

The Parish of St Helen's Ore with St Barnabas



St Helen's Ore Parochial Church Council

Trustee Annual Report for 2023

Structure, Governance & Management

Charity Number: 1131079

Priest In Charge	Tim Bell
Curate	Kizzy Penfold
Wardens	Simon Jones Nick Warren
Deanery Synod	Suzy Edwards Sara Hackett Christine Aitken
Joint Treasurers	Peter Bailey Jennifer Summers-Day
Secretary	Jennifer Summers-Day

Representatives of the Laity

Roger Pook
Roger Mitchell
Lynn White
Susanne Jones
Jason Morton
Linda Chapman-Holmes
David Walker
Toni Lee
Julia Acott

The Parish of St Helen's Ore with St Barnabas
Church Office, 311 The Ridge, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 2RA

Registered Charity No: 1131079

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Aims & Purposes as a Charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in-charge, the Revd Tim Bell, in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and, ecumenical
- Developing our vision: Community, Faith, Action. In which we see the Church as an engaging Faith Community, one that is energised by Faith, which results in an outpouring of God's Love through Action.

Objectives & Activities

When planning our activities for the year, our incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

The council has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

For this year we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers
- Maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish
- Considering how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament
- Offering worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, in small group situations
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Reaching out to the unchurched through provision of various ministries and events held throughout the year.
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building as a historic Centre and focus of life in Ore.

Achievements & Performance

Attendance at Worship.

Public worship in 2023 has seen us continue with our main Sunday services at 9am at St Barnabas with an average of 25 people. Part way through the year we moved the St Helen's Service time to 11am. This was to give more time for those who were leading and preaching to move between St Barnabas and St Helen's without feeling rushed. We also introduced coffee before the service at 10:30am which has gone down well and has helped build fellowship within the church community. I am pleased to say that we have seen new people join our worshipping community. We have been

averaging around 55 people at St Helen's, families and children are still low in number, but we are starting to see some signs of growth in this area with the introduction of a monthly all age service on the second Sunday of the month. All have welcomed this service and enjoy its informal and interactive nature.

At Christmas time we held a Christingle service which was well attended by lots of families. We also had our Carol services, one at St Barnabas and one at St Helen's, both were well attended attracting many visitors.

Midnight Mass was held at St Helen's which was a great opportunity to share the first communion of Christmas, with 45 people in attendance.

Once again, a special Christmas service was held for the parchment trust and was an open invite to adult learning difficulties. It was a real blessing to celebrate Christmas and partner with the parchment trust who do great work in this area.

Teaching, Baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

Alpha was run during the early part of the year; this was off the back of promoting it throughout all our Christmas events. This was again jointly run with Christ Church Ore. 25 people participated in total.

We held the Holy Spirit Day at St Helen's church hall. This was a great day with many experiencing the Holy Spirit for the first time.

As always Alpha is a great opportunity for all to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and grow closer to God.

Following Alpha, it was clear that all the people taking part wanted to carry on with some form of discipleship. For this we ran a Discipleship course looking at spiritual disciplines. This ran up to the autumn term and the people in attendance have now formed a house group which meets every other week.

Our monthly prayer evenings are a continued source of encouragement as we gather to pray into the vision and mission of the church and also to explore and encourage different forms of prayer in order to build up the body of Christ.

A weekly Prayer meeting held at St Barnabas on Monday afternoons, averaging 12 people each week. We had 1 Baptism, 1 Marriage and 2 Funerals in Church.

Evangelism and outreach

Happy Hand's, our toddler group has continued to grow. We have started to see families from this group join us for church events and some Sunday services. We also held a Christmas service for this group in the church. In the summer we finished the term with a garden party. This averages around 20 children each week.

The start of 2023 saw the opening of Youth Drop In's on a Thursday afternoon. This group has reached over 40 young people during its first year and sees a regular weekly attendance of around 15. This has been supported by developing stronger links with Christian School Workers Hastings (CSWH) and promotion through the CSWH Hot Chocolate Club at Ark Alexandra. The church has also supported St. Mary's special school to access the church and deliver some of their RE curriculum.

We have seen the Bumps and Babies group supported by the NCT develop significantly during the year and is now regularly attended each week by 15 mums and their babies. This group continues to work with community providers and has started to see people cross over into the church's parent and toddler group Happy Hands. Happy Hands has been so popular during 2023 it has evolved to provide outdoor provision as well as indoor activities during session times.

The provision of children's activities during church services continues in relation to the reading for the day. September 2023 saw the launch of All Age worship on the Second Sunday each month providing a more informal and interactive style of worship. The uniform groups that hire the hall have been invited to these with varying degrees of success. The donations from the All Age Harvest Celebration were passed to Ore Church Mice Pre-school and the annual Christingle service supported the Children's Society.

One-off events held (generally in school holidays) in partnership with Christ Church Ore continue to remain popular.

Come Be Belong, our group that was set up to combat loneliness and isolation continues at St Barnabas. This group averages 10 people each week. Come be and belong is about making space for people just come for a cup of coffee or tea, and a chat. There is a range of arts, crafts, creative writing, board games on offer for people to join in and relax if wanted. Group participants are encouraged to share their own skills and interests if they would like to do so.

Running Space has continued to grow in 2023. The idea behind Running Space is this: every person we run with has treasure and riches within them, often buried deep under hurt and pain of abuse, abandonment, and rejection. Our purpose is to run shoulder to shoulder with you, and in running to help shake the dirt off each other's lives and pull out the treasure. "Come and run with us, it might just change your life", their website states. The group meets on a Monday morning and is led by a trained coach from Running Space. We average around 8 to 10 people who run. This has been a great way to not only get fitter but to meet new people, most of whom do not attend St Helen's church yet! Two of our members from St Helen's church have now train as coaches and help to lead the sessions. Some from this group ran the Hastings half marathon which was a great opportunity to raise funds for Running Space and help raise its profile. We also took part in the Out Of The Blue 10k at Ashburnham.

At St Barnabas, groups continued. These include Art group which meets on a Tuesday morning. This is open to anyone to bring their own art projects or learn new techniques from others. This group held an art exhibition which was an excellent opportunity to welcome in the local community. Film club which shows films once a month on a Friday night is popular, many from the local community attend. CAMEO continued to meet each week throughout the year with an average of 20 people in attendance.

A Christmas fair was held at St Barnabas at the beginning of Advent. This was a great opportunity to welcome the local community and also promote all our Christmas events.

Great is Thy Faithfulness

A group from St Helen's and Christ Church Ore took part in this pilot course which was run by the diocese of Chichester. We met and had input over the course of the year and looked at different aspect of church growth. This ranged from subject such as collaborative ministry, welcome and intentional community outreach.

The findings of this course then went on to inform our mission action plan.

Mission Action Plan

This was reviewed towards the end of the year, we found that we had achieved most of the goals set in 2022. These goals are all linked to the Diocese's strategy for growth, which being: More open, More converted to Jesus Christ, More generous, More engaged.

The goals agreed for the coming year are as follows: Grow children's and youth work. Reach families and build relationships with schools. Improve discipleship of church members. To be more open to the Holy Spirit. Empower Lay Ministry/new leaders. Our vision to become embedded in all we do. Improve hospitality, welcome and the spirit of generosity. Each church to contribute to the common good within their community.

This is an ongoing process, and our mission action plan will be reviewed annually to ensure we represent the community in which we are set.

Financial Review

Total receipts were £111,707 as shown in the Financial Statements. Giving via planned instruction and collections at services amounted to £62,945. Tax refunds from Gift Aid giving amounted to £10,904.

Expenditure amounted to £151,396 resulting in a deficit of £35,103 on unrestricted funds and a deficit on restricted funds of £4,586.

Total net assets are £40,899 and therefore should the total deficit of £39,689 continue at the current rate in 2024 then all the reserves will be utilised within a year.

Reserves

Unrestricted reserves amounted to £35,139. Designated funds amounted to £nil for specific uses decided by the PCC.

Restricted funds amount to £5,760. These can only be used for the purposes the funds were given. Should they not be spent for the stated purpose then they are legally bound to be repaid to the givers.

Assets

£59,935 is held in cash, bank and building society accounts.

Liabilities

A £15,000 grant was received from CPAS for the Youth Worker in October 2023. Nine months of this (£11,250) has been allocated in the accounts to 2024.

Other

There were no transactions with persons related to PCC members nor with related charities. Gift Aid is accounted for in the year it is claimed or given when part of the Parish Giving Scheme.

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023


	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	71,929	-	1,920	73,849	77,339
Income from charitable activities	3,884	-	5,240	9,124	7,454
Other trading activities	5,010	-	-	5,010	6,371
Investments	1,268	-	-	1,268	514
Other income	8,556	-	13,900	22,456	27,037
Total income	90,647	-	21,060	111,707	118,715
Expenditure on:					
Expenditure on charitable activities	125,750	-	25,646	151,396	100,339
Total expenditure	125,750	-	25,646	151,396	100,339
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(35,103)	-	(4,586)	(39,689)	18,376
Transfers:					
Transfers between funds - in	8,427	-	-	8,427	63,047
Transfers between funds - out		(2,891)	(5,536)	(8,427)	(63,047)
Other recognised gains/losses	-	-	-	-	8,130
Net transfers	8,427	(2,891)	(5,536)	-	8,130
Net movement in funds	(26,676)	(2,891)	(10,122)	(39,689)	26,506
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	61,815	2,891	15,882	80,588	54,082
Total funds carried forward	35,139	-	5,760	40,899	80,588

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand		
CBF Church of England deposit account	40,835	39,567
NatWest current account	19,100	55,103
Total	59,935	94,670
Current Asset - Debtors		
Income tax recoverable	932	3,168
Account receivables	1,032	-
Total	1,964	3,168
Liability - Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year		
Long term liabilities	9,750	9,750
Total	9,750	9,750
Liability - Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year		
Other Current Liabilities	11,250	7,500
Total	11,250	7,500
Total Net Assets	40,899	80,588
Represented by		
Restricted Funds:		
Acts 435	-	992
Building	-	5,960
CPAS	-	2,892
Mission vision	-	546
Restricted donations	5,760	3,840
Rear garden fund	-	1,652
Total Restricted Funds	5,760	15,882
Designated Funds- PCC	-	2,891
Unrestricted Funds - General	35,139	61,815
Total Funds	40,899	80,588

Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by chairman Tim Bell.

Signed:  Date: 13 May 2024

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, in accordance accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities, (SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds Accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds – general funds which can be used for the PCC for ordinary purposes.

Designated funds – money that has been set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds – a.) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest.; b.) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment funds – for which the capital must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment.

Income & Endowments

All income and endowments, accounted for without deduction for any costs of receivability, are recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations & Legacies

Collections are recognised when received.

Planned giving receivable is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount accords with the Gift Aid declaration or other record of intention to donate.

Gift Aid recovered is recognised when the income to which it is attached is recognised.

Grants & legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the funding, is received by the PCC.

Charitable Activities

Statutory fees for weddings and funerals are recognised when the office occurs.

Other Trading Activities

Trading activities are where income is receivable in return for selling goods or providing services. Income from trading is recognised either: a.) when received, or b.) in the case of concerts: for the year in which the event occurs, irrespective of date of receipt. Advance bookings are included in creditors until the concert has taken place.

Sales of magazines and study notes are recognised when received.

Rents from property are recognised in accordance with the rental agreements when receipt is probable.

Investment Income

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

All Other Income

All other income is recognised in accordance with the above overall policy.

Gains & Losses on Investments

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold.

Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation at the 31st December.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, payment is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

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

Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for on an annual basis, reflecting the allocation set by our Deanery. Any parish contribution unpaid at the 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

Fixed Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by c.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected but are not included in the financial statements. For other property acquired prior to 2019 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not stated in the financial statements.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £1,000 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Land Nil

Buildings Nil

Fixtures and Fittings 20%

Audio Visual Equipment 33%

Office Equipment 25%

No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings as the useful economic life of these assets exceeds 50 years and residual values so high that potential depreciation would be immaterial. It is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. Resulting from regular impairment reviews, provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date.

Current Assets

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

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

2. Analysis of Income

	General	Designated	Restricted	2023	2022
Income from:					
Donations and legacies					
Planned giving	22,851	-	1,920	24,771	34,951
Parish Giving Scheme	33,450	-	-	33,450	23,161
Collections open plate	3,035	-	-	3,035	2,890
Donations and legacies	1,689	-	-	1,689	7,781
Gift Aid (income tax recovered)	10,904	-	-	10,904	8,556
Total donation & legacies	71,929	-	1,920	73,849	77,339
Charitable Activities:					
Youth & kids activities	1,831	-	-	1,831	753
St B Cameo, art club, film night & hospitality	2,053	-	-	2,053	1,086
Acts 435	-	-	5,240	5,240	5,615
Total income from charitable activities	3,884	-	5,240	9,124	7,454
Other trading activities					
Hire of church/hall	5,010	-	-	5,010	6,371
Total other trading activities	5,010	-	-	5,010	6,371
Investments					
Investment income	1,268	-	-	1,268	514
Total investment income	1,268	-	-	1,268	514
Other income					
Fees - weddings & funerals	3,379	-	-	3,379	2,927
Building and other grants	210	-	2,650	2,860	7,435
Youth worker CPAS grant	-	-	11,250	11,250	7,500
Clergy expenses	-	-	-	-	524
Clergy expenses CCO share	4,967	-	-	4,967	5,646
Insurance & other refunds	-	-	-	-	3,005
Total other income	8,556	-	13,900	22,456	27,037
Total Income	90,647	-	21,060	111,707	118,715

3. Analysis of Expenditure

	General	Designated	Restricted	2023	2022
Youth & children's activities	1,830	-	546	2,376	451
Youth worker's salary & costs	8,073	-	11,250	19,323	6,214
Church worship & hospitality	3,953	-	-	3,953	5,596
Church seasonal activities	969	-	-	969	-
Church outreach	840	-	-	840	-
St B Cameo, art club, & film night	498	-	-	498	87
Parish contribution	28,188	-	-	28,188	26,856
Mission giving	8,700	-	-	8,700	2,600
Office subscriptions & consumables	4,202	-	-	4,202	2,625
Examining accountant	1,536	-	-	1,536	840
Bank charges	317	-	-	317	-
Staff costs	11,044	-	-	11,044	13,883
Clergy expenses	10,175	-	-	10,175	9,426
Church maintenance	6,900	-	-	6,900	7,277
Hall maintenance	3,704	-	2,650	6,354	996
St Barnabas church maintenance	3,040	-	-	3,040	1,916
St Helen's roof maintenance	3,376	-	5,960	9,336	-
Quinquennial & other costs	1,694	-	-	1,694	940
Cleaning & consumables	4,355	-	-	4,355	3,234
Insurance	4,890	-	-	4,890	4,423
St H church light, heat & water	7,222	-	-	7,222	949
St H hall light, heat & water	4,689	-	-	4,689	1,939
Church House light, heat & water	1,784	-	-	1,784	2,735
St B light, heat & water	3,771	-	-	3,771	1,347
Act 435	-	-	5,240	5,240	6,005
Total Expenditure on charitable activities	125,750	-	25,646	151,396	100,339

4. Missionary & Charitable Giving

St Helen's PCC paid £8,700 (2022: £7,000) for mission giving activities for 2023.

5. Staff Costs

St Helen's Ore PCC participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff. The scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers £1,623 (2022; £786).

The CWPF has a section known as the Defined Benefits Scheme, a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic and a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

6. Payments to PCC Members

Clergy Support for both the vicar and curate:

Council Tax: £6,694 (2022: £7,892)

Environmental/ Water Charges: £1,729 (2022; £2,104)

Mobile/ Travel: £1,677 (2022; £824)

These costs are shared equally between St Helen's and Christ Church Ore.

No person received remuneration in excess of £30,000.

7. Transactions with Persons Related to PCC Members.

No payments were made to persons related to a PCC member.

8. Transactions with Related Charities

No related charities

9. Governance

The cost of the independent examination from Manningtons was £1,536 (2022: £840 including VAT).

10. Analysis of funds

	Fund balances b/f	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Fund balances c/f
Restricted funds					
Acts 435	992	5,240	(5,240)	(992)	-
Building	5,960	2,650	(8,610)	-	-
CPAS	2,892	11,250	(11,250)	(2,892)	-
Mission vision	546	-	(546)	-	-
Restricted donations	3,840	1,920	-	-	5,760
Rear garden fund	1,652	-	-	(1,652)	-
Total restricted funds	15,882	21,060	(25,646)	(5,536)	5,760
Designated funds					
Parochial Church Council	2,891	-	-	(2,891)	-
Total designated funds	2,891	-	-	(2,891)	-
Unrestricted funds					
General	61,815	90,647	(125,750)	8,427	35,139
Total unrestricted funds	61,815	90,647	(125,750)	8,427	35,139
Total funds	80,588	111,707	(151,396)	-	40,899

Restricted donations relate to donations to help repay the Archdeacon Loan.¹

11. Fixed Assets

No fixed assets or investments.

12. Debtors

Income tax via Gift Aid for October 2022 to December 2023 has not yet been claimed. The claim will be made in 2024.

13. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due After One Year

The Archdeacon's loan of £9,750 is due by 28 February 2025. The loan is interest free, and no repayment was made in 2023. We look to pay it back by 28 February 2025.

14. Statement of Funds

Explanation of Funds

Endowed funds are required by the donors to be invested and the income spent on specific objectives. There are no endowment funds.

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales.

Designated funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and are decided by the PCC.

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides.

Independent examiner's report To the PCC of St Helen's Church, Ore with St Barnabas

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 7 to 17, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulations and section s. 144 of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulations.

Basis of this report


My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed..........

Date.....10/06/24.....

Mrs R T Walsh FCCA
Manningtons
39 High Street
Battle
East Sussex TN33 0EE