

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST THOMAS WINCHELSEA

England & Wales · Charity number 1132555

## Details

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**Other names** WINCHELSEA PCC

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Previously excepted

**Registered** 2009-11-07

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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Rock Lane  
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**Website** <https://winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk/>

## Activities

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**Objects:** PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

**Activities:** To maintain a building appropriate for collective or private worship, prayer and reflection. To support selected local and national charities throughout the year, including regular monthly collections. To ensure that church buildings are open daily and are available for use by the community as a whole. To support food collections for local charities.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- East Sussex

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£155,172	£157,950	-	-
2024-12-31	£146,381	£137,636	-	-
2023-12-31	£144,462	£178,363	-	-
2022-12-31	£98,665	£102,315	-	-
2021-12-31	£96,273	£98,755	-	-
2020-12-31	£99,996	£98,060	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Rev Nathanael Aaron Hayler</b>	Chair	2026-01-28
ANGELA MARGARET HILL		2000-07-12
Alice BOLTON		2017-03-25
CELIA ALLISON KING		2003-04-10
DEBORAH RODLEY		2013-03-22
David Richard Harris		2025-01-18
Gavin Bredoch McFadyean		2025-04-12
ISOBEL MARION LOVELL		2002-03-22
Jane Elizabeth Stark		2026-04-18
Martin Inia Lew-Gor		2025-04-12
Mary Parker		2019-03-23
Nigel Mark Ashton		2026-04-18

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# Accounts

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## **THE PARISH OF WINCHELSEA**

### **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

#### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

“We are an open welcoming church, which exists for the community as a whole and where everyone is valued and respected. We are called to serve Christ in the world, sharing the joy of God’s unconditional love in faith and action. We commit ourselves to praying and working for a world where love, reconciliation, equality and peace can prevail.”

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Within the Diocese of Chichester, the Parish of Winchelsea (served by the Church of St Thomas the Martyr) forms a Joint Benefice with the Parish of Icklesham (served by the Church of St Nicholas with All Saints). Since 2023, the Parish of Pett (served by the Church of St Mary and St Peter) has been linked in that the Rector of Winchelsea has also acted as Priest-in-Charge of Pett. Each of these Parishes is governed by its own Parochial Church Council (PCC).

2. At the beginning of February, the Reverend Jonathan Meyer retired having ministered here for seven years. The Parish was thus in Interregnum for the rest of the year, although the process of finding a new incumbent priest commenced in August and a selection was announced in November. It is worth recording, at the outset, our thanks to the Reverend Meyer for all that he achieved in his Ministry and, particularly, for keeping the Church alive through all the difficulties associated with the pandemic.

3. In October 2025, the Diocese launched a consultation process to establish a new Joint Benefice comprising all three Parishes. However, this report deals only with the Parish of Winchelsea.

#### **PCC WINCHELSEA – MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

4. Members of the PCC are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Churchwardens are elected at the Annual Parish Meeting, which precedes the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, for a one-year term. Deanery Synod representatives are elected for a three-year term.

5. The following served on the Parochial Church Council during 2025:

Chairman	The Reverend Jonathan Meyer (until February 2025)
Churchwardens	Celia King Nigel Ashton (until May 2025) John Rodley (from June 2025)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Angela Hill Marion Lovell Deborah Rodley
Elected Office Holders	David Harris (Hon. Treasurer and Vice Chair from February 2025) Mary Parker (Hon. Secretary)

Elected Members                      David Jefferies (until April 2025)  
   Pamela Jefferies (until April 2025)  
   Alice Bolton (Safeguarding Officer)  
   Jeremy Naylor  
   Susan Wood  
   Gavin McFadyean  
   Martin Lew-Gor (from April 2025)  
   Catherine Burnett (from April to November 2025)

6. Electoral Roll. There were 81 on the Electoral Roll at the end of 2025, 65 resident and 16 non-resident.

### CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

**Registered charity number:** 1132555 The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas Winchelsea

**Principal address:** St Thomas' Church  
Winchelsea  
East Sussex  
TN36 4EB

**Website:** [www.winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk](http://www.winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk)

7. The PCC Members are all Trustees of the above charity and have complied with their duty in Part 9 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission. They have also been guided by the following charitable objects this year:

- To maintain a building appropriate for collective or private worship, prayer and reflection.
- To support selected local and national charities throughout the year, including making regular monthly cash and food collections.
- To ensure that church buildings are open daily and are available for use by the community as a whole.

### RISK MANAGEMENT and SAFEGUARDING

8. During the year, the PCC has continued to monitor the various risks applicable to the Church and has reviewed its published Health and Safety policy. No accidents were reported this year.

9. The PCC has also reviewed and reissued its Safeguarding policy. The PCC is a member of the Church's Child Protection Advisory Service. Appropriate clearances are held and updated and cleared people are present in a supervisory capacity whenever children attend Church.

### DELIVERING THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

10. In seeking to meet its charitable objects, the PCC has had due regard to carrying out its purpose for the public benefit. Throughout the year the Church has been open every day, a service has taken place every Sunday, along with weekly prayer meetings. The support of retired and visiting clergy has been essential in maintaining this pattern. In addition, all the major festivals were celebrated, a monthly Bible study group met in the New Inn and the

Church provided the venue for the Easter Monday Mayoring ceremony.

11. The Register of Services and the Visitors' Book demonstrate the regular use of the Church, not just as a place of worship, but in meeting a need for private reflection. The monthly Church Market has been a successful fundraiser and a key element of outreach and community engagement, as has been the regular Fellowship Lunches at Winchelsea Beach. The Mothers' Prayers group also met monthly at Winchelsea Beach. A community Harvest Barn Dance was held in the New Hall.

12. Supported Charities. Charities supported this year were Family Support, Demelza, Pett Level Rescue Boat, Rye Food Bank, 'You Raise Me Up,' Rye Hospital, Surviving Christmas, the Royal British Legion, Baby Basics and Farm Africa.

13. Events. Musical Events this year featured nine concerts, seven of which were sponsored by Winchelsea Arts and one by the Rye Festival

14. Special Offices. During the year there were three Baptisms, four Weddings and sixteen Burials or Interments.

15. Churchyard. The PCC has sought to maintain the churchyard as place to be enjoyed by residents and visitors. Community support of this has included a grant from Icklesham Parish Council and private sponsorship of the wildflower circles.

16. Our School. With 148 pupils, St Thomas's Primary School has made considerable use of the Church for services and educational visits. It also led on the production of the Christmas Crib service. A group of congregation members has also been engaged with the 'Open the Book' initiative in the School.

17. New Rector. Following an interview on 2 September, the Revd Nathanael Hayler was appointed Rector of the newly-formed Benefice of Winchelsea, Icklesham and Pett. He was inducted on 28 January 2026.

## **FABRIC**

18. Routine care and maintenance and appropriate statutory inspections have been conducted as has a full review of insurance requirements. The major structural work this year was the renovation of the north chancel window and vestry roof. The cost of this work was £12,000, which was supported by grants and by the Friends of Winchelsea Church. Minor repairs were carried out on the organ, the porch floor and gutter and the west door. The War Memorial and surrounds were cleaned, and repair and repointing work was undertaken on the churchyard paths. Discussion on a new lighting system continued and a new sound system was installed.

## **FINANCE**

19. The Statements of Financial Affairs attached to this report shows the existing investments and reserves. The PCC had planned a small surplus for the year on the general unrestricted fund and the receipts and payments for the year demonstrate that this was achieved. Receipts include a generous legacy from the Estate of the late Reverend Paddy Buxton. A grant to the Winchelsea Beach Community Association towards building improvements was funded from proceeds of the sale of St Richard's Church. The PCC has sought to manage the Church for the benefit of all, but pressure on the operating budget, particularly in terms of utility costs and general inflation, has been a considerable challenge. For similar reasons donations have been harder to attract, both from individuals and grant givers. In this context, we remain grateful for the support that has been given by the Friends of Winchelsea Church, by the Sussex Historic Churches Trust, by Icklesham Parish Council

and by the National Churches Trust.

20. The PCC maintains sufficient operating funds in a current account at Lloyds Bank. All surplus funds are held in deposit accounts held by the CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities). Funds relating to the Blanesburgh Bequest are held in a separate CCLA Investment Fund for which the Diocese is Custodian Trustee. The Diocese reports performance annually, which is reflected in the PCC's Annual Accounts.

21. In accordance with Charity Commission guidance, the PCC maintains a reserve equivalent to six months' budgeted expenditure. For 2026, this equates to £62,229. This policy is reviewed by the PCC annually. Funds above this sum and which are not restricted are available to match fund projects or to finance future projects such as the delivery of major fabric expenditure following periodic structure reports by the Diocesan Architect.

The financial statements for the year follow.

<b>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>					
<b>As at: 31 December 2025</b>					
	General (Unrestricted) Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Total	Prior Year
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Current Assets - Investments</b>					
CCLA Blanesburgh Bequest (Diocese)			22,703	22,703	23,648
<b>Current Assets- Cash At Bank And In Hand</b>					
Lloyds - Current Account	20,457			20,457	6,080
CCLA Guide Book - Deposit Account	3,681		43	3,724	3,562
CCLA PCC - General Deposit Account	7,505	315,679	2,750	325,934	325,628
CCLA Lighting & Sound Appeal - Deposit Account			1,562	1,562	20,649
CCLA Joseph McCrindle - Deposit Account			12,019	12,019	11,499
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>31,643</b>	<b>315,679</b>	<b>39,077</b>	<b>386,399</b>	<b>391,066</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Funds Due to Diocese			145	145	1,090
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>31,643</b>	<b>315,679</b>	<b>38,932</b>	<b>386,254</b>	<b>389,976</b>
<b>Represented by</b>					
General (Unrestricted)	31,643	-	43	31,686	5,784
Designated - Sale of St Richards		315,679	-	315,679	315,373
Restricted - Blanesburgh			22,703	22,703	23,648
Restricted - Choir			700	700	700
Restricted - Churchyard			1,218	1,218	1,401
Restricted - Joseph			12,019	12,019	11,499
Restricted - Lighting & Sound			2,249	2,249	21,014
Restricted - Special Giving			-	-	7,169
Restricted - Wild Flower			-	-	3,388
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,643</b>	<b>315,679</b>	<b>38,932</b>	<b>386,254</b>	<b>389,976</b>

**Summary of Receipts and Payments**  
**1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**

	General Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Prior Year
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Tax Efficient Giving	19,350			19,350	21,007
Collections at Services	6,019			6,019	4,153
Appeals			7,950	7,950	27,414
Black Box	8,339			8,339	8,862
Digital Machine	13,931		838	14,769	11,447
Ride & Stride - Sussex Historic Churches Trust	412			412	
Other Donations	7367		10	7377	6,677
Gift Aid Recovered	6,572		5,312	11,884	6,744
Legacies	20,151			20,151	
Grants - National Churches Trust	5,000			5,000	0
Grants - Sussex Historic Churches Trust & Listed Building VAT	4,804			4,804	22,127
Grants - Friends of Winchelsea Church	16,340			16,340	4,505
Church Markets	3,202			3,202	3,337
Harvest Supper	175			175	1,115
Church Lettings	2,430			2,430	2,193
Fees ex DBF Wedding, Funerals & Burials	10,376			10,376	7,680
Bank & CCLA Interest	161	14,342	1,434	15,937	18,478
CBF Investment Fund Dividend	657			657	642
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>125,286</b>	<b>14,342</b>	<b>15,544</b>	<b>155,172</b>	<b>146,381</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Donations to External Mission & Charities	23,560			23,560	3,977
Parish Share	60,000			60,000	66,000
Costs ex DBF re - Weddings, Funerals Etc.	2,010			2,010	1,191
Insurance	5,231			5,231	5,093
Salaries, Wage and Honoraria	5,355			5,355	4,254
Recruitment of New Incumbent	641			641	-
Clergy Expenses	-322			-322	1,989
Rectory Running Costs	587			587	4,857
Staff Expenses - Choir & Music	679			679	543
Mission & Evangelism Costs	207			207	1,691
Church Running Costs	2,942			2,942	11,952
Service Costs, Candles, Wine, etc	1,176			1,176	1,183
Printing, Stationery & Sundries	1,767			1,767	1,824
Church Utilities	6,753			6,753	5,080
Cost Of Church Activities/Trading eg Magazine, Bookstall	1,110			1,110	1,889
Churchyard Maintenance Cost			3,963	3,963	4,018
Minor Church Repairs & Maintenance	1,826			1,826	14,661
Major Church Repairs & Maintenance	9,638			9,638	3,235

New Building Projects (Light & Sound)			30,009	30,009	3,473
Accounting Software Subscription	180			180	204
Bank Charges	638			638	525
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>123,978</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33,972</b>	<b>157,950</b>	<b>137,636</b>
<b>Difference in Receipts and Payments</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>14,342</b>	<b>-18,428</b>	<b>-2,778</b>	<b>8,745</b>

### Summary of Funds Movement 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Fund	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Blanesburgh Bequest - Restricted	23,648				-945	22,703
Choir - Restricted	700					700
Churchyard Maintenance - Restricted	1,401	3,780	3,963			1,218
General Unrestricted	5,741	125,286	123,978	24,593		31,642
Joseph McCrindle - Restricted	11,499	520				12,019
Light & Sound - Restricted	21,014	11,244	30,009			2,249
Sale of St Richards - Designated	315,373	14,342		-14,036		315,679
Special Giving - Restricted	7,169			-7,169		
Wildflower - Restricted	3,388			-3,388		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>389,933</b>	<b>155,172</b>	<b>157,950</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-945</b>	<b>386,210</b>

#### Note to the Financial Reports

The financial reports have been prepared on a cashbook accounting basis, i.e. receipts and payments for the year have not been adjusted to reflect creditors; accruals; stock debtors and prepayments. The reports have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the current Church Accounting regulations.

The Blanesburgh Bequest is a restricted fund for the repair and maintenance of the organ using interest and capital.

The Choir Fund is a restricted fund solely for the monies received following the closure of the Winchelsea Singers in 2020.

The Churchyard Maintenance Fund is a restricted fund comprising donations from the congregation and Winchelsea residents specifically for the maintaining the churchyard. There is an annual appeal and an application is made each year to Icklesham Parish Council for a grant..

The Joseph McCrindle Legacy is a restricted fund for the general beautification of the church and its fixtures and fittings.

The Light and Sound Appeal is a restricted fund for donations towards the installation of new sound and lighting systems in the church. The fund was created following the launch of the

appeal in November 2024.

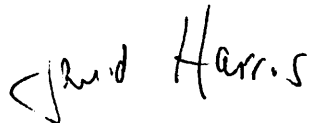
The Sale of St Richard's Fund is a designated fund, agreed by the PCC in 2023 to monitor the use of the proceeds from the sale of the church at Winchelsea Beach in the summer of 2023.

### LOOKING AHEAD

22. Our priorities for 2026 will be:

- To work with the new Rector to achieve tangible, spiritual and measurable spiritual and material development across the joint Benefice, as it is developed.
- To examine with the new Rector how income streams might be enhanced, particularly encouraging stewardship and generosity in regular giving and in accessing potential grant givers.
- To work towards resolving outstanding matters regarding organ sustainability and the lighting project.

23. I am pleased to acknowledge and thank all those who have voluntarily given so much time to maintaining the life of the Church and its service to the whole community throughout the year. Many of these have already been mentioned in this report. It is too easy to take for granted the vital contribution of so many people within and beyond the regular congregation. The fact is that we could not manage without you all. Lastly, we fully appreciate the help of the Diocese, Archdeaconry and Deanery in so many ways that often go unnoticed, but upon which we sometimes depend.



David Harris  
Vice-Chair (to 28 January 2026)  
For and on behalf of the PCC

## The Parish of Winchelsea

### Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Parish of Winchelsea

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parish of Winchelsea for the year ended 31 December 2025.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of The Parish of Winchelsea 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 Parish of Winchelsea'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 Parish of Winchelsea as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.



.....  
James Moreno FCCA

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

39 Leigh Road  
Cobham  
Surrey  
KT11 2LF

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# Accounts

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## THE PARISH OF WINCHELSEA

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"We are an open welcoming church, which exists for the community as a whole and where everyone is valued and respected. We are called to serve Christ in the world, sharing the joy of God's unconditional love in faith and action. We commit ourselves to praying and working for a world where love, reconciliation, equality and peace can prevail."

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Within the Diocese of Chichester, the Parish of Winchelsea is now served by the church of St Thomas of Canterbury in the Town of Winchelsea. Together with the Parish of Icklesham (the Church of St Nicholas with All Saints) the churches comprise a Joint Benefice. Icklesham has its own Parochial Church Council. In 2023, the Revd Jonathan Meyer became Priest-in-Charge at the Church of St Mary and St Peter, Pett.

#### P.C.C. WINCHELSEA – MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

2. Members of the PCC are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Churchwardens are elected at the Annual Parish Meeting, which precedes the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, for a one year term. Deanery Synod representatives are elected for a three-year term.

3. The following served on the Parochial Church Council during 2024:

<i>Incumbent and Chairman</i>	The Reverend Jonathan Meyer
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mrs Celia King Mr Nigel Ashton (from April 2024) Mrs Charlotte Beecroft (until April 2024)
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	Mrs Angela Hill
<i>Representatives</i>	Mrs Marion Lovell Mrs Deborah Rodley
<i>Elected Office Holders</i>	Mrs Mary Parker (Hon. Secretary) Mr David Harris MBA FCIS (Hon. Treasurer)
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mrs Alice Bolton Mr David Jefferies

Mrs Pamela Jefferies

Mr Jeremy Naylor

Ms Susan Wood

Mr Gavin MacFadyen (Co-opted October 2024)

## **CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES and the PUBLIC BENEFIT**

**Registered charity number:** 1132555 The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas Winchelsea

**Principal address:** St Thomas' Church

Winchelsea

East Sussex

TN36 4EB

**Website:** [www.winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk](http://www.winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk)

4. The PCC Members are all Trustees of the above charity and have complied with their duty in Part 9 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission. They have also been guided by the following charitable aims this year:

- To maintain a building appropriate for collective or private worship, prayer and reflection.
- To support selected local and national charities throughout the year, including making regular monthly cash and food collections.
- To ensure that church buildings are open daily and are available for use by the community as a whole.

5. In seeking to meet these objects, the PCC has had due regard to carrying out its purpose for the public benefit. There has been a regular Parish Eucharist at 11:00am each Sunday and a Book of Common Prayer service of Holy Communion at 8:00am on the first Sunday of each month.

6. We celebrated the major festivals as usual. During Lent we joined with all the parishes in the Deanery and ran a Lent course at Saint Mary's Room in Rye. This was based on the Rev. Jonathan Meyer's Lent book published by Darton Longman and Todd, drawing from the film version of *Les Misérables*. It was attended by members from both Rye and Winchelsea parishes as well as several people from Pett.

7. There was a new initiative for Palm Sunday. Instead of reading the Passion in the morning service, there was an afternoon service at Icklesham of Passiontide readings and suitable hymns. The Winchelsea choir attended and the service which was for the whole Benefice was appreciated. It was a good way of reflecting quietly on the Easter message. We held a service of prayer and reflection at Icklesham on Good Friday as usual and gathered in the church of Saint Thomas for a service of light on the evening of Holy Saturday. In spite of the early date of Easter and the fact that Saint Richard's church is no longer operational there was a good gathering at the dawn service for Easter morning on Winchelsea Beach. Around 45 people attended.

8. Once again the Corporation attended on Easter Monday for the mayoring of Peter Cosstick. This has become an established part of church life and it reminds us of the link between the Corporation and the

Church. As part of that link, we organised a special service on 30<sup>th</sup> June to raise funds for the mayor's and mayoress's favourite charity, Demelza. It was well attended and children enacted part of the gospel story.

9. On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May there was a Rogation walk including all the parishes. It began with a Parish Eucharist at the church of St Mary and Saint Peter in Pett at 10 am followed by coffee. We then walked to Icklesham for Rogation prayers outside the church, which was attended by walkers and others from all the churches. After a pub lunch, we walked on to Winchelsea to celebrate a sung Evensong at 3:30 pm. About 15 people joined the walk and others travelled between the churches to attend the various services. It was a good way of bringing all the parishes together.

10. On 7<sup>th</sup> July we celebrated our Patronal Festival. Our Harvest Festival was celebrated on 6<sup>th</sup> October and on the previous evening a barn dance was held in the New Hall.

11. On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September a series of church visits, a coffee morning, and an attic sale and other events were organised to support Ride & Stride. Ride & Stride takes place each year and provides funds for the Sussex Historic Churches Trust. We had benefited from a grant for the work on the transepts and the proceeds of the event were shared equally by the Church and the Trust. It raised over £2,500, half of which St Thomas received as a donation.

12. On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, there was a presentation and launch of the Lighting & Sound Appeal in church. Over forty people attended. Graham Large gave us an excellent explanation of the proposed lighting and Nigel Ashton impressed on those present the importance of this project. £7,000 was pledged as a result of this launch. Over £20,000 had already been generously donated. It was an opportunity for the wider community to find out more about the plans and ask questions. Bearing in mind the need for new lighting and sound and the fact that the present wiring is not fit for purpose, there was strong support for the plans.

13. After organising a Lights of Love service for St Michael's Hospice in St Leonards for the last few years, a decision was taken not to have a special service in December this year. However, the collection from our Service of Thanksgiving for the Departed to coincide with All Souls Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> November was donated towards the hospice. By not having that service in early December, we were able to have an Advent Carol service for the first time. It was supported by the Pegasus Choir and our own choir. The service was extremely well attended and in excess of 150 people were present including many local people who had not attended a service before.

14. Christmas services followed the usual pattern including a Carol service and a Crib service with donkeys in attendance.

15. During the year there were two Baptisms, six Weddings, three Burials, and seven Internment of Ashes.

16. We have held a Church Market on each first Saturday of the month apart from August and January. Fellowship Lunches, organised by Mary Parker, have taken place regularly again at Winchelsea Beach Community Hall with donations being collected and disbursed to a local charity.

17. The PCC has sought to maintain the churchyard, with community support. The PCC runs a Churchyard Sub-Committee to reflect and advise on matters relating to the churchyard and following a generous donation we have continued to establish three wildflower areas, which produced a good variety of native flowering plants and colour during the summer. The range of flowers has increased and support has been enthusiastic from visitors as well as residents. There were two working parties in March and September, members of the congregation and local residents helped weeding and maintenance of the churchyard. They were both well attended and refreshments were enjoyed afterwards.

18. The Bible Study group met monthly in the New Inn to spend an hour reading and reflecting on two or three chapters of one of the Old Testament Books. Discussions were lively and all contributions were welcomed. The group's meetings, open to all, have been well attended.

19. The Mothers' Prayers group met monthly. It was hosted in one of the homes of congregation members living in Winchelsea Beach.

20. The PCC met four times during the year, with a short meeting to approve the budget for 2024 in late January. The Annual Parish Meeting to elect the Churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April. In the early part of the year, the Church of England documents Living in Love and Faith and Prayers of Love and Faith were circulated. The PCC agreed with and supported the idea of blessing same-sex relations in church but felt that the proposals did not extend far enough.

21. We have continued to support charities as usual through a special monthly collection. The charities supported by the Parish were Demelza House Children's Hospice, Family Support Work, Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital, Seaview Project for the homeless in Hastings (Snowflake ceased to operate during the year), Pett Level Rescue Boat, Rye Food Bank, You Raise Me Up, Hastings and the Royal British Legion. A special collection was also made for Farm Africa following our Crib Service. We also provided a box for the Rye Food Bank and donated Harvest offerings to the Food Bank.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT and SAFEGUARDING**

22. During the year, the PCC has continued to monitor the various risks applicable to the Church and has reviewed its published Health and Safety policy. A new health and safety officer has been appointed. No accidents were reported this year.

23. The PCC has also reviewed and reissued its Safeguarding policy. The PCC is a member of the Church's Child Protection Advisory Service. Appropriate clearances are held and updated and cleared people are present in a supervisory capacity whenever children attend Church. Alice Bolton is our Safeguarding Officer.

### **DELIVERING THE PUBLIC BENEFIT**

24. The Church of St Thomas is open during normal daylight hours with some very minor exceptions relating to meetings or at the request of contractors. Under the circumstances this has been appreciated and it is clear that people need the Church for many different reasons and the fact that it is available for their use, for public and private worship and for meditation is regularly reflected in the visitors' book.

25. The Rector visited St Thomas the Martyr Primary School each week for a school service and the whole school attended services in Church for Easter, Harvest Festival and Christingle as well as having a leavers service in the summer.

26. Winchelsea Arts have held six concerts in church and there was a concert in September as part of the Rye Festival.

### **FINANCE**

27. Income for 2024 has remained under £250,000, the threshold for accrual accounting. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared in a "cashbook" basis; as last year, transactions have

been processed using accounting software specifically for Church of England record-keeping. Income comprises receipts during the year and expenditure is similarly payments made during the year. An independent examination of our accounting transactions, records and reports has taken place and the Examiner, Ian Menzies has provided an unqualified certificate which is included with these papers. Ian has very kindly not charged the PCC for the examination. Charlotte Beecroft processed payments and David and Pamela Jefferies have maintained Gift Aid records. We very much appreciate their work.

28. At the end of 2024, unrestricted funds on deposit totalled £325,628, see the Statement of Assets and Liabilities below. These funds comprise: the reserve of £73,333 as set out in (14) below; a provision of £20,000 for a grant to Winchelsea Beach Community Association towards the cost of an extension; the final payment of £10,000 to the Diocese for a voluntary additional Parish Share, a reserve of £20,000 intended for a grant to Icklesham Parochial Church Council towards the cost of adding a WC and £12,658 for restricted funds with no separate bank account (Choir, Churchyard Maintenance, Special Giving and the Wildflower Garden). The balance of £189,637 is held to contribute to future expenditure on the fabric of St Thomas and specifically towards the cost of improving the inadequate lighting and sound systems. It is the policy to use these funds to match grants from the Friends of Winchelsea Church and other sources. It is also from these funds that major charitable donations will be made in line with our mission.

29. Grants received in 2024 comprised: £4,505 from the Friends towards the cost of repairs to the organ and for the insurance excess on a claim for stolen rainwater goods; £6,000 from Sussex Historic Churches Trust towards the cost of repairing the transepts in 2023; £1,800 from Icklesham Parish Council towards the cost of mowing the grass in the churchyard and £16,127 from the Department of Culture, Media & Sport for VAT on maintenance expenditure under the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme, some of which occurred in 2023. We are extremely grateful for all these grants.

30. We are aware that for the year ending 31 March 2026, the DCMS will be limiting grants for VAT to £25,000 for each Parish. This will have a major impact on the cost of the forthcoming light and sound project.

31. We are also grateful for the donations that we have received from members of the congregation and from the local community towards the light and sound project and towards maintenance of the churchyard.

32. Collections at special services, the service on the fourth Sunday each month and at the Fellowship Lunches at Winchelsea Beach have enabled us to make donations of nearly £4,000 to local charities.

33. There have been two major items of expenditure in 2024. After investigation, it was found that 44 leather bourdons on the organ needed to be replaced and there were also several tuning and maintenance visits. The total cost of organ repairs and tuning in 2024 was £7,773. The relative humidity and temperature of the church have an impact on the mechanical performance of the organ, The cost of maintaining the ambient temperature of the church to ensure the organ is less likely to require regular attention is a matter of concern to the PCC. In the autumn, moss and plant growth was removed from roof tiles and broken tiles were replaced. The number of tiles that needed replacing far exceed the estimate and the cost of the work ex VAT was £10,989. The Friends have provided us with a grant to cover this expenditure at the beginning of 2025.

34. A campaign to increase regular giving by members of the congregation is badly needed. The analysis below, for the last three years, shows how our regular income falls short of our regular expenditure. We are dependent on grants, additional donations, fundraising events and legacies to ensure that we do not fall back on our funds on deposit which are held for special projects such as the lighting and sound and conservation work to the fabric of the church.

35. The PCC is keen to avoid a situation where there are regular cashflow crises.

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Planned Giving	£20,235	£20,285	£21,007
Service Collections, Digital & Gen Cash Donations	£18,655	£20,291	£24,462
Gift Aid	£8,372	£8,833	£6,744
Church Market	£3,441	£2,110	£3,337
Church Lettings	£934	£1,430	£2,193
Weddings, Funerals, Burials Ex Costs	£4,473	£7,579	£6,489
Bank Interest - Unrestricted Funds	£95	£125	£180
<b>Total</b>	<b>£56,204</b>	<b>£60,653</b>	<b>£64,612</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Parish Share ex Additional Payment from St R Funds	£54,000	£55,000	£56,000
Insurance	£4,523	£5,231	£5,093
Salaries and Clergy Expenses	£5,536	£7,305	£6,786
Rectory Running Costs	£4,683	£4,240	£4,857
Church Running Costs	£4,472	£5,142	£3,736
Organ and Piano ex. Friends' Grant	£488	£652	£3,919
Service Costs – Candles, Wine etc.	£912	£812	£1,183
Printing, Postage & Stationery	£2,508	£1,973	£1,824
Energy – Gas & Electricity	£5,079	£3,125	£4,449
Minor Church Maintenance	£447	£544	£882
Town Guides, Postcards etc.	£701	£300	£909
Accounting Software and Bank Charges	£498	£665	£729
<b>Total</b>	<b>£83,847</b>	<b>£84,989</b>	<b>£90,367</b>

36. The PCC's Reserves Policy is to hold all unrestricted funds in a deposit account managed by the CCLA Bank (Church, Charities and Local Authorities). In accordance with Charity Commission guidance, reserves are maintained at a sum equal to 50% of budgeted annual expenditure. At the PCC Meeting in January this year, the budget for 2025 was approved which included expenditure of £146,665, our reserve sum is therefore £73,333.

**Summary of Receipts and Payments 2024**  
For the period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	<i>Prior Year</i>
<b>Receipts</b>					
Voluntary Income	£85,408	-	£27,528	£112,936	£131,392
Activities for Generating Funds	£6,645	-	-	£6,645	£3,732
Charitable Activities	£7,680	-	-	£7,680	£8,881
Interest and Dividends	£821	£17,573	£726	£19,120	£5,521
Other Income	-	-	-	-	£831
Sale of Fixed Asset	-	-	-	-	£350,700
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£100,555</b>	<b>£17,573</b>	<b>£28,254</b>	<b>£146,381</b>	<b>£501,598</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Cost of Charitable Activities	£111,520	-	-	£111,520	£98,391
Church Repairs & Maintenance	£17,896	-	£7,491	£25,387	£92,319
Governance Costs	£204	-	-	£204	£1,828
Other Costs	£525	-	-	£525	£17,427
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£130,145</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£7,491</b>	<b>£137,636</b>	<b>£209,966</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments Before Transfers</b>	<b>-£29,590</b>	<b>£17,573</b>	<b>£20,763</b>	<b>£8,745</b>	<b>£291,632</b>
<b>Transfers Between Funds</b>	<b>£30,000</b>	<b>-£30,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£0</b>	
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments After Transfers</b>	<b>£410</b>	<b>-£12,427</b>	<b>£20,763</b>	<b>£8,745</b>	

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2024

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	2024 Totals	2023 Totals
<b>Current Assets</b>					
<b>Investments</b>			£23,648	£23,648	£23,119
<b>Cash at Bank</b>					
Lloyds Current Account	£6,080			£6,080	£5,761
CCLA Guide Book			£3,562	£3,562	£3,382
CCLA Deposit Account		£325,628		£325,628	£338,055
CCLA Lighting & Sound			£20,649	£20,649	-
CCLA Joseph McCrindle			£11,499	£11,499	£10,919
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>£6,080</b>	<b>£325,628</b>	<b>£59,358</b>	<b>£391,066</b>	<b>£381,236</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Due to Diocese			£1,090	£1,090	£536
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>£6,080</b>	<b>£325,628</b>	<b>£58,268</b>	<b>£389,976</b>	<b>£380,701</b>
<b>Represented by</b>					
Unrestricted - General Fund	£5,784			£5,784	£5,331
Designated - St Richards		£315,373		£315,373	£327,800
The Blanesburgh Bequest			£23,648	£23,648	£23,119
Choir			£700	£700	£700
Churchyard Maintenance			£1,401	£1,401	£1,151
Joseph McCrindle			£11,499	£11,499	£10,919
Lighting & Sound Appeal			£21,014	£21,014	£503
Special Giving			£7,169	£7,169	£7,169
Churchyard Wild Flower Garden			£3,388	£3,388	£3,966
<b>Fund Totals</b>	<b>£5,784</b>	<b>£315,373</b>	<b>£68,819</b>	<b>£389,976</b>	<b>£380,701</b>

### Notes to the Financial Reports

#### Cashbook Accounting

The financial reports have been prepared on a cashbook accounting basis, i.e. the receipts and payments for the year have not been adjusted to reflect creditors, accruals, stock, debtors and prepayments at 31 December 2024. All the reports have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and current Church Accounting Regulations.

## Further Analysis of Income Received

1 January to 31 December 2024					
	General Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Total This Year	Total Last Year
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	£20,957	-	£50	£21,007	£20,119
Collections at Services	£4,153	-	-	£4,153	£10,180
Appeals	-	-	£25,614	£25,614	£1,980
Other Donations	£26,922	-	£64	£26,986	£21,727
Gift Aid Reclaimed	£6,744	-	-	£6,744	£8,833
Legacies	-	-	-	-	£41,693
Grants	£26,632	-	£1,800	£28,432	£27,400
<b>Total Voluntary Income</b>	<b>£85,408</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£27,528</b>	<b>£112,936</b>	<b>£131,932</b>
Church Market	£3,337	-	-	£3,337	£2,111
Harvest Supper	£1,115	-	-	£1,115	£435
Church Lettings	£2,193	-	-	£2,193	£1,186
<b>Total Activities for Generating Funds</b>	<b>£6,645</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£6,645</b>	<b>£3,732</b>
Fees - Wedding, Funerals & Burials	£7,680	-	-	£7,680	£8,881
<b>Total Charitable Activities</b>	<b>£7,680</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£7,680</b>	<b>£8,881</b>
Interest from Banks	£180	£17,573	£726	£18,478	£4,191
Investment Fund Dividend	£642	-	-	£642	£1,330
<b>Total Interest and Dividends</b>	<b>£821</b>	<b>£17,573</b>	<b>£726</b>	<b>£19,120</b>	<b>£5,521</b>
All Other Receipts	-	-	-	-	£831
Sales Of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	£350,700
<b>Total Other Receipts</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£351,531</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£100,554</b>	<b>£17,573</b>	<b>£28,254</b>	<b>£146,381</b>	<b>£501,597</b>

**Further Analysis of Payments Made**

**1 January to 31 December 2024**

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Designated Fund</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total This Year</b>	<b>Total Last Year</b>
Charitable Giving	£3,977	-	-	£3,977	£2,750
Parish Share	£66,000	-	-	£66,000	£65,000
Cost of Weddings, Funerals etc.	£1,191	-	-	£1,191	£1,302
Insurance	£5,093	-	-	£5,093	£5,231
Salaries, Wages and Honoraria	£4,254	-	-	£4,254	£4,677
Clergy, Staff & Choir Expenses	£2,883	-	-	£2,883	£2,824
Rectory Running Costs	£4,857	-	-	£4,125	£3,926
Mission & Evangelism Costs	£1,691	-	-	£1,691	£330
Church Running Costs	£3,828	-	-	£3,828	£4,579
Cost of Organ Tuning & Repair	£7,773	-	-	£7,773	£652
Service Costs, Candles, Wine, etc	£1,183	-	-	£1,183	£812
Printing, Stationary & Sundries	£1,824	-	-	£1,824	£1,973
Church Utilities	£5,080	-	-	£5,080	£3,722
Cost Of Church Activities/Trading eg, Magazine, Bookstall	£1,889	-	-	£1,889	£300
<b>Total Cost of Charitable Activities</b>	<b>£111,520</b>	-	-	<b>£111,520</b>	<b>£98,391</b>
Churchyard Maintenance Cost	-	-	£4,018	£4,018	£4,252
Church Repairs & Maintenance	£14,661	-	-	£14,661	£626
Transepts	£3,235	-	-	£3,235	£80,046
New Building Projects	-	-	£3,473	£3,473	£7,395
<b>Total Building Maint &amp; Repairs</b>	<b>£17,896</b>	-	<b>£7,491</b>	<b>£25,387</b>	<b>£92,319</b>
Accounting Software Subscription	£204	-	-	£204	£331
Other Governance Cost	-	-	-	-	£1,498
<b>Total Governance Costs</b>	<b>£204</b>	-	-	<b>£204</b>	<b>£1,828</b>
Bank Charges	£525	-	-	£525	£324
Professional Fees	-	-	-	-	£17,103
<b>Total Other Costs</b>	<b>£525</b>	-	-	<b>£525</b>	<b>£17,427</b>
<b>Total Payments Made</b>	<b>£130,145</b>	-	<b>£7,491</b>	<b>£137,636</b>	<b>£209,965</b>

Approved at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 12 April 2025

Signed Celia King

Celia King Churchwarden

Date 8/6/25

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# Accounts

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# THE PARISH OF WINCHELSEA

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"We are an open welcoming church, which exists for the community as a whole and where everyone is valued and respected. We are called to serve Christ in the world, sharing the joy of God's unconditional love in faith and action. We commit ourselves to praying and working for a world where love, reconciliation, equality and peace can prevail."

### INTRODUCTION

1. Within the Diocese of Chichester, the Parish of Winchelsea is now served by the church of St Thomas of Canterbury in the Town of Winchelsea. The Church of St Richard of Chichester at Winchelsea Beach has been effectively closed since the pandemic. Together with the Parish of Icklesham (the Church of St Nicholas with All Saints) the churches comprise a Joint Benefice. Icklesham has its own Parochial Church Council. The Rector became Priest in charge of Pett in March 2022. After extensive consultation with the Bishops, Archdeacon, PCC and local community it was decided with reluctance that it would be necessary to offer the church of Saint Richard's for sale. Unfortunately a sum in the region of £50-£80,000 was needed for remedial work and the congregation stood at around 5 to 6 people. As St Richards was the 2<sup>nd</sup> church in our parish it was felt unrealistic to be raising funds to support it. The sale was finally approved in July 2023.

### P.C.C. WINCHELSEA – MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

2. Members of the PCC are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Churchwardens are elected at the annual Vestry meeting, which precedes the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, for a one year term. Deanery Synod representatives are elected for a three-year term.

3. The following served on the PCC during 2023:

*Incumbent and Chairman*      The Reverend Jonathan Meyer

#### *Churchwardens*

Mrs Charlotte Beecroft

Mrs Celia King

#### *Deanery Synod*

Mrs Angela Hill

#### *Representatives*

Mrs Marion Lovell

Mrs Deborah Rodley

#### *Elected Office Holders*

Mrs Angela Hill (Hon. Secretary) resigned April 2023

Mrs Mary Parker (Hon. Secretary) elected April 2023

Eric Rowe (Hon. Treasurer) resigned February 2023

David Harris M BAFCIS (Hon. Treasurer) Elected April 2023

*Elected Members*

Mrs Alice Bolton

Mr David Jefferies

Mrs Pamela Jefferies

Mr Jeremy Naylor

Mr Nigel Ashton

**CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES and the PUBLIC BENEFIT**

**Registered charity number:** 1132555 The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas Winchelsea

**Principle address:** St Thomas' Church  
Winchelsea  
East Sussex  
T N 36EB

**Website:** [www.winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk](http://www.winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk)

4. The PCC Members are all Trustees of the above charity and have complied with their duty in Part 9 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission. They have also been guided by the following charitable aims this year:

- To maintain a building appropriate for collective or private worship, prayer and reflection.
- To support selected local and national charities throughout the year, including making regular monthly cash and food collections.
- To ensure that church buildings are open daily and are available for use by the community as a whole.

5. In seeking to meet these objects, the PCC has had due regard to carrying out its purpose for the public benefit. There is a regular Parish Eucharist at 11:00am each Sunday and a BCP service of Holy Communion at 8:00am on the first Sunday of each month.

We have held a Church Market on each first Saturday of the month apart from August and January. Fellowship Lunches have taken place regularly again at Winchelsea Beach.

The PCC has sought to maintain the Churchyard, with community support, as a de facto 'village green'. The PCC runs a Churchyard Sub-Committee to reflect and advise on matters relating to the churchyard and following a generous donation we have continued to establish three wildflower areas, which produced a good variety of native flowering plants and colour during the summer. This work has been built on during 2023 and a native orchid was noted in one of the circles. The range of flowers has increased and support has been enthusiastic from visitors as well as residents. We organised another Churchyard Working Party in August, which was well attended and refreshments were enjoyed afterwards.

Prior to the coronation of King Charles III a service of evening prayer took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May to pray for King and his reign and to give thanks for his accession.

In the middle of May we organised a flower festival, which was intended to raise the profile of our biodiversity project in the churchyard. We commenced with a service of Choral Evensong for Ascension day which was led by the Rt Rev'd Will Hazlewood Bishop of Lewes, who also preached. It was followed by drinks and refreshments. On the following day the Rev'd Dr Mark Betson spoke on "Life in all its Fullness", which was discussed the potential of using the green space of churchyards to celebrate creation and connect with the local community. On the same day Cliff Dean of Rye Nature Reserve led a short walk around the churchyard to talk about our visiting population of swifts and the school visited the flower circles biodiversity project. On Saturday evening that was a concert by the Hastings Philharmonic on the theme of creation, which included Beethoven's pastoral Symphony. It was organised by Winchelsea Arts and very well attended. The festival ended with a pet service on Sunday afternoon, in the open air; it attracted around 40 pets and their owners, the majority being dogs but there was also a McCaw in attendance. The animals received a blessing and tea followed the event.

In July we held a final Eucharist at Saint Richard's before the sale was completed. We celebrated around the uncovered concrete altar, which had been made for the garage church in Smeaton's Harbour in the 1930s. It was a moving service attended by about 30 people.

The Patronal Festival was celebrated on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Pegasus choir sang the Mass for Five Voices by William Byrd. Harvest festival took place in September and our annual service of Thanksgiving for the departed took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October. Remembrance services took place as usual in November with wreath laying at the cross. On Monday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of November we were privileged to host the deanery confirmation service led by the Rt Rev'd Ruth Busyager, Bishop of Horsham. There were 11 candidates including two from our own group of churches and over 100 people attended the service. It was noted that Bishop Ruth is certainly the first female bishop to enter our church. The Lights of Love service which supports St Michael's Hospice in Saint Leonards took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.

Christmas services followed the usual pattern including a Carol service and a Crib service with donkeys in attendance.

During the year there were 3 baptisms, 5 Weddings, 6 Funerals, 9 burials of ashes and 57 reburials of ashes from St Richard's.

6. The closure and final service at Saint Richard's Church Winchelsea Beach has already been noted but it should also be recorded that we obtained permission from the Chancellor to exhume and reinter cremated remains from St Richard's. As there are no formal records and no fees were charged it is assumed that the interment of remains at Saint Richard's was informal but we did have notes regarding most of the remains. After extensive publicity and advertising in the press we contacted as many of those

next of kin whom could still be traced to obtain permission, which was given by all those whom we identified. Remains which were marked with a memorial plaque were reinterred in separate marked plots in St Thomas's Churchyard in March. Those for whom we could not trace relatives or memorials were separately reinterred in the area opposite our existing garden of remembrance. The place of interment and each name has been recorded in the burial register. All the remains were handled with dignity and prayers were said when they were re-interred.

7. We have continued to support charities as usual through a special monthly collection. The charities supported by the Parish were Rye Street Pastors, Demelza House Children's Hospice, Family Support Work, Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital, Snowflake, Pett Level Rescue Boat, Rye Food Bank, You Raise me Up, Dom's Food Mission, Hastings and the Royal British Legion. A special collection was also made for the Fellowship of St Nicholas following our Crib Service. We also provided a box for the Rye Food Bank and donated Harvest offerings to the Food Bank.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT and SAFEGUARDING**

8. During the year, the PCC has continued to monitor the various risks applicable to the Church and has reviewed its published Health and Safety policy. A new health and safety officer has been appointed. No accidents were reported this year.

9. The PCC has also reviewed and reissued its Safeguarding policy. The PCC is a member of the Church's Child Protection Advisory Service. Appropriate clearances are held and updated and cleared people are present in a supervisory capacity whenever children attend Church.

### **DELIVERING THE PUBLIC BENEFIT**

10. The Church of St Thomas is open during normal daylight hours with some very minor exceptions relating to meetings or at the request of contractors. Under the circumstances this has been appreciated and it is clear that people need the Church for many different reasons and the fact that it is available for their use, for public and private worship and for meditation is regularly reflected in the visitors' book.

11. The Rector visits St Thomas the Martyr Primary School each week for a school service and the whole school attended services in Church for Easter, Harvest Festival and Christingle as well as having a leavers service in the summer.

12. Music. Winchelsea Arts have held six concerts in church and there was a concert in September as part of the Rye Festival.

12. Finance – David Harris took over as Treasurer at the APCM in April 2023. This is the first full year that financial transactions have been processed using accounting software and we are grateful to Jeremy Naylor for his initial work. David and Pamela Jefferies have continued to bank receipts and prepare Gift Aid claims. Charlotte Beecroft has taken responsibility for paying purchase invoices via BACS transfer and making cheque payments as required. Many members of the congregation make regular Planned Giving Donations direct to the PCC's bank account by standing order and it is hoped that more will do so.

Following the sale of St Richards in July, a designated fund was created to monitor the use of the proceeds which have been placed in a high interest earning account with the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Bank. At the end of the year, the balance of this fund is £327,800, which comprises the sale proceeds, the balance in the St Richard's Natwest bank account and also income from the sale of artefacts from which the fees of the estate agent and Diocesan solicitor were deducted. A summary is shown in the Statement of Funds below.

The major building project in 2023 was the repair of the transepts; the Diocesan architect, John Bailey, in his Quinquennial Report provided in February 2023, advised that the repair was urgent. Including preparing specifications, inviting tenders and supervising the work, the total cost is £84,895, which has been funded by a £20,000 grant from the Friends, a grant of £6,000 from the Sussex Historic Churches Trust and £32,713 from the sale of shares in the T W Longley Legacy. A grant of £11,319 is expected from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport equal to the VAT on the builder's and architect's invoices and the balance has been financed from general unrestricted funds.

The Friends have also provided the sum of £7,400 which has been used as a contribution to the maintenance of the fabric of the building. This support comprised a monthly grant which was terminated in July.

In addition to financing part of the cost of the repair of the transepts, the PCC agreed to provide, through our Parish Share, support to other less fortunate parishes in the Diocese who are struggling to cover expenditure on the cost of ministry: clergy housing, stipends, pensions and training. There will be an additional payment of £10,000 in each of the next three years.

On the advice of the Diocese, the invested funds comprising the Blanesburgh Bequest are now included in our financial statements. In 1947 Lord Blanesburgh, left the sum of £2,000 in his will to support the organist and the music of the church. It is held in the name of the Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance and in 2018 approximately half the shares were sold and used for organ repairs. The remaining holding is represented by 1022.73 shares in the Central Board Investment Fund of the Church of England. Funds from the investment can only be used with the permission of the Diocese who act as Custodian Trustee. The value as at 31 December 2023 is shown as a gain in the Statement of Funds schedule.

The contracts for the supply of electricity and gas to St Thomas became due for renewal at the end of October 2023. The best prices that were obtainable are 35% more for electricity and 100% more for gas. These increases will have a material impact on our operational costs in the current year and has meant that the church letting rates will need to be raised.

In January this year, the PCC approved a budget for 2024 which comprises a shortfall of £33,511 of payments over receipts. This difference is generated by: expenditure in early 2024 relating to goods and services supplied in the previous year (£2,282), a transfer from the St Richards proceeds for both the additional Parish Share and a contribution to the cost of building work (£35,188) and also a reduction in the Churchyard Fund (£965). After applying these sums, there is a surplus of £4,924 of receipts over payments.

For the 2024 calendar year, the PCC have agreed that proceeds from the St Richards Designated fund will be used to match moneys raised from grants and donations for building work. The 2024 budget includes a provision of £50,376 for further repair and conservation work as advised in the Quinquennial Report. Expenditure includes a transfer of £25,188, i.e. half, from the Designated Fund.

13. The PCC's Reserves Policy is to invest all unrestricted funds in a deposit account managed by the CCLA. Reserves are maintained at a sum greater than 50% of budgeted annual expenditure. In 2024 this sum is £83,799. The total of projected unrestricted cash funds at the end of 2024 is £277,381 which is materially in excess of the policy requirement. The difference (£193,582) is held to contribute to future expenditure on the fabric of St Thomas, improving the inadequate lighting and sound systems, support for parishioners in Winchelsea Beach and increased giving to local, national and international charities.

**Summary of Receipts & Payments**  
**For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023**

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	<i>Prior year</i>
	funds	funds	funds	funds	<i>total funds</i>
<b>Receipts</b>					
Voluntary Income	£124,001	£3,817	£1,495	£125,496	£83,752
Activities for Generating funds	£5,953		£400	£6,353	£5,670
Charitable Activities	£8,495	£386		£8,881	£4,466
Interest, Dividends and Rent	£5,182		£339	£5,521	£2,037
Other Income	£831	£3,817		£4,648	£2,740
Sale of Fixed Asset		£350,700		£350,700	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£144,461</b>	<b>£354,903</b>	<b>£2,234</b>	<b>£501,598</b>	<b>£98,665</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Cost of Charitable Activities	£85,991	£10,000	£2,400	£98,391	£81,619
Church repairs and maintenance	£90,219		£2,100	£92,319	£18,205
Governance Costs	£1,828			£1,828	£1,993
Other costs	£324	£17,103		£17,427	£498
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£178,363</b>	<b>£27,103</b>	<b>£4,500</b>	<b>£209,966</b>	<b>£102,315</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments before transfer</b>	<b>-£33,902</b>	<b>£327,800</b>	<b>-£2,266</b>	<b>£291,632</b>	<b>-£3,650</b>
<b>Transfers:</b>					
Gross transfers between funds – in			£4,139	£4,139	
Gross transfers between funds – out	-£4,139			-£4,139	
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains					
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains	-£38,041	£327,800	£1,873	£291,632	
Net movement in funds	-£38,041	£327,800	£24,992	£314,751	
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Excess of receipts over payment at the beginning of the year	43,371	-	22,578	65,950	
Excess of receipts over payments for the year	5,331	327,800	47,570	380,701	

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	At 31/12/2023	At 31/12/2022
<b>Current assets</b>					
Investments			£34,038	£34,038	£32,004
Cash At Bank And In Hand	£5,331	£327,800	£14,067	£347,198	£33,945
	<u>£5,331</u>	<u>£327,800</u>	<u>£48,105</u>	<u>£381,236</u>	<u>£65,950</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Due to Diocese			£536	£536	-
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>£5,331</u>	<u>£327,800</u>	<u>£47,569</u>	<u>£380,700</u>	<u>£65,950</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>£5,331</u>	<u>£327,800</u>	<u>£47,569</u>	<u>£380,700</u>	<u>£65,950</u>
<b>Represented by</b>					
Unrestricted - General Fund	£5,331			£5,331	£43,371
Designated - St Richards Proceeds		£327,800		£327,800	
Restricted - The Blanesburgh Bequest			£23,119	£23,119	
Restricted - Choir			£700	£700	
Restricted - Churchyard Maintenance			£1,151	£1,151	-£1,682
Restricted - Joseph McCrindle			£10,919	£10,919	£10,580
Restricted - Lighting Appeal			£503	£503	£103
Restricted - Special Giving			£7,169	£7,169	£7,169
Restricted - Churchyard Wildflower Garden			£3,966	£3,966	£6,366
<b>Fund Totals</b>	<u>£5,331</u>	<u>£327,800</u>	<u>£47,527</u>	<u>£380,658</u>	<u>£65,907</u>

## Notes to the Financial Reports

### 1. Cashbook Accounting

The financial reports have been prepared on a cashbook accounting basis, i.e. the receipts and payments for the year have not been adjusted to reflect creditors, accruals, stock, debtors and prepayments at 31 December 2023. All the reports have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and current Church Accounting Regulations.

### 2. Further Analysis of Income Received:

01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023					
	General	Designated	Restricted	This Year	Last Year
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	£19,047			£19,047	£18,900
Other Planned Giving	£1,073			£1,073	£1,335
Collections at Services	£10,180			£10,180	£3,463
Friends Subscriptions and Donations	£7,400			£7,400	£16,800
Appeals	£585		£1,395	£1,980	£2,629
Other Donations	£19,006		£100	£19,106	£30,453
Gift Aid Reclaimed	£8,833			£8,833	£8,372
Legacies	£37,877			£37,877	£0
Grants	£20,000			£20,000	£1,800
<b>Total Voluntary Income</b>	<b>£124,001</b>		<b>£1,495</b>	<b>£125,496</b>	<b>£83,752</b>
Fundraising Events	£4,732			£4,732	£4,566
Other Fundraising Events	£35		£400	£435	£170
Other Trading Activity: Christmas Cards, Lettings Etc.	£1,186			£1,186	£934
<b>Total Activities for Generating Funds</b>	<b>£5,953</b>		<b>£400</b>	<b>£6,353</b>	<b>£5,670</b>
Fees From Wedding, Funerals & Burials	£8,495	£386		£8,881	£4,466
<b>Total Charitable Activities</b>	<b>£8,495</b>	<b>£386</b>		<b>£8,881</b>	<b>£4,466</b>
Bank & CCLA Interest	£3,852		£339	£4,191	
CBF Investment Fund Dividend	£1,330			£1,330	
<b>Total Interest, Dividends and Rent</b>	<b>£5,182</b>		<b>£339</b>	<b>£5,521</b>	<b>£2,037</b>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>£831</b>	<b>£3,817</b>		<b>£4,648</b>	<b>£2,740</b>
<b>Sale of Fixed Asset</b>		<b>£350,700</b>		<b>£350,700</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£144,462</b>	<b>£354,903</b>	<b>£2,234</b>	<b>£501,599</b>	<b>£98,665</b>

### 3. Further Analysis of Costs Paid

01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	This Year	Last Year
<b>Cost of Generating Voluntary Receipts</b>	£147			£147	£389
<b>Fundraising Costs</b>					£372
Mission Giving and Donations	£350		£2,400	£2,750	£6,497
Parish Share	£55,000	£10,000		£65,000	£54,000
Fees to Diocese for Weddings, Funerals, Burials	£1,302			£1,302	
Insurance	£5,231			£5,231	£4,524
Salaries, Wage and Honoraria	£4,677			£4,677	£3,345
Clergy and Staff Expenses	£6,869			£6,869	£6,874
Mission & Evangelism Costs	£330			£330	£798
Church Running Costs	£5,426			£5,426	£4,552
Service Costs, Candles, Wine, etc	£812			£812	£912
Printing, Stationary & Sundries	£1,826			£1,826	£2,509
Church Utilities: Gas, Elec, Broadband	£3,722			£3,722	£5,697
Cost Of Church Activities e.g. Magazines, Bookstall	£300			£300	£701
Churchyard Maintenance Cost	£2,152		£2,100	£4,252	£4,509
Minor Church Repairs & Maintenance	£626			£626	£447
Major Church Repairs & Maintenance	£80,046			£80,046	£3,000
New Building Works	£7,395			£7,395	£698
<b>Total Cost of Creditable Activities</b>	<b>£176,064</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£4,500</b>	<b>£190,564</b>	<b>£99,063</b>
<b>Governance Costs</b>	<b>£1,828</b>			<b>£1,828</b>	<b>£1,993</b>
<b>Other Costs</b>	<b>£324</b>	<b>£17,103</b>		<b>£17,427</b>	<b>£498</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>£178,363</b>	<b>£27,103</b>	<b>£4,500</b>	<b>£209,966</b>	<b>£102,315</b>

#### 4. Statement of Funds

Statement of Funds							
01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023							
Fund	Fund balances B/F 01 Jan 23	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Fund balances C/F 31 Dec 23	Balances at 31-Dec-22
<b>Unrestricted</b>							
Unrestricted General	£43,371	£144,461	£178,363	-£4,139		£5,331	£43,371
Designated (St Richards Proceeds)		£354,903	£27,103			£327,800	
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>£43,371</b>	<b>£499,364</b>	<b>£205,466</b>	<b>-£4,139</b>		<b>£333,131</b>	<b>£43,371</b>
<b>Restricted</b>							
The Bleanesburgh Bequest					£23,119	£23,119	
Choir				£700		£700	
Churchyard Maintenance	-£1,682	£1,495	£2,100	£3,439		£1,151	-£1,682
The Joseph McCrindle Trust	£10,580	£339				£10,919	£10,580
Lighting Appeal	£103	£400				£503	£103
Special Giving	£7,169					£7,169	£7,169
Churchyard Widflower Garden	£6,366		£2,400			£3,966	£6,366
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>£22,536</b>	<b>£2,234</b>	<b>£4,500</b>	<b>£4,139</b>	<b>£23,119</b>	<b>£47,527</b>	<b>£22,536</b>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>£65,907</b>	<b>£501,598</b>	<b>£209,966</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£23,119</b>	<b>£380,658</b>	<b>£65,907</b>

Jonathan Meyer Rector  
5 June 2024.

# Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of ST. Thomas, Winchelsea for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023

## Section A

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of All Saints with St Nicolas, Icklesham, on the annual report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 set out on pages to

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of the annual reports. The PCC members consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any 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

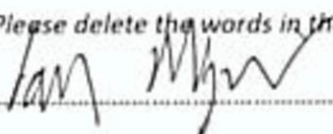
In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below in Section B below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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.

*\* Please delete the words in the (brackets) if they do not apply*

Examiner's signature



Examiner's name CAPITALS

Ian Menzies

Date

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body  
if any

Retired CA.....

Examiner's address

Barling House, Hiham Green, Winchelsea

# Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of ST. Thomas, Winchelsea for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023

## Section B

## Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners)

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

None

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# Accounts

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# THE PARISH OF WINCHELSEA

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“We are an open welcoming church, which exists for the community as a whole and where everyone is valued and respected. We are called to serve Christ in the world, sharing the joy of God’s unconditional love in faith and action. We commit ourselves to praying and working for a world where love, reconciliation, equality and peace can prevail.”

### INTRODUCTION

1. Within the Diocese of Chichester, the Parish of Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach is served by two Churches, St Thomas of Canterbury in the Town of Winchelsea and St Richard of Chichester at Winchelsea Beach. There is a single Parochial Church Council (PCC). Together with the Parish of Icklesham (the Church of St Nicolas with All Saints) these three churches comprise a Joint Benefice. Icklesham has its own Parochial Church Council. The Rector became Priest in charge of Pett in March.

### P.C.C. WINCHELSEA – MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

2. Members of the PCC are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Churchwardens are elected at the annual Vestry meeting, which precedes the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, for a one year term. Deanery Synod representatives are elected for a three-year term.

3. The following served on the PCC during 2022:

<i>Incumbent and Chairman</i>	The Reverend Jonathan Meyer
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mrs Charlotte Beecroft Mrs Celia King
<i>Deanery Synod Representatives</i>	Mrs Angela Hill Mrs Marion Lovell Mrs Deborah Rodley
<i>Elected Office Holders</i>	Mrs Angela Hill (Hon. Secretary) Eric Rowe (Hon. Treasurer – from September)
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mrs Sara Baker Mrs Alice Bolton Mr David Jefferies Mrs Sue Taberer Mrs Pamela Jefferies Mr Jeremy Naylor Mrs Mary Parker Mr Nigel Ashton

### CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES and the PUBLIC BENEFIT

**Registered charity number:** 1132555 The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas Winchelsea

**Principle address:** St Thomas’ Church  
Winchelsea  
East Sussex  
TN36 4EB

**Website:** [www.winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk](http://www.winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk)

4. The PCC Members are all Trustees of the above charity and have complied with their duty in Part 9 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission. They have also been guided by the following charitable aims this year:

- To maintain a building appropriate for collective or private worship, prayer and reflection.
- To support selected local and national charities throughout the year, including making regular monthly cash and food collections.
- To ensure that church buildings are open daily and are available for use by the community as a whole.

5. In seeking to meet these objects, the PCC has had due regard to carrying out its purpose for the public benefit. Following restrictions caused by the Covid 19 pandemic, services have now returned to normal. We reinstated our early morning BCP service on the first Sunday of each month from July. We have also resumed with servers and a shared chalice for our regular Parish Eucharist.

We have held a Church Market on each first Saturday of the month apart from August and January. Bishop Nicholas Reade preached and celebrated at our Patronal Festival in July and the Occasional Consort performed a Mass by Salieri during the service. Fellowship Lunches have taken place regularly again at Winchelsea Beach.

The PCC has sought to maintain the Churchyard, with community support, as a de facto 'village green'. The PCC runs a Churchyard Sub-Committee to reflect and advise on matters relating to the churchyard and following a generous donation we have continued to establish three wild flower areas, which produced a good variety of native flowering plants and colour during the summer. These areas have attracted good positive feedback and have improved insect life within the churchyard. We organised a Churchyard Working Party in August, which was well attended and refreshments were enjoyed afterwards. Our service of Nine Lessons and Carols took place and celebrated the whole community as usual. Following the lighting of the church in 2021 the Advent Windows Committee lit the exterior of the church during Advent and projected a dove of peace in colours of yellow and blue to show support for Ukraine and made generous donation to our lighting appeal.

6 Following the pandemic we have been able to support charities as usual through a special monthly collection. The charities supported by the Parish were Shelter, Demelza House Children's Hospice, Family Support Work, Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital, Snowflake, Pett Level Rescue Boat, Rye Food Bank, You Raise me Up, the Salvation Army and the Royal British Legion. A special collection was also made for the Fellowship of St Nicholas following our Crib Service. We also provided a box for the Rye Food Bank and donated Harvest offerings to the Food Bank.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT and SAFEGUARDING**

7. During the year, the PCC has continued to monitor the various risks applicable to the Church and has reviewed its published Health and Safety policy. A new health and safety officer has been appointed. No accidents were reported this year.

8. The PCC has also reviewed and reissued its Safeguarding policy. The PCC is a member of the Church's Child Protection Advisory Service. Appropriate clearances are held and updated and cleared people are present in a supervisory capacity whenever children attend Church.

## **DELIVERING THE PUBLIC BENEFIT**

9. The Church of St Thomas is open during normal daylight hours with some very minor exceptions relating to meetings or at the request of contractors. Under the circumstances this has been appreciated and it is clear that people need the Church for many different reasons and the fact that it is available for their use, for public and private worship and for meditation is regularly reflected in the visitors' book.

10. A full complement of services has resumed. Following the pandemic our Dawn Eucharist at Winchelsea Beach took place for the first time for three years at 5:45am. It was attended by about 45 people and we were blessed with a perfect sunrise. We held a special service for the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on June 5<sup>th</sup>, which was attended by the Mayor and Corporation. There were further services to mark the death of Her Majesty beginning with Evening Prayer on 9<sup>th</sup> September. The Church remained open during the period of public mourning and there was a special service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September following the funeral of the Queen. The Rector visits St Thomas the Martyr Primary School each week for a school service and the whole school attended services in Church for Easter, Harvest Festival and Christingle as well as having a leavers service in the summer.

11. Music. In March we were privileged that Misha Galant, a finalist at the Hastings Piano Festival played an impromptu concert in aid of the Ukraine. It was given without fee and donations amounted to £5.845. There was a

concert of Words and Music on Sunday 2nd October 2022, Ukraine Reborn, featuring Raphael Wallfish cello, with John York piano and Emilia and Freddie Fox as narrators organised by Ann Rachlin. It was in aid of a Children's hospital in Lviv and raised over £20,000. Winchelsea Arts have held six concerts in church and there was a concert in September as part of the Rye Festival.

12. Finance: The Statement of Financial Affairs attached to this report shows the existing investments and reserves. We were without a treasurer in the middle part of the year. However a new system has enabled us to dispense with the services of a paid accountant and we saved in the region of £3,000 to £3,500 because of this. Eric Rowe was elected Treasurer in September we continue to be aided by Pamela and David Jefferies who pay proceeds into the bank and organize our Gift Aid claims. Charlotte Beecroft is paying invoices online by BACS and where necessary by cheque. Towards the end of the year we adopted a system of accounting supplied by Data Management, which is specially designed for use by Charities and Churches. Jeremy Naylor has agreed to input data into this system.

The Friends of St Thomas' have given generous support to the PCC for many years in the form of a regular payment of £1,400. They notified us that this would cease at the end of 2022 but after a meeting in November it was agreed to continue to pay £1,000 for a further six months. This will leave a major shortfall in our annual income which we will need to address in the future.

A system for Digital Giving supplied by Collectin and run by Sumup was installed in February and it is on target to have taken £8,000 for church funds and £1,600 for a special appeal in aid of the Ukraine.

13. The PCC's Reserves Policy is to invest all its surplus funds with funds managed by the CCLA. The Diocese reports performance annually, which is reflected in the PCC's Annual Accounts. All reserves are used in support of the Church's charitable objects in delivering public benefit in the Parish. Reserves will not normally be higher than 50% of estimated annual expenditure and will not normally be lower than that required to maintain a positive cash flow over the year. Reserves will be increased from time to time when required to support the delivery of a major capital project falling out of periodic structure reports. This policy is reviewed by the PCC annually.

#### Fabric

14. In the summer we carried out a full report on the state of the ruined transepts undertaken by John Bailey of Thomas Ford and Partners. Three quotations for work were supplied, the cheapest of which came in at £71,942. The work is still pending and although we could remove weeds for a much lower cost, we were advised that major work of this nature would be needed in the next 18 months to 2 years and it is hoped that this can be undertaken in the near future.

#### St Richard's

15. Following the decision to close and sell St Richard's church, there has been a large amount of work liaising with the Registrar with regard to managing the closure, obtaining permission for the exhumation and removal of ashes and appointing a solicitor and selling agent. The rector was advised by Darren Oliver of the steps needed to be taken.

Because the church of Saint Richards is dedicated and not consecrated it is classed as a Chapel of Ease and in law has the same status as a Church Hall. This means that any funds accruing will be the property of the PCC. (The impact on our accounts has been noted in the annual Financial Report). Although the Bishop needs to make a formal closure of the church to which he has agreed, there is no requirement in law for the DMPC to approve the decision. The decision has now been accepted by our suffragan Bishop, the Arch-Deacon of Hastings and the Bishop of Chichester. Formal Closure has not yet taken place. The East Sussex Registrar's Office will be informed that it will be no longer licensed for marriages. It was necessary to acquire a Charities Act report on the feasibility of the sale and this was carried out by Messrs Dyer and Hobbis as instructed by the PCC.

A faculty for the exhumation and re-interment of ashes at Saint Thomas' church was applied for and granted on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. It has been necessary to trace as many next of kin as possible and inform them of our decision; all have agreed. It was also necessary to advertise the decision so that anyone we were unable to trace could come forward. There were no further contacts or responses.

Local agents Phillips and Stubbs and Tim Wells of John D Clarke (our architects for St Richard's) who also manage sales of land for development were approached but on the advice of the Diocesan Land Agent, Dyer and Hobbis were appointed to sell the building. They have experience in carrying out Charities Act reports and a particular experience in selling church buildings. It was agreed that offers would be sought. The recommended guide price was £450,000. It had been hoped that marketing could commence in early October but due to a delay in the appointment of the solicitors this was held back until the early part of 2023. Although there are a number of solicitors who specialize in Ecclesiastical Law it was felt on the advice of the diocese and agreed by the PCC that we should appoint Winckworth Sherwood.

It has been agreed and approved by the DAC that all contents can be disposed of with the exception of the stained glass window to the east side of the chancel which may be offered to the diocese for the arts workshop. The organ will be advertised but we are not very optimistic that it will be easy to sell.

### The Electoral Roll

16. There were 98 on the electoral roll for the Parish of Winchelsea, 82 residents and 16 non-residents, at year end.

### Looking Ahead

17. It has taken some time for us to resume normal activities and start to plan for the future once again. As has been noted we are continuing to put in place plans to restore the ruined transepts. We have continued with the development of the wildflower circles in the churchyard. Following an extensive presentation by Graham Large to the PCC in June on the feasibility of a new lighting system for the church a lighting sub-committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Nigel Ashton.. The committee is also dealing with proposals for the installation of a new sound system as new wiring will be necessary for both developments and in many ways they are complementary. We are also looking into a simple system for streaming services.

Following the Pandemic we have reinstated our plans for Open the Book and a small group attended training in the summer. We are currently waiting for the CRB reports so that we start presenting Bible Stories in School.

18. We are pleased to acknowledge and thank all those who have voluntarily given so much time to maintaining the life of the Church and it's service to the whole community throughout the year. This includes so many people and we could not manage without you all.

19. Lastly, we would also wish to acknowledge the help of the Diocese, Archdeaconry and Deanery in so many ways that often go unnoticed, but upon which we sometimes depend. We are also grateful to Icklesham Parish Council for its support and particular assistance in maintaining the Churchyard; to the Friends of Winchelsea Church for their regular financial assistance and to all the organisations and individuals who have supported Church projects over the last year.

Jonathan Meyer  
Rector

For and on behalf of the PCC

**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
WINCHELSEA**

1st January 2022 - 31st December 2022

**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowed Fund	Total All Funds 2022	Total All Funds 2021	Notes
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
Voluntary Receipts	72,131	11,621	-	83,752	69,953	
Activities for Generating Funds (trading)	5,670	-	-	5,670	11,943	
Charitable Activities	4,466	-	-	4,466	9,608	
Investment Interest, Dividends, Rent	1,803	234	-	2,037	1,575	
Other Income	2,740	-	-	2,740	3,194	
<b>Sub total: Gross Income</b>	<b>86,810</b>	<b>11,855</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>98,665</b>	<b>96,273</b>	
<b>Asset and Investment Sales</b>						
Sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	
Sale of investments	-	-	-	-	-	
Loan repayments received	-	-	-	-	-	
Loan from external funder	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total: Asset &amp; Investment Sales</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>86,810</b>	<b>11,855</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>98,665</b>	<b>96,273</b>	
<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
Costs of Generating Voluntary Receipts	(389)	-	-	(389)	(34)	
Fundraising Costs (trading activity)	(372)	-	-	(372)	-	
Investment Management Costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Cost of Charitable Activities	(87,359)	(11,704)	-	(99,063)	(91,043)	
Governance Costs	(1,993)	-	-	(1,993)	(3,539)	
Other Costs	(498)	-	-	(498)	(475)	
<b>Sub total: Operating Costs</b>	<b>(90,611)</b>	<b>(11,704)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(102,315)</b>	<b>(95,091)</b>	
<b>Asset and Investment Purchases</b>						
Purchase of fixed assets for church purposes	-	-	-	-	-	
Purchase of general investments	-	-	-	-	-	
Loans made	-	-	-	-	-	
Loan repaid to external funder	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total: Asset &amp; Investment Purchases</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,664)</b>	
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>(90,611)</b>	<b>(11,704)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(102,315)</b>	<b>(98,755)</b>	
<b>NET OF RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS</b>						
	<b>(3,801)</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,650)</b>	<b>-</b>	
Transfers between funds	(27)	27	-	-	-	
Cash funds at 1st January 2022	52,212	6,676	-	58,888	-	
<b>Cash funds at 31st December 2022</b>	<b>48,384</b>	<b>6,854</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55,238</b>	<b>-</b>	

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (TO NEAREST £)**

ASSETS	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowed	31/12/2021
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
Winchelsea Lloyds Current	31,195	2,648	-	37,949
CCLA Guide Book	-	3,277	-	3,234
CCLA Legacies	14,735	-	-	14,554
CCLA Education	1	-	-	1
CCLA Special Appeals	15	-	-	15
CCLA Joseph McCrindle	-	10,580	-	10,443
CCLA Churchyard	-	3,396	-	3,352
<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS</b>	<b>45,946</b>	<b>19,901</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>69,548</b>

**OTHER MONETARY ASSETS (DEBTORS)****Total Debtors**

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**INVESTMENT ASSETS**

	<b>Fund to which asset belongs</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Value at 31/12/22</b>	<b>Value at 31/12/21</b>
TW Longley Legacy	Designated General	10,725	32,718	37,417
Blanesburgh Bequest	Designated General	920	20,915	23,950

**ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHARITY'S OWN USE**

It became clear in the past year that St Richard's Church at Winchelsea Beach is dedicated and not consecrated and as such is classed as a Chapel of Ease making it an asset belonging to the PCC. As the Church is now on the market it has been drawn to our attention that it should be recorded as an asset on our annual accounts. The Church has not been sold but an offer of £350,000 has been received and it is likely that a considerable uplift will appear in the accounts during 2023.

**LIABILITIES**

<b>Fund to which asset belongs</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>
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**DETAILS OF LIABILITY****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT (ALL FIGURES TO NEAREST £)**

- 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 FURTHER ANALYSIS OF INCOME RECEIVED:**

	<b>Unrestricted General Fund</b>	<b>Unrestricted Designated Fund</b>	<b>Restricted Fund</b>	<b>Endowed Funds</b>	<b>Total All Funds 2022</b>	<b>Total All Funds 2021</b>
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>						
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	18,900	-	-	-	<b>18,900</b>	11,400
Other Planned Giving	1,335	-	-	-	<b>1,335</b>	4,087
Collections at services	3,463	-	-	-	<b>3,463</b>	4,780
Friends Subscriptions & Donations	16,800	-	-	-	<b>16,800</b>	16,800
Appeals	-	-	2,629	-	<b>2,629</b>	-
Other Donations	23,261	-	7,192	-	<b>30,453</b>	22,077
Gift Aid reclaimed	8,372	-	-	-	<b>8,372</b>	8,997
Legacy	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grant	-	-	1,800	-	<b>1,800</b>	1,812
<b>Total: Voluntary Receipts</b>	<b>72,131</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,621</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>83,752</b>	<b>69,953</b>
<b>Activities for Generating Funds (trading)</b>						
Major Fundraising Event	4,566	-	-	-	<b>4,566</b>	4,558
Other Fundraising activity	170	-	-	-	<b>170</b>	360
Other trading activity eg MagAdverts, booksales, hall lettings	934	-	-	-	<b>934</b>	7,025
<b>Total: Activities for Generating Funds</b>	<b>5,670</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,670</b>	<b>11,943</b>
<b>Charitable Activities</b>						
Statutory Fees: weddings, funerals etc	4,466	-	-	-	<b>4,466</b>	9,353
Lettings for church purposes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fees: eg church event/course, group subs with benefit	-	-	-	-	-	255
Trading for church purposes	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total: Charitable Activities</b>	<b>4,466</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,466</b>	<b>9,608</b>
<b>Investment Interest, Dividends, Rent</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,037</b>	<b>1,575</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>2,740</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,740</b>	<b>3,194</b>

**Asset and Investment Sales**

Sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of investments	-	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments received	-	-	-	-	-
Loan from external funder	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total: Asset &amp; Investment Sales</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**3 FURTHER ANALYSIS OF COSTS PAID**

	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowed Funds	Total All Funds 2022	Total All Funds 2021
<b>Costs of Generating Voluntary Receipts</b>	(389)	-	-	-	(389)	(34)
<b>Fundraising Costs (trading activity)</b>	(372)	-	-	-	(372)	
<b>Investment Management Costs</b>	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Cost of Charitable Activities</b>						
Mission giving and donations	-	-	(6,497)	-	(6,497)	(1,123)
Parish Share	(54,000)	-	-	-	(54,000)	(51,500)
Insurance	(4,524)	-	-	-	(4,524)	(4,226)
Salaries, wages and honoraria	(3,345)	-	-	-	(3,345)	(3,401)
Clergy & staff expenses	(6,874)	-	-	-	(6,874)	(6,961)
Mission & Evangelism	(798)	-	-	-	(798)	(595)
Church running costs	(4,552)	-	-	-	(4,552)	(11,592)
Churchyard maintenance costs	-	-	(4,509)	-	(4,509)	
Service Costs	(912)	-	-	-	(912)	(1,173)
Printing, Stationery & sundries	(2,509)	-	-	-	(2,509)	(1,905)
Utilities: Gas, Elec, Water, Broadband	(5,697)	-	-	-	(5,697)	(6,752)
Costs of church activities/trading eg Magazine, bookstall	(701)	-	-	-	(701)	(1,815)
Minor Church Repairs & Maintenance	(447)	-	-	-	(447)	
Major church repairs & maintenance	(3,000)	-	-	-	(3,000)	
Major Hall/other property repair & maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	
New building works	-	-	(698)	-	(698)	
<b>Total: Cost of Charitable Activities</b>	<b>(87,359)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(11,704)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(99,063)</b>	<b>91,043</b>
<b>Governance Costs</b>	<b>(1,993)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,993)</b>	<b>(3,539)</b>
<b>Other Costs</b>	<b>(498)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(498)</b>	<b>(475)</b>
<b>Asset and Investment Purchases</b>						
Purchase of fixed assets for church purposes	-	-	-	-	-	(3,664)
Purchase of general investments	-	-	-	-	-	
Loans made	-	-	-	-	-	
Loan repaid to external funder	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total: Asset &amp; Investment Purchases</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,664)</b>

**4 STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

	Balances b/f at 01/01/22	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balances c/f at 31/12/22	Balances c/f at 31/12/21
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>						
Unrestricted General	52,212	86,810	(94,255)	(27)	44,740	52,212
Designated General	90	-	-	-	-	90
<b>TOTAL OF UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>52,302</b>	<b>86,810</b>	<b>(94,255)</b>	<b>(27)</b>	<b>44,740</b>	<b>52,302</b>
<b>RESTRICTED</b>						
Restricted General	6,676	6,963	(6,497)	27	7,169	3,442
Guide Book	-	34	-	-	3,277	3,233
Lighting Appeal	-	800	(698)	-	102	
Joseph McCrindle	10,433	147	-	-	10,580	10,433
Churchyard Maintenance	(3,853)	3,945	(4,338)	-	(4,246)	(3,853)
Churchyard Wildflower Garden	6,466	-	(171)	-	6,295	6,466
<b>TOTAL OF RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>19,722</b>	<b>11,889</b>	<b>(11,704)</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23,177</b>	<b>19,721</b>

<b>TOTAL OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS</b>	72,024	98,699	(105,959)	-	67,917

**Note INVESTMENT ASSETS**

**T W Longley Legacy**

The TW Longley Legacy is represented by 1,599.91 shares in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England Investment Fund. Originally an unrestricted fund it was designated by the PCC in 2017 for the purpose of internal operational support and external Churchyard fabric.

**Blanesburgh Bequest**

The Blanesburgh Bequest was made in 1947 by Lord Blanesburgh leaving £2,000 in trust to support the organist and music of the church. It is held in the name of Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance. In 2018 approximately half of the shares were sold and used for organ repairs. The remaining holding is represented by 1022.73 shares in the Central Board Investment Fund of the Church of England.

**DETAILS OF TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS**

**PCC Approval Date**

**DISCLOSURE OF RELATED PARTIES AND TRANSACTIONS WITH THEM**

**Relationship**

**Nature of Transaction**

Total no of PCC Members in the year who were reimbursed for expenses 4	Description of all expenses - General Running Expenses	Total Value of expense for the year £284.31
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Name or company name and relationship of relative of PCC member or PCC member in receipt of a payment - None	Payment description	Value of payment
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This financial report for year to 31st December 2022 was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by:

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

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# Accounts

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# THE PARISH OF WINCHELSEA

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“We are an open welcoming church, which exists for the community as a whole and where everyone is valued and respected. We are called to serve Christ in the world, sharing the joy of God’s unconditional love in faith and action. We commit ourselves to praying and working for a world where love, reconciliation, equality and peace can prevail.”

### INTRODUCTION

1. Within the Diocese of Chichester, the Parish of Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach is served by two Churches, St Thomas of Canterbury in the Town of Winchelsea and St Richard of Chichester at Winchelsea Beach. There is a single Parochial Church Council (PCC). Together with the Parish of Icklesham (the Church of St Nicolas with All Saints) these three churches comprise a Joint Benefice. Icklesham has its own Parochial Church Council.

### P.C.C. WINCHELSEA – MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

2. Members of the PCC are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Churchwardens are elected at the annual Vestry meeting, which precedes the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, for a one year term. Deanery Synod representatives are elected for a three-year term which commenced in March 2018.

3. The following served on the PCC during 2020:

<i>Incumbent and Chairman</i>	The Reverend Jonathan Meyer
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mrs Charlotte Beecroft Mrs Celia King
<i>Deanery Synod Representatives</i>	Mrs Angela Hill Mrs Marion Lovell Mrs Deborah Rodley
<i>Elected Office Holders</i>	Mrs Angela Hill (Hon. Secretary) Mrs Pamela Jefferies (Hon. Treasurer – Until May)
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mrs Sara Baker Mrs Alice Bolton Mr David Jefferies Mrs Tessa Potts Mrs Sue Taberer Mr Jeremy Naylor Mrs Mary Parker

### CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES and the PUBLIC BENEFIT

**Registered charity number:** 1132555 The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas Winchelsea

**Principle address:** St Thomas’ Church  
Winchelsea  
East Sussex  
TN36 4EB

**Website:** [www.winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk](http://www.winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk)

4. The PCC Members are all Trustees of the above charity and have complied with their duty in Part 9 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission. They have also been guided by the following charitable aims this year:

- To maintain a building appropriate for collective or private worship, prayer and reflection.
- To support selected local and national charities throughout the year, including making regular monthly cash and food collections.
- To ensure that church buildings are open daily and are available for use by the community as a whole.

5. In seeking to meet these objects, the PCC has had due regard to carrying out its purpose for the public benefit. However activities have again been restricted this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. There were no public services until Ash Wednesday, thereafter services resumed with the restriction of no choir or hymns until July. Since then we have continued with our regular services with the exception of the 8:00am BCP Service of Holy Communion.

Church Markets resumed outside in June and inside from the beginning of August and are now taking place regularly again. We were visited by Bishop Will of Lewes for our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Benefice Parish Eucharist for All Saints on 31<sup>st</sup> October, which included the confirmation of three members of our parishes. Fellowship Lunches resumed in October at Winchelsea Beach.

The PCC has sought to maintain the Churchyard, with community support, as a de facto 'village green'. The PCC has set up a Churchyard Sub-Committee to reflect and advise on matters relating to the churchyard and following a generous donation we have commenced with three areas for wild flowers, which were prepared and seeded towards the end of the year. We organised a Churchyard Working Party in early August, which was well attended and refreshments were enjoyed afterwards. Our service of Nine Lessons and Carols took place and celebrated the whole community as usual. Following the lighting of the church in 2020 the Advent Windows Committee lit the monuments and the exterior of the church during Advent and made generous donation to our lighting appeal. Following the relaxing of restrictions on family services, the Crib service was very well attended and around 30 children took part, just under £100 was raised for the Fellowship of St Nicholas.

6. Because of restrictions we have been unable to support charities as widely as we would hope and over the year, the charities supported by the Parish were Shelter, Demelza House Children's Hospice, Family Support Work, Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital, Snowflake, You Raise me Up and the Royal British Legion. We provided a box for the Rye Food Bank after lockdown was eased.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT and SAFEGUARDING**

7. During the year, the PCC has continued to monitor the various risks applicable to the Church and has reviewed its published Health and Safety policy. Special risk assessments have been drawn up for events and services during the pandemic and the restrictions have been well publicised. Until restrictions were lifted, hand sanitiser has been provided and the pews and chairs were regularly cleaned with antibacterial fluid. Seating has been separated to allow for social distancing. Any event taking place within the church and churchyard is appropriately assessed and measures to mitigate risk are set in place. No accidents were reported this year. Hand sanitiser was available to the end of the year and communion has been received in one part throughout the year.

8. The PCC has also reviewed and reissued its Safeguarding policy. The PCC is a member of the Church's Child Protection Advisory Service. Appropriate clearances are held and updated and cleared people are present in a supervisory capacity whenever children attend Church.

## **DELIVERING THE PUBLIC BENEFIT**

9. The Church of St Thomas was open whenever permitted. Under the circumstances this has been appreciated and it is clear that people need the Church for many different reasons and the fact that it is available for their use, for public and private worship and for meditation is regularly reflected in the visitors' book.

10. Although Christmas Services took place without restrictions due the Omicron variant numbers were down but the choir organized a very well received service of Nine Lessons and Carols There were three weddings in church with a full compliment of guests.

11. Music. Our normal schedule of concerts and arts events was curtailed in the early part of the year but Church Life began to return to normal with a Winchelsea Arts Concert on 27<sup>th</sup> June, there were concerts as part of the Peasemarth Festival on July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup> and a concert of young singers from the Royal Opera House took place on 17<sup>th</sup> July to raise funds for the Rye Tennis Club. There were further concerts for Winchelsea Arts, the Brickwall Music Society, the Mayor Rye's charities and another concert by young singers from the Royal Opera House.

12. Finance: The Statement of Financial Affairs attached to this report shows the existing investments and reserves. Our long standing treasurer stepped down in May and we appointed an acting Treasurer on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021. There has been a lot of work putting a new system in place, which has enabled us to dispense with the services of a paid accountant. It is hoped that this will save in the region of £3,000 to £3,500 per annum. We have also moved from an accruals system of accounting to the more simple payment and receipts. We are still hoping to appoint a local full time local treasurer and we continue to be aided by Pamela and David Jefferies how pay proceeds into the bank and organize or Gift Aid claims.

14. The PCC's Reserves Policy is to invest all its surplus funds with funds managed by the CCLA. The Diocese reports performance annually, which is reflected in the PCC's Annual Accounts. All reserves are used in support of the Church's charitable objects in delivering public benefit in the Parish. Reserves will not normally be higher than 50% of estimated annual expenditure and will not normally be lower than that required to maintain a positive cash flow over the year. Reserves will be increased from time to time when required to support the delivery of a major capital project falling out of periodic structure reports. This policy is reviewed by the PCC annually.

#### Finance

15. The effects of the pandemic have certainly had an impact on income but our deficit over the year was just over £5,000. When we take into account the cost of installing Wifi at just over £3,000, which we had planned to fund from reserves but have not yet transferred the funds, the figures look much better and the deficit is slightly less than our budgeting shortfall. Making digital giving easier has certainly helped as has the generosity of supporters.

#### Fabric

16. There have been no major structural projects undertaken this year. The most important work has involved the installation of Wifi, which has necessitated external work carried out by Openreach and the preparation of a trench to the east of the church with the necessary permissions allowing for a cable into lower vestry. Our electrician completed the installation of a hub in the main body of the church, this has enabled a digitally controlled heating thermostat and the potential for a contactless giving terminal.

#### St Richard's

17. The Quinquennial report for St. Richard's outlined a large number of issues which need attention and in March the architect visited to give a very rough outline of possible costs. These came out at around £80,000 plus VAT. However it was acknowledged that this was pessimistic. The matter was discussed by the PCC and it was felt that even if the costs half this figure, we needed to consider whether such an expense was viable bearing in mind a dwindling congregation of around 6 people. There are also considerable running expenses as well as underlying problems with the structure. The Bishop and Archdeacon visited in May and felt that subject to the views of the PCC it was unrealistic to keep the church open. For that reason services have not resumed this year and after prayer and discussion the PCC reluctantly voted to proceed with the closure of Saint Richards on 25<sup>th</sup> September subject to consultation with the Diocese and a local public meeting. A meeting was held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Village Hall in Winchelsea Beach. Around 30 people attended of home about half hour from the local community. Although there was opposition no proposals for fundraising or support were put forward and although the Rector has said he would respond to any such proposals to date no approach has been made. We are currently taking the advice of the diocese and it is proposed that the church will be offered for sale.

It should be noted that St. Richard's is not consecrated and is a dedicated church having the legal status of a chapel of ease, which means that it is solely the responsibility of the PCC rather than the diocese. This makes the process of closure and disposal simpler and any benefit would revert to the PCC. In the event of there being any proceeds, the way in which they are invested or used will be a matter for discussion in future. It should also be noted that there are a significant number of cremated remains interred in the area around the church. As far as can be ascertained they were illegally interred and we are seeking advice in regard to the exclamation and reburial.

#### The Electoral Roll

18. There were 101 on the electoral roll for the Parish of Winchelsea, 85 residents and 16 non-residents, at year end.

#### Looking Ahead

19. It has taken some time for us to resume normal activities and start to plan for the future once again. There have been discussions regarding the removal of weeds and the restoration of the ruins to the west of the church. There is also been a discussion with regard to replacing the existing York stone path leading the High Street, which can be very slippery, with a safer surface. There is also a project to install a completely new lighting system, a better sound system and facilities to stream services live, now that we have the use of Wi-Fi. We sought the guidance and advice of the DAC and they attended in November and gave informal advice regarding these proposals, which we intend to develop in the coming year.

20. We are pleased to acknowledge and thank all those who have voluntarily given so much time to maintaining the life of the Church and it's service to the whole community throughout the year. This includes so many people and we could not manage without you all.

21. Lastly, we would also wish to acknowledge the help of the Diocese, Archdeaconry and Deanery in so many ways that often go unnoticed, but upon which we sometimes depend. We are also grateful to Icklesham Parish Council for its support and particular assistance in maintaining the Churchyard; to the Friends of Winchelsea Church for their regular financial assistance and to all the organisations and individuals who have supported Church projects over the last year.

Jonathan Meyer  
Rector

For and on behalf of the PCC

**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
WINCHELSEA**

1st January 2021 - 31st December 2021

**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS (TO NEAREST £)**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowed Fund	Total All Funds 2021	Total All Funds 2020	Notes
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						2,4
Voluntary Receipts	58,731	11,222	-	69,953	-	
Activities for Generating Funds (trading)	11,943	-	-	11,943	-	
Charitable Activities	9,608	-	-	9,608	-	
Investment Interest, Dividends, Rent	1,559	16	-	1,575	-	
Other Income	3,104	90	-	3,194	-	
<b>Sub total: Gross Income</b>	<b>84,945</b>	<b>11,328</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>96,273</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Asset and Investment Sales</b>						
Sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	
Sale of investments	-	-	-	-	-	
Loan repayments received	-	-	-	-	-	
Loan from external funder	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total: Asset &amp; Investment Sales</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>84,945</b>	<b>11,328</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>96,273</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>PAYMENTS</b>						3,4
Costs of Generating Voluntary Receipts	(34)	-	-	(34)	-	
Fundraising Costs (trading activity)	-	-	-	-	-	
Investment Management Costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Cost of Charitable Activities	(82,536)	(8,507)	-	(91,043)	-	
Governance Costs	(3,539)	-	-	(3,539)	-	
Other Costs	(475)	-	-	(475)	-	
<b>Sub total: Operating Costs</b>	<b>(86,584)</b>	<b>(8,507)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(95,091)</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Asset and Investment Purchases</b>						
Purchase of fixed assets for church purposes	(3,472)	(192)	-	(3,664)	-	
Purchase of general investments	-	-	-	-	-	
Loans made	-	-	-	-	-	
Loan repaid to external funder	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total: Asset &amp; Investment Purchases</b>	<b>(3,472)</b>	<b>(192)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,664)</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>(90,056)</b>	<b>(8,699)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(98,755)</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>NET OF RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS</b>						
	(5,111)	2,629	-	(2,482)	-	4,5
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	
Cash funds at 1st January 2021	42,854	31,572	-	74,426	-	
<b>Cash funds at 31st December 2021</b>	<b>37,743</b>	<b>34,201</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>71,944</b>	<b>-</b>	

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (TO NEAREST £)

## ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowed Fund
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>			
Winchelsea Lloyds Current	35,373	2,577	-
CCLA Guide Book	-	3,234	-
CCLA Legacies	-	14,544	-
CCLA Legacies (B)	-	-	-
CCLA Education	-	1	-
CCLA Special Appeals	-	15	-
CCLA Joseph McCrindle	-	10,443	-
CCLA Churchyard	-	3,352	-
CCLA St Richards	2,369	-	-
<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS</b>	<b>37,742</b>	<b>34,166</b>	<b>-</b>

## OTHER MONETARY ASSETS (DEBTORS)

Total Debtors

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## INVESTMENT ASSETS

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Current Value	
TW Longley Legacy	Designated General	10,275	37,417	4a
Blanesburgh Bequest	Designated General	920	23,950	4a

## ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHARITY'S OWN USE

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Current Value
NONE			

## LIABILITIES

	Fund to which asset belongs	Amount Due
DETAILS OF LIABILITY		



## 3 FURTHER ANALYSIS OF COSTS PAID

	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowed Funds	Total All Funds 2021	Total All Funds 2020
<b>Costs of Generating Voluntary Receipts</b>	(34)	-	-	-	(34)	
<b>Fundraising Costs (trading activity)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Investment Management Costs</b>	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Cost of Charitable Activities</b>						
Mission giving and donations	(1,123)	-	-	-	(1,123)	
Parish Share	(51,500)	-	-	-	(51,500)	
Insurance	(4,226)	-	-	-	(4,226)	
Salaries, wages and honoraria	(3,401)	-	-	-	(3,401)	
Clergy & staff expenses	(6,961)	-	-	-	(6,961)	
Mission & Evangelism	(595)	-	-	-	(595)	
Maintenance running costs	(3,085)	-	(8,507)	-	(11,592)	
Service Costs	(1,173)	-	-	-	(1,173)	
Printing, Stationery & sundries	(1,905)	-	-	-	(1,905)	
Utilities: Gas, Elec, Water, Broadband	(6,752)	-	-	-	(6,752)	
Costs of church activities/trading eg Magazine, bookstall	(1,815)	-	-	-	(1,815)	
Hall running costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Major church repairs & maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	
Major Hall/other property repair & maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	
New building works	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total: Cost of Charitable Activities</b>	<b>(82,536)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(8,507)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(91,043)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Governance Costs</b>	<b>(3,539)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,539)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other Costs</b>	<b>(475)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(475)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Asset and Investment Purchases</b>						
Purchase of fixed assets for church purposes	(3,472)	-	(192)	-	(3,664)	-
Purchase of general investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loans made	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loan repaid to external funder	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total: Asset &amp; Investment Purchases</b>	<b>(3,472)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(192)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,664)</b>	<b>-</b>

## 4 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balances b/f at 01/01/21	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balances c/f at 31/12/21
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>					
Unrestricted General	42,854	84,855	(90,057)	-	37,651
Designated General	-	90	-	-	90
<b>TOTAL OF UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>42,854</b>	<b>84,945</b>	<b>(90,057)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37,741</b>
<b>RESTRICTED</b>					
Restricted General	-	-	-	-	-
Guide Book	3,233	2	-	-	3,234
Legacy	14,536	8	-	-	14,544
Education	1	-	-	-	1
Special Appeals	15	-	-	-	15
Joseph McCrindle	10,438	5	-	-	10,443
Churchyard Maintenance	3,350	4,314	(8,165)	-	(501)
Churchyard Wildflower Garden	-	7,000	(534)	-	6,466
Choir	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL OF RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>31,573</b>	<b>11,329</b>	<b>(8,699)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,202</b>
<b>ENDOWMENTS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>74,427</b>	<b>96,274</b>	<b>(98,756)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>71,943</b>

## 4a INVESTMENT ASSETS

TW Longley Legacy

The TW Longley Legacy is represented by 1,599.91 shares in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England Investment Fund. Originally an unrestricted fund it was designated by the PCC in 2017 for the purpose of internal operational support and external Churchyard fabric.

Blanesburgh Bequest

The Blanesburgh Bequest was made in 1947 by Lord Blanesburgh leaving £2,000 in trust to support the organist and music of the church. It is held in the name of Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance. In 2018 approximately half of the shares were sold and used for organ repairs. The remaining holding is represented by 1022.73 shares in the Central Board Investment Fund of the Church of England.

## 5 DETAILS OF TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS

PCC Approval  
Date

This financial report for year to 31st December 2021 was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by:

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval