

**The Parochial Church Council of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of
St James, Milton, Portsmouth
Charity No: 1129165**

Annual Report

And

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2024

St James' Church Milton (Charity Commission Reg. No. 1129165)
Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St James' Church is sited at 285/287 Milton Road, Southsea. The ecclesiastical parish is situated in the Diocese of Portsmouth within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St James Vicarage, 287 Milton Road, Southsea, PO4 8PG.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a registered charity with the Charity Commission, number 1129165. Members of the PCC are either *ex officio* or elected at the Annual General Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The membership of the PCC during the year were:

Vicar	Revd Darren A'Court (from 10 Jan 24)
Asst Curate	Vacant
Churchwardens	Mr Mark Pearce (up to 12 May 24) Miss Stella Wansborough Mrs Ann Murray (from 12 May 24)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Miss Jill Chalmers Mrs Alison Threlkeld also PCC elected
Elected members	Mrs Ruth Baber (up to 12 May 24) Mrs Jeannette A Beech Miss Valerie England Mrs Sandra A Lamburth Mrs Catriona Maton Mr Mark Pearce (from 12 May 24) Mr Paul H Tallack Mrs Caroline Tyler (from 12 May 24) Mr Gerald Vernon-Jackson Mrs Bridget H A Wade

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of members of the PCC is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC operates through a number of committees that meet between full meetings of the PCC. These are:-

Standing committee

It is the only statutory committee. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St James' PCC has the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is also responsible for maintaining the Church/Hall complex of St James, Milton, in the Diocese of Portsmouth together with the one property owned by the parish at 51 Goldsmith Avenue.

St James' Church Milton (Charity Commission Reg. No. 1129165)
Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024 (continued)

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The year began with my Institution as your new Vicar on 10 January by Bishop Jonathan. It was lovely service and kindly some parishioners both from Amesbury and a previous parish had made the trip to be with us on this special day. Jeanette and I are extremely grateful for the continued warmth of the St James community in welcoming and supporting us. In December, to say 'thank you' for the tremendous support of everyone in seeing me through my first year here we arranged drinks and nibbles gatherings for PCC members, the serving team and the choir, as well as for the congregation as a whole. This brief summary of the year cannot do justice to the fact that in so many different ways you have all worked enormously hard during the interregnum and continue to do so – thank you, everyone!

Our worship this year has remained broadly unchanged. In the light of very small numbers attending, an early decision had to be made to discontinue the 8am Mass on Sundays. The Parish Mass on Sundays at 10am and the said Mass at 10am on Wednesdays are well attended and we continue to see new worshippers joining us. The choir and serving team have recruited new members and contribute enormously to our worship. During Lent, a course on pathways in prayer was held on Wednesdays after the Mass and Stations of the Cross on Sunday evenings. In February, we resumed the practice of offering a shared chalice during Holy Communion, thereby relinquishing one of the remaining legacies of the COVID pandemic. Physical sharing of the peace and, moving into 2025, resumed use of the altar rail, followed.

During the Parish Mass we have been fortunate to have occasional homilies from Fr John and we have welcomed guest speakers from a range of charities, including some directly supported by St James. At the beginning of October, we marked Generosity Week, which concluded with the Harvest Thanksgiving. In connection with Homelessness Sunday, Steve McFarlane of Tereo Ministries spoke about the city's Hope into Action project and about Street Pastors. On Bible Sunday John and Rachel Waters returned to speak about their Bible translation work in the Middle East. Finally, in November, we welcomed Gabby North from the Leprosy Mission and she reported having received very generous donations from our congregation on the day.

During the year we have had several baptisms and (sadly) funerals, including some held at the crematorium and at Milton Cemetery, and occasionally an interment of ashes in our Garden of Remembrance. There was also a Service of Prayer and Dedication after Civil Marriage in April and a wedding in July, with more booked for subsequent years. The RNLI marked its 200th Anniversary in September with a service here at St James organised by its local Chaplain, Fr John, and led by Archdeacon Kathryn Percival, representing Bishop Jonathan. In October, the Kennaway grave in St James' churchyard was blessed after being repaired and replanted with flowers. In November four parishioners were confirmed at the Cathedral, with a fifth to join them at the February service in 2025; they all received their first Holy Communion on the following day during the Parish Mass here at St James. The year has been laced with numerous social occasions, including the annual barbecue in the Vicarage garden after the Parish Mass for our Patronal Festival in July. The pattern of regular coffee mornings, tabletop sales and the Summer and Christmas Fayres, along with our periodic quizzes, have filled the church and lower hall with parishioners enjoying themselves. All of this has been with the backdrop of continued use of the two church halls

by various church and community groups which has provided both a thriving means of outreach and an important income stream for St James.

The many schools in our parish maintain good links with St James. Many arrange to hold services at St James, primarily for Christmas, but also at other times, such as the end of the school year. On other occasions there are visits to St James by particular year groups to pursue topics and themes during the year. I also go into the schools when asked to deliver sessions on suitable topics for various groups of pupils, which is always much appreciated. In November, I joined some pupils from Milton Park Primary School for the annual Cross of Sacrifice ceremony at Milton Cemetery. The Minstead Trust also held their annual Christmas Service here in December.

In February and in June the Churchwardens and I met with the church architect to progress plans for the necessary roof works for the church building, but unfortunately the architect subsequently withdrew from the project. In September we met with Emma Mullen, an architect with whom I had worked on extensive roof projects in my previous parish, and the PCC subsequently confirmed her appointment as our new church architect. She has been working with us to review what is needed and to move the project forward more quickly so that work can start during 2025. During the year a Roof Rescue Project Group was established to support work on grant applications (very important if we are to fund the significant fabric works while safeguarding some of our existing financial resources). One small but nonetheless impactful development during the year was the replacement of the existing signboards in the grounds of St James Church and Vicarage – they present a strikingly attractive invitation to St James, to all who pass by.

Every blessing

 2/3/25

Fr Darren

Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969

CERTIFICATE OF EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE (a)

(Where required by regulation 5 of the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998 (the Regulations), one or more copies of this certificate must be displayed at each place of business at which the policyholder employs persons covered by the policy)

Policy Number:	P-0000267039/02
Name of policyholder:	The Vicar and Churchwardens for the time being and the Parochial Church Council of Milton St James in the Diocese of Portsmouth
Date of commencement of insurance policy:	1 January 2024
Date of expiry of insurance policy:	31 December 2024

We hereby certify that subject to paragraph 2:-

1. The policy to which this certificate relates satisfies the requirements of the relevant law applicable in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Island of Jersey, the Island of Guernsey and the Island of Alderney (b); and
2. (a) the minimum amount of cover provided by this policy is no less than £5 million

Signed on behalf of Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc (Authorised Insurer)

Mark Hews

Notes

- (a) Where the employer is a company to which regulation 3(2) of the Regulations applies, the certificate shall state in a prominent place, either that the policy covers the holding company and all its subsidiaries, or that the policy covers the holding company and all its subsidiaries except any specifically excluded by name, or that the policy covers the holding company and only the named subsidiaries.
- (b) Specify applicable law as provided for in regulation 4(6) of the Regulations.
- (c) See regulation 3(1) of the Regulations and delete whichever of paragraphs 2(a) or 2(b) does not apply. Where 2(b) is applicable specify the amount of cover provided by the relevant policy.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO POLICYHOLDERS

Under the terms of the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 the requirement to display a certificate will be satisfied if it is made available in electronic form and each relevant employee to whom it relates has reasonable access to it in that form.



Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

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**Financial Statements prepared by Paul Tallack, Parish
Treasurer**

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

Independent Examiner's Report

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 2-10, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with The Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of The Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirements of The Regulations and s.43 (2) of The Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of Regulations.


Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43 (7) (b) of The Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by these accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:


KEVIN RICHARDSON FCILEX.

23. March 2025.

Kevin Richardson
Flat 29, Marina View
Harbour Road
Gosport
PO12 1BQ

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	NOTE					
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming Resources from donors.	2(a)	43166	898		44064	43404
Other voluntary incoming resources.	2(b)	18059	233		18292	10507
Income from charitable & ancillary trading.	2(c)	27864			27864	29196
Other ordinary incoming resources.	2(d)	11025			11025	8594
Income from investments.	2(e)	28695			28695	23082
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		128809	1131		129940	114783
RESOURCES USED						
Grants.	3(a)	4587	898		5485	5546
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church.	3(b)	113768	233		114001	102200
Church management & administration.	3(c)	2029			2029	2951
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		120384	1131		121515	110697
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		8425			8425	4086
BALANCES BROUGHT F/W AT 1 JANUARY 2024		425980	22053	310316	758349	728450
Movement of:						
Investment Discretionary Fund			1126		1126	485
Gain on Revaluation of Investment Assets				7401	7401	25328
BALANCES VARIED F/W AT 31 DECEMBER 2024		434405	23179	317717	775301	758349

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

Balance Sheet as 31 December 2024

	NOTE	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investment Assets	4(a)	317717	310316
Tangible Fixed Assets	4(b)	2	2
CURRENT ASSETS		317719	310318
Debtors	6	282	560
National Savings Income Bonds		35000	35000
National Savings Investment		9788	9788
CBF Investment Fund		360000	360000
Lloyds Current Account		15350	45191
Lloyds Deposit Account		45085	-
CBF Investment (discretionary)		23179	22053
		488684	472592
LIABILITIES	7	31102	24561
NET CURRENT ASSETS		457582	448031
NET ASSETS		775301	758349
FUNDS	5		
Unrestricted		434405	425980
Restricted		23179	22053
Endowments		317717	310316
		775301	758349

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 16 February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd Darren A'Court (Chairman)



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The notes on pages 4-10 form part of these accounts.

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

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

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001, together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application for the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the account of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary Income and Capital Sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable of Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is registered.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Funds raised by the fete, garden party and similar events, are account for gross.

Sunday morning coffee proceeds are accounted for net.

Other Income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due, as is the case with 51 Goldsmith Avenue.

Income from Investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Gains and Losses on Investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

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

1. Accounting Policies cont.

Resources Used

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities Directly Relating to the Work of the Church

The Diocesan Quota or Parish Share is accounted for when payable. Any quote unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (although not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated Land and Buildings, and Movable Church Furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether for maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and Office Equipment

Equipment used with the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
2. INCOMING RESOURCES					
2(a) Incoming Resources from Donors					
Planned giving:					
Stewardship	30235			30235	29567
Income Tax Recoverable from Gift Aid	7798			7798	7748
Collections:					
Ordinary	4297			4297	4115
Weddings/Funerals	836			836	1146
Special		898		898	828
	43166	898		44064	43404
2(b) Other Voluntary Incoming Resources					
Legacies and Donations	6854			6854	784
Summer Fayre	2477			2477	2364
Christmas Bazaar	2875			2875	2078
Coffee Mornings	284			284	195
Votive Candles	261			261	394
Flower Donations		233		233	144
Parish Social Events	1442			1442	836
Sunday Morning Coffee	2751			2751	2699
Table Top Sales	1115			1115	1013
	18059	233		18292	10507

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

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

INCOMING RESOURCES cont.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
2(c) Incoming from Charitable & Ancillary Trading					
Milton Review Subscriptions	488			488	421
Milton Review Advertising	590			590	645
Milton Review Offertory Box	347			347	238
Milton Review Donations	58			58	68
Church Hall Lettings	22508			22508	22769
PCC Fees	2866			2866	4576
Studio Cards/Books	255			255	479
Centenary Book Sales	65			65	-
Auction Proceeds	571			571	-
Stations of the Cross Booklets	116			116	-
	27864			27864	29196
2(d) Other Ordinary Incoming Resources					
Rents:					
51 Goldsmith Avenue	11025			11025	8594
	11025			11025	8594
2(e) Income from Investments					
Interest	28695			28695	23082
	28695			28695	23082

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

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

3. RESOURCES USED

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
3(a) Grants					
Missionary & Charitable Giving:					
Special Collections		898		898	828
Almsgiving	4587			4587	4718
	4587	898		5485	5546
3(b) Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church					
Ministry: Diocesan Quota	55535			55535	52890
Deanery Synod	264			264	264
Vicarage Expenses	497			497	-
51 Goldsmith Avenue	3782			3782	9075
Clergy Expenses	1269			1269	306
Other Clergy Costs					
Church Running Expenses					
Light and Heat	7186			7186	5646
Insurance	6372			6372	6164
Service Expenses	2470			2470	1886
Licences	615			615	556
Church Maintenance	5070			5070	3432
Organ Maintenance	828			828	1321
Salary of Organist	6945			6945	5619
RSCM Subs	133			133	127
Upkeep of Churchyard	8380			8380	2100
Church Hall Running Costs	4617			4617	2268
Salary of Cleaner	5820			5820	5079
Flowers		233		233	144
Sundries	60			60	30
Parish Social Events	1442			1442	836
Equipment Leasing	1209			1209	907
Architect Fees	975			975	2740
Junior Church/Little Shells	8			8	12
Payroll Expenses	291			291	-
Interview Expenses	-			-	798
	113768	233		114001	102200

Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

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

3. RESOURCES USED cont.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
3(c) Church Management & Administration					
Printing & Stationery	1848			1848	2400
Stewardship Envelopes	81			81	71
Audit Gratuity	100			100	100
Chinneck Shaw Management & Commission Charges re: 51 Goldsmith Avenue	-			-	380
	2029			2029	2951

During the year the PCC employed an organist and a Church Hall cleaner, neither of whom earned more than £50,000 pa or more.

3(d) The organist; Mr H Darnley-Smith and various locum organists were paid £6945 during the year. The Church Hall cleaner, Mrs A Grigo was paid £5820 during the year.

Apart from the above, no other member received any reimbursement of expenses or remuneration.

4. FIXED ASSETS

4(a) Investment Assets
Trust Funds held by the Diocese of Portsmouth are as follows:

	Book Value £	Market Value £
Empshott Rd Parsonage Trust	14678	32457
Jeffrey Memorial Trust	317	1497
St James Trust	1133	45089
St Patrick's Mission Hall Trust	88300	174948
St Patrick's Parsonage Trust	1897	63726
	106325	317717

4(b) Tangible fixed Assets

Printer & Photocopier (NBV £1 each)	2	2
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Parochial Church Council of St James, Milton

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

5. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fixed Assets			317717	317717
Current Assets	403303	23179		426482
Current Liabilities	31102			31102
	434405	23179	317717	775301

6. DEBTORS

	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Hall Lettings	282	560
	282	560

7. LIABILITIES (AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR)

	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Almsgiving` `	9305	4718
Christingle Collection	431	459
Christmas Card Collection	241	213
Legacies and Donations	11628	11628
Marriage Garden Fund	1160	1160
Parish Social Events	5382	4762
Church Maintenance	1169	585
Flower Fund	-	76
Walsingham	210	210
Light & Heat	-	750
Roof Rescue Donations	1576	
	31102	24561