

**Charity number: 1132389**

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL  
PARISH OF  
WADHURST**



**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
INCLUDING PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED  
31 DECEMBER  
2023**

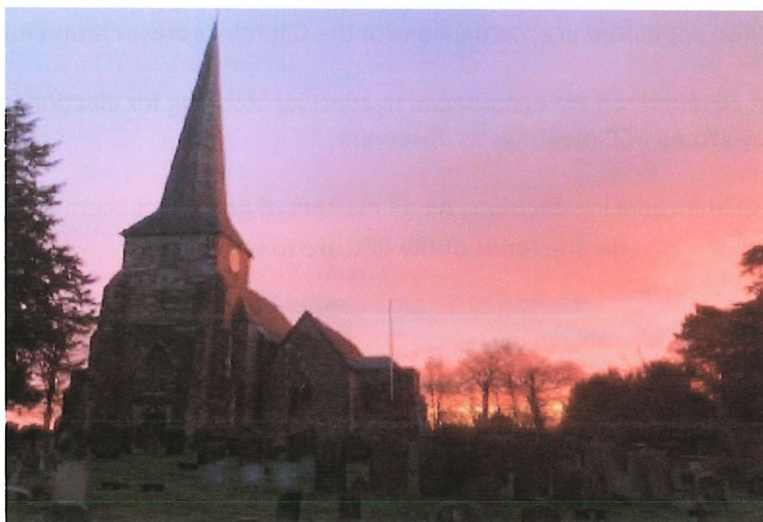
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**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX**  
**ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**The Church of St Peter and St Paul:** Church Street, Wadhurst, East Sussex, TN5 6AA



The parish is part of the United Benefice of Wadhurst, Tidebrook and Stonegate. The benefice is part of the Diocese of Chichester within the Church of England.

**Incumbent:** Revd Dr Paul Ratcliff

**Correspondence address:** Carillon Cottage  
High Street  
Wadhurst  
TN5 6AA  
East Sussex

**Charitable status:** Wadhurst PCC is an unincorporated charity registered with the Charity Commission (charity number 1132389) and is governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules, as amended in 2020.

*The Parochial Church Council (PCC) presents its report, together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.*

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX**  
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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**The Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are the trustees of the Charity. The PCC consists of the Vicar, the *ex officio* members, plus those elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), co-opted or otherwise appointed in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

All members of the electoral roll are encouraged to consider standing for election to the PCC. Patrons of the benefice may attend PCC meetings as observers.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

**PCC Members**

During the year January to December 2023 the following served as members of the Wadhurst PCC:

*Ex-officio members*

<b><i>Incumbent and Chair</i></b>	
Revd Dr Paul Ratcliff	Vicar
Ruth Dunnett	Churchwarden
Vanessa Sharman	Churchwarden
Chris Bithell	Deanery Synod Rep
Heather Ratcliff	Deanery Synod Rep
Penny Dobson	Deanery Synod Rep and Lead Recruiter
Peter Thompson	Reader (retired May 2023)
Michael Hardcastle	Chair of Carillon Cottage (retired September 2023)
Anne Brignell	Deputy Warden Chair of Carillon Cottage from October 2023

*Elected members*

Lesley Wardrop	Safeguarding Officer (retired May 2023)
Miquela Walsh	Member (retired May 2023)
Martin Lindsay	Member (retired May 2023)
Anthony Dunnett	Fabric Chair
Mary Burstow	Member
Paul Burstow	Member
Paul Stephens	Honorary Treasurer
Lynda Wight	Secretary

Revd Andrew Goy, Associate Vicar, is also entitled to attend Wadhurst PCC meetings.



**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX**

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**Executive Committee**

The PCC's Standing Committee, known as the Executive Committee, comprises the Vicar, the Churchwardens, the Honorary Treasurer, the PCC Secretary and one other representative of the PCC. In 2023 this was Chris Bithell. This committee sets the agenda for PCC meetings and has the power to transact business on behalf of the PCC between its meetings, subject to directions given by the PCC.

**Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee, which includes the PCC Chair, the Honorary Treasurer, Church Warden(s) and two other members, reviews the forecasts, ongoing financial data and upcoming annual budget. In 2023, Peter Thompson and Anthony Dunnett served as the 'other members' on this committee. The PCC Secretary is in attendance.

**Patrons**

Michael Hardcastle (chair of the Patronage Board)  
Caroline Reid  
John Bateup

Patrons may attend PCC meetings as observers if they wish.

**PCC Meetings**

In the year January to December 2023 six PCC meetings were held (January, February, March, July, September, November) with an average attendance of 84%.

In addition, PCC members considered supporting information and voted on special resolutions by email on six occasions.

The PCC delegates responsibility for the running of certain aspects of Parish life to committees, which report to the PCC and provide written summaries of their activities to each PCC meeting for discussion and oversight. These groups include the Pastoral team, the Fellowship Committee, Carillon Cottage and the Fabric Committee. The PCC also receives a report from the Pastoral Assistant at each meeting.

**EMPLOYEES**

The PCC employed Jean Sermon as Church Administrator to April 2023, when she retired after 16 years of loyal service. Following a recruitment and interview process, Jemma Alderson was appointed Church Administrator from April 2023.

The PCC employs Kat Fisher as the Pastoral Assistant for Families and Children, School Pastors Coordinator and Youth Worker.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX**

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Robert Fuller is the church Organist and Choir Director for Sunday services. In November 2023, Philippa Kirby was appointed Choral Director for special services.

On 15 May 2023 Andrew Goy was licensed as Associate Vicar for the benefice, employed by the Diocese of Chichester.

In 2023 Hollie Butler completed her curacy training as part of the Wadhurst church ministry team, with special responsibilities for supporting the Pastoral team, and left the parish in June 2023.

**ELECTORAL ROLL**

The church Electoral Roll, as at the annual meeting in May 2023, stood at 187 members. Four names were added, two left the area and sadly five members had died since the previous electoral roll.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX**

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**OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The PCC works with the Vicar to promote the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelical, social, and ecumenical – in the ecclesiastical parish of Wadhurst.

***Mission Statement***

*Using the gifts God gives us, we:  
bring others to Christ  
deepen our faith in Him  
develop the life of the church family  
serve each other and the wider community  
and so express our worship to God in every part of life*

In furtherance of this mission, the PCC:

- maintains the fabric of the parish church
- is the beneficial owner of, and responsible for the activities conducted from, Carillon Cottage, the church community centre in Wadhurst High Street
- is the beneficial owner and managing trustee of St George's Hall in Sparrows Green
- has oversight of the publication of *Focus* – the parish and community magazine
- is the employer of the Parish Administrator
- is the employer of a Pastoral Assistant for Families and Children and has oversight of the ministry undertaken by the person in that role
- is the employer of a School Pastors Coordinator and Youth Worker

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the PCC has given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to 'public benefit'.

The PCC 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 the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC has due regard for its Health and Safety responsibilities and for its responsibilities under the GDPR.

The PCC has approved a suite of policies to contribute to good governance and these are reviewed on an annual basis, and most are made available on the church website.



**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX**

**ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE IN 2023**

**Mission and Evangelism**

*Mission Action Plan*

The PCC has a Mission Action Plan which outlines its priorities for activities in the areas of Prayer and Worship, Discipleship, Pastoral Care and Evangelism. An element of the MAP is highlighted and discussed at each PCC meeting. These areas are underpinned by Finance, Fabric and Communications which are reviewed at every meeting and discussed as necessary as are matters of governance such as Health and Safety and Safeguarding.

The MAP is reviewed by the PCC annually to set objectives for the year ahead.

*Study and Homegroups*

The church has a network of homegroups which meet weekly, through which the gospel is proclaimed, and collective prayer and study are promoted. Two groups for men meet monthly.

A successful *Alpha* course was held on 12 Wednesday evenings and one Saturday in 2023 with 32 regular attendees, who enjoyed fellowship, teaching and mutual support.

*Children and Young People*

The church provides teaching for children in the church family aged 3-10 years at Sunday J Club and for older children at a Sunday Youth club (known as WhY). In addition, provision for children across the community is supplied through activities at Jellybeans Babies and Toddlers group and the weekday after-school 'J Club'.

The Vicar makes regular visits to the local Church of England Primary school. The Vicar and his wife lead weekly assemblies. The Youth Worker delivers 'Moving Up' talks to year 6 children.

In 2023, young people in the church in years 5 and above participated in youth events in the local area and across the diocese, such as MayCamp and Youth for Christ events in Tunbridge Wells.

The church has a team of School Pastors who have continued their regular attendance at Uplands Academy during the year.

*Regular Worship*

The PCC aims to offer different styles of service each Sunday to enable as many people as possible from the local community to experience accessible worship that is spiritually fulfilling for them. In 2023, these services have included a traditional Prayer Book Communion at 8am each Sunday, and an All-Age service on the first Sunday of the month. The appointment of the Associate Vicar has allowed Wadhurst Church to offer two Parish Holy Communion services each month. There is also a monthly mid-week communion service. Evensong services were presented for significant occasions such as Harvest.

All-Age services and services of Morning Worship are led by members of the worship leadership team.

The Wadhurst congregation joins together with those in Tidebrook and Stonegate from time to time for '3 as 1' services.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX**

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During the year attendances have increased overall. Whilst attendance at the 8am service fell by 5%, at the mid-morning service attendance of adults on a normal Sunday rose by 20% and of children rose by 13%.

*Special Services*

During the year ten baptisms, and five weddings and marriage blessings were celebrated, and 12 funerals and memorial services were held in the church. In addition, there were eight burials of ashes in the churchyard.

Special services were offered at major festivals (Christmas, Easter) and national events (such as Remembrance) and these attracted attendance from across the village.

The church also joined with the local Roman Catholic Church for *Churches Together in Wadhurst* services, including the Service of Christian Unity, the Good Friday Walk of Witness and an Advent Carol Service.

The local primary school held services in the church for Easter, for its School Leavers in July, at Harvest and at Christmas.

The church has an active and growing team which is responsible for the arrangement of flowers in church through the year and decorations for festivals and special services.

*Prayer*

Confidential prayer ministry continued to be offered after all the morning services.

Benefice-wide Saturday morning prayer meetings were held in Carillon Cottage or at Tidebrook Church. There is also a church Prayer for Healing group.

*Fellowship*

The congregation joined together in special fellowship events during 2023, including refreshments at the licensing of Andrew Goy, a bring-and-share picnic to say farewell to Hollie Butler and her family, a cake decorating session and a Harvest lunch. The group has also ensured that refreshments were available after the 10.30am services and at special services throughout the year.

**Pastoral Care**

The Vicar continued to maintain contact with all parishioners through weekly email and regular telephone calls and visits.

The volunteer activity co-ordinated by Carillon Cottage supports the church family and the local community with shopping, drives to hospital visits and a range of other services.

A Pastoral Group oversees pastoral care given across the community. Volunteers visit those in need and the housebound to deliver Holy Communion. A particular relationship has been established with Wadhurst Manor Care Home. The training materials developed by Wadhurst church for this initiative are being used by other churches in the Deanery who wish to set up similar teams.



## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX

### ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### Deanery Synod

The church has four places on the Rotherfield Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

#### Fabric and churchyard

Maintenance of the church fabric continued in line with the recommendations of the Quinquennial report. Attention has been paid over the year to ensure an ethical green energy supply.

Plans for the churchyard have evolved in 2023, with proposals to create a garden space with views over Bewl Water and rebuild the main path through the churchyard with a border for burials of ashes and new trees. The whole churchyard will also be managed in an ecologically friendly way.

The PCC is also considering options for the replacement of the aging gas-fired heating system with an air source heat pump solution in line with a commitment to achieving Carbon Zero (CO) by 2030.

#### Environmental Issues

The ECO-CO Working Group consists of representatives of the three churches in the benefice plus Carillon Cottage. In 2023 Wadhurst church was awarded a Silver ECO Award from A Rocha.



The group has met with the local Catholic church to share ideas and best practice.

#### Communications

There has been active and regular use of the Facebook page to publicise services and events. These posts have attracted a lot of attention from the local community, playing a significant role in attracting people to Christmas and other special services, such as the 'Remembering Loved Ones' service.

The PCC has had an increased presence on *A Church Near You* website during this year.

#### Finances

The PCC has continued to have prudent management of the church's finances.

A special PCC meeting was held in February to discuss a programme of cost containment and ways to increase income. The PCC has actively sought donations and grants from a variety of sources to help support its objectives.

Members of the congregation were kept informed of the financial position through presentations and leaflets and a successful stewardship campaign was held in the autumn.

The church has been able to turn a projected £45k deficit into a £31k surplus and so has been able to meet its commitments and continue with charitable giving and support to members of the local community.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX**

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**BENEFIT TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY**

Wadhurst church aspires to be at the heart of the local community and to manifest loving service to that community in numerous ways.

***Church building and churchyard***

The PCC maintains St Peter and St Paul's churchyard in good order for the benefit of the wider community. The churchyard is a popular place for dog walkers and for people to sit away from the bustle of the High Street. The PCC has worked with local nature and environmental groups to develop 'wild' areas, to encourage the swift population and to open up views from the churchyard towards Bewl Water, for the greater enjoyment of visitors.



In 2023, the church took part in the annual 'Ride and Stride' event in Sussex. This is a national initiative which encourages participants to get sponsorship to walk or ride (bike, horse, car, electric buggy) to churches across their county. Funds raised are shared between Sussex Historic Churches Trust and the local church. Both our Youth Group and residents of Crittles Court contributed to the event and a rota of members of the congregation welcomed visitors to the church.

The church building is open daily for quiet reflection and prayer, which is welcomed by visitors from the local community, from across the UK, and as far afield as the United States and New Zealand:

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*'Much needed moment to breathe, thank you' M, Wadhurst*

*'A special place of peace. Great to see involvement in the community' RD, Bucks*

*'Thank you for your welcome' A&N, Brussels*

*'Lovely to be able to come into God's house to find strength and consolation' AM, Wadhurst*

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The 'Food Shelves' in the church, freely accessible during daylight hours to those in need in the local community, saw increased use in 2023. The church and Carillon Cottage are also locations for Nourish foodbank collections.

The church building hosts 'Dads on Saturdays' monthly – an opportunity for male carers and their children to meet up in an informal way. It also hosts Jellybeans babies and toddlers' group weekly, and the J Club after-school club weekly during term time.

The church is also available for local arts initiatives and concerts by local choirs, the Wadhurst Brass Band and other musicians. It has also been used by local groups such as 'Brownies' for their regular meetings.

The church and village benefit from an active team of bellringers who practise weekly in church. They ring for several Sunday services each month and for special occasions. They train new recruits and offer hospitality to other bellringing groups who visit.



**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX**

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***Carillon Cottage***

For over 20 years the Wadhurst PCC has had responsibility for the activities run from this location on Wadhurst High Street.

The volunteers in the Cottage coordinate a driving service for healthcare appointments across Kent and Sussex and offer a monthly hearing aid clinic. The Cottage team issues a Welcome Pack to newcomers to the area, has a directory of tourist and local information services and sells tickets for local events run by community groups such as *Wadhurst Warriors* and local choirs.

Meeting rooms and the garden at the Cottage are available for local groups to hire and have seen increased use during 2023, for groups as diverse as U3A interest groups, training sessions, the *Cygnets to Swans* drama group, and committee meetings of local charities including The Rose Trust and Mullins Memorial Fund.

An open *Welcome Space* is made available at the Cottage for anyone to attend during the winter months, for company and light refreshments.

Conversation classes for refugees from Ukraine have continued in 2023 and serve an additional useful purpose in bringing members of this community together socially.

The annual Open Gardens weekend took place in 2023 and is a highlight of the village calendar, with gardens across the parish open to all, and teas served in the church building. It raised over £7,000 to support the maintenance and running costs of the Cottage.

***Children's work***

*Jellybeans*, a babies and toddlers' group regularly attracts up to 60 people every week. They value the provision of a safe space, with a listening, caring ear and games, stories and activities for the youngest. It is supported by a team of volunteers across the age range.

*J-Club* is a weekly after-school club hosted by the church during term time, attracting families that do not attend church. Volunteers supervise a 'walking bus' service from school to church, where activities and healthy snacks are provided.

Special events are also arranged for children in the community, including opportunities to be part of a Nativity event. A 'Light Party' in October had 'lighthouses' as its theme and attracted around 90 attendees from the local community – as well as the Bishop of Musinga (in Burundi) who was visiting at the time.

***Young people***

During the year excursions to events for young people have been arranged and have been open to any young person in our community.

A team of School Pastors is in place, supported by a Prayer Pastors group. They attend Uplands Academy in break times to be a non-judgemental listening ear for pupils (and staff members).

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX**

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***Schools***

The church actively supports the church-affiliated local primary school. Wadhurst CE Primary School governing body has three foundation governors from the church. The church also helps to run a Christian lunch club called *Stargazers*. Leavers are presented with Bibles in the summer.

The Vicar runs Religious Education coaching sessions for the staff, covering the subjects in the RE syllabus.

Each child at both schools in the village (primary and secondary) in receipt of free school meals was given a £10 supermarket voucher for Easter. This was entirely funded by donations from church members.

***Older people***

Come And Meet Each Other, or CAMEO, is a weekly club for the elderly, with a hot meal followed by games, activities, or a guest speaker. The sessions include 'armchair exercises' for the attendees, musical entertainment, or crafting sessions. CAMEO is run by a team of volunteers and welcomes up to 25 members each week. Volunteer drivers collect the guests and take them home.

In addition, Afternoon Fellowship meets monthly for worship, fellowship and refreshments. A guest speaker is invited to talk on topics of interest to the group, which is mainly older people, although anyone in the community is invited to attend.

A 'Senior Lunch' is held twice a year for around 50 -60 attendees.

***Pastoral care***

The Pastoral Care team makes regular visits to those in the village who feel lonely and isolated, to deliver Holy Communion or simply to talk.

Monthly Sunday services are held at Wadhurst Manor Care Home and residents are also visited in their room for prayer or just conversation.



***Community magazine***

*Focus*, the Wadhurst parish magazine, is distributed by a team of volunteers throughout the village. It offers a directory of services and support, an events diary and a means for local authorities (such as the Parish Council), the local MP, local clubs and societies, the two Wadhurst schools and Stonegate Primary School to communicate with the wider community.

***Community engagement***

The church and Carillon Cottage had a presence at the village Coronation celebrations, providing information and a creche for younger children.

Copies of *Crowned King* book were made available to the church family and anyone visiting the church premises at the time of the Coronation, as a memento of the occasion.



PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX

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To mark the King's Coronation, the church organised a Barn Dance in the local Commemoration Hall for everyone in the local community to attend, which was a great success.



Carillon Cottage participated in the Wadhurst traders' Christmas Late Night Opening event, distributing information, welcoming visitors and participating in the children's trail and colouring competitions. The young people from the church made and sold tree decorations and bracelets in support of a 'toilet twinning' initiative with toilets in Nepal and South Sudan.

***Charitable support***

The church and PCC seek to contribute in financial terms to the Mission of God locally, nationally and globally. In 2023, the PCC gave a total of £15,752 to a range of local, national and international charities.

Special collections were also made at many services to support charities, including *The Children's Society* at Christingle and *Crisis* at the Carol Service.

Due to a long-standing relationship between Wadhurst church and Burundi, the church family responded generously to a plea for donations to help repair the roof of the church in Burundi, sending £2,000 to pay for roofing materials.

In addition to financial gifts, the church supports charities in many other ways.

A collection of toys, gifts and money was made for Diocesan *Family Support Work* to support needy families in the wider community over the Christmas period.

*Harvest Festival* parcels were distributed to the needy across the village.

In addition, vouchers were distributed to local families in need, and there is a 'Vicar's Discretionary Fund' to allow rapid response to crises.

Carillon Cottage co-ordinated a collection of candle stubs from the local community which were taken to the '*Ray of Hope*' charity for making into trench candles for Ukraine.

The Cottage is also a centre for collection of other items which are recycled in aid of various charities, such as ink cartridges and plastic bottle tops.



**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX**

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***St George's Hall***

This Church-owned community hall in the Sparrows Green area of the village has been a resource for the community since 1927. The property has been designated an 'Asset of Community Value' by the local council.

The Hall was closed during the Covid pandemic in 2020, and due to deterioration in its condition the decision was made to extend the closure, pending a decision on the most suitable way forward. During 2023 the PCC held discussions with Wadhurst Parish Council (WPC) on the terms by which WPC could purchase the property and use it as a facility for the people of Wadhurst. These negotiations are expected to conclude in 2024.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX**  
**ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The financial statements are presented using the Receipts and Payments basis, in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

Total income from unrestricted general funds were £184,121 (2022: £163,122).

Expenditure on unrestricted activities was £161,571 (2022: £159,521). This includes the contribution to the diocesan parish share of £61,440 (2022: £56,038).

The year showed a surplus of £22,550 on unrestricted activities (2022: surplus of £3,601).

With the exception of the School Pastors & Youth Worker role, all Restricted funds were self-financing.

**RESERVES POLICY**

At 31 December 2023 the unrestricted free cash reserves stood at £81,325 (2022: £58,775).

The PCC aims to retain three months of annual general unrestricted funds expenditure in free reserves.

**DECLARATION**

The PCC trustees declare that they have approved the PCC annual report above.

**SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:**



**Revd Dr Paul Ratcliff**  
**Chair of Wadhurst PCC**  
**Vicar of Wadhurst, Tidebrook and Stonegate**

Date: 03/05/2024

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX**

**ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wadhurst ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

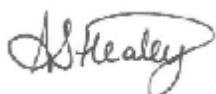
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**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.

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.



.....  
Amy Healey FCA CTA DChA  
Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
North House, 198 High Street  
Tonbridge,  
Kent  
TN9 1BE

Date: 8 May 2024

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WADHURST**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022 £</b>
<b>Receipts from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	<b>2</b>	161,371	11,516	172,887	157,374
Church Activities		19,698	-	19,698	13,946
Investments		3,052	-	3,052	2,421
Grants		-	6,552	6,552	16,854
Families and Children's Worker		-	1,680	1,680	1,223
Carillon Cottage income		-	24,062	24,062	18,161
Burundi donations		-	5,660	5,660	6,520
Cameo income		-	4,778	4,778	4,215
School Pastors and Youth Worker		-	3,050	3,050	17,075
<b>Gross income</b>		<b>184,121</b>	<b>57,298</b>	<b>241,419</b>	<b>237,789</b>
<b>Asset and investment sales:</b>					
Insurance claims - capital		-	-	-	19,461
<b>Total income</b>		<b>184,121</b>	<b>57,298</b>	<b>241,419</b>	<b>257,250</b>
<b>Payments on:</b>					
Church Activities	<b>3</b>	161,571	48,780	210,351	259,076
Asset and investment purchases (purchase of sound system)		-	-	-	10,236
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>161,571</b>	<b>48,780</b>	<b>210,351</b>	<b>269,312</b>
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>		<b>22,550</b>	<b>8,518</b>	<b>31,068</b>	<b>( 12,062)</b>
Cash balances brought forward		58,775	31,148	89,923	101,985
<b>Cash balances carried forward</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>81,325</b>	<b>39,666</b>	<b>120,991</b>	<b>89,923</b>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WADHURST**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

		Unrestricted Funds <u>2023</u> £	Restricted Funds <u>2023</u> £	Total Funds <u>2023</u> £	Total Funds <u>2022</u> £
	<u>Note</u>				
Bank current accounts		44,239	39,666	83,905	55,121
Deposit accounts		37,277	-	37,277	35,100
Less monies held as agent	5	( 191)	-	( 191)	( 298)
<b>Cash funds</b>		<b>81,325</b>	<b>39,666</b>	<b>120,991</b>	<b>89,923</b>
<b>Other Monetary assets</b>	6	5,570	-	5,570	3,711
<b>Investment assets</b>	7	71,934	-	71,934	66,686
<b>Assets retained for church use</b>	8	347,729	20,000	367,729	367,729
<b>Liabilities</b>	9	( 1,309)	-	( 1,309)	( 2,155)

The receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the members on 03 May 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

  
 Rev'd Dr Paul Katcliff

Vicar and Chair of the Wadhurst PCC

  
 Paul Stephens - Honorary Treasurer

Member of the Committee



**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WADHURST**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**1 Preparation of accounts**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis. The accounts are presented in pound sterling and rounded to the nearest £1.

<b>2 Donations</b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Collections	20,658	5,623
Planned giving and parish giving	82,234	82,959
Donations	47,245	43,345
Legacies	10,000	15,000
Income tax recovered	12,750	10,447
	<b>172,887</b>	<b>157,374</b>

<b>3 Payments</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Charitable giving & vouchers (note 4)	15,752	-	15,752	14,083
Diocesan parish contribution	61,440	-	61,440	56,038
Other clergy costs	3,490	-	3,490	3,008
Church running expenses	24,685	1,581	26,266	14,316
Church maintenance & repairs	2,138	552	2,690	53,247
Vicarage	4,775	-	4,775	3,848
Upkeep of churchyard	1,760	6,000	7,760	6,736
Upkeep of services	14,180	-	14,180	10,062
Training and education	717	-	717	7,135
Outreach	694	-	694	3,887
Focus Magazine expenditure	-	-	-	620
Salaries	29,600	8,693	38,293	40,313
St. George's Hall	-	-	-	6,855
Carillon Cottage	-	19,306	19,306	23,879
Burundi fund charitable giving (note 4)	-	5,400	5,400	7,000
Cameo	-	7,248	7,248	3,895
School Pastor and Youth Worker's expenses	-	-	-	794
Governance costs: Independent examiner's fee	2,340	-	2,340	3,360
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>161,571</b>	<b>48,780</b>	<b>210,351</b>	<b>259,076</b>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WADHURST**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**4 Charitable Giving**

The following donations to missions and charities were made in the year

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
<i>Local Charities</i>		
Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ	850	850
Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors	850	850
Nourish Community Foodbank	625	625
<i>UK Charities</i>		
Diocesan Family Support Work	1,200	1,200
The Children's Society	850	850
Church Army	1,800	1,800
Church Pastoral Aid Society	1,200	1,200
Bible Society	700	700
Ride & Stride	1,064	-
<i>Overseas Charities</i>		
Burundi	879	-
Church Mission Society	1,200	1,200
Crosslinks	1,500	1,500
Tearfund	800	800
Release International	800	800
	<hr/> 14,318	<hr/> 12,375
School Leavers' Bibles	844	988
Christmas vouchers	590	720
	<hr/> <hr/> 15,752	<hr/> <hr/> 14,083

In addition, donations were made from Restricted funds to Burundi of £5,400 (2022: £7,000).

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WADHURST**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**5 Monies held as agent**

These include fees collected on behalf of the Diocese by St Peter and St Paul, Stonegate and Tidebrook churches at weddings and funerals, and special collections.

**6 Other monetary assets**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Gift aid recoverable	5,276	3,711
Other debtors	294	-
	<u>5,570</u>	<u>3,711</u>

**7 Investments**

	<u>2023</u>
	£
Market value at 1 January 2023	66,686
Revaluation	5,248
Market value at 31 December 2023	<u>71,934</u>

All investments are held in CBF Church of England Funds and are stated at market value. Trust funds are invested through the Diocesan Board of Finance and include the Watson-Smyth Trust and Parish General Fund. They also include the Laurens/Watson-Smyth Churchyard Fund. The capital represented by these holdings is freely available to the PCC and is therefore unrestricted.

**Other funds (not included in accounts)**

Chancel Trusts: The Diocese maintains, as a permanent trust for the Parish under the Tithe Act, a holding of 196.74 CBF Investment Fund - Income Shares (value at 31 December 2023, £4,447 (2022: £4,065)) accumulated income from which may be used to defray the cost of repairs to the fabric of the chancel and the Church. The Diocese has confirmed that the accumulated income is held by CBF as custodian trustee and is freely available to the PCC.

**8 Assets retained for church use**

Assets retained for church use include the freehold property at Carillon Cottage purchased in 1999 and St. George's Hall at cost.

**9 Liabilities**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Taxation and social security	1,309	2,155

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WADHURST**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**10 Statement of cash funds held**

	<i>Brought forward</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfer</i>	<i>Carry forward</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Unrestricted cash funds</u></b>					
Designated cash funds:					
Fabric fund	27,366	-	( 4,000)	-	23,366
Unrestricted cash funds	31,409	184,121	( 157,571)	-	57,959
	58,775	184,121	( 161,571)	-	81,325
<b><u>Restricted cash funds:</u></b>					
Carillon Cottage	17,950	24,062	( 19,306)	-	22,706
Burundi fund	1,686	5,660	( 5,400)	-	1,946
Communications fund	255	-	-	-	255
Cameo	5,713	4,778	( 7,248)	-	3,243
School Pastors and Youth Worker	3,963	3,050	( 7,013)	-	-
Fabric Fund	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Families and Children's worker	-	1,680	( 1,680)	-	-
Upkeep of church yard grant	-	6,000	( 6,000)	-	-
Energy grant	1,581	-	( 1,581)	-	-
Listed places of worship grant	-	552	( 552)	-	-
Choir Fund	-	1,516	-	-	1,516
	31,148	57,298	( 48,780)	-	39,666
	<b>89,923</b>	<b>241,419</b>	<b>( 210,351)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>120,991</b>

**Designated Funds:**

*Fabric fund:*

This fund is for the Quinquennial, five-year cyclical maintenance of the church premises.

**Restricted funds:**

*Carillon Cottage:*

The Carillon Cottage fund represents the income and expenditure account for the activities run from Carillon Cottage. This property was purchased by the church in 1999 and in addition to the church administration office and meeting rooms, provides the base for a range of support services for the local community. Income is derived from fund-raising activities and donations made by users of the services.

*Burundi fund:*

The Burundi fund includes donations received for the specific purpose of furthering the aims of the Wadhurst-Burundi link.

*Communications fund:*

The communications fund includes donations towards improvements to church communications and marketing.



**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WADHURST**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**10 Statement of cash funds held (continued)**

*Cameo:*

The PCC took over the responsibility for this fund from the Wadhurst Methodist Church Council in May 2015, following the closure of Wadhurst Methodist Church. The Cameo fund provides the finances for weekly lunches and other social activities for senior citizens at the Commemoration Hall, High Street, Wadhurst.

*School Pastors and Youth Worker :*

This fund was set up to provide for the appointment of a School Pastor and Youth Worker, who leads a team of volunteer school pastors who visits the local Community College. The position was part funded by a Diocesan Mission grant received in the previous two years. This grant has now been fully expensed.

*Fabric Fund*

These relate to specific donations and legacies towards the repair and maintenance of the church. These are fully covered by expenditure in the year.

*Families and Children's Worker*

A number of donations were received to fund the role of the Families and Children's Worker. This income has been fully expensed on salaries for the year.

*Upkeep of church yard grant*

A grant was received from Wadhurst Parish Council in the year towards the upkeep of the churchyard. This was fully expensed.

*Energy grant*

During the previous year a grant was provided to assist with heat and light costs within the church. This was fully spent in the year.

*Listed Place of Worship grant*

A grant was received in the year towards the VAT paid on repairs to the Church which was fully spent in the year.

*Choir Fund*

During the year payments to choir members who sang for weddings and funerals were collected and donated to the PCC to be used for much needed storage for the choir music archive.