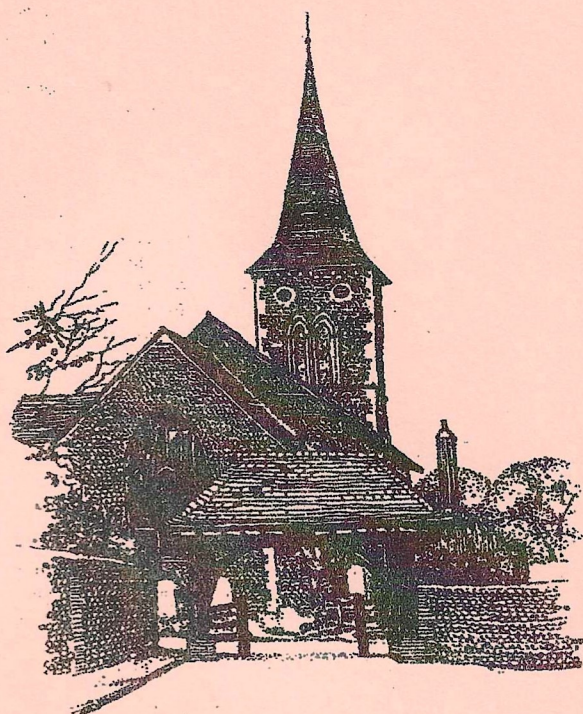


St Michael and All Angels, Southwick

Registered Charity No. 1130870



Year Book 2023

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 24th of March 2024

'Jesus said to them again, Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

John 20:21

Rector's Report

One of the highlights for me last Christmas was seeing so many people come into church for the Crib service and thank you to Ros and others alongside her who help make that service so open and accessible to many families who live within the parish. This is a successful and much appreciated service across all parts of the Church of England and other denominations and many churches and cathedrals are full for this service on Christmas Eve. The Crib service seems to capture people's imaginations as does Midnight Mass where attendance was higher compared to the year before and it was good to see numbers at that service returning to what they were pre-covid in 2019.

Another highlight for me last year was Remembrance Sunday. It is always a great honour for me to be invited by the Royal British Legion to officiate at the Act of Remembrance on Southwick Green every year. It is a wonderful and moving event but last year everything seemed to be even more exceptional with a Piper and a Marching Band. Again, this is an event that attracts hundreds of people from different parts of the community as we reflect and ponder together on the sacrifice of so many wonderful men and women who have died for our freedom and stood up to tyranny.

Last year it was marvellous to see our monarch King Charles and the Queen crowned in Westminster Abbey. It provided a great excuse for us to display Union Jacks in Saint Michael's, to put on a special Children's Workshop to mark the occasion and to feel proud that we belong to a wonderful country with traditions and a stability that many countries must admire and long for. The Coronation was a moving service that had at its heart the Christian faith. Who can forget His Majesty the King's words at the beginning of the service 'I come not to be served but to serve', a reminder not only of our Lord's service but also the service and ministry we are all called to.

Thank you to every one of you for all your service to Saint Michael's and all that you give to the church in the service of our Lord. May God Bless us in the next year as together we continue to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ in this wonderful community of Southwick.

Jonathan

Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Southwick

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

AND

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 24th of March 2024 at 11:15am in St Michael's Church

The Meeting of the Parishioners

1. The Election of the Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the APCM held on 30th of April 2023
3. Elections
 - PCC
 - Sidesmen and Sideswomen
4. Reports
 - Finance Report – Treasurer
 - The other reports are set out in this booklet
5. Appointment of Independent Examiner
6. Rector's Report

(Will members of the PCC please stay behind for a two minute meeting to set some dates)

Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Southwick

Meeting of Parishioners to elect the Churchwardens

Two nominations had been received, so it was agreed unanimously that Mrs Jacqui Aspinall and Ms Karen Long be elected as Churchwardens for the year 2023/2024.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Held on Sunday 30th April 2023 at 11.15am in St Michael's Church

The meeting was opened with prayer led by the Reverend Jonathan French. It was attended by 35 parishioners.

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Mary Gibbs, Mrs Mary Kelly, Mrs Angie Jackson, Mrs Sam Byrne-Smith, Miss Kate Hamnett and Mr and Mrs Nigel Courtnage.

Minutes of the last APCM held on 10th April 2022

Mrs Cathy Moore had listed twice under the list of sidespeople, so this was corrected. The minutes were agreed then as a true record, proposed by Mrs Sue Wadey and seconded by Mr Tom Backshall and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

Elections:

Deanery Synod:

The following were elected to the Deanery Synod:

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Mrs Jacqui Aspinall	Mrs Cathy Moore	Ms Karen Long
Ms Karen Long	Mrs Cathy Moore	Mrs Elaine Luff
Mrs Jan Powell	Mrs Cathy Moore	Mrs Brenda Wells
Mr Graham Walder	Mrs Jacqui Aspinall	Ms Karen Long

PCC:

The following were elected as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Mrs Mary Kelly	Mrs Sam Byrne-Smith	Mrs Jan Powell
Mr Ray Rose	Mrs Angie Jackson	Mrs Wendy Allen
Mrs Pat Sinclair	Mrs Wendy Stringer	Mrs Jan Wheeler

No nominations were received for the fourth vacancy

The Rector thanked those who had served in the previous year, particularly Mrs Angie Jackson and Mrs Sam Byrne-Smith who were retiring.

It was agreed that the following should act as Sidesmen and Sideswomen:

Mr Tom Backshall	Mrs Gay Courtnage	Mrs Ros Ellis
Mrs Rosemary Hards	Mrs Ann James	Mr Dudley James
Mrs Elaine Luff	Mrs Cathy Moore	Mr Graham Walder
Mr Simon Wilton	Mrs Sue Wilton	

It was also agreed that the following act as welcomers:

Mrs Carolyn Almond
Mr Adrian Ellis
Mr Tony Seaman
Mrs Wendy Stringer

Mrs Anita Beverton
Mr Ray Luff
Mrs Helen Scott

Mrs Sarah Bowrah
Mrs Cathy Moore
Mr Peter Scott

Reports:

Financial Report – Treasurer:

Mr Graham Walder thanked Keith McQueen for his help in preparing the accounts and Marion Goble for her continued discreet administration of covenanted giving scheme.

Expenditure exceeded income by around £3,000 in 2022. We incurred major outlay in replacing the church and hall boilers, the final payment for which will appear in the 2023 accounts (£12K). The current account stands at £40,000 and the savings account at £75,000. The PCC decided to reduce the Parish Contribution from £74K to £63K in order to reduce the losses and will be asking people on our roll to reconsider their weekly giving before a decision is made on how much we can afford to give the Diocese in 2023. Graham encouraged people to give by standing order or electronic transfer if possible, to reduce bank costs and maximise the amount of tax relief that can be obtained. Please use the yellow envelopes in church if you wish to make a cash donation so gift aid can be claimed where applicable.

In response to a questions, Graham clarified that running costs relates to utilities, maintenance to repairs and service costs include the organist's remuneration, purchase of candles, elements etc for use during worship. The change in net assets was mainly due to the downgrading of the values of the investments. There are less cash donations now and much of that we did receive was in response to specific charity appeals. The card machine was used mainly by those hiring the hall.

The Revd Jonathan French expressed the congregation's thanks to Graham, Marion and Keith for all they do in running the accounts, not to mention their other work in the church. Jacqui proposed and Dave Hilton seconded that the accounts be adopted and all were in favour.

Other Reports:

Fr Jonathan thanked the contributors of the other reports in the Annual Year Book. Ms Karen Long proposed and Mr Dave Hilton seconded that these be accepted and this was accepted unanimously.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Mrs Sheila West and Mrs Cathy Moore seconded that Messrs Hodson and Co continue as Independent Examiner of the accounts.

Rector's report:

The Rector expressed his thanks to Mr Tom Backshall and Mrs Elaine Luff for their service as churchwardens over the past 5 and 4 years respectively. He said they had been brilliant, keeping things together during the pandemic and encouraging us all and building bridges where necessary. They had brought a wealth of experience and insight. Fr Jonathan presented them both with tokens to mark our appreciation.

He also expressed gratitude for the work Mary Kelly had done in her role as Safeguarding Officer over some 20 years. He had found her very approachable, reliable and professional, in times that have been difficult for churches and involved much tightening up of procedures. A token is also to be given to Mary. Tom Backshall has agreed to take over the position, assisted by Cathy Moore and Sam Byrne-Smith as at present.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with a prayer at 11.50 am. The first meeting of the new PCC will be held on Thursday 22ndth June 2023 in the Rectory at 7.30pm and the next APCM will be on 24th of March 2024.

Approved by the APCM on Sunday 24th of March 2024

Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Southwick

Registered Charity Number 1130870

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OF THE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

CONTENTS

	<u>Pages</u>
Annual Report of PCC and Churchwardens	6 to 9
Mission Action Plan	10
Statement of Financial Receipts and Payments	11
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	12
Notes to the Annual Financial Report	13, 14, 15
Report of the Independent Examiner	16
Reports of the Various Committees of the PCC and Church Organisations	17 to 22

PCC Annual Report for 2023

Administrative information

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Michael & All Angels serves the communities of Southwick and Fishersgate in the diocese of Chichester. The following people have served on the Council during 2023/24, with their year of election shown after their name:

Revd J French – Incumbent
Mr T Backshall - Churchwarden
Mrs E Luff - Churchwarden

Mrs J Aspinall *23
Ms K Long *23
Mrs J Powell *23 - Secretary
Mr G Walder *23 - Treasurer

Mrs A Beverton 22
Mrs S Bowrah 22
Mr D Hilton 22
Mr S Wilton 22

Miss A Beal 19
Mrs B Elms 19
Miss K Hamnett 19
Mrs G Courtnage 21 (filling casual vacancy)

Mrs M Kelly 23
Mr R Rose 23
Mrs P Sinclair 23
Mr T Backshall **23 Safeguarding
Mrs E Luff **23 Children/Pastoral

*Deanery Synod representative

** Co-opted member

Structure, governance and management

The appointment of PCC members is governed by the Church Representation Rules. After ex-officio posts (clergy, churchwardens and deanery synod representatives) have been filled, one third of the ordinary members retire each year but can be re-elected after one year. Elected members normally serve three-year terms.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Synodical Government Measure 1969. The PCC is legally a charity and is registered with the Charity Commission (Number 1130870). This report has been drawn up in the frameworks of the Charities Act 2011, Charity SORP 2005 and Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

The address for correspondence is Mrs J Powell, 12 Phoenix Crescent, Southwick, West Sussex, BN42 4HR. The Council's bankers are Barclays Bank plc and the Independent Examiners have yet to be confirmed. The PCC has delegated the day to day management of the Parish to the incumbent, Revd. Jonathan French.

This report covers the year to December 2023 and significant events during the early months of 2024.

Objectives

St Michael's PCC has the legal responsibility of co-operating "with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical." It is also responsible for maintaining various buildings in the parish including St Michael's Church and Hall.

Achievements and performance

Church attendance

During 2023, an average of 55 people attended weekly worship, a further 23 attended less regularly and 14 remain part of our worshipping community but are unable to come to services due to infirmity. There were 92 active members (77 of whom are over 70) on the Ecclesiastical Electoral Roll, a reduction of 18 from 2022. It is pleasing that 273, including many children, attended church over the Christmas period. Since the turn of the year, weekly numbers have continued to diminish.

Review of the year

Sung Eucharist is held every Sunday, with the first Sunday of the month being All Age Worship. A Said Communion is also held once a month and midweek Communion twice a month. Southwick Churches Together hold ecumenical services in St Michael's each week during term time and Children's Workshops are held twice a year, with an extra one being held to celebrate the King's Coronation in May. It was good to join with fellow local Christians to celebrate the World Day of Prayer at St Theresa's Catholic Church in March and to sing carols in the newly refurbished Southwick Square in December.

The PCC met 4 times with a 60% attendance and urgent matters were dealt with by the Standing Committee. There were 2 adult baptisms, 4 confirmations (at St Julian's Church), 1 wedding, 7 funerals and 6 interments of ashes. We were greatly saddened to lose Michael Allen, Daphne Barnett, Maureen Maidlow, Jetta Bland, Thirza Rose, Josie Peters and Zena Searle during the year, all of whom made significant contributions to our parish over a long period.

The lack of working-age people in the congregation is now making a marked effect on what we are able to do and is of great concern for the future. The Social and Fundraising Committee organised a very successful Car Boot Sale, Summer and Advent Fairs and Quiz Night, but it is no longer feasible to run the first two of these in future. This will have a big impact both socially and financially, in a year when we have already had to reduce the amount we can afford to contribute to the Diocese. The Fabric Committee has also been challenged by problems with the hall roof and doors and falling income will make it difficult to maintain the church and hall to the standards we would like, particularly at a time when age prevents less work being undertaken in house. However, we most sincerely thank those who do serve on both these committees for all their efforts to keep things running.

The caring and generous nature of our church members does continue to flourish and helps to maintain our spirits during what is a difficult and uncertain time locally, nationally and throughout the world. We give thanks to God for what we have and pray for his guidance and assistance as we move forward, assured in the knowledge that he is with us always.

Financial Review 2023

St Michaels finished the year in a strong financial position. Current and savings accounts at Barclays total £29,384 (2022 £44,824) with investment accounts totalling £82,562 (2022 £81,145). This fall can largely be attributed to payment of the second instalment for the new boiler. It's notable that this was achieved without recourse to long-term investment funds.

Donations and legacies were down over the year to £60,645 (2022 £64,263) as, sadly, the number of regular givers fell. However, this reduction was almost entirely offset by increases in other areas, notably hall lettings and fees for baptisms, weddings and funerals, with the result that total income was almost unchanged from the previous year at £109,815 (2022 £110,155).

Expenditure for the year was up considerably at £124,883 (2022 £110,893). However, to a large extent this represented a return to more normal levels after a large drop in expenditure in 2022, which was possibly the after-effect of a downturn in activity following covid and lockdown.

Our Parish Contribution decreased a little to £62,100 (2022 £63,500), but is likely to increase again soon.

Reserves Policy

1. The current account at 31st December 2023 held £29,384 and there was £82,562 in our interest bearing investment accounts.
2. The Kenyon Trust is a restricted fund for repair to St. Peters Church. The fund comprises CBF shares and is valued at £28,862. At present West Sussex County Council is leasing the building, so the fund remains unspent and is held by the Diocese.
3. The Simmons Trust is an endowment fund comprising 449 shares in a CBF Investment Fund, valued at £10,150 which may not be spent. Interest from this fund is paid into the General Fund.

Approved by the PCC on 27th of October 2024 and signed on its behalf by the Chair



Churchwardens' Report

This is our first report as Churchwardens and we start by confirming 'in the time honoured fashion' that the Inventory has been checked and is correct.

There are many people who work hard to help us with our worshipping life, our social life, to keep our buildings in good repair and to raise much needed funds. Our thanks go out to all those involved in these groups in whatever capacity. The reports of the various groups are contained within this Year Book. All the groups need extra help and if you feel you could assist any of them in any way, no matter how small, please contact the Chairman of that group or let one of us know.

One of the big challenges we face this coming year is finance. We are an aging congregation and some do not feel able to continue giving the time and commitment to our daily life at St. Michaels. One of the areas which will be mainly affected this year is Social and Fund Raising with some of the usual events not being held e.g. the Summer Fete and the car boot sale. Hopefully other smaller events will replace these but these may not be as lucrative. Fund raising events are not all about money, however, they are also a form of outreach to the wider community and a time for us to come together and socialise. Karen has been looking at a scheme called 'Easyfunding' which donates to a designated registered charity each time a member shops with certain retailers online. About 7000 retailers are registered with this scheme to donate a portion of the cost of an item to a charity at no extra cost to the customer. Many churches are signed up to the scheme and welcome the extra quarterly income. More details on how to participate - at no extra cost! - in this scheme will be given at the APCM.

It was encouraging to see the numbers for the Crib Service and Midnight Mass and we need to encourage those that attend at Christmas to visit us at other times of the year.

Our thanks to all who contribute to the life of our church by helping out in some way. Your efforts are appreciated and valued. If you feel you want to or are able to offer help and support for the various activities that are part of our church life and worship then please don't be shy - speak to Jacqui, Karen or Jonathan.

Fabric Report

The Fabric Committee consists of Jacqui Aspinall, Simon Wilton, Graham Walder, Nigel Courtnage, Colin Upton and Jan Powell

St Michael's Church and Churchyard

External doors continue to be difficult to shut in the wet weather but do improve during the summer months. The west wall of the nave still needs redecoration following the removal of the radiators. The colour of the paint has now been agreed and the approval of the Architect obtained. It is hoped that this work will be carried out this year. The churchyard is the responsibility of Adur and Worthing District Council.

St Michael's Church Hall

During the year the roof has continued to be a problem but following work recently carried out by a roofer we hope that this problem has now been resolved. The doors continue to be a problem and we are currently seeking the advice of a carpenter and obtaining estimates for new doors, hopefully this problem will be resolved this year. Last autumn a working party cleared the vegetation round the hall thanks to all that helped with this.

1 Church House Close

1 Church House Close continues to be let to the same tenants and provides an essential source of income.

The Rectory

The Rectory remains the responsibility of the diocese.

Jacqui Aspinall and Karen Long

Mission Action Plan (2021 – 2024)

We aim to celebrate and share God's love for all people by offering a place of belonging, exploring faith honestly with an open mind, striving to live out Christ's care and compassion for everyone as together as a church family and faith community we explore the love of God made known to us in Jesus Christ.

Community links

- Fliers through all doors in the Parish 3 times per year - Christmas, Easter, Remembrance and/or Summer. We should make sure this happens regularly to ensure consistency of communication. Within the flier we emphasise to those receiving them that as their local church we are praying for them.
- Workshops (aka Messy Church)- increase to 3-5 throughout the year. Christmas, Easter, Summer, Harvest, Remembrance as possible focuses.
- Links to schools - make links with Headteachers of all local schools - Glebe, Eastbrook, Holmbush, Shoreham Academy and Shoreham College. (All schools have to demonstrate aspects of collective worship and moral/spiritual education under Ofsted criteria). This will require some persistence and some schools will already have involvement from other churches/religious/faith groups. If anyone has any links it would be good to follow these up.

St Michael's

- Pastoral visitors – To develop provision map for vulnerable members of our congregation mapping out all the contact we have had and any support both from us and elsewhere that is in place (a system used in schools).
- Pastoral links - names and contact details in pew sheet? This would need to be DBS checked. Or a message to say if you would like a member of the pastoral team to contact you please email Sam in the office with contact details - this will be treated in confidence.
- Eco Church - we can potentially tie in with group that meet at St Giles Church Hall - We will provide a list of all the recycling that can be collected and how it can be collected.
- Photo board of all members of the congregation visible in church where visitors and congregation can see it.

Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 December 2023

Charity no. 1130870	<i>Unrestricted</i>				<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Endowed</i>	<i>All Funds</i>	<i>All Funds</i>
	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>Fund/s</i>	<i>Fund/s</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	60,363	-	282		60,645	64,263
Charitable activities	4,004	-	-	-	4,004	2,984
Other trading activities	26,883	-	-	-	26,883	24,833
Investments	18,282	-	-	-	18,282	18,075
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total received	109,533	-	282	-	109,815	110,155
Expenditure on:						
Cost of raising funds	131	-	-	-	131	735
Charitable costs	111,408	-	-	-	111,408	98,241
Trading costs	11,588	-	-	-	11,588	10,850
Upkeep of 1 Church House Close	1,756	-	-	-	1,756	1,067
Total paid	124,883	-	-	-	124,883	110,893
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>						
Net income or (net expenditure)	(15,350)	-	282	-	(15,068)	(738)
Transfers between funds			-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(15,350)	-	282	-	(15,068)	(738)
Current account at 1 January	44,184			-	44,184	
Deposit account at 1 January	646				646	
Cheques accounted in 2022 but paid in 2023	377				377	
Bank accounts at 31 December	29,102	-	282	-	29,384	(738)

PCC of St. Michael and All Angels, Southwick

Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Year ending 31 December 2023


Charity no. 1130870	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total
	General	Designated			All Funds
	Fund	Funds			2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Assets:					
Barclays current Business account	28,738				28,738
Barclays Premium Business Account	646				646
CBF Deposit Fund CB3023323-001	45,668	-	-	-	45,668
CBF Deposit Fund CB3023322-001	9,500	-	-	-	9,500
PCC-owned bank balance	84,551	-	-	-	84,551
Diocese held Deposit Fund CB3005510	27,395	-	-	-	27,395
Kenyon Trust			28,862		28,862
Simmonds Trust				10,150	10,150
Total bank and deposit accounts	111,947	-	28,862	10,150	150,958
Wedding fees not yet received	-			-	-
Debtors	-	-	-	-	-
HMRC re Gift Aid Tax Reclaimable	12,103				
Investment assets at market value	12,103	-	-	-	-
Investment assets at cost	-	-	-	-	-
Freehold, 1 Church House Close	200,000	-	-	-	200,000
Total assets	324,050	-	28,862	10,150	350,958
Liabilities:					
Refund due to Worthing DC re payment made in error	300				300
Turning Tides - cheque outstanding at year end	128				128
Rev. J Washer - cheque outstanding at year end	54				54
British Gas - Church Electricity usage June - December	3,000				3,000
Total liabilities	3,482	-	-	-	3,482
Assets less liabilities					347,476

These accounts, comprising the Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments, Statement of Assets and Liabilities, and related notes to the accounts, were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27th October 2024 and signed on its behalf by Jacqueline Aspinall.

[Signature]

[Name]

Trustee


JACQUELINE ASPINALL

Notes to the Annual Financial Report for the year ending 31 December 2023

Charity no. 1130870

Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total All Funds 2023	Total All Funds 2022
	General Fund	Designated Funds				
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	41,575.41	-	-	-	41,575	49,572
Planned giving (no tax refunds)	4,352.63	-	-	-	4,353	
One-off and adhoc donations	2,503.72	-	-	-	2,504	1,885
Special appeals		-	282		282	
Gift Aid recovered	11,931.31	-	-	-	11,931	12,806
Legacies		-	-	-	-	
Grants		-	-	-	-	-
Donations and legacies	60,363	-	282	-	60,645	64,263
Fees for weddings & funerals	4,004.45	-	-	-	4,004	2,984
Charitable activities	4,004	-	-	-	4,004	2,984
Proceeds of events with trading/sales	9,759.09	-	-	-	9,759	9,866
Concert income	416.00	-	-	-	416	
Small items sales (coffee/candles/Bible study notes etc)		-	-	-	-	
Hall hiring fees	16,708.37	-	-	-	16,708	14,967
Other trading activities	26,883	-	-	-	26,883	24,833
Bank & CBF deposit interest	671.52			-	672	915
CBF investment fund dividend				-	-	
Letting of 1 Church House Close	17,610.49	-	-	-	17,610	17,160
Investments	18,282	-	-	-	18,282	18,075
Other receipts	-				-	-
Total received on all funds	109,533	-	282	-	109,815	110,155

Notes to the Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

Charity no. 1130870

Analysis of total paid:

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowed	Total All Funds 2023	Total All Funds 2022
	General Fund	Designated Funds				
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost of fundraising activities/events	131.40	-	-	-	131	385
Other appeals expenses	-	-	-	-	-	350
Cost of raising funds	131	-	-	-	131	735
Charitable grants and donations	1633.40	-	-	-	1,633	1,225
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	62100.00	-	-	-	62,100	63,600
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	9571.47	-	-	-	9,571	
Rector's Expenses	2605.33	-	-	-	2,605	6,181
Visiting clergy fees and expenses	616.65	-	-	-	617	
Rectory Utilities and other running costs	4834.22	-	-	-	4,834	
Sunday school/Children's work	288.19	-	-	-	288	858
Costs of church services	5243.25	-	-	-	5,243	6,587
Office supplies	761.58	-	-	-	762	
Church utilities & services bills	4861.65	-	-	-	4,862	3,613
Other regular church running costs	358.84	-	-	-	359	
Church maintenance & redecoration	611.20	-	-	-	611	4,069
New boiler for Church	12718.80	-	-	-	12,719	10,878
Insurance	3583.78	-	-	-	3,584	
Auditor's fees	1620.00	-	-	-	1,620	1,230
Charitable costs	111,408	-	-	-	111,408	98,241
Cost of events with trading/sales	1223.00	-	-	-	1,223	
Costs of concerts		-	-	-	-	
Architects Fees	1342.00	-	-	-	1,342	
Hall maintenance & redecoration		-	-	-	-	
Church Hall utilities	2347.47	-	-	-	2,347	10,850
Church hall running costs	6675.06	-	-	-	6,675	
Other trading costs		-	-	-	-	
Trading costs	11,588	-	-	-	11,588	10,850
Upkeep of 1 Church House Close	1755.54	-	-	-	1,756	1,067
Total paid on all funds	124,883	-	-	-	124,883	110,893

Notes to the Annual Financial Report for the year ending 31 December 2023

Charity no. 1130870

Staff costs

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Wages, salaries and honoraria	18,189	16,600
Employer National Insurance	305	
Employer pension contributions		-
	<u>18,494</u>	<u>16,600</u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST. MICHAEL'S PCC, SOUTHWICK

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St. Michael's PCC, Southwick for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of St. Michael's PCC, Southwick'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 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act;
or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

K Squire

K Squire (Oct 30, 2024 14:52 GMT)

Katie Squire ACA, Anova

The Barn, Meadow Court
Faygate Lane
Faygate
Horsham
West
Sussex
RH12 4SJ

Dated: 30/10/2024

Reports of the various Committees of the PCC and Church Organisations

Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry continues to thrive within the church. We regularly have 5 families who attend the family worship and access the activities within the service. The activities have ranged from decorating backpacks, creating stained glass windows and advent calendars.

The redeveloped Children's Corner has created a space that is welcoming for children and young people both in family services and wider worship such as weddings and christenings. There are a range of activities, books and toys to create a safe space and encourage families to return to our church.

We ran a Christmas workshop attended by 16 children. The children created the artwork to decorate the church as well as cards, advent counters and elves. It was an enjoyable afternoon and food was provided. We are looking forward to the St George's Day workshop on 20th April and welcoming more families to explore the English saint and his values of courage and peace.

Thank you to the team that creates and sends home packs to our church families to keep in touch. Also thank you to Gigi for all her help with activities and ideas.

Kate Hamnett

Safeguarding

I am grateful for Cathy Moore and Sam Byrne-Smith for meeting with me periodically to review the risk assessments and discuss any issues. I am working through the renewal of DBS checks where needed. These are now completed online.

The Diocese provides detailed information and guidance regarding all aspects of safeguarding on their website. There is also online safeguarding training available for those who will be running groups and activities.

All our risk assessments for regular events and activities that take place during the year are current and are reviewed regularly. All risk assessments are stored in the church office.

If you have any concerns, please do contact me. Information is on the St Michael's website.

Tom Backshall

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care in our church is gently ministered by people within the different groups which meet regularly. This is as it should be as we are all given different gifts to help and encourage one another when we are facing difficulties at different times in our lives and a very important part of serving and imitating Christ-like. It is brilliant that so many of us adopt this pastoral role in the church especially as we all become older, more frail and face health issues of our own.

There are few members on the Pastoral team itself, Jonathan, Elaine Luff, Angie Jackson, Karen Long, Gay Courtnage and Mary Kelly, and the support from everyone is very special and much appreciated by them. please let us know if you know of anyone with needs for visits, to receive communion at home or just a phone call or card.

Elaine Luff

St Michael's Music

In the past year, music at St Michael's has continued enthusiastically. The choir has an additional member, and under Angie Jackson's expert direction and guidance, new choral music is being explored to support the Sunday services, including a previously unfamiliar Mass setting. The Friday rehearsals are an enjoyable event where Angie and I can work together effectively in a complementary way. Angie's efforts at teaching some elements of reading music notation are beginning to pay off. The Carol Service was particularly successful and well received. The choir have also supported some funeral services. Angie and I are most grateful for the choir's commitment, as always, and also to Anita Beverton for her support in special occasions.

The organ continues to have intonation problems, so that I have to be very careful about registration, but otherwise functions reasonably well and reliably. The one exception recently occurred during the Gloria, when the wind pressure abruptly faded away for no obvious reason. Fortunately, the choir continued impressively, keeping everything together while I re-started the mechanism!

A fundraising lunchtime concert of classical music was held in October. This was a successful occasion, with items performed by Anita Beverton (violin), Richard O'Neal (oboe and cello), Karen Rash (flute), Peter Ashley (organ), and yours truly on the piano. I am most grateful to Jonathan for introducing the concert. I am hopeful that we can make this a regular event.

Hugh O'Neal

Family Support Work

I am pleased to report that during last year FSW has managed to place Practitioners in 20 of the 22 deaneries in our diocese. This means that they are able to reach more families in need than before. Jan Powell and I have been to the AGM and heard from some of the practitioners what they are facing every day of the week. They all have full caseloads and long to take on more but are limited by the hours available in a day. Practitioners need to be in post and funded for at least 3 years at a time. They are in it for the long term, so that families can gradually get themselves back into a happier and working situation that helps the whole family to live and manage better lives. Those who are helped often send letters of thanks for the help they have received and here for you to read is one of them: -

FSW received this email recently from a parent who has been attending their Horsham baby group for the last year:

"I just want to say a huge thank you to you & Dominique for the most wonderful sessions at the Needles Community Hub. We have been coming to Tiny Toes since my daughter was 3 months old, and today she had her final session! It's going to be missed by us very much, as it was our favourite for numerous reasons. The friendly team, the toys, the space and the sensory room. I will always recommend this group. Keep up the great work!"

The needs are great especially for parents with children with special needs of all types such as physical disabilities or other issues such as autism or mental health problems. These parents are often told that they are on a 3-year waiting list for help. Jan & I were horrified to hear that the schools often have large numbers of children registered with them who are on 'Child Protection'. The work done by FSW in liaison with schools and Social Services itself is felt to be invaluable. So, do keep supporting FSW as this is a way, we can make a difference and do something for those in dire need.

January's work in numbers:

- 216 visits and 1080 remote calls supporting 255 parents and 168 children
- 50 supported meetings with other agencies
- 45 group sessions delivered
- 122 food deliveries made

So, St. Michael's please continue to help all you can no donation is too small. Look in the pew sheets for what is most needed to put into the collection box in the Tower and do think about any clean, good condition clothes that you may be happy to donate put into a plastic bag.

Sheila West and Jan Powell

Singles' Circle

2023 has passed and once again I reflect on what the Singles Circle has been doing over the past year. It has been a very busy one and we do try to go out at least once a month to somewhere of interest to all. As time goes by this becomes more and more difficult as variety is so important.

We have had some wonderful outings taking us in all directions and it is good that some of the places we have been to have encouraged the men to join in. As I have said before, the title of our group does not mean that couples cannot join in, everyone is welcome.

As usual we started our trips out by having a meal in January at the China Palace in Worthing. February saw us tour Hever Castle and view the wonderful display of snowdrops and other early spring flowers. In March we visited McBeans Orchid Centre and then on to a garden centre near Lewes for a meal and browse. In April we visited Arundel Castle for their Tulip Festival and castle tour. What a fantastic sight the flowers were in every colour imaginable.

To show how diverse our trips are, in May we visited Bletchley Park trying to solve the codes, then the Weald and Downland Museum for June. Due to bad weather our visit to the Prairie Gardens in July was cancelled but we consoled ourselves with a meal at Rushfields near Lewes. August was over to Scotney Castle and September we toured Chatham Dockyard learning that not only was *Call the Midwife* filmed there but they were about to host the next episodes of the stories about the SAS. The men were very happy to tour here and also the Milestones Museum in Hampshire, which was our October visit. With Christmas looming we went hunting for gifts at Notcutts and finished our year by going to Wakehurst for their Glow Wild illuminations and Brenda Wells organised our Christmas meal at the Royal George where over 20 of us attended. Our thanks go to the redoubtable Emma who drives the Sompington Big Local minibus for us without which there would be no outings at all.

Sheila West

Church Hall

Not a great deal to report on the church hall. Church Lane Nursery are still our main hirer and we have a good relationship with them. We have a new regular booker on a Tuesday evening who runs yoga classes, so hopefully that will continue well into the year. Casual weekend bookings are still regularly coming in, but maybe not as many as last year – but with the cost-of-living crisis I would imagine a lot of people do not have money to spare to book a venue for a child's birthday party. With that in mind, when we looked at raising the fees for both regular and casual bookers we have made an increase, but just a slight one.

The roof seems to be finally sealed and not leaking; fingers crossed in that regard. A few issues with the front door still but the fabric committee are aware of those issues. A new door may have to be on the cards in the future.

Thanks as always to everyone who helps at the hall with all the maintenance jobs, repairs and the behind the scenes upkeep, such as washing the tea towels.

Samantha Byrne-Smith

Social and Fundraising

Your Social and Fundraising committee were very active during 2023-2024, raising money for St Michael's along with running some joyful social activities (sometimes both at the same time!) In total, we raised several thousand pounds for church funds.

The Quiz Night is an annual favourite, as is the Open Garden. We all looked forward to these events with relish and were not disappointed. The whole congregation pulled together in August in order to have enough marshalls to be able to run the Car Boot Sale. Many had to be on site before dawn! We celebrated our patronal festival with Prosecco and cake and a shared lunch marked our harvest festival. The church hall was very busy on the day of the Advent Fayre, visitors including a very important Father Christmas.

Going forward the Social and Fundraising Committee are having to make some difficult decisions. The committee has had to confront the inevitable march of time, and the challenge of running some of the future events. One of the casualties has been the Car Boot Sale in 2024. We put out feelers for someone to take over the running of the event, but there were sadly no volunteers. Also under the chop is the Summer Fayre. We are hoping to organise some new events to replace these two.

Many thanks to all the members of the Social and Fundraising Committee who dedicate copious amounts of time and talent for the benefit of others.

Ros Ellis

Church Flowers

We started the last year with just four regular flower arrangers and were happy to welcome Jeanette as a new member. Sadly, in November Theresa died quite suddenly. She was always very keen to try out new ideas and techniques with her arrangements, and her enthusiasm was infectious. A sad loss.

We have continued with the four of us, with occasional 'guest' appearances from some of our former regulars. Thanks go to them. We have tried to vary the arrangements on a weekly basis, but sometimes are able to 'eke out' an arrangement rather than starting a new one from scratch. This saves on work but also financially, as the cost of flowers is very high at present.

We were assisted at Easter and at Harvest by donations of beautifully decorated baskets provided by members of the congregation. We were so grateful to receive these as they really brought the Church to life with colour and originality. We are continuing with this idea. If anyone is interested in trying flower arranging, do have a word with me and I will organise a 'have a go' session.

We are acutely aware of the environmental impact of the floral foam we usually use and are looking for more eco-friendly solutions.

Looking forward, we hope to continue decorating the Church to provide interest, relevance and beauty.

Helen Scott

Electoral Roll

The total figure for this year, allowing for additions and leavings, is 116. This is 10 fewer than last year and contrasts sharply with the figure of 176 for 2019. This is mainly due to deaths and a few people moving out of the Parish. There may be some people who attend frequently and might like to be on the Electoral Roll. If so, forms are available in church, or just ask me, or Sam in the office.

Do speak to Jonathan if you have any questions on joining the Roll. Being on it has benefits which enable you to have a vote in Church affairs or even stand for the PCC, therefore, it is an important status in the church family life.

Keith Freeman

Coffee and Company

Our numbers do vary but we average about 25. If you know anyone who would benefit from an hour or so of company please encourage them to give us a try, we meet on the first Saturday of the month from 10 to 12 noon.

Thanks must go to Graham Walder who not only gets the tables set up for us but also provides transport to those who might otherwise be unable to attend. Thanks as always go to Rosemary, Gay, Mary, Sue and Angie. I couldn't do it without you.

Thanks also to all who attend and who make it such a lovely friendly couple of hours, it couldn't happen without you so not pop in and give us a try.

Jacqui Aspinall

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met 3 times during the year, presided over by the Rural Dean, Rev'd Dan Henderson and the lay Chair, now Sarah Rogers from St Peters West Blatchington.

One of the major issues was the parish contribution to the Diocese which covers clergy costs, training, housing and Diocesan costs such as training new ministers. Many parishes, including ours, now find we are unable to contribute the full amount, which has resulted in economies having to be made further up the chain whereby training of new Readers has been put on hold in favour or encouraging the increased provision of Lay Ministers.

Talks of items of interest have taken place, including one by the Diocesan Director of Education about churches engaging with the schools in the their area and another by the Diocesan Environment Officer saying we have a duty to the God we worship, who is the creator, to care about the environment, sustainability and greenhouse gases. Parishes are urged to adopt eco-friendly practices.

Jan Powell

Churches Together and 'Open the Book'

These services in St. Michael's church are regularly held during school term time each Wednesday at 9.30am. All the churches in Southwick have been very keen to support sending representatives along and also contributing in a leadership way taking their turn in providing the content.

We all have commitments each week and so numbers can fluctuate from time to time. It has been pleasing to welcome old friends back and make new friends who are supporting us for the first time. I have also been delighted to accept offers of help in leading the service and giving their input. So, thanks go to Graham Walder and to Brian Box. Everyone's contribution is different as we learn to gain insight into Jesus's teachings. In spite of her retirement, Linda Hulcoop from the Community is still happy to come once a term, so thank you for doing this, Linda.

Part of our joint worship is taking part in the World Day of Prayer where each church finds members to take part in this very uplifting service. It is so lovely working together. Each year it is one of the churches responsibilities to host and organise the service and this year it is St. Michael's turn, so I'm hoping our congregation will support it well.

Do consider coming and giving this service a try, we hold it from 9.30am until 10am with tea/coffee provided afterwards. It is such a great opportunity learn what is happening in our Church Communities. We are Christ's Body trying to reach out to all who seek and are in need one way or another.

Open the Book

Our church is that still supporting the Open the Book initiative, which has been in action for many years. Members of our Churches are working together to go into Eastbrook Academy at their invitation once a fortnight, to share the stories from the Bible and act out those stories too. We are always looking for offers of help with this in any form, so if you would like to help do talk to me about it. The Bible Society has brought out a new book with more of the Bible's stories to relate to the children. This gives them variety and we find that sometimes we use the new book and sometimes the first one. The children love the stories, and often remember them even with two weeks in between. They love dressing up and acting out where they can in the story. We have covered Creation, Jacob and Essau, Jospheh, Moses and from the New Testament John the Baptist, the Nativity, and the Storm on the Lake.

Sheila West

House Group

The House Group meets on Fridays in the church, and everyone is welcome to join us.

We meet to pray, praise and talk about Jesus, our Lord and Saviour: how we long for Him to become increasingly more of our everyday lives and how we can serve Him more faithfully.

The original group started some years ago (before lock-down) and continues to be a source of encouragement and sweet fellowship and even fun. Recently we have met weekly for a Lent Series by Olivia Amarty discussing and praying about Gifts:

"God's Gifts to us and how to recognise our own gifts, how we can use them, respond to them and be fruitful in our lives."

It has been a good series, thought provoking and offering opportunities for discussion and growth.

Ray and Elaine Luff