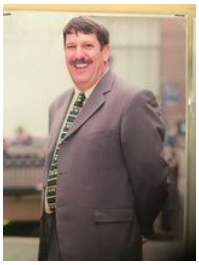
St John's Church Preservation Group
Annual Report
2024 to 2025
Charity Registration 1164822
The Old School House, St John's Road, Kates Hill, Dudley, DY2 7JT

CHARITY FORM

St John's Church Preservation Group is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The governing document is the constitution.
Trustees are selected by invitation.

PATRON



Professor Carl Chinn, MBE, broadcaster, author, professor, Chair Birmingham University Community History

"I am proud to serve as patron"

PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY

St John's Church Preservation Group was formed in 2007 to save St John's Church which had been closed to the public in 2002. It was empty for 14 years until the group, after a lengthy campaign and process, was granted a lease to take on the restoration, re-opening the building in 2016.

The object[s] of St John's Church Preservation Group are:

(a) to support the restoration and preservation of St John's Church, Kates Hill, Dudley, a place of historic and architectural importance with a view to supporting Christian worship and providing a facility for greater community use;
(b) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment;
(c) to advance the education of the public particularly but not exclusively by (i) educating the public in different religious beliefs including an awareness of their distinctive features and their common ground to promote good relations between persons of different faiths and (ii) by promoting knowledge and mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious faiths;
(d) to further benefit the residents of Dudley and its surrounding areas particularly but not exclusively those who are unemployed or unwaged and those who are without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare, recreation and other leisure time activities with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents;
(e) to advance in life and help young people through providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.



St John's Church, 1840. Grade 11 listed in May 2009 following application by St John's Church Preservation Group

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Maintenance and restoration of the church building
- Fundraising
- Church Open Day every Friday
- Assistance with family history research
- Services for Remembrance and Christmas
- Graveyard and adjoining Nature reserve maintenance
- Event programme engaging with local and wider community
- Volunteering opportunities from age 16 years and in family or affinity groups
- Trustees meet on a regular basis, by Zoom

TRUSTEE STATEMENT PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

TRUSTEES IN THIS PERIOD

Deborah Brownlee (Chair)
Maria Bottley (Secretary)
John Poole (Treasurer)
Martin Horwood
David Kerr
Ann Kerr
Paul Smith

Note during this period three trustees have suffered from significant health issues.

CONTRIBUTION MADE BY VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers increased during this period from 15 to 23, however due to 4 departures the team completed this period with 19 volunteers. Two of the new team members have formed a grounds team and this has made a huge difference to the overall look of the project on arrival.



In addition, two married couple Friends of St John's have undertaken to assist the project with fundraising. One couple have been selling items on Vinted, and the other couple have converted their very large garden to a plant nursery for St John's, and are holding regular plant sales.

The contribution of the existing team, the new helpers and the enhanced assistance given by the aforementioned Friends, has boosted volunteer hours to 6,602 during this period.

Seven of the volunteers are also Friends of St John's, making regular financial contributions in addition to giving time.

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHARITY DURING THIS PERIOD

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We maintained our weekly Friday Open Day and also participated in the National Heritage Open Days. The Open Days attract local and national visitors, and many attend on a regular basis.



During this period we have begun the process of realigning the project more closely to the Heritage sector, attending local history days and emphasising the history and heritage element of the charity.

We were able to support Sutton School (for SEND children) with Duke of Edinburgh placements, and linked closely with another local school. This is work we wish to follow up on in due course, as there is so much of educational value in and around the project. We also donated our extensive costume and drama collection to Sutton School.

We had the guttering on the building thoroughly cleaned, and continued to empty the building of donated stock still held from the original charity warehouse. This is not yet complete, which is a source of frustration, but a great achievement was to get the building sufficiently clear to fully expose the pews again, greatly improving the appearance of the project.

We have begun to look at advances in AI that might assist the project in future.

We had services at Remembrance and Christmas, these were successful events and we were pleased to secure the services of two experienced local preachers. The church sanctuary area remained open for private prayer and contemplation, and many people write out prayer and remembrance slips. We continue to light the Bert Bissell MBE Peace Candle when we are open.

Our Facebook groups continued to be very active, the St John's Heritage Centre History posts group has 1.6k members, the Diary and General News group has 1.9k members, and the Selling and Fundraising group has 966 members.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

This period marks the start of a crossover period, where we change from events fundraising, which require a large volunteer team, to other forms of fundraising that require fewer helpers.
The trail blazing couples, in particular the garden sales, have achieved sales that increased donations to £11,139, from £9,351. This was with the first few experimental sales.

Sales income fell from £4596 to £3248, we anticipate this will remain lower until we build up our fledgling online sales presence and can open more hours in the church.



Event income fell from £744 to £211. Historical society events are for awareness raising rather than fundraising, therefore although we have been out in the community, these are more for ground laying and getting the project known again, and to encourage future donations and Friends. At these type of events we can interact with visitors in a more meaningful way, and new contacts can be made to help develop the project. One example would be, we were given a prominent mention at Dudley Real Ale Festival, on the basis of us having the grave of the Hanson's beer family, and the famous boxer 'The Tipton Slasher', which was the Festival theme. This came from a chat at our stall at a Dudley Local Archive History Day.

Our Armed Forces Day stall at Himley Hall – St John's entrance gate is a War Memorial and there are over 50 military graves in the graveyard. The site also has a Commonwealth War Graves plaque.

The increase in other activities, mainly the plant and wreath sales, kept our income to around the same level, £14,727 against £14,837 in the previous year. Reduced expenditure this year result in a small surplus of £1,284.

Insurance remains our largest cost, at £7,548.

We had the full impact of utility costs this year, at £2219. In the previous period there had been a large refund, which brought the utility cost down to £200, for a one off period.

The trustees take no expenses from the charity, five of them are Friends of St John's and make donations to the group.

At the end of this period the charity had cash at bank and in hand of £10,117, slightly up from the previous period £10,006.

FUTURE

We are gradually reformatting the project to accommodate the limitations of volunteer numbers. At present we are blessed with a team of brilliant people, but they have limited availability and we have not yet been able to achieve more opening hours, or attend as many events as we would have liked.

There is no doubt that the lack of people is a hindering factor to progress, hence reinventing the project to see what can be achieved with a smaller team, and this year has created great excitement with successful and enjoyable new activities and ideas.

We are aware that the project may appear to be moving slowly, but we are wary of over promising and failing to deliver, hence moving forward at a sustainable and realistic pace, gathering new team members, helpers and contacts.

Prepared and approved by the trustees of St John's Church Preservation Group

30th September 2026

Charity Registration Number: 1164822

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th November 2025

for

St John's Church Preservation Group

Approved Accountancy
16A Orton Grove
Penn
Wolverhampton
WV4 4JN

St John’s Church Preservation Group

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Report of the Trustees for Year ended 30th November 2025

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 November 2025.

The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company Number CE005853 (England and Wales)

Registered charity number

1164822

Registered Office

The Old School House
St John's Road
Kates Hill
Dudley, West Midlands
DY2 7JT

Trustees

D. Brownlee
D. Kerr
A. Kerr
P. Smith
M. Bottley
J. Poole
M. Horwood

Accountant

Approved Accountancy, 16A, Orton Grove, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4JN

Approved by the board of trustees on 18th August 2026 and signed on its behalf by

D. Brownlee - Trustee

Accountants Report to the Trustees of St John's Church Preservation Group

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 November 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of Company Law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Accountant's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act, or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 392 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination, or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Laurence Brownlee ACMA CTA ATT
Approved Accountancy
16A Orton Grove
Penn
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV4 4JN

28th September 2026

St John's Church Preservation Group

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 November 2025

	30.11.25 Unrestricted Funds	30.11.24 Total Funds
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM		
Donations and legacies	11,139	9,351
Charitable activities		
Events Income	211	744
Sales Income	3248	4596
Recycling	-	146
Bank Interest	129	43
Total income	14,727	14,880
EXPENDITURE ON		
Raising funds	1102	1,018
Charitable activities		
Administration	12,341	14,094
Total expenditure	13,443	15,112
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	**1284**	**(232)**
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS		
Total funds brought forward	13,865	13,865
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	15,149	13,865

St John's Church Preservation Group

Balance Sheet 30 November 2025

	30.11.25 Unrestricted Funds	30.11.24 Total Funds
CURRENT ASSETS		
Insurance Prepayment	5032	3,859
Cash at bank and in hand	10,117	10,006
NET CURRENT ASSETS	15,149	13,865
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	15,149	13,865
NET ASSETS	15,149	13,865
FUNDS		
Unrestricted funds	15,149	13,865
TOTAL FUNDS	15,149	13,865

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 47 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended November 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 November 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibility for

a) Ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006
b) Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companys regime.

D. Brownlee – Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 November 2025

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) ‘Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2018), Financial Reporting Standard 102 ‘The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds. It is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon and there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.
Restricted funds can be used in for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements

TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees’ remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 November 2025 nor for the year ended November 2024.

Trustees’ expenses

There were no trustees’ expenses paid for the year ended 30 November 2025 nor for the year ended 30 November 2024.

3. COMPARITIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Fund £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	
Donations and legacies	11,139
Charitable activities	
Events Income	211
Sales Income	3,248
Recycling	-
Bank interest	129
Total income	**14,727**
EXPENDITURE ON	
Raising funds	1,102
Charitable activities	
Administration	12,341
Total expenditure	**13,443**
NET INCOME	**1,284**
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.11.24	Net Movement In funds	At 30.11.25
Unrestricted funds	13,865	1,284	15,149
General fund			
TOTAL FUNDS	**13,865**	**1,284**	**15,149**

Notes to the Financial Statements continued for the year ended 30 November 2025

4 **MOVEMENT IN FUNDS CONTINUED**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds General fund	14,727	13,443	1,284
TOTAL FUNDS			

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 30.11.24	Net movement In funds	At 30.11.25
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds General fund	**13,865**	**1,284**	**15,149**
TOTAL FUNDS			

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds General fund	**14,727**	**13,443**	**1,284**
TOTAL FUNDS			

A current 12 month and prior 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.12.24	Net movement In funds	At 30.11.25
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds General fund	**13,865**	**1,284**	**15,149**
TOTAL FUNDS			

5. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There are no related party transactions for the year ended 30 November 2025

St John's Church Preservation Group

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 November 2025

	30.11.25 £	30.11.24 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	11,139	9,351
Charitable activities		
Event income	211	744
Sales income	3,248	4,596
Recycling	-	146
Bank interest	129	
Total Incoming resources	**14,727**	**14,837**
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Volunteer expenses	1102	1018
Charitable activities		
Insurance	6375	6551
Grounds and property expenses	2530	6289
Rent and utilities	2219	200
Events, meetings & promotions	525	598
General administration	548	456
Telephone and internet	144	72
Miscellaneous expenses	-	-
Total resources expended	13,443	15,112
Net (expenditure)/income	1284	(275)

*Note:

The insurance prepayment in last years' accounts was £3,859, this amount has been charged to insurance in the current years accounts.

A further prepayment amounting to £5032 has arisen in the current years accounts, this amount is included in the balance sheet as a prepayment.

The amount charged in this years' accounts is £3859 plus £2516. The cost of the insurance in this period was £7548 with four months belonging to this accounting period and eight months to the following accounting period, hence the annual prepayment.