

East Dean and Friston Churches

Registered Charity Number 1131638

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

East Dean and Friston Churches
For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

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CHURCH INFORMATION

Address

The Rectory
Gilbert's Drive
East Dean
BN20 0DL

Members of the PCC

Rev. David Baker	
Rev. Andrew Spear	
Mr Peter Hewitt	
Mrs Pauline Porthouse	
Miss Flora Richards	
Mrs Sandie Snelgrove	
Mrs Anthea Pienaar	
Mr Phillip Hill	
Mrs Stephanie Carter	
Mrs Lynn Schulpher	
Mr Freddie Strong	
Mr David George	Appointed 24 October 2020
Mr Carl Fillery	Appointed 24 October 2020
Mr Andrew Pelczarski	Appointed 24 October 2020
Mr Harry Parke	Appointed 24 October 2020
Ms Gill Carstens	Appointed 24 October 2020
Mrs Lou Beirhiti	Appointed 24 October 2020
Mr Charles Collins	Appointed 24 October 2020

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
63/67 Terminus Road
Eastbourne
BN21 3NE

Independent Examiner

C J Dadswell FCA ACCA DChA
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House
22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
BN21 1BF

The Trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.

1 Objectives and activities

The primary objective of the Churches is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. To this end the PCC have the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector in promoting the ecclesiastical parish in order to advance the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

At the heart of all we do is the gospel: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," (1 Timothy 1:15).

There is nothing more important than the gospel. All that we do as churches must relate to this and reflect it. Our main challenge as churches is to see the urgency and imperative of the gospel and to be outward-looking in making it known clearly.

To this end we want people to hear the invitation of Jesus – "Come and see" (John 1v39), finding out who he is and what it means to repent and believe; to "Come and grow" – to grow into maturity as believers rather than remaining as infant Christians; and to "Come and care" – both for those inside and outside the church.

2 Public Benefit

We have considered the Charity Commission's advice on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on "charities for the advancement of religion". We aim to engage with the local community through a number of initiatives, examples of which are spelt out in the spiritual and nurture and social and mission sections of this report.

3 Structure, Governance and Management

The Church is a registered charity, number 1131638, registered on 15 September 2009 and governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) and Church Representation Rules.

The Trustees (Members of the PCC) who served during the year were:

Ms Flora Richards
Mrs Anthea Pienaar
Mrs Pauline Porthouse
Mrs Lynn Schulpher
Mrs Sandie Snelgrove
Mr Andrew Pelczarski (Appointed 24 October 2020)
Ms Gill Carstens (Appointed 24 October 2020)
Rev David Baker
Mrs Jane Board (Resigned 22 September 2020)
Mr Paul Board (Resigned 22 September 2020)
Mr Phillip Hill
Mr Freddie Strong
Mr David George (Appointed 24 October 2020)
Mr Harry Parke (Appointed 24 October 2020)
Mrs Lou Beirhiti (Appointed 24 October 2020)
Mr Peter Hewitt
Mrs Susan Burge (Resigned 22 September 2020)
Mrs Stephanie Carter
Rev Andrew Spear
Mr Carl Fillery (Appointed 24 October 2020)
Mr Charles Collins (Appointed 24 October 2020)

4 Review of Activities

Review of the Year January 1st to December 31st 2020

(a) Introduction

This year has been a year like no other in living memory for any of us. It was the year when the Covid-19 pandemic spread across the world, as a result of which all our regular activities were completely disrupted and changed.

During this time, we all appreciated the strong ministry team that we have, including Canon Brian Lea, Tony Rogers our Reader, Andrew Spear the Associate Vicar, Canon Michael Adams, David Jackman and Freddie Strong who has continued his placement.

We were also indebted to Peter Hewitt as Treasurer, and Steph Carter and Phill Hill as East Dean wardens. At Friston, Eva Oliver stepped down as warden and Jane Hewitt stepped down as vergers after much-appreciated service from both of them. We welcomed David George and Carl Fillery as the new Friston churchwardens. Administrative support was provided by Freddie Strong, Carol Hyatt, Christine Jeffery and Lou Belhriti.

Due to the pandemic, PCC meetings were very disrupted, but we did hold several via Zoom, and also established a joint All Benefice Committee with Jevington PCC to oversee services in the pandemic.

At the time of writing the pandemic continues, and it has been a difficult and gruelling time for everyone. We are indebted to all who have served so faithfully despite personal tiredness and challenge, as we have endeavoured to keep "the main thing as the main thing" – ie the gospel, and making and growing disciples of Jesus Christ.

"His grace has brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us home."

(b) Spiritual & Nurture

It was not always possible to meet weekly together for services due to the pandemic. At various times, services were prepared by video, with excellent help and instruction from Mike Keller, and uploaded for viewing on Sunday. At other times, services were held via Zoom in order to retain the live element of interaction and fellowship. As permitted, services were also sometimes held with appropriate social distancing and the wearing of face masks, with congregational singing not permitted. This was challenging but it was encouraging to see so many still willing to come and so many engage to make these services happen. We established a pattern of socially distanced services at East Dean at 9.00 and 10.15, at Friston at 11.15 (and Jevington at 11.30).

The weekly 5.00-5.30pm benefice Prayer Meeting at East Dean every Tuesday was suspended due to the pandemic. Instead, a weekly Sunday evening prayer time on Zoom was begun, and it turned out that this was much better attended than the previous Tuesday gathering.

It was good to have a second weekly Prayer Time as well from 9.00-9.30am every Thursday co-ordinated by Phill and Jill Hill, which also switched to Zoom as required.

It was not possible for children's groups continued to meet on Sunday mornings. However, we were indebted to Gill Carstens for her superb weekly videos for children which quickly became an acclaimed and much-loved feature of our weekly online services.

The new men's group for men of working age continued with Andrew Spear, Freddie Strong, and David Baker helping plan it together. A similar group for women was established by Carol Strong and Yvonne Spear.

4 Review of Activities (Cont'd)

The Parish Magazine continued to be ably edited by Christine and Peter Jeffery, assisted by a strong team of volunteers, to whom many thanks are owed. Due to the pandemic it was necessary for some issues to be online only as physical distribution was not possible.

It was not possible to hold the children's Holiday Club.

In December, we held a Benefice Carol Service on Zoom. We also held a widely-appreciated Drive-in Carol Service in the Village Hall car park organised very successfully by Freddie Strong.

Flora Richards continued in her excellent role as Pastoral Care Co-ordinator during this time of increased pastoral need.

(c) Social and mission

We ran the Life Explored and Christianity Explored courses on Zoom, with encouraging attendance.

Home groups met as they were able, sometimes on Zoom.

It was not possible to hold a CMS garden party and Christmas Fair. However, we did have a live link up via Zoom with our mission partners Phil and Sylvie Good in Beirut.

The Harvest Lunch, Lent Lunches, and Pie and Wine lunch could not be held. Nor could the weekly "Coffee and Company" event on Friday mornings or the monthly Saturday lunches.

The ChurchWide Fellowship was not able to meet.

We continued to support our former Assistant Minister Rev. Kip Chelashaw in his ministry in Nairobi, Kenya. He preached on Zoom for one of the online services.

We also supported the local Beachy Head Chaplaincy.

We supported a variety of other local and international Christian causes, both spiritual and physical, including the Spinnaker schools work trust, Children's Society and Mission to Seafarers.

The Grange Care Home had already made it clear that it would not be possible to continue with Communion Services prior to the pandemic, which was very disappointing.

Many church members were actively involved in the community, for example serving as members of the Parish Council, the Residents' Association and the Village Hall Trust.

(d) Wardens Reports

St Mary the Virgin

All activities "in person" during 2020 have been restricted, to a large extent, in consequence of the pandemic, whereas joint participation in benefice activities and services have increased via "Zoom" or telephone link. This may not have been practicable for everybody, but for those who joined in there was an opportunity to worship and enjoy fellowship with a larger section of the community and we are grateful to all those who gave their time and expertise to make this possible.

4 Review of Activities (Cont'd)

“Come and See”

During the times that the church was permitted to open for private prayer, we continued to receive a number of visitors. Before lockdown, when it was available for use, positive and encouraging comments were recorded in the visitors' book. Thereafter appreciation was often expressed verbally to wardens and others and there were many who found it a spiritual comfort and inspiration to spend a few quiet moments within our ancient place of worship. Taking into account cleaning and safety requirements, we remained open 2 days a week, on Sundays and Wednesdays (the latter changing to Thursday's in 2021 until further notice).

“Come and Grow”

As reported last year, our attendance rates for the 11 am service (more recently 11.15) has continued to grow. For the time being we have had to forego our 8am services, which were dear to a number of us and had a special appeal in the quiet early hours of Sunday morning. Challenging times and practicalities dictate some sacrifices. The future remains uncertain and the pattern of services will be kept under review. During the year we saw some new members joining the church, largely from outside the parish. It is evident that what we offer at Friston has appeal for others in the community and hopefully the word is spreading. The new 11.15 services, following the Book of Common Prayer, have been well attended and have been close to maximum permitted numbers (allowing for social distancing). Throughout the year the church has been regularly and beautifully decorated with floral displays by our dedicated and skilful flower team to who our thanks are extended. We also express our deep gratitude to the team of volunteer gardeners and handymen known affectionately as “Dad's Army”, who have continued tirelessly in their advancing years to maintain the grounds and to carry out external maintenance of the fabric of the building.

We must record our thanks to Eva Oliver, who retired this year as Church warden after many years devoted service to this role. We, the new joint wardens, have a hard act to follow, but we will do our very best to follow by example and to make our own contribution. Thanks also to Jane Hewitt and Rowena Minns who also stepped back from their formal roles during the year but who continue to contribute their services informally.

We look to find ways of increasing the Friston flock as we move, prayerfully, to a brighter future in terms of defeating the pandemic.

“Come and Care”

Our pastoral team, linked with others in the benefice, has had a very active year during the pandemic maintaining communication with those living alone, suffering ill health or bereavement. We are grateful to all those who have contributed to this essential work.

Fabric report

Our quinquennial report in 2019 contained, as required, a list of recommended works and improvements to carry out over the following five years. The most pressing items were included in a list for attention within 2 years. We put the most urgent works in hand immediately, in consequence of which the electrical installation has now been updated and improved, the gutters and downpipes have been cleared and painted and works are shortly to commence replacing a soffit on the western side of the Belfry and to repair and replace soffits on the southern side. The roof will church be subject to a complete overhaul, to be carried out following belfry repairs, with all missing, spalled or damaged tiles to be replaced. We have an ongoing programme for completing other recommended works. The outside lights do require some further attention and this is being addressed. Generally the church is in good repair. The heating system was overhauled this year and all fire extinguishers have been checked and replaced as necessa

4 Review of Activities (Cont'd)

Looking further afield, the proposed new compost toilet facility to be sited within the south eastern corner of the church grounds received full planning approval in March 2020, following which an online application for a C of E faculty was filed. Matters appear to have been delayed by the pandemic and this is still receiving attention at Church House but we are hoping to report further progress shortly.

St Simon and St Jude, East Dean. 2020

Under normal circumstances our church building was the regular venue for hosting a whole series of weekly and monthly activities from bible studies, prayer meetings, coffee mornings, lunch events, children's parties, youth group events, prayer days and more as well as the regular Sunday worship services and special Christmas and Easter services. However, with the pandemic we have had to curtail many if not all of these depending on the varying instructions from both Diocese and Government over the year as the effects of the pandemic were realised.

We have had to adapt from No Services to restricted services and back again to No services even over the Christmas period.

However, the Church has remained open throughout for personal and private prayer, apart from a short break from March to June, with a full regime of sanitising and cleaning on a daily basis.

It is appropriate therefore to acknowledge at this point the dedication and commitment of volunteers from the congregation to this daily routine as well as all the sidesmen and helpers on a Sunday for the discipline of cleaning and sanitising before, between and after the services during the summer and autumn while joint worship services were allowed.

In respect of the fabric we have had another year of consolidation and maintenance of our existing fabric with no major projects being undertaken.

The upgrade of the audio visual and PA systems has now been supplemented by the addition of a video recording facility due to the need to put our services online due to the pandemic. We are currently seeking to get an internet connection to the Church for live streaming but this is proving hugely frustrating due to the inadequacies of both BT and Open Reach.

The new boiler continues to operate well and with all the pipework in the basement boiler room and the plate heat exchanger having been insulated by the Dad's army team, there has been an improvement in efficiency. During the lock down periods we have maintained a low level of background heating only in order to protect the fabric.

We have continued to replace old and inefficient incandescent lamps with energy efficient LED units where practical with the inherent savings in utility costs.

We remain hugely grateful to Tony Deadman and the "Dads Army team" who have undertaken these changes as well as maintaining the grounds and paths.

5 Financial Review

1. Unrestricted Funds

The impact of the pandemic had a significant adverse effect on our finances. Our income from Cash Collections at services fell by almost £6,000. The value of our investments in both Restricted & Unrestricted Funds declined by £5,300.

Despite "lockdowns" the work of the ministry continued, and in many new and exciting ways. Our costs have also continued largely unaffected by the pandemic. Although some savings were achieved, for example energy costs, these were in part offset by additional costs to help us to reach out in new ways.

During the year it quickly became apparent that we were facing a serious deficit and we approached the Diocese to seek their agreement to temporarily suspend £5,000 of our Parish Contribution, which at £59,000 is our biggest single annual cost. The Diocese readily agreed and subsequently also agreed that, in common with other Parishes, this "shortfall" would be written off. We are extremely grateful for this act of generosity.

We are fortunate that 80% of our giving comes from regular giving particularly by members of the Parish Giving Scheme. Their generous support has sustained us in these difficult times. We were also very grateful for the number of Donations we have received. The contribution this year from the Parish Magazine was especially significant and we are hugely grateful for generous donations made by the Parish Council and other local organisations to the Magazine fund.

As a consequence of The Diocese's action, the generosity of our regular givers and the contribution from the Parish Magazine we were able to avoid a serious deficit and ended the year with a small surplus of £335.

2. Restricted Funds

The PCC holds funds that can only be used for specific purposes, these funds emanate principally from legacies.

In 2020 there was a net outflow of £6,000 from Restricted Funds. The most significant payments being in respect of repairs to the stonework at East Dean [£3,000] and new pew cushions [£1,600] also at East Dean.

Quinquennial Reports on both Churches were received in 2019. All the recommended work at East Dean has been completed. Further works at Friston will be completed in 2021 there are sufficient monies available in the Friston Fabric Fund to meet these costs

Pledges totalling £15,000 have been received to fund the provision of toilet facilities at Friston Church. We still await Diocesan approval and final costing before the project can proceed.

3. Mission and Charitable Giving

Sadly we were unable to hold services where special Collections are usually made for chosen charities both overseas and at home. Neither were we able to hold all our usual fund raising events.

Overseas we continued to support the work of Phil & Sylvie Good, our CMS partners in Beirut, and the ministry of Kip Chelashaw in Kenya. At home we supported the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team, Spinnaker Trust, and Diocesan Family Support

4. Budget 2021

2021 remains beset by uncertainties and our budgets indicate a significant deficit. The Diocese have already indicated that their resources are also under considerable pressure. We face a considerable financial challenge until such time as we are all able to meet again normally.

We are therefore appealing to our regular "cash givers" to join the Parish Giving Scheme so that together we can cover our costs whether or not we are able to meet at services in our church buildings

We have sufficient funds in our Restricted Reserves to meet the anticipated costs for routine maintenance of our historic churches. However to fund future projects to enable the growth of the Gospel we do encourage our Church Family to consider making provision for future legacies.

The PCC enters each situation, just like the early church that had to face new and unprecedented challenges, trusting that they have been given sufficient resources to work with, but also recognising that they have to be willing to claim and use those resources for themselves. The annual budget is a matter of faith, because spending plans are agreed in the expectation that the Lord will provide, through his faithful servants.

5. Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy was reviewed in March 2020. It is the policy of the PCC to maintain a balance on general unrestricted funds equating to a minimum of two months' worth of unrestricted payments as a contingency.

The balance of reserves [unrestricted] held at 31st December 2020 amounted to £48,582 of which £24,397 is designated for specific purposes.

At the year-end the PCC was therefore holding 3.2 months of reserves based on current unrestricted payments.

The PCC invests unrestricted funds that are temporarily surplus in either CBF Church of England Income shares or M&G Charifund Units.

6 Risk Management

In conjunction with our Insurers the PCC has assessed the likely risks associated with running Church activities. A formal Health & Safety & Risk Management policy was approved in November 2016 together with a review of the strategic risk register.

A policy review was undertaken during 2019 and on-going reviews of the risks facing the PCC remain essential so that action can be taken in a timely manner to address them.

- 7 The PCC Accountant is Mr C J Dadswell of Caladine Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants of Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 1BF who has carried out the Independent Examination.

On behalf of the members of the PCC of East Dean and Friston Churches.



Rev'd David Baker (Chairman)

Date: 23rd MARCH 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of East Dean and Friston Churches

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of East Dean and Friston Churches ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 4 to 6.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity'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 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 Act;
or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.
- (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.



C J Dadswell FCA ACCA DChA
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne, BN21 1BF

Date: 01/04/2021

Receipts and Payments Account

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2020</u> £	<u>Total</u> <u>2019</u> £
<u>Receipts</u>				
Offerings at services	3,514	-	3,514	9,031
Planned giving	49,367	215	49,582	50,142
Special collections	-	926	926	6,253
Gift aid recoveries	11,813	-	11,813	13,944
Donations and legacies	3,695	1,135	4,830	28,926
Parish fees	5,662	-	5,662	6,050
Parish magazine	7,263	-	7,263	7,992
Investment income	1,613	1,814	3,427	3,844
Other income	2,050	-	2,050	4,152
Total receipts	84,977	4,090	89,067	130,334
<u>Payments</u>				
Mission and charitable giving	4,500	926	5,426	8,753
Diocesan parish contribution	54,494	-	54,494	57,690
Rector and Rector expenses	6,923	-	6,923	6,586
Trainee Minister Costs	1,310	1,000	2,310	2,037
Assistant clergy costs	165	-	165	410
Upkeep of services	1,207	-	1,207	2,161
Light and heat	2,656	-	2,656	3,434
Church running	5,048	1,884	6,932	6,914
Organist fees	244	-	244	1,147
Equipment	781	1,610	2,391	1,411
Repairs and maintenance	50	3,814	3,864	5,900
Professional fees	41	582	623	2,368
Books	312	-	312	515
Outreach, website and teaching	677	286	963	2,384
Youth work	243	-	243	1,137
Independent Examination	684	-	684	660
Parish magazine cost	5,221	-	5,221	5,734
Miscellaneous	86	-	86	622
Total payments	84,642	10,102	94,744	109,863
Net receipts/(payments)	335	(6,012)	(5,677)	20,471
Cash funds at 1 January 2020	1,991	41,544	43,535	23,064
Cash funds at 31 December 2020	2,326	35,532	37,858	43,535

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

<u>Cash funds</u>	31-Dec-20	31-Dec-19
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	37,858	43,535
	<u>37,858</u>	<u>43,535</u>
 <u>Other monetary assets</u>		
CCLA Income shares (General unrestricted)	32,153	30,448
M&G - Income shares (General unrestricted)	14,103	17,272
M&G - Income shares (Organ fund restricted)	2,896	3,546
Diocese - Income shares (Churchyard fund restricted)	20,280	19,205
Diocese - Fixed interest (Churchyard fund restricted)	3,723	3,627
M&G - Income shares (Churchyard fund restricted)	19,215	23,534
	<u>92,370</u>	<u>97,632</u>
 <u>Liabilities</u>		
Accountancy and Independent Examination fee	<u>684</u>	<u>660</u>

Approved by the Trustees on ^{23rd MARCH} 2021 and signed on its behalf by



Rev'd David Baker
Trustee

Mr Peter Hewitt
Trustee



Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

2 Funds

The Church operates a general fund for its regular activities. When monies are given for specific purposes, these are held in restricted funds. Designated funds are monies set aside from general funds for particular purposes set out by the trustees.

3 Missionary and charitable giving

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
<u>Overseas</u>			
CMS	2,000	40	2,040
United for Mission	2,000	-	2,000
<u>Home</u>			
Diocesan Family Support	-	505	505
Beachy Head Chaplaincy	500	212	712
Spinnaker Trust	-	169	169
TOTAL	4,500	926	5,426

4 Trustees

During the year the Rev. David Baker was reimbursed expenses of £1,311 and Trainee Minister Freddie Strong was reimbursed expenses of £1,310 and received an ex-gratia payment of £1,000.

5 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.

6 Restricted Funds

	Balance b/fwd	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Gains / (Losses)	Balance c/fwd
Churchyard Fund	44,974	2,673	(3,220)	-	(3,148)	41,279
Fabric Fund Friston	8,817	350	(582)	-	-	8,585
Fabric Fund East Dean	29,100	-	(3,870)	-	-	25,230
Organ Fund	1,983	141	(504)	-	(650)	970
Friston Flowers and Memorial Boards	653	-	-	-	-	653
Gospel Ministry Fund	5,929	-	(1,000)	-	-	4,929
General Fund	-	926	(926)	-	-	-
TOTAL	91,456	4,090	(10,102)	-	(3,798)	81,646

Represented by:

Cash and cash equivalents	41,544	4,090	(10,102)	-	-	35,532
Investments	49,912	-	-	-	(3,798)	46,114
	91,456	4,090	(10,102)	-	(3,798)	81,646

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

7 Unrestricted and Designated Funds

	Balance b/fwd	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Gains / (Losses)	Balance c/fwd
General Unrestricted Fund	27,356	77,714	(79,421)	-	(1,464)	24,185
Lois Hunter legacy	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Parish Magazine	5,355	7,263	(5,221)	-	-	7,397
East Dean Fabric Fund	3,000	-	-	-	-	3,000
Friston Fabric Fund	4,000	-	-	-	-	4,000
TOTAL	49,711	84,977	(84,642)	-	(1,464)	48,582

Represented by:

Cash and cash equivalents	1,991	84,977	(84,642)	-		2,326
Investments	47,720	-	-	-	(1,464)	46,256
	49,711	84,977	(84,642)	-	(1,464)	48,582

