

Charity number: 1132172

# **ST MARK'S CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

or,

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint Mark Kensal Rise; Trustees' report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023**

(note to readers: this is our formal submission to the charities commission but also a great introduction to who we are and what we do. Please do bring any questions to our Annual Meeting (APCM) on 5th May)

# LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Number 1132172

Working Name St Mark's Kensal Rise

Address Bathurst Gardens, NW10 5HX

St. Mark's Church is based at the Church and Hall on the corner of Bathurst Gardens, Kensal Rise, and All Souls Avenue, Harlesden. It is part of the Brent Deanery, in the Willesden Area, in the Diocese of London within the Church of England.

Trustees	Katie Barringer		
	Sue Bush	Church Warden	
	Shantel Earle		
	Rosabel Johnston		
	Paul Kidner	Deanery Synod Rep	Appointed Oct 2023
	Maria Mak	Church Warden	
	Vivienne McCoy-Salt		
	Alan Meakin	Treasurer & Deanery Synod Rep	
	Douglas Morton		
	John Palmer		
	Michelle Percharde	Secretary	
	Rev Dave Roberts	Vicar & Chair	Appointed July 2023
	Gillian Thompson		
	Caroline Winterburn		
	No Trustees stepped down in 2023		
Safeguarding Lead	Kellie Jarret		
Independent Examiner	Stewardship Services (UKET) Limited		

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - THE VICAR'S VIEW

*by Revd. Dave Roberts*

Seasons, and vicars, come and go in the life of a church, but what binds them together does not. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and the heart, values, and mission of St. Mark's church remains the same. I, as the new vicar of the parish, am overjoyed to recognise the care, love, and generosity of the people of St. Mark's not only in the activities reflected in this annual report, but personally as they have been extended to Rachel and I when we arrived to the parish. We want to thank everyone for their welcome and celebrate that this is a church which welcomes the whole community.

We arrived at the end of two heroic efforts. First, the church had to reorganise and innovate to serve the community of Kensal Rise and East Harlesden through the pandemic. Then, after Will left, the PCC and other leaders stepped forward in prayer and action to seek a new vicar. The volunteers and staff leaders, who worked, prayed, and served in this time deserve gratitude and recognition; God's work to build strong core foundations in this season has been shown, for which we rejoice in Him. That season also included celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III, a well attended volunteer 'thank-you' evening, a Youth talent performance, and hosting part of the Brent Interfaith Night Shelter.

I was installed as vicar of the parish, and trustee in July 2023. Listening to my fellow leaders on our Parish Council I heard of challenges, new opportunities, and hope for the future. 2023 finished with a wonderful series of Christmas events, celebrating old traditions and creating new memories. In keeping with our vision of 'living and sharing the love of Jesus in Kensal Rise and beyond' we opened up to our community for services and our Christmas Craft Fair with a great response and also distributed 60 care packages to those in need. Both events crystallised for me the joy and diversity of worship here at church. For a small core team a great deal of community action takes place at this church, but I am more impressed by the love and connection across all differences of age, race, and cultural background. These are the deep roots which provide sustaining life to the parish

Another key reflection is our connection with local partners and schools, which I hope to see deepen and develop. While we had no employed children's worker for 2023, a team of about 40 volunteers means that we can sustain a busy and well-loved Sunday School as well as memorable community events in church. I hope that this energy can be matched with funding and resource because I see ministry to young people as a vital area of our church's vocation. We have a strong connection with Princess Frederica School, where I sit as a governor, but we don't have the capacity to build bonds with Kenmont, Furness, and College Green Nursery.

Financially, St. Mark's is blessed through its generous congregation whose giving provides 2/3rds of our income. This, combined with rental income, covers most of our expenditure. We are, however, still losing money each month and are seeking sustainability in our finances to allow us to serve our church and community in a sustainable way. He who has called us is faithful; He will do it!

Revd. Dave Roberts,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Roberts', written in a cursive style.

## OUR VISION (AIMS & PURPOSES)

St Mark's Kensal Rise is a local church family and the parish church of Kensal Rise and East Harlesden. We are seeking to live and share the love of Jesus by:

- Bringing our Best in worship,
- Nurturing Each other as disciples, and
- Being the good news for Kensal Rise and beyond

The Church Council has the responsibility of working with the incumbent, Revd. Dave Roberts, and the staff team in promoting the mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC, through prayer and discussion, seeks to discover how best to encourage the church to fulfil its mission of 'Living and Sharing the Love of Jesus'.

### Public Benefit:

When planning its activities for the year the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. As a church, we exist for the benefit of the whole community and look to love and our neighbours as ourselves and be of service. This is what it looks like to be "good news for Kensal Rise and Beyond".

Practically, our projects and partnerships include:

- a worshipping community gathering on Sundays and meeting throughout the week for personal encouragement, fellowship, and learning to be more like Jesus
- partnering with local schools to offer learning and pastoral support, including Princess Frederica Primary School, and Kenmont School
- Providing a social hub for social groups including
  - two drop-ins for teenagers
  - two Parents and toddlers groups
  - a seniors fellowship group
  - Gardening and recreation in our community garden
- Use of premises for partnerships with:
  - Dementia Cafe
  - Refugee Youth Club (Young Roots)
  - Kids community Group (Wildfires)
- Support of partner community projects including
  - Kensal Warm Spaces
  - Interfaith Night-shelter for the homeless
  - Christmas Food packages (Love Christmas)
- Providing pastoral care and connection to the housebound
- Parish services of baptism, marriage and funeral with relevant pastoral care

# 1. THE MINISTRY OF ST. MARK'S (OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES)

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. In 2023, these activities manifest in the following ways:

## 2.1 Ministry Activities

Services:

- Sunday Worship, 10:30am
  - Our main weekly celebration includes singing, prayers, reading God's word, preaching from the Bible, and serving Holy Communion.
  - We are especially blessed in the musical gifting of our congregation and children. In 2023 we held two Sundays in which an orchestra of children played in our worship service; we also hosted the Harlesden Gospel Choir for our Christmas Carol Service. We are really grateful to the whole worship team, but especially Tim who leads the Choir and Sophie and Ann-Katrin for gathering our St. Mark's Ensemble.
  - Our first Sunday each month is 'All Age' and we thank Caroline, Vanessa, and Becky for taking a lead in these fun and energetic services. Every other week there are 4 age appropriate groups led by a fantastic team of 35 volunteers. We would like to see this ministry better resourced as there is a big opportunity to support our children's discipleship in these groups (see report below)
  - Our October Average attendance figures show that we have approximately 100 adults and 50 children each Sunday
  - Each week, approximately 20 people have a formal volunteer role
- Morning Prayer
  - In September we launched 3 prayer services to meet a variety of scheduling needs! Two are on weekday mornings. The Tuesday, in person prayer meeting gathers at 9am and has an average attendance of 5. We are able to pray specifically for needs of the world, the church and then for each-other and this has been a great encouragement and support.
  - For those who have busier mornings, we have an earlier Thursday Zoom prayer meeting. Of late, this has been poorly attended, often only gathering 1 or 2 people. I will be up for review in the new year if this is not a good time for a prayer meeting.
- Monthly Prayer
  - On the last Sunday of each month we gather in the evening for a more informal time of free worship and prayer. This is especially enjoyed by those with a more charismatic spirituality and those with a deep love of prayer and worship. Gathering about 12-18 people this has been a place to pray for each other's needs and to grow closed intimacy with God. One highlight was our New Year's Eve prayer night - a 4 hour meeting with bring and share dinner taking us through to midnight as we worshipped God for all he has done in 2023, shared Holy Communion and prayed for the year ahead.
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- Seasonal Services

- Easter is always a highlight of the Church year. In 2023, Revd Alex Volossevich, led our Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services. This was a real highlight of the year and we are grateful for Alex's faithful and thoughtful leadership.
- Remembrance season included traditional robed services for Remembrance Sunday, and All Souls where families from our funeral ministry were invited to remember loved ones who had passed.
- Christmas was a wonderful celebration with a full church for Carol Service, and family Crib Service. The sheer variety of these services was a testimony to the gifting and diversity of our community. Especially memorable was the Carols by Candlelight Service with the Harlesden Community Gospel Choir and St. Mark's Carol Choir.

## Small Groups:

- We have 5 small groups formed to help each member better live and share the love of Jesus. They are between 8 and 14 members and meet weekly or monthly
- We are pleased that one group relaunched this year and has steadily grown in attendance
- The Seniors small group, "Wednesday Fellowship" continues to have regular celebrations and events and we are thankful to Revds Anthea and Roy for their support of this important ministry

## Life Events

As the parish church for Kensal Rise and East Harlesden, we are privileged to officiate for baptisms, weddings, and funerals. In 2023 we had fewer due to the period of interregnum

- Baptisms of children: 7
- Funeral Services: 5

## Pastoral Care

- We continue to offer pastoral care to all members of our community. This comes largely through Small Groups, but there is also a core team of people who have experience in pastoral conversations. This team has a focus on home visiting to the 8 members of our congregation who are currently housebound. We also offer care for people preparing for life events listed above.

## 2.2 Children's Ministry

*Caroline Winterburn*

### Sunday Services

St. Mark's is blessed with the number of children and young people we have within our church family. Over the course of each month we average 20 little ones in the creche, 30-40 in the Explorer group which is Reception-year 2 (ages 4-7 ) and another 30-40 in our Adventurers group which is years 3-6 (ages 7-11.) This means we have up to 100 children coming through our doors and in our care over the course of a month. We are so thankful for the energy and vibrancy they bring to our church family, and it's our prayer that each one of these children, through attending Kid's Church, will come to know how deeply loved they are loved by God, how each of them are unique and how God has given each of them special gifts to be used for him. Our prayer is that they will each come to accept Jesus into their lives and go on to serve him as they grow up here and then through their lives wherever they may be.

It is such a responsibility and a privilege to be teaching and nurturing our children and to lay down these firm foundations in Jesus. We have an absolutely incredible team of 30 volunteers who selflessly give up their time to prepare and deliver exciting sessions in their various groups and who nurture and care for our children week by week. This is such an important and vital ministry and as a leadership team at St. Mark's we are so very grateful to every one of our wonderful volunteers.

During this year the children have been coming back into the main church every week rather than just for Holy Communion. On the third Sunday of the month one of the groups have shared with the congregation what they have been learning about. This has been really good for the children to be able to share what they've been doing, and also good for the congregation to hear from the children. We hope and pray that this fosters the sense that we are all important parts of God's family here at St. Mark's from the youngest through to the oldest.

### Seasonal Events

As well as our Sunday Kid's Church sessions we ran the Light Party at the end of October last year. We had 50 children attending, many of whom are not part of our usual congregation. It was a wonderful opportunity to have lots of fun – with massive inflatable basketball hoops, light related crafts, bouncy castle, face painting and food, but the most important part was when Katie Barringer gave a fantastic talk about Jesus being the Light of the World and how he encourages us to shine His light in the darkness around us. It's a wonderful opportunity to share the truth of the gospel with many children and their families (many of whom stay) that don't usually come to church.

Christmas and Easter have also been opportunities for the children to get involved more in our main services with Carols around the Crib on Christmas Eve and at the Family Hour on Good Friday when the children and young people were involved in acting out the events of that first Good Friday.

## Toddler Group

As well as our kid's church groups on a Sunday, we also have our Parent and Toddler Groups which run in term time on Tuesday lunchtimes and Wednesday mornings. We average about 50 children per session per week – so 200 under 3s and their parents and carers each week and the hall and church are both buzzing with the sounds of chatting and playing. There are different areas set out with different types of toys which enables different skills to be used – fine motor skills with the puzzles, sharing, listening quietly to a story and joining in with the singing. “It’s not just a toddler group” is the name of research that has shown that children who attend parent and toddler groups are so much more ready for school because of what they have learnt through being at toddlers. Also many of the adults have said that coming to toddlers has “been their lifeline” so it’s not just about providing a safe space for children to play, but a safe space for the adults where they can be encouraged, supported and if necessary signposted to other agencies that might be able to help further with a specific issue if necessary. This is a place where people are finding a community that cares about them. Parents and Toddlers is an incredible opportunity for us to “Show the love of Jesus to our community” – the heart of our values and mission statement. There are 3 of us that volunteer on Tuesdays, and 4 on Wednesdays, and a big shout out to Pete who comes every Tuesday to help us set up. This is such an important part of our mission and ministry, but we desperately need more help! If you feel you can help out – even on a rota and not every week – then please speak to Sue or Caroline.

## 2.3 Youth Ministry:

*by Vanessa Richards*

### Grounded Youth Group

‘Grounded Youth’ changed its name from ‘Rise’ in January 2023. The values of the youth group are guided by **Ephesians 3:16- 19**, so our young people will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

To enable God to dwell in their hearts through faith, that they may be rooted and grounded in love.

Our focus is for our youth to have a personal relationship with God, whilst supporting each other to know the breadth, length, height and depth of God’s love. To encounter a personal relationship through God’s love, that surpasses what they see and what they know.

### What do we do and how?

Grounded Youth Group consists of youth in Pathfinders (Year 7-9) and Older Youth (OY, year 10+).

Pathfinders meet every Sunday morning during the service, except on All Age Service which is 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays of each month. The group meet in the upper room after the first worship segment and return during the peace for communion. This change in September 2023 has helped to increase youth participating in worship, sound and projection on Sundays.

Pathfinders also meet every other Friday until changing to every week from September 2023. Older Youth were meeting every other Friday until September 2024. Then began to meet



every week from September. The format of both sessions consists of various team activities, games and bible teachings with refreshments (tuck shop or pizza's).

Average attendance on Sunday was from 4 to 15 youths. Fridays can be from 2 to 13 between both groups. During the past year we had to say goodbye to three youths who have moved on. However, we welcome 18 new memberships across Pathfinders and OY.

We also ran a monthly Boy's/girls only group. The boys group is run by Justin and Michael, and the Girls events included welcome, Cake & Fizz, and Identity trip to Aloha.

We are delighted to have the following **nine** regular volunteers who support on Fridays at least once a month. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April we were able to meet for the first time for lunch to discuss the vision and priorities for Grounded Youth.

- Sunday Pathfinders - **Sal, Justin & Michael,**
- Friday Pathfinders - **Mary, Simon, Pam and Noah\***
- Friday OY - **Caroline, Ruby,** Michael and Justin

Ad Hoc support from: Vicar (Support), Olu (Art), Wayne (DJ)\*, Alan (Support), Rosa and Mernell (Cook), Destiny (Dance), Kellie (Support) & Dehlia (Cook)

Shantel (PCC) Monthly meetings with Caroline.

Thank you all for your time and support for making the youth group a pleasurable experience for all. I also want to also take this time to thank our church family for their support and love in caring for our youths.

## Priorities for 2024: Our Focus

1. Increase capacity of youths
2. Increase the capabilities and capacity of volunteers
3. Safeguarding
4. Support and encourage youth to have an understanding of who God is and to go deeper with their faith via teachings/events (incl. social media)
5. Motivate and inspire youths to experience God through serving their church and community.
6. To be support youths to be confident disciples in every area of their lives

I just want to thank the Lord for his grace and his undeniable love and guidance he has shown throughout this past year. I am aware there is no growth without roots, therefore help us Lord to keep you at the centre of everything we do.

## 2.4 Partnership and Community Activities

### Special Events:

- This December we relaunched the Christmas Fair, but focused on making crafts and hearing music and we vastly reduced the number of stalls selling things. We set up 8 craft stations for various ages and had 3 musical performances. Highlights included a very well-supported Tombola and Raffle. Hundreds of our neighbours and friends came and enjoyed hospitality, music, and a lot of crafting! Our main aim was community participation (which was a success, hosting over 350 people), but we also made over £2,000 from the activities, stalls, and refreshments. The day finished with the Gospel Choir singing; "Joy, Joy, Joy to the World!". Amen!
- We are especially grateful to Billie, Janka, Anna, Kellie, Karen, and Tom for their contributions but the whole church came together to create something wonderful.

### Night Shelter

On Friday nights in the Spring term the night shelter was opened up to a large number of guests in the hall. An enthusiastic team was led by Alistair Campbell. The Night Shelter was run in conjunction with the Brent Multifaith Forum and was a great success.

In Winter 2023, the Nightshelter took up one permanent location and so did not require use of our site. We were still able to support with a volunteer team and hope that this project will continue to serve the needs of the homeless community in a sustainable way.

### Community - schools:

St Mark's continues to work with the parish primary school Princess Frederica, hosting services, assemblies and some RE lessons. Dave took bi-weekly assemblies following his appointment and sits on the governing board. We also made one visit to Kenmont where the Headteacher is very open to partnership if we had more capacity.

### Community - Love Christmas:

*by Alex Thornton*

This year as a church we reached out to the local community to deliver Christmas Hampers to 60 local families. We focused on helping families from two local primary schools with the largest numbers of children receiving free school meals - Kenmont and Furness. This was the first time we've partnered with Kenmont, so it was a great initiative to begin. Having sent letters out to families in the schools through the teachers we had a number keen to receive a Christmas Hamper.

Myself and Billy arranged the purchase of food required and arranged around 20 volunteers to help pack the hampers and distribute them. We also phoned all the families individually to check their availability for our delivery days. Billy did a great job of securing some freebies from some big stores and presents for children in the families, whilst other items were bought in bulk. We also included a Nativity story book and invites to our Christmas services. We successfully delivered all the hampers over 2 days with YWAM also helping massively and delivering a number locally on foot.

There were challenges of finding addresses and arranging times for delivery but mostly volunteers were able to connect with the families they delivered to. There was some good feedback with many families appreciating this gesture of kindness and Jesus' love in action at this time of year and during this cost of living crisis. One parent emailed, 'we have just received your hamper and it's amazing!' Another parent said she was hoping to join us all at St. Mark's for Christmas in response.

## Mission Partners:

The PCC are continuing their commitment to supporting mission partners outside St. Mark's and maintain the aim grow our external giving so that we reach a figure of at least 10% of congregational giving, to that end we supported the following partners financially:

- Fusion (Pippa Elmes)
- New Growth Ministries, Zimbabwe
- Operation Mobilization London Mission
- Scargill House (Phil & Di Stone)
- Youth With a Mission, Bolivia (Roger & Isha Hulford)
- Youth With a Mission, London Urban Key (local to us) Operation Mobilisation
- There is Hope Malawi
- The Children's Society (supported through our annual Christingle service)
- Daniel's Den

**'Project Stork'** initiatives have continued to be well supported this year, collecting clothes and gifts – as well as Easter Eggs - for women and children escaping domestic violence.

## Hall Bookings:

We continue to host partners and create income from our hall bookings. Most notably, we have a permanent tenant, Into University, in our second office and classroom, as well as regular bookings from local charities, including Young Roots - a refugee youth charity, Wildfires - a children's Christian weekly event, the dementia cafe, and two creative arts groups

IntoUniversity Brent (IU) based at St. Mark's continues to provide educational and mentoring support for local primary and secondary school children through Focus Weeks held in the Church and Classroom, school visits, homework clubs, and university and cultural trips.

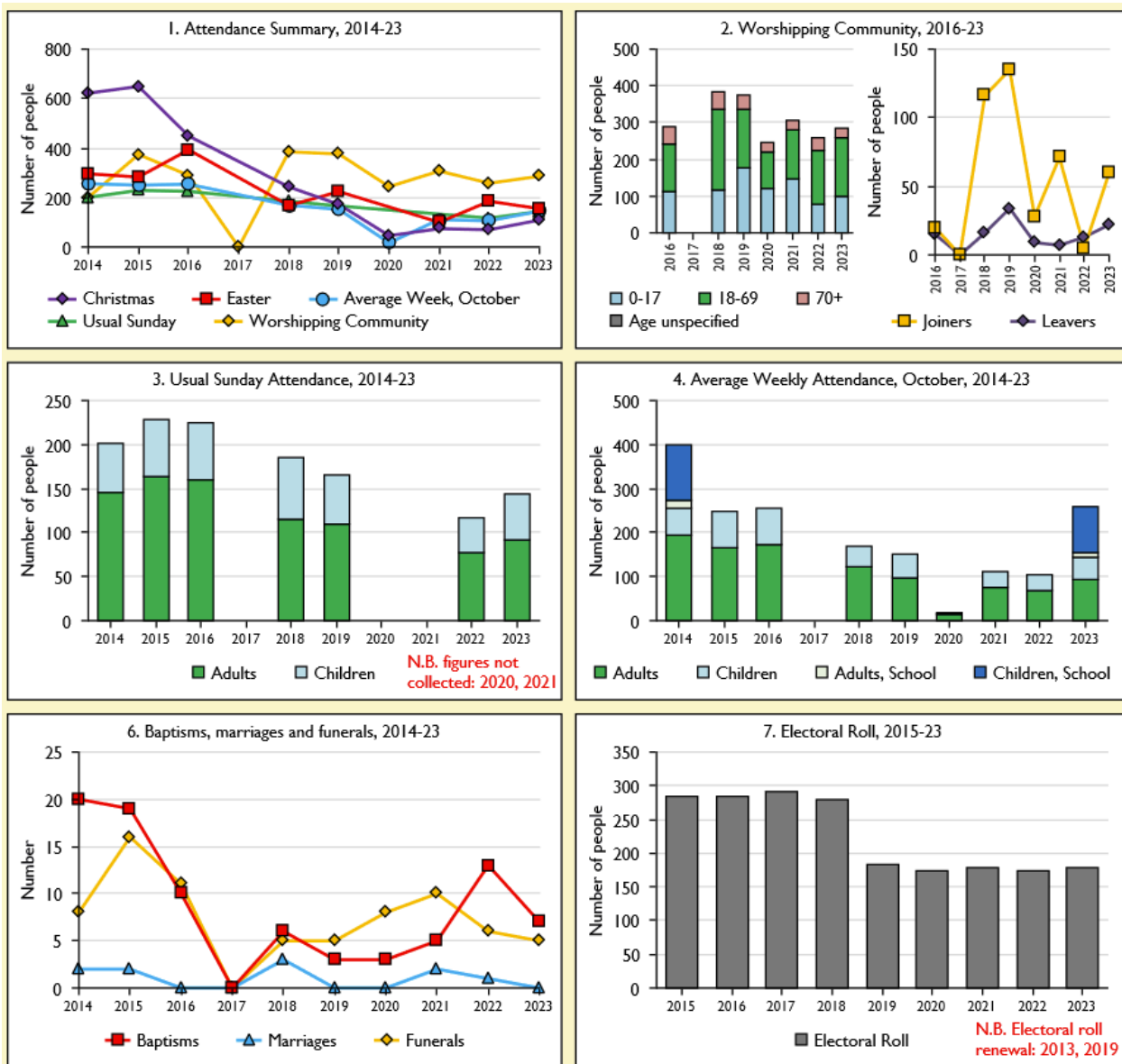
## 2. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In this section we reflect on the data submitted to the Church of England for reporting, known as 'Statistics for Mission'. Financial performance is shown in section 4.

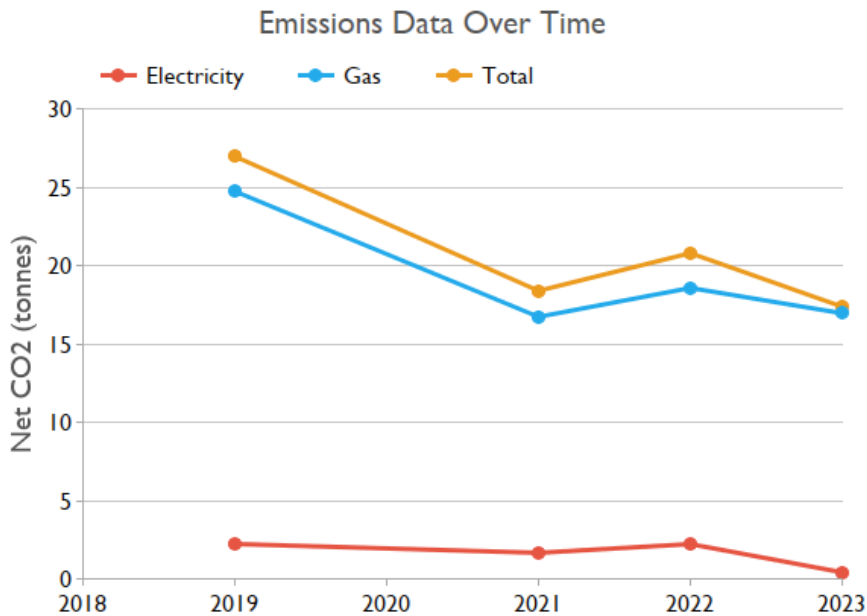
### 3.1 Parish Statistics

As can be seen on the Parish Dashboard below, 2023 has shown a recovery of levels of attendance and engagement compared with the previous few years. The graphs suggest a decline in most key metrics through COVID and the period of interregnum but we are pleased to see that the increased size of worshipping community and attendance in 2023 has been backed up by an increase of 20 in our Electoral Roll this year (not shown in the graph). We maintain a higher percentage of under 18s in our congregation, but would like to see better retention of teenagers and a higher number of single people in their 20s and 30s.

Figure 3.1: Church of England Parish Dashboard



## 3.2 Environmental Impact



As we modernise our buildings we are mindful of our environmental impact. In 2023 we saw a reduction in our usage of Gas and also switched to a green energy provider for electricity. Our net CO2 emissions therefore fell from 20.8 tonnes to 17.4 tonnes for the year.

Late in 2023 we also investigated the use of Infra-red heating for our church building which will have a dramatic impact on our winter fuel usage.

## 3. FINANCIAL REVIEW

*By Alan Meakin, Treasurer*

Voluntary income in 2023 was very similar to 2022. This was supplemented by three generous legacy donations, rental income from our Herbert Gardens property, and an increase in hall lettings. Expenditure also increased, principally due to additional energy and salary costs. Over the year there was a small excess of £8,042 (2021 a deficit of £1,039).

The legacy receipts mask the fact that our income is not sustainably covering our running costs. We have Gift Aid to claim which will supplement income over the next few years, nevertheless, we would hope to build our voluntary income now that the interregnum has ended, and as the congregation grows and aligns with the emerging refreshed Vision for St. Mark's.

### 4.1 Receipts

Total receipts were £188,072 (2022 £171,036)

Total regular voluntary giving for 2023 was £82,027. This compares with £81,156 for 2021 (a 1% increase).

Church Activities for generating funds rose to £61,832 (2022 £45,305). This is principally the licencing and letting of parts of the church but also includes donations for specific activities. In 2023 income from the church buildings totalled £53,016 (2022 £40,704). Hall lettings increased from £17,008 to £20,217, we received £26,199 from IntoUniversity and £6,600 of rental income from Herbert Gardens after it was vacated by our previous curate. Fundraising and sundry donations totalled £8,816 (2022 £4,130) boosted by the Christmas Craft Fayre and donations towards our new heating system.

Other Receipts totalled £47,330 (2022 £45,112). This year we received 3 legacies totalling £39,500. In addition we subsumed the Parents & Toddlers (£3,190) and the Wednesday Fellowship (£381) accounts into ours. We also received a grant of £3,500 to improve the biodiversity of the church garden. No Gift Aid claims were made.

### 4.2 Expenditure

Our expenditure totalled £188,072 (2022, £172,075) to provide the Christian Ministry from St. Mark's Church.

Of this £70,000 (2022 £80,000) was our contribution to the Common Fund to provide stipends and employment costs for the clergy and a contribution towards Diocesan costs and the costs of the wider Church. This was reduced to reflect potential risks to our income during the interregnum. Our offer for 2024 is £73,500 which compares with the request from the Diocese of £91,300.

Missionary & Charitable Giving totalled £16,325 (2022 £13,705). In 2021 the PCC agreed a formula to tithe 10% of our income (after agreed deductions) to our Mission Partners. £12,944 (2022 £10,500) was paid to them in 2023. The remaining expenditure largely represents the expenditure of money raised for Love Christmas, a few 'hardship' payments and expenditure on Outreach Events.

Clergy & Staffing Costs increased from £46,349 to £60,871. Salary costs increased by nearly £17,000 up to £49,440 reflecting a full year's salary for our Youth Pastor and an enhanced role for our Administrator arising from the interregnum. £4,296 was expended upon the Vicarage during the course of the interregnum, including a period when the property was occupied. The vast majority of this is being recouped during 2024. Savings were made elsewhere on clergy expenses.

Church running expenses increased from £18,945 to £27,398. The increase is almost entirely attributable to higher heating costs, despite decreasing our gas usage by nearly 10%. Church repairs and maintenance at £13,337 (2022 £13,075) were consistent with last year, with no major works being undertaken. At the end of the year work commenced to upgrade our electricity supply with a view to installing electric radiant heaters with a consequent shift away from gas. The budget is c.£15k with a concurrent appeal to the congregation for funding.

### 4.3 Reserves Policy

In 2021 we reviewed our Reserves Policy and this provides that we should aim to sustain 5 months of expenses (based on a 5 year rolling average) and never dip below 1 month of expenses except in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the PCC. On agreement of the PCC Reserves can be utilised but must aim to be replenished thereafter from all sources of income until the threshold is again reached, with the aim of replenishing not later than 3 years from utilisation. We currently seek to maintain reserves of £68,296 (2022 £68,167) and to not go below £13,659 (2022 £13,633).

### 4.4 Risk Management

Our Financial Control Procedures have been reviewed and are due to be formally adopted by the PCC following the forthcoming 2024 APCM. Revenue budgets are prepared in the autumn prior to each financial year and care is taken to limit contractual commitments to one year.

Within the Church building, we have paid particular attention to risks of fire and escape routes, and the appropriate insurance is in place. At the beginning of 2024 our electrical systems were given a thorough overhaul.

### 4.5 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with the applicable accounting standards "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The Trust is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a "true and fair" view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a "true and fair view". This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in

the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

#### 4.6 Finance and Treasury team

We are grateful to our Finance and Treasury team – Alan Meakin, who assumed the role of Treasurer in 2021 and Sinitta Falconer who continues to work diligently as our part-time bookkeeper.



## 4. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

St Mark's is led by the Parochial Church Council, among whom are two appointed church warden's, treasurer, secretary, and the Vicar who make up the Standing Committee.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees who consider themselves as belonging to the worshipping community of St. Mark's are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll. All those on the Electoral Roll may stand for election to the PCC. The council should reflect the diversity of the church community.

### 5.1 Electoral Roll:

The electoral roll - the formal voting members of St. Mark's Church - now stands at 198, with 6 people having come off the roll and 26 people joining. The Electoral Roll Officer is Kellie Jarrett

### 5.2 PCC members (trustees)

*Ex Officio Members (Ordered Alphabetically)*

- Sue Bush - Church Warden
- Paul Kider - Deanery Synod Rep
- Vivian McCoy-Salt - Church Warden
- Alan Meakin - Deanery Synod Rep (Treasurer)
- Dave Roberts - Vicar, and member of Deanery Synod

*Elected Members (Ordered Alphabetically)*

- |                    |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Katie Barringer  | • John Palmer                    |
| • Shantel Earle    | • Michelle Percharde (Secretary) |
| • Rosabel Johnston | • Gillian Thompson               |
| • Maria Mak        | • Caroline Winterburn            |
| • Douglas Morton   |                                  |

### 5.4 Staff:

**Kellie Jarrett** – Church Administrator with a special focus on bookings and community partnerships. On top of Kellie's 20-hour permanent contract, she is on a fixed term contract to add extra administrative help for service planning. The initial period was for the interregnum and the need for this role is being reviewed by the PCC now that the new vicar is post

**Vanessa Richards** – Youth Pastor. Vanessa worked 34-hours a week pastoring our young people and holding regular groups and Youth church. This role was set up as a fixed term role as it depended on funding to be sustainable in our church. As of December 2023 we had extended until March with a view to include support of Children's work in the scope and to assess the size of role the parish could support.

We are incredibly grateful to Kellie and Vanessa for their commitment to church life and love for those they serve. This was especially true in the interregnum which is always a period with extra demands and uncertainty. We are very blessed to have their humour, prayers, and passion. During the interregnum, a lot of responsibility falls on the officers of the PCC, and the whole PCC. Our broad church leadership is fantastic and deserves recognition: Thanks especially to Sue, Viv, Alan, and Caroline for all they do and the wisdom they bring us.

## 5. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### 6.1 Safeguarding:

St. Mark's has a **Child Protection Policy** and an **Equal Opportunities Policy**. Any concerns regarding children's safety should be referred to the **Children's Safeguarding Officer**, Kellie Jarrett. In accordance with Diocesan guidelines St. Mark's also has a **Children's Champion**, Sue Bush, whose responsibility is to make sure children are nurtured within the worshipping life of the church.

### 6.2 Buildings and Maintenance:

St Mark's has stewardship over the site on Bathurst Gardens, including, Church, Hall (with kitchen and stage room), classroom, upper room, and 2 offices. We also have stewardship of the 'Curates House' property at 82 Herbert Gardens which is currently occupied.

#### Fabric & Church Warden's Report

This report covers the period Jan 1st – Dec 31 st 2023

Since joining us as Vicar in July Dave has taken a very active part in reviewing the state of the buildings and in applying for grants to improve the garden, and kitchen and for an ecological assessment to advise on options to improve our carbon footprint. We were unsuccessful with the kitchen funding but the re-ordering of the garden is now in progress. Acting on advice from the eco report Dave applied for a Faculty to improve our heating and you will be aware that this work has now been completed. In future we aim to use the electric heaters with the gas boilers for backup in very cold weather.

We have managed to decrease our carbon footprint over the year and have used 10% less gas. Our electricity is supplied by SSE who use renewable sources to generate electricity. Paul Kidner joined John Palmer, Kellie Jarrett and Sue Bush on the building group during the year. We continue to seek advice from Glenn Ford as needed and have benefitted from advice from Ann Katrin and Annette Cleary on developing sustainable solutions to heating and maintenance.

As reported last year the quinquennial (5 yearly) inspection of the Church was carried out by Ross Perkin on 16 th March 2023. He commented that the Church was well cared for and had a great feel to it! One of his concerns was the crack over the war memorial which could be the result of movement in the ground beneath or of subsidence. We have since become aware that this crack is a long standing feature and therefore more likely to represent the results of movement than subsidence. We still have to carry out roof repairs and attend to areas of damage to the floors in the church.

During the year our hall has continued to be well used by the community and the Dementia Café now meets here every Monday from 11.00 until 3.00 and we host Irish Dancers and the Vessels of Honour group on Monday evenings.

Viv and I would like to thank the PCC for all their hard work and support over the last year. At the last APCM we were still awaiting Dave and Rachel's arrival and we would like to thank Dave for the enormous amount of hard work he has put in since joining us in July and for his energy and enthusiasm and strong leadership. God truly answered our prayers and sent us the Vicar we needed!

Sue Bush and Vivienne McKoy – Salt Churchwardens

## Projects

**Infra-red Heaters:** The PCC signed off a motion to apply for permission to hang infra red heaters in the main church building to address the generational problems we have had with low Winter temperatures. We have been given advice that the current heat delivery method of radiators is not sufficient for the space and have applied to install 8 high power Infra-red lights.

**Garden Refresh:** We have been awarded £3,500 to safeguard and diversify our Church Garden. This is an exciting way to relaunch interest in this space in the New Year and we are very grateful to Brent Towards Net-Zero for the funding

**City Bridge Trust Eco-Audit:** In November we heard that our application for an 'Eco-Audit' from the City Bridge Trust had been excepted and we were, therefore eligible for a professional environmental audit and then to apply for funding to fulfil the recommendation of this audit. We look forward to receiving this document to shape our future building maintenance and use.

## 6.3 Deanery Synod Report 2023

*by Paul Kidner*

The Deanery Synod is an elected group from all the Church of England churches in Brent. As a church we are allowed up to 3 members of Deanery Synod, plus any Clergy who sit ex officio. It meets 3 times a year, usually to address a particular theme.

In September 2023 the Deanery Synod meeting took the form of a 'roadshow' which introduced and shared with us the 'Diocesan Vision 2030'. A meeting in November addressed 'Intercultural worship'. Here are a few thoughts as to how it might impact us at St. Mark's in the coming months and years

The overarching vision is 'For Every Londoner to Encounter the Love of God in Christ'

This is backed up by three ambitions and three priorities

The Ambitions:-

- Confident Discipleship
- Compassionate Communities
- Creative Growth

The Disciplines

- Growing Younger
- Being Safer
- Becoming more Racially Just

I am pleased to report that your PCC has met a number of times since the Deanery Synod meeting and is addressing all aspects of this 'Vision' now - you will hear more over the coming months as to how this might affect you and indeed all of us at St. Mark's.

Specifically we are planning a Community Listening programme in summer 2024, and have set up a working group to monitor Racial Justice here and ensure we meet our aspirations.

Many of the ideas and proposals in the 'Vision' we have in place and are working here already but there is much more to do to ensure we continue to develop and grow our love of God within the local community.

**Approved** by the Parochial Church Council on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Signed** on their behalf

by Revd Dave Roberts (Chair)

And by Vivienne McKoy-Salt (Church Warden)

and Sue Bush (Church Warden)

## Appendix - Financial Information

### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARK'S CHURCH, KENSAL RISE

#### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
<b>Income Receipts</b>						
Voluntary Income		82,027			82,027	81,156
Activities for generating funds		54,946	5,715	1,170	61,832	45,305
Total Income from investments		650			650	162
Church Activities		4,276			4,276	(714)
Other Receipts		269	43,181	3,881	47,330	38,136
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>142,167</b>	<b>48,896</b>	<b>5,051</b>	<b>196,114</b>	<b>171,035</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Missionary & Charitable Giving		14,219	180	1,926	16,325	13,705
Parish Share		70,000			70,000	80,000
Clergy & Staffing Cost		56,575		4,296	60,871	46,310
Church running expenses		27,281	118		27,398	18,847
Church repairs & maintenance		3,337			13,337	13,075
Fund Raising		140			140	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>181,553</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>6,222</b>	<b>188,072</b>	<b>171,937</b>
Net receipts before transfers		(39,385)	48,599	(1,171)	8,042	(1,039)
Transfers between funds		67,305	(68,167)	1,000	138	0
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>27,920</b>	<b>(19,568)</b>	<b>(171)</b>	<b>8,180</b>	<b>(1,039)</b>
<b>Cash funds at last year end</b>		<b>40,328</b>	<b>68,167</b>	<b>3,306</b>	<b>111,801</b>	<b>112,840</b>
<b>Cash Funds at year end</b>		<b>68,248</b>	<b>48,599</b>	<b>3,136</b>	<b>119,981</b>	<b>111,801</b>

### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARK'S CHURCH, KENSAL RISE

#### STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	2023	2022
<b>Cash Funds</b>					
Cash at bank with immediate access				118,584	111,895
Petty Cash	287			287	515
				<b>118,871</b>	<b>112,411</b>
<b>Other Monetary Assets</b>					
Debtors	1,790			1,790	1,790
	<b>1,790</b>			<b>1,790</b>	<b>1,790</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Deposits	120			120	720
Fee for Independent Examination	1,425			1,425	1,542
Pension Control Account	560			560	0
	<b>2,105</b>			<b>2,105</b>	<b>2,262</b>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARK'S CHURCH, KENSAL RISE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

**1. Accounting Policies**

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>2 a) Voluntary Income</b>					
Planned Giving	78,070			78,070	80,147
Collections & other Giving	3,957			3,957	1,009
	<b>82,027</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82,027</b>	<b>81,156</b>
<b>2 b) Activities for generating funds</b>					
Fund Raising events & Miscellaneous	1,930	5,715	1,170	8,816	4,600
Church hall Lettings & Other Lettings	53,016	0	0	53,016	40,704
	<b>54,946</b>	<b>5,715</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>61,832</b>	<b>45,305</b>
<b>2 c) Income from investments</b>					
Interest from cash deposits	650			650	162
	<b>650</b>			<b>650</b>	<b>162</b>
<b>2 d) Church Activities</b>					
Parish & Diocese Fees	1,684			1,684	(714)
Outreach Events	2,592			2,592	
	<b>4,276</b>			<b>4,276</b>	<b>(714)</b>
<b>2 e) Other Receipts</b>					
Legacy Funds		39,500		39,500	1,000

Gif Aid					36,136
Other Receipts	269	3,681	3,881	7,830	7,976
	<b>269</b>	<b>43,181</b>	<b>3,881</b>	<b>47,330</b>	<b>38,136</b>

<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>142,167</b>	<b>48,896</b>	<b>5,051</b>	<b>196,114</b>	<b>171,035</b>
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	<b>General Funds £</b>	<b>Designated Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
3 a) Missionary & Charitable Giving	14,219	180	1,926	16,325	13,705
3 b) Parish Share	70,000			70,000	80,000
3 c) Clergy & Staffing Cost	56,575		4,296	60,871	46,310
Church running expenses	27,281	118		27,398	18,847
Church repairs & maintenance	3,337			13,337	13,075
Fund Raising	140			140	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>181,553</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>6,222</b>	<b>188,072</b>	<b>171,937</b>

3 a) As a church we aim to tithe 10% of our income to Mission Partners. The £180 reflects money given to Daniel's Den out of the Parents & Toddlers fund. Restricted funds represents £655 reimbursement of Love Christmas expenses from 2022 plus £1,270 paid out of the Hardship Fund.

3 b) The parish share was reduced in 2023 to reflect risk attaching to the interregnum.

3 c) Staffing costs increased reflecting a full year of the Youth Pastor and additional responsibilities and hours for the Administrator during the interregnum. Restricted funds reflects costs incurred on the vicarage during the interregnum and costs attached to temporary occupation. These will be largely recouped during 2024.

4. Movement on designated and restricted funds

	Balance at 31.12.2022 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.12.2023 £
<b>General Funds</b>	<b>40,328</b>	<b>142,167</b>	<b>181,553</b>	<b>67,305</b>	<b>69,857</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>					
Legacy Fund		39,500	0		39,500
Heating Fund		5,297	0		5,297
Parent's & Toddlers		4,099	298	0	3,801
Reserves Fund	68,167			(68,167)	0
	<b>68,167</b>	<b>48,896</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>(68,167)</b>	<b>48,599</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Love Christmas	2,842	120	656		2,306
Garden Fund	0	3,500	0		3,500
Hardship Fund	740	1,050	1,270		520
Wednesday Fellowship	0	381	0		381
Nightshelter	83				83
Vicarage Interregnum	(358)		4,296		(4,694)
Kensal Warm Spaces				1,000	1,000
	<b>3,036</b>	<b>5,051</b>	<b>6,222</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>3,136</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>111,801</b>	<b>196,114</b>	<b>188,072</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>119,981</b>

The balancing £138 represents the difference between an accrual for Examiners fees of £1,680 when the actual amount billed was £1,542.

**Adopted** at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Signed** on their behalf by Revd Dave Roberts (Chair)