

**LORDSBRIDGE TEAM
OF CHURCHES**



The parishes of Barton, Caldecote with
Childerley, Comberton, Coton, Dry Drayton,
Great and Little Eversden, Hardwick,
Harlton, Haslingfield and Toft

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM COUNCIL

AGM – Thursday 15th February 2024

Reports for 2023

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1. Acting Team Rector's Report

Since Rev'd David Newton took up his appointment on January 4th 2024 as Diocesan Director of Ordinands, we are in vacancy and will be going through the process to appoint a Team Rector.

Everyone is working together to ensure that we continue ministry and mission in all the communities in the Lordsbridge Team, including Comberton and Toft, where David was Lead Minister.

In this report there is a paragraph from church communities about what was special in 2023 written by Lead Ministers and churchwardens. There is also a report from our Team Administrator, Becca Herrick, and a report on youth and children's work collated by Sarah Rittman (LLM).

Across the Team there were opportunities to gather and share in 2023 at services (including on Zoom), at Team Chapter meetings (including the pub social at the Hare and Hounds), at Team Council, as well as through courses and groups that run across parishes. There was also a Cheese and Wine gathering for churchwardens at Haslingfield Vicarage (which I shall be hosting again this year on Thursday 29th February). During the vacancy, I am keen to promote additional ways to meet and be together to support each other across parish boundaries, so please do share any ideas you have to facilitate this.

During 2023, the weekly Core Team meetings for the Lead Ministers, Team Support Minister, and Team Administrator continued (Clare Coates, Charles Fraser, Becca Herrick, David Newton, Claire Robertson, and Priscilla Slusar). During these meetings we pray together and support each other in our ministry roles in the Team, as well as consider any administration and communication issues.

The parishes worked together to cover the ministry share for 2023, as well as to contribute to central administration costs. The vital work of WCCYM, youth ministry in our area, also receives a regular donation from the Team, kindly funded by donations from the parishes.

In July 2023 it was a joy to welcome Rev'd Barnabas Leeke as curate in the Lordsbridge Team. Barnabas is resident in Coton village and is already very engaged in fruitful ministry there and in Comberton and Toft. On 29th July he will be ordained priest at a service at Ely Cathedral at 5pm.

Thank you to everyone in Lordsbridge for the way you work together and for the way the gospel is being lived out in our communities.

2. Parish Reports

Barton - St Peter's Church, Barton continues to have strong links with Barton School, and children and staff visit for a lively collective worship on Wednesdays. The monthly Forest Church in the churchyard, started early in 2023 is thriving and has resulted in several infant and child baptisms and new members in our worshipping community. The Parish magazine has been redesigned with advertising space for the first time and has forged stronger links with local businesses in this very friendly village. Urgent external repairs to the church after a stone fell did not stop a wonderful concert in July by the Cantores Singers directed by Jeremy Wong, who also accompanied both the adult and school choirs at the Christmas Carol Service. A December Quiz was a great success and the newly formed Events Committee have a whole panorama of delightful events planned for 2024.

Caldecote - 2023 has been an exciting year for St Michael and All Angels, Caldecote. We have had a successful year fundraising through our Open Gardens scheme, held at Childerley Hall, the Old Rectory Gardens, Longmeadow and Clare Farm, with our grateful thanks to the hosts who made this possible. We have seen growth in our monthly Holy Communion services in the church, and have tried new things including a fresh expression, Café Church, which we hold in the village hall every month. We have enjoyed making new friends and strengthening existing friendships. We also enjoyed our annual Harvest and Christmas Day services at Childerley Chapel, which were well attended by the local community.

Comberton - Our Sunday morning worship is an 8.00am BCP twice monthly with a growing congregation and a 9.30am weekly, either Holy Communion, Morning Worship or Informal Morning Worship. We have enjoyed several special services including Compline during Holy week and Christmas Carols with Meridian School. We had a couple of weddings and baptisms and sadly rather too many funerals. Our three homegroups continue to thrive and we have had several successful coffee mornings, a Lent Soup café for charity, a fete, as well as our annual Art Exhibition. Our regular group, Oasis Teas, continues its vital work of outreach and support. The Friends of St Mary's continues to successfully raise funds to support the fabric of the building and the Churchyard nature recovery project is reaping benefits. Our annual Away Day at Buckden Towers, led by Rev'd David was this year on the theme of Time and Space. We have enjoyed welcoming to visit the Etricks, our mission partners from Leicester, as well as welcoming Rev'd Barnabas, and our

ordinand, Daniel. On Christmas Day, we bid farewell to David and Sally, Toby, Delilah, Zoe and Oreo (the dog!).

Coton - The monthly Coton Praise (breakfast and craft activities followed by an All Age Service) is proving popular. Links between the church community and Coton Primary School remain strong with fortnightly visits to lead collective worship. An evening to celebrate the launch of Elaine Storkey's excellent Lent Course "Meeting God in Matthew" attracted people from across the Team. For "Coton on Show" in June many villagers opened their gardens and served teas to raise funds for the church. In July, we were delighted to welcome Revd Barnabas Leeke and Laura and Noemi to Coton. The annual Harvest Supper was a great success and we all had a chance to sample Laura's scrumptious lasagne. At Christmas, Carols on the Green around a fire, the Carols Service and Christingle were very well supported, with a growing congregation for Midnight Mass celebrated by Revd Patrick Cotton.

Dry Drayton - Evensong is continuing to be popular at St Peter and St Paul's Dry Drayton, with a growing congregation from the village, the Lordsbridge Team, and further afield. Music is at the heart of our mission to the wider community, and we have been building on our strong musical tradition during 2023. Concerts and fundraising events have been well attended, with highlights including: 'Come and Sing Coronation Anthems' in April led by Edward Wickham, Director of Music at St Catherine's College, Cambridge; renowned cellist Iris Azqinezer's Cello recital in September; and the wonderful Pembroke College Choir 'Advent and Christmas Concert' in December. We also launched Forest Church, in October and this is proving popular with local families. We are continuing to strengthen our links with the local school with weekly visits by Rev'd Clare Coates or Canon Sue Wyatt, and hosting school concerts and services throughout the year at the church.

Great and Little Eversden - Great Eversden has been selected for a Church of England research project undertaken by Cambridge University looking into the benefits and costs of ASHP heating systems. The monitoring equipment enables us to know exactly when someone broke in to steal the church sound system. Little Eversden has been the beneficiary of a very significant legacy tied to the fabric of the church, which is much needed as some alarming cracks appeared in the summer requiring specialist surveys. Remembrance Sunday was well attended and the Little Eversden Outdoor Carols, with brass band and copious amounts of mulled wine to keep us cheerful in the cold, continues to grow year on year. We trialled moving the formal Nine Lessons and Carols to Christmas Eve at Great Eversden and were pleasantly surprised that the church was packed as it had been for

Christingle on Advent Sunday. As ever, the village turned out in their hundreds for the children's nativity in the medieval barn at Church Farm.

We are looking to install swift and bat boxes to encourage wildlife and are working with an enthusiastic group of non-churchgoers to facilitate this.

Hardwick - Despite the church building being shut for urgent repairs, St Mary's Hardwick has been growing with new members joining our congregation. Worshipping in the Cabin has been a great experience, and it has been exciting to 'do church' differently, including a very popular outdoor carol service in December, around the campfire, and with music provided by the Eversden Brass Band! Our vision is to be a church for the whole community, and we are working hard to build and strengthen our friendships with the local community, supporting new ventures such as the Hardwick Community Lunches. We have had a very successful year fundraising for our building repair project, and have had great fun at these events making new friends, and strengthening our existing friendships. We are very grateful for the ongoing support we have received from the wider community.

Harlton - This year, at The Church of the Assumption, the annual organ scholars' concert was a Coronation Concert. It featured Alec, Noe, Jessica, Natasha and Hugo in a delightful recital of music on organ, clarinet and trombone. Hugo and Tim became the new scholars in the Autumn when we said goodbye to Alec, Jessica and Natasha. In June, we had a Pet Service with many dogs and their owners with two particularly musical hounds who joined in with the hymns. Fascinating summer talks on churches in Armenia and Ancient Monuments were enjoyed by all. Harlton Church continues to be a very popular choice for weddings with several last year including two winter ones just before Christmas.

Haslingfield - Monthly Sunday Club with teaching, hot chocolate and crumpets, is proving popular! A new post - sermon musical interlude has featured trumpet, oboe, clarinet, piano, sax and voice, from musicians of all ages. Forest Church and Café Saintz (year 6 and above) is growing.

Ecumenical Trails are also run by Sarah Rittman with the Methodist Church. Summer events included concerts (by the Brown Family, the Cann Twins, and Haslingfield Choral Society), tea for Gladys and Brian Gott and the Fete. Many funerals for beloved members of our community have taken place including a service for children to celebrate the life of Mr James Hayward. In December, a school choir coached by Revd Claire and Joan Mead joined the Christmas Choir, conducted by Sarah Rittman. The Christingle Service was also packed

with excited children! Thanks to fundraising and generous donations renovation of the Nave begins in January 2024.

Toft - 2023 saw the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Local Ecumenical Partnership. Working with, and worshipping with, our Methodist friends is such a mutual benefit. As the Church in Toft we are a strong part of many community activities, especially last year the Coronation, over three days including a tribute to Queen Etheldreda! Our Warm Hub started in January, meets every Monday during the winter months, has been an outstanding success attracting folk from all parts of the village and beyond. Our mid-week morning prayer continues to be largely well-attended. We published two new service booklets, which are most useful. Sadly our organists both moved and we have to rely, not entirely satisfactorily, on discs for our music. Too many funerals. We continue to support The Women's Refuge and Cambridge Sustainable Food.

Zoom Church – about 20 of us continue to meet every Sunday morning and continue to enjoy each other's company and fellowship. We continue to enjoy input from various members of the Team, both clergy and lay and it is good to have welcomed new members during the year. Fifth Sunday services give us the opportunity to share many of the same resources as the main Team service and this is valued as it reminds us that we are part of a Team. I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the service, either as leader, reader, intercessor or host; it has been wonderful to see some people who were hesitant to start with blossom as they grow in confidence.

3. Administration

Becca Herrick continues to work 15 hours a week as the Team Administrator, providing administrative support over a range of areas across the team. She mostly works from home, although can sometimes be found at the Cabin in Hardwick, or on travels across the Team area too.

iKnow Church (iKC) continues to be used across the team for contact data storage and communication. The Life Events Diary component of iKC is proving to be very helpful in supporting the tracking and managing of baptisms, weddings and funerals. Those who wish to, continue to be trained to use iKC by Becca.

Our Lordsbridge website, Facebook and Instagram pages continue to be updated regularly - the latter two predominantly by Clare Coates. Becca has also updated several of the parish websites and A Church Near You pages this year, so every parish now has up to date website information where

possible. A monthly newsletter continues to be sent out including news and events relevant to the team.

Alongside the above, Becca continues to do the administration for weddings and funerals across the team. There were 9 weddings in the team last year, and approximately 85 funerals/interments. In addition, she continues to support the (Acting) Team Rector and Team Vicars with day-to-day administration, including the team rota and service sheets.

Safeguarding Central Record:

This year we switched from using our safeguarding central record to using the safeguarding hub provided by the CofE. The PSOs and Becca have been working together to get this new database as up to date as possible and ensuring that those who need updated DBS checks and safeguarding training completed this. Becca also ran some in-person safeguarding training sessions which were well attended.

There was only one safeguarding incident across the Team in the last year, dealt with through the appropriate channels, with advice sought should a similar incident occur again.

4. Youth Activities

As a Team we support the work of WCCYM (West Cambridge Christian Youth Ministries) and partner with them in the discipleship of our young people. We do this financially, as well as through support of their monthly Youth Service, Thirst, and the RPE (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics) days run in Comberton Village College. We encourage any young people we are in contact with to engage with what WCCYM offers. In 2023 we saw an increase in engagement of Lordsbridge young people at WCCYM events, including the Christian Union in school, the Thirst youth service, and five Lordsbridge young people attended the brilliant Christmas party.

Nigel Taylor, part of the congregation in Dry Drayton continues to be the Chair of Trustees of WCCYM, and Sarah Rittman, LLM (Licenced Lay Minister for children and families) and part of the congregation in Haslingfield, continues to be a trustee, as a Lordsbridge representative. Sarah also continues to run Café Saintz on a monthly basis for young people in Haslingfield. The group identity of these young people has made it easier for them to engage and thrive in the WCCYM provision mentioned above.

5. Children and Families' Report

Churches in the Lordsbridge Team have creative and innovative ways of engaging with children and families in their villages. Provision across the team depends on the individual parish (see parish reports). All parishes have very good relationships with church and non-church schools in their villages. Vicars and lay ministers do assemblies in school and seasonal celebrations in church such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. School engagement has led to children from schools singing in special services such as Carol Services in 2023.

All Age services take place across the team in different forms, such as breakfast and craft followed by an All-Age Service, or All Age worship with crafts and discussion around tables. There are Forest/Wild Churches in four villages as fresh expressions in the afternoons, involving short, engaging worship in creation. This had led to increased baptisms and engagement in the worshipping communities in some places. One village also has a fresh expression of a monthly Café church. Another church partners with the local Methodist Church to have half termly themed 'trails' between the two churches on themes such as 'Getting Ready for Easter' during Lent. Some children were admitted to First Communion in 2023. One church community is exploring a form of intergenerational worship, including the children in heart of the services most of the time, and has completed a research project considering this for the Church of England's Growing Faith Foundation.

6. Financial Report

Lordsbridge Team Council

Financial Statement – 31st December 2023

Notes to accompany the Financial Statement

1. The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.
2. Items are recorded in the Lordsbridge Team accounts against the following top-level headings:
 - a. Team Mission and Ministry – funds the expenses of the Team Council itself, the Team Rector's expenses, and Team Ministry activities not covered under any of the other headings.
 - b. Lordsbridge Contingency Fund – funded from the Diocesan Ministry Share rebate. Enables the Team Council to support PCCs in cases of exceptional need. 20% of the Ministry Share rebate transfers to Resource Hub; 50% redistributes to PCCs in proportion to Ministry Share commitments; 30% retained subject to a Fund cap of 5% of the Lordsbridge Team's Ministry Share commitment.
 - c. Gateways – the Gateways Mission Fund Grant and any other receipts and payments for the now-dissolved Gateways community. Under review, including discussion of the scope of the grant.
 - d. Youth Work – funds for Youth Work, being the Team's contribution to WCCYM plus any local expenses (Thirst etc.).
 - e. Resource Hub – receives contributions to the Resource Hub from PCCs and the Team Council (through the Lordsbridge Contingency Fund); meets payment of salaries and costs arising from the Resource Hub.

Examination of accounts

The Team Council's Independent Examiner is:

Mr Martin Lee, 44 Anson Road, Upper Cambourne, Cambridgeshire CB23 6DQ

Banking

CAF current account	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4TA
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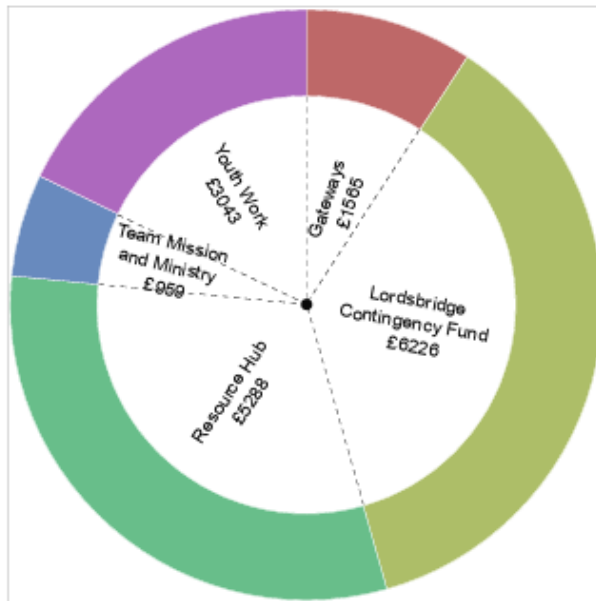
Signatories: Revd. David Newton (Team Rector), Erica Bithell, Ann Mitchell & Sue Nelms

All cheques and transfers require two signatures. Dual authorisation is also required for all BACS transactions via online banking.

Erica Bithell
Lordsbridge Team Treasurer
January 2024

Lordsbridge Team Financial Statement – 31 December 2023

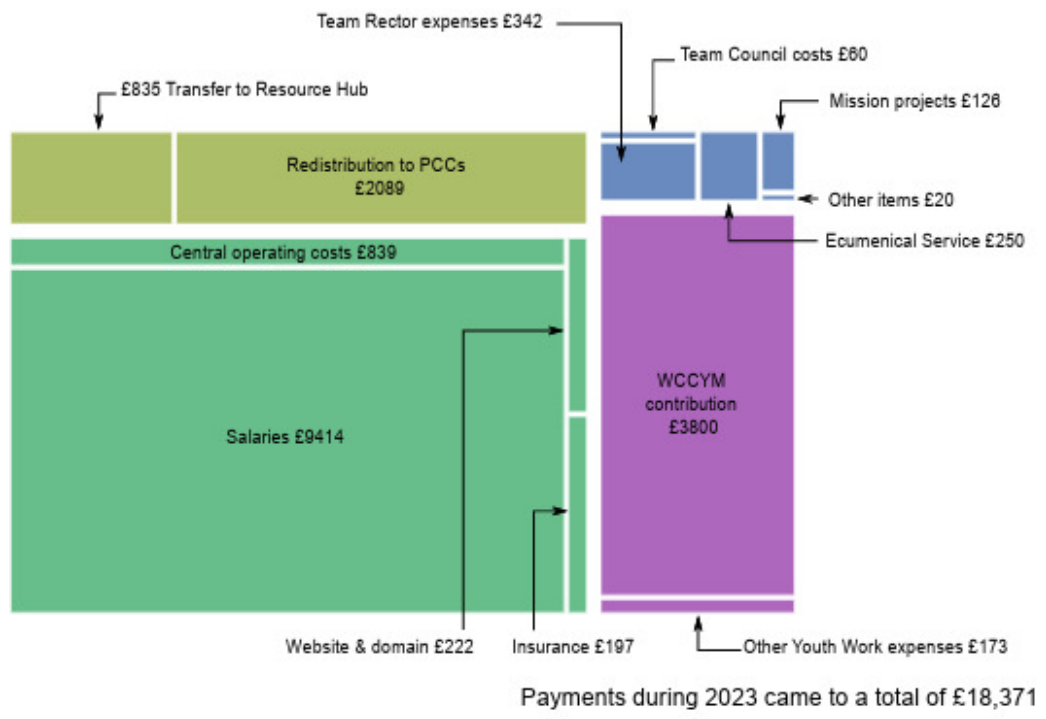
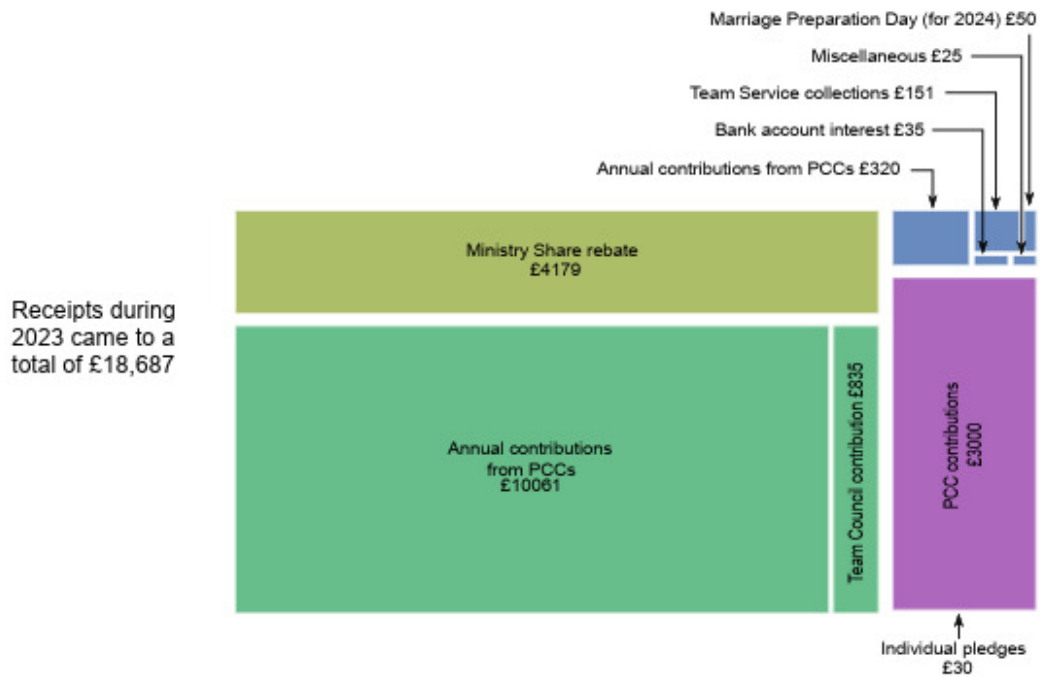
Summary



The opening balance on 1st January 2023 was £17,083



The closing balance on 31st December 2023 was £17,399



Independent examiner's report to the Team Council of the Lordsbridge Team Ministry

I report on the accounts of the Lordsbridge Team Ministry for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out in the annual Financial Statement.

Respective responsibilities of Team Council and Examiner

The Team Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and considers that an audit is not required for this year but that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts;
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept, and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members of the Team Council concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the following requirements have not been met:

- to keep accurate accounting records and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records



Name: MARTIN LEE

Address: 44 ANSON ROAD, UPPER GAMBOURNE, CAMBRIDGE

Date:

20/01/2024.

Statement of Receipts & Payments

Team Mission and Ministry		
Opening balance		£959.95
Receipts		
Annual contributions from PCCs	£320.01	
Team Service collections	£151.00	
Marriage Preparation Day (for 2024)	£50.00	
Bank account interest	£35.24	
Miscellaneous receipts	£25.00	
		<u>£581.25</u>
Payments		
Team Council costs	£60.00	
Mission projects (prayer cards)	£126.00	
Team Rector expense claims	£342.55	
Ecumenical Service	£250.00	
Marriage Preparation Day	NIL	
Other items	£20.00	
		<u>£798.55</u>
Net Team Mission and Ministry 2023		(£217.30)
Closing balance		£742.65
Lordsbridge Contingency Fund		
Opening balance		£6226.10
Receipts		
Ministry Share rebate	£4179.39	
		<u>£4179.39</u>
Payments		
Transfer to Resource Hub (20% of rebate)	£835.88	
Payments (redistribution to PCCs)	£2089.70	
		<u>£2925.58</u>
Net Lordsbridge Contingency Fund 2023		£1253.81
Closing balance		£7479.91
Resource Hub		
Opening balance		£5288.46
Receipts		
Annual contributions from PCCs	£10061.04	
Team Council contribution	£835.88	
		<u>£10896.92</u>
Payments		
Central operating costs	£839.39	
Website hosting & domain registration	£222.53	
Salaries	£9414.75	
Insurance	£197.12	
		<u>£10673.79</u>
Net Resource Hub 2023		£223.13
Closing balance		£5511.59
Gateways		
Opening balance		£1565.27
Receipts		NIL
Payments		<u>NIL</u>
Net Gateways 2023		NIL
Closing balance		£1565.27

Youth Work		
Opening balance		£3043.86
Receipts		
PCC contributions	£3000.00	
Individual pledges	£30.00	
		<u>£3030.00</u>
Payments		
WCCYM contribution	£3800.00	
Other Youth Work expenses	£173.31	
		<u>£3973.31</u>
Net Youth Work 2023		(£943.31)
Closing balance		£2100.55

Account Balances reconciliation

Opening balances 1/1/23	Cash & cheques	NIL	
	CAF current account	<u>£17083.64</u>	
Total opening balances			£17083.64
Net (Receipts) – (Payments)	Team Mission and Ministry	(£217.30)	
	Lordsbridge Contingency		
	Fund	£1253.81	
	Gateways	NIL	
	Youth Work	(£943.31)	
	Resource Hub	<u>£223.13</u>	
All (Receipts) – (Payments)			£316.33
Closing balances 31/12/23	Cash & cheques	£0.00	
	CAF current account	<u>£17399.97</u>	
Total closing balances			£17399.97