

**Friends of St Mary's Church, Standon**

**Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31st December 2023**

**Registered Charity Number 1088516**

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Standon  
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023  
Legal and Administrative Details

**Address for correspondence**

74 High Street  
Standon  
Hertfordshire  
SG11 1LB

**Legal Status**

The charity, whose full name is The Society of The Friends of St Mary's Church, Standon, is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, registration number 1088516. It was formed as an unincorporated association under a constitution adopted on 20 November 2000 and amended on 22 July 2001.

**Trustees and Committee Members**

Mrs D M Dale	Chairman
Mrs A C Franks	Treasurer
Ms C F Tarry	Secretary
Mrs S Beeston	
Mr M F Baker	until 19.05.23
Mrs L A Brand	
Mrs A Brears	
Ms A Brookbanks	from 09.05.23
Rev J Chitham	
Ms Alison Cooley	
Mrs S Crook	
Mr D Goldstraw	from 02.11.23

**Bankers**

National Westminster Bank plc  
The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund

**Independent Examiner**

Jane Fowke

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Standon  
Report of the Trustees  
for the year ended 31st December 2023

The trustees are pleased to present their report and accounts for the year to 31st December 2023.

### **Objects of the charity**

The objects of the charity are to assist, including by raising funds, in the conservation and development of the church buildings, fixtures, fittings, contents and churchyard of St Mary's church, Standon; to assist in the maintenance of the churchyard and to encourage and support all that is done to add to the beauty and usefulness of the church.

The charity fulfils these objects by raising funds to support works commissioned by the PCC. Details of projects funded during the year can be found in the notes to the accounts.

### **Government**

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustees, who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the Friends.

Six of the trustees are appointed by Standon Parochial Church Council, and six are elected at the annual meeting. The chairman must be a publically elected trustee.

### **Review of Activities**

In 2023 our fundraising activities were able to return to normal levels after the Covid pandemic. In January we returned to holding our annual, very successful quiz night in the Community Centre. The quiz night raised £1,406.

We offered teas and salads at Mayday, as usual, and also sold some plants and promoted Open Gard Mayday raised £1,878 and our Open Gardens event in June raised over £8,627.

Our lunchtime concert series in October was well received, and raised £1,526. The Advent coffee morning and sale was, once again, very successful, raising £1,367. The hundred club continues to contribute significantly to our fundraising efforts.

A fund-raising effort was launched in late 2020 to raise the sums necessary to refurbish the two Sadler tombs in the church, and the project was finished early in 2023. The remaining funds raised have been transferred to the PCC, including a contingency fund for future cleaning.

In 2023, we hosted a demonstration of Levantine cookery and enjoyed eating the results, raising £1,000 from the event. We also held our 2-yearly Safari Supper, raising £982, and provided refreshments at the combined choirs Christmas concert in church.

We are grateful to Gill, who looks after the hundred club, and to Basma, who masterminded the cookery demonstration, as well as all who help with our events or support them.

In planning our activities, the trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in December 2008.

### **Trustees' Responsibilities**

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

This report was approved by the trustees on 14th March 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Standon  
Report of the Trustees  
for the year ended 31st December 2023

Diana Dale (Chairman)

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Friends of St Mary's Church, Standon  
Receipts and Payments Account  
for the year ended 31st December 2023

	Note	2023 Unrestricted	2023 Restricted	2022
		£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations including gift aid tax	5	37,668	6,904	15,410
Income from fundraising activities	4	20,962		20,343
Bank interest		2,596		912
		<u>61,226</u>	<u>6,904</u>	<u>36,665</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
Costs of generating funds	4	2,433	209	2,480
Management and administration		430		348
Grants made	2	9,264	6,695	7,042
		<u>12,127</u>	<u>6,904</u>	<u>9,870</u>
Net receipts		49,099	0	26,795
Funds at 1st January		113,303		86,508
Funds at 31st December		<u>162,402</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>113,303</u>

**Friends of St Mary's Church, Standon**

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities  
as at 31st December 2023**

	2023	2022 £
<b>Bank and cash balances</b>		
Held at bank	<u>162,402</u>	<u>113,303</u>
<b>Other assets and liabilities</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
Gift aid tax recovery not yet received	<u>1,090</u>	<u>3,136</u>

Friends of St Mary's Church, Standon  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31st December 2023

## 1 Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis with a statement of assets and liabilities.

## 2 Grants paid

During the year, grants were made to Standon PCC totalling £8,916 for the restoration of the Sadleir tombs, £3,598 for a survey of the tower and £3,445 for work on the drainage systems.

## 3 Employees

The charity has no employees.

No amounts were paid or are payable to any trustee or to any person connected to them.

Expenses incurred by trustees are reimbursed.

## 4 Fundraising Activities

These results reflect cash movements only.

Fundraising activities	<i>Received</i>	<i>Costs</i>	<i>Net</i>	<i>2022</i>
Hundred club	2,020	870	1,150	1,070
Lunchtime concerts	1,671	145	1,526	1,219
Advent coffee morning & sale	1,367		1,367	1,424
Mayday teas, salads & plants	1,994	116	1,878	1,215
Quiz night	1,848	442	1,406	818
Open Gardens	9,184	557	8,627	9,059
Levantine cookery evening	1,222	222	1,000	
Safari supper	982		982	0
Lordship talk & tea			0	935
Flower festival				1,609
Sale of cards	138		138	182
Christmas concert refreshments	536	81	455	332
	<u>20,962</u>	<u>2,433</u>	<u>18,529</u>	<u>17,863</u>

## 5 Donations

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>
Donations received	2,525	6,827
Legacy received	32,084	
Gift Aid tax received 2023	3,059	77
	<u>37,668</u>	<u>6,904</u>

Gift aid tax for 2023, to be received in 2024, amounts to £1,090.

This includes £309 relating to the tombs.