

**PARISH OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
ROWLANDS CASTLE**



**ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

**AGENDA FOR VESTRY MEETING AND
THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING FOR
THE PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST ROWLANDS CASTLE
17 March 2024 at 10.00am IN THE CHURCH**

Opening Prayer.

VESTRY MEETING (ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS)

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the last Meeting – Sunday 26 March 2023
3. Election of two Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the last Meeting – Sunday 26 March 2023
4. Matters Arising (if any)
5. Receive the Electoral Roll Report
6. Receive the Finance Report & Accounts
7. Receive the Fabric Report
8. Receive the Deanery Synod Report
9. Receive the PCC Annual Report
10. Election of Deanery Synod Members
11. Election of PCC Members
12. Appoint the Independent Examiner
13. Vicar's Statement
14. Closing Prayer

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting (Annual Meeting of Parishioners) for the Parish of St John the Baptist Rowlands Castle held on Sunday 26 March 2023 in the Church.

Chair: Pam Ewing

1. Welcome

John Skinner began by explaining that Rev Vickie Morgan was ill, and unable to chair the meeting, so Pam Ewing (PE) (Treasurer) was going to take her place. He said that the meeting was being audio recorded for the purpose of taking the minutes, and there were no objections.

PE welcomed those present and explained the purpose of the meeting (to appoint new Churchwardens). The meeting opened in prayer.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 15th May 2022 were approved. It was recorded that John Skinner was elected as the only churchwarden at that meeting.

3. Election of Churchwardens

A nomination had been received for Raymond Youngs, proposed by PE and seconded by John Skinner. There were no further nominations from the floor. It was suggested that Nick Granger-Brown would be a suitable nomination, but he has been asked and has said 'No'. The nomination was approved nem. con., and Raymond Youngs was therefore elected churchwarden for the year 2023-24.

There being no other business, PE declared the meeting closed.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the Parish of St John the Baptist Rowlands Castle held on Sunday 26 March 2023 in the Church.

Chair: Pam Ewing

1. Welcome

PE explained that Rev Vickie was unwell, so PE was chairing the meeting instead. She welcomed 32 members present, reminding them that this meeting was concerned with the events of the calendar year 2022.

2. Apologies for Absence

The Rev. Vickie Morgan, Terry & Mandy Monahan, Jonathan Nash, Roger & Diane Watson, Valerie Palmer, Carol Milford & Marion Collin had all offered apologies.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 15th May 2022 had been distributed and were taken as read. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Daphne Youngs, seconded by Alan Elliot and agreed by all.

4. Matters Arising

Barbara Openshaw observed that the minutes of the APCM for 2020 were unavailable at the 2021 APCM and wondered if they had ever been found. The answer was no.

5. Electoral Roll Report

Chris Churchley explained that the Electoral Roll is revised every year and renewed completely every 6 years. The next renewal will be in 2025. He reported that at the start of 2022 there were 78 members, and at the end there were 6 additions and 1 removal, making a total of 83. After the revision recently carried out, another 5 additions have been made, so the current Electoral Roll stands at 88. (March 2023). The report was received by the meeting.

6. Finance Report and Accounts

The examined accounts had been circulated in advance of the meeting. PE observed that the figures for 2022 showed that we had restored our reserves to the recommended level of £23,000. This was mainly due to increased

Centre bookings, and the Administrator salary being removed from the General Fund to a Reserved Fund, and the generous giving of a few to cover the cost of manning the office for 3 mornings a week. However, the general trend of regular giving was DOWNWARD.

PE warned that we should not be complacent. At present, a few generous members pay for the Administrator, but this is not fair: the whole church should bear the cost. Additionally, we have to face fuel bills of 4 times those of 2022 – total gas and electricity bills in 2022 amounted to c. £3,400, projected figures based on the same consumption for 2023 come to £12,700. So that means £7,200 (Admin salary) + £9,300 (fuel bill increase) = £16,500 more to be raised – a 22% rise in income. We have increased Centre hire fees by 10%, but they are only 14% of our total income.

Another expense due will be the Quinquennial inspection – a compulsory 5-yearly building inspection, due last year but still awaited, that will no doubt raise issues to be resolved.

So, the challenge is to try and increase our income to meet our predicted expenditure. At a recent Deanery Synod meeting, the Diocesan Financial Advisor suggested that we introduce the idea of leaving a legacy to the church in our Will – a long-term 'solution', but one we could start thinking about today.

If each family thinks carefully about how much they give regularly, and how much it has changed since they started their standing order/direct debit. The Parish Giving Scheme helps with this, as you can arrange to increase your gift automatically every year.

PE concluded by asking if anyone has any bright ideas about Fundraising, please share them.

The acceptance of the Financial Report was proposed by Zoë Skinner, seconded by Jill Hewitt and carried unanimously.

7. Fabric Report

The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. A new architect for the church has been appointed, and it was noted that the quinquennial inspection was due in 2022. The report was received by the meeting.

8. Deanery Synod Report

The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The report was received by the meeting.

9. PCC Annual Report

The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Chris Powne proposed the report be accepted. The report was received by the meeting.

10. Election of Deanery Synod Members

Graham Mitchell proposed and Jill Hewitt seconded that Mary Close and Pam Ewing were re-elected as Deanery Synod members there being no other nominations.

11. Election of PCC Members

2 existing members – Graham Mitchell and David Mann - have stood down from the PCC as their 3-year term was complete, and a 3rd – Joanna Mills - has resigned for personal reasons. This leaves just 3 elected members (Valerie Palmer, Chris Powne and Roger Watson) all with another year to run.

5 nominations had been received:

- Rosemary Harbour proposed by Roger Watson, seconded by Diane Watson
- Marion Collin proposed by Bill Wilson, seconded by Diane Watson
- Carol Milford proposed by Graham Mitchell, seconded by Ann Mitchell
- Alan Elliot proposed by Graham Dale, seconded by Ian Hewitt
- John Skinner proposed by Pam Ewing, seconded by Daphne Youngs

The nominations were approved nem. con., and Rosemary Harbour, Marion Collin, Carol Milford, Alan Elliott and John Skinner were therefore elected to the PCC for the period 2023-2026.

12. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was proposed by Pam Ewing that Sandra Hodgetts be re-appointed as Independent Examiner. This proposal was approved nem. con., and Sandra Hodgetts was therefore appointed.

13. Vicar's Statement

The Vicar being absent, PE instead prayed for her that God would bless her, and give her wisdom, discernment and strength to lead the churches of Rowlands Castle, Blendworth, Chalton and Idsworth, and the Governing Body of Saint John's School.

PE also thanked John Skinner for his time as Church Warden not just last year but for a total of 14 years overall in the role.

14. Any other Business

Graham Mitchell pointed out that Chris Churchley had resigned as the Electoral Roll Officer and Gift Aid, and a replacement was needed. It was thought Marion Collin has offered to carry out these duties. Chris was thanked for his long service in those tasks.

15. Closing Prayer

Lizzy Gradidge closed the meeting in prayer.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Administrative Information

Full Parochial Name: St. John the Baptist, Rowlands Castle
Benefice: Rowlands Castle
Diocese: Portsmouth
Location: Rowlands Castle, Hampshire
Parish Office: 120 Redhill Road, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire PO9 6DF

Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

**Standing Committee members*

During the year 2022 the following served as members of the PCC:

Priest-in Charge:	The Revd Victoria Morgan*Chair (<i>until Dec 2023</i>)
Interim Minister:	The Revd Dr Sarah Baker (<i>from Jan 2024</i>)
Associate Priest:	The Revd Joy Windsor
Licensed Readers:	Terry Monahan Mary Close* (Deanery Synod Rep) Zoë Skinner Chris Hollis (Safeguarding Officer - DBS checks) Bob Raley
Ex-Officio Member:	Pam Ewing* (Deanery Synod Rep/Treasurer)
Elected Members:	Carol Milford* (Parish Safeguarding Officer) Marion Collin (Electoral Roll Officer) Valerie Palmer Roger Watson Christine Powne John Skinner Rosie Harbour Alan Elliott

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules as published online by the Church of England General Synod at: (<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/churchrepresentation-rules/church-representation-rules-online>)

All regular church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC is the body of trustees for the Parish.

Charitable Status

The PCC is an Ecclesiastical Charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registered Charity No. 1129918.

Review of the Year

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 23rd March 2023 the former Churchwarden, John Skinner, stood down and Raymond Youngs was appointed as Churchwarden;

In October 2023, the Revd Vickie Morgan resigned with effect from 31st December 2023;

The PCC met on the following dates:

- 22nd May, 10th July, and 18th September 2023;
- 14th August 2023, to hold an all-day prayer meeting about the future of the church;
- 13th November 2023, to agree to the appointment of the Revd Dr Sarah Baker as Interim Minister with effect from the 1st January 2024;
- 8th January 2024 (with the Archdeacon and Area Dean present initially), to decide the future of St Johns Church, and decided that it should remain a Benefice on its own and should take accept the offer from the Diocese for funding for an incumbent for St Johns, on a half-time basis with housing provided at St Johns Vicarage, College Close;
- 15th January 2024 (with the Archdeacon and Area Dean present initially) to receive advice as to the procedure for appointing a new incumbent); and
- 7th February 2024, to develop a Mission Action Plan.

On 25th January 2024, the Archdeacon and her personal assistant carried out a Fabric Inspection of the Church and Church Centre.

Revd Dr Sarah Baker

ELECTORAL ROLL

At the 2023 APCM the Roll stood at 88. There were 4 additions and 2 deletions, and the Roll at year end stood at 90.

Marion Collin

SAFEGUARDING

The Church adheres to the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy, copies of which can be found in the Church and Church Centre, and are available upon request from the church office.

PCC members and anyone involved in volunteering for all the various aspects of church life which are deemed desirable or necessary to receive DBS clearance and to undergo training, have been attending or completing on E- Learning the required safeguarding courses. This is an ongoing process whenever anyone comes forward to volunteer.

Carol Milford

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS

In 2023 at St. John's, there were 5 baptisms, 1 marriage, and 9 funerals in church,

Pam Ewing

FABRIC

This has been another quiet year regarding fabric. Funds are limited for any new major projects. There have, however, been a few notable events.

Architect

We have changed our architect and appointed a new one, John-Paul Rogers. This will be his first appointment as a church architect.

Quinquennial Inspection

The Quinquennial Inspection is now overdue. It should be completed within the near future. We expect a few issues to be raised, including the crumbling pillar bases and the cracked ceiling.

Water Ingress

Water ingress in the south aisle is a continuing problem. Keeping the gutters cleared is the best remedy we have at present. We await any further comments in the quinquennial report.

Centre Lights

We are thankful for a grant that we received from the EHDC which enabled us to replace all the lights in the church centre with LED equivalents. The emergency lights have also been checked and replaced where necessary.

Centre Painting

We are hoping to get the church centre repainted in the near future.

Projector

We have a new projector in the church to replace the old one that died last year.

John Skinner

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Churchyard

The magnificent display of crocuses in February is due to some 20 + years of 'deliberate neglect'. The dioceses of Lichfield and Gloucester initiated God's Little Acre at the turn of the century, encouraging churches to be more aware of the wildlife in our churchyards – and particularly NOT to mow every available area. Some 20 years on the results are so impressive; the crocuses, primroses, wood anemones and, later, bluebells are slowly spreading across large areas of the churchyard – including the North side of the church. The ox-eye daisies and wild geraniums will be up later in the year and are both a bit invasive, but they do provide great spreads of flowers during early to mid Summer.

Particular thanks are due to the Blendworth Centre, who send out their teams every 4 weeks to cut and trim the main areas from April to October.

A few people each contribute in different ways to help maintain the tidiness of the church grounds and we offer our thanks to the following:

Paul Marshman puts in a huge effort throughout the year. He attends several times each week clearing and tidying mainly in the central triangle area. He also keeps one of the flower beds tidy and unfailingly puts out the dustbins for collection each week.

Alison Myall and Andrew Wyatt and Julie Taylor also look after some of the church flower beds.

Raymond and Daphne Youngs have been keeping the hedges in check, and this year arranged for a tree surgeon to reduce the height of the northern hedge as it was

too high for amateurs. They also help by taking the bulk of the swept leaves for composting. Much easier and more practical than taking them to the local tip!

Pam and Roy Ewing help with bonfires of the cuttings which steadily accumulate in the spoil heap area.

Finally, a HUGE thank-you to Ted Redsull who has tidied up the cremation plot memorial stones and has lifted them all after they had sunk below grass level over the last few years.

DIY Tasks

Pre Covid, a few church members helped out with a number of small DIY tasks e.g. painting the wrought iron gates and the chains outside the West door. We haven't done this since lock down and a few areas could do with some tidying/smartening up. I hope to put out a list of possible DIY jobs at the AGM and encourage some members to sign up to do them during the Summer.

THANK YOU again, all helpers. If any keen gardener would like to look after one of the flower beds or take on one of the many small jobs needed in the churchyard, please let me know.

Ian Hewitt

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES – MISSION REPORTS

8 O'Clock Eucharist

Everyone is welcome to this early, short, peaceful Eucharist, where usually around 15 regular worshippers attend.

We have 8 sidesmen, organised by Ian Hewitt, to be on duty once a month. The duties comprise opening up and lighting the church, accessing the safe, laying the communion table, handing out the newssheet and prayer book, lighting the candles, welcoming the Priest, reading the Epistle, taking and counting the collection, and then finally returning everything to order at the end.

Barbara Openshaw

Home Groups

These are small groups of members of the church family who choose to meet weekly in a home. The main reasons for these groups is to have an opportunity, which Sunday services don't always provide, to discover what the Bible says about living life today and having a chance to talk it through with a small group of friends.

I think it's right to say that we all find it is time well spent, in good company, learning by studying the Bible and often listening together to excellent teachers making great sense of God's design for our better living.

We also have social events, eat cake, Jaffa cakes and meals! The Home Groups often help to provide events such as Lent Course for the church family and the village to attend.

So don't miss out, see either Mandy or Valerie and we'll help you find a group that meets at a convenient time for you and will welcome you in. EVERYONE is welcome!

Valerie Palmer and Mandy Monahan

Flower Team

We have welcomed some new members to the flower arranging team, including myself, and this has brought about change, new ideas and a collective way of working at certain times, like Harvest Festival and Christmas. It is a great team working together and supporting each other, and it is wonderful to be a part of such a talented team who all share a love of God and flowers.

Rosie Harbour

Cleaning Team

Our dedicated team continue to keep the church clean and tidy each week. This involves two people on the rota cleaning our church six times a year. Additionally, we have team cleans and lunches. We thank everyone who gives their time to keeping the church clean, and welcome any new volunteers to the team.

Cynthia Raley

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship holds two meetings each month, as it has done for more than a century. Sadly, our numbers have fallen very low as our elderly members have no transport. We welcome anyone and everyone for tea, chat and sympathy.

Alison Myall

Prayer Ministry

Led Morning Prayers are held every Wednesday's at 9:00am in the church. All are welcome to join whenever they can.

Monday evening "Prayer Hour" is held 'via Zoom' at 7:30pm and the link is published in our weekly newssheet.

During this time, we seek guidance for the Lord's mission here at St John's, and we pray for world, community and individual needs. All are welcome for this important part of our church life.

Prayer Ministry Team

The Prayer Team is always available for anyone who would like prayer and support.

Prayer Ministry is always offered after our 10:00 o'clock Sunday service, in our Prayer Corner at the back of the Church.

Prayer Requests

There have been no requests received via Church Suite, however we have received many direct verbal requests or through personal emails;

Carol Milford receives the requests and then circulates as appropriate to the Prayer Team. Regular updates of testimonies and continued needs are also circulated.

All prayer follows the guidelines for confidentiality, unless an individual has given permission for wider knowledge.

If anyone feels they have a heart for prayer and would like to join our small team of faithful prayers, please contact Rev Sarah Baker or Carol Milford for more information as we seek to give prayer the higher profile it quite rightly deserves.

Carol Milford

Pastoral Ministry

- Beechwood Care Home

Both Chris Powne and I pay weekly visits to some of the residents in our village's care home. We are there as friends, willing to listen and chat about whatever residents' wish for. We have become very attached to the lovely people we have befriended and value the time we spend with them. It is also very inspiring to see the love and care which the Beechwood staff there give to the people they are looking after.

- Home Communion

Communion is taken to some members of our congregation who might not be well enough to attend one of our Communion Services. It gives me much happiness to be able to do this.

- Pastoral Visits

St John's has a Pastoral Visiting Team with eight volunteers available to provide a listening ear, empathetic support, arrange practical support and prayer. Mandy Monahan and Mel Ainsworth are key contacts for this team. Support can be accessed through pastoralcare@saintjohnschurch.org.

Chris Hollis

Little Fishes Baby & Toddler Group

Little Fishes has met every Monday this year except for School and Bank Holidays. Daphne Youngs, Lizzie Gradidge and Jill Hewitt lead the group, assisted by Zoë Skinner and Jackie Handscombe. There is a separate team of eight or nine ladies who offer more general help, particularly providing tea, coffee and snacks for everyone (and the lucky adults get a piece of cake, usually made by Chris Powne).

The adults who come along are mainly parents or grandparents of 0 - 3 year olds, and occasionally an older child. We also have a few regular childminders with a varying number of children in their care. The children and their carers can arrive any time after 9am when there are lots of toys to play with and usually a craft activity for the older ones. At 10am we have a short bible story and sing Grace before snack time. As we frequently have up to or around 30 children attending we have reorganised the format and now hold this in the large hall, and with lots of help it seems to work.

After the snack we have more free play, following by 'pack away' time and then 15 minutes of singing songs on the mat and action around the big hall. Rosie Dowty (née Batty) has started helping with this.

We attract not just families from the village, but also from the surrounding areas, and have received compliments on how friendly the group is, and have watched friendship groups being formed. We are very grateful to members of the church family who help to 'set up' on a Sunday after coffee, which really helps spread the load. The mornings are great fun and there is a cheerful 'buzzy' atmosphere most Mondays. Families occasionally attend church services and there has been one baptism and another recent enquiry.

Jill Hewitt

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF 2023

The Financial Report and Independent Examiners Report are available in a separate document.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Diocese of Portsmouth is divided into 7 Deaneries, looked after by 3 Archdeacons (of Portsdown, the Meon and the Isle of Wight). Here in Rowlands Castle we are part of Havant Deanery, under the Archdeacon of Portsdown. Our Area Dean is Rev. Andrew Sheard, (vicar of Warblington with Emsworth). Normally there are 3 DS meetings per year.

The March meeting was held at Hartplain Church. This was a positive and informal meeting, in which each Parish represented gave an account of good things happening in their Parish. Mary and Pam described our Anna Chaplaincy outreach to older folk and Little Fishes reaching out to young families. Other good things included a new toilet in Bedhampton, a successful Warm Hub in Hartplain, a Lent course in Denmead, Eco Church initiatives in Waterloooville and the Havant Passion Play introduced by the Leigh Park and Warren Park parish.

The June meeting was held at Christchurch, Portsdown. The main speaker was the Diocesan Director of Ministry and Mission, Canon Dr Anthony Rustell. He gave a presentation on Lay Leadership.

The November meeting was held here at St John's. The main speaker was the Vicar of St Peter's, Petersfield, Revd Will Hughes, talking about many aspects of ECO church. Among many points raised, I noted 'Replacing light bulbs can hugely reduce energy bills' – something we have just carried out in the Church Centre, with a grant from East Hants District Council, giving us a saving of 75% of our lighting bill.

Mary Close and Pam Ewing, Deanery Synod representatives.

Pam Ewing

**Parochial Church Council
of
St John the Baptist Church
Rowlands Castle**

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2023

Charity Commission Registration Number 1129918

Introduction

Despite the high cost of Fuel Bills, particularly gas, and no fundraising activities apart from Church Centre lettings being carried out, we have kept our head above water and the General Fund is higher than last year.

Statement of Financial Activities

<i>year</i>	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	<i>Prior</i>
<i>funds</i>	funds	funds	funds	funds	<i>total</i>
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	65,425	3,120	—	68,545	70,202
Income from charitable activities	5,260	60	—	5,320	4,015
Other trading activities	10,879	—	—	10,879	11,145
Investments	572	90	—	662	321
Total income	82,137	3,270	—	85,407	85,684
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	—	—	—	—	65
Expenditure on charitable activities	66,474	4,438	—	70,913	68,109
Other expenditure	13,451	1,499	—	14,951	8,331
Total expenditure	79,926	5,938	—	85,864	76,505
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	2,210	(2,668)	—	(457)	9,178
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	420	—	420	600
Gross transfers between funds - out	(420)	—	—	(420)	(600)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds	1,790	(2,248)	—	(457)	9,178
Total funds brought forward	23,850	8,492	—	32,343	23,164
Total funds carried forward	25,641	6,244	—	31,885	32,343
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	25,641	—	—	25,641	23,850
Restricted					
Building Repair	—	955	—	955	955
Ceiling Repair Fund	—	1,410	—	1,410	1,410
Church Yard Upkeep	—	23	—	23	(486)
Energy Assistance	—	0	—	0	1,500
Mission Possible	—	150	—	150	830
Parish Administrator	—	2,285	—	2,285	2,705
Portable Font & Baptism	—	560	—	560	578
St Johns Church School Prize	—	860	—	860	1,000

Balance sheet

	Total funds	Prior year funds
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	36,047	36,658
	36,047	36,658
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	4,162	4,315
	4,162	4,315
Total net assets less liabilities	31,885	32,343
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General fund	25,664	23,850
Restricted		
Parish Administrator	2,285	2,705
Portable Font & Baptism	560	578
Ceiling Repair Fund	1,410	1,410
Church Yard Upkeep	0	(486)
Energy Assistance	0	1,500
Mission Possible	150	830
Building Repair	955	955
St Johns Church School Prize	860	1,000
	31,885	32,343
Funds of the church	31,885	32,343

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
Bank current account -	(25,475)	—	41,525	—	16,050	17,008
Bank current account #2 -	32,616	—	(31,142)	—	1,474	1,699
CCLA (CBF) deposit account -	18,422	—	—	—	18,422	17,850
CCLA (CBF) Education Account -	0	—	0	—	1	0
Cash in hand -	100	—	—	—	100	100
Totals	25,664	—	10,383	—	36,047	36,658
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	4,162	—	4,162	4,315
Totals	—	—	4,162	—	4,162	4,315
Grand total	25,664	—	6,221	—	31,885	32,343

Fund movement by type

		Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Journals	
Closing								
Admin - Parish Administrator								
Restricted		2,705	3,180	3,600	—	—	—	2,285
	Sub-total for Admin	2,705	3,180	3,600	—	—	—	2,285
Baptism - Portable Font & Bapt								
Restricted		578	—	18	—	—	—	560
	Sub-total for Baptism	578	—	18	—	—	—	560
Ceiling - Ceiling Repair Fund								
Restricted		1,410	—	—	—	—	—	1,410
	Sub-total for Ceiling	1,410	—	—	—	—	—	1,410
Churchyard - Church Yard Upkeep								
Restricted		(486)	90	—	420	—	—	23
	Sub-total for Churchyard	(486)	90	—	420	—	—	23
Education - Education Fund								
Restricted		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sub-total for Education	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Energy - Energy Assistance								
Restricted		1,500	—	1,499	—	—	—	0
	Sub-total for Energy	1,500	—	1,499	—	—	—	0
MPfund - Mission Possible								
Designated		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Restricted		830	—	680	—	—	—	150
	Sub-total for MPfund	830	—	680	—	—	—	150
Repair - Building Repair								
Designated		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Restricted		955	—	—	—	—	—	955
	Sub-total for Repair	955	—	—	—	—	—	955
SchPrize - St Johns Church Scho								
Restricted		1,000	—	140	—	—	—	860
	Sub-total for SchPrize	1,000	—	140	—	—	—	860
General - General fund								
Unrestricted		23,850	82,137	79,926	(420)	—	—	25,641
	Sub-total for General	23,850	82,137	79,926	(420)	—	—	25,641
	Grand total	32,343	85,407	85,864	—	—	—	31,885

Analysis of income and expenditure

<i>year</i>	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Last
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies						
0101 - Gift Aid - Bank	41,290	—	1,270	—	42,560	46,492
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	3,685	—	—	—	3,685	4,129
0201 - Other planned giving	1,125	—	300	—	1,425	1,740
0301 - Open plate collections	3,789	—	—	—	3,789	2,883
0310 - Blue Moon / Little Fishes	789	—	—	—	789	167
0320 - Back of Church Donations	282	—	—	—	282	141
0330 - Donations from Fellowship Breakfasts	343	—	—	—	343	99
0410 - Giving through church boxes	48	—	—	—	48	18
0501 - One-off Gift Aid gifts	345	—	1,200	—	1,545	120
0550 - Donations appeals etc	1,018	—	400	—	1,418	2,757
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	12,657	—	—	—	12,657	11,153
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	—	—	—	—	—	500
Total	65,375	—	3,170	—	68,545	70,202
Income from charitable activities						
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	5,260	—	60	—	5,320	4,015
Total	5,260	—	60	—	5,320	4,015
Other trading activities						
0910 - Fund Raising Events	191	—	—	—	191	—
1240 - Church hall lettings - fund raising	9,990	—	—	—	9,990	10,847
1270 - Refunds and Misc Income	697	—	—	—	697	298
Total	10,879	—	—	—	10,879	11,145
Investments						
1001 - Dividends	—	—	90	—	90	89
1020 - Bank and building society interest	572	—	—	—	572	231
Total	572	—	90	—	662	321
INCOME TOTAL	82,087	—	3,320	—	85,407	85,684

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds

1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	—	—	—	—	—	65
Total	—	—	—	—	—	65

Expenditure on charitable activities

1820 - PCC Charitable Giving Fund	6,264	—	—	—	6,264	6,048
1835 - Vicars Discretionary Fund	—	—	—	—	—	24
1850 - Home mission	270	—	838	—	1,108	1,762
1870 - Secular charities	25	—	—	—	25	150
1910 - Ministry parish share etc	46,458	—	—	—	46,458	46,468
2001 - Assistant staff costs	357	—	—	—	357	255
2050 - Salary of parish administrator	—	—	3,600	—	3,600	3,225
2101 - Vicars Expenses	—	—	—	—	—	47
2201 - Parish training and mission	—	—	—	—	—	80
2301 - Church running - insurance	1,267	—	—	—	1,267	1,102
2310 - Church office - telephone	502	—	—	—	502	—
2330 - Church maintenance	1,008	—	—	—	1,008	180
2340 - Upkeep of services	861	—	—	—	861	40
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	1,396	—	—	—	1,396	2,604
2360 - Administration	1,288	—	—	—	1,288	2,050
2361 - Photocopier Running Costs	580	—	—	—	580	686
2401 - Church running - electric	797	—	—	—	797	319
2410 - Church running - gas	4,476	—	—	—	4,476	1,791
2440 - Church running - heating and lighting	665	—	—	—	665	—
2450 - Church running - flowers	48	—	—	—	48	—
2460 - Church Running - candles	131	—	—	—	131	50
2570 - Hall running - telephone	—	—	—	—	—	510
2601 - Governance costs	75	—	—	—	75	75
examination/audit fee	—	—	—	—	—	—
2801 - Hall + major repairs - structure	—	—	—	—	—	636
Total	66,474	—	4,438	—	70,913	68,109

Other expenditure

2140 - Vicarage Water rates	1,102	—	—	—	1,102	439
2515 - Kitchen Sundries (Coffee, milk etc)	2,577	—	—	—	2,577	588
2525 - Hall Running - Cleaning	1,404	—	—	—	1,404	1,404
2530 - Hall running - electricity	2,636	—	242	—	2,878	1,197
2540 - Hall running - gas	3,086	—	1,257	—	4,344	1,524
2550 - Hall running - insurance	1,267	—	—	—	1,267	1,102
2560 - Hall running - maintenance	286	—	—	—	286	514
2580 - Hall running - water	478	—	—	—	478	424
2590 - Hall running - heating and lighting	261	—	—	—	261	440
2595 - Hall Running - Refunds	100	—	—	—	100	431
2610 - Bank Account Charges	249	—	—	—	249	263
Total	13,451	—	1,499	—	14,951	8,331
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	79,926	—	5,938	—	85,864	76,505

GRAND TOTAL	2,233	—	(2,691)	—	(457)	9,178
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Notes

1. General

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2015 Statement of Financial Activity (SOFA)

2. Funds

Unrestricted Funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted Funds represent funds given to the PCC for a specific purpose. These funds may only be expended for the specific purpose for which they were given.

- The Building Repair Fund was not drawn on for new work in 2023 and has a limited fund left over from the significant activities in 2019.
- The Dunning Fund is a collection fund for income from an endowment managed by the Diocese for upkeep of the graves. The income for 2023 was used for church yard upkeep.
- The Font & Baptism fund was created in 2016 from money donated in the memory of M. Law & P. Winn for a portable font and provision of Baptism materials.
- The Mission Possible fund was created in 2017 to account for gifts, grants and expenses specifically for the Mission Possible housing project. The project has ended, and the surplus (£150) will be used appropriately for similar projects.
- The Ceiling Fund was created in 2017 to collect donation towards the repair of the church ceiling.
- The St John's School Prize Fund was created in 2019 to provide an annual Prize for pupils considered by the school to be deserving.
- The Administrator Fund was created in June 2022 to hold donations specifically to pay for an Administrator.
- The Energy Assistance Fund was created in December 2022 with a donation from the Church of England to help all Parishes with the great increase in fuel costs. It has been completely used up in 2023.

Agency Funds

From time to time the PCC collects money on behalf of others. This money is not income of the Church so is collected by the PCC as an agent for the recipient. As such it does not normally appear in the main accounts. Two occasions on which agency collections are made

a. Fees collected on behalf of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) and eligible officiants for Weddings and Funerals as laid out in the Diocese fees table; also fees for Organists, Vergers and Sextons as necessary.

b. Sequestrated fees relate to any interregnum period .

In 2023 the Fees agency account stood as follows

	Carried over from 2022	Collected	Paid Out	Carried Over to 2024
DBF fees	(£3380)	£2053	£2753	(£2689)
DBF fees (sequestrated)	£320	-	-	£320

Verger Costs	(£75)	£350	£300	(£125)
Organist Costs	(£45)	£450	£700	£205
Sexton Costs	(£550)	£1180	£930	(£800)

Note: negative balances in braces () represent money held by the PCC but owed to a third party.

3. Fixed Assets

The Church retains the Church Centre Building as its sole fixed asset.

Since its acquisition the Church Centre building has been depreciated on a straight-line basis over 50 years.

Net book value at 31 Dec 2022	£314,400
Depreciation for 2022	£10,480
Net book value at 31 Dec 2023	£303,920

4. Missionary and Charitable Giving

The Church supports a number of causes using approximately 10% of our donated income. In 2023 the following causes received contributions totaling £6264.00

:

Church Housing Trust	Hope into Action	Beacon Food Bank
The Toybox Charity	Sovereign World Trust	Mission Aviation Fellowship
Emmanuel International	Mercy Ships	Release International
Medaille Trust	Barnabas Fund	Quicken Trust

5. Fundraising

Very little fund raising was done during 2023.

6. Reserve level

The PCC has agreed that a reasonable cash reserve of £23,000 (nominally 3 months of running costs) should be maintained (PCC Meeting 17 October 2016). Our General Fund stands at £25,664, so is above that of 2022 (£23,850).

7. Conclusion

We may have maintained our funds, but we will need to work hard to keep afloat. We are now employing an administrator again, and our Admin Fund will need more income than has been pledged to cover that cost. We have to face the problem of the Monterey Pine in the Church car park, which needs at least £3000 spending to make it safe.

This report dated: 12th February 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, ROWLANDS CASTLE, REG NO, 1129918

I report on the financial statements for the year to 31 December 2023

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act (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
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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 presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave 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.

Sandra Hodgetts
42 The Green
Rowlands Castle
Hants PO9 6AB
(Barclays Bank-Ref'd)



Dated: 13th March 2024