

'To know God and share the wonder of His love'

St Gregory's Church, Seaton

Annual Reports & Accounts

SEATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Registered Charity No: 1127403

for the year ending 31st December 2024



Coastal Benefice of Seaton & Beer

Vicar: Rev'd Justin Montague

The Church Office, Colyford Road, Seaton, Devon, EX12 2DF
(01297) 23656

SEATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Administrative information

St Gregory's Church is situated off the Colyford Road, Seaton. It is part of The Coastal Mission Community with the parish of Beer, in the Diocese of Exeter within the Church of England. Correspondence may be addressed to The Church Office, The Church Centre, Colyford Road, Seaton, EX12 2DF. Telephone 01297 23656; email seatonchurch@hotmail.co.uk

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Gregory's Seaton – Reg Charity No: 1127403.

Background

Seaton Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and the Church Centre. Responsibility for the maintenance of the churchyard has devolved upon East Devon District Council.

Governance

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, or co-opted by the PCC. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent and Chairman	Revd. Justin Montague
Assistant Priest	Revd. Chris Thacker
Local Pioneer Minister	Revd. Shuna George
Churchwardens	1. Mr David House 2. Mr David Dickinson
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mr Paul Barns
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Sharon Bruce (Until April 2024) Mr David Mason (From May 2024) - Duties supported Parish Finance Officer & PCC Finance Committee)
Secretary	Mrs Judi Brewer
Other PCC Members	
Mr Michael Tabeart	Mrs Mary Casey

(The PCC is allowed up to 12 elected members, including those holding other offices, such as Treasurer)

Assistant Clergy

The parish benefits from having the services of the Revd. Chris Thacker (retired), as well as support from other retired clergy for services and occasional offices, including the Revd. Barry Brewer, Revd. Karen Curnock, Revd. Nigel Freathy, Revd. Geoffrey Walsh and Revd Mary Harding.

The parish also benefits from the service of Mrs Sue Price, Reader Emeritus

Church Activity Groups

A number of organisations and volunteer teams operate within the church family, including:

- 3-2-1 for Jesus
- Anna Chaplaincy
- Axe Valley Christians Against Poverty
- Bell Ringers
- Choir
- Church Cleaners
- Church Flower Arrangers
- Discussion Groups (Lent onwards)
- FREEdom Café
- Friends of St Gregory's
- Greg's Music Makers
- Hand bell Ringers
- Hospitality Team
- Julian Group
- 'Knit & Natter'
- Mothers' Union Group
- Music Group
- Table Tennis Club

We also have contact with a number of outside organisations through members of our church family, including:

- Christian Aid
- Christians Together in Seaton
- Messy Church
- Seaton Foodbank

Committees

The PCC meets in alternate months, six times a year. For certain aspects of the council's business, there are sub-committees which meet when necessary to formulate recommendations that are brought to the full PCC. All other matters are dealt with directly by the PCC.

Finance Sub-Committee – oversees the financial management of St Gregory's Church and encourages good financial stewardship. It comprises the Vicar, the Treasurer, Church Administrator, and three other members of the PCC and one other member of the Electoral Roll.

Fabric Sub-Committee – A Quinquennial Inspection report was received in November 2022. This related to the church and churchyard. Responsibility for maintenance and development of the church lies with the PCC. Responsibility for maintenance of the churchyard lies with East Devon District Council. Works arising from the QI report have been categorized according to the various permissions required to address them.

Health and Safety Sub-Committee - A health and safety policy is in place and regularly updated. Health and Safety has an agenda item at each PCC meeting. The committee is a minimum of the Health and Safety Officer and the Church Warden(s).

Friends of St Gregory's Sub-Committee (FOSG)

The mission of FOSG is to ensure the continued existence of the St Gregory's Grade 1 listed Church building as a feature of Seaton for the benefit of the whole community. It also provides financial support for the upkeep of the building to ensure the advancement of the Christian religion. 5 members are appointed annually under the auspices of the PCC.

Pastoral Team – undertakes to ensure that appropriate pastoral care is offered to members of the congregation and wider community. We provide home communion services and visits to individuals and local residential/nursing homes. The Pastoral Team primarily consists of the clergy, Lay Minister Emeritus, Anna Chaplains and other associated laity.

Other working parties or sub-committees are set up for particular projects as and when necessary.

Safeguarding - The PCC places a high priority on its responsibilities towards children and vulnerable adults. It ensures that all those working with these groups undergo appropriate checks. Safeguarding has an agenda item at each PCC meeting. All volunteers, clergy and staff are required to complete Church specific Safeguarding Training appropriate to their role without exception, as per guidelines by the Diocese of Exeter Safeguarding Team. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Review of the Year

PCC Meeting January 17th 2024:

Balance Sheet was presented by Sharon Bruce, who was thanked as she was stepping down from April as PCC Finance Officer.

It was decided to increase the hire charges for the use of the Church Centre from April 2024. We're hoping to run a couple of Lent Courses and Rev Shuna George Pritchard and her husband are prepared to run a small Alpha Course in their home. Shuna is also signed up to the CANVA publishing site.

Finance Committee recommended that we plan our Charitable giving, ie how much and to whom. PCC to suggest charities to be recipients.

On 13th Jan we hosted a well attended Safeguarding Awareness Course.

Justin will be running from John O'Groats to Lands End in March to raise money for the churches and other charities.

April 3rd Meeting:

Defibrillator now installed outside Church Centre, paid for by a legacy and grants.

New 'Bench Policy' agreed.

Statement was read in church on 17 Dec and 3 March that sadly following a serious incident Revd Alison Finch had been asked to step back from all duties and responsibilities in the Mission Community.

Giving had increased by 4.5% following Stewardship Campaign and we had paid 70% of our Parish Share.

Revd Julie Lomas has been appointed our new Rural Dean and Revd Karen Curnock is to be Deanery Secretary.

April 24th Joint PCC Meeting with St Michael's Beer:

In the absence of Revd Justin Montague, David House read a message which stated that the Bishop of Crediton had spoken with the Revd Alison Finch today and had subsequently withdrawn her Permission to Officiate (PTO).

May 22nd Meeting:

David Mason presented a proposal for necessary building works on church tower and internal walls, guttering and electrical work. Estimated cost £47,139+VAT and £5000 contingency, to be taken from restricted funds and investments. Grants to be applied for.

'Early Third informal service to begin on 16th June at 9.30am in Church Centre; also Crafternoons for families at Half Term.

Pentecost Picnic held at Pecorama with garden walks, train rides, ending with worship led by a Christian band.

All PCC completed Safeguarding training. FoSG Spring Bazaar raised £830.

July 24th Meeting:

Anna Chaplains are starting a monthly Memory Church in Church Centre for those finding it difficult to attend regular services.

PCC looked at all the Safeguarding policies which were up for annual review and agreed to adopt them all except the 'Use of Social Media' which needed revision.

Linda Joy was presented with flowers and thanks at her final Greg's Music Makers.

AVCAP (Axe Valley Christians Against Poverty) had their busiest year yet with 16 new clients supported by 11 Befrienders, 2 Debt Coaches (Alix newly trained).

September 11th Meeting:

We have received a free portrait of King Charles, to be placed in the Church Centre.

Anna Chaplain, Mary Casey, attended Study Day in Exeter and National Training Day online.

Amy Dare was appointed as Church Family Worker from September.

PCC received an update on repair work currently being undertaken and costs now increased to £64,733. PCC agreed that £45,000 be released from CBF Income – Investment Account.

FoSG – 60 people attended talk on Seaton Hoard and £270 raised for the church.

November 27th Meeting:

Justin had drawn up Safeguarding Policy for Small Groups agreed by PCC. He also asked members to comment on a draft Small Groups Leader's Manual.

PCC agreed the Budget for 2025. David House and David Mason were to meet with Diocesan Board of Finance for advice in managing our finances.

Contactless machine had cost £250 but has raised about £1,000.

Justin wrote to all parishioners re the Makin Report and resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Fire extinguishers/blankets yearly service completed. Fire safety and evacuation plan updated.

Anna Chaplains – Sue Craker was commissioned as an Anna Chaplain and Mary Casey recommissioned on 24th November.

AVCAP – Justin noted several encouragements with the work.

Repair work virtually completed and 3 grants received.

Postcards with all the Christmas services on are being produced.

Thanks to Bruce Roberts who is retiring as Tower Captain and also to Revd Chris Thacker who is retiring from Assistant Priest but retaining her PTO.

Judi Brewer (PCC Secretary)

Charity Commission

The PCC has been registered as a charity with the Charity Commission since 07 January 2009. The Charity Trustees for 2024 were:

Revd Shuna George Pritchard (Ex Officio)
Mr David Dickinson (Ex Officio)
Mr David House (Ex Officio)
Mr Michael Tabear (wef 2023)
Mrs Mary Casey (wef 2022)
Mr Paul Barns (wef 2022) (Deanery Synod Rep)
Mrs Judi Brewer (wef 2024) (Secretary)

Financial Review

The PCC determined to pay its Common Fund request in part for 2024 (71.5%) when it set the budget in November 2023. The PCC were able to fulfil this.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to approximately three months' unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. In general, it is our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

Public Benefit

The Trustees consider they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 and have paid due regard to the guidance published by the Charities Commission with regard to the public benefit which the charity provides throughout Britain. Our aims make it clear that the church is to be actively involved in the community in which it is situated. We provide a place of worship that is open for all to attend and clearly advertise our weekly worship services. We understand that to be an effective Christian witness our existence is not only for the benefit of the church attendees, but for the community as a whole.

We look forward to 2025 in faith and hope.

Signed:



Revd Justin Montague
Priest-in-Charge



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
St Gregory's Church PCC

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1127403

Set out on pages

10-13

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 trustees of the Trust, 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 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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

K. Silcox

Date:

01/04/2025

Name:

Karen Silcox

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

AAT Licenced Accountant Registration Number 1003207

Address:

19 Beverley Close, Exeter, EX2 5NJ

Receipts and Payments account
For the year ended 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Incoming Resources					
Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving	20,037		600	20,637	19,235
Collections, donations and other gifts	10,154		14,702	24,856	22,626
Income Tax Recovered	6,610		478	7,088	4,899
Legacies	0		0	0	2,000
Grants	273		12,266	12,539	2,382
Activities for generating funds				0	0
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall letting	2,820			2,820	4,566
Income from Other Properties	764			764	843
Annual fete/events	3,007		1,985	4,992	3,723
Investment Income					
Dividends & Interest Income	4,094			4,094	4,247
from charitable activities					
Parochial Fees	5,091			5,091	5,176
Other Incoming resources					
Insurance claims				0	0
Gain on disposal of fixed asset				0	0
Loans received in year				0	0
Other	2,756		12	2,768	377
Total Incoming resources	55,606	0	30,043	85,649	70,074
Resources Expended					
Church Activities					
Donations/Grants to charities	740		0	740	6,600
Mission & Evangelism	1,206		955	2,161	1,833
Parish Share	33,432		0	33,432	33,432
Clergy expenses	745		0	745	883
Church running expenses	5,430		631	6,061	4,948
Churchyard maintenance	0		0	0	0
Cost of raising funds	2,358		30	2,388	3,233
Support Costs	376		577	953	1,252
Administration costs	14,815		9,327	24,142	24,909
Accountancy fees	0		0	0	125
Other	4,470		39	4,509	3,565
Governance Costs	125		0	125	2,766
Major Expenditure					
Repairs to church buildings			68,779	68,779	0
Repairs to other property			2,936	2,936	0
Parochial Fees remitted	2,767			2,767	0
Total resources expended	66,464	0	83,274	149,738	83,546
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	{10,858}	0	{53,231}	{64,089}	{13,472}
Gain/(Loss) on Investment Assets	0		3,053	3,053	2,876
Loans repaid in Year	0		0	0	0
Transfer Between Funds	{130}		130	0	0
Parochial Fees Due	0		0	0	{659}
Net Movements in funds	(10,988)	0	(50,048)	{61,036}	{11,255}
Accumulated funds at the start of the year	25,924	0	119,584	145,508	156,764
Accumulated funds at the end of the year	£14,936	£0	£69,536	£84,472	£145,509

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2008, together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP 2005.

(b) Income

The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

2. Fixed Assets

No value is ascribed to the following:-

The Church of St Gregory and its contents

The Churchyard

The Vicarage

The Church Hall and contents

The reasons for this are as follows:-

The Church and Churchyard are "consecrated" property and the vicarage is a benefice property. These properties are regarded as "inalienable" and are excluded from PCC accounts in compliance with the Charities Act 2011.

The contents of the Church are also to be treated as inalienable assets, in accordance with the CGB guidance (para 5.4) and are also excluded.

The Church Hall is a leasehold property and is legally vested in the Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance Limited as Custodian Trustee. The lease is for a term of 1000 years running from 1826 and its terms would be breached if the use of the hall for Sunday school purposes were to cease. Although the hall is not consecrated property, it is a dedicated building, and so bound up with the worship, mission and ministry of the Church, that it is unthinkable that the Church could operate without it. It is therefore appropriate and legitimate to treat it for accounting purposes as an inalienable asset in the same way as consecrated property.

The values of the contents of the Hall are regarded as insufficiently material to include in the accounts.

Funds

Unrestricted Funds may be used by the PCC for any of its ordinary purposes. The movement in the funds are shown in the Receipts and Payments account.

Designated funds represent sums set aside, out of ordinary unrestricted funds, for specific designated purposes, but they can be transferred back into general funds at any time.

Restricted funds are those funds which must be spent on restricted purposes for which they were given. In this Financial Statement any Expendable Endowments are included in this category.

Also within the Restricted fund there is £2198 which belongs to AVCAP and is solely for their use.