

Churchwardens' Report

We are pleased to report that the Inventory has been checked and is correct.

2024 was a year of change for us. We said goodbye to Jonathan at the beginning of September with a well-attended shared lunch. Since then, we have been supported by a rota of retired priests and it has been beneficial to our worship and spiritual life to have these priests officiate at our Eucharist and we are grateful for their support. Sadly, we have had to suspend the 8 am monthly said Eucharist due to a lack of numbers and staffing issues. The Archdeacon presided over all our Christmas services and all the services were well attended, numbers being up on last year. The Christmas workshop proved very popular and we need to consider how we can encourage those that attend the workshops to join in the life of the Church throughout the year.

A Parish Profile was prepared and ready to circulate to interested parties when the Vicar of St. Julian's resigned due to ill health and the Living of St Michael's was suspended to give the Bishop time to consider Parish boundaries and the appointment of Incumbents. We are grateful for your patience and support while we are in this position and hope that it gets resolved soon. We are doing all we can to promote St Michael's and your support and prayers are appreciated.

As well as Sunday morning services it is important that we support one another during these unsure times and you can do this by attending the Friday House Group, Coffee and Company or stopping for coffee after Church on a Sunday or just supporting any of the fund raising events.

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.

Jacqui Aspinall & Karen Long
Churchwardens



Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Southwick

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

AND

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 11th of May 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 24th of March 2024
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. Churchwardens' 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 2024/2025.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Held on Sunday 24th March 2024 at 11.15am in St Michael's Church

The meeting was opened with prayer led by the Reverend Jonathan French. It was attended by 29 parishioners.

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Jacqui Aspinall, Mr and Mrs Adrian Ellis and Mrs Gay Courtage.

Minutes of the last APCM held on 30th April 2023

The minutes were agreed unanimously as a true record and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

Elections:

PCC:

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

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Mrs Samantha Byrne-Smith	Mrs Pam Lee	Mrs Jan Powell
Mr Raymond Luff	Mrs Ros Ellis	Mrs Carolyn Almond
Mr Tom Backshall	Mrs Wendy Stringer	Mrs Anthea Hind

The Rector thanked those who had served in the previous year, particularly Miss Amanda Beal, Mrs Beryl Elms, Miss Kate Hamnett and Mrs Gay Courtage who were retiring.

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

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

It was also agreed that the following act as welcomers:

Mrs Carolyn Almond	Mrs Anita Beverton	Mrs Sarah Bowrah
Mr Ray Luff	Mrs Cathy Moore	Mr Tony Seaman
Mrs Helen Scott	Mr Peter Scott	Mrs Wendy Stringer

Reports:

Financial Report – Treasurer:

Mr Graham Walder thanked Keith McQueen for all he had done in looking after the church accounts, Marion Goble for her continued discreet administration of covenanted giving scheme and Ray Luff in helping him as Assistant Treasurer.

This year, the accounts have been presented in a simpler Receipts and Payments format. Graham has been encouraging all payments to be made online as this does not incur charges as cash and cheque transactions now do. Any claims for reimbursement of expenses should be made on one of the blue forms which are available from the office. Regarding income, which is summarised on page 11, donations and legacies includes our regular giving, charitable activities include wedding and funeral fees, other trading comprises fundraising activities and hire of the hall and investments include rent of 1 Church House Close and interest. Details of these sums are on page 13.

Expenditure covers the self-explanatory cost of fundraising events and of maintaining 1 Church House Close, charitable costs relate to church and clergy expenses and trading embraces hall and architects' fees. Details are shown on page 14.

The difference between income and expenditure is a shortfall of £15,068, most of which relates to outstanding boiler replacement costs which should be regarded as an investment for the future. In order to redress the net movement out of funds, the parish contribution has been reduced. £5,000 is to be transferred from savings to the current account to meet immediate needs.

Regarding the future, the current account balance is regularly reviewed, this aided by the up-to-date balance being available online. The Diocese has been warned that we may have to reduce our contribution further and our situation is unlikely to change. Also, we have had to reduce our fundraising events as we no longer have the manpower to run them and donations and legacies are lower than in the past. Our priority remains to care for the church building and people. Our main assets are income from the hall and 1 Church House Close.

In response to questions, Graham clarified that some of the cash income from Sunday and Churches Together refreshments is not recorded as it is used to purchase supplies but the balance goes into the general fund. We are expecting a legacy from the estate of the late Daphne Barnett.

The Revd Jonathan French expressed the congregation's thanks to Graham for the immense amount of work he puts in to maintain the accounts. Peter Reygate proposed and Colin Upton seconded that the accounts be adopted and all were in favour.

Churchwarden Ms Karen Long was asked to inform the congregation about the Easy Fundraising Scheme that had been promoted at Deanery Synod and is widely used by other parishes. Under this, a parish is registered and firms participating in the scheme give a proportion of the money spent by registered customers to the church quarterly. Karen encouraged parishioners (and their friends and families) to register with Easy Fundraising naming St Michael's Southwick as their chosen charity, gift aiding if they are able. Neither the church nor the shoppers are charged for this. A quarterly payment is received. Karen will prepare a leaflet to give more details and leave it in the church.

Other Reports:

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

Appointment of Independent Examiner

The company we have used recently is proving rather expensive, so the PCC has approached a local accountant, Mr James Tugwell, who has offered to act at an annual cost of £500. He has 20 years' experience in accounting and credit control. The meeting agreed unanimously that he should be asked to examine the 2023 and 2024 accounts.

Rector's report:

The Rector expressed his thanks to Jacqui Aspinall and Karen Long for their work as churchwardens; to Graham Walder, Ray Luff, Marion Goble and Keith McQueen for their work on parish finances; to Jan Powell as PCC Secretary; to Tom Backshall as Safeguarding Officer; to Sarah Bowrah as a reliable verger; to Sam and Craig Byrne-Smith and Sarah Bowrah for cleaning the hall; to Hugh O'Neil, Angie Jackson and the choir for their much appreciated music; to Gigi Backshall and Kate Hamnett for their contribution to the Children's Services; to the Fabric and Social & Fundraising Committees; to the flower ladies and those who made Easter baskets and especially to Sam Byrne-Smith who is the first point of call for everyone and has such a friendly and approachable manner.

He acknowledged that 90% of parishes are having problems with numbers and finances but gives thanks for all this Parish means and does.

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 Sunday 14th April 2024 in the Rectory at 11.15 am and the next APCM will be on 13th April 2025 (Palm Sunday).

Approved by the APCM on Sunday 11th May 2025 by the acting Chair

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 2024

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PCC Annual Report for 2024

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 2024/25, with their year of election shown after their name:

Revd J French – Incumbent (to 3rd September 2024)

Mrs J Aspinall - Churchwarden

Ms K Long - Churchwarden

Mrs J Aspinall *23

Ms K Long *23

Mrs J Powell *23 - Secretary

Mr G Walder *23 – Treasurer

Mrs M Kelly 23

Mr R Rose 23

Mrs P Sinclair 23

Mrs A Beverton 22

Mrs S Bowrah 22

Mr D Hilton 22

Mr S Wilton 22

Mr T Backshall 24– Safeguarding

Mrs S Byrne-Smith 24

Mr R Luff 24

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 are Messrs Anova of The Barn, Meadow Court, Faygate Lane Horsham RH12 4SJ. The PCC delegated the day-to-day management of the Parish to the incumbent, Revd. Jonathan French, with the responsibilities transferred to the Churchwardens Mrs J Aspinall and Ms K Long during the inter-regnum.

This report covers the year to December 2024 and significant events during the early months of 2025.

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 2024, an average of 48 people attended weekly worship, a further 14 attended less regularly and 13 remain part of our worshipping community but are unable to come to services due to infirmity. There were 89 active members (59 of whom are over 70) on the Ecclesiastical Electoral Roll. It is pleasing that 314 people, including many children, attended church over the Christmas period and 91 at Easter, both higher than last year.

Review of the year

We were sorry to lose our Rector, Revd Jonathan French, after 14 years' service here and a shared lunch was enjoyed where we were able to wish him well in his retirement. The priests at St Mary de Haura and St Julian's benefices have also left so the livings have been suspended while discussions take place about future arrangements. However, we have continued with the help of visiting clergy and were delighted to welcome the Archdeacon to officiate at our Christmas services. Sung Eucharist is held every Sunday, with the first Sunday of the month being All Age Worship. A Said Communion was also held once a month but has had to be suspended during the inter-regnum. Southwick Churches Together hold ecumenical services in St Michael's each week during term time. The Advent Children's Workshop was well supported, and we continue to participate in the Churches Together 'Open the Book' sessions at Eastbrook School. It was good to join with fellow local Christians to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for which we hosted the service and to join in the Walk of Witness from the Community Church to Southwick Square on Good Friday. Unfortunately, joint Carol Singing in The Square had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

The PCC met 8 times with a 74% attendance and urgent matters were dealt with by the Standing Committee. Additional meetings were convened during the inter-regnum to keep members updated on progress and to make urgent decisions. There was 1 wedding, 3 funerals and 1 interment of ashes. We were greatly saddened to lose Patricia Lemere-Goff, Peter Robinson, George Hards, Graham Peters, Denis Croft and Sheila Dean during the year, all of whom had contributed greatly to our parish over many years.

The inter-regnum has put a lot of pressure on the Wardens and PCC who have to undertake additional duties to keep everything running smoothly and we would particularly like to thank our Parish Administrator, Sam Byrne-Smith, for her extra efforts and help during this period. We do feel that morale in the parish has remained high and we have been pleased to gather different viewpoints from our visiting priests who seem to have enjoyed being with us.

Despite the difficulties we face in our church, country and the troubled world, we give thanks for the blessings we continue to enjoy – a loving God who promises to be with us always and faithful friends around us to help us face the future with hope.

Financial Review 2024

2024 has seen a net reduction of funds of £6,148 of which the major part of this relates to expenditure on the Church Hall. At the beginning of the year, we finally resolved the issue of the leaking roof in the kitchen by removing and replacing the tiles in that area and in August we replaced the rotten timber front doors with new aluminium door frames. The Church Hall is an important asset for us supporting not only an important source of income but also a place to hold a large number of our social events.

Regular Income giving has largely stabilised and Gift Aid recovered has increased this year, due to the fact that we have now managed to make regular Gift Aid claims during the year rather than leaving it until the following year and then making a single claim.

Fundraising events have however been a challenge for us as an ageing congregation are finding it more difficult to manage the larger events like running the car boot sale etc.

Our Parish Contribution was reduced to £4,475 per month although we have managed to increase this in 2025 to £4,610. We are also planning on making a contribution to the Dioceses when we receive the legacy from Daphne Barnett's estate.


Reserves Policy.

1. Our Barclays Current Account was £8,052 and our Barclays Premium Account was £17,760 on 31 12 2024.
2. Our Investment Accounts with CBF held by the PCC were £52,592
3. The Investment Account held by the Diocese was £28,849
4. The Kenyon Trust is a restricted fund for St Peters Church were £30,374
5. The Simmonds Trust is an Endowed Trust of £10,382 for the Churchyard which may not be spent but the interest is paid into the General Fund

Approved by the PCC on 16th of March 2025 and signed on its behalf by the Acting Chair

(Signature)

(Name)


Jacqui Aspinwall

Fabric Report

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

St Michaels 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 has now been repainted and thanks go to Peter Scott and Nigel Courtnage for undertaking this task. There has been some treatment for woodworm and evidence of further woodworm is being monitored. Work has been undertaken on the wooden block flooring where some blocks have become raised or are unsafe.

The churchyard is the responsibility of Adur and Worthing District Council.

St Michaels Church Hall

The roof has now been repaired satisfactorily. New doors have been fitted which are a great improvement.

There is a problem with the flooring of the storage cupboard and hopefully this will be investigated during the summer holidays this year.

The land the Hall is built on is leased from the Diocese and the term of this Lease runs out in June 2025 and we are currently seeking to extend the term of this Lease/ have a new Lease granted.

1 Church House Close

1 Church House Close continues to be let to the same tenants and provides an essential source of income. A large tree in the garden which was causing a problem has been cut down

The Rectory

The Rectory remains the responsibility of the diocese, however, during an interregnum certain matters are our responsibility. It seems very unlikely but the Diocese are considering letting the property for six months and because of this we are having to completely clear the house and garage and we are currently arranging for a skip to help with the removal of some large items. We are also responsible for keeping the garden tidy, thankfully the Diocese have arranged for the removal of the brambles in the garden.

Thanks to Peter Scott for the smart new address plaque for the Rectory.

Jacqui Aspinall/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.

St Michaels and All Angels, Southwick, Charity no. 1130870.

Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments, Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowed	Total	Total
	General	Designated	Fund/s	Fund/s	All Funds	All Funds
	Fund	Funds			2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	67,165	1,700	575	-	69,440	60,645
Charitable activities	1,470	-	-	-	1,470	4,004
Other trading activities	22,241	-	-	-	22,241	26,883
Investments	22,444	-	-	-	22,444	18,232
Other receipts	(161)	-	-	-	(161)	-
Total received	113,160	1,700	575	-	115,435	109,815
Expenditure on:						
Cost of raising funds	(21)	-	-	-	(21)	151
Charitable costs	(99,323)	-	-	-	(99,323)	111,408
Trading costs	(17,355)	(1,700)	-	-	(19,055)	11,588
Upkeep of 1 Church House Close	(1,029)	-	-	-	(1,029)	1,756
Retiring Gift for Rector	-	-	(700)	-	(700)	-
Total paid	(117,729)	(1,700)	(700)	-	(120,129)	124,883
Reconciliation of funds:						
Net income or (net expenditure)	(4,568)	-	(125)	-	(4,693)	(15,068)
Transfer from General to Restricted Fund re Retiring Gift	(125)	-	125	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(4,693)	-	-	-	(4,693)	(15,068)
Current account at 1 January 2024	28,738	-	-	-	28,738	44,184
Deposit account at 1 January 2024	646	-	-	-	646	646
CBF Deposit Fund CB3023322-001 at 1 January 2024	9,500	-	-	-	9,500	9,500
CBF Deposit Fund CB3023323-001 at 1 January 2024	45,668	-	-	-	45,668	44,150
Trust Investment CB305510 at 1 January 2024	27,395	-	-	-	27,395	27,395
Adjustment for cheques accounted in prior year	-	-	-	-	-	(377)
Bank accounts at 31 December 2024	107,253	-	-	-	107,253	110,529

St Michaels and All Angels, Southwick, Charity no. 1130870.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities, Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowed	Total	Total
	General	Designated				
	Fund	Funds	Fund/s	Fund/s	All Funds	All Funds
	£	£	£	£	2024	2023
Assets:						
Barclays Current Business account	8,052				8,052	28,758
Barclays Premium Business Account	17,760				17,760	546
CBF Deposit Fund CB3023323-001	48,092				48,092	45,668
CBF Deposit Fund CB3023322-001	4,500				4,500	5,500
CBF Trust Investment CB3005510	28,849				28,849	27,395
PCC-owned bank balances	107,253	-	-	-	107,253	111,946
Kenyon Trust			30,374		30,374	28,362
Simmonds Trust				10,382	10,382	10,150
Total bank and deposit accounts	107,253	-	30,374	10,382	148,009	150,958
Gift Aid recoverable	8,429	-	-	-	8,429	12,103
Debtors	8,429	-	-	-	8,429	12,103
Investment assets at market value	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freehold, 1 Church House Close	200,000	-	-	-	200,000	200,000
Investment assets at cost	200,000	-	-	-	200,000	200,000
Total assets	315,682	-	30,374	10,382	356,438	363,061
Liabilities:						
Refund due to Worthing DC		-	-	-	-	300
Cheque outstanding at year end						128
Cheque outstanding at year end						54
Electricity usage June-December						3,000
Total liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	3,482

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 9/12/2025 and signed on its behalf by:

(Signature)

(Name)

(Trustee)

St Michaels and All Angels, Southwick, Charity no. 1130870.

Analysis of Total Income, Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total All Funds 2024	Total All Funds 2023
	General Fund	Designated Funds				
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	46,096	-	-	-	46,096	41,575
Planned giving (no tax refunds)	2,710	-	-	-	2,710	4,353
One-off and adhoc donations	963	-	-	-	963	2,504
Special appeals	-	1,700	575	-	2,275	282
Gift Aid recovered	15,704	-	-	-	15,704	11,931
Legacies	1,692	-	-	-	1,692	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donations and legacies	67,165	1,700	575	-	69,440	60,645
Fees for weddings & funerals	1,470	-	-	-	1,470	4,004
Charitable activities	1,470	-	-	-	1,470	4,004
Proceeds of events with trading/sales	2,176	-	-	-	2,176	9,759
Concert income	327	-	-	-	327	416
Small items sales (coffee/candles/Bible)	265	-	-	-	265	-
Hall hiring fees	17,621	-	-	-	17,621	16,708
Magazine/bookstall income	1,852	-	-	-	1,852	-
Other trading activities	22,241	-	-	-	22,241	26,883
Interest on Deposits	4,684	-	-	-	4,684	672
Dividends on Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Letting of investment property	17,760	-	-	-	17,760	17,610
Income on Investments	22,444	-	-	-	22,444	18,282
Other receipts	(161)	-	-	-	(161)	-
Total received on all funds	113,160	1,700	575	-	115,435	109,815

St Michaels and All Angels, Southwick, Charity no. 1130870.

Analysis of Total Expenditure, Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total All Funds 2024	Total All Funds 2023
	General Fund	Designated Funds				
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost of fundraising activities/events	(21)	-	-	-	(21)	131
Other appeals expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of raising funds	(21)	-	-	-	(21)	131
Charitable grants and donations	(128)	-	-	-	(128)	1,633
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	(54,100)	-	-	-	(54,100)	62,100
Wages and salaries inc NI	(10,835)	-	-	-	(10,835)	9,571
Rector's Expenses	(2,578)	-	-	-	(2,578)	2,605
Visiting Clergy Fees and Expenses	(913)	-	-	-	(913)	617
Rectory Utilities	(3,083)	-	-	-	(3,083)	4,834
Sunday school/Children's work	(134)	-	-	-	(134)	288
Cost of Church Services	(4,637)	-	-	-	(4,637)	5,243
Office Supplies	(1,252)	-	-	-	(1,252)	762
Church utilities bills	(8,637)	-	-	-	(8,637)	4,862
Other regular church running costs	(2,586)	-	-	-	(2,586)	359
Costs of charitable & outreach events	(335)	-	-	-	(335)	-
Church maintenance & redecoration	(3,522)	-	-	-	(3,522)	611
New boiler for Church	-	-	-	-	-	12,719
Insurance	(4,542)	-	-	-	(4,542)	3,584
Bank Charges	(231)	-	-	-	(231)	-
Examiner's and other financial fees	(1,812)	-	-	-	(1,812)	1,620
Charitable costs	(99,323)	-	-	-	(99,323)	111,409
Cost of events with trading/sales	(20)	-	-	-	(20)	1,223
Architect's Fees	-	-	-	-	-	1,342
Hall maintenance & redecoration	(7,153)	(1,700)	-	-	(8,853)	-
Church Hall utilities	(2,742)	-	-	-	(2,742)	2,347
Church Hall running costs (other)	(7,140)	-	-	-	(7,140)	6,675
Other trading costs	(300)	-	-	-	(300)	-
Trading costs	(17,355)	(1,700)	-	-	(19,055)	11,587
Upkeep of 1 Church House Close	(1,029)	-	-	-	(1,029)	1,756
Retiring Gift for Rector	-	-	(700)	-	(700)	-
Total paid on all funds	(117,729)	(1,700)	(700)	-	(120,129)	124,883

St Michaels and All Angels, Southwick, Charity no. 11330870. Staff
Costs, Year Ended 31 December 2024

Staff costs		2024	2023
		£	£
Wages and salaries		(10,146)	(9,266)
Employer National Insurance		(259)	(305)
Employer pension contributions		(429)	-
		(10,835)	(9,571)
Honoraria	charged to Cost of Services (Organist) or Church Hall Running Costs (Cleaners)	(8,942)	(8,923)
		(19,777)	(18,494)

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 2024.

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

Katie Squire ACA, Anova

The Barn, Meadow Court
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Dated: 23/04/2025

Reports of the various Committees of the PCC and Church Organisations

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met three times during the year presided over by the Rural Dean, Reverend Dan Henderson. The highlight was the Deanery Celebration of the year of faith, the 950 year anniversary of the formation of the Chichester Diocese and the 1700 year anniversary of the Synod of Nicea. The meeting was held at St Leonards, Aldrington in February.

The theme was to share our beliefs and discover how the Nicene Creed unites us and determines what we believe, recognising that faith is a process of exploration.

At each meeting, there is a focus talk, the first, by Reverend Andrew Smith, was a generous giving saying discipleship should be a part of our faith. The more we know the more likely we are to be generous as information promotes a vision for mission and ministry.

A call to generosity is a call to prayer and we are stewards of our time, talents and treasure (see 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9). Reverend Nick Turner gave the second talk on evangelism and discipleship, so needed as the UK now has more atheists than people who believe in God. He encouraged us to be bold and to witness everyday as our actions speak louder than words. We are entrusted with a duty and joy to introduce Christianity into general conversation as a natural overflow of our love for Jesus and to be outward looking despite the barriers of modern society, when the church is often seen as an alien culture or not credible. People may be put off by social barriers or past experiences, so we need to encourage them to feel comfortable and welcome in and out of church, to make opportunities to share and make the most of those that are put in front of us.

These were all very inspiring and upbeat and give hope for a brighter future, despite all the bad things in this world that we are constantly bombarded with. But these good times require us all to be actively involved in every way we can.

Jan Powell

Friday House Group

The Group meets on Fridays in the Church and everyone is welcome to join us.

We continue to 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 group started some years ago and continues to be a source of encouragement, sweet fellowship and even fun.

During Lent we met weekly for a series by Douglas Connelly on the 'I am' Sayings of Christ, a good series, thought provoking and offering opportunities for discussion and growth. Karen led a small parallel group on Saturday mornings which was much appreciated.

Earlier, we also studied a series on the Sermon on the Mount based on the Beatitudes.

Ray and Elaine Luff

Children's Ministry

The All-Age Worship services, generally on the first Sunday of the month, continue although the number of children and families attending is very low, sometimes only two or three youngsters attend. We continue to be grateful to Gigi Backshall-Wilkinson and Kate Hammett for organising activities for the youngsters during the service. It has also been a delight to encourage greater participation in the service from our young people and, in particular, the guitar playing from Ollie.

A successful Advent Workshop was held December when 17 children were welcomed to the Church Hall for craft activities, a light lunch and a re-telling of the Nativity story as well as some Carol singing led by Ollie (guitar), Luke (Keyboard) and Katie. Father Christmas appeared at the end of the workshop with a small gift for each child. Several parents stayed throughout the workshop which gave an opportunity for conversations about St Michael's, who we are and what we do. I am grateful to the team for their hard work and commitment in making this day such a success and to Keith Freeman for his willingness to don a red suit and white beard for the occasion!

There was a good attendance of young people over the Christmas period with a very successful Crib Service on Christmas Eve, led by Archdeacon Martin and the Nativity Story was narrated by the Archdeacon and played out by the children with enthusiasm and joy!

A further workshop is to be held in Lent prior to Mothering Sunday is planned. One thing that we need to do is follow up contacts made during these workshops to establish connections with families so that we can reach out to them and encourage them to become involved with St Michaels. It is to be hoped that over the next year, and particularly when, God willing, we have a new priest we can re-focus on our ministry to children, young people and families.

Karen Long

Pastoral Team

It was the Rector's intention to reform and renew the Pastoral but sadly Jonathan did not achieve this prior to his retirement. I am grateful to those who 'keep tabs' on those who are poorly and/or housebound and bring them to our attention for prayer. Thanks especially to Brenda Wells for her ministry of taking communion regularly to those who are in residential care or who are housebound and unable to attend church.

In the absence of a priest, I will be looking at ways to co-ordinate our pastoral care so that all our church family are looked after.

Karen Long

Church Hall

The main thing to report re: the church hall for the past year is the new doors! We have finally got a set of wonderful looking, fully functional doors that work the same way come rain or shine! It certainly makes my job hiring out the hall easier without this hurdle to cross. The fix to the kitchen roof is holding up nicely, with no leaks to report.

Thank you to everyone who helps at the hall with fixing, painting, general maintenance. More jobs are planned moving forward into the summer.

Samantha Byrne-Smith

Coffee and Company

Our numbers do vary but we average about 25/30. 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. If there is someone you think might benefit from the company but transport is a problem please let me know and we'll see if we can help.

Thanks as always go to Rosemary, Gay, Mary, Sue, Angie and Graham. 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. Why not pop in and give us a try.

Jacqui Aspinall

Electoral Roll

As you will know, this year called for a complete revision of the Electoral Roll. This is a big undertaking and thank you to all who completed forms and dropped them into the office.

The total figure for this year (forms returned) is 89, compared to 116 on the last roll. There are still a few forms waiting to be completed and returned, a few people have moved from the parish and some who are now in nursing homes and there are those who have sadly passed away in the last year.

There may be some people who attend frequently and might like to be on the Electoral Roll. If so, forms are available in church.

Sam Byrne-Smith

Church Flowers

The Flower Ladies continue to provide a beautiful display each week, which we hope everyone enjoys.

Our numbers are still low but have been boosted recently by Nancy Morris who has now brought our number up to 6! Thank you, Nancy!

We are always grateful if people donate money for flowers in memory of a loved one. We do our best to find flowers in the colours that you request. Please see Brenda Allen or me if you wish to do this and please give us some notice.

Finding flowers continues to be difficult without the local florist or access to the flower market, but we have experimented with one or two new sources and always have our local supermarkets to fall back on!

We are pleased that this year we have managed to find a more eco-friendly floral foam to support our arrangements. My thanks go to all our arrangers, and to those of you who kindly comment on the flowers and show your appreciation.

Helen Scott

St Michael's Music

Choir

Angie Jackson (Choir and Music Director) has continued to inspire our small but very loyal group of singers who have been leading the services tirelessly this past year. None of us is getting any younger and we had to accept that one of our senior members could not continue in the choir after December. However, the enthusiasm of the choir is undiminished, and they continue in the crucial role of leading the congregational singing in the services. Angie and I continue to work together at Friday evening rehearsals to prepare for the services and other events, always a stimulating fixture. These events have included an Advent Carol service in which the choir was augmented with seasonal support that Angie manages to procure for these occasions. The choir, to their credit, also featured in the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass. Both these services seemed to be very well received. Unfortunately, the prospects for recruitment into the choir are not looking good at present, a problem no doubt facing many parish churches.

Organ

Intonation problems persist, although after I met with the organ tuner to discuss the most pressing of these issues, the 'Great' organ is sounding considerably improved. Even so, I still have to be very selective in registration choices. The instrument was last overhauled 50 years ago and will need some expensive attention in the foreseeable future if it is to continue in operation. A cheaper option is a digital organ, which would require little maintenance. Either way, a financial decision on longer term plans regarding organ music at St Michael's will have to be made as soon as possible.

Classical Music Concert

A repeat of last year's successful concert was held on the 21st of September. There was a varied programme by six artists. A vocal item for mezzo-soprano accompanied by viola and piano by Brahms was followed by a baroque piece for 2 flutes and piano. Anita Beverton contributed 'The Swan' by Saint-Saens, and we ended with the lively Poulenc Flute sonata with Karen and myself on piano. Graham Walder kindly introduced the event. I have some ideas about the next concert but no date has been decided as yet. Our local support was good, but I was slightly disappointed that in spite of varied advertising ploys, I did not notice any 'outsiders' in the audience.

Hugh O'Neal (organ and piano)

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding procedures are up to date and regularly reviewed. All necessary DBS checks have now been updated through the online service. If you plan to run a group or visit others in an activity linked in any way to the church a DBS check should be completed. It is not too onerous - please contact me for information.

You will be aware that the Church is under enormous scrutiny regarding Safeguarding at this time. Information and online training is available to anyone and can be accessed via the Diocesan website. If you would like more information please let me know. Completing a DBS check is not the same as engaging with training. The training is helpful in keeping us alert to the context and concerns around Safeguarding.

The key message is that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns about someone or a particular situation please contact me. All concerns will be taken seriously and dealt with in confidence.

Tom Backshall - Safeguarding Officer

Social and Fundraising

During the interregnum, it is so important that we all pull together. It is absolutely wonderful to witness that togetherness in our social and fundraising activities, from both the organisers and supporters. During the year 2024-2025 our events included Quiz Night, an Open Garden at Peter and Helen's house, a cream tea, a shared lunch to celebrate harvest and the Advent Fayre.

Currently, your Social and Fundraising committee comprises ladies only. This is not an exclusive arrangement, and we would love it if any gentlemen would like to join us. At the very least we value your support and muscle power.

Thank you so much to all members of the Social and Fundraising Committee for all their hard work, and for all the additional support we receive from friends and family. Planning is already in progress for future events. We publish news of all our activities in the weekly pew sheet.

Ros Ellis

The Singles' Circle

I really do feel that this is a year of change in more ways than one, just as I have mentioned in our magazine whereby, we have lost the use of the Big Sompting Local minibus. Emma their driver was such a lovely support getting us faithfully to our destinations and we finished up with an outing just before the end of 2025 with a visit to Glow Wild at the Wakehurst Place gardens to see the illuminations there. We are hoping and praying that a new outlet will come forward so we can start our outings again. In the meantime, to keep people being able to meet we started the year with a lunch at La Galleria in January, and this week a visit to Mayberry's Garden Centre for Afternoon Tea. On 29th March we are holding a Film Afternoon in the church hall. Later in the year we hope to arrange visits by train or minibus (if possible) to Chichester to see the exhibition in the Cathedral celebrating 950 years of the Diocese of Chichester and 1700 year of the Nicene Creed. We have also not ruled out our long awaited, fish and chip lunch on a cruise on the Chichester Canal. So do watch our pew sheets and posters during the year for further information.

Sheila West

Family Support Work

Since the election of our new government, like many charities FSW has been hit very hard by the loss of revenue to aid those who great need in Sussex. Therefore, anything our churches can do to help is absolutely vital. The results of the increase in revenue announced by the new Chancellor means that the annual amount of support from our diocese has been drastically cut and the amount raised by FSW's Winter Warmer campaign has also been greatly reduced due to many pensioners losing the amount they were given by the government each year, part of which if not all, would have been given to this campaign. I have been amazed how pensioners that I know, have still dipped into their pockets and given donations in spite of having to find extra money to fund their own needs. FSW is not alone in losing thousands of pounds of revenue due to increases in money needed to cover the increases in national insurance demanded for each member of staff working for them. This must have affected the Diocese too.

In spite of all this various groups throughout the Diocese of Chichester are still coming together to raise funds wherever they can. Last year we joined forces with St. Mary de Haura in Shoreham to run stalls in November at their church, for handbags and scarves, and a card tombola.

We still collect food and clothing for the FSW food Bank and for their shop in Eastbourne. So, if you are turning out any of your clothes that are in clean, good condition, please remember FSW and place them in the box in the tower along with requested food items that FSW stipulate. Sam in our office always lets you know what is desperately needed.

One of FSW's 'clients' wrote the following, which sums up what this charity is all about: -

"After being referred to FSW from my son's infant school, I was told the lovely Gail would be our support worker. And when I say lovely, I genuinely mean that! She has helped me in so many ways and it's nice when I don't have friends, I can chat to really that I can meet with her and we can catch up on how things have been going and get advice if necessary. I think without Gail I would have been much more stressed than I am! She has a calming nature and is lovely to talk to about anything, not just parenting. Thank you, Gail, and FSW for allowing me to feel supported outside of my family network"

January's work in numbers:

- 253 visits and 972 remote calls supporting 286 parents and 202 children
- 50 supported meetings with other agencies
- 80 group sessions delivered
- 83 food deliveries made

Sheila West

Southwick Churches Together

It is good to report that during term time, Southwick Churches Together still meets for the half hour service on a Wednesday morning from 9.30 to 10am with coffee and time to chat afterwards.

Gathering together a rota to head these services each week has been quite a challenge over the last year. As many of you will know, for one reason or another Southwick has lost the support of their clergy either through retirement, illness or moving on to other parishes. I feel truly grateful for the way that lay people from our churches have come to the fore offering their knowledge and service to keep the rota going.

We have seen new faces at our service and after Bob from the Methodist Church sadly died, we were grateful for Angel Jackson offering to come along to play for us each Wednesday. Her skills have certainly enlivened the singing and it is an absolute joy to have her with us.

We all of us find it so amazing to hear the thoughts and views of people from the different churches, who are a mine of information.

If you now find yourself free on a Wednesday morning and would like to join us for half an hour we would love to see you. Do give us a try, we are now meeting using the choir stall chairs, which are so much more comfortable and we are able to get into a lovely circle, as we also do for our Friday prayer and study group.

Sheila West

Open the Book

I'm pleased to say that Open the Book is still going strong! Eastbrook School is still welcoming us in on a fortnightly basis to tell and enact out stories from the Bible which are Ofsted approved. We are a group of 5 people at the moment who go to the school and what a welcome we get from the children who are in the early stages of their education. We have about 60 children who come to hear the stories and they are often eagerly waiting in line at their classroom doors to come in and sit down quietly ready to sing the song that goes with the presentation, wondering 'which story will it be today' as the song goes.

Last week we were telling the story of David and Goliath and I wondered how on earth we were going to create a giant. Heather from the Methodist Church arrived with the most amazing giant made out of cardboard and well over 6ft. high. She had the words printed out that she needed to say on the back of the giant, and when she was 'killed' by David her shriek as she died and fell down was superb. The children loved it and cheered, so there was no distress at all. The teachers were well primed and quite happy about it all. Next week we are telling the story of Naomi and Ruth.

If any of you are interested in finding out more about this project, please do speak to me and if you can help us, we would be delighted to have you with us, but it is important to attend a training day, which can be done on line and sometimes arranged at Church House Hove. You can see from this that it also has diocesan approval.

Sheila West