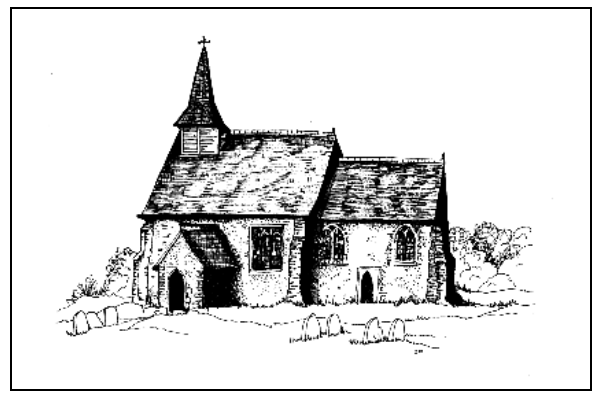
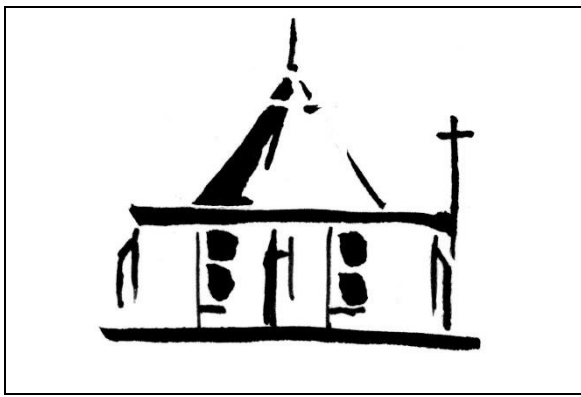
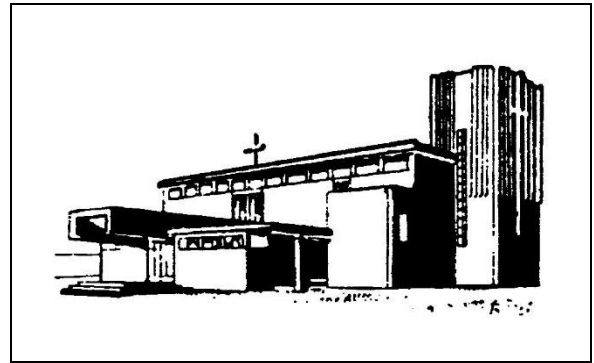
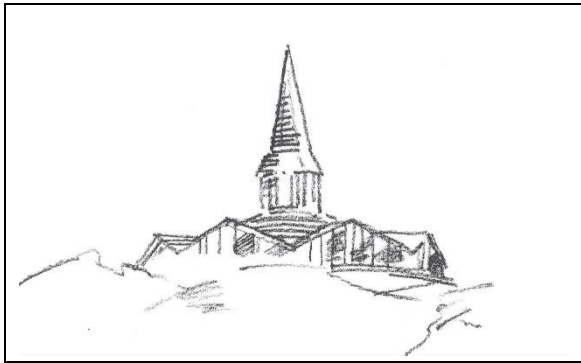


The **Billericay & Little Burstead** Team Ministry



St John the Divine Annual Meeting

11:30am, Sunday 27th April 2025

Agenda, Reports and Accounts

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BILLERICAY AND LITTLE BURSTEAD TEAM MINISTRY

Annual District Meeting of St John the Divine, Outwood Common

**Minutes of the Annual District Meeting of St John the Divine held at St John's
on 5th May 2024 at 11:20am**

PRESENT: 20 members of the Electoral Roll

APOLOGIES: 2

Chairperson: Paul Furneaux

1. Statement that due notice for the District ADM has been given

Paul Furneaux made the statement that due notice for the District ADM had been given and thanked everyone for attending; he then presented the Annual Report for the District.

2. Prayer

Jim Rose opened the meeting with prayer.

3. Appointment of Clerk to the Meeting

Amanda Furneaux was appointed Clerk to the Meeting.

4. Minutes of the District ADM 2023

These were agreed and signed as a true record. Linda Russ proposed, Sheila Moore seconded, all in favour.

5. Presentation of the Annual Report for the District (apart from the Accounts)

Paul Furneaux presented the Annual Report.

6. Presentation of the Accounts of the District Church

The Accounts were presented. Paul Furneaux thanked Bernie Brooks on behalf of the church for all his time and effort, we really appreciate it. Brian Russ proposed the accounts, Pat Pack seconded, all in favour.

7. Presentation of the Churchwardens' Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The Report was presented. Julie Todman proposed, Doreen Cooper seconded, all in favour.

8. Presentation of the Report on the Electoral Roll for the District

Nothing further to add to the report.

- 9. Lay Minister's Report** – Paul Furneaux commented that Linda Russ had been very kind in her report, particularly regarding staffing as we don't have the leadership, service, vision, and pastoral care of a Team Vicar. He also said that it had been necessary to change the format of some services, and the way we deliver the format and visuals of the service. Paul read out his report for the APCM. We have made no inroads into the school, though we have tried very hard to find an opportunity to do so, but managing without a Team Vicar places heavy burdens on our Lay Minister, Wardens and the DCC. Robert Masters proposed, Bernie Brooks seconded, all in favour. Janet Masters thanked Linda Russ on behalf of everybody and said that even with the difficulties we faced we had not been without a service in all this time.

10. Presentation of Subsidiary Reports

These were presented.

Comments:-

Planned Giving – looking at the finances, we have money in the bank and some savings. In Janet Masters report she gave an idea of where the money from the collection plate goes and said it is amazing how much we manage to put into Planned Giving. Paul talked through Janet's report and discussed the figures. We have over £27,000 income, but our outgoings were over £35,000 last year leaving a shortfall of £8000 which was taken from our savings account. We know money is extremely tight but even so quite a lot of people have increased their giving this year. We will consider ways of improving efficiency at the DCC. Emphasis was placed on there being more to church than just coming on a Sunday, and whether it was possible for people to prayerfully look at upping their giving by 5%, without causing themselves hardship. We know God will look after us.

We agreed it was a very interesting exercise, and should consider following it with a stewardship talk, which Janet would be happy to do at the end of this year.

Brian Russ asked if we could challenge the Parish Share. Paul said it had been challenged and there had been a lot of work carried out between the Treasurers'. Bernie Brooks said in the forthcoming year we will be paying, approximately £500 less than last year. Jim Rose pointed out that the Parish Share leaflet explains how the finances for the Diocese are arranged. As a church we faithfully pay our allocated share of the amount, whereas some churches cannot make that payment. Bernie said when he became Treasurer in 2018, he had been surprised that Parish Share amounts remained around about the same as the previous year, although some figures have been in excess of £20,000. Les Sheppard looked at our average congregational attendance throughout the year rather than just October to assist with the calculations and distribution across the parish. It was also noted that in recent years energy costs have rocketed, but even so this only came to about 18% of Parish Share last year. It was noted that every hirer adds 10% during the winter months to assist with energy costs.

Safeguarding – Paul Furneaux said he would encourage people to keep their training up-to-date, and added that Safeguarding is not about the person, but learning how to be compassionate and caring for others.

Midweek break – Pat Pack is retiring in July. Doreen Cooper said Pat has told Midweek Break that it is time for her to give up and she has been asking for one of them to take over. Several of the members have said Pat does too much and a little more thought could be given to how the work could be divided up. Pat said she does share the work with Carole Bendrey, Janet Masters and Barbara Hodges. However, Carole will be moving, Barbara is not always available, and Janet will stand down at the end of this term. Pat does not want people to think that she has no help, but by the September term, if she continued, she would be on her own which makes it unworkable.

Small Wonders – Paul Furneaux said Janet Masters' report was very heart warming.

Café on the Common – Paul Furneaux commented that the Café seems to go from strength to strength, with regular numbers and it is very much appreciated.

Billericay Foodbank – Paul Furneaux said that although the Foodbank had moved from St John's, it still took donations here and St John's supported them in prayer. We are very grateful to Jim Rose for his involvement.

Prayer and Praise – Paul Furneaux explained how Prayer and Praise works and encouraged more people to come. Janet Masters said it is a relaxing hour, a wonderful time.

Film Night – Janet Masters said watch this space!

Anisha Grange – Paul Furneaux explained that this happens once a month, that a fair amount of work goes on in the background and that the team help; Linda has been beavering away trying to get the services covered. More residents and staff attend the service in Anisha as due to staffing they can only bring over so many on a Sunday morning to St John's. This means they only get twelve services a year and would like to add another each month, but we need more volunteers to accommodate this.

11. Nominations to the Meeting of Parishioners for Churchwardens for St John the Divine

Paul Furneaux said he is completing his sixth year as Warden, if people will have him, he is willing to stand for one more year to give some continuity while we do not have a Vicar or a Team Rector, he felt it would be remiss of him not to offer to stand again. Linda Russ has also offered to continue for a second year. Paul Furneaux was proposed by Jim Rose and seconded by Jo Dench, Linda Russ was proposed by Robert Masters and Seconded by Bernie Brooks, all in favour.

12. Nomination of one Representative to the Deanery Synod

Jim Rose is willing to continue into the second of his three-year term. Julie Todman proposed, Jo Dench seconded, all were in favour.

13. Nominations Parochial Church Council representatives

Paul Furneaux explained that we have two vacancies. Robert Masters is willing to continue into the second year of his three-year term. Paul said PCC offers a good insight round the parish as a whole and the other churches. Linda Russ proposed Robert Masters, Jim Rose seconded, all in favour.

14. Standing Committee

Paul Furneaux explained what the Standing Committee does and that he and Linda Russ are happy to continue.

15. Election of five representatives to District Church Council

Paul Furneaux stated we have one vacancy. Anne Howell, Janet Masters, Bob Scott and Julie Todman were all willing to stand again, and Brian Russ offered to stand as well. They were all proposed and seconded, all in favour.

16. Election of Secretary to the District Church Council

Amanda Furneaux agreed to continue as Secretary to the DCC. Linda Russ proposed, Jo Dench seconded, all in favour.

17. Election of Treasurer to the District Church Council

Bernie Brooks agreed to continue as our Treasurer until 31st December 2025. Linda Russ proposed, Jo Dench seconded, all in favour. Bernie asked if anyone is interested in taking on the post of Treasurer, he would happily work with them next year to allow for a smooth transition.

18. Election of Planned Giving Officer for St John the Divine

Janet Masters agreed to continue as our Planned Giving Officer. Amanda Furneaux proposed, Bernie Brooks seconded, all in favour. Paul Furneaux thanked Janet on behalf of St John's for all she does.

19. Election of an Electoral Roll Officer for St John the Divine

Amanda Furneaux agreed to continue as the Electoral Roll Officer. Shinete Maunze proposed, Brian Russ seconded, all in favour.

20. The election of Sidespeople for St John the Divine

Those nominated are: Paul and Amanda Furneaux, Janet and Robert Masters, Bob and Beryl Scott, Jim Rose and Shinete Maunze.

21. Election of Representatives to CTB for St John the Divine

Paul Furneaux explained that the Leadership Team feed back to the representatives. Jim Rose thankfully feeds information back to us as he attends on behalf of the Foodbank. Jim also explained that if a church leader cannot attend a meeting, a representative can take their place.

22. Parish Safeguarding Representatives and Lead Recruiter – Amanda Furneaux is willing to continue.

Linda Russ proposed, Doreen Cooper seconded, all in favour.

23. Questions

Paul Furneaux thanked everyone for staying on after the service this morning and thanked everyone for being behind him all year, he looks forward to serving everyone for the coming year.

Robert Masters said regarding the roof we need to apply to funding bodies. Robert Masters would like some help, there is a list of funding bodies, and each one needs to be researched for their cut off dates, requirements etc, we need to start filling out application forms and Robert Masters has wording for where more detail is required. Linda Russ is happy to have a list of funding bodies and so is Bernie Brooks.

St John's presented Sheila Moore with flowers to thank her for all her years playing the piano. Sheila thanked everyone saying it was a privilege and a joy to be able to lead the music in this place for more than forty odd years. Marvellous to have the other musicians stepping in as well.

Brian Russ thanked everyone for all the fantastic work they have done over the past year.

Carole Bendrey said as it is her last meeting before she moves, she wanted to thank us for our love and friendship, love to us all and God bless. Paul Furneaux said we will miss you.

Paul Furneaux thanked everyone sincerely for all they do, saying we are not very big, but we do a lot of brilliant stuff with the band of people we have. Thanks for coming each week.

Linda Russ closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting finished at 12:35.

Signed Date

The Annual District and Parochial Church Meetings 2025

Agenda

Annual District Church Meeting for St John the Divine
To be held on Sunday 27th April 2025

- (1) Statement that due notice for the Annual District Church Meeting has been given
- (2) Prayer
- (3) Appointment of clerk to the meeting

Reports on the Year Past – Looking Back

- (4) Minutes of the Annual District Meeting 2024 for St John the Divine
- (5) Presentation of the Annual Report for St John the Divine (apart from the accounts)
- (6) Presentation of the Accounts for St John the Divine
- (7) Presentation of the Churchwardens' report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments
- (8) Presentation of the Report on the Electoral Roll for St John the Divine
- (9) Presentation of Subsidiary Reports
 - Planned Giving
 - Safeguarding
 - Small Wonders
 - Café on the Common
 - Billericay Foodbank
 - Prayer & Praise
 - Ministry to Anisha Grange
 - Films on Fridays

Election for the Year to come – Looking Ahead

If there are more nominations than places to be filled, tellers will be appointed and votes counted

- (10) Nominations to the Meeting of Parishioners for Churchwardens for St John the Divine
- (11) Nomination of 3 representative to the Parochial Church Council
- (12) Nomination of 2 representatives to the Standing Committee
- (13) Election of 5 representatives to the District Church Council
- (14) Election of Secretary to the District Church Council
- (15) Election of Treasurer to the District Church Council
- (16) Election of a Planned Giving Officer for St John the Divine
- (17) Election of an Electoral Roll Officer for St John the Divine
- (18) Election of Sidespeople for St John the Divine
- (19) Election of representatives to Churches Together in Billericay for St John the Divine
(this may be postponed to a District Church Council meeting)
- (20) Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Representative
(this may be postponed to a DCC meeting)

- (21) Questions
- (22) Closing Prayer

The Annual Report of the District Church Council

St John the Divine is part of the Billericay and Little Burstead Parish and Team Ministry. St John's DCC is authorised by the PCC to carry out its responsibilities in the St John's area, that is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelism, social and ecumenical.

PCC and DCC Members with Special Roles

<i>DCC Chairman</i>	Chris Arnold
<i>Team Vicar</i>	Vacancy
<i>Lay Minister & Churchwarden</i>	Linda Russ
<i>Churchwarden & Vice DCC Chairman</i>	Paul Furneaux
<i>Deanery Synod Rep</i>	Jim Rose
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bernard Brooks
<i>PCC Reps</i>	Robert Masters
<i>DCC Secretary & Electoral Roll Officer</i>	Amanda Furneaux
<i>Planned Giving Officer</i>	Janet Masters

DCC Members

Anne Howell
Brian Russ
Julie Todman

The District Church Council met six times during 2024.

As you read through this report there are more details of various aspects of our church life, but the areas discussed at the District Church Council cover –

Finances.

Health and Safety.

Mission and Outreach – Small Wonders, Café on the Common, Services including arrangements for special services such as Christmas and Easter, Angel Bombing at Christmas, and the Billericay Foodbank. Private Prayer on a Tuesday afternoon when the Foodbank is open for donations along with Prayer and Praise on a Wednesday evening. We were delighted to add a Home Group to this mix of activities as it is a subject we had been discussing for some time.

Fabric and Building improvements and the next big project will be a new roof following the Quinquennial inspection. We also discuss -

Pastoral care.

Deanery Synod.

Churches Together in Billericay.

General Service arrangements.

Safeguarding.

I am sure you will agree that we owe Linda Russ and Paul Furneaux a huge vote of thanks for all they do especially with the shortage of staff during this past year, as well as to all those behind the scenes who keep both the practical side of St John's going as well as the pastoral care of our congregation. The love we have for one another is palpable. Thanks to those too who have come to St John's to help with our services and especially to Rev Ron Wiffen who answered our call when we were

without Holy Communion. We are very much looking forward to the coming year with Chris Arnold now in post as our Team Rector.

I would also like to thank all of you for your much needed prayers and willingness to help where you can, it is very much appreciated, and we could not function without those prayers and your willingness.

Amanda Furneaux
DCC Secretary

Lay Minister Report

This morning my neighbour was giving his lawn its first cut of the year. The smell of the grass reminded me forcibly that Spring always comes after Winter, just as day follows the dark of night. The smell of growing things, of newness, was beautiful telling me that the cold wet times are almost over.

At St John the Divine with the want of a vicar, the health issues of our family and the deaths of beloved brothers and sisters it has felt as if a long winter was upon us (even during the summer months) and that we were in a state of grief but suddenly the longed for light is back with the promise of warm days and long evenings to cheer us up.

The coming of the new Rector in March is a long-awaited blessing and there is now a sense of expectation, of new things, new life emerging from the darkness. The long anticipated new roof has still a way to go but it is getting nearer to being a reality. The beautiful garden and reflective space with its magnificent cross and benches is a great blessing to us all with more refining touches to come in the forms of a scented pathway and a bug hotel.

We had to let go of one cherished group - Midweek Break - but have seen the formation of another in the Home Group, each thing perfect for its season and then making way for the next. We cried and rejoiced too as Veronica Brooks, Bob Scott and John Holbrook went to meet Jesus in glory. We were glad to welcome more people from Anisha Grange, seeing young people baptised and saying goodbye to Archdeacon Mike, and receiving Holy Communion from Rev Ron Wiffen.

Our Christmas services were well attended, and we had a cracking Christingle, but we are not content to rest there. Soon we will have the LOLBear company coming for our first professional theatre group with the Easter message and a lot of fun.

I would thank our dear Paul Furneaux for all his tireless work as our Church Warden, for all his work with the sound desk and other technical 'stuff', for his chairing our DCC and being an example of loving service to us all. Also, to Amanda Furneaux without who's skills we would be in a really poor position, for Julie Todman who makes our service sheets week by week and for Jim Rose who has stepped up to the plate giving Bernie Brooks a much-needed rest at the piano. For Bernie's endless work as our Treasurer and for Janet Masters who so faithfully continues our

Planned Giving and so much more. To all those who serve quietly in the background – Films on Fridays, Music Evenings, the Café on the Common, Small Wonders, flower arrangers, sides people, Holy Communion Assistants, those who wash up and clean – you are all stars!

What a privilege it is to belong to the FAMILY of St John's, my foretaste of Heaven.

Linda Russ

Treasurer's Report

Similarly to my report for 2023, St John's in 2024 continued to perform satisfactorily financially, amidst continuing challenging times. Times not made any easier by a continuing high Parish Share request (for such a small church as St John's) at £18,523 which, I'm pleased to say, was paid off in full. At the start of 2024 and after the inclusion of Gift Aid refunding by HMRC for 2023, our total assets stood at £46,377. At the end of 2024, including the Gift Aid claim for 2024, they stood at £60,417. In 2024 our funds were boosted by three main donations of £3,000 and £10,000 anonymously and £1,116 from the Will of my late wife Veronica. The fact that St John's does continue to pay its way and to generally make money which enables us to pay for various church improvements, provide service to our community and to donate to a number of charities, is in very large measure through the continued dedication and generosity of its parishioners.

The second most burdensome challenge is to meet ever increasing energy costs. For example, the cost of our gas alone for one month in January this year was £441.29. Fortunately, we are on fixed rate tariffs for both electricity and gas until July/September 2026 respectively, but gas is especially expensive. In 2024 we paid £1594 for electricity and £2,528 for gas.

St John's used legacy money in 2024. Our major project since the new car park was finished has been the landscaping of the front garden and installation of the cross with illumination. The primary payment of £14,332.50 was paid right at the end of 2023 on 29.12.23, then the project was completed with the installation of the cross, with illumination, at a cost of £2,217.00 on 17.09.24. Part of the Thompson legacy was used for this and at the end of 2024 £754.00 remained in this legacy. Also, our new projector unit and DVD player were purchased and installed, in the combined sum of £1,815.00. This was paid for from the Sparkes legacy. £185.00 remains in this legacy. The Blackstaff legacy of £16,646.00 remains untouched.

The London Borough of Waltham Forest paid their annual grant of £700.00 in April 2024.

£625.00 was paid on 10.10.24 to RJL Electrical Solutions on 10.10.24 for carrying out the five-year Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) and for carrying out some remedial works.

It was decided in 2024 that the Lukas Children's Fund should be expanded to include the children of Lieutenant, the guardian of Lukas's children. All the children (8 no. in total) are of school age and money has to be found to supplement what the family can

afford to pay for the children's school equipment, term fees, footwear and uniforms. St John's congregation contribute to this Fund. At the start of 2024 the Fund stood at £574.00. During the year the Fund paid out £984.00 for above named items and at the end of 2024 £1,070.00 remained in the Fund.

Our second active Fund is for monthly contributions to the Toybox charity to support two children in Guatemala City. Parishioners and Anisha Grange continued to make planned monthly payments which in 2024 amounted to £624.00. A gift aid contribution meant that a total of £724.00 was sent to the Toybox administration team.

Probably our most important Fund for which parishioners contribute to, is the Roof Fund. This is for the replacement of the roof and the glazed light structure at the apex of the roof, all recommended in the most recent quinquennial structural inspection of the church building. Contributions are made into the Carboy pot in the foyer, individually by parishioners and through fund raising events such as the annual Cheese and Wine evenings with Jazz Band entertainment and Film Afternoons. At the end of 2024 the Fund stood at £26,676.00. However, this is far short of the latest (early 2024) estimated price of £129,265.00 and for which grants will be needed. Further to this a grant application was submitted to the National Lottery which unfortunately was rejected in January of this year. We must see what 2025 brings us.

Finally, in 2024 a very successful income of £5,913.00 was realised from hiring out areas of the church complex from both regular and single bookings. I can also report that our Café on the Common service to the community did very well in 2024 realising an operating surplus of £2,258.00.

Bernard J Brooks
Treasurer

St John the Divine
End of Year Financial Statements
Year ending 2024

Billericay St John the Divine DCC

**Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024**

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
0101 - Planned Giving - Bank	5,070	—	—	—	5,070	5,202
0110 - Planned Giving - Envelopes	11,213	—	—	—	11,213	10,155
0201 - Planned Giving - Other	—	—	—	—	—	30
0301 - Loose plate collections	895	—	224	—	1,119	905
0501 - One-off large gifts; sponsored events	200	—	—	—	200	545
0550 - Donations appeals etc	1,859	100	16,366	—	18,325	9,273
0551 - Flowers	—	91	—	—	91	57
0552 - Charities	—	—	149	—	149	127
0553 - Tithes	—	—	—	—	—	—
0554 - Donations to Food Bank	—	—	—	—	—	—
0601 - Gift Aid recovered/recoverable	4,209	—	—	—	4,209	4,209
0701 - Legacies	—	—	—	—	—	16,645
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	700	—	—	—	700	760
0901 - Other funds generated	—	—	—	—	—	85
Donations and legacies Totals	24,148	191	16,740	—	41,080	47,997
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>						
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	—	—	—	—	—	818
1230 - Church & hall lettings - re. objectives	—	—	—	—	—	—
Income from charitable activities Totals	—	—	—	—	—	818
<i>Other trading activities</i>						
0910 - General fundraising	—	—	—	—	—	642
0911 - Coffee Morning	—	—	—	—	—	—
0913 - Film Night	—	—	63	—	63	226
1240 - Church & hall lettings - fund raising	5,913	—	—	—	5,913	3,808
1260 - Parish Magazine sales	71	—	—	—	71	—
1281 - Cafe on the Common income	2,258	—	—	—	2,258	2,409
Other trading activities Totals	8,243	—	63	—	8,306	7,085
<i>Investments</i>						
1020 - Bank and building society interest	—	—	—	—	—	—
1021 - CCLA Interest	1,955	—	—	—	1,955	1,034
Investments Totals	1,955	—	—	—	1,955	1,034
<i>Other income</i>						
1310 - Insurance claims	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other income Totals	—	—	—	—	—	—
Income and endowments Grand totals	34,346	191	16,803	—	51,341	56,935

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Expenditure						
<i>Raising funds</i>						
1701 - Cost of fundraising	—	—	—	—	—	—
1710 - Costs of applying for grants	—	—	—	—	—	—
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	159	—	—	—	159	579
Raising funds Totals	159	—	—	—	159	579
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>						
1801 - Giving to missionary societies	—	—	—	—	—	—
1830 - Giving - relief and dev't agencies	—	—	2,182	—	2,182	2,033
1833 - Food Bank	25	—	216	—	242	—
1850 - Home mission	—	—	—	—	—	—
1910 - Parish share	18,523	—	—	—	18,523	19,232
2001 - Reader Expenses	5	—	—	—	5	—
2060 - Midweek Break	—	—	—	—	—	—
2070 - Small Wonders	—	—	—	—	—	—
2101 - Clergy expenses	498	—	—	—	498	847
2170 - Education	34	—	—	—	34	—
2201 - Parish training and mission	—	—	—	—	—	—
2202 - Children and Youth	—	—	—	—	—	—
2230 - Pastoral care	135	—	—	—	135	3
2301 - Church running - Insurance	956	—	—	—	956	884
2310 - Church - phone/broadband	391	—	—	—	391	519
2330 - Church maintenance	1,557	—	—	—	1,557	2,753
2331 - Cleaning	1,275	—	—	—	1,275	2,456
2340 - Upkeep of services	762	—	—	—	762	1,802
2341 - Flowers	—	228	—	—	228	300
2350 - Upkeep of grounds	1,487	—	—	—	1,487	987
2360 - Administration	932	—	—	—	932	214
2361 - Subscriptions	446	—	—	—	446	434
2362 - Licenses	447	—	—	—	447	348
2401 - Church running - electricity	1,715	—	—	—	1,715	1,410
2410 - Church running - gas	2,523	—	—	—	2,523	2,821
2420 - Church running - water	1,124	—	—	—	1,124	1,261
2501 - Parish Magazine expenses	109	—	—	—	109	119
2519 - Cafe on the Common costs	74	—	—	—	74	15
2601 - PCC Expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	—	—	—	—	—	—
2702 - Redevelopment	—	—	—	—	—	—
2710 - Church major repairs - Installation	55	—	—	—	55	—
2720 - Church interior and exterior decorating	—	—	—	—	—	—
2940 - Grounds Improvement	2,217	—	—	—	2,217	14,322
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	35,300	228	2,399	—	37,928	52,768
Expenditure Grand totals	35,460	228	2,399	—	38,088	53,347

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Billericay St John the Divine DCC
Fund movement by type
Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Fund and type	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Journal Entries	Fund balances carried forward
\$JDCarPark							
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-totals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
\$JDFoodBnk							
Restricted	33	—	33	—	—	—	—
Sub-totals	33	—	33	—	—	—	—
\$JDSpecial							
Designated	1,622	—	—	—	—	—	1,622
Sub-totals	1,622	—	—	—	—	—	1,622
General							
Unrestricted	36,274	34,346	35,460	—	—	—	35,160
Sub-totals	36,274	34,346	35,460	—	—	—	35,160
\$JDBursary							
Designated	67	—	—	—	—	—	67
Sub-totals	67	—	—	—	—	—	67
\$JDS-Wond							
Designated	120	—	—	—	—	—	120
Sub-totals	120	—	—	—	—	—	120
\$JDM-Break							
Designated	304	100	—	—	—	—	404
Sub-totals	304	100	—	—	—	—	404
\$JDFlowers							
Designated	224	91	228	—	—	—	87
Sub-totals	224	91	228	—	—	—	87
\$JDTithe							
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-totals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Fund and type	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Journal Entries	Fund balances carried forward
SJDRedev							
Restricted	5,623	14,160	—	—	—	—	19,783
sub-totals	5,623	14,160	—	—	—	—	19,783
SJDTextile							
Restricted	30	—	—	—	—	—	30
sub-totals	30	—	—	—	—	—	30
SJDCharity							
Restricted	7	2,642	2,365	—	—	—	284
sub-totals	7	2,642	2,365	—	—	—	284
SJDOCYouth							
Restricted	3,120	—	—	—	—	—	3,120
sub-totals	3,120	—	—	—	—	—	3,120
Totals	47,430	51,341	38,088	—	—	—	60,683

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Billericay St John the Divine DCC

Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Current assets		
6531: SJD Current Barclays 40718246	24,563.58	8,449.66
6533: SJD Deposit CCLA 608376001D	33,865.75	32,040.84
6534: SJD Deposit CCLA 608376002D	0.12	0.12
6535: SJD Deposit CCLA 608376003D	3,402.54	3,272.41
6594: SJD Petty Cash	140.00	112.41
6605: HMRC Gift Aid Receivable	(0.58)	4,208.54
Z05: Accounts Receivable	(525.79)	680.43
Total Current assets	61,445.62	48,764.41
Liabilities		
6602: SJD Interest Free Loan	1,000.00	1,000.00
6699: Agency collections	—	149.75
Z04: Accounts Payable	(237.82)	184.24
Total Liabilities	762.18	1,333.99
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	60,683.44	47,430.42
Reserves		
Excess / (deficit) to date	13,253.02	3,587.52
Z01: Starting balances	47,430.42	43,842.90
Total Reserves	60,683.44	47,430.42

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	35,160.93	36,274.86
Designated	2,302.77	2,340.07
Restricted	23,219.74	8,815.49
Endowment	—	—
Total	60,683.44	47,430.42

Billericay St John the Divine DCC

**Balance sheet (Summary)
As at: 31 December 2024**

	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
	£	£
Current assets		
Debtors	(525)	4,888
Cash at bank and in hand	61,971	43,875
	<u>61,445</u>	<u>48,764</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	762	1,333
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>60,683</u>	<u>47,430</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>60,683</u>	<u>47,430</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>60,683</u>	<u>47,430</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	35,160	36,274
Designated		
Designated - SJD Car Park Fund	—	—
Designated - SJD Special Project Fund	1,622	1,622
Designated - SJD Bursary Fund	67	67
Designated - SJD Small Wonders	120	120
Designated - SJD Midweek Break	404	304
Designated - SJD Flower Fund	87	224
Designated - SJD Tithe Fund	—	—
Restricted		
Restricted - SJD Car Park Fund	—	—
Restricted - SJD Food Bank	—	33
Restricted - SJD Redevelopment Project	19,783	5,623
Restricted - SJD Textiles Altar Frontal Fund	30	30
Restricted - SJD Charities Fund	284	7
Restricted - SJD Outwood Common Youth Group	3,120	3,120
Funds of the church	<u>60,683</u>	<u>47,430</u>

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

Day to Day

We continue day to day and week to week praising Jesus and thanking him for the joy and comfort that he brings, in our good times and in our not so good times. Chairs are put out, chairs are stacked, chairs are put out again showing a healthy use of our church centre for many various groups and clubs, and most importantly for our Sunday worship.

Sound and Projection System

The new projection system is being used regularly and has been well received, both giving a slight rest to our musicians and introducing a new dimension to Sunday services, as well as being used for such things as Films on Friday, the team Lent course and a recent Bereavement Seminar held by the Funeral Directors Bennetts.

Sound is not quite where we would like it yet, but moving in the right direction, and though Zoom services are now few and far between we retain the capability if required.

Maintenance, Tidiness and Routine Work

Regular and varied use of our church centre brings the odd mundane issue, such as a broken doorstep to the hall, broken toilet seats, a missing table (how? you might ask, as do I!), sticking doors, and a fire alarm point broken.

Grass needs to be cut, hedges trimmed, lightbulbs replaced (with LED equivalents), carpets swept and some (but not all) of the cobwebs removed. The boiler has been serviced, and the emergency lighting and fire alarm is tested every week.

All these minor points and issues along with many others are dealt with seamlessly and without fanfare but serve to keep the building open to all.

Roof

Much the same as last year, the roof continues to be a cause for concern. Huge efforts have been made to raise funds locally towards our expected costs the last (outdated) estimate being circa £129,000, but likely nearer £190,000, and incredibly our local fundraising and kind personal donations currently add up to nearly £27,000. We applied to the National Lottery but were unfortunately rejected and we have submitted a bid for charitable funding to 'Friends of Essex Churches'. Further bids are required, but there is only 'so much' a small group of people can do. In all honesty the small team, (the DCC) that try to tie all these things together would really appreciate some fresh energy.

Internal and External Improvements

Don't forget to 'look up' when having your 'after service' cup of tea or coffee. The foyer ceiling has been re-boarded, smoothed and decorated, along with the addition of new LED downlights.

The path from the road to the foyer doors has been in place for a year now and requires a certain amount of maintenance to keep the weeds down, the Yew tree has been trimmed, and the Reflective Space is kept tidy with leaves removed and thoughtful planting in the containers.

Hopefully you will have noticed the cross that has been placed near the reflective space, along with the two rustic benches, which we hope will add to the welcoming and peaceful area for reflection and contemplation.

Eco Church

The Church of England has set some pretty ambitious goals: becoming net carbon zero by 2030! At St. John's, we're doing our part—and in July 2024, we proudly achieved Bronze 'Eco Church' status. This recognition comes from A Rocha and is based on meeting a range of targets—some straightforward, others a bit more challenging. The five areas we focus on are:

1. Teaching
2. Management of Church Buildings
3. Management of Church Land
4. Community and Global Engagement
5. Lifestyle

You might have spotted some of our eco-friendly efforts already! For example, the weekly 'eco tip' on our notice sheets, the cozy bug hotel outside near the reflective space, and the award certificate displayed on the notice board at the back of the church (on the right). Plus, nearly all our internal and external lights are now LED, we use fairtrade coffee, and we keep our kitchen practices eco-friendly where we can.

This year, we also completed the Church of England's 'Energy Footprint Tool,' which helps us measure and improve our energy use. Looking ahead to 2026, when our next energy contract comes up for renewal, we're planning to prioritize green energy options.

Our work doesn't stop here—we're determined to keep improving and aim for Silver 'Eco Church' credentials as soon as we can.

In conclusion

As always, there is a huge amount of work carrying on in the background, only a small sample of which can be mentioned above. However, we maintain an organised and respected church building utilised and loved by many, both regular Sunday Worshipers and Community members.

We look forward to the coming year, with prayers that we can move ahead with the roof and continue to provide a warm and welcoming environment to those who need it.

**Paul Furneaux & Linda Russ
Church Wardens**

Electoral Roll

This year has seen the preparation of a new Electoral Roll which now has 24 entries.

**Amanda Furneaux
District Electoral Roll Officer**

Planned Giving

As always when I sit to write this report I am humbled and thank God that the generosity of our congregation at St John's remains awe-inspiring year after year. Faithfully as we give, God returns that faithfulness with blessings beyond number in the work He has given us to do in the Outwood Common community.

Last year my report looked at the figures of our income and our expenditure which proved fascinating but sadly raised the fact of a deficit and showed we needed to draw funds from the Savings Account which had built up over many years. This year has seen many of our Planned Givers increase their giving and on behalf of our Churchwardens and the DCC may I convey our deepest gratitude.

Can I please encourage everyone of us to see if it is possible when we start the new year of giving in January 2026 to give even the smallest amount week by week in our envelopes or month by month through the Bank. Everybody's giving is a different amount so if you haven't increased your giving in the past a 5% increase is a good way to start. For every £1 you give an extra 5p is needed, a giving of £10 will then mean an extra 50p. If you're confused or need help, I'd be delighted to sit with you and work out the amount that is right for you, I just want to encourage you to use your prayer time to hear what God is asking of you. When the offertory is taken to the altar for blessing each week and these words are prayed "All things come from you and of your own do we give you for the work of your Kingdom in this place" does your heart sing for joy knowing you have given of your very best.

Thank you, being your Planned Giving secretary is a huge privilege that I hold dearly.

Janet Masters
Planned Giving Officer

Safeguarding

Our Parish Safeguarding Policy was updated in June 2024 along with the statement on Domestic Abuse both of which are displayed on our noticeboard. These are updated yearly. We have also updated our Safeguarding Poster which contains contact details should they be required.

The Church of England's Parish Safeguarding Handbook, which we have adopted, is available, along with other safeguarding documents, to view and download from the Diocese's website.

The Handbook has the following key messages:

- The welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adult is at all times paramount and takes precedence over all other considerations.
- The Parish Safeguarding Officer must be consulted whenever a safeguarding concern of any kind arises in your parish.
- Safeguarding is part of our core faith and an integral feature of Christian life in our parish churches.

As part of the safeguarding procedures, we have continued to obtain Confidential Declarations and to have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks carried out as may be appropriate for those who kindly carry out the various roles here at St John's and thank you for your help with this.

Having suitable training for those who hold a role in the church is also part of the safeguarding procedures. The Diocese have made changes within the online training process and have updated and created step by step guidelines on how to access all the online Safeguarding Training. This training should be done

every three years. The training is interesting and relevant. If you should (or even if you do not have a specific role and would like to) carry out training in the coming year, then please do contact me and I will give you the required details.

Amanda Furneaux
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Small Wonders

What a joy and a privilege it is for my wonderful team Carli Linton, Barbara Hodges, Brenda Hill, Sophie Lowe, Mari Flack, Jim Rose and myself to have spent time week by week during the year opening for Small Wonders. There is the most amazing atmosphere as the mums and grandmas chat so easily together and watching the children play with sheer enjoyment and confidence is a delight that we all treasure. New mums have been welcomed and we eagerly await a visit from Mel and her brand new baby boy born just weeks ago.

It is with great sadness that we are saying goodbye to Barbara and say a huge thank you as she has been such a constant support in the kitchen getting drinks and the fruit and biscuits ready for the children. We shall greatly miss her chatter at the hatch and her delight watching the children play but pray that God will go with her on her new adventure as she moves to Rayleigh.

We are delighted to have a new helper Tricia who worships at the Holy Redeemer, she heard of us through Jim and the Foodbank and is so friendly and chatty it has been such a pleasure to welcome her.

Please continue to pray for all our mums and grandmas and the children we have got to know and love.

Janet Masters

Café on the Common

Happy Birthday to us and Congratulations as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary

With another Redevelopment phase finished by Christmas 2014 we had a brand-new kitchen, funded in part by the National Lottery, and which had to be used for the Community. After a brainstorming session Robert and I realised God had given us the vision to open a Café and we shared that vision during a service in March 2015. Paul Gambling, our vicar then, immediately offered to be a waiter and at the end of the service God had touched so many people to offer their help we could open as soon as everything was in place.

In April Carole (Bendrey) rang me having heard on Premier Radio "Trust Me and let love happen". What a strapline to use for our Café and what love we have experienced in letting God guide us through that new extension into our community.

With many prayers, countless planning meetings, Food Hygiene courses undertaken and shopping for the equipment we would need we finally opened in the May half term, after having a trial run for the congregation the week before.

Every week before we open for service we have continued to pray for God's blessing as we did in those first weeks and how richly He has blessed us. Grace is

shared with the customers before the first orders are taken and any prayers included that customers have asked us for. We never intended to make a profit as it was our service for the Community but it still amazes us that every week we can provide a three course meal now for about £7 and always have a surplus when the till has been balanced at the end of the day. This is paid into the church General Fund, but it is a blessing to know that the generosity of your giving enables the gas and electricity bills to be paid enabling us to keep prices as low as possible.

We intend to have a celebratory lunch in May with the customers who regularly support us and we extend a warm welcome to you all to join us and give thanks.

We have so many happy memories of so many folks who have been part of our Café team over this past decade, it would have been impossible to run the Café week by week without them. We have had the most amazing volunteers, whether they were friendly waiting staff, superb kitchen bees, till geniuses, tablecloth and tabard washers, soup, cake and pudding makers, setting up tables and cleaning up at the end of every Cafe and finally those vital welcoming folks. Now with thanks to God we take a strong and dedicated team into the coming years of continuing to serve our Community.

Janet Masters

Billericay Foodbank

Proverbs 31 v 8 – ‘Speak up for those who have no voice, for the justice of all who are dispossessed’.

As Christians, whose faith is incarnational, we have a responsibility to see the bigger picture and to offer challenges to the social, political, and economic systems that foster injustices, inequalities and ways of living that are so different to those recorded in the gospel narratives as having been talked about by Jesus. However, we must also attend to the needs in front of us, and so at Billericay Foodbank (BFB) we work hard to maintain the reliable and consistent provision of weekly food support.

2024 was another busy year for the Billericay Foodbank (BFB).

- We serve around 100 households every week, encouraging people to come to the Foodbank rather than relying on deliveries, and now have 60% of our households collecting direct. This takes us back to our original practice which we had to suspend during lock-down.
- We have continued to receive donations from a wide range of sources, including churches, schools, youth uniform organisations, supermarkets, local companies, community organisations, sports clubs and numerous individuals and families who regularly drop off food and the other items we need at the donation points situated across the town.
- We have organised our own fund-raising events and been the beneficiary of activities arranged by other groups.
- New volunteers have joined us throughout the year, with others, who have supported us so faithfully, changing role or moving on to new things.

We continue to recognise and respond in the best way we can to the needs of the families and individuals

whom we support, but we know that so many of those we assist have other, often complex needs. In response to these additional needs, especially as they affect those households who have been using BFB for over 12 months, the Trustees decided to embark on a two stage project to be completed over a period of nine months:

Stage 1 of this project is nearly completed. A questionnaire has been sent out (with around 95% returned) and a dedicated team of volunteers have made follow-up telephone calls, to gather information about the reasons why people have sought support; any changes in their circumstances; barriers preventing change and the expected length of time for using Foodbank support.

Careful analysis of this information will be used to develop other ways to support individuals and families, as well as a better data set for fund bids. Hopefully, we will also be able to have a clearer focus on what impact involvement with BFB has had on those who use the service.

Stage 2 involves looking at other models of tackling food poverty, visiting other projects and producing a development plan tailored to addressing the identified needs of our households, either directly or through sign posting, with an implementation programme that includes provision for financial sustainability into the future.

Volunteers

The operations of BFB depend wholly on the work of volunteers, organised in teams to carry out various tasks throughout the week, ensuring that the service provided is consistent and dependable.

Drawn from across the whole community, the 100+ volunteers are the human-face of BFB, and through their contact with families and individuals they show in practice the values that continue to underpin our work. These values might be summarised as; being non-judgemental; easy to access; non-bureaucratic and offering a friendly welcome.

The feedback received from the various telephone surveys that have been undertaken, (including the most recent), clearly demonstrates the appreciation with which the service offered by BFB is received. As well as the food, people especially value the social contact they have with the volunteers each week, frequently commenting about how respectful and kind they find them.

What this means is that the core values of BFB, established from day one, are embodied not just in what we do, but the way in which we perform the routine tasks.

Social Media

Social media has come to play a big part in the life of BFB. A regular and lively presence on social media pages has maintained a profile that has helped to increase donations and kept the work of BFB at the forefront of people's minds.

Into the Future

In 2025 we want to grow our vision and through the project outlined above to think more widely about how the ministry of BFB might impact on the situations

facing those people with whom we have developed relationships over the 'longer-term.'

We remain thankful to the Christian family at St John's who provide a place for us to receive donations, and pray regularly for the Foodbank, this gives us great encouragement and provides a vital support for this ministry.

We look forward in faith to the coming year, knowing that God is all love and ever faithful providing abundantly for all our needs and whose heart is for the poor.

Jim Rose
Chair, BFB Board of Trustees

St John's Prayer and Praise

This happens every week on Wednesdays starting at 5pm for less than an hour.

This is a Zoom meeting for **anyone** with a computer, tablet or mobile phone. You can also join by a telephone call to one of the attendees.

This started during lockdown and continues today. We would like to be joined by more people, you will find it well worthwhile. The format is tried and tested and works well. There are very few formal words:-

Introduction

Confession

Bible reading, which anyone can read,

Followed by a short reflection from Linda Russ, Jim Rose, Paul and Amanda Furneaux or anyone who would particularly like to share a short reflection with us.

Hymn/song with words and music on your computer or other device.

Prayer requests – Participants can share joys and sorrows or anything that may be of concern to them which then forms the basis of the prayer time.

Prayer time

Grace

Do join us, it's not as scary as you may think, you can stop your video and/or just listen if you prefer.

Amanda Furneaux sends the link to join the meeting by email usually on a Monday.

Looking forward to you joining us on a Wednesday evening.

Robert Masters

Ministry to Anisha Grange

One of our joys on a Sunday morning at St John's is to be joined by staff and residents, our friends, from Anisha Grange. During 2024 we also held a regular monthly service in Anisha Grange on the second Sunday of each month in the afternoon.

A member of the Team Ministry leads the service, with people from St John's coming along in support. We follow the church's calendar, celebrating the festivals and using other familiar themes to focus the worship. The service is simple and short, based around evening prayer, illustrated by visual aids and we sing well-known hymns. It is much enjoyed and valued by residents and those staff who attend. We are also joined by family members, and this adds to the enjoyment of the service for the residents who come

along. The service is followed by a cup of tea and biscuits, and the time is spent in chatting.

Being able to offer this ministry is a great blessing to us at St John's as well as being something that both staff and residents in Anisha Grange get a lot out of, as they frequently tell us!! It is also another way in which we, as a church, serve our local community and contribute to the wellbeing of those who live around us.

Jim Rose

Films on Fridays

After a six-month break 'Film Night' took on a new title and a new time starting now at 2.30 but still on the 3rd Friday of the month. The new time has proved very popular with our older audience who are really happy at being able to join us during daylight hours. Grateful thanks to Roy and Sheila Mahoney for providing many enjoyable films for us to watch.

A very special thank you to Robert Masters who acts as our projectionist and to Paul Furneaux for his occasional standins. The new projector is proving extremely good, showing a very clear image even when the sun is shining.

Our sincere thanks, since we restarted in October our audience have been very generous in the donation basket of £380, a tithe for Lukas of £38 and £342 for the Roof Fund.

Christmas afternoon was very special as we showed a double bill with the superb Whoopi Goldberg in "Sister Act" at 2pm followed by a Christmas Afternoon Tea and then at 5pm "Sister Act 2". It was lovely to also celebrate Jackie Diffey's birthday on the same day. Our last double film was in August 2018 showing "Mrs Brown" and "Victoria and Abdul" both starring Judi Dench, it's a long time sitting but good to follow the ongoing story watching both films together.

You can find our next "showing" as Julie Todman puts the film with the date on the weekly newsletter and Jim Rose puts a cinema picture on the screen in the foyer. We have also printed programme cards for folks to know what we will be showing during the whole of the year. We have a real mixture planned, do come and join us.

Janet Masters