



St John's
Brooklands

Extending God's welcome to everyone

Annual Report

2024



St John's Brooklands

Extending God's welcome to everyone

We believe that God is calling us to be the missional heart of our community as we invite everyone in Brooklands to hear God's invitation of a new relationship, belong to God's family, believe the good news about what Jesus has done for us, and experience the radical hospitality Jesus extends to everyone: an invitation to sit and eat in God's kingdom.

Our Vision

Extending God's welcome to everyone

Our Mission

Welcoming you into God's family as we grow in Christ together

Our Values

We are a **welcoming** church...

Worship: growing as disciples formed by God's word and Spirit

Evangelism: making disciples as we introduce people to Jesus

Liturgical: living lives shaped by God's story

Community: belonging to our church family

Outward-looking: going out beyond our four walls

Missional: serving God's purposes for the world

Invitational: inviting everyone to know Jesus for themselves

Nurturing: equipping everyone for ministry

Generous: excelling in the grace of giving

Our Strategy

welcome to the family → grow in faith → share life together → serve in God's mission

Our Parish Strategy and Values

Welcome to our family

Evangelism

Making disciples as we introduce people to Jesus

Invitational

Inviting everyone to come and know Jesus for themselves

Grow in faith

Worship

Growing as disciples formed by God's word and Spirit

Liturgical

Living lives shaped by God's story

Generous

Excelling in the grace of giving

Share life together

Community

Belonging to our church family

Serve in God's mission

Outward-looking

Going out beyond our four walls

Missional

Serving God's purposes for the world

Nurturing

Equipping everyone for ministry

CONTENTS

Page

5	2024 Reports Vicar's Report Crafty Chat Report Flower Guild Report Thursday Café Report Women's Fellowship Report
11	Buildings & Finance Reports
13	PCC Leadership 2024





2024 REPORTS AND MAIN AIMS FOR 2025

VICAR'S REPORT

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:1-2

In September 2023 the PCC identified four priority areas for 2023-2024:

-  Worship
-  Pastoral care (*integration of newcomers | retention*)
-  Community engagement (*social events | family events | community service*)
-  Communication

The work that we began last year has continued as we sought to focus our energies in these areas of parish life, whilst recognising that communication is an ongoing priority.

Worship

During 2024 we have continued to review our worship. We held two Worship Review meetings (20th January & 7th February) that were open to everyone to attend. The recommendations were discussed and agreed at the March PCC meeting. The two main decisions were: (1) to continue to hold monthly creative services that we have called “Creative Communion”; and, (2) to create a Worship Planning Team to meet regularly to plan our worship.



We have held several Creative Communion services. On the 28th April we thought through what it meant to bear fruit as followers of Jesus. On 30th June we focused on St John the Divine exploring the symbols in the church and the stained-glass windows. Then on 21st July we looked at the story of Noah and created an altar frontal during the service. In September our Harvest Parade was designated a creative service when we were joined by our Guiding and Scouting groups with 20 children and 98 adults attending.





In October, in place of our Pumpkin Party we held a special Halloween Service as our monthly creative service. Some members of our regular congregation were understandably uneasy with this, however positive feedback was received from those who came along to see what was involved. The service was well attended by 37 adults and 23 children. Recognising that some regular church members didn't wish to celebrate Halloween, and it was not a

Communion service, we offered a said service of Holy Communion at 12 noon which 4 adults attended.

In October we also celebrated Black History Month. This was organised and led by John Muyita who is on placement with us from Emmanuel Theological College. We were also treated to some African food after the service which was enjoyed by all.



Our Christmas services were a great success.

The choir did a wonderful job at our Carols by Candlelight where 205 people attended, including 28 children.



We were packed again on Christmas Eve for our Crib and Christingle service with 167 adults and 85 children.

In addition to our regular Sunday morning service at 10am



we hold Choral Evensong on the 1st Sunday of each month at 6.30pm, led by Adele Lane and Anthony Marlow. It is hoped that Adele shall begin her ALM training in Worship and Liturgy next year with the goal of being commissioned as an Authorised Lay Minister in September 2025. On Thursday mornings at 9.30am we also have a simple said service of Holy Communion prior to our Community Café.

Pastoral Care

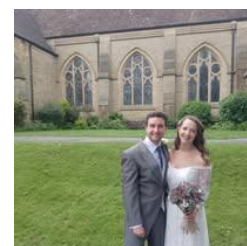


Pastoral care remained a priority with 3 **weddings**, 1 **wedding blessing**, and 5 **funerals** being conducted during the year.

In keeping with the Diocesan strategy of “growing younger” **baptism ministry** has been a particular focus, and this shall continue to be a priority area during 2025.



During 2024 we conducted 12 **baptisms**, 2 **confirmations**, and 1 **thanksgiving**.



Community Outreach



We have sought to creatively engage with those who live in our parish. On 26th January we held our second Burns' Night social which went well, as did both our Summer Fair and Winter Fair. Thank you to all those who helped make these such a success!

Our school ministry has been a continued focus this year. I have continued in my role as a school governor at Brooklands Primary School. I took RE lessons for Year 1 at Brooklands Primary School and led a KS1 assembly at Heyes Lane Primary as well as KS1 and KS2 Harvest assemblies at Brooklands Primary. The three local primary schools (including Sandilands) all visited at Christmas.





Looking beyond the parish, in addition to running a Lent Reading Course I planned and hosted an event at Manchester Cathedral to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Sea of Faith. We were fortunate to have Prof. Elaine Graham speak, and interesting discussions followed. I had hoped that this would relaunch the Manchester Branch of the Progressive Christianity Network (PCN UK), however other commitments took priority, and this was put on the backburner.

Priorities for 2025-2026







Looking ahead to the future, we identified four priorities for 2025 at our PCC meeting in November.

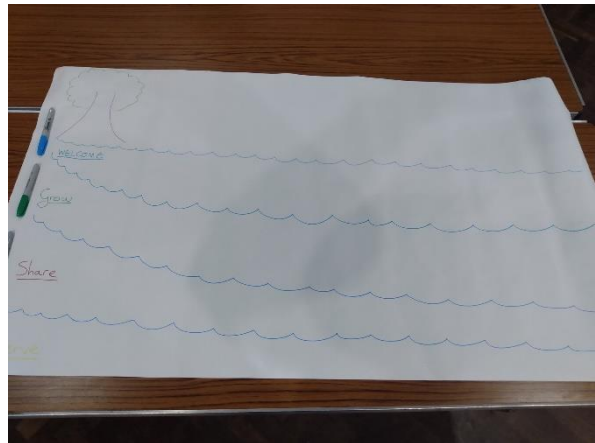
I encouraged us to reflect on the reading from Rev. 22 where the water of life flowed out from the tree of life and think of our parish strategy as having four “**Ministry Streams**”:

-  **Ministry Stream 1: Welcome** to our family
-  **Ministry Stream 2: Grow** in faith
-  **Ministry Stream 3: Share** life together
-  **Ministry Stream 4: Serve** in God’s mission

Our discussions came up with the following priorities:

-  Baptism Ministry
-  Discipleship Courses
-  Community Events
-  Serving our local community

During Q1 and Q2 our focus shall be upon baptism ministry and discipleship courses, whilst attention to both community events and serving our local community shall be ongoing, especially through our continued support of the Wythenshawe Foodbank.



In addition to this we are mindful that there are also ongoing issues with the church buildings. I am thankful that the hall roof was replaced in the Autumn. Looking ahead the Nave roof needs replacing (for which we have a Faculty) and we are in the process of finalising plans to install lighting to the northside of the church grounds.

We will also need to give attention to ensuring the continued financial sustainability of the parish over forthcoming years.

Richard

Crafty Chat Report

Crafty Chat is now in its eleventh year and is still going strong with a good number of members attending twice a month. More members are beginning to get involved with different projects and at the moment a few are having in house crochet lessons led by Gina.

Our post-box toppers have been very popular, and we've had some lovely comments. In the last 12 months we have made an Easter, Remembrance and a Christmas Nativity scene. Sadly, someone took a liking to our Christmas one, but it isn't going to put us off.

The response to the request by Richard for Pumpkins was amazing and it was great to see so many members joining in.

As usual we had stalls at the Summer and Winter Fairs and raised a generous sum of money towards the church. We also raised £80 for Children in Need by making and selling Pudsey Bears. I've just handed a cheque for £135 to the Snowdrop centre at Wythenshawe hospital along with lots of hand knitted or crochet blankets, and premature baby clothes. All of these have been greatly appreciated.

The year ended with 20 plus members enjoying our annual Christmas meal at the Quarry Bank.

Chris Padbury

Flower Guild Report

Unfortunately, there are now only four members of the Flower Guild. Ruth has retired after being a member for over 20 years and Marcela and Judith have other commitments. We thank them all for their expertise, hard work and time. They have contributed enormously to the festival displays and general routines. We hope more people will volunteer to join us during the coming year.

We now have a selection of artificial arrangements which we use for the altar and candle. We arrange fresh flowers for the festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We do not have flowers in church during Lent and Advent. We also decorate the candle at the font with fresh flowers for Baptisms whenever possible.

We have a meeting each January to arrange the rota for the year ahead.

We look forward to another year of flower arranging when we will provide colourful floral displays for the church.

Lynda Tattersall

The Flower Guild

Lynda Tattersall
Lilian Swann

Hilary Hamblett
Susan Wildman

Thursday Café Report

Another busy year for the community café on a Thursday morning. This continues to be a place of relaxed conversation, friendship and a space to meet new people.

The café runs throughout the year offering a consistent venue and as it is on a donation basis for refreshments continues to be inclusive to all. The café attracts and welcomes in new visitors as well as providing the relaxed atmosphere that regulars enjoy and come back for each week.

Refreshments are served from 10 -12 from a rota of dedicated volunteers, serving with a smile.

We continue to have the added interest of a pop-up stall, selling good as new items or a raffle. In the last year a total of £2,541 has been raised from donations for refreshments and from the stall. The book and jigsaw tables are well stocked and a valuable place to acquire or swap these items.

This café can only run with the willingness and enthusiastic giving of a core group of volunteers. They turn up early to set up, serve refreshments, run the stalls, provide background music and then tidy it all way. A huge thank you to this group who work so hard to keep this community café an important part of St John's mission.

Janet Hunter

Women's Fellowship Report

Women's Fellowship continues to meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 2-4pm. We have 21 members and have recently welcomed a new member.

We have had another friendly and enjoyable year with a variety of activities, always followed by tea and biscuits and lots of chatting. In addition to quizzes, a game of bingo and an observation game of Spot the Difference, our meetings have included a St George's Day Afternoon Tea, an informative talk on Teaching the Deaf, a talk and slide show on 'A Holiday in South Korea', and a Mindful Adult Colouring session which needed concentration, so it was a quieter meeting than usual!

We also had a trip to Holmfirth and Tong Garden Centre near Bradford, our usual Summer Supper at The Boathouse, and our Christmas Dinner which, this year, was at The Quarry Bank in Timperley. Members also enjoyed taking an active part in the Summer and Winter Fairs, running stalls and helping with refreshments.

Women's Fellowship is open to everyone, not just church members and meetings are always varied, pleasurable, and very friendly. As usual, we would love to welcome new members in 2025.

Carole Herd

Buildings Report

This year has been a busy and as anticipated an expensive year for maintenance and repair of the church buildings.

The Church

Church cellar - Work to remove asbestos from around the pipes and walls in cellar was completed in March. This included emptying of the cellar from potentially contaminated contents and relining of pipes. The cost for this was £36,054.

A replacement protection cover for a round window on the south side of the church was fitted in June, following an earlier storm and the loss of the previous cover, at a cost of £675.

The organ has required repair and maintenance work this year which was completed by two different companies on two occasions through the year at a total cost of £3,603.

Repair work to the choir vestry safe was required to maintain its use.

The church carpet has had some remedial work to stretch out areas that were problematic.





The Hall

The main focus of activities during the year has been the major restoration of the exterior hall roof, an 8-week programme that started in September 2024. This included part removal of the old roof, installation of insulation and new roof and replacing the interior lower ceiling and lighting. The total cost including architect, project management and work completed was for £134,336.

Dalebrook Road

The house on Dalebrook Road required some new appliances, fencing, keys and repairs prior to new tenants moving in, in August 2024. This was at a cost of £1,586.

Future works Required to the Church

-  External lighting to the North side of the church
-  Demolition of the hut
-  Safety railing to cellar steps
-  Repair of the Nave roof

Janet Hunter
Church Warden

Finance Report

As expected, this has been a very expensive year. The first quotes to replace the hall roof were obtained in 2019 and the five-year budget approved by the PCC towards the end of that year contained a prediction that £75000 would be spent replacing it in 2021. However, because of Covid, everything got delayed, costs spiralled, contractors became difficult to get hold of and it seemed as if it would never happen. In 2023, the PCC agreed to use the architects to manage the project. This has added an extra layer of costs but within twenty months of that decision quotes were obtained, the faculty was granted, and the work was completed. Although the work on the church hall roof was expected, it was not anticipated that the same year would require £31,000 to be spent on asbestos remediation in the cellar. This work was completed in the Spring.

The budget for the year excluding these projects, and the budget for 2025 were causing concern as losses were predicted for the general running of the church if Parish Share was to be maintained at current levels. A Stewardship Sunday was held at the end of October and the response to this was very positive. Thank you so much to everyone who responded. Thank you also to all those members of our church family who continue to support us with standing orders, envelopes, card payments, collection and donations. We really do appreciate every pound that we are given. Voluntary Giving was slightly lower this year due to a drop in planned giving. This was compensated by an increase in giving at services and donations.

The footfall at our community fairs seemed slightly down but the income they produced held up and Thursday café again contributed over £2000 as well as being a very valuable community resource. These events require a lot of work to put on and we are very grateful to the teams involved and all who help. Fees for life events were slightly higher than last year, and hall rents also increased despite the roof leaking.

The hut has continued to be closed, and it seems that it has now reached the end of its useful life. Property rent has reduced slightly due to three months in between tenants, but the current rent is higher than the previous rent due to an increase in market rents.

The donations at Jill Chandler's funeral raised £440 for which we are very thankful, and we were very grateful to receive a legacy from the late Dorothy Sykes. This was restricted to being used for the music at church and £2000 of it funded some of the organ repairs. The remaining repairs were largely covered by a transfer from the organ fund. Both the asbestos remediation and the hall roof works were eligible under the Listed Places of Worship scheme for a grant to cover the VAT and these grants have now been received. With such expensive projects being carried out, other expenses were kept to a minimum during the year and this was helped by a slightly lower parish share amount being agreed with the diocese in September.

Adele Lane
Treasurer

PCC LEADERSHIP AND MAKE UP 2024

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

Aim and purposes

St John's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has a shared responsibility in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities





At the heart of our church life is the worship of God, everything else comes from that worship. We seek to reach upwards to God in worship and adoration, inward to one another in fellowship and outwards to the community and the world in witness and service. The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St John's.








When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular the PCC is committed to promoting the work of the church in the following areas:

- **Worship, prayer and spirituality:** the maintenance and provision of regular Sunday and weekday worship, celebration of festivals, preparation for baptism, weddings and funerals and the nurture and teaching of faith
- **Social and Community Outreach:** opening the church building to the people of the parish for social and community events, social and fundraising events, the support and involvement in community activities
- **Pastoral:** visiting the sick and the housebound, support for those in need, prayer with and for those in need
- **Mission and Evangelism:** financial, prayerful and active support of world and national mission agencies, concern and involvement in local needs
- **The wider church:** the deanery, diocese and wider Church of England, ecumenical relationships

Main things PCC did in 2024

There have been four full meetings of the PCC in March, May, September, and November, with extended meetings in January and February (open to the wider congregation) to take forward our review of worship. Items on the agenda for approval at our main PCC meetings this year included:

-  Annual Report and Accounts 2023
-  Safeguarding Policy (annually)
-  Eucharistic Assistants
-  Review of worship

-  Frequency of Holy Communion
-  Lighting scheme for northside of church grounds
-  Setting up a new bank account
-  Removal of hut
-  Budget and parish share
-  Archdeacons Visitation
-  Pastoral care

At every meeting this year we have discussed our church buildings and the work needed to keep them safe, from replacing the roof to mending potholes. Looking after a listed building involves specialist contractors and requires discussion with – and permission from – the diocese before any major repairs can be undertaken.

Membership 2024

Vicar:	Richard Sherratt
Churchwarden:	Janet Hunter
Deanery Synod representatives:	Wilfred Darlington
<i>Elected members (until 2025):</i>	Nicola Ashton (Eco Champion) Kirstie Lea (<i>until November 2024</i>) James Merryweather Rod Tattersall
<i>Elected members (until 2026):</i>	Wilfred Darlington
<i>Elected members (until 2027):</i>	Nwabugo Ubochi Sarah McMurdo Maureen Tewnion Phil Makins
<i>Coopted members (until 2025):</i>	Adele Lane (Treasurer)

In attendance: Susan Wildman (PCC Secretary)

Other PCC committees/groups

The PCC at St John's has a Standing Committee. Membership of this committee along with its duties and is defined by law in the Church Representation Rules, abbreviated to CRR (**CRR M31(6)**).

Standing Committee members:

- Richard Sherratt (incumbent)
- Janet Hunter (churchwarden)
- Adele Lane (treasurer)
- Rod Tattersall
- Nicola Ashton

In attendance: Susan Wildman (PCC Secretary)

Administrative Information

St John's is situated in Brooklands, Sale. It is part of the Diocese of Manchester within the Church of England and is in the Deanery of Stretford and Manchester South in the Archdeaconry of Manchester.

The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 186 Brooklands Road, Sale, M33 3PB.

Registered charity number: 1132141

The address of the Parish website is www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk