



From the Vicar

This past year has been an exciting one in the life of St Gabriel's. We have had quite a bit of coming and going as well as great celebrations and special moments, there has also been the sense that God is on the move and at work among us with tentative signs of growth to encourage us further. In July we welcomed friends and visitors from across the episcopal area to celebrate the priesting of Willesden Curates including our own Rev'd Catherine Patterson. St Gabriel's was used to its maximum capacity and a fantastic effort of hospitality and welcome. We also enjoyed celebrating a number of significant milestone birthdays with several members reaching numbers such as 80, 90 and even 100.



This year I have continued my involvement with the Brent Multifaith forum which has led to a number of opportunities to collaborate with other organisations such as the police. In February, we organised a joint event to look at ways we could work together to make our area a safer place. This led to some really fruitful discussions and some genuine changed points of view and effective networking with likeminded groups. Our community of faith is continuing to grow numerically and in depth as we have welcomed new believers with the gift of Baptism and we enjoy seeing new connections through the work of Hope Café and CAP. There are a great number of thank-yous to be said this year as we have experienced some changes together. We bid farewell to George Wright who left us last summer to begin his next placement.

You can view or download this report including the full accounts not present in this document at st-gabriels.org/apcm or by scanning this QR Code.



We also owe a debt of thanks to Shelley Murray who stepped up to help fill the gap between Administrator appointments, first as a volunteer and then with extra paid responsibilities until the next round of recruitment was complete where we now welcome Bisoye Adedayo to the team. In other areas of ministry, we also pass on thanks to the various PCC members who are stepping down or have resigned this year, or whose tenure has come to an end. This includes Patience Asare-Tweneboah, Charmaine Clarke, Colleen Francis, Faith Mba, Rose Streatfeild, Colin Stubbins, David Vivian and Zeke Yeates. My special thanks to David as he also resigns as Treasurer for his stoic and steady handling of the finances through what was quite a challenging time.



Additionally, this May will see Jenny Erber's time with us coming to an end. Jenny has been a fabulous addition to the team and has worked hard to learn as much as she can and consistently add value to the ministry here at St Gabriels. We will miss her greatly but are encouraged that she now goes to share all she has learnt as a Curate-in-charge at St Christopher's Hanwell. We pray for all God's blessings to be on her and her family as they relocate and get settled in. Finally, this year I will also be taking some study leave. This is an opportunity for Clergy every ten years of ordained ministry to take some time out for reflection and learning. I will be therefore away from the parish from after Pentecost Sunday 8 June until Sunday 14 September. Susie will be mostly around but will join me for an extended summer break as well.

I will of course miss you all greatly during this time but I plan to focus some study on the nature of refugee journeys and the ministry of those who show them Christian kindness, to do this I will be travelling across Europe by air, land and sea but mainly on the train.



In addition to this, I will be making a short visit to the Stones Family in Georgia and taking an extended holiday with the family in Spain. Rest assured you will be in safe hands with Catherine stepping up to provide support in leading services and preaching. On my return in September, we can look forward to focusing in on new horizons together such as church planting initiatives and growing the work of the debt centre across Brent. With Every Blessing,

The Rev'd James Yeates - Vicar

Children and Families

This year has been an exciting year in the Children and Families department. In Boogie Angels this year we have seen lots of new families join us for our toddler group and music and movement session. It's so fun to get to know the children and their families. It is a joy to provide a safe space for families to play together and ask faith questions. The Boogie Angels team have been amazing amongst changing times. They are all so good at welcoming our community into our building. It was so lovely to see so many of our Boogie Angels families at Christmas services this year. We loved welcoming families from our community in February for February Family Fun. We watched a movie, made Minion biscuits, created some beautiful crafts and had lots of play space for big and little kids. It is such a joy to open our building during the most gloomy school holiday and catch up with those who have left us from Boogie Angels to start school and nursery. Children's ministry this year has been so much fun.

In September, we began worshipping together as soon as the children leave the main service. This has been well received and an absolute joy to lead. In the Bible, Psalm 8 v 2 'Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies'. It has been our joy to take part in this kingdom work. We have also welcomed a number of new families in both Kids and Mini Church age groups. This year we have studied Paul, People Who Met Jesus, The Armour of God, Christmas and Easter. It's been jam packed and the kids have had loads of great questions and fun. We are blessed this year with a few year sixes who are looking forward to going up to youth but who we will miss in Kids Church. Kids and Mini church also did a brilliant job of telling the Christmas story at our nativity service in December. We have also got lots of them reading the bible at all age services. We are so pleased to have children in our St Gabriel's community. As always, all these would not be possible if it were not for the amazing teams that lead and support the children and families ministry. They are all brilliant and serve wholeheartedly with the love of Jesus. Our Kids team are fantastic and we are in great need of extra team to be able to serve these precious children God has brought us. Please do come and chat to Susie about getting more involved.

Susie Yeates, Children and Families Minister

Wednesday Fellowship

Wednesday Fellowship have been enjoying meeting weekly. They meet for prayer for themselves, for the church, worship and a bible study. We have had some new members joining us. This year we have studied the bible using the Bible Society's video courses. We have used the Bible and Romans course. For Lent, we have been using Paula Gooder book 'Women in the Lent Story'.





Many of our members have celebrated significant birthdays this year and we have enjoyed celebrating them joyfully. We have also enjoyed meals for Christmas, Easter and Summer.

Susie Yeates

Youth

This past year we have continued with the schedule of meeting alternate weeks for Sunday Youth and Friday Night Youth. On weeks they don't meet for youth sessions, our young people continue to serve on various rotas, including - live streaming, visuals, sound desk, scripture reading and kids' church. During the summer months we took the opportunity to "hang out" outside of term-time, enjoying sunshine and bubble teas. Our renewed gatherings around the Fire Pit have been a great way to connect and an opportunity to invite friends. As part of our series on Christian character, the young people planted sunflower seeds so we have an ongoing reminder of what it means to have the fruit of patience. We have also enjoyed joining in with church wide events as a group and our collective wisdom earned us one of the top prizes in the CAP Fundraiser Quiz this year!



In July, we were sorry to say goodbye to George who was with us at St Gabriel's on the Willesden Ministry Experience Intern Scheme. George was a key part of the Youth team and much loved by the young people. This year, our core team of Aalia, Alan, Debbie and Naomi, joined by Stephen from Cricklewood Baptist Church on Fridays, has grown to include Minnie on Sundays and Marcus on Fridays, and we hope other volunteers will soon join us on a regular basis. Thanks also to James for joining the team for a season.

Adding to our number has meant we have had more time to contribute to this ministry and our young people have benefited from deeper connections, additional teaching, and more diversity in activities when we gather.



We are entering another new season as James goes on Study Leave and I take up other responsibilities, so please prayerfully consider if you could be the next person to join the team and help our young people flourish in their faith journeys.

The Rev'd Catherine Patterson - Curate

Christians Against Poverty

The CAP Debt Centre continues to serve the community with casework, Money Coaching courses and joint working with Hope Café. From January 2024 to March 2025, we supported 65 adults and over 30 children across 53 households with unmanageable debt casework. Seven clients are debt free as a result, with over £104k of debt cleared. We also celebrated 17 households equipped to manage their journey to debt freedom independently in that period too. Whilst finances are a struggle for many people and charities, we are fortunate to have won the support of loyal CAP Angels, donors and grant funders to cover the costs of 3 part time staff (2 Debt Coaches and the Hope Café Manager), ongoing costs (including CAP fees and Hope Café) and development work.



Now confident with the new Money Coaching materials, we worked on expanding our reach and trialled shorter taster sessions ahead of a full course offering. As a result, we ran four courses in 2024 with 38 registered guests, but already in 2025 have run five taster sessions reaching some 90 people plus a full course with 9 guests. A course at a partner church will run shortly. We've linked with a local college to engage students in budgeting and still seek to run sessions at schools or other community groups. See separate Hope Café report; CAP is looking to develop the support offering further, building on the good reports filtering out to the community. Thank you, team!

Emma Liberman - CAP Debt Centre Manager

Hope Café

Hope Café takes place on Monday afternoons and we continue to see around 50 people come through the door each week. Food is prepared on the premises and the food prep team are trained in food safety. We implement strategies to ensure we run the cafe to a good standard, this hard work was acknowledged this year as we gained 5 stars in food safety at our inspection just before the summer. Hope Café has been particularly successful in engaging people who are struggling with loneliness and social engagement, and also with those seeking practical help and relief from cost-of-living pressures, immigration and housing, or pastoral issues including worries and anxieties.



We have been exploring partnering with other agencies, in how we can offer access to wider services and have established some good links particularly with Brent Health Services and they have become a valued part of Hope Café. Growth is still a defining factor of Hope Café and many guests continue to visit church services. God continues to bless the work of Hope Café week by week. Please pray with us that he continues to work through the cafe and all we provide. We branched out this year in that we catered for the Priesting Service in June, and together with CAP, we also were the subject of a video commissioned by the diocese. It showcased the work we do at Hope Café and there has been lots of interest from others who might like to start something similar for their locality.



I personally, never cease to be amazed at how Hope Café has grown and evolved over time. It would be impossible without the amazing team we have, who work very hard to ensure that Hope Café runs each week, and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for all they do and for the support they show to me to ensure that Hope Café continues to be successful.

Shelley Murray, Hope Café Manager

Reflections from an Ordinand

Firstly—what is an ordinand? (I realise it's such an odd and slightly funny word!) An ordinand is someone who is in the process of being trained and prepared for ordination—often through theological study, practical placements, and spiritual formation. In short, it's someone on the path to becoming clergy. I hope that helps! As I come to the end of my three-year placement at St Gabriel's, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the love, support, and generous welcome that my family and I have received from this wonderful church family. It has been such a deeply formative season—full of learning, laughter, challenge, and growth. From preaching and leading services to simply serving alongside you and sharing in prayer, every experience has deepened my understanding of ministry and expanded my love for God.



There are far too many highlights to name them all here, but I will especially miss the faithful prayers and joyful singing of Wednesday Fellowship, as well as the weekly "Mrs Bunny" song from Boogie Angels—often drifting into my study and leaving me singing along! A standout memory from early on, back in 2022, was organising the Ladies' Caribbean Night—a vibrant, joy-filled evening that brought to mind Cyndi Lauper's lyric: "Girls just wanna have fun!" I've particularly loved being part of—and facilitating—the midweek Alpha and Bible Course groups, including

our recent Lent sessions. It's been a real privilege to explore faith and journey with some of you toward baptism and deeper discipleship. These spaces of honest, curious conversation have shaped me not only in what I believe, but also in how I care and lead. When I first set out on this journey of training, one of the biggest challenges I faced was (and sometimes still do) writing academic essays. But if there's one thing I've learned, it's this: never underestimate what God can do when you offer Him your struggles and weaknesses. Time and again, I've seen His grace at work—not just in my studies, but in every area of formation and my life.



Now, one thing I won't miss is the endless moving and stacking of chairs... but even in that, God has shown me the quiet beauty of humility and service—something I can so easily imagine Jesus doing in the Gospels. Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus offering hospitality—welcoming the outsider, feeding the hungry, sharing meals, and creating space for belonging and transformation. One of the things I've come to love most about St Gabriel's is your radiant gift of hospitality. It truly sets you apart. Never lose this precious part of your identity as you continue to welcome and love others. When I first arrived, I asked you to pray for strength and wisdom—and I've felt the fruit of those prayers in every season. As we now prepare for the next step in our journey, I ask that you continue to pray for us with that same heart, as we follow where God is leading. I'll soon be moving to West London to serve as Curate-in-Charge of St Christopher's, Hanwell, in preparation for my ordination at St Paul's Cathedral at the end of June. As a final encouragement, I want to leave you with these words from 1 Peter 2:9: "You are a royal priesthood." Each of us is chosen to reign with Christ and to serve as His representatives on earth. Let us never forget our purpose, identity, and inheritance—to share in Christ's royalty and carry the responsibility and privilege of being His priests: interceding, worshiping, and offering hope to a world in need. And this hope comes in the name of JESUS—our living hope. Thank you for being such a vital part of my formation and calling. I leave with a heart full of gratitude, many treasured memories, and a deep sense of having gained an extended family. I am truly thankful for the ways God has been at work in and through this community.

With love and every blessing,

Jenny Erber- Ordinand

English Conversation Classes

We have run English classes now for 15 years at St Gabriel's. We continued even during COVID, when we moved online using Zoom. We have two evening English classes each week, on Mondays and Wednesdays. Because we have a large group on Mondays, the class is split into two. Our teachers during 2024 were Caty, Jemma, Haider and Richard, assisted by Sim. Our current teachers in 2025 so far are Caty, Haider and Richard, assisted during Lent by Sandra. Students come from many countries including Iran, Brazil, Kuwait, Türkiye, Japan, Hong Kong, Poland, Ukraine and France. There may be up to 50 students altogether. Fortunately, they don't all come at the same time. The maximum we have had on a Monday is 30 students.



We don't advertise, but our classes are listed on the Brent ESOL website. Some colleges also refer students to us. We hesitate to advertise more, for fear of having too many students. Occasionally, people from other churches come along to see what we do. As always, the classes are a thoroughly enjoyable experience from the teachers' perspective, and we believe the students have a good time too, judging by how difficult it is to get them back together after the 'five minute' tea break. Several of them come for the community, which is fine as far as we are concerned. We still write our own materials, although it would be good to find some inexpensive professional lessons. As always, the objective is to increase vocabulary and to build confidence in speaking. We don't really cover 'grammar' except where it is necessary for understanding the passage



we are studying. But we are open to new ideas and to suggestions from the students. We have had several social events. These include summer barbecue and the Nowruz party which was jointly organised with people from the Church congregation. And we have events at Christmas and

when there are birthdays. We sometimes have group visits to cultural events and fairs. Most students do not identify as Christian, but that is fine. We don't explicitly preach the Gospel to the students, but we seek to demonstrate the character of Christ. We are unapologetic when we do have to talk about matters of faith. Sometimes the class material covers matters of religion and the students are fine with that. For some students to actually come through the door of a church building is a big step in itself. By building friendship and making the classes pleasurable we hope that our students will be able to appreciate different cultures and overcome their fears, especially when they are away from their own countries and families. Some may also find their way into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Richard Berry - English Class Team Leader

Music and Production

*"All glory to God who is able, all power and praise
Forever the earth will proclaim You are mighty, You are mighty"*

It is great to be writing this report as we have just celebrated Jesus' resurrection and conquering death at Easter when we are able to praise Him for what he has done for us. This year, it was a particular joy to have a choir singing at the main Easter morning service - bringing an extra quality to our sung worship. This was inspired by an equally successful Christmas Carol Service choir. Part of the success of both occasions has been the blessing of having our very own in house music guru to arrange and compose for us - Isy Ajani. Isy has also stepped into leading the band regularly now.



And I also want to thank all those who faithfully serve in the team to lead sung worship week after week in our Sunday services. Joyful sung worship has always been a key feature of our communal worship at St Gabriel's - both in services and other mid week occasions. I read a fantastic quote the other day that "Worship saves us from being self-centred and makes us God-centred". I think that is my heart and hopefully for us all too. That we would see more of God as we sing our worship to him - wherever we are. And my continued prayer that I hope you will join me in is that God would bring us more musicians and grow musicians within to lift our communal worship.

Marcus Liberman - Music and Production Team Leader



Deanery Synod

There were three Anglicans in Brent (Deanery Synod) meetings during 2024/25:

- Wednesday 12 June 2024; Eco Church. We heard about the Council's 'Faith Climate Action Plan' (their climate charter with faith and community groups) and other projects happening in Brent. James also shared a bit of our own journey in achieving our Bronze Eco Church Award, and how all churches can make small changes to help the planet.
 - Tuesday 29 October 2024; Safeguarding with Angela Colman. A very stimulating session with Angela Colman, the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer speaking about how we can all make our churches a safe place for everyone.
 - Thursday 6 March 2025; Deanery Roadshow with a visit from Bishop Lusa, Archdeacon Catherine and the Willesden Area Leadership Team to engage us on the London Vision and Willesden charisms and where they are at work in our communities.
- Anglicans in Brent is not just for your Deanery Reps but is open to each and every one of us. If you would like to attend one of the meetings then please speak to Derrick or Winsome, we also would like to thank Colleen Francis for her diligent attendance and participation in Deanery Synod but who will be stepping down this year. We look forward to welcoming her successor after the APCM.

Derrick Green - Deanery Synod Rep

PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) comprises members elected by the congregation of St. Gabriel's Church. These individuals serve as Church Trustees and are legally responsible for addressing matters affecting the Church. The PCC meets monthly to make decisions regarding church operations, with new members elected annually at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in May. At the APCM, key roles essential to church functioning - Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Churchwarden - are also appointed. PCC members are expected to attend monthly meetings to discuss and make decisions on church-related matters. The Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Churchwarden also form a subcommittee known as the Standing Committee, which identifies issues, prepares the meeting agenda, and presents matters for PCC approval. Members are assigned specific responsibilities such as Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Electoral Roll, and

Children & Youth. They also report concerns to help ensure the smooth running of the Church. Additionally, staff with operational roles are invited annually to present reports at PCC meetings.



There are currently vacancies on the PCC, as some members are stepping down at the end of their term, relocating, or attending to other commitments. Church members are encouraged to apply. To join, interested individuals must complete an application, obtain a nomination from another member, and submit it to the Church Officer. Applications will be reviewed and voted on at the APCM.

Harriet Aber-Luwum

Safeguarding

We subscribe to and have adopted the Church of England policy on Promoting a Safer Church, and have endeavoured over this year to put in place the recommendations and procedures advised by the policy. In May 2024, the PCC approved our Safeguarding Policy for the year. This year we have been rolling out Safer Recruitment for volunteers and we now have robust procedures to help ensure that St Gabriel's is as safe as it can possibly be. This is recommended by the Church of England and within this framework we continue to ensure that DBS checks are carried out on everyone who works or volunteers with children and vulnerable adults. We also ask that Safeguarding Training is undertaken to an appropriate level for the position held in church. In addition to this, we are now requesting references for prospective volunteers and there are also Role Descriptions for every available volunteer position. Safeguarding appears on the PCC agenda every month as it is of extreme importance and needs to be given a high profile. The PCC are kept updated regarding the dashboard and also are required to have DBS and updated Safeguarding Training to be in post.



This year has been challenging for Safeguarding within the Church of England and we here at St Gabriel's strive to be vigilant and to never become complacent in our practice. Safeguarding Sunday saw us focus on victims of abuse and we stood by them by making a 'Loud Fence', where we tied ribbons to the Rood Screen as a response. We continue to make it a priority to respond to concerns quickly, appropriately and effectively. If you have any concerns that someone may be being abused, please fill in the form on our website st-gabriels.org, found on the opening page and/or speak to either myself or our vicar, James Yeates, or email safeguarding@st-gabriels.org. If you think someone is in immediate danger ring the police on 999.

Shelley Murray - Parish Safeguarding Officer

Fabric and Buildings

This year the building & maintenance side of things for St Gabriel's church has been busy and we organised 2 events for the church family to help pitch in and tackle the repairs. The first event-- MEND IT DAY was last year in November where we fixed broken chairs, replaced and fitted kitchen sink taps, changed light bulbs, and mended baby-changing fold down table. We also put up internal Christmas lights and made the church look very festive for the Advent season. The second event this year in April was SPRING SPRUCE DAY and it was another good turn-out of all hands on deck. There were more chairs to mend, floors to be washed, trellis to fix and secure and lawn to mow. Other ongoing building & maintenance jobs have included the roof leak repairs. We had scaffolding up and around the church for a couple months from Feb-March 2025. Moreover, the repair of the boundary wall around St Gabriel's church is still a work in progress. We have a contractor quote to repair 4 sections of the brick wall that have been damaged and then will need budget approval from the PCC for financing the expense. The boiler system of the church which was having problems in Dec 2024 was finally repaired with a pressurization unit and replacement control panel by Feb 2025.



Lastly, Vicar James has recently received grant funding from the Home Office for updated security installation which will hopefully include CCTV system, electronic locking/fob access, security alarm and remote access.

Tuong Vi Le-Magowan - Churchwarden

Appreciation is extended to James, Susie, Debbie who helped members and all the enthusiastic members who were very cooperative, to self-sign-up online, for the New Year(May 2025 - April 2026), without any hassle.

Anita Bowen - Electoral Roll Officer

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll Membership is reset every sixth year and all the membership list was recently deleted in preparation for the new term starting May 2025, so that attendees can re-register as members. In the previous year, the membership roll was up to 187. After the refreshment of the roll the figure currently stands at 158. As the roll has been completely refreshed, no members have been added or deleted from the roll, rather the roll has been completely recompiled with those who wish to be included. All previous members of the roll were contacted in advance to invite them to re-enrol. Even though the overall number seems a lot lower, the advantage of refreshing the roll is that many people that should have previously been removed are taken away and the remaining people better represent that worshipping community of the church. Relocation also enhanced the membership with new Farsi families and other members who have become regular attendees, who have vouched to sign up as soon as they qualify in the required six months period. Other beneficial sources are groups like Alpha, Hope Cafe, English Classes, CAP. Also, the church encourages parents to register their children as soon as they reach the joining age of 16 for Electoral Membership. This proactive approach ensures that youth members become inclusive in the church community.



This and other groups listed above are the overall efforts of the church to engage with the community through various activities, and to the steady growth of electoral membership. As the new six-year term approaches, online registration will re-open after the APCM for figures to be included in next years report. Intending members who do not meet the deadline will not be eligible to vote in the May 2025 elections but are welcome to complete the form in preparation for the next year.



Finance Report and Summary of Accounts for 2024

Introduction

Financial gifts from the congregation enable St Gabriel's to continue in worship, to offer weekly activities to the local community, put on special events, support other churches in London, and support mission partners both in this country and internationally. In these uncertain times with costs continually increasing, and when it's not always clear whether all these activities can continue, God continues to find a way to keep things going through unexpected gifts, grants, legacies and the generosity of the congregation.

The Finance Team during 2024-25 was Debbie Thomas, Colleen Francis, Hiva Salehzadeh, James Yeates and David Vivian

How we work out our money

In St Gabriel's we look to cover our regular expenses with our regular income. Regular expenses are the running costs for our ministries and activities, on Sundays and during the week, engaging with our local community and showing faith in action, contributing to clergy and wider church costs, paying our other staff, heating and looking after our buildings and grounds, and giving for God's mission locally, in London, nationally and internationally. We set our sights high, and obviously need our income and outgoings to balance, which is a challenge to us.

How did this work out in 2024?

In 2024 we were blessed with a large grant to help cover the costs of running and expanding our CAP dept centre and Hope Café, and a grant to help with the costs of our intern. Other than these grants we did not receive any outside funds, so all other funds were given by members and friends together with hiring our hall, rent from the hall flat, rent from the telecoms equipment in the tower and church activities

Income: Regular income was lower in 2024 than 2023 (approximately a 4.3% decrease). In contrast to this, the number of one off gifts increased substantially in 2024 (an increase of over 100%). Hall letting income was approximately 28% lower than in 2023.

Thank you to everyone who gave to St Gabriel's during the year!

Spending: We had a few one off expenses in 2024 that were not anticipated, and energy costs were marginally higher than we budgeted for. In most other areas, expenditure was in line with expectations. Overall expenditure was approximately 3% higher than anticipated.

Overall:

For 2024 we had a surplus of approximately £24,700. This was due to the exceptional number of one off gifts we received (had one off gifts been in line with previous years, we would have run a deficit again for 2024).

We were able to use this surplus to cover the costs of the major flat works that we funded from our "125 investing in our future fund", and to replenish our reserve funds.

We thank God for his provision that has allowed us to run a surplus for the first time in a number of years, and enabled us to put our finances back on a more stable footing.

What does this mean for 2025?

To allow us to plan and grow our ministry, continue to worship God, serve our community and bring others to know Jesus to we need to grow our regular income.

The generosity of friends and members in 2024, particularly with one-off gifts has left us in a much stronger financial position than we have been in for 7 or 8 years. However, for 2025, we anticipate we will be facing a deficit of between £5,000 and £10,000.

This means if we want to continue to do everything we currently do and maintain our reserves we need to increase our regular giving to close the gap between income and outgoings.



How can we pray?

We can give thanks that our financial needs have been met during 2024 and that we have been able to put our finances back on a sound footing. We can pray that for 2025 that regular giving meets our needs, and allows us to grow our ministry in line with the plans He has for St Gabriel's

Please pray, asking and trusting God to meet our needs. We want St Gabriel's to be all that God wants us to be, for his church and his name to be known in this area, so that more people will come to know him.

Income

	2024	2023
Standing Orders	£80,509	£81,251
Offering basket, text etc.	£9,128	£12,469
One-off gifts	£55,265	£23,309
For our Christians Against Poverty Centre <i>(2024 include a grant from the Kingsbury Charity of £16,000 Towards the running cost of CAP and Hope Café, and £960 from Willesden consolidated Charities Trust)</i>	£40,493	£18,149
Tax reclaimed	£34,791	£27,802
Event income	£6,652	£6,591
Flat rent <i>(including water rates)</i>	£18,264	£16,844
Hall lettings <i>(less deposits returned)</i>	£14,075	£19,544
Service fees <i>(for weddings, funerals in church)</i>	£4169	£3,937
Insurance claims	-	-
VAT reclaimed	£1,114	£500
Interest	£1,618	£1,234
Tower Telecoms <i>(Figures do not include charges for electricity usage – see light and Heat expenditure below)</i>	£14,475	£14,475
St Michael's Hall – Ground rent <i>(2023 figure is £250 charged retrospectively for 2022, 2024 is figure is £250 charged retrospectively for 2023, plus £500 charged for 2024)</i>	£750	£250
Church Use	-	£370
Other <i>(Special Mission Giving, Grant for intern)</i>	£1,145	£4,736
Total Income	£282,516	£231,461

Spending – Ministries

	2024	2023
Clergy and Area & Diocesan support <i>(called the common fund)</i>	£91,300	£87,775
Clergy expenses <i>(includes house and office costs, training and conferences, travel and hospitality)</i>	£2,408	£1,297
Worship resources	£2,311	£2,611
Youth Minister and expenses	-	£12,380
Youth resources	£654	£601
Families and Community Minister And Expenses	£14,429	£13,643
Families and Community Ministry	£1,196	£1,707
Intern Allowance <i>(Mostly funded by a grant from the Diocese - £3,402 received in total for 2023-2024)</i>	£2,380	£1,360
Events	£1,388	£2,721
Hope Café <i>(2023 set up costs of £1050 paid from out "125 Investing in our Future" fund, 2024 All but £500 covered by a grant from the Kingsbury Trust)</i>	£4,013	£2,129
Hospitality	£2,588	£1,557
Alpha, Welcome	£148	£352
Equipment	£21	£32
Training, consultancy and conferences	£761	£1,348
Leaving and other Gifts	£484	£1,313
Staff and Clergy Phone, Internet and Sundries	£4,176	£2,919
Staff Team – Entertaining and Gifts	£273	£82
Advertising Events	-	£183
Total Ministries Costs	£128,529	£134,007



Spending – Church and Grounds

	2024	2023
Church Administrator and expenses	£16,516	£18,668
Light and Heat and water rates (2023 includes £6906 for Tower Telecoms usage not invoiced until 2024, 2024 includes £10,442 that was reclaimed for Tower Telecoms usage.)	£33,051	£28,680
Insurance	£9,043	£8,882
Equipment	£1,817	£1,977
Accounting costs	£950	£1,259
Housekeeping (cleaning and materials)	£3,629	£3,463
Stationary and Postage	£1,097	£1,421
Telephone and broadband	£713	£520
Licenses, Website and ChurchSuite	£3,297	£2,982
Service Fees Payable to the Diocese/Others	£1,794	£1,963
Insurance claim repairs and items	-	-
ECO Projects (Paid from grant given in 2022)	-	£420
Maintenance and Works:		
Electrical works (2023 Emergency lighting, security lights)	£132	£546
Heating and plumbing (2023 and 2024: includes repairs for leaking boiler and leaking heating pipework)	£5010	£1,503
Gutter cleaning (2023 payment for both 2022 and 2023 gutter cleaning)	-	£849
Fire safety, alarm (2023: includes fire stopping works and fire alarm works)	£1909	£2,026
Clock (Annual service)	£372	£338
Oven repairs		£175
Roof Repairs	£1050	-
Other maintenance and works	£178	£480
Refuse (From 2023 refuse collections have to be paid for)	£331	£184
(Total Maintenance and Works)	(£8,982)	(£6,101)
Total Church and Grounds Costs	£80,890	£76,336

Spending – Church Hall

	2024	2023
Light and Heat and water rates	£2,964	£2,239
Insurance	£1,393	£1,515
Cleaning, including carpets	£1,080	£778
Equipment and Wi-Fi	£578	£521
Flat costs (2003 Includes £10,750 for major works)	£630	£11,454
Opening and closing for hires	-	£425
Maintenance and Works:		
Heating, plumbing and electrical repairs (2023 Includes installation of emergency lighting, 2024 includes radiator valve replacements)	£1,030	£2,983
Fire safety, alarm	£345	£471
Other maintenance and repairs	-	£102
(Total Maintenance and Works)	(£1,373)	£3,556
Total Church Hall Costs	£8,019	£20,487



Mission Giving

Each year we give away at least 10% of the previous year's giving income

	2024	2023
International Mission:		
Stone family	£2,640	£2,640
Open Doors	£540	£540
Tearfund	-	£13
Tumaini Health Centre, Kenya	£1,200	£1,200
Other (Turkey Earthquake Aid, Yulias Refuge)	-	£1,681
National Mission:		
Church Pastoral Aid Society	£900	£900
New Wine	£430	£430
Evangelical Alliance	-	£150
Other (2024 includes £459 given to Welcome Churches, and £82 given to the Living Wage Foundation)	£539	-
London and Willesden Area Mission:		
Other Area Churches (through extra Common Fund)	£6,393	£5,366
Bishops Mission Fund	£500	-
Other	-	£110
Local Mission:		
Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre[*]	£43,523	£33,598
Other Mission Giving:	-	
Bishop's and Vicar's Discretionary Funds	£483	£1,000
Total Mission Giving	£57,146	£47,628
([*]includes given for CAP centre 2024: £40,493, 2023: £18,159)		

Final Totals

	2024	2023
Total Income	£282,516	£231,461
Total Spend	£274,584	£278,458

Treasurers Closing Remarks

At the end of 2024, the finances of the church were in a much better position than we have seen for a number years, with a surplus for the first time since 2016 that has allowed us to replenish our reserves. This was in the main due to an exceptional amount of one off gifts given during the 2024, and at a much higher level than we anticipate for 2025.

For 2025 we are anticipating a deficit again unless we see an increase regular giving, and any shortfall will need to be covered from our reserves. It would be great if we could build on the strong financial foundation we have at the end of 2024, and as a church family increase our regular giving to allow us to permanently close the gap between income and expenditure. Achieving this would allow us to think about expanding our ministry to allow us to do all we are called to do as a church.

David Vivian - Treasurer

Final Thoughts

I hope that by reading through this report you have been inspired as I have by the exciting and lively community of faith that we are at St Gabriel's. Each person that contributes in sharing God's love through kindness, prayer, service or generosity is adding to the story of faith that is building in this wonderful place. I would also like to thank all the people that have been faithfully serving and giving in every team rota or group. Particularly those that give out week in week out that don't have a whole report dedicated to them, in areas such as Hospitality, Welcome, Bible reading, Grounds keeping, Pastoral visiting, Money Counting, Home Group leading, even Preaching and Leading. I hope I've not forgotten anyone, but if I have, please know how grateful I am for all you do and look forward us continuing to work together in facing all the challenges of the year ahead.

The Rev'd James Yeates - Vicar



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