

# Saint Sampson's Parochial Church Council Annual Report Year ended 31 December 2024



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# Reference and Administrative Information

St Sampson’s Church is situated at the top of Church Hill adjacent to Penquite Farm, Golant, PL23 1LB and is on the ancient Saints’ Way from Padstow to Fowey. It is part of the Deanery of St Austell, Archdeaconry of Bodmin and Diocese of Truro, within the Church of England. In February 2023, Rev Shona M Hoad was appointed Priest-in-Charge following the period of 3 years in ‘transition’.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Election to the PCC is from the electoral roll on a rolling 3-year basis; those due to retire may be re-elected. The number on the Electoral Roll this year is 63 and the Electoral Roll Officer is Linda Brice. Every six years the electoral roll is renewed, and this last took place during 2019 and will be undertaken in 2025.

Those PCC members who have served from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 until the date of this report are:

- Wardens: Mr Simon Funnell \*\* Safeguarding Officer  
Mr Greg White \*
- Deanery Synod Both Churchwardens and  
Representatives: Mr David Jenkinson Health & Safety Officer
- Other Elected members: Mr Allan Foster \*\*\*  
Mrs Claire Foster \*\*\*  
Mrs Sheila Funnell \*\*  
Mrs Glynis Kelly  
Mrs Valerie Russell Secretary  
Mr Christopher Taylor  
Mrs Penny White \* Treasurer

Matching asterisks\* indicate PCC members who are married couples.

## Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representative Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

PCC meetings are held every other month. There is a standing committee consisting of: Priest, Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer who can make decisions between PCC meetings when necessary.

The Annual Parishioners’ Meeting for the Election of Church Wardens and the APCM of the PCC are held at the Church on the same day, this year on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 5pm prior to Evensong.

## Priest in Charge

The Rev. Shona Hoad was licenced on 29th January 2023 and Martin Hoad was appointed as a Reader for the benefice of St Sampson and Tywardreath later in the year. Shona has been in post for two years out of the initial three-year contract. There are considerations on how clergy may be allocated to St Sampson’s church at the end of Shona’s contract. One possibility, mentioned in the original Deanery Plan was a single benefice of Golant, Tywardreath and Fowey.

As Shona completes her second year as our Priest in Charge, we are delighted to report that she has continued to enrich the life of the Parish. This year saw a Sea Sunday service at The Fisherman’s Arms, an initiative that resulted in many calls for it to become an annual event. In addition to the normal Sunday services, Shona has led services for Mothering Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Harvest Festival, and the congregation appreciates both her sincerity and her good humour. Although Shona’s time is limited, and Tywardreath is a far bigger Parish, we feel very grateful that she has immersed herself in our community to such good effect, and we hope that she feels at home here.

## **Priest in Charge – Shona Hoad**

It is strange to think that I am now into the third year of my original three-year appointment. In many ways, nothing has changed that much and St Sampson's continues to offer the wonderful welcome that makes it the warm and friendly place it has always been. People continue to visit as pilgrims on the Saints Way as well as the holiday visitors who join us for worship on Sundays. The choir, the handbell ringers and the big bells all add to the wonderful sense of a community of faith that enjoys being together. The team who work quietly and effectively - often in the background - ensuring that everything is maintained well and running smoothly are a delightful encouragement for me and, of course, I am sent onwards each Sunday to the service in Tywardreath nicely warmed by a great cup of coffee! As envisaged when I first started the PCCs of both Golant and Tywardreath are beginning to find opportunities for the churches to work together and support one another. Conversations are ongoing in regard to the future plans for the two parishes and I am confident that God will be part of those conversations.

## **Related Organisations:**

### **Bell Ringers**

The ringers are led by their captain Ruth Varco. The bells were rung at services throughout the year. There are only 6 regular ringers for 5 bells, so there are occasions when there are too few to ring. New recruits who would be willing both to learn the ropes and ring at services would be most welcome. Ringing practice is on Mondays 5-6pm.

### **Hand-Bells**

Hand-bell ringing continues to be very popular, and this year we have had 18 ringers, so the Monday afternoon practices involve three ringing groups of six players. Christmas was particularly busy, with ringing engagements at Cornubia in Par, at Hendra Court, Trenythron, St Sampson's Church for 'Finding Father Christmas', and at our own Fisherman's Arms. Enthusiasm for the hand-bells appears to be undimmed, which is very heartening. If you would like to join the handbell ringers (when there is room), please contact Simon Funnell (funnell878@btinternet.com).

### **Choir**

The choir continues to outgrow the pews available, and the alto section enjoys the luxury of the orange (padded) chairs! Choir practices are at 4.00pm on a Friday, and the choir continues to sing on the second and fourth Sundays of each month - plus, of course, for all the special services, such as Mothering Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Day, St Sampson's Day, Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve was again a highlight. At Christmas, several choir members are often away visiting family, so it is very difficult to match music to resources, and this year was no exception. However, the choir members who were here rose to the challenge magnificently, and 'Jesus, Jesus, rest your head' and the 'Star Carol' were real highlights. Anyone interested in joining our lovely village choir should contact the musical director, Sheila Funnell (sheilagolant@btinternet.com).

## **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is set up to cooperate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is responsible for the Church which is a Grade One Listed Building. The aim is to maintain the building not only as a place of worship for the services but as a place of quiet, beauty, prayer and reflection for all parishioners.

The PCC aims to keep the Church open for visitors during the day so that they may spend time in a holy place, enjoy the history, peace, beauty, stunning views and scenery.

The Churchyard is part of the 'Living Churchyard' project and the maintenance is focussed towards encouraging wild-life, flora and fauna. When wildflowers are setting their seeds, the grass is not cut and this can look a little unkempt, but the reward is a glorious diversity of wildflowers, mosses and lichens.

The church is also a 'Celtic Quiet Place' [Celtic Quiet Places](#). This project designates some 100 churches in the Diocese of Truro. These churches offer an historical and spiritual atmosphere for those seeking solace.

### **Additions and maintenance during the year**

- The kitchen area has been reorganised and a dishwasher installed.
- Smart Water has been re-applied to the lead on the roof.
- Some gardening tools have been purchased.
- A 'Brown Bin' for our general garden waste was purchased, and to dispose of flowers from arrangements and graves.
- The external lights were rewired using above ground armoured cable.
- Remedial work was done on the drains in the lower churchyard and the boundary fence and gateposts replaced.

### **Items for consideration next year**

The PCC have agreed to have the interior of the church repainted.

The organ may need a considerable refurbishment as the electronics are now reaching their end of life. Another door or removable panel is planned to enable easier access to the pipework.

Some more granite chippings for the lower churchyard path are required to make it more accessible for those attending funerals, and for access to the shed.

We rely heavily on parishioners for their contributions and cooperation in attending and preparing church events and would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who contribute their time, skills and money to support the church.

## Achievements and Performance

Services are normally held each Sunday, and the monthly pattern of worship is as shown in the table:

Service Day	Type of service	Start	Details of Services & Church Activities are
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion	09:30	uploaded to the Golant website. <a href="http://www.golant.net">www.golant.net</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion	09:30	and appear in the diary section of the Golant
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Evening Prayer	18:00	Pill magazine. There is more information at
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion	09:30	<a href="http://tywardreathandgolantchurches.uk">tywardreathandgolantchurches.uk</a>
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Benefice Service	Various	

The major national and local Christian festivals are celebrated with special services: Cornish Christmas, Nine Lessons and Carols, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Mothering Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Ascension Day, St Sampson's Day, Harvest Thanksgiving and Remembrance Sunday

During this year there were three funeral services, one burial and 2 burials of ashes.

The numbers attending the special services in 2024 were as follows:

Easter	65	Harvest	40	Remembrance	48	Advent	34
Cornish Christmas	68	Lessons & Carols	95	Christmas Day	34	Mothering Sunday	37

There were 48 services this year and the average attendance is 28.

## Fund Raising Events

The PCC organise events for fund raising and community purposes such as: Open Gardens, Flower Festival, Concerts, Garden Parties, Safari Supper, Village Harvest Supper, etc. This year a concert by the St Mewan Sinfonia raised £255.

## PCC Meetings

There were 6 PCC meetings held through the year. The items for discussion include a regular agenda of the following:

- ❖ Opening prayer.
- ❖ Worship & Ministry Matters – review and planning of services.
- ❖ Social Events / Outreach.
- ❖ Fabric of the Church Buildings and Churchyard including Health & Safety.
- ❖ Investments & Financial Report.
- ❖ Deanery Synod Report.
- ❖ Safeguarding – Children & Vulnerable Adults.
- ❖ Correspondence.
- ❖ Any Other Business.

## Financial Review

In accordance with the SORP (Statement Of Recommended Practice) regulations, the accounts are produced as 'Receipts and Payments' as the gross income of the PCC is less than £250,000. The accounts are examined by Mr Simon Smart and the officially signed documents are held by the Treasurer.

The accounts consist of two funds. The 'General' fund relates to the general running of the Church. The 'Restricted' Fabric fund means that the income and expenses must be used for the specific purpose of maintaining the fabric of the church.

## The Funds

- ❖ General Fund – General maintenance of the Church Services. The contribution to the Diocese of Truro of the MMF (Mission and Ministry Fund). The maintenance of the Graveyard.
- ❖ Fabric Fund (Restricted) – Maintenance, Insurance and improvement of the Church Buildings.

### Agency Collections

This is where we collect for other charities and pass on the proceeds to those charities such as the ‘Poppy Appeal’ and St Petroc’s charity. The other use of the Agency is for collecting fees for weddings and funerals on behalf of Truro Diocese.

The Receipts and Payments of the funds, the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 and the Independent Examiners Report complete the accounts and are shown on the following pages.

## Notes on the Funds

### General (Unrestricted)

The general fund starts the year with an opening balance of £16,229 because the previous Bell, Choir and Flower funds were transferred into it. The General Fund has a surplus of £4352. The Legacy of £5,000 and the transfer of the insurance £2,722 to the fabric fund, has increased the receipts by £7,722 which otherwise would create a deficit of £3,365. After the year end, Gift Aid of £3,459 was received for the year 2024 which would have reduced this deficit and generated a small surplus of £94. The main income to the church is from the regular giving of church members. Sales at the back of the Church of Cards, Guides and Tea Towels also contribute. Gift Aid is recovered from donations. The main expense is the contribution to the ‘Ministry and Mission Fund’ MMF of £8880 which goes to the diocese to pay clergy salaries, pensions and run the diocesan organisation. St Sampson met the 2024 MMF request. The electricity feed-in tariff of £577 helps with the Electricity bill of £1,805. The cost of upkeep of the churchyard was £1971. This is larger than usual as it includes the fencing and drainage works. The Blowey Trust grant towards the churchyard upkeep was £725.

### Fabric (Restricted)

This year, the main source of income came from investment interest, some donations and the Gift Aid recovered on those donations. The main expense was paying for the insurance of the building of £2723. The Fabric Fund (Restricted) had a deficit of £2491

### CBF Investment

There were no further investments or withdrawals from this investment. The total amount invested was £31,000. On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 the value was £38,719. The fund increased in value by 9.5% in this financial year. The income for the year from the fund was £866 which represents 3.3% return on the original investment.

### Planned / Committed Expenditure 2024 – Fabric Fund (Restricted)

Paying for the rewiring of the external lights using armoured cable.

Paying for remedial work on the drains and fence.

### Charitable Giving

There are collections at special services for specific charities and the PCC also supports those charities both local and international. Details are in the table below.

Charity	Description	Amount
The Earl Haig Fund – Poppy Appeal	Remembrance Sunday	£ 95.00
Cornwall Historic Churches	Subscription	£ 50.00
St Petroc’s charity for the homeless	Christmas & Harvest Collections	£590.54
ShelterBox	Disaster caused by weather and war	£490.00

## Grants

The Charles Blowey Trust gave £724.68 towards the upkeep of the graveyard and the church is most grateful for this support.

## Balance Sheet - with the investment in CCLA at Market Value

### St Sampson's PCC Statement of Assets and Liabilities General Funds and Restricted Fabric Fund at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

#### BANK BALANCES AND DEPOSITS

Lloyds Bank Cheque Account 00194881 as at 31-Dec-2024	£ 6,004.19
Lloyds Bank Deposit Account 21127185LS as at 31-Dec-2024	£10,000.00
Interest at 2.3% £55.72	
National Savings Bank 138 040 638 as at 31-Dec-2024	£ 175.90
Interest received 01/01/2025 £1.76	
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>£16,180.09</b>

#### Investments at Market Value

CBF Investment Fund 1674.52 units. Market Value 31-Dec-2024	£38,719.42
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**Total Assets** **£54,899.51**

#### OS \* Agency Collection

Paid 25/01/2025	£ 79.00	Diocese of Truro Fees	
Paid 02/01/2025	£270.54	St Petroc's Society	
Paid 02/01/2025	£170.00	Shelter Box	(£ 519.54)

**Total Account Balances as at 31-Dec-2024** **£54,379.97**

#### Represented by the following funds

St Sampson's PCC Funds	Opening Balance 31-Dec 2023	Nett Annual Movement	Apportionment of Capital Gain to fund**	Closing Balance 31-Dec 2024
<b>General Fund</b>	£16,229.01	£4,352.36	<b>£129.96</b>	<b>£20,711.33</b>
<b>Fabric Fund (Restricted)</b>	£35,423.21	(£2,491.00)	<b>£736.43</b>	<b>£33,668.64</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£51,652.22</b>	<b>£1,861.36</b>	<b>£866.39</b>	<b>£54,379.97</b>

#### \* Agency Collection

This should have a nil balance at the end of the year, but there were several payments paid in January 2025.

\*\* Note. Apportionment in the event of a loss is 15% the Restricted Fabric Fund and 85% General fund.

In the event of a gain, the apportionment is 85% Restricted Fabric Fund and 15% General fund.

## **Examiner's report to the PCC of St Sampson's, Golant.**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, which are set out on the previous pages, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

### **Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the *Church Guidance*, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulationshave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(Signed)

Simon Smart BSc

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025

The signed copy is held by the Treasurer: Mrs Penelope White.



PCC of St Sampson  
 General Fund (Unrestricted) - Receipts and Payments  
 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

		2024	2023
<b>Receipts</b>			
Giving	Planned giving	£8,601.00	£7,365.00
	Collection at services	£2,598.45	
	Other giving	£3,012.47	£6,668.81
	Legacies	£5,000.00	
	Grants	£724.68	£863.58
	<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>£19,936.60</b>	<b>£14,897.39</b>
Other Receipts	Gift Aid recovered	£1,170.28	£2,990.78
	Electricity generation	£577.23	£708.43
	Fundraising	£114.96	£1,097.45
	<b>Total Other Receipts</b>	<b>£1,862.47</b>	<b>£4,796.66</b>
Fees	Weddings, funerals etc.	£1,984.50	£2,242.90
	<b>Total Fees</b>	<b>£1,984.50</b>	<b>£2,242.90</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£23,783.57</b>	<b>£21,936.95</b>

PCC of St Sampson  
 General Fund (Unrestricted) - Receipts and Payments  
 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

		2024	2023
<b>Payments</b>			
Cost of generating funds	Fund raising	£332.69	
	Merchant charge	£11.43	£2.88
Total cost of generating funds		£344.12	£2.88
Charitable Giving	Mission giving	£100.00	
	Secular giving	£50.00	£50.00
Total Charitable Giving		£150.00	£50.00
Parish Share	Diocese MMF	£8,880.00	£8,880.00
Total Parish Share		£8,880.00	£8,880.00
Clergy and Staff costs	Expenses	£745.20	£561.37
	Locum Vicar	£84.00	£97.00
Total Clergy costs		£829.20	£658.37
Church Running Expenses	Insurance	£30.00	£2,661.10
	Miscellaneous		£56.55
	Admin and Governance	£464.00	£919.07
	Organ maintenance	£586.80	£345.60
	Routine maintenance	£1,851.89	£1,062.74
	Consumables	£586.18	£604.64
	Music, books, organist	£837.94	£393.00
	Upkeep of churchyard	£1,975.12	£792.18
	Electricity	£1,804.88	£1,281.00
	Water	£71.50	£90.00
	Oil	£1,019.58	£388.24
Total Church Running Expenses		£9,227.89	£8,594.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>£19,431.21</b>	<b>£18,185.37</b>
Excess of Balance	Receipts over Payments	£4,352.36	£3,751.58
	Brought Forward	£18,535.26	£14,783.68
	Transfers	£8,604.37	
Balance	Carried Forward	£31,491.99	£18,535.26

PCC of St Sampson  
Fabric Fund (Restricted) - Receipts and Payments  
01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

		2024	2023
<b>Receipts</b>			
	Collections & Giving	£66.00	£664.00
	Gift Aid recovered	£159.58	£8.96
	Investment Income	£1,052.27	£1,034.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	£1,277.85	£1,707.65
<b>Payments</b>	Church running expenses		
	Insurance	£2,722.98	
	Upkeep of churchyard	£85.00	
	Repairs & Maintenance	£960.87	£2,171.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>Payments</b>	£3,768.85	£2,171.07
Excess of	Payments over Receipts	£2,491.00	£463.42
Balance	Brought Forward	£17,659.56	£18,122.98
Balance	Carried Forward	£15,168.56	£17,659.56

## Statement from the Treasurer of Charles Blowey Charity

for PCC Meeting 16 March 2025

A small recap of what the charity is...

Charles Blowey Charity was set up as a merger of 5 charities, originally managed by St Sampson's PCC, into one. The PCC handed over the assets to The Charles Blowey Charity as of 1 November 2000. The aim of the Charity is to help needy people in the Parish of St Sampson's, Golant, and to contribute to the maintenance of the churchyard.

The Charity has up to 5 Trustees comprising The Rector, Vicar or Priest in Charge, the two churchwardens and two trustees from the community or who know the community well. Currently trustees are:

Simon Funnell (church warden)

Greg White (church warden)

Shona Hoad (Priest in Charge)

Ruth Varco

Sue Reardon

The current account is with Lloyds bank and has a balance of £883.62 as @ 28 February 2025.

The income of 2024 was £724.68 and this sum was spent in a single donation to upkeep of the churchyard the PCC. No other donations were made in 2024.

Tony Strachan examined the 2024 accounts.

A Charity Commission return is completed annually.