

St Hilda's APCM 2025



St Hilda's
Ashford

**JOINT VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF
ST HILDA'S CHURCH, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX
TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 27th APRIL, 2025**

AGENDAS

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING OF PARISHONERS

The Chairman reads the Convening Notice

1. Prayers and welcome
2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held Sunday 28th April, 2024
3. Election of Church Wardens: Adjudicators to be nominated by the Chairman (if needed for voting purposes)

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held Sunday 28th April, 2024
3. Matters arising
4. Report from the Electoral Roll Officer
5. Election of Representatives:
To the Parochial Church Council – 3 vacancies for 3 years and 4 to be re-elected if they wish.
To the Deanery Synod – 3 places already elected for 3 years until 2026 in-line with Synod election rules.
Adjudicators to be appointed by the Church Wardens if needed for voting purposes
Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner
6. Vicar's Reflection
7. Church Wardens' Reports
8. PCC's Annual Report for 2024
9. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Church Accounts
10. Deanery Synod Report
11. Reports of Church Groups
12. Any Other Business
(Must be notified in writing to the PCC Secretary 72 hours prior to the meeting).
13. Date of next year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Closing Prayers

**MINUTES OF A MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS
HELD ON SUNDAY 28TH APRIL, 2024
AT ST HILDA'S CHURCH, ASHFORD**

PRESENT Licensed Lay Minister and Chair Rosalyn Young
Lay Chair Elizabeth Bate
Church Warden Paula Gething
Secretary Liz Brian
And 42 other attendees

Apologies Patsy Holmes, Marianne Tank, Pauline Milton and Khardijah

Convening Notice

Rosalyn Young began the meeting with a prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the Meeting for Election of Churchwardens held on 30th April, 2023.

That the minutes be accepted was proposed by Nick Gething and seconded by Christine Davenport.

2. Election of Churchwardens

There were 2 nominees for 2 posts:

Name	Proposer	Seconder
Paula Gething	Anita Reynolds	Rosalyn Young
Stuart Young	Andrew Rickson	Deborah Elizabeth Brian

There being no other nominations, Paula Gething and Stuart Young were duly elected as Churchwardens for the coming year and were thanked for putting their names forward.

Rosalyn expressed especial thanks to Paula for the commitment she had shown to the role of Church Warden over the past year and that she was continuing to stand for another year. A unanimous vote of thanks was given to Paula.

That concluded the meeting for the election of Churchwardens.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF ST HILDA'S
ASHFORD HELD ON SUNDAY 28TH APRIL, 2024**

PRESENT: As for the Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens
Elizabeth Bate chaired the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence** – as for the Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens.

2. **Minutes:**

That the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 30th April be accepted was agreed by Christopher Maddock and seconded by Christine Davenport.

3. **Matters Arising** – there were none.

4. **Report of the Electoral Roll Officer : Jane Dobbie**

A full copy can be found in the booklet – Reports for 2024 meeting. Sadly, 4 people have died and 1 person has left the area. There have been 11 new additions – so the new roll stands at 163 members, of whom 69 live outside the Parish.

5. **Election of Representatives** to serve on the St Hilda's Church Parochial Church Council. There are 3 vacancies and 2 nominees

Name	Proposer	Seconder
Sara Lee	Deborah E Brian	Christopher Maddock
Rosalyn Young	Frances Forsbrey	Sara Lee

Both were elected as Lay Representatives for the period 2024 – 2027 and were thanked for stepping forward.

Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner – Recommendation that Mr Peter Connolly continue as our Independent Financial Examiner. Agreed by Bobbie Bedford and seconded by Christine Davenport.

6. **Church Warden's Report – Paula Gething** – a copy of the full report can be found in the booklet –“Reports for 2024 meeting”. Thanks were expressed to Bobby Bedford, Frances Forsbrey and Elizabeth Bate.

7. **Financial Report** – notes on the draft financial statement for 2023 were submitted – copy now with the booklet – report for 2024 meeting. Rosalyn Young expressed thanks for the hard work that had gone into unravelling the finances and getting to grips with the systems. Elizabeth Bate expressed thanks to Khadijah who has spent many hours trying to get our finances sorted.

8. The other reports can be found in the booklet – “Report for 2024 Meeting” but other comments that were made:-

- Junior Church – had 19 children for the last Messy Church Sunday
- Weekly Bible Study – now growing in numbers
- The Choir also is increasing
- There was a beautiful display of lilies in Church over Eastertide.

All the reports were accepted – proposed by June and seconded by Christine Taylor

9. There was no any other business

10. Date of Next Meeting – Sunday 27th April, 2025 at 11 am.

The meeting ended with The Grace.

REPORTS FOR 2025 MEETING

ST HILDA'S CHURCH

ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December, 2024

Incumbent

Rev Father Julius Anozie

Bank

Nat West Bank
Ashford Middlesex Branch
5 Woodthorpe Road Ashford
Middlesex TW152RN

Independent Examiner

Mr Peter Connolly
33, Carlyle Road
Staines
Middlesex TW18

The Parochial Church Council of St Hilda Ashford
Charity Number 1134119

Saint Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Saint Hilda's Church, Ashford, which is part of the Diocese of London within the Church of England, works with the minister in promoting the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church, Church Hall, Vicarage and 34, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2RU.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity, the Charity Number being 1134119

Incumbent Rev Father Julius Anozie
Licenced Lay Ministers **Rosalyn Young**

Report of the Electoral Roll Officer

The Electoral Roll for St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex for 2024 to 2025 stands at 136 members, of whom 66 are resident within the Parish and 70 are non-resident in the Parish.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2024

Appointments are for 3 years in the first instance with the option of serving for a second term of 3 years. After a total of 6 years members must come off the PCC but can be re-elected to serve again for 3 years after a break of one year.

Appointed for			Due for re-election
APCM 2021 – 2024	Paula Gething	2 nd Term	APCM 2025
(2023 – 2024 – Ex-officio member as Church Warden)			
APCM 2022 – 2025	Christine Davenport	1 st Term	APCM 2025
	Christopher Brown	1 st Term	APCM 2025
	Liz Brian	1 st Term	APCM 2025
	Rosemary Greenwood	1 st Term	APCM 2025
Year 2022	Nick Gething	Co-opted	

Elected by PCC members – due for re-election in 2023.

October 2022 John Swaffield
January 2023 Frances Forsbrey

APCM 2023 – 2026	Jane Dobbie	1 st Term	APCM 2026
	Alison Garner	1 st Term	APCM 2026
	Nicholas Gething	1 st Term	APCM 2026
	Joyce Rouse	1 st Term	APCM 2026
	Valerie Scott	1 st Term	APCM 2026
	John Swaffield	1 st Term	APCM 2026

APCM 2024 – 2027	Sara Lee	1 st Term	APCM 2027
	Rosalyn Young	1 st Term	APCM 2027

Three **Deanery Synod representatives** are elected for three year terms.

Appointed for		Due for re-election
APCM 2023	Elizabeth Bate	2026
APCM 2023	Christopher Maddock	2026
APCM 2023	Christine Makriel	2026

Two **Churchwardens**: Churchwardens are elected annually up to a total of 4 years.

Elected at the Vestry Meeting

Assistant to the Churchwardens

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance within the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. During the year, the Council met 10 times. The PCC operates through the Standing Committee.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between PCC meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Standing Committee oversees the finances of the PCC. The committee includes the Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwarden, Treasurer, Secretary and Vice Chairperson.

Church Attendance – for 2024

Average Sunday attendance (Sundays 10 am) for 2023 was Adults 74 and children 10

Average midweek service (11 am Wednesday) was adults 21

Those watching Sunday morning services via video link:-	142
Christmas Special Services Schools and Lodge Brothers	952
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (84 communicants over both days)	137
Baptisms	1 Adult 1 Child
Weddings	1
Funerals	5 in total
2 – Funeral services in church,	
3 – Funeral service at crematorium/cemetery	

Reflection from Rev Fr Onyekachi Julius Anozie : Vicar of St Hilda's, Ashford

Introduction

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with a heart full of gratitude and joy that I write this report for our Annual Parish Church Meeting 2025. This past year has been a remarkable journey of growth, faith, and community, and I am deeply thankful to each of you for making my time at St Hilda's such a blessing. Your warmth and support have been extraordinary, and I look forward to all that God has in store for us in the coming year.

Gratitude and Welcome

First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the overwhelming welcome you extended to me. Your kindness and hospitality have truly made St Hilda's feel like home.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to Chris Maddock and Elizabeth Bate, who have been instruments of God's grace in my transition here. Thank you for painting the house so beautifully and for your unbounded welcome and hospitality. Your invitations to share food and meaningful conversations have been a source of great joy and comfort. I am deeply blessed by your friendship and care.

I must also thank everyone involved in organizing and participating in the most beautiful licensing service I have ever experienced. It was a moment of great spiritual significance and celebration. My deepest thanks to Bishop Emma, the Venerable Frank (Middlesex Archdeacon), and Revd Carole (our Area Dean) for their prayers, leadership, and presence. Thank you to the choir for their stunning repertoire of music, which elevated the service to heavenly heights, and to the music committee for their impeccable selection of hymns and anthems.

Ministry and Worship Teams

A heartfelt thank-you goes to our servers for their diligence and unwavering presence. You serve with humility and gentleness, reflecting the heart of Christ in your ministry. To our side persons, thank you for your cheerful dedication and the way you create a welcoming atmosphere for everyone who walks through our doors.

I also want to commend our Junior Church leaders for their commitment to nurturing the faith of our young ones. Your teaching and love are planting seeds of faith that will flourish in the years to come. To those who organize our parish breakfasts, your work goes beyond providing food; you create a space for fellowship and connection. Thank you for this invaluable ministry.

Special thanks go to Chris Davenport for her outstanding management of our hall bookings. Your meticulous work ensures that this vital resource serves both our church and the wider community effectively.

Financial Health

As we reflect on our finances, I want to acknowledge the challenges we face and the progress we are making. Moving away from a deficit budget toward a thriving account balance is a collective effort, and I thank each of you for your stewardship and generosity. I encourage everyone to

prayerfully consider their giving as we work together to ensure the financial sustainability of our parish.

Growing Our Church

Growth is a key focus for us as a parish. We are actively exploring ways to expand our community outreach, particularly through stronger partnerships with local schools and agencies. By working together, we can bring about positive changes that reflect God's love and care for our neighbors. I invite you to join in these efforts and share your ideas for how we can grow and thrive as a church family.

The Marapula Project

We have received wonderful news that the funds for the Marapula Project have been cleared and sent to the church. We eagerly await updates, including photos and messages, about how the project is progressing. This initiative reminds us of our global connections and our call to support our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

Building and Maintenance

Our work to maintain and improve our church buildings continues. I want to extend special thanks to our church warden, Stuart, for his leadership in spearheading projects like the tree removals and other essential maintenance tasks. Your dedication ensures that our church remains a welcoming and functional space for worship and ministry.

Moving Forward: Sola Christus

As we look ahead to a new PCC year, I encourage us to centre our efforts on the principle of *Sola Christus* – Christ alone. This foundation reminds us that everything we do as a church is for His glory and through His grace. Let us carry this truth into our decision-making, ministries, and relationships as we seek to build a church that reflects His love and truth.

Thanks to Our Leaders

I want to express my deep gratitude to Paula Gething for her tireless work as church warden. Your leadership and service are an inspiration to us all. To the PCC, both outgoing and incoming members, thank you for your dedication to the mission and governance of our parish. Your contributions are vital to the life of our church.

Referencing Other Reports

Finally, I encourage everyone to read the reports from various ministries and committees included in this meeting. These reports provide a fuller picture of the incredible work being done across our parish and the many ways in which God is moving among us.

Conclusion

As we embark on another year together, I am filled with hope and excitement for all that lies ahead. Let us continue to support one another, serve our community, and grow in faith as we seek to glorify God in all that we do.

Thank you, and may God bless us all abundantly.

In Christ,

Rev Fr Onyekachi Julius Anozie : Vicar of St Hilda's, Ashford

Church Warden Report 2024 – Paula Gething

I confirm that in accordance with the law governing the Office of Churchwardens during the last year I have:

- Carried out duties assigned by the Bishop or Archdeacon.
- Maintained in good order and safe keeping the plate, ornaments and other articles committed to our charge.
- Kept the church records in the in the same good order and safe keeping.
- All offerings and collections have been recorded and paid into the relevant bank.
- The bread and wine have been provided for the Holy Communion as we are bound and directed.
- The seating and good order of the congregation have been maintained.

We continue to live-stream our Sunday service for those who are unable to attend church in person, hopefully making them feel still very much part of our church family. Thanks to Chris Maddock, Rosemary Greenwood and Nick Gething for keeping this going.

We have been supported during the vacancy by Fr Steve Brian and Mother Pamela, together with Rosalyn Young. Services have also been led by Rev Leslie Lawrence, Rev David Vanstone, Rev Simon Douglas Lane and Rev Janet Franck. Our church attendance for the Sunday services continue to grow in numbers with almost everyone staying behind to enjoy coffee and fellowship. I should like, once again to particularly thank Rosalyn Young, who has gone above and beyond to maintain pastoral support to the congregation and beyond. Conducting home visits, planning services as well as preaching when asked by visiting clergy and generally being available for advice.

It was wonderful in December, to welcome Father Julius Anozie as our new Incumbent. The Induction and Collation service was beautiful and joyful, supported by the Bishop Emma, the Area Dean and some of Father Julius's family and friends who travelled to Ashford especially.

MISSION

Despite not having an Incumbent to take the lead during the vacancy Elizabeth, Bobbie and I have supported the project at St Hilda's House. Grateful thanks to John Swaffield for his support with some of the house challenges. My nephew Lukas Winter, together with Farhad & Khadijeh, Jon and Elizabeth have kept the grass at the vicarage and church gardens mowed and Elizabeth oversaw the completion of significant works at the vicarage after it was vacated.

The Wednesday Eucharist service is very well attended and we now have around 30 staying for lunch each week, with thanks and appreciation to Bobbie and her team for their hard work and warm welcome. The weekly food deliveries from Surplus to Supper is most welcome, with very little waste.

We open the church daily during the week with the support of a dedicated group of key-holders. Two local schools held their Carol Services here and Lodge Brothers hold an annual service of remembrance.

Our monthly breakfast, was held most months with interesting speakers and has been very well attended. Our bar license was renewed so we can sell alcohol during concerts and evening events in both the church and the church hall. Huge thanks to the catering team for the wonderful breakfasts and lunches enjoyed by congregation and local community alike.

Thanks also to the welcomers and those who faithfully greet people on arrival to church and provide the weekly refreshments.

Despite rising costs, our flower team continue to create beautiful displays of both real and silk flowers with the seasons, including the annual lilies at Easter, and Chris Maddock, his music team and choir continue to enhance services with their wonderful music.

CHURCH HALL ROOF

During the Easter Holidays, we saw the culmination of a huge project to replace the church hall roof and install solar panels. The panels now generate electricity for the church hall and a small amount of surplus is sold on to the National Grid. Thanks to Spelthorne Borough Council for a very generous grant towards the cost of this and to the Islamic Prayer Group and St Hilda's Entertainers for donations.

FUNDRAISING

Our jumble sales, locally famous were successful as were Spring Fair and the Frost Fayre and were all held in church. This makes great use of the additional space in church, with external sellers paying a fee to rent a table to sell from. These activities enable people who would not otherwise cross the threshold of a church outside of a major life event, come through the doors in a comfortable setting as well as contributing significant hundreds of pounds to our funds.

We have had several very enjoyable brass concerts here during the year and in November we held a curry evening. The food was supplied by a member of the congregation, followed by singing/karaoke it was a great use of this wonderful building.

In October we held our second all-day wedding celebration. The marriage ceremony was followed by a three-course meal, prepared in the church hall but served in church, followed by dancing. The bride, groom and guests all enjoyed the beautiful space and plans are in place for further weddings in the future which will bring in much-needed income by making use of the building. We can offer a traditional religious ceremony with the atmosphere of a country house reception, in one location and at a fraction of the cost.

THANKS

It was a huge relief to have Khadijeh in the role of Treasurer and Stuart as the second Warden this year. The Standing Committee and PCC work very hard to keep everything ticking over and much work is also done by people who don't hold office and don't get recognised or personally thanked. I know I haven't managed to name everyone but my heartfelt thanks goes to everyone who has supported St Hilda's this year through some very challenging days.

I am stepping back from the role of Church Warden this year, but once again I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helps to keep the church in good order, an enormous amount of work goes on behind the scenes, it may be invisible – but it doesn't just happen. We are very fortunate to have a small but very dedicated group of people who ensure that we can enjoy our services in a clean, well-ordered church. I wish the new wardens every success in the next year.

Church Property Report (Fabric) : Stuart Young

Church Hall

Last year 2024 saw our hall continue to function at full capacity with Chris Davenport managing the high demand of requests from hirers both regular and one off. Chris has continued as hall Booking Secretary, keeping precise records, which has enabled us to maintain much needed income revenue.

Following planning applications and finding suitable financial investment, a major development for the replacement of a new hall roof, new gutter work to prevent water

ingress and the installation of a new roof mounted solar panel system which will provide a free means of generating electricity was carried out by Maguire Brothers Limited.

The old asbestos boiler flue has also been removed by them, with necessary remedial works to the building and painting of the main hall internal ceiling areas being carried out by members of St Hilda's Entertainers.

Holes in the surface of the car park have been filled with tarmac finish, again thanks to the efforts by members of St Hilda's Entertainers.

Due to problems with the surface of the outside children's play area, this has been completely resurfaced with a special child friendly finish by a specialist contractor M& B Surfaces Limited. Some problems with the hall rainwater system meant that we employed Dynorod Limited to carry out drain pipework clearance as well as employing JM Groundworks Limited to expose part of the buried rainwater pipe system then reinstate the ground under the old children's play area.

During the year various service visits were arranged and carried out, MHL inspected and serviced the gas boiler, 3MG inspected and serviced our portable fire appliances and fire blankets, Kingsmead Testing Services Limited carried out the PAT testing of our portable appliances, weekly cleaning services to the entire Hall continue to be provided Monday to Thursday and twice on Friday by LSR Cleaning Services Limited.

In addition to these usual maintenance activities, repairs were needed to external window frames and, replacement rainwater guttering and fascia by Jon Bate, along with repairs to timberwork around emergency exit doors by Mike Smith.

Church

The gardening team led by Rosemary Greenwood and Andrew Rickson have continued to clear weeds and tend to the various flower beds and shrubs around the church grounds. Annual servicing of the church boilers have been carried out by MHL, the church organ was tuned by BC Shepherd & Son, the organ amplifier and blower were serviced by Watkins & Watson Limited, our grand piano was tuned by Max Evans, our fire extinguishers and fire blankets were serviced by 3MG Fire Protection, PAT testing was carried out by Kingsmead Testing Limited and the Lightning Conductor was tested by Bacon Lightning Protection Limited. Repairs to part of the Lady Chapel Roof were carried out during May by Maguire Brothers Limited, Fullers carried out cleaning of the church gutters and rainwater pipe system, remedial work to part of the perimeter wall was carried out by Ian Fleming Design and Build. The church Maintenance file has been kept up to date.

The Church Log Book has been kept up to date and copies of relevant documents including photographs of the church gutters cleaning have been filed into the folder.

A complete review of the last Quinquennial Report received has been carried out by our Church Warden which has been presented to the PCC and these comments have been sent to Bob Wilson the appointed Architect for his consideration, a response is still awaited.

The weekly cleaning of the church continues to be carried out by members of the congregation which is highly appreciated.

Vicarage

Prior to the arrival of our new vicar members of the congregation completely repainted every room in the Vicarage. Thanks must go to Jon Bate for all his work, whilst the Diocesan contractors Fitzpatrick Limited installed heating to the new room created from the garage, they also maintained the rainwater system on the Vicarage, so the services of Fullers were not needed this year.

St Hilda's House

The boiler service and gas check was carried out by British Gas, and new smoke detectors were added to the installed system by Allinson Reynolds to ensure compliance with our obligation to Hope in Action. Up to December 2024 the house is occupied by a single tenant.

PCC Report – Liz Brian

A summary of the PCC meetings held from January to December 2024, capturing actions, recommendations and information not captured in other reports.

January 2024

- Discussions taking place with the contractors to do the work on the Church Hall roof during the Easter holidays. Need for signage and communication with hall renters and the public regarding the works.
- Agreement for a Parish Giving Month in February and a designated group to oversee this.
- We have a new tenant at St Hilda's House. After Parish Breakfast on Saturday 17th February, there was a talk about the St Hilda's House Project and the video made by the Diocese was shown.
- Ashford C of E Primary School issued details of a consultation for new admission arrangements for the 2025/2026 academic year.

February 2024

- The financial accounts for January 2024 were presented.
- Parish Giving Month had started and more information about this will be put on the website and in the weekly newsletter.
- As Parish Safeguarding Officer Nick Gething will talk at the Parish Breakfast and put something in the weekly newsletter asking volunteers to be part of a safeguarding team.
- Plans are in place for Red Hot Strings to play a concert in church in April. Nick Gething will renew the bar license.

March 2024

- A financial team will be set up to oversee financial matters including claiming back previous Gift Aid subscriptions.
- Priorities from the Quinquennial Report – Stuart Young is updating the terrier (logbook) from March 2023. The building firm undertaking work on the Church Hall will be asked for a quote to include work on the roof of the Lady Chapel.
- Information from Churches Together – there will be a Good Friday procession in Ashford Church Road for the Walk of Witness.
- There are two tenants in St Hilda's House and there is a new befriender. Anonymous donation of a TV.

April 2024

- Financial group has been set up to bring finances together. More people have taken up the Parish Giving scheme since it was highlighted in February.
- There were over 100 people in church on Easter Sunday.
- Now one tenant in St Hilda's House, work being done on the aerial and a new befriender has completed her training and met the remaining tenant.
- The Parish Hall has a new roof although work will continue for some time.
- We have been offered help with gardening.

Following the APCM on Sunday 28th April, 2024 there was a short meeting of the new PCC to elect the following:-

Lay Chair	Elizabeth Bate
Treasurer	Khadijeh (as Guest)
Secretary	Liz Brian
Deputy Church Warden	Alison Garner

May 2024

- New members, Stuart Young and Sara Lee were welcomed onto the PCC.
- The new Standing Committee will be – Paula Gething, Stuart Young, Liz Brian, Elizabeth Bate, Chris Maddock and Alison Garner.
- Future fund raising events include Spelthorne Orchestra and Staines Lammas Band, a quiz night and the Summer Fair.

June 2024

- The accounts for 2023 were presented alongside the Financial Review of 2023 and were approved by the PCC to be sent to the diocese.
- Request from the diocese to pay £66,000 for the Common Fund in 2025. Agreed to offer £4,500 per month but to review this if our heating costs rise.
- We have been registered as a Fairtrade church.
- License agreement with Happy Tots group has been agreed.

July 2024

- Interviews have taken place for a new Incumbent.
- Work is being done on the vicarage.
- Collections for the food bank at the Salvation Army are being taken weekly.
- Future fund-raising events – Jumble Sale and Harvest Supper

There was no meeting in August.

September 2024

- Work on the perimeter wall to start on 12th September, 2024
- Sara Lee has left the PCC due to her move to Dorset.
- We have now received the grant from Spelthorne Borough Council for the Church Hall roof.
- An Empowerment Worker has been appointed but currently undergoing checks and training.

October 2024

- Elizabeth Bate has heard that we will receive £8,657.50 from Gift Aid for 2022.
- Accounts for 2023 need to be prepared, independently reviewed and agreed by PCC and at a special APCM in order to be sent to the Charity Commissioners by 31st October, 2024.
- Clare Marland was re-elected as Foundation Governor at Ashford C of E Junior School where she was also appointed as Vice-Chair.
- We have been asked to support St Peter's, Staines who are collecting warm winter coats for Iranian refugees.
- St Hilda's Entertainers will fill in some of the potholes in the car park.

There was a short special APCM held on Sunday 27th October, 2024 to agree the 2023 Accounts which were presented by previous Treasurer, Darren Buttigieg, and have been independently reviewed and approved by Mr Peter Connolly.

November 2024

- Stuart Young reported that we have received £10,705.00 for reclaimed VAT.
- The appointment of our new Incumbent, Father Julius Anozie was announced during the Sunday service and arrangements for the licensing service were discussed.

- It was agreed to co-opt Frances Forsbrey to the PCC.
- We have been asked by the chaplaincy team at Bronzefield Prison to contribute socks to give to the prisoners on Christmas morning.

There was no meeting in December 2024.

Financial Report – see prepared accounts as Appendix A

Parish Giving Scheme report – Pauline Milton

At the beginning of the year there were 21 members of the St Hilda's family utilising the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). During the year, there was a small amount of movement of people joining and leaving which means that we ended the year with 21 members. It would help enormously if we could increase that number significantly. It is the most efficient way of helping to keep our lovely church in good order for us and the whole community to use and enjoy.

If you are thinking of signing up and have questions I will do my best to answer them and if I can't there is help available by phone or e-mail to the administrators of the scheme.

There are a couple of points I would like to make clear; if you wish to remain anonymous to everyone at St Hilda's you can be. You can set up your giving the PGS and even I will not know who you are. Your donation will be listed as an anonymous donation on all correspondence.

You are in complete control of your donations. You can suspend, reduce or increase them at any time. There may be exceptional circumstances where this may not be possible if for instance, a donation or gift aid claim is in process but this is the exception not the norm.

You can contact the PGS in writing, by phone or email.

Spelthorne Deanery Report - Area Dean – Rev Carole George Lay Chair – Mr Norman Head

Spelthorne Deanery Synod met three times to consider current matters within the Anglican Church. Meetings also provide opportunities for sharing news and enjoying fellowship with clergy and lay representatives from the eleven churches in the Spelthorne Deanery. The current three year term began on 1st July 2023. We have been reminded that there is a lot of advice and support available from the Diocese of London.

Clergy moves within the Deanery – Rev Michael Burley, vicar of Christ Church Staines, retired on 31st March. Fr Julius Anozie was inducted as vicar of St Hilda's Ashford on 16th December. Rev Johnny Lawes completed his curacy at All Saints, Laleham and has been appointed as an Associate Vicar for a term of two years.

Annual Finance meetings were hosted by Archdeacon Richard Frank & Rev Mary Spredbury (Diocesan Finance Officer).

During the year reports were given by Nick Wood-Dow on issues discussed at the London Diocesan Synod.

The speakers and themes of the three meetings during 2024 were:

Oliver Home, recently appointed as General Secretary for the Diocese of London, described his role which includes acting as Chief Executive of the London Diocesan Fund, serving as secretary to the Diocesan Synod and responsibility for supporting the Vision of the Diocese of London, overseeing the teams working on each strategy and managing 100 staff.

Tina English from the charity "Embracing Age" based in Richmond, gave an interesting and lively presentation to the June meeting and described how rewarding ministry to the older generation can be. She mentioned that there are 11 care homes in Spelthorne and 22

churches of all denominations and her charity aims to encourage and equip churches to adopt a local care home – to care for both its residents and staff.

At the October meeting Mrs Mirjam Ngoy-Verhage, London Diocese Discipleship Enabler spoke on the subject “Deepening Discipleship within our Church Communities”. Her role ties in with the Vision 2030 and the encouragement of Confident Disciples. She provided some very helpful material for parish use and recommended us to refer to:

<https://www.london.anglican.org/church-and-parish-support/confident-disciples>.

WORSHIP AND LEARNING

House of Bishops’ Policy Statements

St Hilda’s PCC ensure that we comply with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Child Protection Nick Gething (Safeguarding Officer)

The Church of England, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will champion the protection of children and young people both in society as a whole and in its own community.

It fully accepts, endorses and will implement the principle enshrined in the Children Act 1989, that the welfare of the child is paramount. The Church of England will foster and encourage best practice within its community by setting standards for working with children and young people and by supporting parents in the care of their children.

It will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and well-being of children and young people. It is committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the appropriate statutory bodies when an investigation into child abuse is necessary.

The Church of England is committed to encouraging an environment where all people and especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. Everyone, whether they see themselves as vulnerable or not, will receive respectful pastoral ministry recognising any power imbalance within such a relationship.

In line with the Church of England’s policies we continue to require that all those responsible for the care of children under the auspices of St Hilda’s Church have clear DBS checks that that the leadership of Junior Church have completed the appropriate safeguarding training.

Safeguarding Adults - Nick Gething

All church workers involved in any pastoral ministry will be recruited with care including the use of the Criminal Records Bureau disclosure service when legal or appropriate. Workers and volunteers will receive training and continuing support.

Any allegations of mistreatment, abuse, harassment or bullying will be responded to without delay. Whether or not the matter involves the church there will be cooperation with the police and local authority in any investigation.

Sensitive and informed pastoral care will be offered to anyone who has suffered abuse, including

support to make a complaint if so desired. Help to find appropriate specialist care either from the church or secular agencies will be offered.

Congregations may include people who have offended in a way that means they are a continuing risk to vulnerable people. The risks will be managed sensitively with the protection of adults and children in mind.

Nick Gething retains the role of Safeguarding Officer while Elizabeth Bate continues as the Children's Champion. Since the induction of Fr Julius, there has been a review of our safeguarding action plan, and we continue to seek members to strengthen the safeguarding team to support minority groups within the congregation.

Fire, Health & Safety Report – Christine Makriel

A recovery plan is in place to assist the local community in the event of a disaster, and further work will be carried out on risk management issues as required. Christine Makriel continued as Fire, Health and Safety Officer.

We have had no accidents or issues over the last year. The fire extinguishers have had their annual service, with recommendations to have them all placed on stands. These were ordered and put in place.

Junior Church – Christine Taylor

We have continued our established children's programme throughout this year. Messy Church on the first Sunday of the month where parents are very welcome whilst on the remaining Sundays during term time, we leave church after the welcome and return at the beginning of the Eucharist. We mainly follow Roots on the Web as our main teaching resource as this follows the Lectionary and therefore the same readings as in church. We are still desperately short of leaders – we have three and require at least two at each session. We have been able to call on Pauline Milton, Alison Garner and two or three parents who have volunteered to support us on occasion. It is also lovely when our Junior Church graduates join us and help the younger children. At the end of 2024 we had over 40 children on roll and another 9 children who attended at least once.

Some of the activities we have completed this year included the making of seed bombs of wildflowers -which sadly seemed to go the way of all seed bombs. At Lent we made a large road to Easter poster which we coloured in each week. On Easter Sunday we had a fairer Easter Egg hunt where the children had to find plastic eggs then help the younger children to find the rest. Once all the plastic eggs were found you could then swop them for the edible variety. The Autumn term began with the traditional blessing of the school bags, each child received a tag with John Wesley's rule written on it to attach to their bag or pencil case. The older children held a sponsored silence raising over £100 for Murrapaula. Whilst they kept beautifully silent, they wrote a letter to one of the eighty children in their Junior Church, which we then emailed to avoid delays with the postal system.

We had our own Harvest Festival in the October Messy Church and the Junior Church gifts were added to those from the congregation. In November, the children made a fabulous poppy wreath using not only red poppies but white, black, and purple poppies to represent peace and all the people and animals that have died in war. In Advent we made our own Nativity scene from small bottles and jars which was on display in the children's area. We also held our Christingle service where Rosalyn was turned into a walking, talking Christingle raising funds for the Children's Society and the children bravely did the readings and prayers. We ended the year with a joyous Crib service with everyone entering into the story by wearing headdresses representing the biblical characters.

Bible Study Group (Rosemary Greenwood)

The group has continued to meet weekly on Wednesday evenings in church in the Lady Chapel. Leadership of the study is rotated but there is no pressure to take a turn if you do not wish to; similarly there is no pressure to read aloud or share an opinion if members do not wish to do so.

We begin and end with prayer. We work from Small Group Study books from various publishers. The subjects studied are chosen after group discussion and this year have included *The Kingdom* (mainly from Matthew's gospel), the prophet Hosea, and John's gospel. At the start of the year we completed the study *From Advent to Epiphany*, and during Lent we used the study book *Approaching Jesus* which looked at how different people responded to Jesus in his last days on earth.

We usually have 5 to 8 people at each meeting, although this has reduced during the year for various personal reasons. We were sorry to lose Sara when she moved to Dorset, but were glad to welcome Sue visiting from Dorset. The group keeps in touch with absent and previous members through an optional WhatsApp group.

We do not expect everyone to come every week. We enjoy many lively discussions (not always on topic), and appreciate the fellowship we share.

We welcome visitors and those who would like to see what goes on each week.

Feed My Sheep – Rosalyn Young

In 2024 Feed My Sheep has met 10 times.

The topics considered have been:- Bishops of London, St Hilda's Church Window part 1 and 2, Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus, The Wesleys, Non Canonical Gospels, Jargon Busting, Celtic Spirituality, St Andrew and Christmas Carols.

Any money left from our £1 donation for tea and cake has been used to buy items for the food bank.

Ambling Through Acts – Rev Stephen Brian

We have continued our unhurried but close reading of the book of Acts, following Luke's account of the beginnings of the church. The characters, the politics, the controversies of the time can all find their equivalents today, and we have some good discussions. Sometimes we go off at tangents, which is also fine. Each session finishes with the short, said service of compline, followed by coffee/tea and decent biscuits. We usually have between eight and a dozen or so people at a session, with about fifteen or sixteen overall. Newcomers are always welcome - no previous knowledge required. We meet at 7:30pm on the first Thursday in the month, in church.

Choir and Music Report - Chris Maddock, Paula Gething, Rosemary Greenwood, Jane Dobbie

St Hilda's church choir continues to provide musical accompaniment for the main services during the course of the year. We continue to practise in the church each Friday from 7pm and whilst we still manage four-part harmony, it would be nice to have a few more voices—particularly basses.

The music for services is based on the lectionary readings and carefully selected by the team listed above. Efforts are made to include both well loved, traditional items alongside some contemporary music. We prepare a Taizé chant most weeks. This year has seen more great progress in our unity of sound, plainsong and polyphony.

In addition to singing at the weekly family Eucharist and festival days, the choir also led a choral devotion from *The Cross of Christ* on Good Friday, supported on Easter Saturday, several funerals, and weddings, Lodge Brothers *Candles of Remembrance* service in December and our Christmas Carol Service. In October, we worked hard on our Welsh—collectively and individually—to lead a hearty rendition of *Calon Lân* at Will and Vicky Gething's wedding. In December, we had the pleasure of welcoming Fr Julius musically—at his Collation, Induction and Installation as our Vicar, and at choir practice. He is a keen musician and singer himself and we look forward to growing this area of our liturgy together. We continue to rely heavily on recorded accompaniments, but huge thanks to Jeremy Rouse and Peter Pritchard for supporting us with organ accompaniments live on occasion, and Melvyn Rouse who has continued to provide beautiful recorded accompaniments.

Altar Servers' Report – Alan Sloan

Altar servers fulfil a very important function within the church. Their role dates back to the early days of the church, when priests were accompanied by an acolyte on their travels.

St Hilda's Church currently has a team of seven altar servers, as listed below, who are always willing to help with any task to keep our services in Church running smoothly. Primarily they assist at the 10 o'clock, Sunday services but they also assist with the Wednesday morning 11 o'clock service and other special services e.g. confirmation, candles of remembrance, St Hilda's day, Easter Eve and Midnight Mass.

During the last twelve-month period, the number of available altar servers increased by one when we welcomed Sara Lee to the team in April. However, subsequently, Sara secured a new teaching post in Dorset so left at the end of October.

Prior to Covid-19 there was a team of 12 servers but for a variety of reasons there are now only seven. At the beginning of November 2023 Alan Sloan spoke to the congregation and asked for volunteers to come forward to supplement the current team. This request for volunteers was repeated in subsequent Service Sheets but only produced one volunteer, as above, who subsequently moved away from the area. Fr Julius may wish to review the situation in 2025.

Alan Sloan is currently the Head Server/serving team liaison representative and acts as the focal point between the servers and the vicar. This entails:

- Updating altar servers about any changes in process/procedure
- Completion of the end of year report
- Production of both the server's and chalice duty rotas.

As indicated above we would always welcome new members to the team and would give the support and training to undertake this role. If interested please contact either me, another Server or a Churchwarden in the first instance.

List of servers:

Frances Forsbrey*, Sally Goulden*, Chris Holliday, Christine Makriel*, Peter Makriel*, Alan Sloan*, Barbara Warne

An asterisk signifies where a server has additionally been appointed by the Bishop of Kensington to assist with Holy Communion.*

St Hilda's Mothers' Union – Christine Davenport

Our AGM in March, followed by afternoon tea and our Lady Day Service, was attended by 30 members and two guests.

Six Long Service Awards were presented.

We continue to hold our monthly Mothers' Union Corporate Communion Services.

We have all enjoyed our lunchtime meetings:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| January | We had a very interesting discussion about Shops in Ashford. We reminisced through the last 60 years or so, including some very funny stories. |
| February | Shrove Tuesday. An interesting talk, 'Traditions of Lent,' led by Rosalyn Young, our Lay Reader, was followed by pancakes, which were enjoyed by all. |
| March | Reflections for Lent, led by Rosalyn Young, our Lay Reader, was based on the Stations of the Cross of Julian of Norwich, and how the women were affected by Jesus' death. |
| April | Two of our members led the meeting with readings from David Kosoff's book 'Book of Witnesses', which was very thought provoking. |
| May | One of our members talked about Middlesex, including how the boundaries changed. Middlesex Day is celebrated on 16 th May, and the Middlesex flag was displayed. |
| June | One of our members, who has been involved in the world of entertainment from a very early age talked on the theme 'There's No Business Like Show Business'. She brought back many happy memories. |
| July | Fundraising for the Summer of Hope, MU Project, when £200 was raised. We also enjoyed scones, jam, cream and fresh fruit. |
| September | We held our Wave of Prayer Service, led by Rosalyn Young, our Lay Reader. One of our members, Beryl Rickson, was presented with her Long Service Certificate. |
| October | A visit by Sharon Fergus, Kensington Area Vice President, who gave us information about the MU Rise Up against domestic abuse campaign |
| November | One of our members gave us an interesting talk about Local Heroes in the St Hilda's, Ashford, Parish. |
| December | Carols and Christmas Music with mince pies. |

Our programme gave us another very successful year of meetings of St Hilda's Mothers' Union, which our members continue to attend and enjoy.

St. Hilda's Flower Team - Pauline Milton, Alison Garner and the wonderful members of the Flower Team

The Flower Team continued to create floral displays throughout the remaining Interregnum and concluded the year with the Church filled with displays for Fr. Julius's Licencing, which we are pleased to say bought praise all the way from Nigeria!

Pauline, Alison and the Flower Team have done their best to create wonderful displays throughout the year, especially with the lilies at Easter and the pedestals and column decorations at Christmas.

They continue to do their best to give value for money with the displays, thoughtful of the continuing rise in the cost of fresh flowers, using Fleurametz and Longachres for their quality and long lasting blooms.

They will continue to use the silk display on occasion to help spread the costs each month and will have a Spring/Summer colourway created soon to contrast with the Autumnal shades.

They do enjoy creating displays for weddings and were very pleased to be asked to create displays for Will and Vicky Gething's Wedding.

The new Church Year will see a new rota for the Flower Team and a Memorial sign up chart for members of St. Hilda's and the Parish to request memorials for their loved one's anniversaries.

We are always looking for new members to join the team and if that is you, please contact Alison, or Pauline for further details, training will be beginning soon.

Community

Outreach

St Hilda's House – Paula Gething and Elizabeth Bate

A new tenant moved in on 9th January 2024. We had high hopes that a second tenant would following March but this didn't happen.

Monthly inspections and minor repairs were carried out during the year and we are grateful for the donation of a television and lawnmower during the year. When winter arrived, a grant was provided to the tenant to keep the pre payment meters topped up. Further evidence that the house is too much for one person to manage.

The garden had become very overgrown so a group from St Hilda's attended on a number of weekends to clear it so the tenant could maintain it herself.

Initially she was working and until the autumn all was well. Unfortunately circumstances changed and no rent was received from October onwards. This means unfortunately we have had to make the difficult decision to ask her to leave and to support her in finding alternative accommodation.

At the year end and when Fr Julius joined us, Hope into Action, Bronzefield and St Hilda's are seriously considering whether the partnership and the project has run their course and should be dissolve when the franchise comes up for renewal in the new year.

Activities/Social Report – Bobbie Bedford

I'll begin with the Wednesday 11am service and the community lunch that follows. When we tentatively began the lunches 4 or so years ago, we maybe had around 15 people attend the service and around 12 staying for lunch.

Now I'm pleased to say for both the service and those staying for soup have grown in numbers. We consistently have upwards of 20 at the service and most weeks we prepare 18 to 24 hot soup and rolls. In addition Surplus to Supper deliver surplus foods from local supermarkets, this is well received by all who attend the lunches, either for themselves or in many cases to share with neighbours. The Wednesday lunches are a great way to catch up with old friends and to make new friends. A brilliant outreach for the Church.

There have been the usual Brass Band concerts in church, always very much enjoyed and well attended. We are also fortunate to have our own 'Nicks Bar' as we now have a liquor license - a service very much appreciated.

Another very popular event held in church are our Jumble sales. We are one of the few venues for these sales and we always have a huge number of people queuing waiting for us to open. These sales are all well organised and run by Chris Davenport and are a great money raiser for St Hilda's.

Another popular event is our parish breakfasts, again the numbers are growing and there are always really interesting speakers. Our thanks go to all those who cook the food - good food and good company. During the year our Speakers have included – Sue Pinfold on in-flight entertainment, Chris Maddock on Life in the Chapel Royal, Peter Manns a maths teacher and watercolour artist, Paula Gething on the Water Disinfection World and Long Haul Business Travel and also Nick Gething on Safeguarding. We also had an update on the project at St Hilda's House from Elizabeth Bate and watched the video the Diocese had produced.

There are two occasions at church where we have Bring and Share foods, they are the Harvest Supper and St Hilda's day. Always very enjoyable as we have some great cooks at our church. We always stress that to attend you do not have to sign up to provide any food, there is always more than enough for everyone.

During the summer we have our Summer Fayre, and at the end of the year the Frost Fayre. Again two of our biggest fundraisers. We invite people outside of the church to hire a table to sell their own goods, this makes for a good variety of stalls and also brings into our church lots of new people.

During 2024 we have enjoyed Red Hot Strings, two ladies playing fantastic music on electric violins. St Hilda's has great acoustics which lends beautifully to this kind of music.

In November we held a Curry by candlelight evening, the food and entertainment was provided by one of our parishioners Sam and his family, needless to say we enjoyed a great evening and our thanks go to Sam and his family for their generosity.

In January 2024 we held our Burns Night - good food, good entertainment and overall a good laugh. We can't wait until next year.

St Hilda's Entertainers' – Mike Davenport

President: Fr Julius Anozie
Chairman: Sue Pinfold
Secretary: Mike Davenport

St Hilda's Entertainers were delighted when, having become the Vicar of St Hilda's Church, Fr Julius accepted our invitation to become the Entertainers' President.

In 2024, our Play was performed a month later than usual, in June. This allowed the hall roof, which had been very badly leaking for many years, to be replaced during the Easter holidays.

The Play, 'The Midnight Raiders', written by Bettine Manktelow and directed by Steve Smith, was something very different for us. It was a gritty, historical drama, set in a coastal inn in 1817. It told a chilling story of ships being wrecked on the Goodwin Sands, and how smugglers and wreckers caused many of the ships to run aground, to be plundered. The director, actors and backstage crew were all congratulated by our NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic

Association) representative. The scenery, sound and lighting effects, props and, of course the costumes, were all very appropriate for the era.

Our pantomime continued our theme of innovation. 'Scrooge, the Panto', written by Dave Crump, was directed with much inspiration by Laura Allen. A cast of 23 meant the stage was always busy. The audiences were with us from start to finish, laughing, cheering, booing, clapping and singing, as appropriate. Again, the cast were fully supported by the backstage crew. Scenery, and scenery changes, were just perfect, as were the lighting, sound effects, props and costumes. As always, our audiences were thoroughly entertained, from start to finish.

Of all the many highlights, one of the most memorable was 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', which delivered a very lively and hilarious opening to Act 2.

We have become members of Spelthorne Arts Forum, which could prove to be a source of useful advice. Immediately, members of a local youth group offered to make some of the props for our pantomime, and their offer was gratefully accepted.

This year we laid a wreath at Ashford War Memorial during the Remembrance Ceremony, and will continue to do so in future years.

From our funds, donations of £650 each were made to Shooting Star Trust, The White Lodge Centre and the Alzheimer's Society.

Long Service Awards were presented, with warm congratulations, to Jim Henley (5 years), Jack Jeakins (10 years), Amy Broomfield (25 years), Luke Pulfer (30 years), Neale Winter (40 years) and Sue Pinfold (50 years).

We have already auditioned and cast our next Play, Noël Coward's 'Blithe Spirit', directed by Sue Pinfold. It has seven characters, so we will be welcoming back to the stage Kim Cooper, Neale Winter, Anwen Fuller, Sophie Gane, Steve Smith, Laura Allen and Rachel Barnes.

We look forward to another year of achieving our main aim, entertaining members of St Hilda's Church, their families and friends, and other members of the local community.

3rd Ashford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides – Chris Davenport (Guide Guider)

The girls of 3rd Ashford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, their Guiders and Young Leaders meet each week at St Hilda's Church Hall.

All the Units have been working on their Theme Awards of Know Myself, Express Myself, Be Well, Have Adventures, Take Action and Skills For My Future. All these challenges are gauged for the abilities of the various age groups from 5 years to 14 years. With the girls keen to earn such a variety of badges, some of them have been able to complete Girlguiding Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

During the year, the Guides take part in service in the community. In 2024 it included Helping with the Civic Awards Ceremony at the Mayor's Parlour in April, and running the Tombola stall at St Hilda's Frost Fair, raising £100 for Church funds. They also helped with Front of House duties for the two weekends of St Hilda's Entertainers' pantomime, Scrooge, The Panto.

The Brownies enjoyed a Mini-Golf evening at Lammas Park, Staines, Wall Climbing at Walton and Bowling at Feltham. These events were subsidised for the girls from a fundraising evening in June.

As the months go by, we are pleased to see how the girls grow in confidence and rise to the various challenges as they progress from Rainbows, to Brownies and Guides. It is not only rewarding for the girls, but also for their Guiders, who give their time voluntarily. They encourage and guide the girls and boost their self-confidence in their efforts by organising and running exciting activities for the girls.

Taking the next step up from Guides, four of our girls have become Young Leaders with Units in Ashford District.

We are thankful that St Hilda's Church Hall continues to provide us with a much-appreciated safe environment in which our 85 girls can come together for the fun and friendship of weekly meetings.

Chris Davenport
Guide Guider

APPENDIX A
Parochial Council of St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex
For year ending 31/12/2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS £	RESTRICTED FUNDS £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>				
Voluntary income	66203	48,000	114,023	53,217
Activities for generating funds	59,570		59,570	60,355
Income from investments	11,259		11,259	11,290
Church activities	1,261		1,261	4,118
Other incoming resources	19,653		19,653	
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	157768	48,000	205,768	128,980
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>				
Cost of generating voluntary income	-		-	-
Fundraising costs	2,627		2,627	3,020
Church activities	166,245	48,000	214,245	142,280
Investment management costs	6,870		6,870	4,308
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	175,743	48,000	223,743	149,608
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	-17947		-17,947	-20,628
Gains & Losses on investments				0
Transfers between funds				0
Accounting adjustments				0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-17,947		-17,947	-20,628
BALANCE B/F AT 1 JANUARY 2024	1,214,885	22,003	1,236,888	1,257,516
BALANCE C/F AT 31 DECEMBER 2024	1,196,938	22,003	1,218,941	1,236,888

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all the 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, nor those that are informal gatherings.

FUNDS

Restricted funds comprise (a) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor and (b) monies set aside for a specific purpose as agreed by the PCC. Where the funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Voluntary Income

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds, unless otherwise stated are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts are reliably quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted gross.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when rental is due.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains and losses are recognised when the investments are sold.

RESOURCES USED

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or when awarded, if that award creates a binding constructive obligations on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted when due.

FIXED ASSETS

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
2(a) Voluntary income				
Planned giving - gift aid donations	29,932		29,932	32,650
Tax recovered on planned giving	4,338		4,338	3,451
Planned giving - other	-		-	-
Loose plate	6,853		6,853	6,847
Sundry donations	1,155		1,155	-
Other tax recovered	-		-	-
Donations, appeals, etc	12,631		12,631	8,541
Grant income		48,000	48,000	1,100
Legacies	10,000		10,000	-
Memorial book	105		105	68
Flowers	1,007		1,007	560
Specials	-		-	-
	66,023	48,000	114,023	53,217
2(b) Activities for generating funds				
Fetes, bazaars & other fund raising events	11,521		11,521	10,515
Church hall lettings / fund raising	45,849		45,849	49,840
church lettings/ fund raising	2,200		2,200	-
PV Income				
Misc				-
	59,570		59,570	60,355
2 (c) Income from investments				
Interest	2,066		2,066	1,969
Rent	9,192		9,192	9,321
2 (d) Income from Church activities				
Weddings	54		54	1,070
Funerals	1,207		1,207	3,048
Baptism / confirmation	-		-	-
Other	-		-	-
	1,261		1,261	4,118
2 (e) Other ordinary incoming resources				
Insurance claims	-		-	-
Gift Aid Recovered	8,947		8,947	
VAT Refund	10,705		10,705	
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	157,768	48,000	205,768	128,980

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS £	RESTRICTED FUNDS £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
3 (a) Church activities				
Missionary giving			-	-
Flowers	1,039		1,039	521
Insurance Church & Hall	11025		11,025	10,519
Junior Church	237		237	128
Maintenance church & church hall	45,542	48,000	93,542	9,146
Purchases church & church hall	1484		1484	4,245
Memorial book				175
Ministry Clergy expenses				3,006
Ministry Common Fund	43,010		43,010	54,000
Ministry other clergy expenses				451
Ministry wedding fees				7,000
Organist & choir costs	1,014		1,014	-
Running cost church	6,615		6,615	3,278
Running cost hall	610		610	2,688
Sundry	109		109	700
Utilities - electric	5,058		5,058	3,574
Utilities - gas	16,563		16,563	20,154
Utilities - other	3,143		3,143	550
Administration	12,585		12,585	9,306
People / cleaning costs	18,204		18,204	12,840
	166,245	48,000	214,245	1,42,3280
Cost of appeals		-	-	-
3 (c) Fund raising event costs				
Fetes / bazaars etc	2,627		2,627	3,020
	2,627		2,627	3,020
3 (d) Investment Management costs				
Insurance St Hilda's House	-		-	-
Maintenance costs St Hilda's House	1,317		1,317	556
Running costs St Hilda's House	5,012		5,012	2885
Admin cost St Hilda's House	540		540	580
Running costs grounds				287
	6,870		6,870	4,308
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	175,743	48,000	223,743	149,608

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>					
Functional property		850,000		850,000	850,000
Investment Property		325,000		325,000	325,000
	5	1,175,000	0	1,175,000	1,175,000
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>					
Debtors & prepayments		615		614	662
Cash in hand and bank		22,691	22,003	44,694	61,826
	6	23,306	22,003	45,308	62,488
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>					
Creditors		190		190	600
Accrual		830		830	
Tax & National Insurance		374		374	
	7	1,394		1,394	600
Net assets less current liabilities	8	1,196,911	22,003	1,218,914	1,236,888
Creditors - amounts falling due after 1 year		-	-	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		1,196,911	22,003	1,218,914	1,236,888
Funds					
Unrestricted		1,196,911		1,96,911	1,214,885
Restricted			22,003	22,003	22,003
	9	1,196,911	22,003	1,218,914	1,236,888

PCC declaration

The PCC acknowledged and accept their collective responsibility for ensuring adequate financial controls are maintained and proper books and records kept. This financial statements were approved by the PCC on 21st January 2025

Paula Gething
Church Warden
On behalf of St Hilda's PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. People costs

During the year the PCC used the services of part time cleaners for the Church Hall and an administration assistant for the parish office but no payments were large enough to attract social security payments.

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely related to them or related parties, other than for professional services rendered.

5. Fixed Assets

	£	Church Hall	St Hilda's House	Total
Opening Balance		850,000	325,000	1,175,000
Additions				-
Gains & losses in the year				-
Closing Balance		850,000	325,000	1,175,000

St Hilda's Church Hall in Stanwell Road, Ashford was brought onto the balance sheet in 2007 in order to comply with the statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for charities as revised 2005 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The initial valuation was based on its current value to the PCC. The PCC believes that the residual value of the property exceeds its current use value and therefore has decided to adopt a policy of doing annual impairment review rather than depreciating its value over its useful life. The property known as St Hilda's House, being 34 Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, is held for investment purposes and is shown in the accounts at market value. The last valuation was 31st December 2011 and was carried out by The Frost Partnership, Ashford, Middlesex.

6. Debtors and prepayments

	2024	2023
Receivables Church	614	662
Receivables Hall		
Total	615	662

7. Creditors

	2024	2023
Creditors & accruals – Church	191	600
Creditors & accruals – Hall		
Total	191	600

8. Long term Creditors

There are no long term creditors

9. Restricted Funds Held

The breakdown and movement of restricted funds are:

	Alford	St Hilda's House	Total
Balance at 1 January 2024	10,052	11,501	22,003
Incoming resources			-
Resources expended			-
Moved from general fund			-
Interest allocated			-
Balance at 31 December 2024	10,052	11,501	22,003

9a Non Restricted held by CBF

General reserves held in the CBF account are £25,271

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Accounts 2024 - Comments

1. Quickbooks software was used during 2024, there were a number of rules created by the previous treasurer which no longer work and a number of adjustments had to be made to ensure that money has been correctly allocated. The balances from Nat-west and Quickbooks align.
2. The Charity Commission reports as detailed in the Schedule of Financial Activities (SOFA) have been recreated linking all relevant inputs.
3. The resulting outcome is that St Hilda's Church made a large deficit of £17,936 in the year ending 31 December 2024 and this is reflected in the SOFA.
4.
 - a) Income in 2024 is reported as £29,932, a decrease of £2,718 against 2023, but the amount of Gift Aid donated has increased which reflects the increase in taxpayers using Parish Giving. This remains the most efficient and generous way of giving as each year an inflationary increase is suggested to donors with an opt out option. A Grant of £48,000 from Spelthorne Borough Council towards the church hall roof was received and supplemented by generous donations from St Hilda's Entertainers and Spelthorne Islamic group who use the hall. Income from events has increased for a second consecutive year by £1000.
 - b) Gift Aid from 2023 of £8,657 and VAT of 10,705 were also recovered in the year.
 - c) St Hilda's House generated rent for just 10 months and the three way partnership with Hope Into Action and BronzeField will be reviewed in 2025 as the financial impact on St Hilda's is significant, with the last two years generating less than half of the expected amount.
 - d) Church Hall lettings were down in the year primarily due to the hall being closed in April while the roof was replaced, but this is offset by Church Lettings of £2,200
5. Resources expended is reported as £223,705, an increase of £74,097. £72,000 was the replacement church hall roof, installation of solar panels and repair to the lady chapel roof carried out by Maguire Brothers. The heating costs for the winter months are £4,500 less than 2023, partially due to the additional insulation provided by the new roof.
 - a) Common fund giving was reduced from £54,000 to £43,010. Increased fuel costs hit hard at the end of 2023 and no payments were made for 2 months.
 - b) Additional significant expenses in the year were replacing a section of the perimeter wall, drainage work following the roof works and replacing the children's play area to the side of the church hall.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') of St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex

I report to the members of the PCC on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 as set out on the attached pages.

This report is made solely to the members of the PCC in accordance with Sections 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the PCC members those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the members of the PCC for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of PPC Members and Examiner

The PPC members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act')) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

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 the members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no view 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.

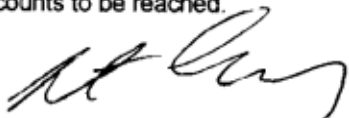
Independent Examiner's statement

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 Charities Act ;and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.



Name: Peter Connolly

Address: 33 Carlyle Road, Staines, TW18 2PU

Date: 19 April 2025