

Liss Parochial Council (LPCC)

Treasurer's Report on the Accounts for 2024

1. Introduction

Income and Expenditure for 2024 show a deficit of £8885, about £1000 less than the beginning of year budget projection, but still significant.

July saw the launch of the Friends of St Mary's (FOSM). Some thirty people have subscribed and/or made donations, the majority of whom are not regular worshippers, but people who value the presence of St Mary's as a building. This represents a good start, but also needs to be a base on which more is built.

In March a generous legacy of £20,225 was received from the estate of the late Rita Dibben. A new Legacy deposit account has been created, into which this has been placed. It is deemed to be 'Designated' i.e. not available as unrestricted income, and needing PCC approval for it to be spent.

In November Revds Clare Welham and Graham Hamborg spoke on consecutive Sundays about the need for increased generous giving if we are to pay our way. There has been a good response, with pledged giving increasing by some 12.5% in the three months following. The challenge of maintaining and increasing financial giving remains, with the 2025 budget still needing to be a deficit budget.

2. Receipts and Payments

A. Unrestricted Funds

As noted above, we ended the year with a deficit.

Total voluntary giving in 2024 increased by just over £1000 from 2023. This was less than the rate of inflation. Fees income from weddings and funerals was down, simply because there were fewer of them – something, obviously, beyond our control. The highly successful summer fête raised over £2300. Net income on the Parish Magazine was down, and maintaining levels of both subscriptions and advertising is challenging.

On the expenditure side, the largest single item is the Parish Share, the system by which ministry is provided across the Diocese of Portsmouth, including our own priest in charge. 2024 saw an increase from £70,538 to £74,064 (there is to be no increase for us in 2025). This is a first call on our resources, and one which we can be glad to meet in view of its prime importance. For the second year running expenditure on repairs and maintenance was relatively low; we are overdue a quinquennial inspection, which will no doubt throw up some necessary work to be done once it is undertaken.

We have been able to support the work of those missions and charities to which the PCC made a two-year commitment of support: Liss Youth Centre (Crossover), Samara's Aid, Mosaic Middle East, and Crossways Counselling. Through special collections and events we have also supported Rock Projects Uganda and the Children's Society, and made further donations to Samara's Aid.

At the end of the year the balance of unrestricted funds was £9970 in our bank accounts and £49,279 in a Deposit Fund.

B. Designated and Restricted Funds

The PCC holds a number of deposit accounts designated for an/or restricted to particular purposes:

The Children and Families Mission (CFM) Fund started life with a generous sum given for the purpose of employing a youth worker. It has been added to along the way, and its balance at the end of 2024 was £49,341. It is to be hoped that this can soon be used towards the employment of a part-time youth worker/children and families minister.

What is often referred to as the Roof Fund (and remains so described in the Accounts) has been re-designated by the PCC as a Fabric Fund, which can be used for other buildings maintenance purposes than the roof. Its balance at the end of 2024 was £19,206. Some further expenditures relating to work on the chancel roof were outstanding, and have been made in the first part of 2025. It needs now to be determined how much (or, hopefully, how little) work is needed on the nave roof. The Hart Male Voice Choir held a concert for this fund, which regrettably did not raise a huge sum (£138 after costs). Our thanks to some donors who have made contributions to this fund.

C. Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)

FOSM is not an independent charity, but holds a separate bank account and deposit account within the PCC accounts. Giving can be made to FOSM via the Parish Giving Scheme, who are able to distinguish between income for St Mary's Church and for FOSM. We are grateful to those people, some church members but the majority not, who have helped to form a committee to progress the work of FOSM. The official launch of FOSM was in July, on the same day as the church fête.

A significant donation was made for the specific purpose of renovation and cleaning of the reredos, which was undertaken during the year.

The balance of FOSM funds at the end of 2024 was £4284.

The Legacy Fund (referred to above) had an end of year balance of £20,698.

3. Policies

During the year the PCC passed a Reserves Policy as follows:

‘The PCC will hold a minimum of £30,000 in reserves. The funds constituting ‘Reserves’ comprise the PCC’s current accounts and CBF Deposit Fund General Account.’

The sum of £30,000 constitutes a little under three months’ operating costs.

During the year the PCC also approved a Legacy Policy, which stated that:

(1) As part of our overall giving strategy, we shall promote the leaving of a legacy to St Mary’s, with sensitive leaflets and documentation. We shall encourage legacy giving to be unrestricted, while making the promise that we shall respect expressed wishes of the deceased in their will or of their next of kin and family i.e. it will be income designated in accordance with wishes expressed or as the PCC determines.

(2) We shall have a separate CBF Deposit Fund into which all legacy income goes. The treasurer will keep note of preferences or wishes expressed in relation to monies therein.

(3) It will be our usual assumption that legacy income will be used for particular projects or development needs. While these may be buildings related, they need not necessarily be so.

The first paragraph has not yet been acted on, and it is to be hoped that it will be during 2025. It would be good if many a will included a legacy to St Mary’s, even if only small.

5. Thanks

My thanks to the members of the Finance committee – John Heath (chair), Rev Clare Welham and Michael Oakley – for their support and scrutiny. My thanks, too, to Rodney Fisher, who has continued to make his advice and expertise available, and has done the major part of the work of preparing these accounts. My thanks to Michael Oakley for his weekly, reliable banking, and to Ruth Hamborg, who processes our Gift Aid.

Michaela Surtees undertook many of the regular, weekly aspects of parish finance as part of her work, and I would like to record our thanks to her for her all that she gave over many years. We wish her well in her new stage of life.

Graham Hamborg



On behalf of the Finance Committee
February 2025

Financial Statements for Year Ended 31 December 2024

Receipts and Payments

	Notes					<i>Total</i>	
		Unrestricted	Fund	Designated	Restricted	All Funds	
		2024	2023	Funds	Funds	2024	2023
				(Note C)	(Note D)		
RECEIPTS							
Voluntary							
Planned giving		56,858	56,711			56,858	56,711
Gift aid tax recovered		16,986	12,792		217	17,203	14,301
Collections at services		3,610	2,598		859	4,469	4,103
Donations and Appeals		3,156	7,500		21,881	25,037	26,757
Voluntary Receipts Total		80,610	79,601	-	22,957	103,567	101,872
Legacies							
			-	20,000		20,000	5,000
Grants	6	1,450	1,800	7,000		8,450	18,865
Activities							
Fundraising		2,705	-		3,475	6,180	6,395
Sale of Fixtures		-	1,051			-	1,051
Parish magazine income	10	2,765	3,532			2,765	3,532
Fees for weddings/funerals	7	1,388	3,942			1,388	3,942
Property rent	2	9,540	8,700			9,540	8,700
Church Hire Fees		738	1,345			738	1,345
Activity Receipts Total		17,136	18,570	-	3,475	20,611	24,965
Interest & Investment Income							
Dividends	**		700			-	700
Bank & Deposit interest		2,053	1,480	2,291	968	5,312	7,331
Investment Income Total		2,053	2,180	2,291	968	5,312	8,031
RECEIPTS Total		101,249	102,151	29,291	27,400	157,940	158,733
PAYMENTS							
Diocesan Share	8	74,064	70,538			74,064	70,538
Clergy & Staffing							
Clergy & Reader expenses	9	613	347			613	347
Salaries		9,559	9,868			9,559	9,868
Staff Training		144				144	
Rectory costs		640	32			640	32
Clergy & Staffing Total		10,956	10,247	-	-	10,956	10,247
Charitable Giving	11	4,100	1,825		15,520	19,620	19,101
Church Running Costs							
Insurance		2,155	2,099			2,155	2,099
Building maintenance	5	1,334	2,065		5,280	6,614	2,065
Services Expenses		684	1,265			684	1,265
Housekeeping		334	263			334	263
Churchyard		5,020	1,080			5,020	1,080
Gas/electricity/water		5,381	4,794			5,381	4,794
Telephone & Internet		515	460			515	460
Photocopying	10,13	1,653	1,339			1,653	1,339
Administration		1,586	1,836		250	1,836	1,836
Church Running Costs Total		18,662	15,201	-	5,530	24,192	15,201
Activities							
Parish magazine costs	10,13	1,795	1,927			1,795	1,927
Children & Family		14	236			14	236
Event Expenses					511	511	428
Hospitality & Community Events		543	543			543	543
Activity Payments Total		2,352	2,706	-	511	2,863	3,134
PAYMENTS Total		110,134	100,517	-	21,561	131,695	118,221
Reordering & Roof payments				1,127		1,127	102,471
NET RECEIPTS/-PAYMENTS	A	-8,885	1,634	28,164	5,839	25,118	-61,959

Financial Statements for Year Ended 31 December 2024

Assets and Liabilities

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund 2024	Designated Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total All Funds 2024	Total All Funds 2023
ASSETS	1					
Freehold Property	2	150,000			150,000	150,000
Investments at Market Value					-	
Deposit Fund	B	49,729	65,290	24,877	139,896	99,103
Bank - Current Accounts		9,970	-	4,824	14,794	30,469
TOTAL ASSETS		209,699	65,290	29,701	304,690	279,572
			Note C	Note D		
LIABILITIES (Note 13)						
Roofing Costs				2,227	2,227	6,129
Salary Costs		762			762	-
Utilities		673			673	-
Prepaid Magazine Adverts					-	509
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,435	-		3,662	6,638
NET ASSETS		208,264	65,290	29,701	301,028	272,934
2023		218,075	30,997	23,862	272,934	

Approved by Liss PCC on

Signed on their behalf by Rev Clare Welham (Liss PCC Chair)

NOTE A -Bank Current Accounts

At 1st January		28,661	-	397	2,205	30,469	22,187
Receipts/(-Payts)	Page 1	-8,885		28,164	5,839	25,118	-54,552
Interest on Deposit Funds	B	-1,806		-2,291	-968	-5,065	-7,407
Deposit Transfers	B	-8,000	-	25,476	2,252	-35,728	70,241
At 31st December		9,970		-	4,824	14,794	30,469

Note B -Deposit Funds

At 1st January		39,923		37,523	21,657	99,103	113,436
Interest Received	A	1,806		2,291	968	5,065	7,407
Sale of Investments							55,908
Bank Transfers	A	8,000		25,476	2,252	35,728	77,648
At 31st December		49,729		65,290	24,877	139,896	99,103

Financial Statements for Year Ended 31 December 2024

Assets and Liabilities (Continued)

Note C -DESIGNATED FUNDS	Notes	Roof Note 5	Child & Fam Mission	Legacies		Totals 2024	Totals 2023
Income							
Legacies				20,000		20,000	5,000
Donation						-	1,000
Interest Received		609	984	698		2,291	4,397
Fundraising						-	304
Grants	6	7,000				7,000	17,065
Total Income		7,609	984	20,698		29,291	27,766
Expenditure							
Contractor Costs						-	86,846
Architect Fees		1,127				1,127	12,192
Bat Survey						-	3,433
Total Expense		1,127	-			1,127	102,471
Net Expense(-)/Income		6,482	984	20,698		28,164	-74,705
Balance 1 January		10,425	26,700			37,125	96,681
Cost Transfer- Restricted Fund						-	15,149
Balance 31 December		16,907	27,684	20,698		65,289	37,125

Note D -RESTRICTED FUNDS	Notes	Roof Note 12	Child & Fam Mission	Priest in Charge Fnds	Events & Collections	Friends of St Marys	2024 Total	2023 Total
Income								
Donations		1,040		12,069	1,442	7,330	21,881	18,257
Fundraising	12	1,678			1,452	345	3,475	6,091
Church Collections					859		859	1,505
Gift aid tax recovered						217	217	1,509
Interest Received			921			47	968	1,454
Total Income		2,718	921	12,069	3,753	7,939	27,400	28,816
Expenditure								
Charitable Giving	11			11,859	3,661		15,520	17,276
Repairs & Maintenance						5,280	5,280	
Administrative Costs						250	250	
Event Expenses	12	419			92		511	428
Total Expense		419	-	11,859	3,753	5,530	21,561	17,704
Net Expense(-)/Income		2,299	921	210	-	2,409	5,839	11,112
Balance 1 January		-	21,657	330		1,875	23,862	27,899
Cost Allocation frm Designated							-	- 15,149
Balance 31 December		2,299	22,578	540	-	4,284	29,701	23,862

Financial Statements for Year Ended 31 December 2024**Additional Notes**

- 1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The Receipts and Payments statement is prepared on a cash basis. The Statement of Assets and Liabilities reflects asset values and accruals.

Movable church furnishings held by churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are recognised but not valued .

2 Freehold Property

St Marys and its surrounds are on land given to the PCC in 1895.

In 2000, part of the original land grant, including that on which a church hall had been built, was sold to a developer, who agreed to build, at his expense, a replacement hall on the remaining land with the PCC.

The developer estimated the hall cost at £150,000, and PCC valued the property accordingly.

The buildings sum insured for 2024 property insurance policy is £485,000.

The insurance underwriters last formally valued the property in February 2019 at £350,000.

The church hall is leased to Liss Youth Centre Limited ("Crossover") for 10 years to 31st December 2025.

Under the lease the tenant is responsible for full repairs and all insurance costs.

The annual rent for the first 5 years was £7,200. The annual rent for 2021 was agreed at £8000, with increments of £350 in each of the following 4 calendar years.

3 The PCC's General Fund Cash Reserve Policy is disclosed in the Treasurer's Report**4 Investments**

The Deposit Funds are invested by CCLA in the CBF Church of England (CoE) Deposit Fund a "Deposit Rate Tracker", which aims to provide a high level of capital security and competitive rates of interest, suitable for all CoE Charity's short term investments.

5 Quinquennial Review

The last Quinquennial survey was carried out in August 2016

The quinquennial assessment has been deferred to 2025.

6 Grants Received

	2024	2023
EHDC towards Churchyard maintenance	1,200	1,100
Liss Parish Council	250	200
Portsmouth Diocese Church Energy Grant		500
Subtotal	1,450	1,800
Hampshire & Island Churches Trust re Roof Tile Replacement	7,000	
Listed Places of Worship (LPOW) Grant Scheme - Roof Tile replacement in 2023		17,065
LPOW grants are based on VAT paid on fixed building infrastructure costs, including professional fees.		

7 Fees From Weddings and Funerals

	2024	2023
Amount Received by PCC net of disbursements	3,431	6,186
Payments to Diocese	- 2,043	- 2,244
Net Income	1,388	3,942

8 Diocesan Share

An allocation of Portsmouth Diocese annual Parish Cost budget of aprox £5million, covering

i) Clergy salaries, pension contribution, housing and other expenses

ii) Outreach, mission, education and social work

which are apportioned between parishes, rather than a recovery of actual costs.

The Diocesan Synod has advised the 2025 Parish Share would remain at the 2024 level of £74,064

A proportion of fees received for weddings and funerals is paid to the Diocese (Note 7)

Financial Statements for Year Ended 31 December 2024**Additional Notes (Continued)****9 Clergy & Reader expenses**

Payments made to Clergy & Readers were direct reimbursement of monies spent and car allowances arising from travel on church business.

No sums were paid to PCC members other than for reimbursement of expenditure incurred, which is recorded in the accounts under the appropriate headings.

10 Parish Magazine

Income	2024	2023
Advertising	603	1,223
Subscriptions	2,162	2,309
Total Income	2,765	3,532
Expenditure		
Copier Costs (allocation) & Postage	1,727	1,927
Net Income	1,038	1,605

Income is billed for a calendar year.

11 Charitable Giving

From Parish Funds	2024	2023
Crossover	1,800	1,800
Crossways Counselling	730	
Samara	730	
Mosaic	730	
Uganda Rock Project	85	
Hampshire & Island Churches Trust	25	25
	4,100	1,825

From Special Collections (See Footnote and Note D) **

Events-Pop up Breakfast - Samara Earth Quake	1,015	1,147
Other Breakfasts - Samara Earth Quake	462	359
- Ride & Stride (50% rebated)	1,000	
- Ukrainian Choir Concert		887
Special Collections- Royal British Legion	430	390
- Childrens Society Christingle	429	429
- Uganda Rock Project	325	606
	3,661	3,818

From Funds Donated for Specified Charities (Note D) **11,859** **13,358**

Charitable Giving Expenditure Total **19,620** **19,001**

**** Footnote on Special collections.**

These include donations for specific causes payable to the benefitting charity in full.

The PCC is usually able to recover Gift Aid on such donations and pass it onto the Charity.

12 Fund Raising Events for Roof Fund

	2024	2023
Barn Dance (Part)	261	537
Quiz Night	859	
Hart Male Voice Choir	139	
Soup Kitchen		801
Spirit of Music Concert		1,191
Sienna Choir Concert		1,167
Jazz Concert		953
Liss Forest Tea Tent		304
	1,259	4,953

13 Non Cancellable Long Term Lease Commitment

	2024	2023
The PCC has agreed to lease a photocopier for 5 years ending January 2027		
The annual amount of non-cancellable lease payments including VAT	1,580	1,580

Independent examiner's report on the accounts of
The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Mary's, Liss

Registered Charity No: 1128279

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

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.

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 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.....*Leonie Sadler*.....

Date.....06/03/2025.....

Leonie Sadler ACMA
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