Catherine, Director of Ministry Andrew and Director of Mission Christopher** convened a **Deanery Roadshow.** Using the Ignatian practice of Examen, the evening gave a chance to listen to the Holy Spirit and discern a way forward in Brent for churches to create a culture in Willesden of leaning into being *intergenerational, intercultural and missional*

In **June** we met at **St Mark's Church, Kensal Rise to listen to** Nicky, Events and Community Relations Manager for **SAFE Programme** (part of Community Security Trust) who spoke about **volunteer safety** and gave a brief introduction to Martyn's Law. SAFE shares the Community Security Trust's (CST's) security knowledge with groups outside the Jewish community that are vulnerable to violence, extremism or hate crime. Their website is; https://cst.org.uk/about-cst/safe-security-advice-for-everyone

At **October**'s meeting at **St Gabriel's Church, Cricklewood,** Dr Laura Boubert from the University of Westminster **spoke on Acquired Brain Injury: Awareness, Impact, and Community Support**
Figures show that there were 335,409 UK acquired brain injury hospital admissions in 2023-24. This is about 1 every 90s and it affects about 12% of adult population. This means that there are people with brain injury but also carers of brain injury survivors in our congregations, our volunteers and our team members.
This talk covered basic background on the causes of brain injuries, their impact on cognition and everyday life, and the ways that those effected can be supported. There is also an immense impact of this chronic condition on the families and friends of a brain injury survivor, both immediately after the injury happens, and in the long term, and research has shown that being part of a supportive community can have a significant positive impact on the health and wellbeing, as well as the recovery journey, of anyone who has suffered from a brain injury and on the mental health of carers. The talk explored practical ways in which we can best support these members of our community.

Unless there is a particular aspect of Diocesan business that needs attention, Deanery Synod meetings are regarded as an opportunity for information sharing and lay training. Meetings are open to all, not just those elected, so please attend any that are of interest to you.

Our Area Dean is Rev'd Sophie Schuil-Brewer of Holy Innocent's Church, Kingsbury, and the Assistant Dean is Rev'd James Yates of St Gabriel's Church, Cricklewood. Sharon Dunbar of All Soul's Harlesden is the Lay Chair. The Deanery Synod representatives for St John's are Catherine Miller-Baldwin and Carole Bevis-Smith.

In October it was announced that the Bishop of London, the Right Reverend & Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullaly would be enthroned as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. A tremendous honour, but a great loss for London, as Bp Sarah has been a great encouragement and enriched the Diocese with her wisdom, humility and humour. We pray for her in her new role and hold the Diocese in our prayers for the discernment and appointment for a new Bishop to lead us. The Rt Rev'd Dr Emma Ineson, Bishop of Kensington, will take the role of Acting Bishop during the vacancy.

Carole Bevis-Smith

Memory Café – Annual Report

Over the past year, the Memory Café at St John's has continued to provide a warm, supportive, and stimulating environment for people with cognitive impairment and their careers. Despite the challenges surrounding the end of CAD funding, the café has remained a place of connection, dignity, and joy. Key highlights include:

1. Special Visitors and Events A visit from the Chelsea Pensioners, who shared stories and engaged warmly with members. Two visits from a member of the Royal Household, who delivered fascinating talks on, period dress and historical clothing, state rooms and royal banquets, samples of fabrics used in royal garments, photographs of Princess Diana and her iconic dresses. These sessions were deeply enjoyed and sparked wonderful reminiscence conversations.

2. Cultural and Social Outings We received regular invitations to, local museums and heritage sites, Hampton Court Palace, the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

These outings have been invaluable for stimulation, social connection, and wellbeing.

3. Dementia Friendly Cinema

Members have been able to attend free screenings of classic films, which are particularly beneficial for those with memory challenges. These sessions have been consistently well received.

4. Training and Professional Development

As Café Lead, I have continued to strengthen my skills and safeguarding responsibilities through, ongoing safeguarding training

First Aid training

beginning a Diploma relevant to community and dementia support active participation in the Co Production Team, working alongside the Memory Service and the NHS to shape services collaboratively

5. Community Partnerships

The café has remained closely connected with, Community Action on Dementia (CAD)the Memory Service, NHS partners, local cultural institutions

These relationships have enriched our programme and ensured continuity of support for our members.