

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Goring by Sea

St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches

Goring by Sea

Registered Charity no. 1131418

For the year ended 31st December 2024

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Website:	Goringbyseaparish.org
Incumbent:	The Revd K Littlejohn The Vicarage, 12 Compton Avenue, Goring by Sea, BN12 4UJ
Parish Office	16 Ilex Way, Goring by Sea, BN12 4UZ
Independent examiner:	Steve Brentnall Cooksbridge, Lewes, BN8 4TH
Bankers:	Barclays Bank plc C C L A Lloyds Bank plc

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

For the year ended 31st December 2014

St Mary's & St Lawrence's Churches

Company No.

For the year ended 31st December 2014

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St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches

Trustees Annual Report for 2024

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent 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
- to know Jesus better and make Him better known
- practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need
- providing financial support to those in need and to other organisations with similar objectives

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, our incumbent and the PCC considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, particularly, 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 2024 we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches
- 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
- putting faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament
- offering worship and prayer and learning about the Gospel in small group situations
- continuing our "Open Church" policy with both our churches
- improving the provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- provision of assistance to the poor and needy of the parish
- raising funds for missionary organisations
- reaching out to the unchurched through provision of social events and services open to all
- maintaining the fabric of the church building as a historic centre and focus of life in the community.

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Attendance at worship

We have continued to be blessed by the ministry of the retired clergy, particularly as our Vicar, Fr Keith, required further medical treatment at various times during the year. We look forward to 2025 when Fr Keith will be able to fully resume his role as our parish priest.

Attendance at Sunday worship and mid-week services remained good throughout the year. The All-Age Worship each month continues to flourish with many families and young children attending regularly.

In September, 6 adult members were prepared for Confirmation by Bishop Martin at St James the Less in Lancing.

The church family welcomes all visitors, whether from within the parish or from further afield. Visitors attend by personal choice and it is our great pleasure to welcome people from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ, is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities.

"I sang in the choir 70 years ago."

A R

Christmas is a very special time of celebration where many sections of the community come together to join in our services, both formal and informal. All the Christmas services were held in our churches this year because of the forecast

inclement weather and the difficulty of providing music in the open air.

Lent and Advent discussion groups, meeting in members' homes, were led by several members of our congregation. One Advent group was held in St Laurence's Church Hall, bringing together members of the various Home Groups for a 'bring and share' meal and discussion.

During 2025 we shall be holding an Alpha Course, which will be open to all. We would like to expand the number of Home Groups to accommodate those members of the congregation who are not yet in a discussion group.

In 2024, 2 weddings, 10 funerals and 22 baptisms were held.

We are particularly privileged to have two Church of England Primary Schools in our parish with almost 1,200 pupils between them. Both schools hold services in church at Easter and Christmas, attended by both children and parents, and also a Leavers' Service in July, and we look forward to welcoming them again in 2025. There are planned class visits to St Mary's Church, supporting the RE Syllabus, during the Spring Term 2025. A School-Church Covenant has continued during the year with meetings held with Fr Keith, Gillian Keevill (Children's Work Co-ordinator), Janice Lelliott (Churchwarden) and Headteachers of both schools and, when appropriate, RE Lead teachers attending. During 2025 we shall be looking at ways in which we can encourage the children who have been admitted to Communion to partake of the Sacrament, possibly by taking it to them at school.

Smarties, our toddler group, meets in St Mary's Hall weekly during term time. Staffed by volunteers, it offers a safe playing environment with activities and craft for children. Children from birth to school age are welcomed, together with their adult relatives or child minders.

During the year we have strengthened our relationship with the local uniformed organisations. They attended the annual Remembrance Day service and the Beaver Groups visited St Mary's Church when they enjoyed several activities which we provided for them. We look forward to welcoming them again during 2025.

As part of our outreach to the community we make our two church halls available to numerous groups including preschool groups, uniform organisations, yoga, dancing and keep fit together with more social groups who hold talks and gatherings on a regular basis, as well being a venue for a large number of children's birthday parties.

Provision of the church building for people to enjoy

Like many parishes we have kept our churches open most days. St Mary's is a Grade 2* Listed Building, having been rebuilt between 1836-8 to designs by Decimus Burton. In 1954 a striking mural by the German artist Hans Feibusch

'Mum and Dad were married here and I was christened here in 1967'

N C

entitled "Christ in Glory" was painted above the Chancel Arch. Many remark not only on how refreshing it is to find an open church, but also the sense of peacefulness and spirituality that pervades our churches, as is often recorded in our Visitor's Books. With our churches open every day, St Mary's registered with the Local Authority as a "Warm Space", providing the means to make a hot drink, and biscuits. There is also a children's play corner.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

A lay-led pastoral team continues to support Fr Keith in visiting the sick and housebound, some taking home communion when necessary. The team meets regularly to review the pastoral needs of the parish.

There is a group of people who are updated regularly with names of those in need of prayer, and a weekly prayer meeting is held in the Parish.

A prayer shawl ministry, providing handmade shawls for the sick, the bereaved and those affected by the ill health of a loved one, also supports the pastoral work of the parish. The prayer shawl ministry also provides baptism shawls for babies and young children.

Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

We hold weekly collections for a local food bank. The sale of home-made marmalade raises additional funds for Chichester Diocese's Family Support Work. Additionally, we raised funds through social events and retiring collections to donate to home and overseas charities.

Communications

News and updates are given in a weekly newsletter which is distributed electronically to members or sent out by post to those who do not have access to the internet. There is also a monthly Newsletter Extra, where items from members of the congregations, photographs from events, news of our Mission Partners, are circulated, together with the parish diary and details of bible readings for the month.

Towards the end of the year, the loop systems and audio equipment in St Mary's were checked, updated and improved.

Maintaining the fabric of the Churches.

The Incumbent and Church Wardens are responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of our buildings and for the safety of all who enter them. A watchful eye is kept on all the buildings in our care and repairs carried out throughout the year.

"A massive thank you for showing us and telling us about this fabulous church, we had a great time"

1st Goring

Financial Review

Incoming and outgoing resources

The Statement of Financial Receipts and Payments on page 7 shows Total Income of £203,279 against which we had outgoings of £151,200 resulting in a surplus of income of £52,079.

This result has surprised us, as, for quite a few years we had an annual excess of expenditure of approximately £20k. To combat this situation in 2023 we took the uncomfortable decision to not pay our Parish Share to the Diocese in full. We paid £60,000 instead of some £78,000 requested. Applying the same principles in 2024 we paid £66,000 instead of £81,445. Thus, we have underpaid the Diocese over £33,000 during the two years.

Towards the end of 2024 we were blessed with several unexpected legacies totalling £40,036 whilst in 2023 we had none. This explains our unexpected surplus of £52,079 being legacies totalling £40k and a £15.5k reduction in what we should have paid the diocese for the year.

Ironically, during the autumn of 2024 we reviewed our Legacy Policy and agreed the following: 'Our Legacy Policy is to use gifts to help fund significant development projects, whether buildings, equipment, staff or significant repairs'.

With our new policy the PCC will decide how much of the legacies is to be spent during the next year or so, and on what.

During 2024 we undertook our first **Generosity Campaign**, and this resulted in many established donors reviewing their monthly planned giving under PGS upwards. Alas, it was countered by several donors passing away in the year, some of whom had been particularly generous. We still need to recruit many more donors, particular younger members of the congregation.

Staff costs

During the year our organist retired and so we had just two employees for much of 2024; however a new organist has been recruited to start in early 2025. In addition to our employees, a great deal of work is undertaken by numerous volunteers from our congregation to whom we are very grateful.

Our Reserves

The Charity Commission issues guidance on the need to maintain adequate reserves so that the good work that has been undertaken can be maintained.

To simplify our activities, we have set up separate funds to differentiate our activities and identify their income and expenditure.

It has been our quoted policy to hold a balance in cash on our unrestricted funds of at least three months' worth of unrestricted expenditure.

Management of risks and their mitigation

The PCC has an ongoing task of reviewing the major risks which impact on the work of the churches in the parish.

The PCC consider that the principal risks and uncertainties are:

- The need to fund unexpected costs associated with our buildings, particularly as St Mary's Church is Grade 2* Listed
- The long-term fall in income, particularly given the dependence of the parish on a limited number of major regular donors and regular hirers of our buildings.
- The requirement to find willing volunteers with the appropriate skills, time and commitment to support the ministry of the congregation and the parish.

The PCC seeks to manage these risks and uncertainties by regular reviews. We aim to maintain our properties to as high a standard as we can afford and carry out the priority items of our quinquennial reviews in a timely manner.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent:	The Revd Keith Littlejohn	Chairman
Reader:	Keith Lelliott	
Wardens:	Janice Lelliott	Vice Chairman
	Alison Evans	(from May 2024)

Elected Members

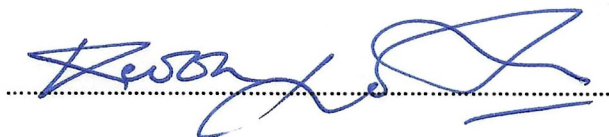
Jennie Boffee	
Jason Brown	
Anne-Marie Coe	
Stephen Coe	(to May 2024)
Frank Ffitch	(from May 2024)
Jayne Gathergood	(from May 2024)
Moya Hills	(to May 2024)
Russell Marlow	
Graeme Richardson	

Deanery Synod

Ginny Ward	(from May 2024) Deputy Warden
Penelope Corp	
Alison Evans	
Gillian Keevill	(May-November 2024)
Keith Lelliott	

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and xx members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustees' Annual Report was **approved** by the PCC and signed on their behalf by The Revd. Keith Littlejohn, PCC Chairman



10 February 2025

Annual Financial Report

of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Goring by Sea

St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches

Goring by Sea

Registered Charity no. 1131418

For the year ended 31st December 2024

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St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches registered charity number 1131418

Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments

The financial effect of our activities during the year can be summarised as follows

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total	Total	Notes
	General Fund	Designated Funds			All Funds 2024	All Funds 2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	88,877	40,036	207	-	129,120	80,836	
Charitable activities	4,313	-	-	-	4,313	5,497	
Other trading activities	6,187	59,641	-	-	65,828	59,562	
Investments	4,018	-	-	-	4,018	2,334	
Total received	103,395	99,677	207	-	203,279	148,229	3
Expenditure on:					-		
Cost of raising funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Charitable costs	111,087	13,314	978	-	125,379	117,374	
Trading costs	180	25,641	-	-	25,821	20,917	
Total paid	111,267	38,955	978	-	151,200	138,291	5
Reconciliation of funds:	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Net income or (net expenditure)	(7,872)	60,722	(771)	-	52,079	9,938	
Transfers between funds	21,002	(22,002)	1,000	-	-	-	
Net movement in funds	13,130	38,720	229	-	52,079	9,938	
Bank accounts at 1 January	12,842	70,220	149	-	83,211	73,273	
Bank accounts at 31 December	25,972	108,940	378	-	135,290	83,211	A & L



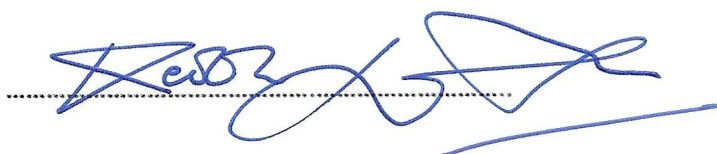
St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches registered charity number 1131418

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Our financial position at the year-end was

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Endowed</i>	Total All Funds 2024	<i>Total All Funds 2023</i>	Notes
	General Fund	Designated Funds	Fund/s	Fund/s			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Assets:							
Bank current account	18,597	-	-	-	18,597	24,628	
CBF Deposit Fund	7,375	108,940	378	-	116,693	58,583	
PCC-owned bank balance	25,972	108,940	378	-	135,290	83,211	
Diocesan Assigned Fees received	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total bank and deposit accounts	25,972	108,940	378	-	135,290	83,211	FR&P
Hall hire charges not yet received	-	2,007	-	-	2,007	1,404	
Chancel Fund accrued income	-	-	-	2,378	2,378	2,258	
Gift Aid recoverable	7,871	-	-	-	7,871	9,189	
Debtors	7,871	2,007	-	2,378	12,256	12,851	
Freeholds, at cost	85,337	-	-	-	85,337	85,337	
Total assets	119,180	110,947	378	2,378	232,883	181,399	
Liabilities:							
Unpaid Diocesan fees	-	-	-	-	-	939	
Retiring Collections	141	-	-	-	141	689	
Trade Creditors	1,214	-	-	-	1,214	198	
Utilities used since last billed (est)	3,158	-	-	-	3,158	3,861	
Total liabilities	4,513	-	-	-	4,513	5,687	

This Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2024, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd Keith Littlejohn, PCC Chairman:



10 February 2025

St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches registered charity number 1131418

Notes to the Financial Report

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and current Church Accounting Regulations, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, which require a faculty for disposal.

3 Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total All Funds 2024	Total All Funds 2023	Notes
	General Fund	Designated Funds				
	£	£	£	£	£	
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	45,207	-	-	45,207	42,480	
Planned giving (no tax refunds)	4,732	-	-	4,732	5,255	
Loose Cash Collections	9,618	-	-	9,618	8,605	
Donations and appeals	12,638	-	207	12,845	12,751	
Gift Aid recovered	16,682	-	-	16,682	11,245	
Legacies	-	40,036	-	40,036	-	
Grants	-	-	-	-	500	
Donations and legacies	88,877	40,036	207	129,120	80,836	
Fees for weddings & funerals	4,313	-	-	4,313	5,497	
Charitable activities	4,313	-	-	4,313	5,497	
Proceeds of events with trading/sales	5,812	-	-	5,812	640	
Temporary letting of property	-	17,850	-	17,850	16,900	
Church and Hall Hiring Fees	375	41,791	-	42,166	41,830	
Tradecraft Sales	-	-	-	-	192	
Other trading activities	6,187	59,641	-	65,828	59,562	
Bank & CBF deposit interest	4,018	-	-	4,018	2,334	
Investments	4,018	-	-	4,018	2,334	
Total received on all funds	103,395	99,677	207	203,279	148,229	

4 Legacies

During the year Legacies were received from four former members of our congregation for which we are extremely grateful.

St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches registered charity number 1131418

Notes to the Financial Report

7 Payments to PCC employees:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries – upkeep of services	1,042	4,170
Salaries – church halls	12,633	11,797
Employer National Insurance	166	85
	13,841	16,052

8 Payments to PCC Members in the year amounted to Clergy Support: Council Tax: £3,215 and £ 592 for redecoration work in the vicarage.

9 Transactions with persons related to PCC members

This year there were no payments to relatives of PCC members.

10 Freeholds at Cost

The freehold land and buildings comprise the former Curate's house in Angus Road which cost £84,000 in 1995, the Molson Garden which was acquired at a cost of £1,101 in 1968, the land at St Mary's Church Hall was acquired for £235 in 1939 and St Laurence Church Hall which is included at a nominal £1. We have no details of the building costs of either of our Church Halls.

Insurance Cover for our buildings and contents is:

St Mary's Church Hall	£1,070,000
St Laurence Church Hall	£349,000
Angus Road, House	£550,000

In addition, the PCC is responsible for paying the insurance premiums on our churches where the cover is:

St Mary's Church	£13,300,000
St Laurence Church	£3,300,000

St Mary's & St Laurence's Churches registered charity number 1131418

Notes to the Financial Report

11 Statement of funds

	Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
	-	-	-	-	-
Total of all endowed funds	-	-	-	-	-
Flower Fund	-	207	565	500	142
Chancel Income	-	-	-	-	-
Vicars Discretionary Fund	149	-	-	-	149
Young Peoples' Fund	-	-	413	500	87
Total of all restricted funds	149	207	978	1,000	378
Angus Road I & E Fund (Des)	8,000	17,850	3,146	(12,704)	10,000
Halls Fund (Des)	13,000	41,791	35,294	(9,497)	10,000
Legacies Fund (Des)	-	40,036	-	-	40,036
Mission Fund (Des)	316	-	515	199	-
Molson Gardens (Des)	824	-	-	-	824
Parish Development Fund (Des)	48,080	-	-	-	48,080
Total of Designated Funds	70,220	99,677	38,955	(22,002)	108,940
General Fund	12,842	103,395	111,267	21,002	25,972
Total of all unrestricted Funds	83,062	203,072	150,222	(1,000)	134,912
Total Funds	£83,211	£203,279	£151,200	£0	135,290

Endowed Funds are required by the donors to be invested and the income spent on specific objectives. Save for the funds held by the Diocese, see below, we do not hold any such funds directly at the moment.

The Diocese holds both a Stipend Augmentation Fund and a Chancel Trust on our behalf and we do not include these figures in our accounts save for a disclosure on the Chancel Trust in respect of the accumulated income held by the Diocese which we disclose as a debtor on page 8.

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent on their intended purpose. During the year both the Flower and Young Peoples' Funds have received £500 each from the General Fund.

The PCC can "designate" unrestricted funds for a particular purpose if it so chooses. It can also change its decision at any time. The General Fund is totally unrestricted and together the General and Designated funds comprise our Total Unrestricted Funds for spending as the PCC decides.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's and St Laurence's Churches for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Charity number 1131418

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of St Mary's & St Laurence's Goring by Sea, on the annual financial report for the year ended 31st December 2024 set out on pages 7 to 12

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The churches' trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The churches' trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the parish is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act: and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records, or
- the accounts did 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 come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by:-



Steve Brennan

1 Meadow View Cottages, Town Littleworth
LEWES
BN8 4TH

Date

3rd March 2025