

# **East Dean and Friston Churches**

**Registered Charity Number 1131638**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**East Dean and Friston Churches**  
**For the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**CONTENTS**

Church Information	1
Trustees Report	2
Independent Examiners Report	3
Receipts & Payments Account	4
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6

**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  
Mr Phillip Hill  
Mr Charles Collins  
Mr David George  
Mrs Stephanie Carter  
Mr Harry Parke  
Mrs Jodene Street  
Miss Sheila MacNicol  
Miss Carol Hyatt  
Mrs Gail Huggett  
Mrs Dawn Baker  
Mr David Linsell

**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 2024.

## **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:

Mrs Gail Huggett  
Miss Sheila MacNicol  
Miss Carol Hyatt  
Mrs Dawn Baker  
Mr Andrew Pelczarski (Resigned May 2024)  
Ms Gill Carstens (Resigned May 2024)  
Rev David Baker  
Mrs Stephanie Carter  
Rev Andrew Spear  
Mr Phillip Hill  
Mr David George  
Mr Harry Parke  
Mr Peter Hewitt  
Mr Carl Fillery (Resigned May 2024)  
Mr Charles Collins  
Mr David Linsell  
Mrs Jodene Street (Appointed May 2024)

## **4 Review of Activities**

### **Review of the Year January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024**

#### **(a) Introduction**

As ever we were indebted to our Churchwardens; Gail Huggett and David Linsell at East Dean and David George at Friston also to Peter Hewitt as Treasurer, and Becca Parke as Administrator and Benefice Secretary.

Grateful thanks are also due to so many others who give freely of their time; our AV Team, Musicians, Hospitality Team, Stewards, Readers the list goes on! We are truly grateful

The PCC met on six occasions throughout the year and the Standing Committee also met on six occasions.

A special word for our Assistant Minister Andrew Spear, his unstinting support is hugely appreciated

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

#### **(b) Spiritual & Nurture**

Services Sunday by Sunday continued to be encouraging. The congregation at Friston continued to grow. At East Dean numbers are back to pre-pandemic levels. Our children's activities through the Lighthouse continue to grow and we are so grateful to the leaders for their love and nurturing.

The Sunday evening Zoom prayer time continued to be well attended. It is good that we also now have alternative Prayer Times on Thursday 9.00 - 9.30 am every Thursday lead by Phill & Jill Hill and on Tuesdays 5.00 - 5.30pm lead by Annie Crees and Anne Mudd.

Home groups continued to meet regularly, both in person and on Zoom.

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.

We continue to be grateful to Steph Carter for her work as Pastoral Care Co-ordinator.

#### **(c) Social and mission**

We continued to support our former Assistant Minister Rev. Kip Chelashaw in his ministry in Nairobi, Kenya, and former Ministry Associate Freddie Strong, now serving a curacy in rural Herefordshire.

We also supported Joe & Sarah, CMS mission partners working in Egypt however sadly their mission in that country has now come to an end.

More locally we supported the Beachy Head Chaplaincy, the Spinnaker schools work trust, People Matter and Mission to Seafarers.

It is also encouraging that so many members of our church family are actively involved in the community, for example serving as members of the Parish Council, the Residents' Association and the Village Hall Trust.

#### **4 Review of Activities (Cont'd)**

##### **(d) Wardens Reports**

###### **St Simon & St Jude East Dean**

Average numbers attending services have increased by 10 to between 70-80, with 5 to 10 children attending regularly.

We welcome an increase in attendance at family services and family-based activities such as a craft day and the now annual light service.

In respect of the fabric the most significant works this year was the building of a low stone wall around the Garden of Remembrance. This was fraught with administrative challenges, but all credit to Peter Hewitt for his persistence and perseverance.

We took the decision to engage Kevin Cownley to maintain the church yard, he has made a significant improvement to the church grounds.

For the first time this year we conducted a survey to measure Church Health, whilst there were some issues around the completing of the survey, it was generally positive and gave us a useful steer.

The Quinquennial report identified need for some significant repairs and remedial works. Necessary electrical works, and repairs to the stonework have already been undertaken. In 2025 we shall undertake refurbishment of the leaded light window adjacent to the pulpit an overhaul of all rainwater, drainage and guttering and also repairs to the boundary wall.

The smooth running of the church is based on a partnership between the Clergy and an army of volunteers providing a complex but well-coordinated range of support. This includes, the readers, prayer leaders (in church and beyond), the sides people, the refreshment team (with the exquisite homemade cakes) – the after service “togetherring” is an important part of church life, “dads army” valuable maintenance work always done with a smile, the AV team more geeks than geeks, Becca Parkes for her excellent children and administration works and the Parochial Church Council for their Godly support and challenge.

###### **St Mary the Virgin**

Our 11 am Sunday services have continued to enjoy good attendance. Our recent stats report to the Diocese has confirmed a Friston church family of circa 45, with weekly attendance averaging in the mid-thirties. Our recent Carol service attracted 65 attendees, many of whom remained after the service to enjoy refreshments and to chat with others.

We were sorry to lose one of our church wardens last May, having moved with his family into another parish. We wish him well and are grateful for his support in the past. We are currently operating with a single warden, now close to completing 5 years service. We do need a second warden to come forward and stand for election at the next APCM and to find a successor for our current warden next year. We are so grateful to members of the congregation for helping to fill in “the gaps”, and, especially, to two former wardens, who have stepped forward again to help cover services during holiday periods and who have provided support at funerals and weddings.

It has been quite a busy year, with no less than 4 weddings at Friston last summer over a 7 week period. All of them joyful occasions - so wonderful to host weddings at our church.

#### **4 Review of Activities (Cont'd)**

As ever we are very grateful to the following: the Ministry team for their leadership, the efficient support of the Admin team, those who assist with sides duties, those who provide cakes and snacks for our coffee Sundays and those who assist in preparing serving hot drinks, our readers, the flower team whose members decorate the church so beautifully, the hard working gardening and maintenance team and our excellent organists, all of whom who have continued to give so freely and willingly of their time throughout the year. In our thanks we do not overlook those who work behind the scenes providing support for the wardens in their duties.

The report would not be complete without reference to our Benefice's dear lay minister Tony Rogers, whom passed away before Christmas. He led services at Friston and Jevington on a regular basis and was extremely active and supportive on so many fronts. He will be greatly missed.

#### **St. Mary's Fabric report**

A meeting was held with the church architect last year when he inspected the church and considered it to have been well maintained. He has since issued a quinquennial report. Not unexpectedly, significant ongoing maintenance works will be required over the next 5 years, and these will be in hand following usual discussion at PCC meetings. In accordance the architect's recommendations (1) the church timbers have been inspected by a specialist firm and no evidence of active infestation has been found. There will be a follow up inspection in the first half of this year (2) stone masons have inspected the church, estimates have been obtained to carry out some minor works of restoration.

Works completed during the past 12 months include refurbishment of the memorial boards and overhaul of the tiling of the church roof.

#### **5 Finance Review**

##### **1. Unrestricted & Designated Funds**

It is pleasing to be able to report that our financial position has performed strongly in 2024. In no small part this is due to the increased income we have received on the substantial legacy we received last year. However, it is also particularly encouraging to report a marked increase in the level of Giving.

Our Income was significantly ahead of budget. Giving from cash offerings increased to £10,645 [£7,506 in 2023] and giving through the Parish Giving Scheme increased to £52,331 [£48,069 in 2023]. Income from Parish Fees increased to £7,873 [£5,788] as a result of a higher than usual number of Weddings. The Parish Magazine contribution also increased to £2,087.

Our Expenditure in some areas was ahead of Budget primarily as a result of inflationary pressures.

Overall we showed a surplus on Unrestricted Funds of £13,455. Our Investment Income included Bank Interest of £9,500 which will fall as and when legacy funds are spent on new projects.

##### **2. Restricted Funds**

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

There was a net outflow of funds of £20,691. This was due to significant major expenditure on our Churchyards £9,765; and significant expenditure on repairs to the boilers at East Dean & Friston. The Quinquennial Reports were received on both churches; necessitating immediate works which have been undertaken with further significant expenditure require in 2025.

The cost of our Administrator [£6,575] is also met from Restricted Funds.

## **5 Finance Review (Cont'd)**

### **3. Mission and Charitable Giving**

Overseas we continued to support the ministry of Kip Chelashaw in Kenya and our CMS Partners in Egypt. At home we continued to support the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team, Spinnaker Trust, & the Royal British Legion with Special Collections raising an increased amount £2,933 [£1,771]

### **4. Parish Contribution**

The Parish Contribution [PC], the annual amount we pay to the Diocese, represents our biggest expense. The payment covers the cost of the Rector's Stipend, Pension Contribution & Housing together with a significant contribution to Diocese and CofE central costs.

Historically we have paid the full amount of the PC requested. Not all parishes have the resources to pay their requested contribution in full. In 2024 we were again one of only six Parishes in the Deanery, out of a total of 19 who paid more than 80% of the request contribution.

The amount of the requested PC has increased inexorably year on year. It is the view of the PCC and indeed many others nationally, that the Church of England's financial model and organisational structure is unsustainable and places the Parish structure as we know it at risk.

In 2024 with the Diocese agreement, we paid £54,441 being 82% of the requested contribution. In the light of our improved financial position in 2025 we propose to pay £58,000 [88%] to support an anticipated increase in clergy remuneration.

## **5. Budget 2025**

### **Unrestricted Funds**

We achieved some unusually high levels of income in 2024 which are unlikely to be repeated. We plan to achieve a small surplus in 2025. We shall be heavily dependent on our Interest Income which may decline as and when funds are used for specific purposes. Nevertheless, we proceed with confidence and in faith.

### **Restricted Funds**

Necessary refurbishment and remedial works at East Dean [Drainage and Guttering; Leaded Light Window; Stonework and to complete the Redecoration] are likely to cost in the region of £25,000. This will take all of our reserves in the East Dean Fabric Fund.

At Friston ongoing cost of repairs resulting from the Quinquennial [circa £5,000] can be met from the Friston Fabric Fund. The PCC will need to consider redecoration at some point in the future and how that may be funded.

## **6 Reserves Policy**

The Reserves Policy was reviewed in February 2024. 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 policy is met.

The PCC invests surplus funds in either CBF Church of England Income shares or M&G Charifund Units. In 2024 the value of our investments increased by £2,408 to a total of £101,302.

## **7 Risk Management**

The PCC regularly assess the likely risks associated with running Church activities. A formal Health & Safety & Risk Management policy was approved together with a review of the strategic risk register.

A policy review was undertaken during 2023 and on-going regular reviews of the risks facing the PCC remain essential so that action can be taken in a timely manner to address them.



## **7 Independent Examination**

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

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

Mrs Stephanie Carter (Vice Chair)

Date: 15th April 2025

**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 2024, 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: 16th April 2025

**Receipts and Payments Account**

	<b><u>Unrestricted Funds</u></b>	<b><u>Restricted Funds</u></b>	<b><u>Total 2024 £</u></b>	<b><u>Total 2023 £</u></b>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
Offerings at services	10,645		10,645	7,506
Planned giving	52,331		52,331	48,069
Special collections	-	2,933	2,933	1,771
Gift aid recoveries	15,130		15,130	12,371
Donations and legacies	1,873	3,000	4,873	311,843
Parish fees	7,874		7,874	5,788
Parish magazine	8,317		8,317	7,520
Investment income	11,412	2,153	13,565	4,628
Other income	1,861	224	2,085	3,663
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>109,443</b>	<b>8,310</b>	<b>117,753</b>	<b>403,159</b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>				
Mission and charitable giving	3,500	2,933	6,433	4,176
Diocesan parish contribution	54,441		54,441	52,670
Rector and Rector expenses	7,722		7,722	6,609
Assistant clergy costs	-		-	300
Upkeep of services	2,307		2,307	3,271
Light and heat	6,226		6,226	6,354
Church running	7,418	6,575	13,993	9,328
Organist fees	1,550		1,550	703
Equipment	151		151	2,153
Repairs and maintenance	837	17,196	18,033	14,879
Professional fees	-	2,297	2,297	6,309
Books	1,434		1,434	826
Outreach, website and teaching	956		956	1,238
Youth work	232		232	251
Independent Examination	1,986		1,986	714
Parish magazine cost	6,230		6,230	6,537
Miscellaneous	998		998	492
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>95,988</b>	<b>29,001</b>	<b>124,989</b>	<b>116,810</b>
Net receipts/(payments)	13,455	(20,691)	(7,236)	286,349
Transfers between funds	(291,005)	291,005	-	-
Cash funds at 1 January 2024	308,620	25,659	334,279	47,930
<b>Cash funds at 31 December 2024</b>	<b>31,070</b>	<b>295,973</b>	<b>327,043</b>	<b>334,279</b>

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

<b><u>Cash funds</u></b>	<b>31-Dec-24</b>	<b>31-Dec-23</b>
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	327,043	334,279
	<u>327,043</u>	<u>334,279</u>
<b><u>Other monetary assets</u></b>		
CCLA Income shares (General unrestricted)	36,302	35,490
M&G - Income shares (General unrestricted)	15,129	14,743
M&G - Income shares (Organ fund restricted)	3,107	3,028
Diocese - Income shares (Churchyard fund restricted)	22,898	22,386
Diocese - Fixed interest (Churchyard fund restricted)	3,252	3,157
M&G - Income shares (Churchyard fund restricted)	20,614	20,090
	<u>101,302</u>	<u>98,894</u>
<b><u>Other assets</u></b>		
Gift aid receivable	888	1,774
	<u>888</u>	<u>1,774</u>
<b><u>Liabilities</u></b>		
Accountancy and Independent Examination fee	900	1,440
	<u>900</u>	<u>1,440</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 15th April 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Mrs Stephanie Carter  
**Vice Chair**

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 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b><u>Overseas</u></b>				
CMS	1,000	198	<b>1,198</b>	<b>1,364</b>
United for Mission	2,000	497	<b>2,497</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b><u>Home</u></b>				
People Matter		391	<b>391</b>	-
Diocesan Family Support	-	-	-	<b>505</b>
Beachy Head Chaplaincy	500	1,176	<b>1,676</b>	<b>999</b>
Royal British Legion		138	<b>138</b>	<b>238</b>
Spinnaker Trust	-	532	<b>532</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>2,932</b>	<b>6,432</b>	<b>5,181</b>

**4 Trustees**

During the year the Rev. David Baker was reimbursed expenses of £2,458 (2023: £1,835)

**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	45,320	1,963	(10,092)	-	1,131	38,322
Fabric Fund Friston	9,766	-	(4,244)	-	-	5,522
Fabric Fund East Dean	15,208	224	(3,153)	-	-	12,279
Organ Fund	1,337	190	(264)	-	79	1,342
General	-	2,933	(2,933)	-	-	-
Gospel Ministry Fund	2,689	3,000	(2,811)	122	-	3,000
Mantle Legacy	-	-	(5,504)	290,883	-	285,379
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,320</b>	<b>8,310</b>	<b>(29,001)</b>	<b>291,005</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>345,844</b>

**Represented by:**

Cash and cash equivalents	25,659	8,310	(29,001)	291,005	-	295,973
Investments	48,661	-	-	-	1,210	49,871
	<b>74,320</b>	<b>8,310</b>	<b>(29,001)</b>	<b>291,005</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>345,844</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)**

**7 Unrestricted and Designated Funds**

	<b>Balance b/fwd</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Gains / (Losses)</b>	<b>Balance c/fwd</b>
General Unrestricted Fund	344,322	101,126	(89,758)	(291,005)	1,198	65,883
Fabric Fund East Dean	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
Lois Hurter legacy	10,000	-	-	(10,000)	-	-
Parish Magazine	4,531	8,317	(6,230)	-	-	6,618
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>358,853</b>	<b>109,443</b>	<b>(95,988)</b>	<b>(291,005)</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>82,501</b>
<b><u>Represented by:</u></b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	308,620	109,443	(95,988)	(291,005)	-	31,070
Investments	50,233	-	-	-	1,198	51,431
	<b>358,853</b>	<b>109,443</b>	<b>(95,988)</b>	<b>(291,005)</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>82,501</b>