

Spreading a passion for Jesus Christ in Manchester, the UK and the world

ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH MANCHESTER

VISION NIGHT REPORT



APCM | 8TH MAY 2024
ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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REVIEW OF 2023:

WHO'S WHO

ELDERS:



Paul & Gill Jump
Minister



Henry & Beth Alexander
Assistant Minister



Promise & Chinenye Amadi
PCC Vice Chair



Mark & Michelle Taylor
Church Warden



Tom & Chrissy Parkes
Church Warden

STAFF:

Paul Jump | Minister

Henry Alexander | Assistant Minister

Alex Tatchell | Youth & Children's Worker

Rhea Tatchell | Office & Digital Communications Co-ordinator

Maisie Butt | Administrative Assistant

Erin Skelton | Ministry Trainee

Nicci Wooley | Ministry Trainee

WHO'S WHO

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (DEACONS):

Rev. Paul Jump	Stephen Mackel
Mark Taylor (Church Warden & Treasury Team)	John Warburton
Promise Amadi (Vice Chair)	Nicola Wooley
Henry Alexander	Keith Worsfold
Lizzie Watkins (Secretary)	Tom Parkes (Church Warden)
Louise Boxall (Safeguarding Officer)	Reg Evans
Phil Bate (Reader)	Tim Dada
	Gilly Blair

DEANERY SYNOD MEMBERS:

Lizzie Watkins
John Warburton
Promise Amadi
Stephen Mackel

CHURCH PATRONS:

The Bishop of Manchester	Mark Taylor
Rosie Sinclair	John Ormiston
Rev. Paul Mathole	

MINISTER TO MINISTERS:

Rt. Rev. Keith Sinclair

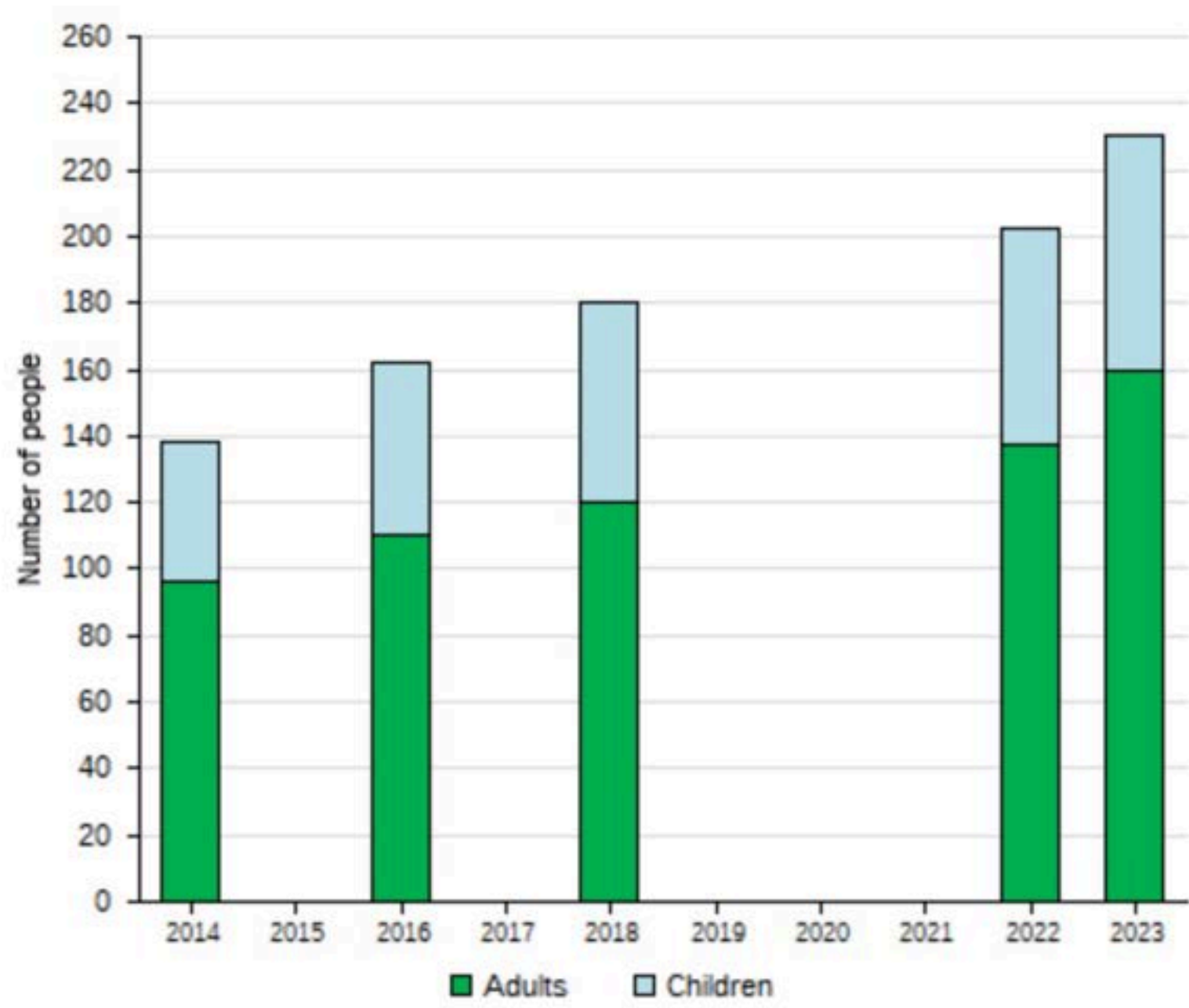


REVIEW OF 2023:

CHURCH STATS

ATTENDANCE

The attendance at both our morning and evening services has continued to steadily increase over the last year. We continue to welcome a large number of babies and children to our services, as well as adults including those over-60. You can see how the average attendance at our Sunday services has increased steadily over the last few years below.



(Based on the data inputted into the CofE parish returns system annually)

FORMAL SERVICES

Weddings 0 Funerals 15 Baptisms 13

2023 saw us take a higher number of funeral services than usual and no wedding ceremonies. We are happy to have several wedding blessings scheduled in the church diary for the upcoming months.

A photograph of a man with short brown hair, wearing a blue patterned shirt and a blue vest, speaking at a wooden podium. He is gesturing with his hands. The background shows a church interior with wooden paneling and stained glass windows.

REVIEW OF 2023:

RECTOR'S REPORT

Paul Jump

At vision night last May we prayed for five things. Three of those prayers have been answered. The Lord opened a door for assemblies and RE lessons in 6 of our local schools, a ministry to the 60s has begun and we have two new mission partners. The Lord is faithful and again and again we see him answer our prayers and build his kingdom amongst us and through us. These answers to prayer remind me how crucial prayer is. As Jesus said 'apart from me you can do nothing' (John 15:5). The Lord loves it when we pray because when we pray we demonstrate a humble dependance on him. And that honours him. One of my prayers for this coming year is that our prayer life as a church would be deeper and richer. And that we would pray more regularly and for everything and anything but especially that we would pray that the Lord would build his kingdom amongst us and bring people to know his forgiveness and love in Jesus Christ.



REVIEW OF 2023:

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

Mark Taylor + Tom Parkes

We praise God for his goodness to us as a church bringing many new people to worship among us each week. We are very grateful to the teams who serve as the first stage of welcome to us as we enter the building. St Clements has not just grown numerically at the morning services but also in our discipleship as more and more of us are members of community groups meeting weekly in the building or in each other's homes. Having so many worshipping here on Sundays does sometimes present seating challenges!

As part of our vision to spread a passion for Jesus Christ in Manchester, the church does strive to include as many different groupings of people as possible and during 2023 an over 60's group has started to meet on Tuesday mornings in church. Other areas of ministry among toddlers, juniors, young people, second language English speakers, school parents, food bank clients, the retired and others continue to take place regularly in the building. It is so encouraging to know that the church is being used almost every day of the week to serve others, serve our Lord, to pray and reach out with the gospel.

At Christmas it was wonderful to have so many different Christmas services as well as so many school Christmas events take place in the building. The church and its building are becoming a vital community hub in Higher Openshaw.

Regarding the physical church buildings, the fire door at the east end of the Victory Room was completed in January 2023. This has made the operation of the food bank much easier. Many thanks to the congregational member who made this happen. It was possible to maintain the church well again this year and thanks are due to Keith, Pete Bailey, Tony the gardener, the church cleaning team and all those helping with church and garden maintenance.

Like 2022, we are sad that there were very difficult times of bereavement for a number of people in the congregation. We praise God for everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord and we pray for peace and blessed assurance for all still enduring grief.

The wide variety of church activities wouldn't be possible without the dedicated service of so many regularly giving up time after work and within busy and precious family lives. We thank Rev Paul, the rest of the ministry team and their families for their total commitment and dedicated, inspirational service among us week by week.



A photograph of three people from behind, wearing blue hoodies with 'GOSPEL KIDS Team Member' printed on the back. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue overlay containing text.

REVIEW OF 2023:

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Louise Boxall

Work among children, young people and vulnerable adults has continued to grow throughout the past year and our child protection procedures have continued to be undertaken conscientiously by all concerned in these very important ministries.

We, as a church, liaise with the diocese and with online advice where clarification is required, and we take very seriously everything that is brought to our attention. As a church we must all work together. It is the whole congregation's responsibility to be vigilant in all our behaviour and attitudes to put children, young people, and vulnerable adults first at all times. Trying to ensure everyone has done the training required and as has completed their paperwork is no small task in a rapidly growing church but is an important element of safeguarding our volunteers and those we care for in our ministry.

As the church grows and our buildings are used extensively, which is fantastic and a great witness, it also increases our awareness of potential issues. Posters are placed around church with whom to contact, leaders of the groups are available, and details are on the church website. No concern is too small to bring to our attention and will be dealt with in the appropriate manner. It is always better to raise a concern than to ignore it.

We would like to thank all involved in working in these ministries for being so cooperative in doing all the paperwork and completing the online courses, especially when volunteering so much of their free time to ministry already.



REVIEW OF 2023:

CARE TEAM

Henry Alexander

The role of our team of care coordinators, is to help facilitate and resource pastoral care amongst the church family. We are so blessed to be part of a church family that is already so good at looking out for each other. And as we grow and welcome more people to our church family, the care team aims to provide a single, simple point, to enable all members of the church family to access pastoral care. The team resources and organises a network of practical care, for things such as provision of church family meals. We also organise visits to those who are housebound and lifts for those who would otherwise not be able to get to church. The care team also oversee the hardship fund, which regularly helps people to pay urgent and essential costs that they would not otherwise be able to afford.

If you need anything from us, please do email:

care@stclementschurchmanchester.org



REVIEW OF 2023:

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Alex Tatchell

Gospel Kids

Gospel Kids continues to be one of the key places where our ministry to children occurs, and we are excited to see the increasing numbers week on week. It is not uncommon to teach and worship with 50 children on a Sunday morning, many of whom have additional needs. We have been steadily working through the New City Catechism in parallel with the Catechism slot in the morning service, and the children are benefitting from the key doctrinal building blocks of our faith.

The Hub

The Hub on a Tuesday afternoon is the front door to kids ministry at church and we have seen new faces come along this year, particularly from St Clement's School. We have been going through the key stories in the Bible from the Jesus Storybook Bible with the younger kids, and the corresponding passage in the NIV for the older kids. Numbers have been a little lower than previous terms, largely due to another external club which many of the children were excited to go to. However, we have continued to build good relationships with kids and their families who otherwise wouldn't come to church.

Roots

Our main ministry to teenagers and young people has seen growth this year with numbers peaking at around 50 people on a Tuesday evening. We have recruited an almost completely new team of excellent volunteer youth leaders and have really enjoyed getting to know the teenagers and forming together as a team. We have been following the New City Catechism in parallel with Gospel Kids, digging deeper into the doctrine of the Christian faith and its application to our 21st century lives. Again the weekend away at Yorkshire Camps in November was a big success all round!

Roots Sunday Chill

Roots Sunday Chill has continued to develop into a ministry in it's own right for teenagers in school year 11-13; meeting together at my house for Bible study, chat and prayer. It has been great to gather the oldest youth before they head into college and onto University, and give them a taste of what community/small groups feel like. We have done Bible studies in Ruth and Esther, as well as Mark's gospel and Colossians, as well as having socials, one-off Q&A sessions and topical discussions.

1:1s

Meeting with and discipling teenagers in a 1:1 capacity continues to be one of the best bits of my week. Our aim continues to be to meet with all our church youth in school years 11-13, providing a space for deeper Bible study, prayer and accountability. While I meet with the young lads I'm very grateful to my female volunteer leaders who meet with the girls. It's such an encouragement (and challenge!) to see how God is working in and using our youth for His kingdom purposes in Openshaw and Manchester.

Schools and Assemblies

Over the last year or so we have been working and praying hard for more opportunities to engage with local schools and teach them about Jesus and his Gospel. I'm really excited to say that we had a bumper crop of schools interested in and engaging with our Christmas assemblies both in the church building and in the schools themselves! We were able to connect with Abbey Hey Primary, St Clement's school, Higher Openshaw, and Varna Primary, some of whom for the first time - it was a joy to be able to serve them and teach them the real Christmas story. Furthermore, I was able to visit a number of local high schools with The Message (<https://www.message.org.uk/>) to advertise our youth group and connect with local teenagers.

Holiday Bible Club

The 2023 Heroes Academy was a LOT of fun back in the summer and was a fantastic way to kick off the new academic year. We learned that Jesus is the greatest superhero who doesn't just save us in this life, but in the life to come forevermore! We had 70 children come along and enjoy at least part of the week, and had around 30 amazing volunteers who led groups, cooked food, organised games and helped to be salt and light in the lives of these young kids – it was a privilege to be a part of it!

Clementunes | Nicci Woolley & Chrissy Parkes

During 2023, we continued to welcome many parents/carers and their little ones from the local community to sessions of noisy, musical fun on Monday mornings. The winter months were particularly busy, and in December we started to include a Christian story as a regular part of the sessions. We have been pleased to welcome some completely new families as well as see some of our old attendees getting involved with The Hub and other ministries as they start school. We said goodbye to a few faithful team members and were happy to welcome Sarah and Beth into the team. We are always on the look out for new, committed volunteers to either assist in the session or help in the kitchen.

Clementeenies (crèche) | Josh & Lorna Taylor

Crèche continues to serve the parents of children under school age, to allow parents to engage in the service. We regularly have about 16 little 4 and unders join us. Crèche involves play, a Bible story and breadstick snack, some singing and a colouring discussion sheet to take home. We have loved seeing the children becoming familiar with the stories and sharing their God-given joy throughout the sessions. A big thank you to our fantastic team of volunteers. We couldn't do it without them.



REVIEW OF 2023:

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Henry Alexander

Community groups are a key part of our life as a church family. As we grow in number, CGs are an excellent place to connect and build relationships with others at church.

Our groups meet weekly to seek God, speak truth and share life. We seek God as we worship together and read his word. We speak the truth as we apply His word to our lives and pray for each other. We share life through building friendships that encourage us as we follow Jesus.

Over the past 12 months we have been studying the pastoral epistles, thinking together about how to live together as God's family, standing for the gospel in our generation. We have also met centrally once a half term to dig a bit deeper into a topic related to the weekly Bible studies.

We would love every church member to be part of a community group, so if you would like to join one, please send me a message or email at **henry@stclementschurchmanchester.org**



REVIEW OF 2023:

FOOD BANK & COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Keith Worsfold + Gill Jump

Food Bank (Keith Worsold)

Having joined with the Trussell Trust a few years ago we now have a well-established partnership between them and our own church food bank. Often we can have over 60 referrals every Tuesday, which equates to approx. 150 adults and children.


We have received food donations from Manzoor Barakah Food Aid (a Muslim organisation), a church in Droylsden and Morrison's on a regular basis. Although the Trussell Trust provide the majority of food we still purchase supplies from FareShare such as ready-made meals, fresh fruit & vegetables, meat and snacks etc. In addition, from our own funds we buy extra products people ask for such as cooking oil, sugar, flour and nappies. From our church food bank account our average spend during 2023 was £270.00 per month.

We always try to make things special for Christmas and Easter and last Christmas with donations and our own funds we were able to buy presents for every child in families who regularly attended the food bank.

We always thank God for his continued provision and blessings to us.

Community Café (Gill Jump)

We have had a great year in the community café on a Tuesday afternoon which runs alongside the food bank. It is a joy to be able to minister with a piece of fresh cake and a toastie. I am really thankful to Tash, Tony and Steve for their commitment to keeping the kitchen running and to Reg, Jack and Caroline for their conversation and prayer ministry in the cafe and with people in the queue. It has been a real encouragement to see some cafe clients coming to church on a Sunday. Please pray that we are able to share the good news with people's hearts as well as their stomachs. If you are free on a Tuesday afternoon we would love to welcome you to the team, the perks are tasty!



REVIEW OF 2023:

TUESDAY CLUB

Nicci Woolley

Tuesday Club began in September with an aim to provide a safe space for people over-60 in our church and community to gather weekly and share life. We started by welcoming familiar faces from church, but over the following months we have seen an influx of others from the community who don't usually engage in church activities. A typical session looks like catching up over tea and coffee, a mid-morning crumpet or soup break, and plenty of time to play games, do jigsaws and laugh with one another.

The team started small but we have welcomed some new, committed faces as the ministry has settled and become part of the church weekly routine. It is a pleasure to spend time with the older generation and I continue to learn a lot from them - Tuesday Club is the highlight of my week!



REVIEW OF 2023:

MUSIC & WORSHIP

Henry Alexander

We are blessed with superb music and AV teams who help us sing praises to God every Sunday. Music is a wonderful gift from God, given so that we might revere his character and glory, remember all he has done for us and rejoice in His hope. It is always such a blessing to hear the church family singing as one on a Sunday.

This year we have begun to think about how we can use music to share the gospel in our community. From this thinking sprung the Fairfield Arms Open Mic, which runs every month. The vision is that through songs and poems, we might share Jesus with those who come along to the event. People are so used to listening to music, that it provides a great opportunity to share stories of faith in a way that connects with people in our community.

We've also got a great space on our website where you can listen to some amazing songs written by members of church.



REVIEW OF 2023:

COMMUNITY CHOIR

Eleonore Kimberley + Jo Rogers

Community Choir has continued to meet each Monday evening through term time to sing, socialise and build community. The choir team includes Jo Rogers, Eleonore Kimberley, Andrew Allwright and Rebecca Higg, and average attendance week to week is about 20 people.

Throughout 2023, Choir was involved with a few different projects:

- April - Easter Carols, and Easter Sunday service at St Clement's
- July - We recorded 'Price Tag' for the Royal Exchange Theatre's community festival production, 'The M11 Musical', and several of our choir members attended the production
- December - Two Christmas Carol services at St Clement's

We still have a lovely mix of ages, backgrounds, different musical abilities, christians and non-christians attending choir each week, with fluctuations in membership across the year. Rehearsals usually involve singing a mix of sacred and secular music, presenting a low level gospel witness from the front, while encouraging healthy singing, and having fun making music with each other! There's also opportunity for socialising and building community each week, and through choir socials.

Reflections and opportunities for prayer:

- Praise - for how God has sustained this ministry, and for the friendships that have been formed
- Gospel witness - that we'd keep Jesus, and spreading the Gospel as the focus of this ministry, and that we'd see people come to know Jesus through the truths that we sing each week
- Members - that this ministry would grow, and serve both people from the local community, and from within church family
- Community engagement - for opportunities to sing and perform outside of St Clement's, and engage well with the local community



REVIEW OF 2023:

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY + COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Tom + Chrissy Parkes

St Clement's continues to be a wonderful picture of God's multinational and multi-ethnic kingdom. We have had brothers and sisters from every (inhabited) continent attend church at some point this year.

Coffee & Conversation continues to serve both church members and those in the wider community by offering a friendly place to practice English and read a Bible story. It has been a delight for guests and the team to share Saturday mornings together regularly and many guests have accepted invitations to attend church services at Easter and Christmas. There has been a greater stability of numbers throughout the year with more than 40 different individuals from across the globe attending at least once. In addition to this, more parents have been bringing their children to the crèche provided. The crèche helpers have been a key addition to the team across the year.

We have seen guests making big strides in their confidence in English and have had some great conversations about Jesus Christ.

Looking forward, there are ideas in the pipeline to try and make Sunday mornings more accessible to those that don't speak English as their first language, as well as exploring the possibility of Bible studies in different languages.



REVIEW OF 2023:

MISSION PARTNERS

Josh Rogers

James & Juliette continue their work in South East Asia. James practices medicine in a clinic with fellow believers. The whole family spent time in the UK for a few weeks over the summer to visit family and church family. James & Juliette have a particular calling to share the gospel with a certain people group in a neighbouring province to which access is tightly regulated. Juliette befriended a native speaker living in their vicinity so pray this relationship opens up doors for further opportunities.

Paul & Helen continue their work in West Africa. The whole family spent time in the UK over the summer, staying 3 months longer than planned due to political instability in the region. Helen continues to practice emergency medicine in the national hospital. Paul is working among local church leaders, still finding a primary direction and purpose in equipping them in their ministry. Pray for befriending and ongoing language learning and for their 3 girls as they miss some of their friends who have left the region in the aftermath of the political instability.

Judith was commissioned from St Clements in August 2023 to serve alongside Paul & Helen in West Africa. Her departure was delayed by political instability in the region and instead she went to study French in Paris from September until December. Judith arrived on the field in late December to teach in the international school. Pray as she continues to settle in, dealing with the heat, the poor driving conditions, upheaval in the school community, and for general cultural and language adjustment.

Chris & Nicole had a fruitful first year for their newly independent (Anglican) church family in the Middle East. The whole family were briefly in the UK over the summer and visited St Clement's. However, a sudden and unexpected issue with Chris' legal status have thrown their future in the country into doubt and they remain in a season of desperate uncertainty for their ministry. Pray that the Lord would grant them favour in the eyes of the authorities but even if He does not, pray He would make their next steps clear.

Dan & Vicky continue to bring the gospel to Muslims in North Africa. They work among the deaf community, teaching sign language and providing resources through an app and a website. They continue to language-learn. Dan & Vicky practice cold-contact evangelism and they have a prayer ministry for incarcerated believers. The family were in the UK over the summer, spending time at both Holy Trinity Platt and St Clement's.

David & Mary's ministry in South Asia shifted focus during 2023. Following his ordination in 2022, David took up a leadership role on the field. He and Mary developed a ministry to serve those captive to substance abuse. Following some time in the UK, the family returned to the field and David relinquished his leadership role. They moved house, joining the fellowship at the cathedral. Pray as they develop the children's, youth and young adult ministries, establish a new ministry training centre and grow the ministry in drug rehabilitation.

Barney joined UCCF as a part-time staff worker towards the end of 2022. He serves the Christian Unions in the universities in Manchester and Salford, encouraging them in their evangelism and discipleship. His particular focus is creative, helping believing students bring the message of the gospel to their friends through the arts.

Josh began the one-year REACH programme with Friends International in the autumn of 2023. This charity ministers to international students, sharing the Christian message and befriending and supporting them during their time in the UK. Josh has also undertaken group training, personal study and mentored supervision as he grows in his ministry role. Josh and Maisie got engaged in Autumn 2023 and set a wedding date in Spring 2024.



REVIEW OF 2023:

PROPERTY & GARDEN

Keith Worsfold + Steve Helme

Property (Keith Worsfold)

Generally, the building is in a very good condition. Apart from a few problems with the church boiler there has been no large repairs during 2023. Many thanks to those who have contributed to on-going maintenance, especially to Reg who has repaired many of the brown leather chairs.

Church Garden (Steve Helme)

2023 was a pretty good season for us, so BIG THANKS to the reliable and regular group of people who met from 10 am to 12 noon on the first Saturday of each month throughout the year (the same arrangements are in place for 2024). During the growing season there are also weekly sessions to keep the weeds in check and the garden looking as good as we can. It's encouraging that people from the congregation and community give us positive feedback about the garden but we still try to make improvements, so if you have any comments, if you would like to join us or if you would like to sponsor further works, do get in touch. Members finance the costs, so there is no expense for Church. Those costs include plants but also new planters in the back yard, improving the view for the congregation and local residents. We also received support from J. Parker's, plant suppliers, which is why there have been so many new daffodils, especially along Toxteth Street.

Please continue to offer praise and prayer for the way God has blessed this ministry.



REVIEW OF 2023:

TEAM TIDY (cleaning team)

Esther Damola

Throughout the year 2023, Team Tidy (the Church's cleaning volunteers) contributed to the overall well-being of the Church and congregation by coming together every Saturday of the year to clean, dust, Hoover, empty bins, wash, mop and sanitise the Church in order to make the Sanctuary tidy and ready and presentable for services and meetings.

The team worked well together covering the main Church and the Victory Room. Adequate cleaning materials were provided to carry out the tasks.

The team struggled a few times with attendance due to members' work schedules and other personal issues. Good to know that members build friendship and pray together, helping each other with their spiritual growth and daily walk with God.

Hopefully more volunteers will feel The Lord's leading and sign up to serve in the coming weeks.



REVIEW OF 2023:

CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Paul Higg

Please see separate Financial Report.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination of the 2023 St Clement's accounts, 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 Charities Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations
- have 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.

John Andrew Ormiston M.A. F.C.A

OUR CHURCH VISION



ST CLEMENT'S
CHURCH MANCHESTER

2020 - 2025

Vision Statement

Our vision is to spread a passion for Jesus Christ in Manchester, the UK and the world

WORD

Our vision is:

- To preach the gospel faithfully, accessibly and passionately to our community both inside and outside church.
- To be a church that regularly meets together to study/examine the word.
- To be a church that trains and develops leaders.

WORSHIP

Our vision is:

- To ensure our services are as accessible for as many people as possible (e.g. for those who have English as a second language or those with lower literacy levels).
- To use our music to help people from all walks of life to encounter and enjoy God whether for the first time or the billionth time.
- To be transformed through our encounter with Jesus so that we worship God with our whole lives.

WITNESS

Our vision is:

- To share the good news of Jesus Christ with our local community.
- To actively revitalise other churches in the city.
- To send out people to witness for Christ elsewhere in the UK and the world.

WELFARE

Welfare of the Community

Our vision is:

- To love our community and live out the gospel in real and meaningful ways.
- To practically and emotionally support those in need.
- To work alongside other organisations to care for people well.

WELLBEING

Wellbeing of the Church

Our vision is:

- To ensure everyone in our church family is cared for well and, where necessary, supported in their care of others.
- To help our church family to be aware of who needs care, aware of how to access support and aware of our individual responsibility to care for each other, so that no one is missed.
- To resource and equip our church family in how to love and care for others well, and to confidently and compassionately share the love of Christ with those in need.