

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

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 5th, which was attended by the Mayor and Corporation. There were further services to mark the death of Her Majesty beginning with Evening Prayer on 9th September. The Church remained open during the period of public mourning and there was a special service on Sunday 18th 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 29th 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	<i>Notes</i>
RECEIPTS						
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	
Sub total: Gross Income	86,810	11,855	-	98,665	96,273	
Asset and Investment Sales						
Sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	
Sale of investments	-	-	-	-	-	
Loan repayments received	-	-	-	-	-	
Loan from external funder	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total: Asset & Investment Sales	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	86,810	11,855	-	98,665	96,273	
PAYMENTS						
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)	
Sub total: Operating Costs	(90,611)	(11,704)	-	(102,315)	(95,091)	
Asset and Investment Purchases						
Purchase of fixed assets for church purposes	-	-	-	-		
Purchase of general investments	-	-	-	-		
Loans made	-	-	-	-		
Loan repaid to external funder	-	-	-	-		
Sub total: Asset & Investment Purchases	-	-	-	-	(3,664)	
TOTAL PAYMENTS	(90,611)	(11,704)	-	(102,315)	(98,755)	
NET OF RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS						
	(3,801)	151	-	(3,650)		
Transfers between funds	(27)	27	-	-		
Cash funds at 1st January 2022	52,212	6,676	-	58,888		
Cash funds at 31st December 2022	48,384	6,854	-	55,238		

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (TO NEAREST £)

ASSETS	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowed	31/12/2021
CASH FUNDS				
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
TOTAL CASH FUNDS	45,946	19,901	-	69,548

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

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INVESTMENT ASSETS

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Value at 31/12/22	Value at 31/12/21
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

Fund to which asset belongs	Amount Due
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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:**

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

Asset and Investment Sales

Sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of investments	-	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments received	-	-	-	-	-
Loan from external funder	-	-	-	-	-

Total: Asset & Investment Sales

-	-	-	-	-	-
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3 FURTHER ANALYSIS OF COSTS PAID

	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowed Funds	Total All Funds 2022	Total All Funds 2021
Costs of Generating Voluntary Receipts	(389)	-	-	-	(389)	(34)
Fundraising Costs (trading activity)	(372)	-	-	-	(372)	
Investment Management Costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Cost of Charitable Activities						
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)	
Total: 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)
Asset and Investment Purchases						
Purchase of fixed assets for church purposes	-	-	-	-	-	(3,664)
Purchase of general investments	-	-	-	-	-	
Loans made	-	-	-	-	-	
Loan repaid to external funder	-	-	-	-	-	
Total: Asset & Investment Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	(3,664)

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
UNRESTRICTED						
Unrestricted General	52,212	86,810	(94,255)	(27)	44,740	52,212
Designated General	90	-	-	-	-	90
TOTAL OF UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	52,302	86,810	(94,255)	(27)	44,740	52,302
RESTRICTED						
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
TOTAL OF RESTRICTED FUNDS	19,722	11,889	(11,704)	27	23,177	19,721

	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	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