

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST ANDREW WITH HOLY TRINITY HALSTEAD

England & Wales - Charity number 1127357

Details

Other names ST ANDREWS HALSTEAD PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2008-12-31

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: To promote the whole mission of the Church in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Halstead and to support the wider church.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE
- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£136,507	£146,429	-	-
2023-12-31	£131,980	£135,290	-	-
2022-12-31	£120,247	£118,791	-	-
2021-12-31	£93,860	£107,479	-	-
2020-12-31	£81,244	£90,999	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Susan Goldsmith	Chair	2025-11-27
Angela Gay Kerrison		2022-05-22
Carolyn Brown		2025-05-11
Claire Ford		2022-05-22
HELENA GEE		2022-05-22
John Michael Gee		2024-05-26
Linda Cooper		2025-05-11
Melanie Black		2022-05-22
Pauline Tilsley		2022-05-22
Stephen Cooper		2026-05-10
Susan Dood		2025-05-10

Accounts



**Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 11th May 2025**

Parochial Church Meeting to receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements of
the Parochial Church Council

for the year ending 31st December 2024.

Chair of PCC: Mike Gee Lay Vice Chair

The Parish Office, Parsonage Street, Halstead, Essex CO9 2LD

Administrative Information:

The Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Church is part of
The Halstead Area Team Ministry.

It is situated within the Deanery of Hinckford and is part of the
Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is
The Parish Office, Parsonage Street, Halstead, Essex CO9 2LD
Our Parish Administrator is Rae Haylock

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC
Independent Examiner: Tracey Whittle

Electoral Roll: At our last annual meeting the Electoral Roll stood at 104. Within a worshipping community of 137, the average attendance throughout the week was 60-65 people, including 45 at our main service on a Sunday. There were 5 baptisms, 6 funerals and no marriages held during 2024.

Carolyn Brown, Electoral Roll Officer

The Parochial Church Council

Mike Gee	Acting Chair, Warden Team
Helena Gee	Secretary, Mustard Tree lead, Safeguarding lead, Lay Chair of Deanery Synod
Claire Ford	Treasurer, Wonderkids and Kids' Church lead
Melanie Black	Warden Team
Arthur Dodd	Warden Team, Pastoral leader
William Jensen	Organist and Choir Master (invited member)
Angela Kerrison	Hundred Club
Rachel Morris	Warden Team, Messy Church and Kids' Church lead
Rachael Simpson	Community Outreach worker, Soul Food lead (invited member)
Pauline Tilsley	Deanery Synod Representative

Team Rector's Introduction

2024 has been a year of significant change, with Rev'd Katie's last service on Sunday the 2nd of June and we then entered into a period of vacancy for both the Rector and Team Vicar (Three Saints) roles. I was successful in my application for the Team Rector role, a post that I was licensed to on 19th January 2025. May I take this opportunity to thank Rev'd Katie for her many years of ministry, and we are delighted for both Katie and Gary in their new chapter together.

Continuing the theme of thanks, we are extremely grateful for the ministries of Reverends Richard, Elizabeth, David and Matthew, all of our lay leaders, churchwardens, PCC members, Rae in the office and all who have contributed in any way.

On average, incumbent vacancies within the Church of England last for about 18 months, I am pleased to say that as I write this, we are about to advertise the new role after several months of developing the Parish Profile. A very big thank you goes to all of those involved in this process.

As part of the Gateway Project, WonderKids, Messy Church and Soul Food have drawn alongside people with the love of God, and it was particularly joyful to see the Christmas Day communal meal bringing light and love to people who needed fellowship on this day.

As we look ahead into 2025, we pray for the discernment process of the new Team Vicar and a new chapter of ministry within the communities of the Three Saints.

Revd Mark Payne, Team Rector – Halstead Area Team

Report from PCC Secretary

Together the PCC are responsible for the overall wellbeing, practical as well as spiritual, of the church, the church members and the church buildings. The Incumbent is the Chair with the officer positions being filled by laity. As I report on our work this year, I have to begin by reminding everyone that Revd Katie moved to her new post a week after the last APCM, so we have been a full year without an incumbent to chair the group. As Deputy Chair, Mike has led meetings. All of the PCC team have worked diligently to keep abreast of our collective responsibilities and to manage effectively. We are hardworking and sincere and desire to do our best for the church community. We have had to learn and respond to new things. We hope that we have not just 'kept things going', as we have a desire for this church to grow and flourish and are seeking appropriate, sustainable ways to do this. There are so many ways to support the life and growth of the church, and everyone is able to contribute to this. For this reason, we make a personal appeal to each of you to get involved and help us. Do not think that you have not been here long enough. You have talents that God wants you to share. The APCM is the ideal time to commit to a year on this team.

Staffing and Duties: We have run for the last two years without church wardens. The duties of the wardens have been covered by the PCC and in particular by four PCC members. The PCC would very much appreciate that dedicated Wardens come forward to support the running of the church. They will still be fully supported by the PCC team and by an experienced group of sides-persons (welcomers). This will give the PCC more bandwidth to support the broader administrative functions of the church.

Three members of the PCC stepped down during the year, one as a consequence of ill health. The other two because of increased pressures from other commitments. In addition, one of the PCC was not able to fulfil their PCC role due to ill health. We are so pleased that they are now able to actively support the team and are blessed with better health.

During the vacancy we have been blessed with additional support leading services from the retired clergy living in the area. Services are regularly lay led providing congregants with an opportunity to take part as lesson readers and leading intercessions. Welcome and hospitality teams support each service.

We have a new PCC Treasurer and Claire presents her first treasurer's report this year. Malcolm Willis' exceptionally long service to church and the role means that Claire feels that she has big boots to fill. We are thankful for her energy and aptitude to the role. Charlotte stepped down as auditor with Tracey Whittle taking on the task for us. Charlotte has been helping Rae and Claire move finance systems to new software over the year.

Membership of the Finance and Premises sub-committee has changed too. Mike has been acting chair of the group, with Helena acting up as note keeper since Revd Katie's departure. This position will continue until we have a fuller PCC, and roles can be distributed accordingly.

Capacity: With fewer members of the PCC, we have all increased our roles attempting to ensure that as many things as possible move forwards. Inevitably we have not been able to manage all as we had wished so some things have proceeded at a slower pace or have been put on pause until capacity is back.

We have just come to the end of an interesting year.

Vacancy: The vacancy for Team Vicar has meant that PCC time has focused on working with the other two churches in The Three Saints team to develop a profile which will attract a new incumbent. Initially, we focused on the advertisement and appointment of a Team Rector and latterly, once Revd Mark was confirmed in the rector post we focused on the Team Vicar position. As we write this the post has been advertised and we await the interview process to begin. Trusting that The Lord will bless us with an appropriate new Team Vicar.

The vacancy time has meant that Rae and Helena have been working closely with the Diocese, who own the Rectory in preparing it for a fresh tenant. A great number of church members have quietly supported us in that role, and we thank you all for this.

Strengthened by others: We appreciate the work that Revd David, Revd Elizabeth, Revd Richard and Revd Matt have put in to ensuring that the services each week are planned and led. You are aware I'm sure that each Thursday a Holy Communion service takes place. This is supported by the wider clergy team providing us with a chance for fellowship with an even greater number of clergy. Part way through the year Suzie and Arthur Dodd were licensed as Pastoral Leaders. We thank them for leading morning prayer on a regular basis and for establishing a weekly service and fellowship time for residents in four of the care homes in our area.

Church Warden team: The team operated once again to manage the weekly services. Working together with St James' and St Catherine's wardens meant that services across the team were considered. Revd Elizabeth helped by coordinating this.

Our desire is to **nurture and grow what we have**. To do this we have planned and supported two weekly services at St Andrew's. Our interdependence as a congregation is evident. We have many people who contribute to our worship and fellowship times. This year, in particular, we have worked more closely with Rae, William, Jim, Ros and Kevin and I thank them on your behalf for all that they do to

maintain church life. Church cleaning, flower arranging and bell ringing teams of volunteers support services, quietly and without fuss.

The Gateway Project, Messy Church and Wonderkids all have full PCC backing. Rachel Morris and Claire Ford leading the missions to children with Rachael Simpson, our Community Outreach Worker maintaining the Gateway project.

Future Growth: A team from the church have volunteered to attend the 'Leading your Church into Growth Conference' in May. Growing in personal commitment to each other through practical involvement and deepening relationships is key to this.

Financial custodians: A key contributor to healthy finances comes through parish giving. The PCC thank everyone for supporting us in this way. There are a range of ways that parishioners can give. These are all appreciated. Anyone wanting to find out more about how to give do speak directly to Claire. Leaflets about parish share will be available at the APCM. In the past we have benefited greatly from legacy giving. Historic legacy funds for St Andrew's are almost gone so it is with urgency we are considering ways to gain funds to support the day to day running of the buildings of which we are the custodians. Please remember these situations in your prayers.

We thank Angela, Jan and Carolyn who encouraged us all to contribute to general fundraising by taking part in the Hundred Club. There are no limits on how to raise funds and if you have a good idea, please do share it and have a go at running it. Jay has been making and selling jam since the £10 challenge initiative, which was announced the year after Katie arrived. All of the money Jay raises goes back to church and supports us. We are also completely blessed with exquisite preserves. Thank you and bless you, Jay.

We are indebted to the Friends of St Andrew's who give substantial funds to support church maintenance that has been identified in the quinquennial report.

The Mustard Tree Project requires a massive injection of funds to come to fruition. The team will be looking outside of church for these monies in order to take the project to its next phase.

Helena Gee, PCC Secretary

Safeguarding

The PCC continues to comply with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults) with an annual review from our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Helena Gee.

Report from Church Wardens

The wardens of the three churches have collectively planned the rotas for services for each church as well as occasional joint team events. During the vacancy we have been blessed with additional support leading services from the retired clergy living in the area. Services are regularly lay led providing congregants with an opportunity to take part as lesson readers and leading intercessions. Welcome and hospitality teams support each service.

We have received criticism when service patterns are 'not the same as last year'. Whilst understanding that people like what they know, we are not able to always provide this. We are custodians in the middle of a vacancy. Being in vacancy means that we are a member of the clergy down. The impact of this is seen on what we have been able to staff regarding services. We have been pleased to offer joint services, which ensure that more of the congregation across the team can access a service led by clergy. We have been criticised for poor communication and feel that this is also unfair. We are genuine and sincere in what we offer and endeavour to do. Each member of the warden team has additional PCC and employed work responsibilities.

Please pray for the warden position at church. Wardening roles in addition to, rather than within, the PCC would be appreciated. Please talk with Revd Mark, any of our supporting clergy, or any member of the PCC if you feel you wish to help with this.

Mike Gee, Church Warden Team

The Fabric Goods and Ornaments of the Church

The Church building is in a good state of repair and has been maintained according to the requirements of the quinquennial inspections.

Church Cleaning

Rachel Morris has continued the organisation of the monthly cleaning schedule for the church. She is very grateful to the dedicated team of colleagues, who support this important work to keep the church looking at its best. We are always looking for new people to join the team and if you can help, please speak to Rachel or simply turn up on the Saturdays when cleaning takes place. There are always refreshments to keep everyone going during the cleaning sessions. It is so encouraging when visitors to the

church comment on how well the building is kept and this is in part down to the work of the cleaning team.

Church and Churchyard

This year has seen some development work by the Mustard Tree Project team looking at how we can improve the welcome, accessibility, and hospitality provided in our church building. We have worked with two architects, who have endeavoured to be sympathetic to the current building and all its historical features.

The proposals include improved access, the provision of toilet facilities and a server's area in church. We have also investigated the provision of a modern, efficient, and environmentally friendly heating system which is dependent on an updated electricity supply for the church building. Given the demands of the vicar vacancy work on this major development has been largely paused. However, we were very pleased to have the formal visit of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches in August 2024 to review and confirm our plans for the building. The formal report is awaited, but the informal feedback was very positive and encouraging about the plans and overall the plans and project should be fully supported by the Diocese.

The Friends of St. Andrew's have allocated money to support the repairs to the organ loft roof, which were identified in the Quinquennial Report. The early planning and approval stages of this project have been delayed because of the vicar vacancy, but we hope to have the Diocesan Faculties in place in the next few months. A focus on raising funds will remain a major task for the church family going forward.

Mike Gee, Church Warden Team

Hinckford Deanery Synod 2024

With Revd Katie leaving the Diocese in June, the November meeting at Earls Colne, saw Revd Mark Payne appointed as the new Area Dean and Helena Gee as Lay Chair. The opening worship and commissioning of Revd Mark and Helena were conducted by Archdeacon Kate Peacock.

At this meeting the speaker was Carrie Prior, Director of Education for the Diocese, and she spoke about the work done with church schools. There are 13 church schools in the North Hinckford Deanery.

The March meeting was held here at St Andrew's with Wendy Lidgate, Programme Manager for the Diocese, speaking. She told us about an exciting bid the Diocese

are putting together from the national Church SMMIB (Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board).

The Deanery Synod met three times this year. The June meeting focused on Parish Share. Our reps Pauline and Jan gave a detailed presentation to PCC about this, for which we thank them.

Pauline Tilsley and Helena Gee, Deanery Synod Representatives

Altar Servers

A small team assist as acolytes and crucifer. Their dedication enhances the worship at St Andrew's, through the year. They support the parish by completing practical tasks after each service. All of them are deeply committed to St Andrew's through their other roles which support the mission and life of the congregation.

Kevin Metson, Sacristan

Report from The Bellringers

Sending the Holy Spirit into the Hearts of us all. St. Andrew's Church has a fine set of 8 bells, the tenor bell weighing 15 1/4 cwt. We boast that we have a pre-reformation bell in the ring, which we think is dated C1380. This bell has a Latin inscription and is No 7 in the ring of 8; Dulcis Sisto Melis Campana Vocor Gabrielis. We try to ring the bells on the 2nd Sunday in the month when we can get enough ringers to form a band, and also for weddings, funerals and special church services.

At present we struggle with 6 Halstead ringers, but fortunately we can get help when required from our ringing friends in nearby parishes. We are saddened to lose Paul Osborne, he was one of our 3 new learners that I have been teaching during the year. Elizabeth Jordan and Mark Rickett continue to make good progress. Gabriel, Mark's son, who is only 6 always comes to practise with his dad. He loves the bells, and Dave Martin has made him a working bell model!!

We sometimes have a Saturday morning practice, and on the 1st of February a 1/4 peal of Grandsire Triples was successfully achieved. Our recent tabletop sale proved to be fruitful, we have raised £107 towards buying 3 new ropes, which are needed to keep our bells in good ringing order. We have been successful to gain a grant to cover the cost of two more ropes as well.

Lastly, we always are looking for new members to keep the Halstead bells ringing. If you are interested, please give me a 'phone call on 07421729751

David Kerrison, Tower Leader

Church Cleaning

Rachel Morris, one of the PCC members, organises the monthly cleaning schedule for the church. There is a very dedicated team of colleagues, who support this important work to keep the church looking at its best. We are always looking for new people to join the team and if you can help, please speak to Rachel or simply turn up on the Saturdays when the cleaning takes place. We meet once a month, usually on the third Saturday for a couple of hours. We have between 4 and 8 people involved. Refreshments are provided. There is also a cleaning list on the side table in the church for people who can't come on the day with a list of tasks.

Rachel Morris, Church Warden Team

Special Projects

We desire to share our faith with those in the community and within the Gateway Project provide practical support for those who live in our parish.

The Gateway Project

The Gateway Project grew throughout 2024 even though there continued to be a shortage of food donations, so more food needed to be bought as well as a new commercial fridge from our grant funds. Debs, our part time cook told us she was homesick and wanted to return to the Midlands, so she left in February 2025 and will be greatly missed after being with us for almost 18 months. We are in the process of onboarding another self-employed cook who, once trained, will regularly cook at the communal meals. Our Community Outreach Worker and volunteer team are keeping the meals running and owing to the success of the communal meals we have taken on a couple more volunteers to help.

Soul Food continues to run weekly takeaway meals, feeding around 40 people alongside our monthly communal meals and recipe bags at Bank Holidays. Christmas dinner was a particular highlight with 51 people attending, we held

quizzes, raffles, did face-painting and biscuit decoration as well as the food and Christmas gifts. Meals were also delivered again into the community, 'United In Kind' joined us again to help with all the activities. We conducted a survey of our takeaways and communal meals and made some changes to the communal meals including some entertainment which is going down well. We held an 'Ask the Vicar' communal meal in January and March and will be holding a thanksgiving service on June 8th at 4pm, to which you are all invited, and then for food afterwards (please let Rachael know if you would like to come).

Our team of Soul Food volunteers play a vital role in the success of the Soul Food project. Every role is valued by our clients, with the relationships formed being the most significant thing.

Soul Food also worked with Wonderkids during the year on a number of events. We catered for over 70 adults and children at our Emergency Services event, where we invited the Fire Brigade, Police and 'United In Kind' did a huge art installation project with the children, which will be erected in the hall. We held a free swim session at Halstead Leisure Club before returning for games in church, and an Easter Extravaganza in church with fun and games.

The Essex Community Foundation Grant runs into 2026 and, together with funds raised in other ways, gives the opportunity to buy those little touches that make the meals and volunteer events all the more special. The project funding for our Outreach Worker post ends this year and we are seeking grants to extend that post to oversee the project.

Rachael Simpson, Community Outreach Worker

Wonderkids

Wonderkids runs every Tuesday morning during term time. The stay and play sessions run from 9.30 until 11am in the church hall. We have a regular group of 4 volunteers as well as a few willing parents available ad hoc, although more volunteers are always welcome.

We have a variety of regular attendees comprising of parents, grandparents and child minders. Currently, we have 30 regular families who join us at least once a month, with another 10 visiting more infrequently. We are still welcoming new families to our sessions. We run a pre-booking system via Facebook or email and limit numbers to 25 adults and their children for each session.

During 2024 we ran three events during the school holidays with support from Soul Food and the Gateway Project. Easter in the Church, a swim and play supported by

Halstead Leisure Centre and our Emergency Special where we were joined by the Fire Brigade and Police Service. These events were well attended and brought us some new regulars in the winter term.

This year we secured a grant of £500 from Halstead Town Council. This money has been used to continue to refresh our toy selection, providing further opportunities for role play, imaginative play and fine motor development.

Claire Ford, Wonderkids Lead

The Mustard Tree Project

This major project is a response to the PCC at St Andrew's aspiration that worship, fellowship, mission and community will be enhanced through improved welcome and hospitality at this church. They see the parable of the mustard seed as an image of God's generous hospitality and welcome to all, so a fitting reference for the project which has inspired our vision of what we want St Andrew's Church to offer.

The Church of England speaks of 'proclaiming the gospel afresh in each generation', and part of how we do this is through our buildings and what they say about who we think God is, what church means to us, and how we love and care for those who make use of our buildings. The key strands of the work are:

Make our church more accessible, inclusive and hospitable Reflecting God's generous welcome to all

Building community and growing faith

The mustard tree team has developed a project plan to improve the beautiful, sacred church building which will meet today's needs and expectations and be fit for mission and ministry over the next few decades. We want to show and share God's love in the best way that we can, meeting the needs of as many people as possible, so that the church building might better support our mission and ministry. We want to be a blessing to our community, and a place where those seeking spiritual support can encounter Jesus and explore Christian faith.

What will be different?

- A new and more powerful three-phase electricity supply
- A sustainable electric heating system. Zoned heating areas to improve energy efficiency and comfort.
- An accessible toilet facility inside the west vestry

- Improved circulation and access for disabled people around church by removing a section of pews and installing ramps
- A larger dais
- A modern server's facility with cafe style seating at the back of the church
- The font located by the North door.
- Sound desk relocated
- New storage areas
- Glass inner doors to improve the church entrance and make access more welcoming

This is a major project, with an estimated cost of £750k. The aim is to seek grant funding for this in addition to small funds that are currently in church funds. To date, we have got to the stage of a detailed architectural drawing and plan and there has been a supportive DAC visit, which has been favourable to what has been planned in terms of changes to the building. The project was launched to the congregation last April. From April till October feedback was received. We were delighted with the positive support we received, and the endorsement is appreciated. We planned to go to broader consultation and gain feedback from community groups that use our facilities but found that our capacity to move the project on was diminished. This will be the first activity we undertake when the project is resumed once we have an incumbent to manage PCC matters and free up members of the Mustard Tree team to focus on it.

Helena Gee, Mustard Tree Project

Ignite Report

Ignite continues to offer a monthly evening opportunity for a more informal service. We meet on the 4th Sunday of every month except August and December. We start with time for a drink and a chat, and this is followed by a time of worship, where the band (recently enhanced by Richard) lead us in a variety of music. Services can then include a talk or activity and a time of prayer or reflection. A particular favourite was the one where members of the congregation chose their favourite hymn or chorus and explained why it was special. The service is run by a small lay team and attended by people from a variety of churches in the area. Numbers tend to be smaller than they were before Covid, but we are always looking for new members of the team, or people willing to share their spiritual journey with us.

Linda Davis, The Ignite Team

Kids' Church Report

We mainly have children under 6 in one group (though we can adapt if older children come). The format is the same as previous years with a continuous play that connects to the theme, a story and discussion, 2 or 3 craft activities, a game, a song and we finish with a prayer before going over to church, where we join the end of the service and have refreshments. We sometimes have families from Crossways Church joining us, which supports them with provision for their children. This is a planned joint provision supporting Children's Ministry. We have at least 2 leaders for each session and most parents stay and join in. We are developing good relationships with them.

Rachel Morris and Claire Ford, Kids' Church Leaders

Messy Church Report 2025

Messy Church is an interactive experience aimed at children of primary age and below and their parents, allowing them to encounter Jesus through a range of activities, which are fun and sometimes messy.

We have made some major changes this year as we found numbers were dwindling. The first change is dates. We have planned around set dates in the calendar, for example Easter, a light party on November 1st and Christingle in December.

The second change is times. We are avoiding mealtimes, so have some morning or early afternoon sessions.

The third change is we are no longer having a meal together at the end of Messy Church. Instead, we have a cafe area, where drinks and snacks are available throughout the session free of charge.

The fourth change is we now have a booking email system, so we have an idea of how many children are coming, so know how much to prep and how much food to buy reducing waste.

Our first Messy Church this year went well. Although only 2 booked, we had 9 children each with a parent. Our theme was 'Learning to Live Together'. All the children enjoyed the activities, and the feedback was that the cafe worked well. Using online booking for the first time meant that 24 children and their families joined us for our Easter Messy Church.

Messy Church wouldn't run without volunteers. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who is involved.

Rachel Morris, Messy Church Lead

Monday Evening Home Group Report

Our Home Group continues to thrive with 5 to 9 people meeting once a fortnight in someone's home. This year we have studied The Twelve Disciples and some of the Psalms. We had a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival and decorated it with Tree Hangings, with the positive sayings and thoughts from the Psalms. The Home Group WhatsApp is useful for requests for prayers, support and information.

Pauline Tilsley and Jay Ainge, Home Group Leaders

St Andrew's Friday Coffee Morning

The Friday Coffee Morning is now in its 37th year. It was held weekly in St Andrew's Hall throughout 2024 and provided an opportunity for both our regulars, plus many others to drop in for a coffee and a chat as well as to look through the many bargains that were always on offer. In 2024, although our coffee morning is mainly a social event, we raised around £700 for parish funds and we appreciate those who come along week by week to support us. Donations of unwanted gifts, bric a brac, books or other small items that we can sell are always welcome.

The Coffee Morning Team

League of Friends Report

The League of Friends was established to raise funds to support the maintenance of the grade I listed building that is St Andrew's Church, Halstead. Funds are raised through sponsorship, membership, and participation in a range of events. If you would like to become a member of The Friends, to offer help on the committee or assist with planning an event, or if you wish to find out which events are coming up, visit www.friendsofstandrewshalstead.co.uk or speak to a member of the committee who are: Lisa Baxter, Claire Cannon, Carolyn Brown, Helena Gee, Mike Gee, Penny Hill, Pauline Tilsley and Margaret Tyler.

The PCC thank Claire Cannon and her team for their generosity and hard work, raising funds for the fabric of the building. The current Quinquennial Report highlights urgent work required on the roof over the organ loft and vestry, and this has been the focus for fundraising this year.

The programme for this year has included: tabletop sales; organ concerts; Colne Philharmonic Orchestra and a recital by Chris White and the annual Christmas Tree Festival. There is an ambitious music festival being planned for the summer 2025, for which we would appreciate support and practical help if you can. This will take place on the weekend of 27th,28th,29th June the festival will include 5 concerts across the weekend.

Worth remembering:

A) Membership of the friends is not big; the committee is extremely small.

B) The League of Friends was established to raise funds for major repair projects for the church building. All money raised is used for this and is an essential source of money in support of the church building.

We would appreciate it if you could promote all of these fundraising events to others in church, your friends and family and to anyone whom you feel will be interested.

Membership of the Friends is open to anyone in the community and would interest anyone interested in preserving this historical building and focal point in the town. If you would like more information please speak to Claire Cannon.

Claire Cannon, Chair of The League of Friends

Our Church Schools

The parish is served by a secondary academy and three primary schools in the town. Two of the primary schools are church schools. There are regular opportunities for the children, parents and staff in our schools to come to church for special services, this year Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday and Easter services have been held. Church representatives serve as governors or trustees at the church schools, and it is anticipated that the new incumbent will serve as a trustee at All Saints Academy Trust, where St. Andrew's Primary is the lead school and as a governor at Holy Trinity Primary School, which is a maintained local authority school. Schools are of a high standard and are currently rated 'Good' by Ofsted, both of our church primary schools have excellent SIAMS inspection reports.

Mike Gee, PCC Lay Vice-Chair

Holy Trinity Primary School

Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School has enjoyed another enriching and successful year.

In May last year, we received an outstanding SIAMS report, which highlighted numerous strengths and identified only one achievable development area. Our Diocesan adviser, Julie Sarti, was delighted with the outcome, describing it as well deserved.

In recognition of our dedication to courageous advocacy, Bishop Roger visited the school to witness the impactful work taking place. In his letter to the school, he remarked that he had “met some of the most engaged and well-mannered children he has ever encountered.” He also stated that “the work the school has undertaken as part of the Courageous Advocacy programme is exemplary,” a sentiment that was later featured in a local press release.

Holy Trinity recently completed an exceptionally successful inclusion review, with key advisers commending the school for “going above and beyond for our families and young people” and demonstrating “a strong and unwavering commitment to inclusion.” This recognition is a testament to the welcoming ethos we are proud to uphold. As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting children with special educational needs, we plan to expand the existing Zen Den to create an additional sensory space for upper Key Stage 2 pupils.

As part of ‘The Essex Year of Numbers’ initiative, we participated in the Lord Lieutenant’s competition in February, which encouraged students to explore the presence of mathematics in everyday life. Holy Trinity was not only the winner of the whole-school category but was also deemed the overall winner of the competition by the judges. We were honoured to welcome the Lord Lieutenant, Jennifer Tollhurst, and her Deputy, Catharine Hutley, to present prizes and certificates. Mrs. Catharine Hutley DL praised the children’s mathematical creativity, stating, “Your results were wonderful and so imaginative. Who could imagine that numbers could come in so many different permutations?!” The school received a £125 book voucher, along with books and class certificates. The Lord Lieutenant commended the children’s mathematical achievements, their exemplary conduct, and the contributions of Mrs. Raven, the school’s maths lead. Both visitors expressed their admiration for the school, remarking, “It was a real pleasure to visit such a vibrant and creative school. Everyone was delightful, and we found the pupils to be incredibly engaging and interesting. It is a great credit to you and all the staff for making their learning experience so enjoyable, which is clearly reflected in their enthusiasm.”

Holy Trinity was one of only a handful of schools selected to participate in an art project for Oxfam, creating a banner on the theme of climate justice and collective solutions. The banner was displayed at Oxfam House in Oxford before being transferred to Oxfield at the Glastonbury Festival site.

Additionally, we took part in the Courageous Advocacy Pop-up Exhibition at Chelmsford Cathedral, where students exhibited artwork—including collages, sculptures, and paintings depicting themes of social justice.

Our commitment to character education and raising aspirations is embedded in the rich experiences we provide for our pupils daily. These experiences are rooted in our theologically grounded Christian vision, which aligns with the values of honesty, love, and respect that is reflected in the biblical teachings “Love thy neighbour as thyself” and “Love one another as He has loved us.”

Throughout the year, we have continued to foster strong connections with our local community. Our pupils collaborated with Halstead in Bloom through a weekly gardening club, and as part of the Braintree Cultural Partnership, some of our students' presented visitors at Halstead Day Centre with books and artwork inspired by The Year of Numbers and environmental themes.

We have also supported our local Empire Theatre by staging both our Nativity play and end-of-year productions at the venue.

Our close relationship with St. Andrew's Church remains integral to school life, with students participating in services for key events such as Remembrance Day, Harvest, Ash Wednesday, Christmas, and Easter.

We are now in the final stages of developing our bespoke Holy Trinity curriculum, which is designed to address the diverse needs and abilities of all our pupils.

Other themed events throughout the year have included engineering workshops, wellbeing sessions, guest talks from charities and organisations, the construction of a new bee byway through the school's newly established Eco Council, and an orchestra visit.

Furthermore, Holy Trinity was featured on BBC Look East for its involvement in a dental pilot project focused on oral health. This initiative provided workshops and informal dental screenings, enabling pupils to access free NHS clinic appointments.

Sarah Rowe, Headteacher

St. Andrew's Primary School: A Year of Growth, Action, and Recognition

Over the past year, St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School has been on a journey — one rooted in faith, action, and community. As a church school, we hold tight to the values of compassion, responsibility, and hope. This year, those values were not only taught in classrooms but lived out through our pupils' actions and recognised on a national level.

We're proud to share that St. Andrew's became the first school in the area to be awarded the Global Neighbours' Silver Award (September 2024), a distinction given

by Christian Aid to schools that show a strong commitment to global citizenship. The award recognises how schools are helping children understand the world around them — especially the challenges faced by communities in other countries — and take practical steps to make a difference. For us this wasn't a one-off project or box-ticking exercise. It was the result of a more than a year-long focus woven into daily life at school. Children took part in learning about global issues such as climate change, poverty, inequality not in an abstract way, but in ways that connected to their own lives and our own Learning for Life Behaviours.

One class wrote letters to local MPs about environmental policies. Another led a campaign to reduce plastic waste in school. Others raised money for international charities and organised assemblies to educate their peers about what they'd learned. Staff, students, and families all played a part. We wanted the children to see that their voices and actions matter, and they truly rose to the occasion. Our SIAMS report, now available online, details much of this work and reflects the heart behind it: to raise children who are not just kind but also courageous, informed, and active in their faith. It's a vision that aligns deeply with our mission as a church school - to love one another.

On Wednesday 2nd October, the school was proud to participate in Season of Creation Evening Prayer at Chelmsford Cathedral. The children sang and gave a talk to the congregation about the work the school has undertaken encouraging our pupils to have a "brave voice" about a range of environmental and social issues.

During the spring term, as part of our school's diversity project, pupils also wrote and delivered speeches on the theme of countering stereotypes. These speeches were shared with our two link schools — one a multi-faith school in Birmingham, and the other in Kenya. The exchange sparked meaningful conversations between students and allowed them to hear different perspectives from children in very different communities. This international connection was made possible through the support of our Diocesan Advisor.

Just before the Easter break, the school hosted an Easter Enterprise Event, giving every class the chance to tap into their entrepreneurial spirit. With small start-up budgets, the children set up and ran stalls selling both goods and services. Visitors were persuaded, with great enthusiasm, to make purchases at every turn. There was a real buzz throughout the building, and the children showed creativity, teamwork, and persuasive flair. The funds raised are being pooled with generous donations from the Essex Free Masons and supporters to enhance our school's outdoor reflection area this summer. As part of this project, we're excited to install a new water feature, kindly sponsored by Halstead in Bloom. Alongside this, we'll be welcoming an Artist in Residence in May, who will guide the school in creating a clay installation inspired by the natural elements. Every child will take part, with older

pupils supporting our youngest, as we craft handmade tiles to be permanently displayed in this special space. It's a beautiful way to bring art, nature, and faith together in a shared expression of community.

As we look to the year ahead, we're inspired to keep going - not just to earn awards, but to keep shaping a school where children are empowered to live out their faith with purpose and joy. For example, just a few weeks ago the children in our choir went to visit local care home residents and sang some of the uplifting songs they have been learning. The journey continues, and we're glad to be walking it together with our children enjoying opportunities to be part of community near and far.

**Bridgette Gough, Executive Headteacher - St. Andrew's Primary School
Part of All Saints Academy Trust**

St Andrew's Church Vacancies

Are you able to support the church by offering your help with any of the vacancies described below?

Member of Hospitality team (Occasional serving of refreshments after services)

Welcomers (Monthly greet church attendees)

Warden or warden team (Supports the incumbent with the provision of weekly acts of worship) supported by welcomers and the PCC)

PCC Member (Members of the PCC are elected annually at the APCM. During the one year term you will be expected to attend 5 formal meetings, you may wish to join a sub-committee. The PCC support the Church Wardens with the running of the church. The PCC focus on missional opportunities and how to nurture the church community that we have as well as welcome others. We have duties to maintain the fabric of the buildings in our care. As a registered charity we report annually to the charity commission and to the diocese.

Each year we receive a request for parish share from the diocese and manage a strategy to support the payment of this)

Eco Representative (Encourages our stewardship of Gods Earth and keeps us up to date with CofE initiatives to strengthen this)

Cleaning Team Co-ordinator (Monthly)

Positions Filled: Thank you to all of you who support the well-being of our church by taking these roles

Parish Administrator, Safeguarding Officer, Choir and Organ Master, Caretaker, Community Outreach worker, Magazine Editor, Social media manager, Deanery Synod Representatives, Team Council Representative, All Age Service Co-ordinator, Worship Band Leader, Ignite Leaders, Ignite Set Up team, Messy Church co-ordinator/leader, Pastoral Care Leaders, Messy Church table leaders.

Finance

To ensure that our church is generous towards the wider church and community, we support a number of appeals and charity projects throughout the year. These include supporting the Children's Society through our Christingle service, the Samaritans Purse Shoe Box appeal and the annual Christian Aid Appeal.

The annual accounts are appended to this report.

Claire Ford, Treasurer

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year end 31st December 2024

General Fund - Unrestricted Current Account - Receipts and Payments

Receipts	2024		2023	
Voluntary Giving - Regular				
Planned Giving	27710		28515	
Income Tax Recovered	7079		7588	
Service Collections	759		2018	
Gift Aid Envelopes	983	36531	1124	39245
Other Voluntary Receipts				
Donations	2651		2279	
Restricted Collections	461		866	
Collections from Other Services	33	3145	243	3388
Receipts from Other Activities				
Fundraising events	3480		2600	
100 Club	395		0	
Friends Fundraising to be re-imbursed	501	4375	0	2600
Receipts from Church Activities				
St Andrew's Centre Receipts	15870		17430	
Diocesan Fees	1639		2688	
PCC Fees	1347		2676	
Clergy Fees	864		2096	
Energy Fees	500		600	
Parish Magazine	548		130	
Funeral fees to be re-imbursed	130		0	
		20898		25620
Receipts from Investments				
Richmond Trust Investments	826	826	813	813
Grants and Transfers				
Grants from Vicar and Churchwardens account	21586		20000	
Grants From Sant Trust	4500		5000	
Other Grants	12500		3495	
Transfer from Deposit Account	5000	43586	0	28495
Gateway Project				
Gateway Grants	850		0	
Transfers (Soul Food Funds from Deposit AC)	0		8530	
Gateway/Soul Food Receipts	25769	26619	22919	31449
Total Receipts		135979		131610
Payments				
Church Activities				
Parish Share	53860		53064	
St Andrews Centre	12802		14093	
Payment to V+CW for boiler(contra with grant) Note 10	10586		0	
Parish Administration	9301		7640	
Church Insurance	5134		5019	
Church Utilities	4155		4234	
Professional Fees	4040		4040	
Diocesan Fees	1442		2688	
Maintenance of Buildings	1650		2511	
Clergy Fees	879		2096	
Christian Education + Outreach	368		1133	
Charitable and Other Donations	457		866	
Clergy Expenses	287		854	
Music + Choral	473		772	
Cost of Services	331		313	
100 Club Expenses	210		0	
Other Costs	136		127	
		106112		99450
Gateway Project				
Gateway Project Expenses		31561		31793
Total Payments		137672		131243
Excess/(Deficit) of receipts over payments		-1693		367
PCC Current Account 1st January 2024		8462		8095
PCC Current Account 31st December 2024		6768		8462

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year end 31st December 2024

PCC General Fund Deposit Account - Mixed Funds

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Receipts		
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	528	388
 Payments		
Transfers	5000	8530
Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments	-4472	-8142
Opening Balance 1st January	9946	18088
Closing Balance 31st December	<u><u>5474</u></u>	<u><u>9946</u></u>

Fabric Fund Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Receipts		
Grant From Friends (Organ Roof)	40000	0
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	4838	2297
Grant to replace boiler	0	5158
Legacy	0	504
Grant for Bell Clapper	0	250
Grant (CDBF Mustard Tree Project)	2000	0
	<u>46838</u>	<u>8209</u>
 Payments		
Bank Charges	100	97
Notice Board	1272	0
Mustard Tree Project Costs	7385	2751
Hall Boiler Transfer to PCC account	12000	0
Outdoor equipment (from RCCE grant)	0	829
Repairs to Bell clapper	0	370
	<u>20757</u>	<u>4047</u>
Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments	26081	4162
 Opening Balance 1st January		
Barclays Current	5628	3763
CBF Deposit	73969	71672
Current and Deposit Accounts 1st January	<u>79597</u>	<u>75435</u>
 Closing Balance 31st December		
Barclays Current	6372	5628
CBF Deposit	99307	73969
Current and Deposit Accounts 31st December	<u><u>105679</u></u>	<u><u>79597</u></u>

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year end 31st December 2024

John Hill Organ/Music Fund - Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

	2024	2023
Receipts		
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	518	303
Payments	0	0
Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments	518	303
Opening Balance 1st January	9751	9448
Closing Balance 31st December	10268	9751

Buck Fund - Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund (Restated)

	2024	2023
Receipts		
Deposit and Investment Income	2607	1802
Payments	0	0
Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments	2607	1802
Opening Balance 1st January		
CCLA Current	1009	1009
CCLA Deposit	35012	33209
Note 11	36021	34218
Closing Balance 31st December		
CCLA Current	1009	1009
CCLA Deposit	37618	35012
Note 11	38627	36021

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year end 31st December 2024
Registered Charity No 1127357
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2024

Cash Funds	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
PCC Current Account - unrestricted	6768	8462
PCC Deposit Account at CBF - mixed funds	5474	9946
PCC Fabric Fund Current Account - restricted	6372	5628
PCC Fabric Fund at CBF - restricted	99307	73969
John Hill Fund - restricted	10268	9751
Lilian Buck Fund - restricted	38627	36021
Accounts Total	<u>166816</u>	<u>143777</u>

Investment Assets - Unrestricted

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Ernest Richmond Trust Fund;	30422	29742
CCLA - CBF Investment Fund	<u>30422</u>	<u>29742</u>
Valuation based on market value at year end		

Investment Assets - Restricted (Restated)

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Lilian Buck Fund; Note 11		
CBF Investment Fund Accum Shares (capital)	36029	34279
CBF Investment Fund Accum Shares	35282	33568
CBF Investment Fund Income Shares	27294	26684
BLK Charities UK Equity Fund A (Acc)	40607	38173
BLK Charities UK Bond Fund A (Acc)	12313	12360
Valuation based on market value at year end	<u>151525</u>	<u>145064</u>

Notes:

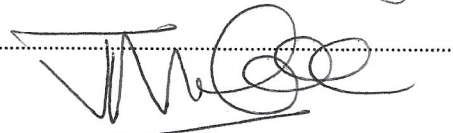
- 1 The financial Statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis
- 2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Moveable church furnishing held by the church warden team on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal
- 3 The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion, which relates to their function as PCC members. No expenses were paid to PCC members
- 4 The League of Friends of St Andrew's is an independent registered Charity (no 1019270) which raises funds to assist the parish in maintaining the fabric of St Andrew's Church.
- 5 The Rector and Churchwarden team are trustees of the Sant Residuary Trust Fund which is registered with the Charity Commissioners (no 269570) and provides grants to further the teaching of the church, and relieve poverty in the parish.
- 6 The figures in these statements have been rounded to the nearest pound.
- 7 The sum recorded under 'Restricted Collections' relates to receipts for specific objects or charities and hence is classified as restricted income.

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year end 31st December 2024
Registered Charity No 1127357
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2024

Notes cont.

- 8 The balance of the PCC Current account is holding £1000 for Messy Church and £380 remaining from a Wonderkids Grant. A balance of £3181 is being held by PCC for the Soul Food project.
- 9 A Sum of £500.91 is being held by PCC for the League of Friends of St Andrew's, and a funeral expense of £130 remained outstanding at the end of the year.
- 10 £12,000 was transferred from the Fabric Fund to the current account in readiness for the purchase of a new boiler. However, the boiler was paid from the Vicar and Churchwardens account by mistake. The Vicar and Churchwardens account is an external account. A decision has been made to donate the value of the boiler payment from the Vicar and Churchwardens account and therefore a payment and receipt in the PCC account for £10,586 has been included in receipts (grants), and in payments.
- 11 The Lilian Buck Fund which consists of both a current and deposit account and also five investment accounts has been included in the Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead accounts in the year to 31 December 2024. The comparative balances for the year ended 31 December 2023 have also been restated. The Lilian Buck Fund had been treated as external to the Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity accounts in the past as it was a restricted fund only to be used for the upkeep/improvement of the church building(s). The PCC have recognised the fund in the Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead accounts in 2024, as the Trustees are planning a church building project and therefore the fund has been recognised in readiness for the project to begin. The fund's cash accounts total £38,627 (2023:£36,021), the investment accounts total £151,525 (2023:£145,064).

Approved by the PCC 27/10/25 and signed on their behalf by Pauline Tilsley - Churchwarden



Lay Vice-Chair PCC



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1127357

Set out on pages

1 to 6

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns (other than those shown below Section B) and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

TD Whittle

Date:

30-10-2025

Name:

Tracey Deborah Whittle

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

N/A

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

See note 11 on page 5.

The Lilian Buck Fund which consists of a current account and a deposit account and five investment accounts, has been treated as external to the accounts of the Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead, until the year ended 31 December 2024. The fund is restricted for the upkeep and improvement of the church building(s). The PCC have decided that as there is a new building project starting, to recognise the Lilian Buck Fund in the accounts of Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead. The fund's current and deposit accounts total £38,627 (2023:£36,021), the investment accounts total £151,525 (2023:£145,064). The current account has not been verified at the time of writing this report, although a verbal confirmation of the balance from the bank was given to one of the trustees. No original documentation regarding the terms of the fund has been obtained, although the trustees have said that the fund is to be used for the church building, and that the trustees have authority over the fund accounts. I cannot confirm this as no original documents were available at this time.

Accounts



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH | HALSTEAD

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 26th May

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the
year ending 31st December 2023.

Incumbent and Chair of PCC

Revd Katie de Bourcier

The Rectory, Parsonage Street, Halstead, Essex CO9 2LD

Administrative Information:

The Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Church is part of The Halstead Area Team Ministry.

It is situated within the Deanery of Hinckford and is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of
England.

The correspondence address is

The Parish Office, Parsonage Street, Halstead, Essex CO9 2LD

Our Parish administrator is Rae Haylock

Bankers:

Barclays Bank PLC

Independent Examiner:

Mrs Charlotte King, Halstead, Essex

The Parochial Church Council

PCC members who have served from 21st May 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Rector: Katie de Bourcier (Chair)

Elected Members:

Jan Allen	Melanie Black (Church Warden Team)
Arthur Dodd (Church Warden Team)	Barry Everett
Claire Ford (Treasurer Elect)	Helena Gee (Secretary)
Mike Gee (Lay Vice Chair, Church Warden Team)	Angela Kerrison
Rachel Morris (Church Warden Team)	Susan Paisley (Deanery Synod)
Roger Smith	Pauline Tilsley (Deanery Synod)
Malcolm Willis (Treasurer)	

Electoral Roll and Church Attendance in 2023

At our last annual meeting the Electoral Roll stood at 107. Within a worshipping community of 137, the average attendance throughout each week was 53 including 47 at our main services on a Sunday. 5 baptisms, 2 marriages and 18 funerals were held during 2023.

Team Rector's Report 2023

Three Saints Parishes – St Andrew's Halstead, St Catherine's Gosfield, and St James' Greenstead Green – Part of the Halstead Area Team Ministry

2023 was, from my point of view, a year of consolidation, as these three parishes established more firmly their shared identity as "The Three Saints", and of regeneration, as we continued to build back after Covid and its lingering impact on church, community, and individual life. The verse that I chose for our year card at the start of 2023 was from Lamentations: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23). As we started the year remembering the faithfulness and love of God, so we found that to be true as we journeyed through the months that followed.

There were difficulties, and sadnesses: saying goodbye to some longstanding church members who went ahead of us to be with the Lord; saying goodbye to our curate, Jo, as she moved to her first incumbency; our continuing and pressing financial challenges as parishes; and the wider tough times in a society facing increased costs of living, and against an anxious backdrop of political turbulence and conflicts around the world. But in all of these, we found strength and comfort in worshipping together, and purpose in caring for one another and seeking to make a difference in our communities.

Ministries such as Soul Food and supporting the Foodbank seemed more important than ever, not just addressing issues around food poverty, but also social isolation. With rising energy prices, we were also able to offer a "warm space" through the weekly Coffee Morning at St Andrew's, as well as through our other activities. Many of our church members are active in supporting neighbours and friends in an unofficial way – such a core part of our Christian witness and service – through friendship and practical help; and also play their part as volunteers in a range of community services led by other groups too.

Our schools ministry flourished, with a lay team taking “Open the Book” assemblies in Gosfield Primary, regular clergy-led collective worship in St Andrew’s and Holy Trinity schools in Halstead, plus school services in our churches and other activities. A particularly notable event was one of the school Christmas services in Halstead, where the number of parents attending has increased so much in recent years that we almost couldn’t fit everyone in – a fantastic problem to have! Church members also continued to play key roles as governors/trustees for our local schools, helping sustain their church school ethos.

Alongside our schools ministry, our wider ministry to children and families continued to develop, with the Wonderkids toddler group branching out into holding very popular holiday activities; Kids Church in Halstead well-established on the first Sunday of each month, and Messy Church regularly taking place every other month in St Andrew’s Hall. We also laid the groundwork for piloting a youth group for teenagers for the Three Saints Parishes, meeting with young people to listen to what they would want.

The fundraising and social side of church life continued and adapted, with the second running of the St James’ Christmas Fayre proving very successful, as well as the ever popular St Catherine’s Christmas Coffee Morning and Fayre, and the now well established Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrew’s – which had the addition of a wonderful evening performance of a reading of “A Christmas Carol”. These were complemented by other events at other times of year.

All of this, and more, was of course sustained by the heartbeat of our shared worship and prayer life, in our church services, prayer activities, home groups, and courses. We come together to worship and renew our focus on Christ; we are formed as his disciples, learning and growing in faith; and we are sent out to serve him in the world. We are blessed by many who bring their gifts to bear in our corporate worship and our sacred spaces, and offer their time and effort – music, flower arranging, bells, setting up for services, cleaning, serving refreshments, leading services, and more. All of these things help to draw us towards God, showing us his creativity and hospitality, helping us encounter him with head and with heart. In the latter part of the year, we started to see our worshipping numbers increasing, after a period since Covid when they had stayed lower than their previous averages, which was really encouraging. As the writer of the letter to the Hebrews says, “let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another”. We are the body of Christ, the family of God, and we are strengthened and sustained by one another as we travel together in faith. Our churches are what we collectively make them, each of us playing our part according to our gifts, experience and circumstances.

On that note, let me finish by adding a personal thank you, for all the support offered throughout the year, and particularly for the love shown by those of these three congregations and the wider Team Ministry on the occasion of mine and Gary’s wedding in June. We felt blessed indeed.

Revd Katie de Bourcier

Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

The PCC met five times during 2023 with a focus on the values by which to travel well together, referred to in Bishop Guli's document of the same name. Four new members were welcomed onto the council. The church warden vacancy, which began in May 2023, was initially covered by Angela Kerrison, until September 2023 and then by a team of four PCC members was elected to cover the role. The 'warden team', Mel Black, Arthur Dodd, Mike Gee and Rachel Morris, will share the wardenship on behalf of the PCC until such time as Wardens are elected.

Ongoing decisions, monitoring of our service patterns and safeguarding, were a common feature of our agendas. The council was particularly encouraged by Messy Church, Kids Church and Wonderkids, which put children and their families central to what we do. All are reported on below.

The PCC received regular updates on the Mustard Tree Project, as well as the Gateway Project/Soul Food. Appreciation has been expressed at meetings for the overall management of our parish finances by our outgoing treasurer, Malcolm Willis. Thanks also go to Claire Ford for taking on the Treasurer's role following on from the 2024 APCM. Notes from the Finance and Premises subcommittee are regularly received alongside deanery synod and team council reports.

Helena Gee. PCC Secretary

Safeguarding

The PCC continues to comply with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults) with an annual review from our Parish Safeguarding Officer Helena Gee.

Alter Servers

A small team assist as acolytes and crucifer at various services across the year. They enhance the worship at St Andrew's and complete practical tasks after each service.

Kevin Metson. Sacristan

Bellringers

Sending out the Holy Spirit into the Hearts of Everyone

During 2023 we have continued to ring the Ellacombe chimes for Sunday Service and occasionally for funerals and weddings. We practice on Friday evenings from 7.30 to 9 pm.

It is becoming more difficult to ring the open bells for church services as the availability of experienced ringers is increasing an issue, however recently 5 people have asked if I would teach them to learn the basic skills needed to ring the bells for Sunday service ringing standard. This can take up to a minimum of one year, and many learners leave after realising that bellringing is quite an undertaking to learn.

On a brighter note, two bellringers that used to ring at our church Sarah and Nancy are willing to help me on the second Sunday in the month; that's if I can get three other experienced ringers to form a band.

I continue to ring in hope that our bells will ring out again, this expression to me underlines the Glory of God in our worship.



David Kerrison. Tower Band Leader and Bell Maintenance

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity

The Gateway Project



The Gateway Project has continued to grow in 2023 even though there continued to be changes and challenges. 2023 saw the departure of Jo and Tom Parrott who were both an integral part of the Gateway Project, and Soul Food in particular and the arrival of Debs Bolas as the self-employed Soul Food cook and the volunteer team grew to the point where there is now a waiting list to join as a volunteer.

Soul Food continues to run weekly takeaway meals feeding around 40 people weekly. We continued to run communal meals and provide recipe bags throughout the year. Christmas dinner was a particular highlight with 52 people attending. Communal meals are continuing into the 2024 calendar as a regular second Sunday of the month feature.

Our team of Soul Food volunteers play a vital role in the success of the Soul Food project, every role is valued by our clients, with the relationships formed being the most significant.

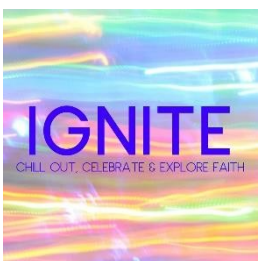
Soul Food also worked with Wonderkids during the year on a number of events. Catering for 60 people, adults and children, in both the park and the church poses challenges, but ones that we embraced wholeheartedly and look forward to doing again in the coming year.



The Essex Community Foundation Grant enabled us to recruit Tom Parrott and then Debs in a self-employed capacity giving more resilience to the lead cook element and freed Rachael Simpson to manage Soul Food and grow the pastoral side of what Soul Food does. The Essex Community Foundation Grant runs into 2026 and, together with funds raised in other capacity gives opportunity to buy those little touches that make the meals and volunteer events all the more special.

Rachael Simpson and the Soul Food Team

Ignite



Ignite continues to run as a monthly Sunday evening service and as an opportunity for a more informal time of worship. We meet on the fourth Sunday of the month, except for August and December. Our services always start with time for a drink and chat and then are followed by a time of worship including a variety of music with a variety of worship songs led by our band. Services usually include a talk or activity and a time of prayer or reflection.

We have a core team of volunteers who run the service, which is on the whole a lay led service. We invite a range people to come and share what God is doing in their lives, we have had some very interesting talks this year from a range of people. We are always looking for new people to join the team, or come and share their stories with us.

Our congregation includes a mixture of people from across different churches within the local area, with one regular coming from Braintree. Our congregation varies in size month to month, with summer months seeing larger numbers. Unfortunately, we haven't seen a return to our pre-pandemic congregation size.

The Ignite Team

Kids' Church



This year at Kids' Church we have been learning about characters from the Old Testament. We are aiming our sessions at the under 7's, as this is the age group that makes up the majority of our attendees. We are currently running as one group, although we have enough helpers to split into 2 or 3 groups depending on the ages and number of children who attend. We have recently welcomed children from Crossways church to join our sessions, going back across to their church afterwards.

We have 5 leaders and most parents stay, due to the age of the children, and we are building good relationships with the whole family. We have a regular core group of children who are becoming friends.

Our sessions last about 1 hour, with a story, free play (often playdough which they love), a craft, a game, a song and we finish with a prayer.

We end by going over to church for a drink and biscuit. Sometimes we even catch the end of the service and the children can share what they have been doing.

Rachel Morris

Messy Church

Messy Church is continuing to go from strength to strength, we are reaching many families each session and showing the love of Jesus through stories, singing, craft, games and a meal.

We have a variety of volunteers, who bring their talents together to provide for the children and their families with positive, safe and loving experiences. We are very lucky to have such a committed team.



While the families join us for 2-3 hours every other month on the 3^d Sunday, a lot of preparation goes on behind the scenes. Planning the activities and preparing a delicious meal takes time and effort.

If this appeals, we are always happy to welcome new volunteers and particularly welcome prayer.

Rachel Morris

Monday Evening Homegroup

There are up to 9 of us from the Church congregation who meet twice a month on a Monday evening in someone's home. We usually begin with a hot drink, biscuits and fruit and chat!

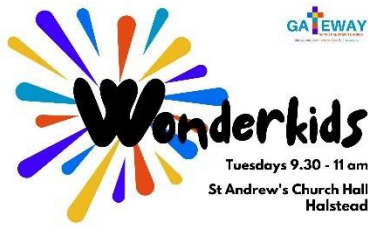
Pauline and I plan and then lead a bible based study including Prayers of the New Testament, The Twelve Disciples and some Old Testament Characters. Everyone contributes and we find many studies that are encouraging and some that make us think and be grateful.

We conclude with a time of prayer and finish by 9.30pm.

To support the Homegroup we now have a Homegroup WhatsApp group for SOS prayers and prayer requests.

Jay Ainge. Homegroup Co-leader

Wonderkids



Wonderkids runs every Tuesday morning during term time. The stay and play sessions run from 9.30 till 11 in the church hall. We have a regular group of 4 volunteers as well as a few volunteers who help to serve refreshments and a few willing parents available ad-hoc, although more volunteers are always welcome.

We have a variety of regular attendees comprising of parents, grandparents and child minders. Currently, we have 65 regular families who join us at least once a month, with another 10 visiting more infrequently. We are constantly welcoming new families to our sessions. We run a prebooking system via Facebook or email and limit numbers to 25 adults and their children for each session. We feel that this helps us create a friendly environment and enables everyone to enjoy the session.

During 2023 we ran a number of events during the school holidays. Due to the Great British weather we found ourselves in the church, but the families attending really enjoyed the opportunity to explore the building. These sessions were run with the support of Soul Food and The Gateway Project.

This year we secured a grant of £400 from Halstead Town Council. This money was used to extend the opportunities we provide for role play. The children love dressing up costumes we have been able to provide and enjoy acting out different roles, in fact you can often see a superhero being chased by a Police Officer! We were also able to improve the range of play food, vehicles, cars and construction materials we have to use.

Claire Ford. Leader

The League of Friends

The League of Friends was established to raise funds to support the maintenance of the grade I listed building that is St Andrew's Halstead. Over recent years it has been known as The Friends. Funds are raised through



sponsorship, membership, and participation in a range of events. If you would like to become a member of The Friends, to offer help on the committee or assist with planning an event, or if you wish to find out which events are coming up, visit www.friendsofstandrewshalstead.co.uk or speak to a member of the committee who this year are: Jan Allen, Phil Amos, Claire Cannon, Carolyn Brown, Helena Gee, Mike Gee, Penny Hill, Pauline Tilsley and Margaret Tyler.

The PCC thank Claire Cannon and her team for their generosity and hard work raising funds for the fabric of the building. The current Quinquennial Report highlights urgent work required on the roof over the organ loft and vestry, and this has been the focus for fundraising this year. Earlier in the year Roger Smith's service as Chair of the League of Friends was acknowledged when he retired after many years at the helm. Also departing this year, Jan Amos, David Kerrison, Mike Reece and Michael Randall. Our thanks extend to them also.

Fund raising events over the last year these have included, a Christmas Tree Festival, quiz nights, concerts by Colne Philharmonic Orchestra, Jill Crossland - pianist and William Janssen - organist, and for the first time, tabletop sales.

The League of Friends

Friday Coffee Morning

The Friday coffee morning, now in its 36th year, was once again held weekly in St Andrews Hall throughout 2023 and provided an opportunity for both our regulars and many others to drop in for a coffee and a chat and to look through the many bargains that were always on offer.

In 2023, although mainly a social event, we raised more than £700 for parish funds and we appreciate those who come along week by week to support us.

Donations of bric a brac, books or other small items are always welcome.

The Coffee Morning Team

Hinckford Deanery Synod

2023 saw a change in representatives from St Andrew's Church attending meetings as Anne-Maree Robertson and Canon Brain Vidler stood down from their roles. We thank them for their service and hard work for the Deanery Synod, especially Brian for undertaking the role of Deanery Lay Chair.

In March 2023 the meeting was held at Earls Colne was chaired by Canon Brian Vidler. The Bishop of Chelmsford's document Travelling Well Together was welcomed and commended to the PCCs.

The June meeting 2023 held at St Andrew's Halstead, again chaired by Canon Brian Vidler. This was a special meeting and invitations to attend were extended to the PCC. The speaker was Bishop Guli, The Bishop of Chelmsford, who gave a most interesting and moving account of her life in Iran and as a refugee here in the UK. She also spoke passionately about the Travelling Well Together document and how to build on what we have as a church.

November saw the meeting being held at St Andrew's Halstead and chaired by the Area Dean Rev Katie de Bourcier. This time the speaker was Beccy Hills, Diocesan Parish Giving Adviser speaking of how the Diocese can help PCCs with different ways of raising funds.

Pauline Tilsley. Deanery Synod Representative

St Andrew's C of E Primary School – All Saints Academy Trust

We are thrilled to be asked to contribute a synopsis of our year for you all. It has certainly, as ever, been a busy one. Our big news is the school's recent SIAMS inspection; this took place in February and was a very positive experience. Pupils, staff and our whole school community are very proud of the report that followed and there are just a couple of highlights I have shared. The inspection findings indicated that St. Andrew's is living up to its foundation as a Church school.



We feel the report captures what we offer and there are many parts that we were so glad to see...

“St Andrew's Church of England Primary School is rooted in its vision for 'promoting a love of life and learning in all.'”

“Pupils flourish both academically and as members of their local community”

“St Andrew's is highly inclusive where pupils receive the support that they need, and wellbeing is prioritised.”



“Pupils speak with confidence of the opportunities for spiritual development within their learning.”

“Living well together” is intrinsic to life at St. Andrew’s. Treating yourself and others with respect is a core value...Pupils are tolerant and understanding of each other.”

“Pupils are provided with a range of opportunities to challenge social injustice in their local area. Leaders recognise that this has positively developed pupils as local ambassadors. The embedded 'living well together' curriculum, gives pupils a 'voice'. As a result, pupils are beginning to speak with growing confidence about injustice and how they can make a difference to their school and community.”

“Pupils talk confidently about how their knowledge in RE built upon, through a progressive and balanced curriculum. As a result, pupils make good progress in this subject.”

We are also excited to announce we have decided on a picture for our Take One Picture bi-annual event. This year we are linking this to our Global Neighbours work. We have chosen a painting from the Royal Academies “In the Eye of the Storm Exhibition” - Modernism in Ukraine, 1900–1930s. The painting is called Ducks and was painted by Mykola Kasperovych in the 1920s.



We will be holding the exhibition on the 6th June in our hall and then have been asked to display work at the Courageous Advocacy Pop Up Art Exhibition in Chelmsford Cathedral from 18th- 21st June. We will be inviting local stakeholders as well as our parent community to the event.



With all of this work underway, we are using the Global Neighbours Scheme designed were able to send three young leaders to the Cathedral for their Identity and Diversity Pupil Summit: Growing Future Leaders on the 6th February 2024.

We have also continued to work closely with the Katie in developing a sense of belonging with St. Andrew’s Church through both visits and shared services and her input in school delivering collective worship. We are now looking to the future and applying for a Global Neighbours Accreditation to capture the progress made in this area. Part of that is undertaking the sharing of our good practice in the form of our Living Well Together Curriculum, as directed as one of our actions following our SIAMs inspection. We continue to hold our vision at our core. St. Andrew’s aims high, promoting a love of life and learning in all. We take care of each other, working in partnership with families, the Church and wider community. This has been supported with the formation of the Church School Distinctiveness Group last year with Katie and Helena joining us; should any members of the wider Church Community want to support this group and support our continuous development please do get in touch.

Bridgette Gough. Executive Headteacher

Holy Trinity C of E Primary School



This academic year Holy Trinity C of E Primary School has been involved in many whole-school projects to enrich the children's experience. Our main school driver has been in developing international awareness through links to schools in China, France and Thailand. We were proud to receive the International Award (intermediate level) accreditation that celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. It is important to us that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in today's world. As part of the programme, I have visited schools in Nanjing and attended the International Forum for School Principals in November.

Themed weeks also create a learning buzz at Holy Trinity from events such as Wellbeing Week (with mindfulness teachers and music therapists) to an Arts Week that included a large range of music styles and instruments with diverse cultural influences, once again linking to global citizenship. Character education and our aim of raising aspirations is developed through all the rich experiences we provide daily for our children whilst also fulfilling our theologically rooted Christian vision that links to the values of honesty, love and respect, 'love thy neighbour as thyself' and 'love one another as he has loved us.'

We have enjoyed working with our local community this year. Halstead in Bloom works with our pupils in a weekly gardening club and through Braintree Cultural Partnership we have children who have presented visitors to Halstead Day Centre with two books and artwork on the themes of memory loss and The Year of Number. We have supported our local Empire Theatre with a Christmas visit and have plans to perform a production in the summer term at the venue.

We have also created decorated pebbles for the memorial garden and exhibited artwork on Courageous Voices in St Andrew's Church. The Diocese of Chelmsford have invited us to take part in a similar larger scale exhibition in Chelmsford Cathedral later in the year which is very exciting.

We continue to embrace the relationship with the church through the services at St Andrew's Church for important events such as Remembrance Day, Harvest, Ash Wednesday, Christmas and Easter.

Sarah Rowe. Headteacher

The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

In 2023 without a definitive churchwarden elected, Angela Kerrison agreed to continue as churchwarden until September. These duties were then picked up by a team of PCC colleagues – Mel Black, Arthur Dodd, Mike Gee and Rachel Morris. This arrangement has ensured that all key duties are covered, and the team have valued the support and patience of the congregation for their collective work. Within and beyond the PCC, we rely on a dedicated team of colleagues, who ensure that the church can remain open each day and so all our services and other activities can take place. We are all grateful to these considerable efforts, many of which are not always immediately or easily seen by our wider church family.

Church Cleaning

Rachel Morris has taken over the organisation of the monthly cleaning schedule for the church. She is very grateful to the dedicated team of colleagues, who support this important work to keep the church looking at its best. We are always looking for new people to join the team and if you can help, please speak to Rachel or simply turn up on the Saturdays when cleaning takes place. There are always refreshments to keep everyone going during the cleaning sessions.

Church and Churchyard

This year has seen some development work by the Mustard Tree Project team looking at how we can improve the welcome, accessibility, and hospitality provided in our church building. We have worked with a new architect, who has been sympathetic to the current building and all its historical features while drawing up proposals so that it can serve the congregation and community better. The proposals include improved access, the provision of toilet facilities and a servery area in church. We have also investigated the provision of a modern, efficient and environmentally friendly heating system which is dependent on an updated electricity supply for the church building. The APCM meeting will provide an opportunity for all church members to view the plans and proposals in greater detail and to provide feedback.

The Friends of St. Andrew's have allocated money to support the repairs to the organ loft roof, which were identified in the Quinquennial Report. The early planning and approval stages of this project are underway and the work should begin later this year. A focus on raising funds will remain a major task for the church family going forward.

We continue to be very grateful to Halstead Town Council who maintain the churchyard, under the arrangements that apply to closed churchyards, and to Halstead in Bloom who keep it looking beautiful.

Mike Gee. The Church Warden Team

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW of 2023

General Fund

This was a steady year against a background of high inflation in the country and significant increases in energy costs following the COVID pandemic and international instability, including the conflict in Ukraine. During the year generated income to the parish fell by 2.7% compared to 2022 while running costs increased by 3.1% leaving a significant shortfall between routine receipts and payments although this had been forecasted and built into the annual budget.

A grant of £20,000 from historic reserves was transferred in to assist with cash flow and to offset the budgeted deficit. Once again the accounts include the financials relating to the Gateway Project which, over time, should be close to cost neutral for the parish with funding being provided mainly from the Diocese but with other grants being obtained to support the Soul Food Project.

The PCC's General Fund for 2023 show total receipts of £100,161 (£98,357 in 2022), excluding the Gateway Project, and this includes £25,000 transferred in or donated from reserve or Trust Funds to bridge the gap between receipts and payments.

Voluntary receipts were slightly lower than the 2022 levels with pledged giving, restricted donations and those via Gift Aid envelopes showing a decline but partly offset by increased collections and the tax reclaimed on giving under Gift Aid.

Receipts for St Andrews Centre were around £2000 down on the previous year while PCC fees showed an increase of just over £1000.

The total day to day costs of running the parish (excluding Gateway costs) amounted to £99,450 (£96,944 in 2022) with net spend, after deduction of third party fees, at £94,666 (£92,480) with the largest items being the Parish Share at £53,064 (£50,032) and the costs of running and maintaining SA Centre at £14,093 (£13,900). Overall payments, after adjusting for Diocesan and clergy fees, increased by a modest 2.4% compared to 2022 mainly due to the increase in the Parish Share.

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments on the current account of £367.

Fabric Fund (restricted fund)

Receipts for the year totalled £9,201 including a grant of £5,158 from the Essex Community Initiatives Fund to assist in replacing the boiler in SAC, a very welcome legacy of £504 and increased income from balances held on deposit. Payments totalled £4,046 including £2,751 on the Mustard Tree Project, this sum being paid from The Ivy Mead legacy.

Most of the balance held in the Fabric Fund comprises of various legacies and is reserved for building works or special projects.

Other comments

It is the PCC's policy to invest its cash reserves, in excess of those required to maintain a reasonable cash flow, with the CBF of the Church of England where interest rates are generally competitive.

The PCC produces an annual financial budget and in 2024 it is estimated that there will be a gap between receipts and payments of around £21,000.

Responding to this situation and setting a financial plan for the next 5 years must be a key focus for the PCC and the parish during the coming year.

Malcolm R R Willis. Parish Treasurer

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead

Registered Charity No 1127357

**Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council**

for the year ended 31st December 2023

**Rector and PCC Chair:
Revd Katie de Bourcier
The Rectory
Parsonage Street
Halstead Essex
CO9 2LD**

**Bankers:
Barclays Bank PLC**

**Independent Examiner:
Mrs Charlotte King
Halstead Essex**

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Malcolm R R Willis
Parish Treasurer

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead

I report on the accounts of the St Andrew Halstead PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023 and which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiners Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

Independent 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 s 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting recordshave 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)

Charlotte King
Independent Examiner

**Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2023**

General Fund (Unrestricted) Current Account - Receipts and Payments

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Voluntary receipts - regular giving				
Planned Giving	28515		29133	
Income tax recovered	7588		7271	
Collections from normal services	2018		1758	
Gift Aid envelopes	1124	39245	1460	39622
Other voluntary receipts				
Donations	2279		2274	
Restricted collections (note 7)	866		2165	
Collections from other services	243	3388	26	4465
Receipts from activities for generating funds				
Fund raising gross (see schedule 1 for 'net' detail)		2600		2800
Receipts from Church activities				
St Andrews Centre receipts	17430		19329	
Diocesan fees	2688		2111	
PCC fees	2676		1582	
Clergy fees	2096		1353	
Energy fees	600		500	
Parish Magazine	130		377	
Other receipts	0	25620	697	25949
Receipts from investments				
Income from Richmond Trust Investments		813		809
Grants and transfers				
Grant from V&CW Restricted Funds	20000		19000	
Grant from Sant Trust	5000		4000	
Other grants	3495	28495	1712	24712
Gateway Project				
Transfers (Soul Food Funds from Deposit a/c)	22919			21777
	8530			0
		<u>31449</u>		
Total receipts		<u><u>131610</u></u>		<u><u>120134</u></u>
Payments				
Church Activities				
Parish Share	53064		50032	
St Andrews Centre (see schedule 3)	14093		13900	
Parish administration	7640		6935	
Church insurance	5019		4701	
Utilities	4234		3178	
Professional fees	4040		4040	
Diocesan fees	2688		2111	
Maintenance of buildings/equipment	2511		4538	
Clergy fees	2096		1353	
Christian Education and outreach	1133		505	
Charitable and other donations	866		2009	
Clergy expenses	854		1093	
Music and choral	772		815	
Cost of services	313		234	
Other costs	127		500	
Transfer to Fabric Fund	0		500	
		<u>99450</u>		96444
Gateway Project		<u>31793</u>		<u>20171</u>
Total payments		<u><u>131243</u></u>		<u><u>116615</u></u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		367		3519
PCC Current account at 1st January		8095		4576
PCC Current account at 31st December		8462		8095

**Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
PCC General Fund Deposit Account - Mixed Funds	£	£
Receipts		
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund credited to Soul Food	291	32
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund retained by the PCC	97	0
Grants awarded to Soul Food Project (restricted funds)	<u>0</u>	<u>15628</u>
	388	15660
Payments		
Transfer of Soul Food funds to PCC current a/c	8530	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-8142	15660
CBF Deposit account at 1st January	<u>18088</u>	<u>2428</u>
CBF Deposit account at 31st December	<u>9946</u>	<u>18088</u>

Note: The balance at year end includes £7389 of funds allocated for Soul Food

Fabric Fund Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>
	£	£	£
Receipts			
Grant to replace boiler in SAC	5158		0
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	2297		930
Legacy	504		500
Grant received for bell clapper repair	250		0
Grant received for post COVID activities	0		1900
Donation transferred from PCC a/c	<u>0</u>		<u>500</u>
	8209		3830
Payments			
Mustard Tree project costs	2751		0
Outdoor equipment (from RCCE grant)	829		566
Repairs to bell clapper	370		0
Bank charges (net)	97		98
Grant to PCC from Reynolds Legacy (New office door/floor tiles)	<u>0</u>		<u>1512</u>
	4047		2176
Excess of Receipts over Payments	4162		1654
Barclays Current a/c at 1st January	3763	3039	
CBF Deposit account at 1st January	71672	70742	
Current and Deposit accounts at 1st January	<u>75435</u>		<u>73781</u>
Barclays Current a/c at 31st December	5628		3763
CBF Deposit account at 31st December	<u>73969</u>		<u>71672</u>
Current and Deposit accounts at 31st December	<u>79597</u>		<u>75435</u>

John Hill Organ/Music Fund - Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>
	£		£
Receipts			
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	303		123
Payments			
	0		0
Excess of Receipts over Payments	303		123
CBF Deposit account at 1st January	<u>9448</u>		<u>9325</u>
CBF Deposit account at 31st December	<u>9751</u>		<u>9448</u>

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2023

Registered Charity No 1127357

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash funds		
PCC Current account - unrestricted	8462	8095
PCC Deposit Fund at CBF - mixed funds	9946	18088
PCC Fabric Fund current account - restricted	5628	3763
PCC Fabric Fund at CBF - restricted	73969	71672
John Hill Fund - restricted	9751	9448
Total bank current and deposit accounts	107756	111066
Investment assets	p/share	
1315.69 CBF Investment Fund Income Shares	2260.53	29742
		27184

These investments represent the Ernest Richmond Trust Fund - the use of income is unrestricted
(The valuation is based on mid market value at year end)

Notes

- 1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.
- 2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- 3 The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion, which relates to their function as PCC members. No expenses were paid to other PCC members.
- 4 The 'Friends of St Andrews' is an independent registered charity (no 1019270) which raises funds to assist the parish in maintaining the fabric of St Andrews Church.
- 5 The Rector and Churchwardens are Trustees of the Sant Residuary Trust Fund which is registered with the Charity Commissioners (no 269570) and provides grants to further the teaching of the church, and to relieve poverty, in the parish.
- 6 The figures in these statements have been rounded to the nearest pound.
- 7 The sum recorded under "Restricted collections" relates to receipts for specific objects or charities and hence is classified as restricted income.
- 8 The balance in the PCC deposit account includes £7,389 of restricted funds for Soul Food. The balance in the PCC current account includes £1000 for Messy Church, £733 for Soul Food and £9 for the Children's Soc'y.

Approved by the PCC 7th May 2024 and signed on their behalf by Revd Katie de Bourcier (PCC Chair) and Malcolm Willis (PCC Treasurer)

Malcolm Willis

Schedules 2023

Schedule 1 - Fund raising - 'net' amounts

	£
Christmas Market	976
Coffee after services	297
Ride & Stride	225
Sale of jams and marmalades (JA)	200
Easy Fund Raising	67
Bookstall	59
Sale of craft items	25
Postal Museum	22
Sub total	1871
Friday Coffee mornings	729

Total Fund Raising **2600**

Schedule 2 - Restricted payments

DEC Turkey	495
Revd Jo Parrott leaving collection	300
Childrens Socy	45
Royal British Legion	26

Total paid over **866**

Schedule 3 - St Andrews Centre

Receipts

	£
General receipts	17430

Total **17430**

Payments

	£
Centre caretaker	4484
Maintenance of facility/services	2185
British Gas	2109
EIG - Insurance	1300
Opus - Electricity	1503
AWA - Rates	663
Service materials	463
Safety system maintenance	360
Boiler maintenance	390
Admin costs	480
PRS/PPL Licences	156

Total **14093**

Excess of receipts over payments for St Andrews Centre was £ **3337**

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead

I report on the accounts of the St Andrew Halstead PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023 and which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiners Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

Independent 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 s 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records

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.

(Signed)

Charlotte King
Independent Examiner

April 2024

Accounts



Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead

Registered Charity No 1127357

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2022

Incumbent and PCC Chairman

Revd Katie de Bourcier

The Rectory
Parsonage Street
Halstead Essex. CO9 2LD

Bankers:
Barclays Bank PLC

Independent Examiner:
Mrs Charlotte King
Halstead Essex

Administrative Information

The Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Church is part of
The Halstead Area Team Ministry.

It is situated in the Deanery of Hinckford and is part of
the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is
The Parish Office, Parsonage Street, Halstead Essex CO9 2LD.

Our Parish Administrator is Rachael Haylock.

Our Website: www.standrewschurchhalstead.org.uk

PCC members who have served from 22 May 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Katie de Bourcier (Chair)

Curate: Revd Jo Parrott (on maternity leave)

Churchwardens: Angela Kerrison. Judith Harrison (resigned 13 September 2022)

Elected members: Claire Ford	Helena Gee
David Hume (Secretary)	Lara Loker
Rachel Morris	Sue Paisley
Melanie Potter	Anne-Maree Robertson. (DS)
Roger Smith	Pauline Tilsley
Canon Brian Vidler (Vice Chair) (DS)	Malcolm Willis (Treasurer)

DS- Ex-officio elected to serve on the Deanery Synod for three years until end of June 2023

Electoral Roll and Church Attendance in 2022

At our last annual meeting the Electoral Roll stood at 101. Within a worshipping community of 95 the average attendance throughout each week was 62 including 43 at our main services on a Sunday. Six baptisms, one marriage and twelve funerals were held during 2022.

Priest in Charge's Report for 2022

The Three Saints Parishes – St Andrew's, Halstead; St Catherine's, Gosfield; St James, Greenstead Green

2022 was a year of transition for our parishes in several ways.

As a nation, we were learning to "live with" Covid rather than take significant communal steps to protect from it, and as churches we were working out what that new normal looked like in terms of services and activities. We settled into what our services looked like with fewer precautions but still some safety measures in place, particularly for communion services. It was encouraging that we were able to restart some of the activities that had remained in abeyance over the previous two years, such as Messy Church and visits to take services in care homes. We also started to sense the longer term impact on our congregations, in some cases noting a reduction in average numbers each week (as many churches have seen) as some people have not resumed coming to church, and others come less frequently. We also welcomed new members to our churches who had moved into our area during the worst of the pandemic and were only now able to join in with church life.

In our trio of local parishes – St Andrew's Halstead, St Catherine's Gosfield and St James Greenstead Green – we saw significant ministry team changes. We said a sad goodbye to Revd Rose Braisby on her retirement, after several years serving the parish of Gosfield with energy, imagination, and dedication. We waved Revd Jo Parrott off on maternity leave, and welcomed the safe arrival of baby Martha a couple of weeks later. Rose's retirement meant that I moved from

having oversight of ministry there to being the “hands on” parish priest, and to mark that change, the three parishes which I care for week by week became “The Three Saints”, to indicate the closer working relationships we would be building and the necessary interdependence between them all. The Three Saints Parishes remain very much part of the Halstead Area Team Ministry, which now in effect operates with three sub-units: the Three Saints, the Three Colnes (served by Revd Mark Payne as team vicar), and the Knights Hospitallers (served by Revd Beverley Vincent as team vicar). It has been heartening to see the links between the Three Saints parishes start to grow and I hope that those will develop further in the coming years.

Lay ministry continued to be more important than ever in our parishes. The full thriving of our churches involves the offering of all our gifts, lay and ordained – we are all given gifts with which to serve God whether our main arena of service is church, workplace, family or community. And with the financial pressures on parishes and the diocese continuing, we have to assume that we will continue to work with limited stipendiary (paid) ministry resource. I’m delighted that we now have lay people in all three parishes leading worship on a regular basis, and I’m grateful to everyone who gives their time and effort so generously to the work of the church whether in visible roles or behind the scenes. We are church together, and we can only truly be church if we see it as a collective endeavour.

As churches we are here to worship God and bless our communities, sharing his love and the good news of Jesus with all those around us. It has been good to see the variety of ways in which our churches have engaged with their communities over the year, and we need to acknowledge, too, the huge variety of ways in which individual church members work and witness in our communities and serve God in that way. In Halstead, the Gateway Project has gone from strength to strength with Soul Food now well established in providing takeaway meals to those in need, and holding their first sit-down communal meal at the end of November; and Wonderkids regularly oversubscribed as a place for toddlers and carers to meet. In Greenstead Green, a new Christmas market was held, linked with the carol service on the same weekend in December, and was a great success in welcoming villagers into the church building. In both Gosfield and Halstead, school services in our churches resumed after a break due to Covid, which was a great joy. Many more examples could be given.

Our world and nation saw significant upheaval during last year too, notably the start of the war in Ukraine in February, and the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September. We worked with others in Halstead to help welcome refugees from Ukraine who had come to our community; and we were a focal point for those who wanted to express their grief at the sovereign’s death, providing space to reflect and pray and a condolence book for people’s thoughts. As we journey through this year, we pray for peace in Ukraine and all those who work for peace across the world; and we pray for King Charles III as he is crowned at his coronation and serves us as monarch.

We ended 2022 with much to be thankful for; with an awareness of the challenges we continue to face as churches; with a desire to continue to serve those around us; and I think also with some weariness as the after effect of the pandemic and the changes it has brought. And so we commit all that 2022 was to God and his grace; and we pray in faith that in 2023 we might know his provision, his guidance, and his refreshment.

Revd Katie

Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2022

The PCC met five times during 2022, the first in February online using Zoom. Ongoing decisions and monitoring of our service patterns were a common feature of our agendas as we made the transition back into our church building and face-to-face meetings.

The committee made an early but perhaps ambitious decision to work towards being an Eco Church. As the year progressed we became aware of the longer term impact of Covid on all aspects of church life and so progress in areas such as this has been limited. Safeguarding and Covid risk management continued to be included on our agenda particularly as church organisations regenerated in response to restrictions being lifted. The council was particularly encouraged by the re-establishment of Messy Church and a monthly Sunday School alongside the Tuesday morning outreach to parents with toddlers all reported on below.

The PCC received regular updates on the Mustard Tree Project as well as the Gateway Project and Soul Food. Appreciation has repeatedly been expressed at meetings for the overall management of our parish finances by our treasurer particularly given the impact of the pandemic. Notes from the Finance and Premises subcommittee are regularly received alongside deanery synod reports.

Canon Brian Vidler. Vice Chair

Safeguarding

The PCC continues to comply with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults) with an annual review from our Parish Safeguarding Officer Helena Gee.

Altar Servers

A small team assist as acolytes and crucifer, at Sunday Eucharists. They enhance the worship at St Andrews and complete practical tasks after each service.

Kevin Metson. Sacristan

Bellringers

During 2022 Halstead bellringers struggled with finding enough people to ring, especially on a Sunday morning. I continue to ring the Ellacombe apparatus which I really enjoy doing, playing various hymns for whatever season of the church calendar. Over the year we have been ringing for different events and have had visiting bands and district practises. Having these additional practises with members coming from around the Northern district of Essex, enables us to learn new methods and become stronger confident ringers.

We also had the team of 'Young Eagles' visit us. This team is made up of youngsters up to the age of 18 again from around the Essex area. Some of these ringers are far advanced in their ringing expertise compared to Angela and I who have been ringing for 30



years plus. We have had special practises to learn Grandsire Triples which is a pattern rung on 7 bells with the tenor bell covering. Each year the Essex Association arrange a bellringing course held at Honeywood School Coggeshall in April. This covers 3 days and we go out to different churches within a 15 mile radius There are normally 100 plus ringers from all over the county.

We also rang in June to celebrate our Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee and myself and Angela tolled our tenor bell 70 times. Sadly we rang also in September to commemorate our Queen Elizabeth's life after her death. We took part in the 2022 Northern District Call Changes Striking competition held at Rayne by joining forces with Pebmarsh ringers. We were really pleased when we won and were awarded a bell trophy.

During November the clapper in number 5 bell sheered off making us all jump when a loud thud came from the bell tower. This was sent away to Loughborough to be repaired. The majority of the cost of repair was covered by a grant from The Essex Association of Change Ringers.

The bell ringers participated in the Christmas Tree festival by decorating a tree. This was designed by one of our retired ringers Val Martin.

Our main endeavour is of course to ring for the Glory of God sending the Holy Spirit into the hearts of all.

David Kerrison. Tower Captain

The Gateway Project



There have been some changes this year at Gateway as Jo took her maternity leave and the gorgeous Martha joined the Parrott household. Rachael underwent surgery and her period of convalescence and temporarily ran her Gateway hours down to work for a homeless youth charity in Colchester (Rachael's back now and Jo will be returning to the team soon). Nonetheless during these months of reduced hours and staffing God has been at work and Gateway has flourished....

Soul Food – has gone from strength to strength, since its start we have fed over 3000 takeaway meals, reaching out to over 50 families, and roughly 180 individuals. We have an army of committed volunteers and a community of Soul Food clients with whom we have built relationships, and still new people come to us.

In November we piloted our first communal meal which was a massive success and now, from April, we are planning monthly communal meals alongside our weekly takeaway and are setting up to provide a fresh recipe bag option too.

Our links with Braintree District Council the Foodbank, Halstead Community fridge, Fareshare and Neighbourly continue and our allotment has supported our fresh Soul Food offering featuring produce as it has come from allotment to table.

We have been avidly grant hunting to ensure sustainability and alongside other grants and funding we have secured a 3 year grant from Essex Community Foundation. We are in the process of purchasing a new cooker and kitchenware, have created fully racked store room for all our food supplies and have just interviewed for a self-employed cook to join the team, we are preparing for the return of the food hygiene inspection.

Its all very exciting!

Rachael and the Soul Food Team.



Our Sunday school is called **Kids Church** and happens on the first Sunday each month in the Hall. We currently start at 10.15 am aiming to join in with the end of the church service around 11.15 am.

We currently have over 20 children on our register who range from age 1- 9 though we do take up to 11 years.

They are split into 2 groups under 8's and 9-11. We are hoping to start a pre school group too.

Not all children turn up at once and we never know who is coming which makes planning difficult. We have a meeting at one of the teams house a week or two before. We mostly follow the lectionary and use scripture union material as it's already in the age groups. We adapt it as we see fit. Each session is based on a bible passage and includes a game, an activity a story a song and a prayer. We also put out playdoh and some toys that are appropriate to the story.

There's currently five of us in the team, although we can't always make it to every session. Most of us have a background in childcare and are DBS checked.

We all really enjoy Kids Church and we have as much fun as the children.

Rachel Morris. Leader.

Messy Church is a form of worship that brings all ages together in creativity, celebration and hospitality.

We started back following a break after Covid (on our own as when we last met we were sharing it with The United Reform Church) with a small gathering in October 2022 of only eight children. The messy Christingle however bought in 38 children and their families and we are continuing to grow.



Of course there is a lot happening behind the scenes. We start with a planning meeting where we look at the suggested material for that month using Messy Church magazine published by Bible Fellowship Society (BRF) and adapt it to suit our needs. We have between five and eight activities depending on who can volunteer on the day, we have floaters, people who talk to the children and their grown ups, a welcomer who signs them in, someone (sometimes clergy) to lead the worship and the cooks . We all prepare our activities at home and source all the equipment needed for each session.

On the day we arrive early to set up and cook food. The families start arriving from 3pm and get straight into the activities which we run for about an hour. We then encourage the children to move up to the front for the story, teaching, songs and a prayer .

We then clear the tables and move them into position for the meal. The tables are laid. We sit at the tables and chat to the families to get to know them. After the meal they leave and we tidy up and discuss how it went.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved as it couldn't happen without you.

Rachel Morris. Leader.



Wonderkids runs every Tuesday morning during term time. The stay and play sessions run from 9.30 till 11am in the church hall. We have a regular group of six volunteers as well as four other mums who volunteer when needed. Our volunteers stem from within our Three Saints Church family and from the Wonderkids community.

We have a variety of regular attendees; comprising of parents, grandparents and child minders. Currently, we have 73 regular families who join us at least once a month, with another 20 visiting more infrequently. We run a pre-booking system via Facebook or email and limit numbers to 25 adults and their children for each session. We feel that this helps us create a friendly environment and enables everyone to enjoy the session. Since January 2023 every session has been fully booked with a waiting list.

During August 2022, we ran four play sessions in the park. Each session allowed us to continue our aims of encouraging child play and supporting families. By using the park we were able to make each session a non-booking session and enabled parents/carers to bring all children to the session, including school age children who are not part of our usual sessions. In October 2022 we celebrated our 1st birthday, one year of running the group in its current form.

Claire Ford. Leader

Hinckford Deanery Synod



Synod met three times during 2022, the first using Zoom in February, which was basically a business meeting, and then here at Halstead in June and finally in Bulmer in October. In addition to the usual updates and sharing of information from across the deanery a significant amount of discussion has taken place concerning the implementation of the new share scheme mostly led by Katie as our Area Dean. We also discussed the impact of the pandemic on worship patterns in our parishes noting with interest the outreach that the internet provided to those who wouldn't necessarily have attend a building. We usually have between 35 and 45 attend each meeting.

At our first face-to-face meeting for two years we received a talk from the Rev David Beales from the Colchester pioneer Hub and an update from our own Rachael Simpson on the Gateway Project. Our final meeting of the year was to include Bishop Guli but she was called to the House of Lords. We appreciated the acceptance of a late invitation to Archdeacon Robin to speak. He shared an uplifting session of psalm writing prior to encouraging us not to be busy for the sake of it but to focus on the things that were really important.

Anne-Maree Robertson and I have been our parish representatives on Deanery Synod for some years now. Our 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting includes re-election for the next triennium and we are entitled to send three members. I would urge you to consider being part of the wider church community as it offers great insight into the ministry of God's word in our deanery.

Canon Brian Vidler. Deanery Lay Chair.

The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Life in general for the UK during 2022 was a far busier year for everyone including St Andrew's Church and throughout Halstead. With the slowdown of the Covid epidemic thankfully the pace of life seems to have picked up again. The church and the hall facilities have remained open daily which has all helped to boost our finances.

Church Cleaning

A request for new equipment to assist our monthly cleaning sessions was granted. A cordless vacuum and two wet dry mops were purchased thus making the work less arduous. I'm very grateful for the team of 'Cleaning Angels' assisting with the monthly sessions. It makes so much difference working together as a team and the camaraderie between us all is a huge blessing. A big thank you 🙏 to you all.

Church & Churchyard

The Town Council applied for faculties to repair the wall on the south eastern boundary of the churchyard and to fell a nearby lime tree and replace it with a Hornbeam tree. Work has been completed. A new seat has also been installed by the Town Council near the High Street entrance to the churchyard. The problems regarding the triggering of the roof alarm seem to have been found and addressed. The replacement down pipe fitted to the Nave roof has been completed. All electrical safety checks / fire extinguishers service have been made to the church & other church premises. It has been necessary to dispense with certain pieces of unhistorical furniture due to woodworm. The Church Inventory has been updated accordingly and that, church log books, and silverware have been checked during a regular Archdeacon's Visitation undertaken by Canon Brian Vidler as Deanery Lay Chair in June.

Quinquennial report

This went ahead in August after the postponement in June. After some discussion it was agreed the first priority were urgent repairs of sections of the roof over the organ chamber & vestry We await estimates.

Bell Tower

A new security light has been fitted outside the Tower door following the unfortunate incident last year involving an intruder. At the end of November we had an incident in the bell tower with the clapper from bell 5 shearing off. A loud thud was heard from the belfry, but luckily no one was hurt. The clapper was sent to Loughborough for repair and the majority of the cost was covered by a grant we applied for from the Essex Association of Bell Ringers.

A huge thank you 🙏 to all members that help keep our church open and with the efficient daily running of our church and it's premises

Angela Kerrison. Church Warden

The League of Friends



After the Covid Pandemic, events have been re started resulting in busy year. A full programme included Flower Festival, Christmas Tree Festival, Concert by the Colne Philharmonic Orchestra, Midsummer at Martlets, and two well attended Quiz nights.

In addition there were Book and Candle sales by David and Angela throughout the year, and our thanks again to them both.

Our sponsors again this year were Daniel Robinson and Birkett Long LLP and we thank them most sincerely for their continued support

The Friends exist to maintain the grade I listed building that is St Andrews, and we are grateful for the support that we receive both from the congregation and the wider community of Halstead. The current Quinquennial Report highlights urgent work required on the roof over the organ loft and vestry, and this will be our focus for fundraising this year.

Planned events for 2023

Spring Quiz (29th April) Easter Egg Hunt in conjunction with Halstead Town Council/.

Midsummer at Martlets

Flower Festival

Colne Philharmonic 30th September

Autumn Quiz

Christmas Tree Festival

We have a web Page so please visit us on www.friendsofstandrewshalstead.co.uk Please have a look – it includes old newsletters and details of future events.

Roger Smith. Chair

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (2022)

General Fund.

This was a year of steady recovery following the Coronavirus pandemic with generated receipts returning to near the pre COVID levels while payments, although increasing, continued to be well controlled. A grant of £19,000, from dwindling historic reserves managed by the Rector and Churchwarden's, was transferred in to cover the gap between receipts and payments. Once again the accounts include the financials relating to the Gateway Project which, over time, should be close to cost neutral for the parish with funding being provided from Diocesan other grants.

The PCC's General Fund for 2022 show total receipts of £98,357 net of the Gateway Project (£88,134 in 2021) and this includes £23,000 transferred in or donated from reserve or Trust Funds to bridge the gap between receipts and payments.

Voluntary receipts were close to the 2021 levels with pledged giving and those via Gift Aid envelopes showing a decline but largely offset by increased collections.

Receipts for St Andrews Centre increased to more than £19,000 as the hall returned to normal daily use while PCC fees continued to decline.

The total day to day costs of running the parish (excluding Gateway costs) amounted to £95,944 (£85,472 in 2021) with net spend, after deduction of third party fees, at £92,480 (£79,525) with the largest items being the Parish Share at £50,032 (£48,714) and the costs of running and maintaining SA Centre at £13,900 (£9,588). Overall payments, after adjusting for Diocesan and clergy fees, increased by 16% compared to 2021 mainly due to increases in the Parish Share, the cost of running SA Centre and maintaining the roof alarm system.

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments on the current account of £3,519 leaving an increased balance to be carried over into 2022. This higher balance is necessary to avoid cash flow issues given that parish outgoings per month are close to £10,000.

Fabric Fund (restricted fund)

Receipts for the year totalled £3,830 including a grant of £1,900 from the RCCE and a very welcome legacy of £500. Payments totalled £2,176 including £1,512 for a replacement outer door and flooring to the parish office.

The balance held in the Fabric Fund comprises of various legacies and is reserved for building works or special projects.

Other comments

It is the PCC's policy to invest its cash reserves, in excess of those required to maintain a reasonable cash flow, with the CBF of the Church of England.

The PCC produces an annual financial budget and in 2023 it is estimated that there will be a gap between receipts and payments of around £24,000.

Responding to this situation and setting a financial plan for the next 5 years must be a key focus for the PCC and the parish during the coming year.

Malcolm R R Willis. Parish Treasurer

Independent Examiner's report to the PCC of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead

I report on the accounts of the St Andrew Halstead PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022 and which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiners Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

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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.

(Signed)

Charlotte King
Independent Examiner

April 2023

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2022

General Fund (Unrestricted) Current Account - Receipts and Payments

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Voluntary receipts - regular giving				
Planned Giving	29133		30520	
Income tax recovered	7271		7152	
Collections from normal services	1758		708	
Gift Aid envelopes	<u>1460</u>	39622	<u>1700</u>	40080
Other voluntary receipts				
Donations	2274		2003	
Restricted collections (note 7)	2165		542	
Collections from other services	<u>26</u>	4465	<u>80</u>	2625
Receipts from activities for generating funds				
Fund raising gross (see schedule 1 for 'net' detail)		2800		2559
Receipts from Church activities				
St Andrews Centre receipts	19329		7944	
Diocesan fees	2111		3587	
PCC fees	1582		1257	
Clergy fees	1353		2360	
Energy fees	500		240	
Parish Magazine - sales and adverts	377		43	
Other receipts	<u>697</u>	25949	<u>26</u>	15457
Receipts from investments				
Income from Richmond Trust Investments		809		782
Grants and transfers				
Grant from V&CW Restricted Funds	19000		22500	
Grant from Sant Trust	4000		4000	
Other grants	<u>1712</u>	24712	<u>131</u>	26631
Gateway Project		21777		20785
Total receipts		<u><u>120134</u></u>		<u><u>108919</u></u>
Payments				
Church Activities				
Parish Share	50032		48714	
St Andrews Centre (see schedule 3)	13900		9588	
Parish administration	6935		5642	
Church insurance	4701		4681	
Maintenance of buildings/equipment	4538		2608	
Professional fees	4040		3999	
Utilities	3178		1880	
Diocesan fees	2111		3587	
Charitable and other donations	2009		502	
Clergy fees	1353		2360	
Clergy expenses	1093		1011	
Music and choral	815		341	
Christian Education and outreach	505		119	
Cost of services	234		263	
Fund raising costs (see schedule 1 for 'net' detail)	0		131	
Transfer to Fabric Fund	500		0	
Other costs	<u>500</u>	96444	<u>46</u>	85472
Gateway Project		<u>20171</u>		<u>21928</u>
Total payments		<u><u>116615</u></u>		<u><u>107400</u></u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		3519		1519
PCC Current account at 1st January		4576		3057
PCC Current account at 31st December		8095		4576

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£
PCC General Fund Deposit Account - Mixed Funds		
Receipts		
Grants awarded to Soul Food Project (restricted funds)	15628	0
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	32	1
Payments	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments	15660	1
CBF Deposit account at 1st January	<u>2428</u>	<u>2427</u>
CBF Deposit account at 31st December	<u><u>18088</u></u>	<u><u>2428</u></u>

Fabric Fund Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£
Receipts		
Grant from RCCE for post COVID activities	1900	0
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	930	35
Legacy	500	0
Donation transferred from PCC deposit Fund	500	0
Grants from Friends of St Andrews (Bellframe restoration)	<u>0</u>	<u>7400</u>
	3830	7435
Payments		
Grant to PCC from Reynolds Legacy (New office door/floor tiles)	1512	0
Outdoor equipment (from RCCE grant)	566	0
Bank charges	<u>98</u>	<u>79</u>
	2176	79
Excess of Receipts over Payments	1654	7356
Barclays Current a/c at 1st January	3039	718
CBF Deposit account at 1st January	70742	65707
Current and Deposit accounts at 1st January	<u>73781</u>	<u>66425</u>
Barclays Current a/c at 31st December	3763	3039
CBF Deposit account at 31st December	<u>71672</u>	<u>70742</u>
Current and Deposit accounts at 31st December	<u><u>75435</u></u>	<u><u>73781</u></u>

John Hill Organ/Music Fund - Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£
Receipts		
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	123	5
Payments	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments	123	5
CBF Deposit account at 1st January	<u>9325</u>	<u>9320</u>
CBF Deposit account at 31st December	<u><u>9448</u></u>	<u><u>9325</u></u>

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2022

Registered Charity No 1127357

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2022

		<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
		£	£
Cash funds			
	PCC Current account - unrestricted	8095	4576
	PCC Deposit Fund at CBF - mixed funds	18088	2428
	PCC Fabric Fund current account - restricted	3763	3039
	PCC Fabric Fund at CBF - restricted	71672	70742
	John Hill Fund - restricted	9448	9325
	Total bank current and deposit accounts	111066	90110
Investment assets			
		p/share	
	1315.69 CBF Investment Fund Income Shares	2066.14	27184
			30811

These investments represent the Ernest Richmond Trust Fund - the use of income is unrestricted
(The valuation is based on mid market value at year end)

Notes

- 1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.
- 2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- 3 The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion, which relates to their function as PCC members. No expenses were paid to other PCC members.
- 4 The 'Friends of St Andrews' is an independent registered charity (no 1019270) which raises funds to assist the parish in maintaining the fabric of St Andrews Church.
- 5 The Rector and Churchwardens are Trustees of the Sant Residuary Trust Fund which is registered with the Charity Commissioners (no 269570) and provides grants to further the teaching of the church, and to relieve poverty, in the parish.
- 6 The figures in these statements have been rounded to the nearest pound.
- 7 The sum recorded under "Restricted collections" relates to receipts for specific objects or charities and hence is classified as restricted income.
- 8 The year end balance in the PCC deposit account includes £15,628 of restricted funds for the Soul Food Project.

Approved by the PCC 2nd May 2023 and signed on their behalf by Revd Katie de Bourcier (PCC Chairman) and Malcolm Willis (PCC Treasurer)

(v1 18/2/23)

Schedules 2022

Schedule 1 - Fund raising - 'net' amounts

	£
Christmas Market	750
Ride and Stride	225
Bake off and plants	200
Coffee after services	185
Sale of jams and marmalades (JA)	110
Bookstall	124
Easy Fund Raising	84
Sub total	1678
Friday Coffee mornings	1122

Total Fund Raising **2800**

Schedule 2 - Special Collections

Ukraine Appeal	1472
Christian Aid	183
Halstead Day Centre	200
Royal British Legion	119
Church's Together in Halstead	35

Total paid over **2009**

Schedule 3 - St Andrews Centre

Receipts

	£
General receipts	19329

Total **19329**

Payments

	£
Centre caretaker	4141
Maintenance of facility/services	1893
British Gas	1627
EIG - Insurance	1250
Opus - Electricity	1096
AWA - Rates	581
Service materials	494
Safety system maintenance	321
Boiler maintenance	318
Admin costs	310
Hull - Window cleaning	156
PRS/PPL Licences	146
Refund of deposit	55

Capital projects

Replacement office door & floor tiles	1512
Total	13900

Excess of receipts over payments for St Andrews Centre was £
(v1 18/2/23)

5429



Accounts



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH | HALSTEAD

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead

Registered Charity No 1127357

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2021**

Incumbent and PCC Chairman

Revd Katie de Bourcier

**The Rectory
Parsonage Street
Halstead Essex. CO9 2LD**

**Bankers:
Barclays Bank PLC**

**Independent Examiner:
Mrs Charlotte King
Halstead Essex**

Administrative Information

The Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Church is part of

The Halstead Area Team Ministry.

It is situated in the Deanery of Hinckford and is part of
the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is

The Parish Office, Parsonage Street, Halstead Essex CO9 2LD.

Our Parish Administrator is Rachael Haylock.

Our Website: www.standrewschurchhalstead.org.uk

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Katie de Bourcier (Chair)

Associate Minister: Revd Rose Braisby

Curate: Revd Jo Parrott

Churchwardens: Angela Kerrison. Pauline Tilsley

PCC members who have served from 25 April 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Elected members: Tracy Bennett

Helena Gee

David Hume (Secretary)

Rachel Morris

Sue Paisley

Melanie Potter

Anne-Maree Robertson. (DS)

Jen Skingsley

Roger Smith

Malcolm Willis (Treasurer)

Canon Brian Vidler (Vice Chair) (DS)

DS- Ex-officio elected to serve on the Deanery Synod from 1st December 2020 for three years

Electoral Roll and Church Attendance

At our last annual meeting in April the Electoral Roll stood at 101 with 12 living outside the parish. Average service attendance at our main services on a Sunday over of the year was about 45 per week.

Rector's Introduction

2021 has been a very different, sometimes difficult, sometimes uplifting year. As the second year in which we lived through the global Covid-19 pandemic, nothing felt normal. The year started with Lockdown 3, a lockdown which arguably felt the hardest yet, due to its length and the fact that we could no longer hope for a quick resolution to the pandemic. It seemed very fitting that our first service back together again in the church building was on Easter Sunday; it was joyous to celebrate Christ's resurrection together as a statement of faith and hope, but also sad that we still were not able to sing together, and had to stay apart and masked.

Since then, we have seen Covid-19 guidance go through various stages of relaxation, and with an increasing emphasis on personal and organisational responsibility for Covid risk management rather than specific rules from government – a mixed blessing as we tried to work out what was best to do and not do. We have been encouraged by the congregation numbers gathering together; the average given above needs to be read in the context of some of our members not feeling able to attend in person due to health vulnerabilities, and also of a number of new people joining the church family too.

Having run with an interim service pattern during Covid, a review during summer 2021 led, with some adjustments, to it being established on an ongoing basis: while there is understandably a degree of sadness about moving away from the strongly Eucharistic tradition of the church previously, a majority of congregation members favoured the "mixed economy" of morning prayer and holy communion on Sundays, and we have seen increased lay involvement in leading services and preaching (including some training as authorised lay preachers) which both builds in sustainability for the future, and emphasises our commitment to enabling all God's people scope to explore and exercise their gifts. During this time, we have seen Kids' Church become well established on the first Sunday of each month, and a new evening reflective service started on second Sundays. Looking to the future, the service pattern here at St Andrew's will dovetail with those at St James', Greenstead Green and St Catherine's, Gosfield as the three churches work together more closely, and overall we hope that our services will continue to be welcoming and to enable people to connect with God and each other in a variety of ways as we seek to grow in faith, mission and service together.

We have also been very encouraged by all the new things happening under the auspices of the Gateway Project, but you can read about those later on in the report so I won't rehearse them here – just to say, this is new and exciting work for us, and often we are learning through experimenting and being willing to try new things. It has been wonderful to experience God's leading and faithfulness through this, and the hope is that it won't be the province of just a few people, but will inspire the church family as a whole in mission and outreach.

The demands of this year have meant that many of those in key roles have had to be even more flexible than usual in rising to the challenge of changes and of new ways of working and communicating. There are many I could thank, but I would like to take the opportunity particularly to record here my gratitude to Rae Haylock, our parish administrator, who has been incredibly adaptable in terms of when and how she works, and what she takes on. Although much of her

work is behind the scenes, we couldn't have got through this period of time without her flexible approach.

It is also worth noting that during this time, the ministry team for our Halstead Area Team of churches has worked increasingly closely, and this will be ever more important in future as stipendiary clergy numbers across the diocese continue to be reviewed and reduced. It is also a source of strength as we share ideas and resources, and between the ten churches are able to offer much more to our congregations and communities than any one church could do alone.

There are of course a number of projects and activities that have been on hold during Covid, some of which are, as I write in early 2022, being picked up (such as the Mustard Tree Project, looking at changes to our church building) while others are still in abeyance (such as Messy Church, for a variety of reasons) and some, having paused, have come to their natural end. I'm mindful that many people during Covid took the opportunity to reflect on priorities; it highlighted to many of us how busy we were in the habit of being, and whether through changes to circumstances, or deliberate rebalancing of priorities, several key people have stood down from aspects of ministry over this year. This includes Linda Mills stepping back as pastoral assistant and from her role taking services in care homes; Ros Skingsley stepping down from taking school assemblies; and Maureen White and Jan Amos stepping aside from leading the Edward Bear toddler group. I extend my and the PCC's grateful thanks to them all.

At the time of writing, while Covid is still with us, life is starting to feel a bit more normal. However, while we enjoy the benefits of that, we still need to keep caring for the vulnerable amongst us and mindful of the remaining Covid risks and indeed the after effects of illness for many. And let us remain thoughtful about what we pick up and what remains laid down, or what new things we should embark on, seeking God's guidance as we choose our priorities as a church that we might serve him well and wholeheartedly, but avoiding the false temptation of busyness and activity for its own sake.

For all the challenges of the past year, and the tiredness and anxiety I think many are still living with after two years overshadowed by the pandemic, we have much to be thankful for – in our faithful God, our fellowship as a church family, and the hope we have in Jesus for the future, whatever it holds.

Revd Katie de Bourcier

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2021

The year covered by this report has not been "normal" for any of us. However the PCC has as usual followed an established pattern of meeting at approximate intervals of two months. A big difference has been that many, perhaps most, of our meetings have been held via ZOOM. It was only towards the end of the year that it was felt reasonable and safe for us to meet in person at St Andrew's Centre. Despite this significant difference and the challenges thus presented the attendance at our meetings has once again been generally high.

There have also been additional, occasional meetings of the Standing Committee as and when needed and when it was unrealistic to call a full meeting of the PCC. Such meetings have contributed to the smooth completion of the business of the PCC.

There have been fewer reports from other church groups for us to consider during the year for the related reason that those groups were also faced with the problems and challenges of meeting. However such reports as were available have been reported to and considered by the PCC. During the year a wide range of matters have been raised and discussed. I list below some of the headlines, rather than the detail, which may be found elsewhere in the report or may be discussed at the Annual Meeting.

- Ministry to youth and young people including Junior Church.
- Continued and ongoing outreach to the wider community particularly in the light of new housing in the town.
- PCC finances and approval of PCC accounts.
- Pattern of Church services
- Christmas, Easter and other “special” services.
- Planning for future events and review of past events
- Future of Stewardship campaigns
- Appointment of and authority for Lay Preachers
- Parish finances
- Safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Future of and plans for Parish magazine
- Data protection implications and review
- Church opening hours (Covid related)
- Consideration of provision of CCTV
- Health and safety incident
- Friends of St Andrew’s
- Approval of application for faculties for necessary work in the Church buildings..
- Ministry Team updates
- Safeguarding

David Hume
PCC secretary

Safeguarding

The PCC continues to comply with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults) with an annual review from our Parish Safeguarding Officer Helena Gee.

The Gateway Project



This past year has been a big one for Gateway. It has provided us with the opportunity, as we have begun to gather ‘post-covid’ to build relationship with those we had reached out to during lockdown. We could write you a book about everything that’s gone on this year but for the sake of brevity and your brains - here are some highlights....

Soul Food - as you will be aware Soul Food has been going now for nearly a year. In that year, we have....

- Established contact with 45+ households

- Recruited a team of over 12 volunteers
- Celebrated 6 months of Soul Food and 1000 two course meal served
- Provided level 2 food and hygiene training for many of our volunteers
- Established links with the Foodbank, Halstead Community fridge, Fareshare and Neighbourly for our food,
- Established contact with local schools for holiday Munch Clubs targeting those families who are most in need.
- Had a short film made about what we do and why we do it – please see www.facebook.com/GatewayHalstead

In all this, I would like to thank Rachael Simpson, without whom none of this would happen as well as our wonderful team of volunteers.

The next year is all about sustainability; in terms of food supply and especially in terms of people to cook. Rachael and Jo still put together menus and lead cooks and obviously we are both taking leave in the immediate future and both are on time limited contracts. We would love some more people to come on board and to raise up those who are already contributing so much.

Arthur and Suzie Dodd will be coming on board to greet those who come to us and offer pastoral support and signposting; we would also like to acknowledge and thank Suzie for all her hard work grant hunting.

Finally, we intend to finally begin our community meal, the original vision for Soul Food, when Jo and Rachael return.

Wonderkids – last year I reported that ‘Wine and Wipes’ was a small online support group for Mums in lockdown. When we were able to meet in person, that began to meet at 47 Tidings Hill, and within a few months a plan was hatching to continue what was Edward Bear as Maureen White stepped down after decades of faithful service.

Claire Ford and Alison Crawley volunteered to run the group and we opened ‘Wonderkids’ (we preferred ‘little wonders’ but were beaten to it by a local group in Sudbury) under the Gateway umbrella in October. Claire and Ali have done the most amazing job and we now have a regular community of families and child-minders; we’re regularly booked up weeks in advance. Thank you, Claire and Ali (and Edward and Ezra, my chief snack samplers!) Thanks too to Jim, who is always there to lend a hand.

In the last 6 months, Wonderkids has...

- Provided sessions every week (in term time) for pre-school children and grownups
- Offered a healthy and age appropriate snack for children and a disgustingly unhealthy and much appreciated snack and hot drink for adults!
- Provided crossover from Soul Food in families attending.
- Passed on 3 baptisms from Wonderkids families
- Enjoyed crossover to the allotment with our first Wild Wonderkids in April

- Maintained regular contact with over 40 households
- Provided pastoral contact for new mums 'post-Covid' and grandparents too
- Built relationship with the community so much so that the community itself is beginning to be involved in running of group

The Gateway Allotment – initially to grow and produce fresh food for Soul Food, our double plot at Fenn Road allotment has grown in vision. It feels like a huge gift from the Lord.

- With particularly thanks to Rachael and the council contacts for securing the plot
- To Tom Parrott for putting in a lot of the ground work, fencing, maintenance etc
- And to Claire Cannon for co-ordinating and essentially single-handedly planting our first year of crops
- In the next year we hope to produce fresh fruit and veg, provide a community space for volunteers to share in the watering, weeding and fellowship such a space can provide
- Having used a woodland area cleared by the groundsman Colin a couple of times now, we hope to build a Forest Church community there in the future – again this is slowed by Rev.Jo's mat leave but the family will be using the space over the summer and testing out ideas!

How to Pioneer Course – a group of 6 of us have been taking the Diocesan 'How to Pioneer Course' over the past six months. This has had it's challenges and it's joys but has been a good scriptural grounding and discussion point in terms of our direction of travel as a project and bonding as a group.

Halloween, Harvest and Christmas – were just a few of the seasonal occasions when Gateway reached out to the community. As a result....

- Richard de Clare donated all their harvest collection to the Foodbank, via Soul Food and the children made cards containing messages of support for those to whom packages are distributed.
- On All Hallows Eve at 47 Tidings Hill, the Parrotts and Linda Rooney greeted trick or treaters with sweets, opportunity to warm themselves and roast marshmallows over the fire, chat and play games about 'Spooky Saints' matching stories with images of people who throughout history have been faithful to their love for God and His way.
- Over the course of an hour and a half, over 70 people came and spent time with us.
- Our 'Build your own advent wreath' tealights were distributed around the town during advent and after last years baubles, were welcomed and talked about. The children and staff at Holy Trinity School particularly got on board with this.

'People who pray' and 'I'm not religious but.....' have both provided safe spaces for conversation around faith and spirituality and quiet reflection and prayer for those who might be exploring faith for the first time and/or not be from a 'churchy' background.

Numbers have been low – max 6 – regulars 3 – but it's definitely something to think around for the future and feedback from those who have come along has been really positive.

Challenges and points for prayer – as previously mentioned, our biggest challenge going forward is sustainability. We have a large community presence and have built trust in the community also – we’d love to continue the work of being an example of Jesus’ love to Halstead – but we need the workers!

Our other biggest challenge is a practical one – our oven is not currently fit for purpose and due to the pandemic, the warrantee was up before we discovered this. Problems being that it goes out regularly, the hobs are too small and difficult to control and the oven dramatically affects the temp of the hob so that even if no hob’s are on, food on top has been burned. Prayer for the oven or suggestions indicating how we might be able to resolve this issue would be greatly appreciated, as we believe it will put some cooks off joining us.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your prayers and support.

Revd Jo Parrott

Ps. And that’s the condensed version!

Altar Servers

The altar servers were pleased to return to roles supporting worship at St Andrews. The servers implemented measures to minimise Covid risks.

Kevin Metson. Sacristan

Edward Bear Club

The PCC noted with sincere gratitude the many years of service provided by Maureen White and ably supported by Jan Amos and others in running the Edward Bear Club. Like many other activities the pandemic brought it to an abrupt halt and the opportunity to formally acknowledge its transition.



Hinckford Deanery Synod

The year began with the online commissioning of The Revd Liz Paxton, Rector of the Heddinghams and Upper Colne benefice, as Area Dean in January. Synod met three times during 2021, in April, June and November. Although the matter was kept under review all meetings were eventually held online.

Our April meeting, the first since February 2020, was also the first of the new Triennium of Synod meetings. It included the re-election of Canon Brian Vidler as Lay Chair and the re-appointment of Charles Nolda as Deanery Secretary and Ian Cruse as Deanery Treasurer. Clergy Deployment was initially introduced in response to the Diocesan finances restructuring exercise, an ongoing topic throughout the year.

The election of representatives to Diocesan Synod took place in June but only Revd Katie de Bourcier as Clergy representative was elected. The deanery does not currently have any lay representation. Our June meeting included topics concerning Racial Justice and the Church of England Living in Love and Faith project and a presentation by The Revd James Gilder on the Eco-Church initiative.

In November synod's main focus was on proposed modernisation rule changes governing how deanery synods operated. The diocesan had requested feedback which was duly submitted. All three meetings also received reports from our Deanery Buildings Officer Nick Ellis.

The PCC reviews minutes of each Deanery Synod meeting. Our current representatives are Anne-Maree Robertson and myself although we are entitled to have three.

Canon Brian Vidler

The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Due to the Covid pandemic the church remained closed and was hardly used for 18 months or so until April 2021. However the Clerestory windows were opened on a regular basis to keep the church aired. In early Spring, Tower Captain David Kerrison advised that the ringing chamber in the bell tower was extremely damp & that the tower clock case had significant condensation on the glass. The damp is being caused by a down pipe from the tower roof being partially blocked and it will be inspected & rectified if possible.



The drainpipe that was stolen from the Nave roof has been urgently replaced with a plastic one. The intermittent leak in the Holy Trinity chapel still remains and another over the South porch continues after there has been extreme showers of rain.

During the summer and autumn months we had instances of the roof alarm being activated at different times of night, and over a period of weeks. It was found that we have had persons attempting to steal the lead from the church roof. There are still bees in the chancel at a certain time of the year but the numbers are diminishing.

We have arranged monthly church cleaning over the next year now the church is in far more use. The Quinquennial Inspection is due to be carried out in June 2022

Angela Kerrison and Pauline Tilsley . Church Wardens



St Andrew's Church Bellringers Halstead.

Sending the Holy Spirit into the hearts of all people.

We have a fine ring of eight bells here at St. Andrew's and an ability to ring a good selection of worship hymns on the Ellacombe Ringing Apparatus.

We are urgently seeking new and experienced ringers to come forward to join our depleted band, so that we can once again ring the open bells for service on Sunday mornings. We have been pleased to welcome Charlotte and Sammy Buchan who are learning basic bell handling.

So, what has happened 'up the tower' over the last year?

1. Open Tower to the public. Saturday November 27th 3 hrs.
2. Practice. 'Grandsire Triples.' Ringers from other towns and villages helping.
3. Weekly Friday Practise. General bell handling and basic method ringing.
4. Ellacombe ringing for Sunday Worship.

I believe that 'The Bells' are an important contribution to our worship pattern, and I am saddened when these instruments remain silent.

David Kerrison. Tower Captain



Chairman's Report

It has been a very quiet year due to the Covid pandemic. We did manage to run two smaller events this year being the Lunch Time Organ recital on 25th September by William Jansen and the Quiz held on 23rd October again a success considering that we were restricted to six tables. This was followed by the Christmas Tree Festival from 26th to 28th November, which was a great success with over 1000 people attending.

The Friends exist to maintain the grade I listed building that is St Andrews.

During the last 24 months we have part financed the work necessary for the refurbishment of the bell tower. The future fundraising will be to pay for further restoration work required identified in the Quinquennial Report Dated 29th June – Restoration of the south Isle parapet £12K and selective replacement to the parapet string course on the north isle. Estimated cost £18.5K .

In addition there were Book and Candle sales by David and Angela throughout the year, and our thanks again to them both.

Our sponsors again this year were Daniel Robinson and Birkett Long LLP and we thank them most sincerely for their continued support.

Planned events for 2022

Spring Quiz (30th April)
 Midsummer at Martletts
 Queens Jubilee – attendance at Town Event
 Flower Festival
 Colne Philharmonic 1st Oct
 Autumn Quiz
 Christmas Tree Festival

We have a web Page so please visit us on www.friendsofstandrewshalstead.co.uk
 Please have a look – it includes old newsletters and details of future events.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (2021)

General Fund.

The Coronavirus pandemic, for the second successive year, had a significant negative impact on the parish's finances as although generated receipts were up by more than £3,500 compared with 2020 they were down by around £18,700 when compared with 2019, the previous 'normal' (pre pandemic) year. Payments were well controlled showing an increase of just over £1,000 compared to 2020 excluding the cost of the Gateway Project. Grants totalling more than £26,600, largely from dwindling historic reserves, were transferred in to cover the gap between receipts and payments. The accounts this year, for the first time, include the financials relating to the Gateway Project which, over time, should be close to cost neutral for the parish.

The PCC's General Fund for 2021 show total receipts of £88,134 net of the Gateway Project (£82,659 in 2020) and this includes £26,631 transferred in or donated from reserve or Trust Funds to bridge the gap between receipts and payments. The main areas where receipts have fallen (v 2019) were largely receipts from St Andrews Centre (down £9,465), fund raising (down £3,193), fees (down £2,619) and collections down (£2,841).

The total day to day costs of running the parish amounted to £85,472 (£84,420 in 2020) with net spend after deduction of third party fees at £79,525 (£80,428) with the largest items being the Parish Share at £48,714 (£48,023) and the costs of running and maintaining SA Centre at £9,588 (£11,682). Overall payments, after adjusting for Diocesan and clergy fees, decreased by £903 (-1.1%) compared to 2020 with the 1.4% increase in the Parish Share being offset by reduced spending in other areas.

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments on the current account of £1,519 leaving an increased balance of £4,576 to be carried over into 2022.

Fabric Fund (restricted fund)

Receipts for the year totalled £7,435 largely due to a very welcome donation of £7,400 from the Friends of St Andrews to cover the costs of refurbishing the bell frame in 2020.

The balance held in the Fabric Fund comprises of various legacies and is reserved for building works or special projects.

Other comments

It is the PCC's policy to invest its cash reserves, in excess of those required to maintain a reasonable cash flow, with the CBF of the Church of England.

The PCC produces an annual financial budget and in 2022 it is estimated that there will be a gap between generated receipts and payments of around £20,000.

Responding to this situation and setting a financial plan for the next 5 years must be a key focus for the PCC and the parish during the coming year.

Malcolm R R Willis
Parish Treasurer

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead

I report on the accounts of the St Andrew Halstead PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021 and which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiners Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

Independent 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 s 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records

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.

(Signed)

Charlotte King
Independent Examiner

February 2022

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2021

General Fund (Unrestricted) Current Account - Receipts and Payments

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Voluntary receipts - regular giving				
Planned Giving	30520		30653	
Income tax recovered	7152		7823	
Gift Aid envelopes	1700		1519	
Collections from normal services	<u>708</u>	40080	<u>660</u>	40655
Other voluntary receipts				
Donations	2003		1055	
Restricted collections (note 7)	542		44	
Collections from other services	<u>80</u>	2625	<u>58</u>	1157
Receipts from activities for generating funds				
Fund raising gross (see schedule 1 for 'net' detail)		2559		1490
Receipts from Church activities				
St Andrews Centre receipts	7944		7806	
Diocesan fees	3587		1607	
Clergy fees	2360		2381	
PCC fees	1257		829	
Energy fees	240		320	
Parish Magazine - sales and adverts	43		294	
Other receipts	<u>26</u>	15457	<u>103</u>	13340
Receipts from investments				
Income from Richmond Trust Investments		782		917
Grants and transfers				
Grant from V&CW Restricted Funds	22500		13000	
Grant from Sant Trust	4000		10100	
Other grants	<u>131</u>	26631	<u>2000</u>	25100
Gateway Project		20785		0
Total receipts		<u><u>108919</u></u>		<u><u>82659</u></u>
Payments				
Church Activities				
Parish Share	48714		48023	
St Andrews Centre (see schedule 2)	9588		11682	
Parish administration	5642		6041	
Church insurance	4681		4656	
Professional fees	3999		4070	
Diocesan fees	3587		1607	
Maintenance of buildings/equipment	2608		1344	
Clergy fees	2360		2385	
Utilities	1880		1835	
Clergy expenses	1011		1237	
Charitable and other donations	502		115	
Music and choral	341		277	
Cost of services	263		284	
Fund raising costs (see schedule 1 for 'net' detail)	131		430	
Christian Education and outreach	119		379	
One time and other costs	<u>46</u>	85472	<u>55</u>	84420
Gateway Project		<u>21928</u>		<u>0</u>
Total payments		<u><u>107400</u></u>		<u><u>84420</u></u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		1519		-1761
PCC Current account at 1st January		3057		4818
PCC Current account at 31st December		4576		3057

(v2 15/1/22)

**Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2021**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
PCC General Fund Deposit Account - Unrestricted Fund	£	£
Receipts		
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	1	10
Payments	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments	1	10
CBF Deposit account at 1st January	<u>2427</u>	<u>2417</u>
CBF Deposit account at 31st December	<u>2428</u>	<u>2427</u>

Fabric Fund Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Grants from Friends of St Andrews (Bellframe restoration)	7400		0	
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	35		290	
Grant from CDBF for feasibility study	0		1350	
Donation in memorium	0		1000	
	7435		2640	
Payments				
Bank charges	79		56	
Refurbishment of bell frame	0		7400	
Sound system upgrade	0		1440	
Feasibility study	0		1400	
Car park signage	<u>0</u>		<u>372</u>	
	79		10668	
Excess of Receipts over Payments	7356		-8028	
Barclays Current a/c at 1st January	718		1536	
CBF Deposit account at 1st January	65707		72917	
Current and Deposit accounts at 1st January	<u>66425</u>		<u>74453</u>	
Barclays Current a/c at 31st December	3039		718	
CBF Deposit account at 31st December	70742		65707	
Current and Deposit accounts at 31st December	<u>73781</u>		<u>66425</u>	

John Hill Organ/Music Fund - Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Receipts	£	£
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	5	39
Payments	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments	5	39
CBF Deposit account at 1st January	<u>9320</u>	<u>9281</u>
CBF Deposit account at 31st December	<u>9325</u>	<u>9320</u>

(v2 15/1/22)

**Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2021**

Registered Charity No 1127357

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2021

		<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
		£	£
Cash funds			
	PCC Current account - unrestricted	4576	3057
	PCC Deposit Fund at CBF - unrestricted	2428	2427
	PCC Fabric Fund current account - restricted	3039	718
	PCC Fabric Fund at CBF - restricted	70742	65707
	John Hill Fund - restricted	9325	9320
	Total bank current and deposit accounts	<u>90110</u>	<u>81229</u>
Investment assets			
		p/share	
	1315.69 CBF Investment Fund Income Shares	2341.81	30811
			26954

These investments represent the Ernest Richmond Trust Fund - the use of income is unrestricted
(The valuation is based on mid market value at year end)

Notes

- 1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.
- 2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- 3 The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion, which relates to their function as PCC members. No expenses were paid to other PCC members.
- 4 The 'Friends of St Andrews' is an independent registered charity (no 1019270) which raises funds to assist the parish in maintaining the fabric of St Andrews Church.
- 5 The Rector and Churchwardens are Trustees of the Sant Residuary Trust Fund which is registered with the Charity Commissioners (no 269570) and provides grants to further the teaching of the church, and to relieve poverty, in the parish.
- 6 The figures in these statements have been rounded to the nearest pound.
- 7 The sum recorded under "Restricted collections" relates to receipts for specific objects or charities and hence is classified as restricted income. This was small in 2021 due to COVID and £40 has been held over for payment in 2022.
- 8 The year end balance in the PCC current account included the following sums totalling £1335:
a) £500 for software for the parish office. b) £131 for post COVID improvements in SA Centre.
c) £ 40 for the Bishops Lent Appeal. d) £664 for the Soul Food Project
- 9 The PCC's receipts in 2021 were, for the second year, significantly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

**Approved by the PCC 3rd May 2022 and signed on their behalf by Revd Katie de Bourcier
(PCC Chairman) and Malcolm Willis (PCC Treasurer)**

(v2 15/1/22)

Schedules 2021

Schedule 1 - Fund raising - 'net' amounts

	£
Christmas Market	666
Bake off and plants	620
A&T Travel	300
Sale of jams and marmalades	200
Boots raffle	84
Easy Fund Raising	82
Easter raffle	80
Sale of cakes & marmalade	40
Smartie tubes	24
Bookstall	22
Other	10
Total	2129
Less 100 Club payments	-70
Add Friday Coffee mornings	370

Total **2428**

Schedule 2 - St Andrews Centre

Receipts

	£
General receipts	7944

Payments

	£
Centre caretaker	3792
EIG - Insurance	1217
British Gas	924
Maintenance of facility/services	852
Opus - Electricity	679
AWA - Rates	544
Boiler maintenance	328
Hull - Window cleaning	312
Service materials	289
Admin costs	285
PRS/PPL Licences	173
Anglia Fire - safety system servicing	168
Refund of deposit	25

Totals **7944**

Totals **9588**

Excess of payments over receipts for St Andrews Centre was £ **1644**
(v2 15/1/22)

Accounts



ST ANDREW'S **CHURCH | HALSTEAD**

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead

Registered Charity No 1127357

Annual Report and Financial Statements

of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2020

Incumbent and PCC Chairman

Revd Katie de Bourcier

**The Rectory
Parsonage Street
Halstead Essex. CO9 2LD**

**Bankers:
Barclays Bank PLC**

**Independent Examiner:
Mrs Charlotte King
Halstead Essex**

Rector's Introduction

2020 has been a year we could not have anticipated, and one of the strangest in church, public and private life for many decades, I imagine.

Like all churches, at St Andrew's clergy and lay officers together worked swiftly and imaginatively to adapt to the new environment. With safety coming above all, we carefully adhered to all the rules and guidance given; enjoying being able to worship together in our church buildings in September, October, and part of December, and otherwise embracing other forms of worship from our homes. The benefit of being part of a Team Ministry was more evident than ever, with the ministry team coming together to plan online worship on a Team basis, sharing resources and encouraging church members to worship with those from other parishes. As a result this year has strengthened bonds across the Team, and opened our minds to new possibilities for the future.

We know that this has been a hard year for so many people, in whatever way they have been affected by the pandemic, and other life events too of course. The caring nature of our church community has come to the fore, with many people offering friendship and support to each other, from a phone call to a card to a small gift left at the doorstep. It was notable that when we offered a more structured means of providing pastoral support through small Care and Share groups, there was minimal uptake, which I took as a reassuring sign that people felt well supported already through informal networks.

While so many people made a difference to the way we were able to navigate such a turbulent year, I feel I should give a particular mention to the churchwardens (Claire Cannon, Brian Vidler and Angela Kerrison, at different points in the year), to Rae Haylock in the church office, and to Revd Beverley Vincent, who provided particular support, leadership, and practical effort to keep the show on (a rather different) road. With I and Jo Parrott both being off sick for part of the year, these and others stepped up to the plate in a remarkable way, and I am so grateful for that.

We know that the pandemic has left us with challenges for the years ahead, but also with new possibilities. We have like almost all parishes been hit hard financially, as has our diocese as a whole; our reserves have been drawn on far more than planned, which makes us more vulnerable in future years. The diocese expects that over the next five years there may be a need for further reductions in stipendiary clergy. There are many uncertainties ahead. But we have also learnt how we can adapt and change; we have seen a flourishing of different sorts of ministry, by both lay and ordained people; we have learnt how to offer worship and fellowship online, and how to reach out to our community in new ways; and we have come closer to our sister churches across the team. That learning and growth stands us in good stead, and there will be some good and interesting conversations to come about what church life will look like in the new, post-pandemic, normal.

Finally, on a personal note, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all those who have supported and helped me personally during what has been a very difficult year, with extended sick absence and then a very gradual return to work. I am so grateful for the love, forbearance, and support that has been given to me by this and the other parishes. Thank you all.

Revd Katie

Parochial Church Council



The PCC held two meetings at the start of the year and resumed with a further two meetings online in September and November. Earlier meetings focussed on routine preparations for future services and events, superseded of course by the restrictions introduced by the pandemic. At our September meeting, held via Zoom, we welcomed Revd Katie back as Chair and re-focused on how our community and church family had managed over the summer months. With an established service pattern in place

our November meeting allowed us to plan for Christmas, again unfortunately overtaken by restrictions. Reports from other committees have been limited although feedback from the Gateway project provided an excellent example of successful outreach despite the challenging circumstances.

The Gateway Project

Our committed team of Gateway Project prayer warriors were meeting regularly at the start of 2020 and whilst not in person, they continued to pray for the project during lockdown. Prayers centred around the people of Halstead who, with or without a faith may be seeking God and for them to be open to God's word. As lockdown hit so did some time off for our team though God has continued to work and we have seen fruits of those prayers appearing.



At the end of the summer a group of young Mums known as 'Wine and Wipes' started meeting online with Revd Jo and this group continues. Revd Jo and Revd Parrot held an online Harvest Festival for the children and Revd Jo committed to a head shave in October in support of St Helena Hospice and the Braintree Food bank charities.

By the autumn, an advert was placed for a Community Outreach Worker which was filled in December by Rachael Simpson and she and Revd Jo have been actively working together since. Activities have included an Advent Bauble Hunt supported by online reflections and there have been other online reflections including Baby loss Awareness and various Christmas Facebook lives including hilarious Chris-tingle and Crib events.

Through prayer and discernment, the Gateway Project has been led to undertake much background research to ascertain the viability for a pilot takeaway food project. Meetings have been held with other similar projects, the Food Hygiene Officer and contacts made with Fareshare and the Trussell Trust and other stakeholders who are in support of the project and work is ongoing in readiness for a launch in 2021.

Electoral Roll and Church Attendance

At our last annual meeting in October the Electoral Roll stood at 102. Average service attendance at our main services on a Sunday at the beginning of the year were about 45 per week. During the period September to December when we resumed services in church with social distancing the average tended to be about 40.



Hinckford Deanery Synod

Synod met once during 2020, in February at St Giles Church in Great Maplestead. A formal presentation was made to the outgoing Area Dean, The Rev Canon Jonathan Lowe, in acknowledgement of a successful term of office. In addition to the usual receiving of reports and news, Mr Nick Ellis was appointed as Deanery Buildings Officer and The Rev Gay Ellis to Workplace Chaplaincy, both unpaid. Our current PCC representatives on the Deanery Synod are Anne-Maree Robertson and myself although we are entitled to have three.

Canon Brian Vidler

The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

With the church closed for much of the year some deterioration of the building may have occurred of which we are not aware due to non-use. (One hopes not.) Being able to open the clerestory windows and to air the church has helped.



The lead drainpipe which was stolen from the clerestory in December 2019 has still to be replaced. There is an intermittent leak in the roof above the Holy Trinity Chapel which has been present for some time, but we have not at present found the reason for it. There continues to be damp in the bell tower probably caused by downpipes not working as they should.

The bell frame has been sanded down, the rust removed, and repainted.

There are still some bees in the chancel at certain times of the year, but not in the numbers to be a problem. The bats have enjoyed the peace inside the church, but it seems that their numbers remain about the same.

Church cleaning has continued on a regular basis throughout the year.

Claire Cannon and Angela Kerrison

St. Andrew's with Holy Trinity Guild of Bellringers



'Sending the Holy Spirit into the Hearts of all'

A quinquennial inspection of the bells revealed that the metal frame needed attention and re-painted due to corrosion in places. This task was completed in May 2020.

The need for a good clean-up was required as a lot of dust was created in the ringing room.

Simon Carton helped me with this task which was much appreciated. The bell ropes have been re-hung and adjusted, so all we need is to get out of lockdown!

The bells have not been rung due to the pandemic, only the tenor and number 6 bell have been tolled to mark commemorative events.

The Ellacombe Chimes were played for Sunday Service when restrictions were downgraded, and to share with those who prayed for the NHS staff in respect of their endurance; this took place during November around 6 pm each evening.

I am concerned about the ringing band though, as we were struggling for numbers before Covid, borrowing ringers from other places to get enough to ring. So please, if anyone who is reading this report and fancies being part of a wonderful service to our church please contact me and make your reservation.

David Kerrison. 07421 729751



League of Friends of St Andrew's Church

It has been a very frustrating year in which we have been unable to run any events to raise money for repairs to the church. We have run Zoom meetings to keep in touch and to decide if there was any chance of running our scheduled events, and to plan possible alternative events.

The latest event casualty has been the Annual Halstead Flower Festival. As the significant funding for this event is very precarious coupled and with the difficulty in planning for flower arrangers, stewards, and volunteers etc., it has been decided not to go ahead with this event, but we are hoping to continue this very popular event next year

Roger Smith Chair

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (2020)

General Fund.

The Coronavirus pandemic had a major influence on the parish's finances in 2020 with generated receipts down by more than £22,000 when compared with the previous year, and although payments were reduced by more than £7,000 and grants of £12,100 were received, the parish recorded a shortfall of £13,000 which had to be met from dwindling historic reserves.

The PCC's General Fund for 2020 show total receipts of £82,659 (£91,821 in 2019) comprising of £53,571 of generated income excluding grants and third party fees (£75,450 in 2019), and £23,100 transferred in or donated from reserve or Trust Funds to help bridge the gap between receipts and payments (£12,338 in 2019). The reduction in generated income was due largely to receipts from St Andrews Centre being down £9,603, fund raising down £4,262, fees down £2,967 and voluntary receipts generally, down £4,584. Grants of £12,100 were received with the remaining shortfall met from V&CW restricted legacy funds.

The total day to day costs of running the parish amounted to £84,420 (£91,771 in 2019) with net spend after deduction of third party fees at £80,428 (£87,738) with the largest items being the Parish Share at £48,023 (£46,995) and the costs of running and maintaining SA Centre at £11,682 (£14,236). Overall payments, after adjusting for Diocesan and clergy fees, decreased by £7,310 (-8%) compared to 2019 with the 2% increase in the Parish Share being offset and more by reduced spending on St Andrews Centre and several other areas.

The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts on the current account of £1,761 leaving a balance of £3,057 to be carried over into 2021.

Fabric Fund (restricted fund)

Receipts for the year totalled £2,640 including a £1,000 donation in memory of David Lorkin, a lifelong member of the church and ex churchwarden. The parish also received a welcome grant of £1,350 from the Diocese to cover part of the cost of a church building feasibility study (Mustard Tree Project).

The balance held in the Fabric Fund comprises of various legacies and is reserved for building works or special projects.

Other comments

It is the PCC's policy to invest its cash reserves, in excess of those required to maintain a reasonable cash flow, with the CBF of the Church of England.

The PCC produces an annual financial budget and with the impact of the pandemic continuing into 2021 it is estimated that there will be a gap between generated receipts and payments of some £16,000.

Recovering from this situation and setting a financial plan for the next 5 years must be a key focus for the PCC and the parish during the coming year.

Malcolm R R Willis
Parish Treasurer

Independent Examiner's report to the PCC of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead

I report on the accounts of the St Andrew Halstead PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020 and which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiners Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

Independent 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 s 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records

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.

(Signed) Charlotte King
Independent Examiner

February 2021

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2020

General Fund (Unrestricted) Current Account - Receipts and Payments

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2019</u>
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Voluntary receipts - regular giving				
Planned Giving	30653		29087	
Income tax recovered	7823		8497	
Gift Aid envelopes	1519		2031	
Collections from normal services	<u>660</u>	40655	<u>3549</u>	43164
Other voluntary receipts				
Donations	1055		1367	
Collections from other services	58		628	
Restricted collections (note 7)	<u>44</u>	1157	<u>1237</u>	3232
Receipts from activities for generating funds				
Fund raising gross (see schedule 1 for 'net' detail)		1490		5752
Receipts from Church activities				
St Andrews Centre receipts	7806		17409	
Clergy fees	2381		1285	
Diocesan fees	1607		2748	
PCC fees	829		3396	
Energy fees	320		720	
Parish Magazine - sales and adverts	294		791	
Other receipts	<u>103</u>	13340	<u>182</u>	26531
Receipts from investments				
Income from Richmond Trust Investments		917		804
Grants and transfers				
Grant from V&CW Restricted Funds	13000		10000	
Grant from Sant Trust	10100		2000	
Grant from BDC	<u>2000</u>	25100	<u>0</u>	12000
Transfers of bequests from Fabric Fund		0		338
Total receipts		<u><u>82659</u></u>		<u><u>91821</u></u>
Payments				
Church Activities				
Parish Share	48023		46955	
St Andrews Centre (see schedule 2)	11682		14236	
Parish administration	6041		5967	
Church insurance	4656		4528	
Professional fees	4070		4130	
Clergy fees	2385		1285	
Utilities/rates	1835		3217	
Diocesan fees	1607		2748	
Maintenance of buildings/equipment	1344		2830	
Clergy expenses	1237		1861	
Fund raising costs (see schedule 1 for 'net' detail)	430		465	
Christian Education and outreach	379		220	
Cost of services	284		812	
Music and choral	277		500	
Charitable and other donations	115		1591	
One time and other costs	55		426	
Total payments		<u><u>84420</u></u>		<u><u>91771</u></u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-1761		50
PCC Current account at 1st January		4818		4768
PCC Current account at 31st December		3057		4818

(v2 3/3/21)

**Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2020**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	£	£
PCC General Fund Deposit Account - Unrestricted Fund		
Receipts		
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	10	18
Payments	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments	10	18
CBF Deposit account at 1st January	<u>2417</u>	<u>2399</u>
CBF Deposit account at 31st December	<u>2427</u>	<u>2417</u>

Fabric Fund Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Grant from CDBF for feasibility study	1350		1650	
Donation in memory of David Lorkin	1000		0	
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	290		502	
Grants from Friends of St Andrews (Clerestorey Repairs)	0		13543	
Grants from Friends of St Andrews (Tower downpipe repairs)	0		1080	
Barclays Bank credits	<u>0</u>		<u>14</u>	
	2640		16789	
Payments				
Refurbishment of bell frame	7400		0	
Sound system upgrade	1440		0	
Feasibility study	1400		1650	
Car park signage	372		0	
Bank charges	56		76	
Clerestorey repairs	0		1883	
Repairs to the church tower downpipe	0		1080	
Tx of bequest to purchase projector	<u>0</u>		<u>338</u>	
	10668		5027	
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-8028		11761	
Barclays Current a/c at 1st January	1536		2276	
CBF Deposit account at 1st January	72917		60415	
Current and Deposit accounts at 1st January	<u>74453</u>		<u>62691</u>	
Barclays Current a/c at 31st December	718		1536	
CBF Deposit account at 31st December	65707		72917	
Current and Deposit accounts at 31st December	<u>66425</u>		<u>74453</u>	

John Hill Organ/Music Fund - Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	£	£
Receipts		
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	39	70
Payments	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments	39	70
CBF Deposit account at 1st January	<u>9281</u>	<u>9211</u>
CBF Deposit account at 31st December	<u>9320</u>	<u>9281</u>

(v2 3/3/21)

Parish of St Andrew with Holy Trinity Halstead
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2020

Registered Charity No 1127357

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	£	£
Cash funds		
PCC Current account - unrestricted	3057	4819
PCC Deposit Fund at CBF - unrestricted	2427	2417
PCC Fabric Fund current account - restricted	718	1536
PCC Fabric Fund at CBF - restricted	65707	72917
John Hill Fund - restricted	<u>9320</u>	<u>9281</u>
Total bank current and deposit accounts	81229	90969
 Investment assets		
	p/share	
3646 CBF FIS Fund Income Shares	0	5974
1010.25 CBF Investment Fund Income Shares	2048.73 20697	19366
305.44 CBF Investment Fund Income Shares	2048.73 <u>6258</u>	<u>0</u>
	26955	25340

These investments represent the Ernest Richmond Trust Fund - the use of income is unrestricted
(The valuation is based on mid market value at year end)

Notes

- 1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.
- 2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- 3 The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion, which relates to their function as PCC members. No expenses were paid to other PCC members.
- 4 The 'Friends of St Andrews' is an independent registered charity (no 1019270) which raises funds to assist the parish in maintaining the fabric of St Andrews Church.
- 5 The Vicar and Churchwardens are Trustees of the Sant Residuary Trust Fund which is registered with the Charity Commissioners (no 269570) and provides grants to further the teaching of the church, and to relieve poverty, in the parish.
- 6 The figures in these statements have been rounded to the nearest pound.
- 7 The sum recorded under "Restricted collections" relates to receipts for specific objects or charities and hence is classified as restricted income. This was small in 2020 due to COVID and hence a small amount has been held over for payment in 2021.
- 8 The Richmond CBF FIS income Shares were sold in 2020 and replaced with an equivalent value of CBF Investment Fund Income Shares.
- 9 The PCC's receipts in 2020 were significantly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Approved by the PCC 9th March 2021 and signed on their behalf by Revd Katie de Bourcier (PCC Chairman) and Malcolm Willis (PCC Treasurer)

(v2 3/3/21)

Schedules 2020

Schedule 1 - Fund raising - 'net' amounts

	£
Proceeds from coffee sales after services	154
Sale of Easter handicraftes (LM)	120
Sale of jams and marmalades (JA)	108
Donation in lieu of fund raising	100
Easy Fund Raising	93
Other	10
Total	585
Add 100 Club (net)	278
Add Coffee mornings	197
Total Fund Raising (net)	<u>1060</u>

Schedule 2 - St Andrews Centre

Receipts	£	Payments	£
General receipts	6526	Centre caretaker	2277
Donations		Boiler repairs & maintenance	2206
Grant from Provident for cooker	614	British Gas	1372
Edward Bear	246	EIG - Insurance	1164
Guides	210	Opus - Electricity	798
Rainbows	210	AWA - Rates	527
		Maintenance of facility/services	440
		PRS/PPL Licences	397
		Hull - Window cleaning	312
		Service materials	304
		CDBF - Car park rent	290
		COVID related costs	194
		Anglia Fire - safety system servicing	162
		Admin costs	166
		KRP - fire equip maint	156
		Capital projects:	
		Replacement of oven	699
		Fitting of PIR sensors	218
Totals	<u>7806</u>		<u>11682</u>

Excess of payments over receipts for St Andrews Centre was £ **3876**
(v2 3/3/21)