

St Christopher's Church

Saffron Lane, Leicester

Report on 2024



Presented at the
Annual General Meeting

Sunday 6th April 2025

Our Mission

St Christopher's Church - Mission Statement

We, the people of St Christopher's, believe that Jesus Christ has called us to share our faith by carrying out God's mission to serve our neighbouring community, by word and deed.



To fulfil our mission we will need:

- To be effective Christians who are open, welcoming, caring and committed to working and praying together as members of the body of Christ;
- To identify, affirm and bring to fruition the gifts of each member to encourage all in service and witness.

This service should spring from corporate worship and growth in our personal relationships with God.

St Christopher's Church - Mission Action Plan

We believe that God wants us to reach out with His love to:

- children and young people
- parents, carers and families
- staff of the Academy
- older and isolated people

by **being** a reliable community who can be trusted;

by **welcoming** people, treating them with love and respect;

by **encouraging** growth and enabling change in people's lives;

by **befriending** people and providing a safe place for all;

by **sharing** our love for Jesus and putting him first in our lives.



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## 95<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meetings

to be held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Opening Prayer

**Numbers present**

**Apologies**

## Agenda for the Parishioners' Meeting

1. Minutes of the Parishioner's meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2024
2. Matters Arising
3. Confirmation of Rob Pike as churchwarden.

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Agenda for the 96th Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 17th March, 2024
2. Matters Arising
3. Electoral Roll Report - Rita Early
4. Secretary's Report - Rita Early
5. Vicar's Remarks - Mr Chris Collins
6. Churchwarden's Report - Rob Pike
7. Safeguarding Officer's Report - Neil Tansley

8. Treasurer's Report - Mike Early
9. Reports of activities
(for full list see contents page)

Time of prayer for these activities

Appointments and Elections

10. Appointment of Examiner for 2025
11. Election of Deanery Synod Rep
12. Date of next APCM (2026) - Suggested date Sunday 22rd or 29th March (note Mothering Sunday is 15th March and Easter is 5th April).

Closing Prayers



Minutes of the 95th Annual General Meeting

Sunday 17th March 2024

Chris opened in prayer.

For both meetings

Present: Chris Collins (Minister and Chair) and Charles Ndigirwa (Curate)

Electoral members: Sandra Akubue, Roger Burdett, Mike Early, Sarah Collins, George Donnelly, Peter Evans, Diane Foster, Chantal Griffin, Robert Pike, Paul Robinson, Neil Tansley, Jayne Tansley, Jenny Mann, Pauline Ndigirwa, Louise Warner and Rita Early (Minutes).

Non Electoral Roll Attendee: Mohammad Mahdi Kaviani

Apologies: Rob Griffin and Manni Griffin

PARISHONERS' MEETING

1. **The Minutes of the Parishioners' Meeting** held on Sunday 26th March 2023 were accepted as accurate and signed by the chair.
2. **Matters Arising** - none
3. **Confirmation of Rob Pike as church warden.** All were in favour that Rob should continue and he was thanked for the hard work he does.

For some years we have not had a second church warden, but it was felt that a deputy churchwarden might be appropriate and it would be put on the next PCC agenda.

Signed.....

Date.....

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. **The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting** held on Sunday 26th March 2023 were accepted as accurate and signed by the chair.

2. **Matters Arising**- None

3. **Electoral Roll Report** - Rita Early

The electoral roll had been updated in March. There was an increase of **one** on the roll; three people had been added to the roll - James and Amy Martin and Peter Evans, but two people who no longer attended the church had been deleted. This makes a total of 32.

It was noted that a full revision of the Electoral Roll would take place in 2025.

4. **Vicar's Remarks** - Chris Collins

Chris referred back to his sermon earlier in the morning about what it means to be the church:

- A community of disciples
- An 'all nations' community
- Both a gathered and a scattered community
- A community that Jesus' loves

A major encouragement this year - has been new people joining the church; Amy, James and their girls, Sandra and her family, Mohammad, Peter, Wolex and Seye and their children. We are becoming more and more an International church.

On a personal note, Chris wanted to thank everyone who had helped in practical ways or by prayer, when he was off in the summer because of illness. Chris said that his OCD had meant that it had not been an easy year.

He referred to the **Shaped by God process**, the diocesan scheme where parishes are linked together to form Minster Communities, with a central group of ministers. This is not limited to churches having to be grouped with their nearest parishes.

In the past diocesan groupings have not always worked very well for us. At present there are three pilot schemes.

In the last two weeks we have been invited into the process and we have tentatively agreed to enter into the process. The plan is that most churches will be in a Minster Community by 2026, although no church is compelled to join and in the 3 pilot schemes some churches have already dropped out. There are alternatives to joining, but Chris was not going into these today.

At our last PCC we were informed that the diocese wanted 2 representatives to be involved. One person is already considering taking on this role, but they do not have to be on the PCC. If you would like to be the other person people were asked to contact either Chris or Rita.

5. **Secretary's Report** - Rita Early

The PCC had met seven times during the year. There had been five ordinary meetings, a sixth meeting had been cancelled as too many people were unable to attend. There had been two extraordinary meetings, both of which were about Finance. The first of these was in August as the diocese wanted us to tell them how much we intended our parish contribution would be by the end of the month. The second in November was to try and address our unsustainable financial situation, as our income is not keeping up with expenditure.

Charles stepped up to take on many of Chris' roles when Chris was ill during the summer, including chairing the PCC. We will miss him when he leaves St C's sometime in the next 12 months.

6. Churchwarden's Report - Rob Pike

Rob echoed what Chris had said about being a community and made the analogy of the church being like a football team and it was good to see new players joining the team.

He wished to thank all the people who help in so many ways and make things happen.

He mentioned that another spring clean was needed and it would probably happen in June.

7. Safeguarding Officer's Report - Neil Tansley

Neil started by asking the question - whose responsibility was safeguarding?

We answered, correctly, that it is everyone's responsibility!

If we see anything which concerns us we must let Neil know and then there is a set of procedures to follow.

Using the Diocese terminology; after Covid we were only 21% compliant on **Level 2**, but now at our last PCC we were 71% compliant. To improve this figure further more training is needed of people on the PCC and in our children's work.

This means we are now moving on to **Level 3**. Some of the new criteria relate to organisations who use the church and Neil is not sure how this will work with us being part of the Academy and their various lettings.

8. Treasurer's Report - Mike Early

In 2023 there were no very significant financial changes. There has been a slight increase in our Offerings and our Gift Aid tax refund has gone up. Interest rates have also increased, so together this means that our income has gone up.

There has been increase in expenditure for Craft Café as they have met more often and Hope Explored was an additional expense. However, TGSA have not increased their charges.

The expected deficit for the year was £3k, but this was reduced to £2k with the combination of giving going up slightly and our expenditure not as big as budgeted.

However, having a yearly deficit of £2k is unsustainable.

Following a series of sermons in the autumn highlighting the situation, it is estimated that giving may go up by about £800 a year.

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## Reports of activities

Reports on our activities had been written and circulated. Copies of these reports were displayed around the church.

Chris commented that there were many people who are involved in activities, which are not in the report and come under 'Scattered church', such as Neil as chair of governors at the Academy (and Chris, himself, who is also a school governor), while Jayne listens to children read at both Marriott and Samworth Schools.

Chris asked people who had written reports only to comment if they had new information to share.

**Scouts** were asked how their leadership was going with the recent increased number. Amy Martin is now a leader, but it would be good to have more cover.

**Little Angels** - Rita highlighted that they would really miss Charles on a Monday morning, when he gets his next appointment. Charles stated how much he enjoyed helping at Little Angels and felt that there was actually enough work for two new helpers!

**Food Bank** - Charles highlighted the change in distributing food parcels. In the past people could

be given 12 parcels, but now it was down to just six. He questioned how we could continue to support those people who had come to an end of their allowance and said because of this change we have only served two people recently. He asked for prayer about how best to serve these people.

**A time of prayer for all church activities followed.**

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Appointments and Elections

9. PCC Appointments

There were three vacancies on the PCC, as Neil Tansley's and Flora Kitindi's three years of service had come to an end and Manni Griffin had resigned earlier in the year.

Three people had been nominated to fill these vacancies:

- o Diane Foster
- o Jayne Tansley
- o Rita Early

As there were no more nominations an election was not needed and these three people were duly appointed.

10. Appointment of Examiner for 2024/25

Rosemary Hall had examined our accounts for 2023. It was agreed that Rita would write to thank her and ask if she was willing to examine them again for the coming year.

11. Election of Deanery Synod Rep

Rob was willing to continue as our Rep.

12. Date of next APCM - Sunday 6th April 2025.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 12.30pm
It was followed by an excellent 'Bring and Share' lunch.

Signed..... Date.....



Secretary's Report on 2024

St Christopher's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, **Mr Chris Collins** in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

St Christopher's Church has been located within The Tudor Grange Samworth Academy since September 2007. The church serves both the local community and the children and staff of the Academy.

Mr Charles Ndigirwa has been our curate since 2018. He moved from St Christopher's in October to work as a Prison Chaplain at HMP Rye Hill, near Rugby.

Church Attendance - Average 23 adults - a decrease from 24 last year. Children have also gone down from 9 to 8.

Standing Committee: this is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC, between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Members - Chris Collins, Rob Pike, Rita Early and Steve Joyce. It had met 6 times, mainly to plan for the next PCC meeting and to review the action points and what matters arising should be discussed. All meetings have been by Zoom.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- **Safeguarding Officer** - Neil Tansley - issues raised are included in a separate report.
- **DBS checks** - Neil Tansley is also responsible for keeping these up to date.
- **Health and safety** - Paul Robinson.
- **Disability** - Roger Burdett.

Proceedings of the PCC

The PCC has met for 6 ordinary meetings and one Extraordinary meeting

- **5th February (by Zoom)**
It was hoped that this would be the last Zoom PCC meeting!
- **11th March**

The **Financial Accounts** were approved for the APCM.

- **Extraordinary PCC Monday 22nd April**
This meeting was to explain the importance of Patronage to our church and how it could affect how we join in a Minister Community. Following discussion: The PCC agreed the following resolution: '*This PCC resolves to maintain CPAS as sole patrons of St Christopher's Leicester and rejects any shared patronage that might occur through the implementation of the "Shaped by God" (Minister Communities) process.*'
- **21st May**
Review of St Cs subscription to CCLI - The task of reporting to CCLI which songs have been used has become difficult. Mike has a data base of the songs we usually use and any new songs needs to be added to it. It was felt important that the right person was credited for the song/recording. Chris would include the information on the noticeboard showing the order of service.
- **1st July - IWC (Inter-cultural Worship Community)** - visit from **Michael Ravuri**
When the project started in 2019 St C's had signed up, but then after Covid hit there was lull in our activity. Since then we have become a much more diverse church. At present they are working with 20 churches out of the total of 320 in the diocese. Of these 5 are core churches, which have a good number of diverse cultures and the other 15 have a growing number of people from diverse cultures. St Christopher's is part of the other 15 churches. As a church we now have one worship song most weeks that contains words from a different language¹. We are looking to appoint an IWC rep to report to our PCC in the coming year.
Parish Contribution: The diocese had suggested that parishes should raise our contribution by 20%, but after discussion we agreed to raise it to from £17,600 to £18,500.

¹ See more information in the Music Report.

- **16th September** – decision to appoint an IWC rep to report to our PCC.
- **18th November**
Financial situation – Mike submitted a budget for 2025
In 2025 Income was expected to be down by around £4,000, because of people leaving the church. **Expenditure** was expected to be similar to 2024, but with less on clergy expenses, but we had promised to increase our Parish Contribution to £18,500.
This would result in a predicted deficit of around £4,000.
Mission Allocation for 2024 would remain at £1,000.
The Ndigirwas'—leaving presents – There was a shortfall of £165 between the cost of the presents and the amount donated. The PCC agreed to underwrite this amount.

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#### Recurring Topics

- **Minster Communities** – This topic dominated our meetings throughout the year. Rob and Neil have been our representatives at all the diocesan meetings and Chris has also attended them.  
By our November PCC meeting there were three possible Minster Communities which we could join and after discussion we unanimously decided *'that we move forward on the Holy Trinity Minster Community option'*.  
**Reasons for our decision:** Holy Trinity is a CPAS patronage church, and both churches have passed the same patronage resolution (See our resolution at the Extraordinary meeting in April)  
Although Holy Trinity is large enough to stand by itself there is a preference that all churches are in a MC.  
There are many connections between the two churches including:
  - Both churches receive LinC funding.
  - There is a possibility in the future of receiving a curate from Holy Trinity church. However a Community of just two churches is unusual, but there is also a possibility that Enderby Parish Church may be added as another potential partner as it is possible that it will become a sole CPAS patronage church.

- **Distribution of Communion** – This was discussed at the February and July meetings. There have been no changes this year and a loaf after being broken is distributed directly to the congregation. The wine is blessed in one jug, which is then shared round in individual cups.  
The majority of the PCC were against returning to a Common cup, because of the level of infections,  
However, when Bishop Martyn visited in September, the change in the format of communion was a bit of a surprise! The bread was dipped into the wine and then presented.  
The house of bishops attempted to ban the administration of wine in individual cups, and although Martyn has no objection to us using them he cannot administer that way himself.
  - **Web site** – thanks to Mike, Rob and Charles this was up and running in September.
  - **Safeguarding** – an item on all PCC agendas. Neil continues to be busy to make us as compliant as possible (See his report for more details.)
  - **Appointment of a Data Protection Officer** – an ongoing agenda item, but the position is yet to be filled.
  - **Church cleaning** – attempts made to maintain the **Meeting Room** as a pleasant room have been largely successful. A spring clean of the church took place in July when the old hymn books 'Hymns for Today's Church' were discarded. Although we offered them on the internet there were no offers. The Vestry was cleared up, but it soon reverted back to a dumping ground.
  - **Dominion Church** stopped meeting at the Academy just before Christmas.
- Events** – one of the functions of the PCC is to plan for upcoming events and then to assess how they went.
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January – **Fish and Chip Supper and Quiz** – an enjoyable evening which attracted a number of visitors.
  - **Tearfund Sunday** – 3<sup>rd</sup> March – 'A Rubbish campaign'.
  - **Bring and Share** lunch 17<sup>th</sup> March – after the APCM.
  - **Lent/Easter Study Course** – the **5 Solas** – we had 3 studies before and 2 after Easter, which had worked well as Easter had been early and early March was busy.

- **Thy Kingdom Come** - (Ascension to Pentecost) three events had been organised, but they had not been well attended and it was suggested that we should concentrate on just one next year.
- **Summer Book Group** started June 18<sup>th</sup> - ended 13<sup>th</sup> August -studying **Planetwise** by **David Bookless**. Nine weeks were planned to cover each of the 9 chapters, but three weeks were cancelled because too few people able to attend. This was a shame as the book was excellent.
- **Prayer Spaces** - Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>-Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June - for years 5, 6, 7 and 8. This had been very well received,
- **Treasure Hunt**, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June - around Wigston Magna followed by Fish and Chips. Many people commented that they had seen parts of Wigston they had never been to before!  
**These three events had made for a very busy week** with Prayer Spaces, the second of the Summer Book Group and the Treasure Hunt.
- **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August - BBQ after church** - an enjoyable event, more vegetarian options were requested. Clearer recycling needed.
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September **Bishop Martyn's** visit

- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October -**Harvest Thanksgiving/farewell service** for Charles, Pauline and Kisha with presentations. Followed by a **Bring and Share Lunch** - a lovely event, but we were all sad to see them go.

### Advent and Christmas

- **Advent Meditations and Bible Studies** - five Bible Studies three of which preceding the meditations. Numbers at the Bible Study between 5 and 7 and at the Mediation 6-9. Two of the Bible studies had also been repeated in the day time.
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December - **Carol Singing** outside Iceland - event cancelled as not enough singers turned up.
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December - **Carol Service** - It was disappointing that only 19 adults attended compared with 59 last year.
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December - **Carol Singing at Stonesby Lodge** - a well-attended enjoyable evening.  
Concerns were raised that we are making ourselves too busy at this time, especially as Chris also takes a lot of school assemblies at this time.

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Charles' leaving lunch, 13th October

Churchwarden's Report by Robert Pike

Another interesting year in the life of the Church has passed with a number of main talking points. Early in the year we found out one Sunday that the Schools Letting Agency had allowed another church to meet in the Sports Hall at the same time as ourselves on a Sunday. This church was called the Dominion Church and was mainly aimed at Black Christians not necessarily even from the local area. For the majority of the time their meeting in the same building did not cause any issues. The main issue was that they didn't stay in the Sports Hall and sometimes came in to the Cafeteria area where our Investigators meet. This was therefore a Safeguarding issue to be addressed with them.

Another main talking point was the news that Charles had been offered a new post as Chaplain at HMP Rye Hill near Rugby. So it was sad to say goodbye to him and Pauline and family in October after he had been with us for about 6 years. Often said you don't miss people until they have gone and it was very much so with Charles and Pauline for how much work they did within the church in their time with us..

Finally a lot of discussions within the Church and across the Diocese have been about the formation of the Minster Communities and what that would mean for our church going forward.

Although we have had a couple of new faces join the church in the past year we have also lost some meaning that our average attendance in the past year has therefore slipped back from 24 to 23 adults and from 9 to 8 children

All valuable items are accounted for and stored securely in the vestry safe. A good spring clean with Pizza after was held in June and it looks like a similar event will need to be done in 2025.

Finally I would like to thank all those who help in whatever way to support what goes on in the church on Sunday. Particularly like to mention those who run the Investigators. Also, those who do the little jobs which are not on a rota such as setting up for Little Angels, putting out the Welcome sign, distributing bibles onto the seats, picking up any rubbish at the front of the school, in the foyer the way in or in the church itself. People do these jobs without being asked and are greatly appreciated.

Annual Safeguarding Report - Neil Tansley - Parish Safeguarding Officer

It has been a turbulent year for those involved in safeguarding within the C of E as cases of historical abuse have been widely reported in the media. As demonstrated by the resignations that followed, there can be far reaching consequences when this spotlight highlights our failings, however intentional or unintentional, in this area. I am sure you would agree that the need for clear procedures and processes for safeguarding that are consistently followed within the church community has been clearly demonstrated. Failure to do so can have a lasting impact on the church's reputation and, even more importantly, on the way others view our faith.

Due to the lessons learned from these past cases there has been a national review of safeguarding within the church. Its recommendations have resulted in a new set up National standards against which our own policy and practice will be measured. These are highlighted on our noticeboard now dedicated to safeguarding. We are currently operating at 75% compliance with the mandatory requirements and are level 3 (The highest of the 3 possible levels.) Please remember that safeguarding is the responsibility of us all and should you have any concerns, there is a step by step guide on how to share these and who with.

The changes will also result in those who are responsible for working with children or vulnerable adults, as well as church leaders and PCC members, having to retake some of the modified training modules earlier than was previously planned.

Please pray that our church and churches across the nation will be places where all can feel safe, accepted and, when necessary, listened to.

Music by Neil Tansley

It is good to have some new developments to report on in the last twelve months. Firstly, as St Christophers is part of the Intercultural worshipping community, we have committed to having one worship song a week that contains words in a different language. Mostly, but not always, these will reflect the existing languages spoken by those attending St Christophers. To this end we have been supported by two visits from Jessie Tang who has shared with us and taught us several new songs. Chris and Neil have also attended an intercultural worship 'jamming' session. We hope that for those members where English isn't their first language, that this will have gone some way to making them feel more included in our worship. It has also been great to have 'guests' at the front adding their voices to our worship.

Speaking of Chris, he has admirably taken over from Charles on the drums and has quickly got to the stage where he can adjust his tempo so smoke can no longer be seen rising from the drums!

As I am sure you would agree it has been a real treat when Jessie has brought along her keyboard to accompany us and it remains our prayer that someone with that talent may be willing to share it with us on a regular basis before too long.



Bring and Share lunch after the AGM

St Christopher's Church

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Statement of Accounts

2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2024

	General Fund	Maintenance Fund	Mission Fund	Little Angels	Building/Equipment Fund	Total 2024
	includes legacy					
Assets	£	£	£	£	£	£
Current account	4,273.61	500.00	0.00	288.46	434.00	5,496.06
Board of Finance deposit	22,136.38	1,651.68	0.00	9,521.97	7,281.50	40,591.53
Cash in hand	108.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	108.18
Total	26,518.16	2,151.69	0.00	9,810.42	7,715.50	46,195.77

Debtors

Liabilities

**ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS 2024**

	2024		2023
	£		£
Offertories etc			
Sunday Services (GASDS)	439.31		538.43
Sunday Services (non-GASDS) +on-line	583.14		766.99
Offertories at Marriages, Funerals etc			
Fees for Marriages, Banns, Funerals etc	140.00		0.00
Non-Gift Aided planned giving	1220.00		1075.00
Gift Aided planned giving	15690.00		14465.00
Other Tax efficient giving	57.49		220.00
Income Tax recovered on Gift Aided giving	3949.61	22079.55	3928.76
			20994.18
Donations - for general use			
Other Donations		0.00	0.00
Use of premises	0.00		
Scouts	0.00		
		0.00	0.00
Insurance claims			
Other sundry receipts	215.81		49.79
		215.81	49.79
Interest from			
deposit with Central Board of Finance	1115.74	1115.74	934.68
			652.77
Total of above		23411.10	21696.74
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"Restricted" items			
Clergy/Organist fees	0.00		0.00
Fees for diocese	392.00		
		392.00	0.00
Total Receipts into General Fund		23803.10	21696.74

M Y Early (Hon Treasurer)

R A Pike (Churchwarden)

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH GENERAL FUND PAYMENTS 2024

	2024		2023	
	£		£	
Costs of raising funds				
applying for grants				
Charitable activities				
PCC Mission Allocations	1000.00		1000.00	
		1000.00		1000.00
Ministry costs				
parish contribution	17600.00		17000.00	
wages/honoraria	_____	17600.00	_____	17000.00
Staff costs				
allowances	867.45		436.94	
travel	578.34		531.40	
phone	239.46	1685.25	304.00	1272.34
	_____		_____	
Church running expenses				
office, insurance	525.35		520.96	
Gifts	404.74		37.56	
publicity, hospitality	300.56	1230.65	10.80	569.32
	_____		_____	
Church maintainence				
repairs & renewals	110.53	110.53	37.93	37.93
Upkeep of services				
craft materials	26.18		45.72	
other items	612.72	638.90	396.50	442.22
	_____		_____	
Utilities				
cleaning, gas, electricity	1989.96	1989.96	1989.96	1989.96
	_____		_____	
Training & Education				
Craft Cafe	136.20		276.49	
Evangelism	291.46	427.66	246.98	523.47
	_____		_____	
Other payments - From General Fund				
Investments, deposits				
Sundries	92.70		186.90	
	_____	92.70	_____	186.90
Governance costs				
PCC expenses				
Major Capital expenditure				
Repairs / Redecoration / New building				
Total of above		24775.65		23022.14
Other 'Restricted' payments - through General Fund				
Energy grant passed on				1087.00
Fees to Diocese	357.00	357.00	_____	0.00
Transfers		-		-
Total Payments from General Fund		25132.65		24109.14
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-1329.55		-2412.40
Held in current & deposit accounts 1st January		27847.72		30241.52

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH 2024

		2024		2023	
		£		£	
Missionary and Charitable payments from General Fund					
CrossLinks		100.00		100.00	
Church Pastoral Aid Society (inc Falcon Camps)		150.00		150.00	
Evangelical Alliance		80.00		80.00	
Tearfund		150.00		150.00	
Arab World Ministries		200.00		200.00	
Christian Vision for Men		100.00		100.00	
Open Hands		120.00		120.00	
Scouts		<u>100.00</u>	1000.00	<u>100.00</u>	1000.00
Missionary and Charitable giving (restricted)					
CrossLinks		50.00		52.02	
Church Pastoral Aid Society (inc Falcon Camps)		72.11		95.00	
Tearfund		241.52		251.00	
Arab World Ministries		101.00		106.50	
Christian Vision for Men		61.22		32.09	
Open Hands		77.02		90.51	
Scouts		<u>30.00</u>	<u>632.87</u>	<u>60.00</u>	<u>687.12</u>
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Little Angels					
Receipts	Weekly donations [R]	439.69		581.47	
	Interest [R]	<u>479.93</u>	919.62	<u>280.79</u>	862.26
Payments	Consumables	<u>547.79</u>	<u>547.79</u>	<u>568.61</u>	<u>568.61</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments			371.83		293.65
Held in current & deposit accounts					
	at 01 January		9438.59		9144.94
	at 31 December		9810.42		9438.59
			<i>Restricted: £9,521.97</i>		
			<i>Designated: £288.45</i>		
<hr/>					
Building/Equipment (restricted)					
Receipts	Donations			0.00	
	Other (Interest)	<u>367.01</u>	367.01	<u>214.72</u>	214.72
Payments		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments			367.01		214.72
Held in current & deposit accounts					
	at 01 January		7348.49		7133.77
	at 31 December		7715.50		7348.49
<hr/>					
Maintenance (Designated)					
Receipts	Transfers	0.00		0.00	
	Other (Interest)	<u>83.25</u>	83.25	<u>48.71</u>	48.71
Payments		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments			83.25		48.71
Held in current & deposit accounts					
	at 01 January		2068.44		2019.73
	at 31 December		2151.69		2068.44

Report of Church Activities

Schools ministry by Chris Collins

The year saw an increasing involvement from St C's in TGSA, but limited access to Marriott Primary. In TGSA church members continued to serve in reading with smaller children, leading assemblies and serving as governors. Charles leaving at the end of the year meant that Chris has done all of the secondary Christmas assemblies, which is quite a commitment as it means repeating the same assembly 8 times!

Chris and Charles dramatically increased the amount of time they spend in the cafeteria, eating lunch and sometimes chatting with pupils (sometimes using the Youthwork cards).

Also of note were two partnership activities with TGSA Primary - the Easter story trail in the spring and the interactive Prayer Space in the summer for years 5-8. These were well received and involved both St C's members and TGSA staff.

In Marriott Primary, Jayne continues to read with younger children but Charles attempts to get him and Chris involved there were unsuccessful.

Door-to-door by Chris Collins

Having passed this ministry from Charles to Chris, a small amount of door-to-door visiting took place in streets near to the church in the summer. As is usual, this was enjoyable and the response was positive in the main (although there were a number of unanswered knocks possibly because people were in their back gardens during the long summer evenings!). One interesting conversation involved a lady who is of the Druze faith - a first for the team. Whilst the visiting was well-received there was no transition from those we met to other church activities.

CRAFT CAFÉ by Chris Collins

There were 4 Craft Cafes which took place in 2024 - three in the first half of the year and then a gap until the one at Christmas. It continues to be well appreciated by local people, who are able to engage in crafts, eat together & hear a message about an aspect of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gap in the second half of the year was mainly because of uncertainty about the future of Craft Café because the team significantly reduced in number last year, for different reasons. However, it was great to welcome Seye onto the team for the December session. Also at the Christmas session we bought in food for the first time from local cafe SJs, which was convenient and worked without issue.

FOODBANK by Chris Collins

Our foodbank continues to operate, though it was generally quiet in 2024. That said, there was a small glut of requests just before Christmas (perhaps understandably due to financial pressure at that time of year). Having consulted with school staff about whether they thought continuing with the foodbank was viable given the small numbers, they fed back that they thought it was - and even suggested making it available to any TGSA staff who might need it (we have not had any staff come to us as of yet however). Charles' moving on meant that the rest of the team had to recalibrate and firm up our individual responsibilities, but we are confident we can still function in Charles' absence.

Football

Sadly the football group has been disbanded; after the summer, two of the regular members had gone off to college and another two had decided they were now too old and so with the loss of four members and with Charles also moving on, it had been decided St C's football was no longer viable.

Women's Group by Linda Halaczkiwicz

We have a small group me (Linda), Jayne, Sarah and Pauline. Even though Pauline has left the church she knows that she is still part of the group and is welcome to join us at any time. We have this group once a month at my house.

We spend an hour laughing, sharing and comforting each other. We then look at a passage or verse and discuss it.

Last of all we pray for each other.

This group is valuable to us all and we always look forward to meeting up.



51st Leicester (St Christopher's) Scout Group

by Roger Burdett

(Reflecting on, as always, the previous the twelve months to date to be most meaningful.)

Just back from the Scouts' winter bunkhouse camp at Field Head, not spectacular weather and copious mud, not spectacular success with the planned scout activities, it perhaps doesn't rate high amongst camps when a leader reflects. However at last night's troop night the scouts perspective was much more positive! We entertained the cubs on the Saturday when they came up for the day, nature treasure hunting, obstacle course, trailing and tracking, they loved it. The scouts set up things for them and cooked a hot lunch for them on an open fire, it was really pleasing that last night looking after the cubs drew not a word of complaint from the scouts. This is the sort of success we should be looking for.

A snapshot of other activity:

Scouts - Day trip to Wells-next -the-Sea, canoeing at LOPC (Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre), forestry and archery visits to John's Lee Wood, building bird boxes, navigation skills and more.

Cubs - Camp at John's Lee in June, personal safety training, ten pin bowling, science, astronomy and fire safety badges and a visit from Guide Dogs for the Blind with dogs, much liked, and more.

Our overall numbers remain much healthier though there is still capacity for more, please do commend us to families when the opportunity arises. We are still numerically fragile in the leader /adult support department, I think we as leaders could do better when opportunities arise in this area and be more proactive in strategy. Please pray for this area in particular.

An overall more positive year than of late perhaps, looking forward to getting out in the summer. Many Thanks as always for your support.

Investigators by Sarah Collins

2024 has been a lot of fun in Investigators. We have been doing a series on Bible Characters. We have used games, stories, music, Lego, play dough and craft as ways to learn, explore and pray.

Our Investigators are very deep thinkers so we have been able to ask lots of questions and try to work out the answers together.

Our Investigators also love to sing and dance too; we have been learning some songs to fit the themes we have covered. We have had some really special times of joyful praise.

In September we said a very sad goodbye to Pauline and Kisha. The children worked so hard on a lovely scrap book of drawings, prayers and photos for her. Since then others have been willing to help out in Investigators. It's been a real encouragement to have more of our church family joining with us to help our children learn.



How quickly can you make a 'mummy?'



A leaving party for Pauline and Kisha

Little Angels by Rita Early

One little girl told her carer the reason she liked Little Angels more than other groups she went to was because at the start of our singing session we sing a song where we are all named!

In the spring and summer our numbers were generally high, but this can vary from week to week. The most in a session was 32 children and 24 adults, but one wet February morning they dropped to just 11 children and 10 adults.

However, things changed in the autumn when a larger number of children than normal started school or pre-school and our lowest numbers were just 5 children and 5 adults. As the term progressed our numbers increased to a maximum of 20 children and 18 adults.

Numbers aren't everything and we quite enjoy quieter mornings when we can have more time to talk with the carers or play with the children.



Our Easter garden

As usual we celebrated the major festivals; we make donkeys to explain Palm Sunday and an Easter garden to try to explain the meaning of Easter - this is not an easy topic for little ones, but the older ones do understand what makes us happy or sad. And they all like Easter eggs!

Our annual Teddy Bears' picnic for Children in Need, raised £65. Children all bring a teddy to show us - these are rarely tradition bears! Besides eating sitting on picnic mats, we have a bear treasure hunt and making pictures of bears. Sarah and I especially enjoyed a more relaxed Christmas party. The year before we'd been rushed off our feet!

As the end of the year approached we were delighted that we had a number of pregnant mothers and we even had the birth of a new 'Little Angel' on Christmas Day!

The Team

The biggest change this year was the departure of Charles in October, we all really miss him. In May Seye had started to help on Monday mornings, so for a few months we had the luxury of three leaders, so by the time Charles left Seye was well trained! Sarah continues to be an energetic helper on Friday mornings.



Seye our new Little Angels helper

We continue to be very grateful to church members for putting the heavy equipment out on a Sunday morning and usually Chris (or Charles until he left in October) kindly put out the equipment on a Thursday ready for Friday.

Mike also stands in to wash up and clear away if anyone is unable to help. He continues also to mend broken toys.



Rita with Father Christmas

Mission by Rita Early

We support a mission each month, which is explained in the monthly news sheet and on the mission noticeboard. Further contributions towards the mission are collected in the 'Pringles' Tin.

The PCC also gives a contribution of £1,000 to missions.



Home Missions

Open Hands
Scouts
CVM (Christian Mission to Men)
CPAS



World Missions

Crosslinks
Arab World Ministries
Tearfund

This is a summary of our support in 2024

<p>January AWM Finding Faith on the Internet</p>	<p>February CPAS School Ventures</p>	<p>March Tearfund Our annual hunger lunch focused on 'It's a Rubbish Campaign'</p>
<p>April AWM 10 Ways to Avoid Becoming a Missionary</p>	<p>May Crosslinks Focus on Moldova</p>	<p>June Scouts Planning a first camp for the increased numbers in the cub section.</p>
<p>July Open Hands Increasing number of families are needing support with food and clothing</p>	<p>August CPAS Falcons Celebrating a 1000 years of children's holidays</p>	<p>September Tearfund Focus on South Sudan</p>
<p>October Open Hands Hope to those who are excluded from the workplace and every day social interactions.</p>	<p>November CVM Paul Gask speaks to men's events. The aim of the mission is to bring 1,000 men to Christ.</p>	<p>December Tearfund Supporting the plastics treaty negotiations (INC-5)</p>



Sweet wrappers can now be re-cycled

Our Tearfund lunch was well supported, with 31 people staying. We learnt how big a problem plastic rubbish is to the world. Even re-cycling small items like biscuit wraps which have to be taken to a supermarket can add up. As a church we now re-cycle the wraps after our Sunday refreshment and some church members now also re-cycle their soft plastics.



Pauline and Charles serving at the Tearfund lunch

Tea, Chat and Pray by Rita Early

We meet roughly bi-monthly, usually on the second Sunday of the month. We missed out March this year as it was a very busy month and met in April instead. After this we continued bi-monthly, which meant that during the summer holidays we met in August instead of July, which suited many people, who were away in July.

The pattern of prayer varies from month to month, but we tend to start with world events which this year has often been on the war in Ukraine, but also on events highlighted by Tearfund such as floods, famine and the impact of climate change on the poorest countries of the world. We also pray for the Mission of the month. There is always an update from our two 'home grown' missionaries and we tend to finish with UK issues and some diocesan news.

Our numbers have ranged from 5 to 8, but now sadly as Charles has now left we are down to just 7 regulars, so we have plenty of room for more! In October, on the actual day Charles finished at St C's and after his leaving party, he came to TCP and gave us his testimony of how he had felt called to be a prison chaplain, even before he went forward to train for ordination. We then prayed for his new work at Rye Hill.



There have been 3 meetings of the Deanery Synod in the past year in March, July and November.

19th March 2024

At this meeting we had a guest speaker talking about teaching children who have Special Educational Needs with a particular emphasis on those in C of E schools. Both the Government and Ofsted are looking at ways of improving work to SEN children. There was open discussion on not only those with SEN in our schools but also in our churches. The discussion then went on to how churches are doing with Disabled children and adults in general. This was led by a Curate from St Marys who is wheelchair bound with Polio and the problems she encounters visiting churches..

3rd July 2024

At this meeting we were informed of a survey being undertaken into all the different faith groups within the City. The results will determine the Mission for Leicester in the future. We then had a Curate from the Church of the Martyrs who was talking about the time when she had a miscarriage and the feelings and hurt she suffered at the time. Informing that it is and should be treated as bereavement and women should be comforted more by the Church in general. We then had a discussion about Gay Christians and the way they suffer hate crime or being discriminated against within the church. That in many cases they are not being allowed to take roles within the Church and asked to be celibate.

21st November 2024

There was a presentation and then question time into the financial problems within the Diocese. With the Diocese having a deficit year on year they expressed what they were going to do to overcome this issue such as cutting clergy posts and staff. This was a very contentious meeting with a number of people in the audience raising concerns and dissatisfaction about the Diocese and their plans for the future.