

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF FOREST ROW

England & Wales · Charity number 1132867

Details

Other names	FOREST ROW AND ASHURST WOOD PCC, Forest Row Parish Churches, Forest Row Parochial Church Council
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-11-21
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Dunstons Church Office Chapel Lane Ashurst Wood East Grinstead West Sussex RH19 3QT
Phone	01342323880
Email	keith@keithandwendy.net
Website	www.frparish.co.uk

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Regular public worship open to all. The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. Pastoral work including visiting the sick and the bereaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Taking of religious assemblies in schools. Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings and the distribution of literature.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£93,538	£102,068	-	-
2023-12-31	£88,151	£94,315	-	-
2022-12-31	£80,915	£89,095	-	-
2021-12-31	£78,774	£83,265	-	-
2020-12-31	£77,561	£92,327	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Jamie Gater	Chair	2024-06-03
Brenda Elaine Evans		2023-05-14
JEREMY ROBIN KIRK		2013-12-15
Julie Anne Martin		2023-05-14
Julie Marilyn Brown		2023-05-14
KEITH ROY MAJOR		
Keith Stacey		2023-05-14
Laura Rachel Kypre		2025-05-12
Peter John Douglas Bramley		2025-01-12
Sarah Katherine Munden		2025-05-12
Simon Morris		2015-04-23
Susan Kathleen Walter		2015-04-23
Susan Ruth Rolley		2024-04-23

Accounts

2024 Annual Report



Parish of Forest Row

A Growing Family : Proclaiming the Gospel :
For the Kingdom, the Church and the World

The Annual Report of the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Forest Row for the year ended 31 December 2024

Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row
St Dunstan's Church, Ashurst Wood
St Stephen's Church, Hammerwood (Closed)
Registered Charity no. 1132867

Incumbent:	The Rev'd Jamie Gater MA
Interim Treasurer:	Julian Hills BSc, FCCA
Assistant Treasurer:	Keith Stacey
Website:	www.frparish.co.uk
Independent Examiner:	Darren Harding ACA, FCCA, DchA Richard Place Dobson Services Limited Chartered Accountants 1-7 Station Road, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1HT
Insurers:	Ecclesiastical Benefact House, 2000 Pioneer Avenue, Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth, Gloucester GL3 4AW
Bankers:	Santander UK plc Bootle Barclays Bank plc 17 High Street East Grinstead RH19 3AH Coop Bank plc 164/165 Western Road Brighton BN1 2BB
Investment Managers:	CCLA Investment Management Ltd One Angel Lane London EC4R 3AB



Table Of Content



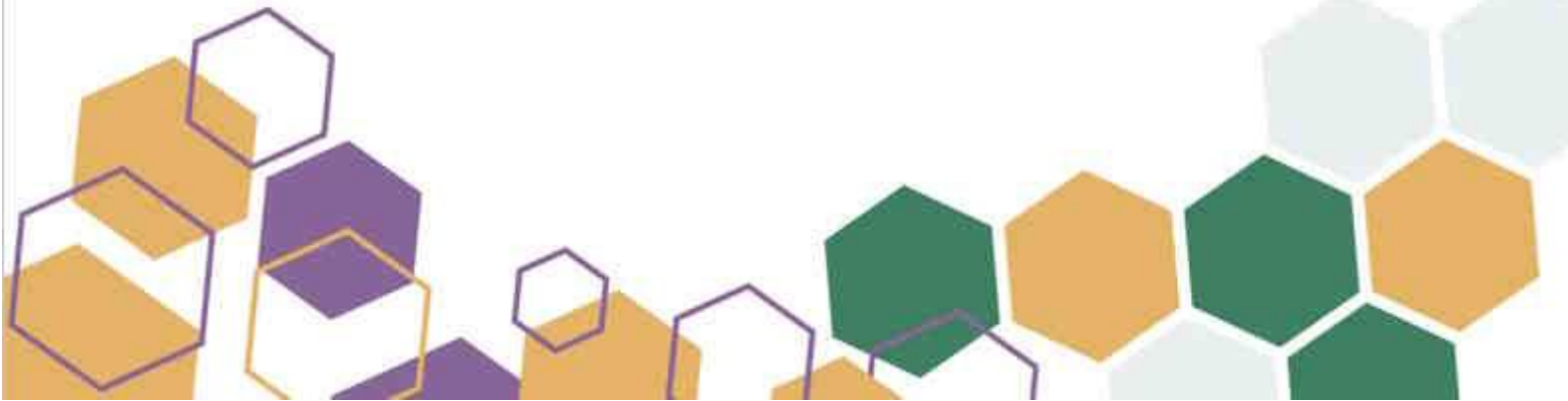
Our aims and Purposes as a charity

Vicar's Report

Structure, Governance and Management

- PCC
- Other Committees
- Trustees' responsibilities

Further Reports

- A Growing Family
 - Proclaiming the gospel
 - For the Kingdom, the Church and the World
 - Including Fabric, Goods and Ornaments
 - Financial Reports
- 

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF FOREST ROW TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024



OUR AIMS AND PURPOSES AS A CHARITY



The primary objective of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Forest Row (hereafter Forest Row PCC or the PCC) is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. In meeting this objective, the PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the parish, the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

WHAT WE PLANNED TO DO TO ACHIEVE OUR CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

In order to focus our thinking on this question, we had an away day during September, kindly hosted by St Andrew's Church in Crawley. During this day we made the following key decisions:

- To adopt a new strategy/vision statement: "A growing family; Proclaiming the gospel; for the Kingdom, the church and the world"
- To restructure our working around a teams approach, with each of the teams a subcommittee of the PCC, sitting under one of the headings above.
- Disbanding the DCCs, to enable this new way of working
- To begin to focus our ministry more towards children, families and young people
- To focus on preparing for growth, ensuring correct structures, policies and processes are in place, ready for our growth.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED, AND HOW WE AFFECTED BENEFICIARIES' LIVES

This is largely outlined in the reports that follow. Highlights include, the start of our new toddler group at Holy Trinity, which is framed around a small, age-appropriate act of worship, the growth in number and holiness we are beginning to see in our services and our successful 'season of invitation'. The season of invitation included our Festival of Remembrance, attended by HM Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex, and the Christmas services, where nearly 700 people attended worship over the festive period.

Perhaps the most profound ways in which we have impacted the lives of beneficiaries include our pastoral care to those who have lost loved ones, and the joyous welcome we have offered to those coming forward for baptism. In all these things, we give thanks to almighty God for the grace he has given us to serve our communities, to him be all glory.





Thanking our volunteers for their contributions to our parish life.

The community cafe at St Dunstan's continued its important work serving our community; a packed out Christmas lunch was a highlight.



The Christmas tree festival invited contributions and visitors from all sections of our wonderful community





One of our most widely seen acts of service to our community is our marking of the remembrance season. It was a particular privilege to welcome HM Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex this year for our first festival of remembrance.



Vicar's Report

"ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."

On the 1st of June I was installed and instituted as vicar of Forest Row, to serve the villages of Forest Row, Ashurst Wood and Hammerwood, and what an amazing service it was! I was so grateful that my family and I had already been made so welcome, and with the church full to bursting, it was a huge encouragement to me, to visiting clergy, and to us as a parish; what a way to start a new chapter! The parish profile, which the PCC published as it sought a new vicar, said that: "We believe that God is opening for us a fresh and exciting path to travel with our new vicar, both in congregational and community life. We want to look forward, not backwards. We recognize that at the heart of our faith is openness to change." In that spirit, we began our pilgrimage together, vicar and people, and what an exciting start the last few months have been.

It would not be right to continue reflecting on the latter half of 2024 without acknowledging the death of my father, just 2 weeks into my ministry here. I was so proud that he, along with many others, got to witness my licensing, and I was so moved by the kindness and support shown me, as I travelled back and forth from Cornwall to attend to arrangements. This might seem an odd inclusion, but to me it speaks of the kind of parish and church family that we are, one characterised by the love which Jesus prayed for (John 13:25).

As the summer continued, I had the joy of getting to know many people, both within our church communities, but also in our wider communities, including our schools. Our villages are wonderful places, with wonderful people. Yet often too hidden is the real rural deprivation of some within our communities and so I was pleased to learn of the Spencer Hooker Charity, and become its new chairman, as all my predecessors have done since the charity's foundation.

Our away day was a wonderful time to reflect and dream big dreams for the future. As we did so, we became aware of the need to restructure our administration to better meet our vision, aims and needs. As such we have moved to having a facilities manager to oversee our buildings and their use, and a PA to the vicar. In moving to this new structure, I pay tribute to all who have worked in our administration over the years, not least Saskia, who did so much to support the parish through both the pandemic and the interregnum.

We took the decision, during the autumn term, to have a preaching series called 'season of invitation'. This allowed us to focus on the many ways in which God invites us to join in with his work, but also a chance to reflect on how we might invite people to know, love and follow Jesus for themselves. The PCC planned a series of events over three key invitational opportunities: Harvest, Remembrance, and Christmas. These outreach initiatives saw a good number of folk engage with us as a church, and have led to a deepening in positive relationships, including people returning to church.

It would not be possible to proceed without reflecting, with joy, on the various opportunities which we provide for children and young people. Starting Trinity Tots, our toddler group and service at Holy Trinity, was a passion of mine, and I'm grateful to the volunteers who help and support that running, and to the those who generously gave so that we could buy new toys, storage and snacks for the children. This stands alongside the play café at St Dunstan's, and our Sunday school provision at Holy Trinity; but this is only the start of what we have planned!

There is always more that could be said, but I leave that to the writers of other reports. I finish by thanking all those who have supported our common life together. My heartfelt thanks to our Churchwardens, for all their work; to their deputies and for all the PCC for their tireless support and work which enables us to focus on proclaiming the gospel and become a growing family. This report also highlights the unstinting work of our Treasurer and his assistant, our thanks to them for ensuring we have the necessary funds to carry out our mission, and that they are attended to with due stewardship and care.

To all those who serve on a rota, come faithfully to church, promote our activities, or who share the good news about Jesus by their life and work, thank you. Our work begun together, let us now look to the future with hope, as we trust God for His provision, for the growth of His kingdom, and for all the blessings which only He can give. With my thanks, and the assurance of my prayers for you all.

With every blessing,

Jamie



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CHARITY

Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. The parish has adopted a Constitution which is subject to the provisions of the Church Representation Rules and the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent: The Rev'd Jamie Gater (from June 2024) Chairman
Wardens: Simon Morris, Vice Chairman
June Spoor (until December 2024)
Peter Bramley (from January 2025)

Elected Members: Julie Brown (until 2026)
Brenda Evans (until 2026)
Jeremy Kirk (until 2026)
Keith Major (until 2026)
Julie Martin (until 2026)
Sue Rolley (until 2027)
Keith Stacey (until 2026)
Sue Walter (until 2026)
4 vacancies

PCC Secretary: Saskia Schuit (Until October 2024)
Vacant* (From Oct 2024)
Deanery Synod: Timothy Leeney (until December 2024)
Keith Major
1 vacancy

*During the vacancy, Wendy Stacey has been Minute Secretary to the PCC

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and 12 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for a three year term and retire in thirds.

Following the APCM in May there remained vacancies for four members of the Holy Trinity congregation. Members of the congregation are warmly encouraged to consider standing for election to the PCC. We try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

The PCC met six times during the year. The Standing Committee took decisions between meetings. These were generally on matters of a non-contentious nature and the decisions were subsequently endorsed by the PCC. There is no separate Finance Committee, but details of receipts and payments, budgets and other financial data are regularly reported to the PCC.

PCC Standing Committee

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, this is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the full PCC. The members are currently The Rev'd Jamie Gater, The Church Wardens, The Assistant Treasurer (deputising for the PCC Treasurer), Keith Major and (until the end of December) Tim Leeney. At the discretion of the committee, the Deputy Wardens have been invited to contribute (not vote) at meetings on an ad hoc basis.

Other Committees

In addition to the statutory committee, as outlined above, the PCC have established the following committees in order to assist them in their mission and to meet their charitable objectives.

Fabric and Buildings

In order to assist the Vicar and wider PCC with the necessary works which have needed to be undertaken to maintain the buildings, a sub committee has been created consisting in: The Vicar, The Church Wardens and Jeremy Kirk. To assist them, Graham Bedford has offered support in relation to heating and the care of St Stephen's. In order to assist with fundraising, Patrick Crawford (Grants Officer), and Keith Stacey (Assistant Treasurer) have joined the committee to aid them, particularly in relation to grants.

Finance

The finance of the parish is the responsibility of the whole PCC. To assist them, the new PCC Treasurer, Mr Julian Hills, and the Assistant Treasurer meet regularly with the Vicar to discuss matters of strategic importance. The committee is sometimes constituted as a Grants and Fundraising Committee, and in this instance Jeremy and Patrick, as listed above, join the committee when appropriate.

Leadership (Strategy and Vision)

The strategic vision of the parish is held principally by the Vicar, with authority delegated to him by the Bishop. In order to support and assist the Vicar, the Leadership Team consists of the Vicar, Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens, who meet regularly to discuss matters of importance to the life and ministry of the parish family. The Vicar also meets very regularly with the Churchwardens alone, in order to maintain and develop a shared vision for the parish.

Eco Church

The Eco Church Group is a subcommittee of the PCC with responsibility to help the PCC in relation to matters of climate and ecology. The committee assists the PCC in working towards the Gold Eco Church Award, assists the wider congregation in being aware of ecological issues, and assists the Vicar in maintaining and developing up to date teaching, learning and prayer on this issue. The committee works with the Vicar to ensure that the church has a distinct Christian voice on issues of climate.

Halls Management

We currently make good use of some of our spaces, in terms of hiring them for appropriate community use, although there is more that could be done. The Halls Management Committee consists of the Vicar, Facilities Manager, and other members of the PCC. They liaise with hall users, monitor health and safety compliance, plan for the upkeep and development of our spaces, and own the hire policy, ensuring that any hiring is in line with our charitable aims, as set out above.

Ministry Team

The Ministry Team consists of the vicar, any licenced or authorised clergy working in the parish, and any authorised lay minsters. They meet for mutual support, to pray together, and to ensure a shared sense of vision. The parish Director of Music also sits on this committee to ensure joined up approaches to liturgy and worship.



Trustees' Responsibilities

Under the Charities Act 2011 the trustees are required to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year. This gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of the incoming resources and application of resources in the year. In preparing the statement, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the statement of accounts.
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operations.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity at that time and enable the trustees to ensure that any statement of accounts prepared by them complies with the regulations under section 132(1) of the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the charity's assets and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are in the process of considering the risks to which the charity is exposed and will establish systems to mitigate those risks.

Statement as to disclosure of information to independent examiners

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant independent review information of which the charity's independent examiners are unaware, and the trustees will be taking all the steps that they ought to take as trustees in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant independent review information and to establish that the charity's independent examiners are aware of that information.

Other Matters

The District Church Councils which have operated at each church with delegated authority to deal with some aspects of worship, mission and the maintenance of the fabric of the buildings are in the process of being disbanded. Their functions will be undertaken by the PCC.

This Trustees Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Jamie Gater, PCC Chairman

Signed: 

Date: 13/4/25

Further Reports



To bring clarity of focus and purpose to the work of the PCC, it has been decided to group together reports according to our three strategic priorities.

A Growing Family

Schools

As the diocesan youth, children and families strategy officer for half the week, it will be unsurprising to learn that work in schools is a passion of mine and an imperative in our service to the community in which we live. We have strengthening relationships with three of our schools; Brambletye, Ashurst Wood Primary and Forest Row CE Primary and Nursery. I am a governor at the latter two. Currently we attend Brambletye on an ad hoc basis, including requests from them for our wider community to take advantage of their performing arts work. Collective worship is led by me in both of our primary schools and this is supplemented by our 'Open the Book' team, who attend Ashurst Wood once a half term.

Excitingly, we have been able to extend an invitation at harvest and Christmas for both primary schools to hold Christmas services in church, and the vicar joined the vicar of East Grinstead to help celebrate the Brambletye Carol service at St Swithun's. Going forward Forest Row school are looking for their eco school group to link up with our eco church group, and this promises to be an exciting community link for our parish family. If you'd like to support either of our schools by volunteering your time, please do speak to me.

The Rev'd Jamie Gater

Play Café

In 2024 we welcomed 39 different families with 49 children into St Dunstan's. We are open on Friday mornings from 9 until 11 in West Sussex term time and provide hot drinks, biscuits and baby snacks, with plenty of toys, books, puzzles and activities in an informal, warm and friendly environment. We highlight Church events and Services suitable for young children and have consequently seen some of our children attend these.

Helen, Julie, Brenda, Chris and Jean



Trinity Tots

In September, we were able to launch Trinity Tots, thanks to some generous giving which enabled us to buy the equipment and toys we needed. A small team of volunteers regularly support me with this important ministry, and we are grateful to Anna Dance, from St Andrew's Church in Crawley, who is helping us to live out our church partnership by taking over the leadership of this group from the New year. Our numbers vary, as this is still a new group, but we have around 20 families on the books. Our sessions always end with a time of worship which includes a bible story, a prayer, and some singing.

The Rev'd Jamie Gater

Safeguarding

We continue to update various members of our congregations with their D.B.S. renewal. Some members of the PCC plus others, have completed online Safeguarding training, so we are able to continue with Trinity Tots, Open the Book, Play Café, Little Seedlings and taking Holy Communion to the housebound, therefore extending our outreach to the wider community. There are various items in both churches, with contact details of who and where to contact, if there are concerns of abuse in children or vulnerable adults.

Marilyn Morris

Electoral Roll

The number of people on the Electoral Roll as reported to the APCM last year was 96 (64 at Holy Trinity and 32 at St Dunstan's). There were a few changes after this and the number at the end of the year was 99 (64 at Holy Trinity and 35 at St Dunstan's).

Wendy Stacey



Proclaiming the Gospel

Strategy & Vision

Our strategy and vision team, was newly created as a result of our away day. It consists of the Vicar, and other parish clergy, the Churchwardens and their deputies. Together this team has responsibility for the strategic priorities of the parish, ensuring that executive decisions are given operational effect.

This team held an away day in the new year, and have established clear priorities for the year ahead. They, with the wider standing committee, have begun to set PCC agendas to ensure focus on strategic policies, and they continue to hold and manage staffing decisions with the vicar.

The Strategy and Vision Team are keen to see appropriate training opportunities be taken up by members of the parish family, and as a result, 3 members of the congregation have been identified to train as Authorised Lay Ministers, one of whom will join the ministry team which is due to be formed in 2025.

Parish development has continued, as will be seen across this report, and I am pleased that there is a growing focus on our ministry to Children, Families and Young People, which we will be seeking to expand and develop through 2025 into 2026. The structures of the parish, including the disbanding of the DCCs to allow more efficient administration, are now better suited to enable us to focus on growth.

The Rev'd Jamie Gater

Communications

A new communications team is slowly coalescing and is looking to improve the ways in which we communicate with those who attend church, as well as those who don't yet. We intend to consider ways to extend the reach of the parish magazine, including expanding the range of content. We also feel it is time to improve the website as the 'front door' for many seeking to learn about us. Additionally, we are thinking about ways to engage with social media, and whether we might start using video media more, as a more direct means of communication.

The Rev'd Jamie Gater

Worship and Liturgy

2024 continued with the Interregnum and again we are extremely grateful to all the clergy who kindly led our worship and gave their time to our Parish. All the major festivals were celebrated, although some were moved to the nearest Sunday, i.e. Epiphany, Candlemas, Ascension and All Saints'. Through the year we continued our pattern of 8am and 10am services alternating between Holy Trinity and St Dunstan's. Our Worship Group continued to lead occasional services. These have been warmly received, leading a pre Lent, Eco Group, St Peter and Harvest services. There have been two occasions during the year when the Churchwardens led Morning Prayer. We have been pleased to have two Baptisms in the main Parish Communion welcoming children and babies into the Christian family.

During the year 'ecumenically' The 'World Day of Prayer' took place in March at the Baptist Church, the annual 'Walk of Witness' from Holy Trinity to the Baptist Church took place on Good Friday, the Remembrance Sunday service took place at Holy Trinity in November and Advent Sunday was celebrated with a Parish Communion at St Dunstan's.

I am pleased to say we have 10 members of the Choir who regularly sing for all services at Holy Trinity. Sadly, in the latter part of the year, Jean Curran and Tim Leeney died who will both be sadly missed. It was lovely to have a few past members of the Choir come back to sing at both funerals. Although small in number, we have continued to sing anthems at the majority of our services and manage to recruit one or two extras for special occasions. During late April, May and June the Choir were joined to make the Festival Choir, leading to our annual Charity Concert, which was a great success raising over £1,000 on the night. We completed the year by leading the Parish Carol Service which was a wonderful evening, ending our Christmas Tree Festival.

My grateful thanks for the support I have been given by all the congregation, not forgetting the Choir, who give such a commitment, throughout the year. At both churches, my thanks to Nicholas Smith, Chris Harris and Geoff Hempstead for playing the Organ, who have helped with services and also Weddings and Funerals, if I am unavailable.

Both Church Organs and the Piano have been tuned during the year. Hopefully the work needed on Holy Trinity's may happen when funds allow.

I look forward to continue music making throughout the Parish during the next year.

Simon Morris (Parish Director of Music)



Flowers at Holy Trinity and St Dunstan's

At both Holy Trinity and St Dunstan's we are very grateful to those who faithfully provide flowers throughout the year to enhance the buildings and give pleasure to the congregation and visitors. In both churches we have a small number of names on the rota but we are always able to put on good displays for the major festivals. We are grateful also for the donations we receive at Easter as a contribution to the cost of the Easter Flowers, often in memory of a loved one. We can always use an extra pair of hands so if you would like to help with the flowers please do get in touch.

Lin Smith (HT) and Wendy Stacey (StD)

Churches Together

We continue to meet on a regular basis with representatives of the Baptist Church. Together we organise the Good Friday Walk of Witness and the annual World Day of Prayer service which alternates between the Baptist Church and Holy Trinity. It is the custom for the two churches to join together for their main service on Advent Sunday. In 2024 the service was at St Dunstan's. It was a joy to see the two congregations coming together to worship and to enjoy fellowship together after the service. There was joint publicity for the Christmas services. There is a strong commitment by the two churches to expand the working together to serve the communities in Forest Row and Ashurst Wood and to spread the Gospel. As part of this they are working on plans for a service during Forest Row Festival.

Keith Stacey



For the Kingdom, the Church and the World

Support for charities

Holy Trinity Church and its community have supported various charities through direct giving and fundraising events. The Spencer Hooker Charity received £200 from the Forest Row Primary School Harvest service collection, while £100 was donated to the Bluebell Foundation's Christmas appeal for local children. Crawley Open House received £166 from the main Harvest Festival collection, and £100 was given to the Children's Society after the Christingle services. The annual summer charity concert raised £1,159 for church funds, with £100 donated to St Silvan's Area Charity. The new Festival of Remembrance was a great success, raising £900 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and £320 for the Surrey Yeomanry Band, replacing the long-standing Poppy Recital. Congregation members also contributed £229 to Jigsaw, a charity supporting bereaved children, and are now collecting for Reaching the Unreached in rural South India. Additionally, Ride and Stride participants raised £690 for the Sussex Historic Churches Trust, with half returned to the parish.

Keith Stacey

Parish Social and Fundraising

The parish hosted a variety of social and fundraising events throughout the year. The Parish New Year Social in January and the Summer Parish Social in August expressed gratitude to volunteers. Fundraisers included a Kidbrooke Singers concert for Holy Trinity, monthly coffee mornings at St Dunstan's, and a May plant sale. Jamie's licensing was marked with a social gathering, and June's annual Charity Concert, featuring the Holy Trinity Festival Choir and Lingfield Prep Orchestra, raised over £1,000. Harvest Thanksgiving included an open church with refreshments, a 'Hymns and Pimms' service, and a Cream Tea and Quiz. November's Festival of Remembrance supported both the Poppy Appeal and church funds. In autumn, Christmas cards were sold, and the Christmas Tree Festival welcomed community groups, culminating in the Parish Carol Service with mulled wine and festive refreshments, thanks to Graham Bedford, Roger Phillips, and Patrick Crawford for their organisation.

Keith Stacey

Knit and Natter

The Knit and Natter group, have met on most 1st Tuesday's of every month during the year. Although our numbers fluctuate from meeting to meeting, everyone continues with their craft, either for themselves or for Charity. We look forward to welcoming everyone, including new members, for a cup of coffee or tea, maybe biscuits or cake and a lot of talking, while hopefully some knitting, crocheting, needlework is undertaken.

Marilyn Morris

Interim

11 ladies are attending on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Church hall. We had two visits to Brambletye School this year. The first to see their production of "Around the World in Eighty Days" and the second an afternoon of music played by the children followed by a delicious tea. Both were very enjoyable. Again we entered a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival. Our usual Christmas lunch was postponed until the Spring. Our numbers are small but those who attend find it very beneficial.

Lyn Smith

The Community Cafe

The Community Café at St Dunstan's is a community-run initiative, actively supported and hosted by the Church, in its mission to build strong community links. The cafe provides a nutritious, affordable, sit-down Tuesday lunchtime meal, alongside companionship, and an opportunity to make new friends. Some 40 community volunteers fulfil the essential tasks of cooks, assistant cooks, waiting staff, drivers, caretaking, and administration/finance support, all under the continuing leadership of Frances Jupp. Grateful thanks are expressed to all. During 2024 the Café served 1,536 customers. This works out at 31.3 customers per operational week, the average almost identical to 2023 when 1,339 customers attended 42 sittings. In total 957 soups, 1,486 mains, and 1,165 puddings were cooked and sold. Feedback from customers remains universally positive.

Chris Rolley (Hon. Treasurer)

St Dunstan's Church Coffee Morning

We have continued to hold a Coffee Morning at St Dunstan's on the 2nd Saturdays of the month. Many people are regular attenders and enjoy meeting up with friends and it is an opportunity for new residents of Ashurst Wood to get to know people in the village. We held a plant sale in May which was very popular. We continue to sell marmalade and jam and homemade cakes and biscuits.

Alison Harman

Forest Wood 100 Club Report.

2024 proved to be a little disappointing when it began, as we were beset by losing some of our long standing subscribers. However, I am pleased to report that fresh members have filled many of vacant ticket numbers. Consequently, we have managed to supplement the PCC funds by the same amount as last year, that is £3,000.00. The benefit to our churches cannot be underestimated, for it helps sustain the ministry and buildings in our villages for everyone's future needs. This year the prizes (1st, 2nd & 3rd) each month are currently running out at a total of £260.00 and this will increase with a larger enrolment of course. We have spare tickets available for new members, or existing members who would like extra tickets to increase their winning chances. Each number costs £5.00 per month payable by Bankers Order (preferred), or a cheque, which will need balancing in October when renewals of £60.00 per ticket per annum will be applied. Enrolment forms are to be found in Holy Trinity and St Dunstan church buildings. During the latter half of 2024 our congregation has been growing, which is exciting, so let's see if we can't fund this growth in our missionary work, whilst having a bit of fun doing it.

Keith Major

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

St Dunstan's, Ashurst Wood

Throughout 2024, significant maintenance and improvements were carried out at St. Dunstan's Church to ensure it remains a welcoming, safe, and functional space for the community. Structural and fabric-related works included repairing a kitchen leak, replacing water-damaged flooring with a waterproof covering, fitting new glass in the porch to protect the entrance and Community Book Store, and clearing undergrowth around the undercroft steps for better access. To improve comfort, draught excluders were installed on the main church doors, an electric heater with a smart plug was added to complement the overhead infrared heating, and sponge edging was applied to a kitchen shelf to prevent injuries. Electrical and fire safety measures were prioritised with PAT testing of equipment, twice-yearly servicing of the automatic fire alarm system, replacement of a faulty fire alarm sensor in the spire, servicing and updating fire extinguishers, and replacing a faulty fuse on the main power supply. Enhancements to signage and accessibility included installing a new external noticeboard, updating signage with the Vicar's details, and adding a designated Vicar's parking space sign. Improvements to lighting included repairing faulty floodlights and adjusting the timer to illuminate the spire in the evenings. The Books of Remembrance, presented to the church by Julie Brown, became a valued community resource. Additionally, practical updates included repositioning the SumUp machine with an extended power supply and ensuring better safety and organisation in the Welcome space.

Peter Bramley - Churchwarden

St Stephen's Churchyard

The Church Building : A formal draft "Pastoral Scheme" was issued by the Church Commissioners in April 2021 to provide for the lease of the closed church and part of the Churchyard for "cultural, social, and community purposes and for occasional Christian worship." The period for representations to be made ended on the 27th May 2021. As far as I know the matter is still in the hands of Solicitors.

Churchyard Use: There were no burials and no interment of ashes in 2024. What ever happens to the church building, the church yard will remain open and available for use by anyone living in the parish of Forest Row.

Churchyard Maintenance: This has been taken over by gardeners instructed by St Dunstan's with some local involvement clearing round tablets. All seems to be working well at the moment.

Damage to the Churchyard Wall: The north wall was badly damaged by a car, the driver fled the scene and has never been traced. Fortunately the Diocese had insured the grounds and the wall is now being repaired at no cost to the church.

Graham Bedford

Holy Trinity, Forest Row

During the last year we have been able to fulfil a number of necessary repairs and issues. My grateful thanks to both Graham Bedford and Jeremy Kirk, who have continued to take control of our fabric maintenance and deal with the considerable amount of paperwork involved.

In the early part of the year, Julie Brown completed the Books of Remembrance for Holy Trinity being the anniversary of Forest Row residents by date of death or funeral. Our thanks to Julie for undertaking this and agreeing to update the books on an annual basis.

In the early part of the year Roof repairs were completed and a grant was received from the National Churches Trust. 'Smartwater' was also applied to most of the lead on the rear of the Church to deter thieves. This work remains to be completed and signage put in place.

In the Summer we had a small amount of damage done to the Porch door, but thankfully this was repaired resulting in a new door handle.

In November the Church boiler was condemned due to Carbon Monoxide leaking from the leaking flue and the nonavailability of replacement parts for the boiler itself. This resulted in 6 weeks of no heating, but thankfully new gas boilers were installed, a hybrid boiler system for both the Church and Hall just before Christmas. Phase 2 of this system, comprising an Air to Water Heat Pump is under current negotiation.

In the latter part of the year masonry on the east part of the Church fell away and damaged guttering. We await this repair to be done during 2025. This has also made us realise that the guttering for the whole Church needs replacing which had been brought up in the last Quinquennial.

Routine electrical repairs have been carried out throughout the year, including repair of heating convectors and replacement of light fittings in the Sanctuary. The Clock was serviced and Fire Extinguishers serviced.

The Organ and Piano have both been tuned during the year. The Organ trumpet stop needs work at some point as there is a high level of dirt, dust and grit which does not help the tuning. When money allows, we hope this could be rectified, although some form of cover may be needed to avoid this happening again, as it is close to the archway. The notice board was updated to reflect the appointment of our new vicar.

Our grateful thanks to Peter Noble who has lent us equipment to improve our sound system in the latter part of the year.

During the year, we have been pleased to welcome Sharon Yates who kindly comes and hoovers and cleans the Church for us. This is gratefully appreciated and certainly helps to keep the Church looking cared for. Thank you also to Jeff Horner, Roger Phillips, Patrick Crawford, Margaret and Chris Winton and Graham Bedford for grass cutting, caring for the garden and routine maintenance. It is always so wonderful that people enter our Church and Garden so regularly and that they have the opportunity to enjoy such welcoming environments.

The PCC especially place on record their thanks to Pamela Bainbridge, Carol Holden and Colin Keen who have very kindly opened and locked the Church through the year and help our Church stay open 7 days a week. My thanks to all members of the congregation who continue to make our Church such a special place in the lives of the community.

Simon Morris – Churchwarden



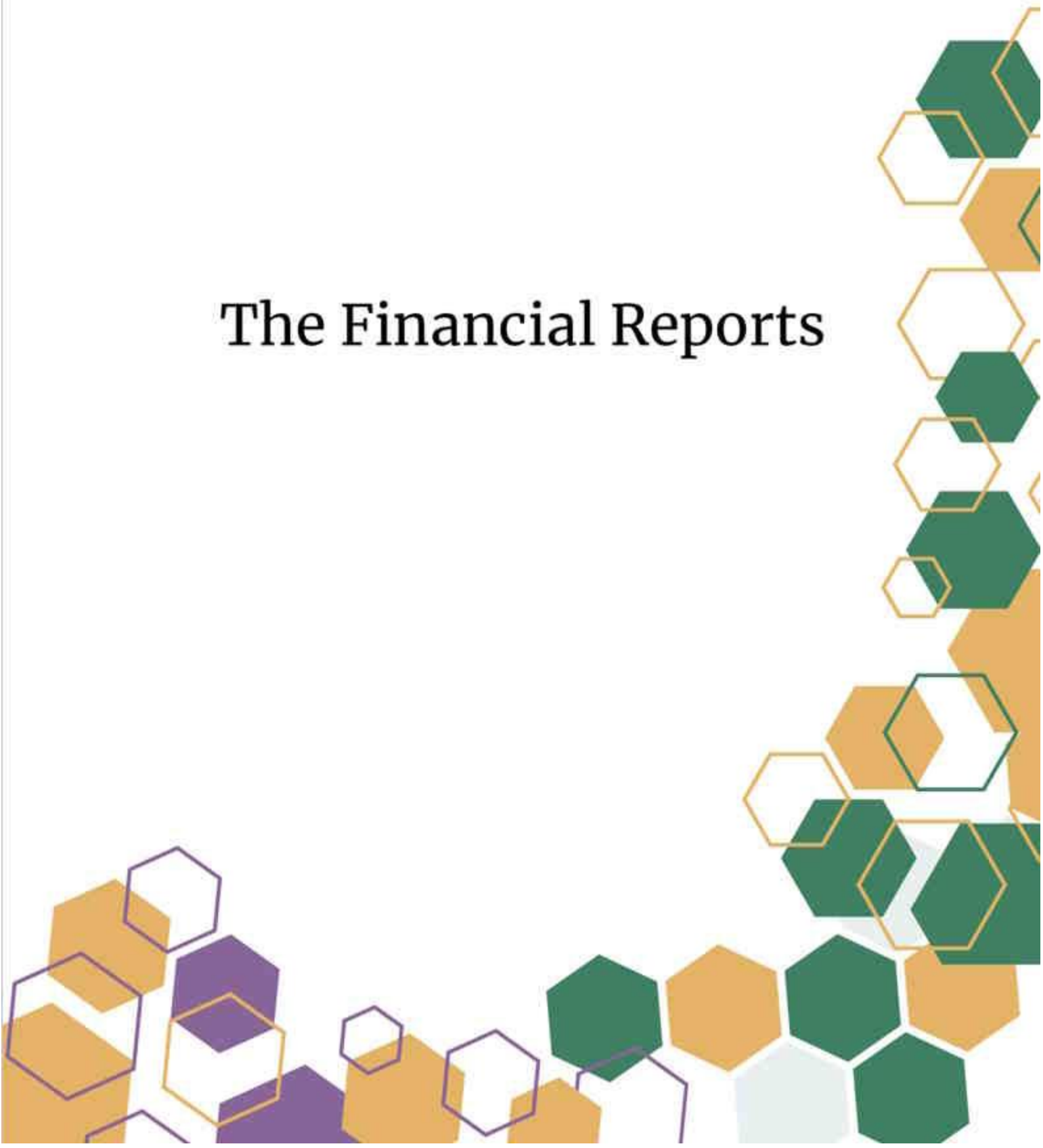
Eco church and Land management

Following the achievement of the ARocha Silver Award in 2023, the Eco Church Group is now working towards the Gold Award, having already reached Gold in the Worship and Teaching category, and aims to continue outdoor worship in church gardens, with plans to convert the wild area of St Stephen's Churchyard into a 'Meditation Garden'. Group members have researched environmentally-friendly alternatives to foam-based flower arrangements, such as coir and chicken wire, and a member has recently encouraged ministers, leaders, preachers, and intercessors to confidently preach on creation care and environmental issues, possibly supported by training. Through Parish News and PCC meetings, the group has outlined how the 360° carbon tool from Climate Stewards can help measure carbon footprints (excluding the 'Energy' section), and plans to develop a climate resilience action plan, participate in discussions about future non-fossil fuel energy supplies following a boiler replacement, and create a buildings operations plan focused on energy efficiency, aligning with the Church of England's goal to be carbon neutral by 2030. Additionally, the parish joined the Churches' Count on Nature event on June 9, 2024, to record wildlife in churchyards, is planning a village litter pick later this year, hosted a visit from the West Sussex Fair Trade Association before Christmas, and continues to embrace the challenge of fostering an ecologically-friendly church and community.

Patrick Crawford



The Financial Reports



Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Forest Row PCC

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Forest Row PCC (the charity) for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Darren Harding ACA FCCA DChA
Richard Place Dobson Services Limited
1-7 Station Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1HT
Dated:

FOREST ROW PCC
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year to December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023
	Notes					
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	3	66,738	-	-	66,738	64,957
Charitable Activities	4	5,939	-	-	5,939	6,596
Other trading activities	5	13,865	-	-	13,865	13,156
Investments	6	2,898	-	-	2,898	1,969
Other Income	7	4,098	-	-	4,098	1,473
Total Income		93,538	-	-	93,538	88,151
Expenditure on:						
Raising Funds	8	2,302	-	-	2,302	3,881
Charitable activities	9	99,766	-	-	99,766	90,434
Total Expenditure		102,068	-	-	102,068	94,315
Net gains /(losses) on investments	12	3,598	-	432	4,030	9,517
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		(4,932)	-	432	(4,500)	3,353
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(4,932)	-	432	(4,500)	3,353
Fund Balances at 1 January 2024		454,650	-	18,638	473,288	469,935
Fund Balances at 31 December 2024		449,718	-	19,070	468,788	473,288

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities

FOREST ROW PCC
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year to December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes				
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	64,407	550	-	64,957
Charitable Activities	4	6,596	-	-	6,596
Other trading activities	5	13,156	-	-	13,156
Investments	6	1,969	-	-	1,969
Other Income	7	1,473	-	-	1,473
Total Income		87,601	550	-	88,151
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	8	3,881	-	-	3,881
Charitable activities	9	89,884	550	-	90,434
Total Expenditure		93,765	550	-	94,315
Net gains /(losses) on investments	12	7,937	-	1,580	9,517
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		1,773	-	1,580	3,353
Gross transfers between funds		81,247	(81,247)	-	-
Net movement in funds		83,020	(81,247)	1,580	3,353
Fund Balances at 1 January 2023		371,630	81,247	17,058	469,935
Fund Balances at 31 December 2023		454,650	-	18,638	473,288

FOREST ROW PCC
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	14		306,383		306,383
Investments	15		93,496		89,466
			<u>399,879</u>		<u>395,849</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors	16	4,274		3,870	
Cash at Bank and in hand	17	<u>68,304</u>		<u>77,430</u>	
		72,578		81,300	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
	18	<u>(3,669)</u>		<u>(3,861)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>68,909</u>		<u>77,439</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>468,788</u>		<u>473,288</u>
Capital Funds					
Endowment Funds					
General Endowment Funds (Expendable)	19		19,070		18,638
Income Funds					
Restricted Funds					
Unrestricted Funds	20		449,718		454,650
Total Funds			<u>468,788</u>		<u>473,288</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 13/4/25

Revd Jamie Gater
Chair

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Constitution, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provision in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies are set out below.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount.

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting Policies

(Continued)

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classed by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings: Not depreciated

The gain or loss arising on disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting Policies

(Continued)

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financial transaction, when the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financial transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or service that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting Policies

(Continued)

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis, revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3 Donations and Legacies	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and Gifts	66,738	-	66,738	64,407	550	64,957
Donations and Gifts						
Planned giving (excl tax refunds)	37,836		37,836	36,430		36,430
Collections at Services	9,424		9,424	5,928		5,928
Gift Days and Donations	12,378		12,378	13,178		13,178
Gift aid recoverable	5,883		5,883	8,871		8,871
Other grants	1,218		1,218	-	550	550
	66,738	-	66,738	64,407	550	64,957
4 Charitable Activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	5,939	-	5,939	6,596	-	6,596
5 Other trading activities						
Fundraising Events	4,426		4,426	4,880		4,880
Lettings etc	9,439		9,439	8,276		8,276
	13,865	-	13,865	13,156	-	13,156.00
6 Interest	2,898	-	2,898	1,969	-	1,969
7 Other Income	4,098	-	4,098	1,473	-	1,473
8 Raising Funds						
Church Hall running costs	2,302	-	2,302	3,881	-	3,881.00
9 Charitable activities						
Staff Costs	12,100		12,100	11,033		11,033
Diocesan Parish Share	27,000		27,000	28,000		28,000
Clergy and other persons expenses	872		872	1,339		1,339
Church Maintenance & Upkeep	29,629		29,629	29,696		29,696
Vicarage Costs	3,565		3,565	-		-
Upkeep of services	1,809		1,809	1,778		1,778
Upkeep of churchyard and garden	357		357	238		238
Church running costs	15,060		15,060	14,803		14,803
Charitable grants and donations	2,135		2,135	701	550	1,251
Fees	4,295		4,295	2,211		2,211
Sundry expenses	2,944		2,944	85		85
	99,766	-	99,766	89,884	550	90,434

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

10 Trustees

During the year, Churchwarden Simon Morris received £6,216 (2023: £6,216) for his role as Director of Music. Under diocesan guidelines, working expenses of £525 (2023: £1,339) were paid to the Vicar (Chair of PCC). A total of £NIL (2023: £243) was reimbursed to other trustees during the year for expenses incurred.

11 Employees

	2024	2023
The average monthly number of employees during the year was:	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Employment Costs	£	£
Wages and Salaries	<u>12,100</u>	<u>11,033</u>

No remuneration was paid to those who were considered key management personnel. There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

12 Net gains /losses on investments

	Unrestricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revaluation	3,598	432	4,030	7,937	1,580	9,517

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

14 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land and buildings
	£
Cost	
At 1 January 2024	307,283
At 31 December 2024	<u>307,283</u>
Depreciation and Impairment	
At 1 January 2024	900
At 31 December 2024	<u>900</u>
Carrying Amount	
At 1 January 2024	306,383
At 31 December 2024	<u>306,383</u>

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

15 Fixed Asset Investments

		Investments	
		2024	2023
		£	£
Cost or valuation			
As at 1 January		89,466	79,949
Valuation changes		4,030	9,517
As at 31st December 2024		93,496	89,466
Comprised of:			
CBF Investment Fund			
Forest Row: CBF Investment Fund	1,175.8 units	73,796	70,211
Sinderson Trust: CBF Investment Fund	118.43 units	8,255	8,070
Stipend Fund : CBF Investment Fund	144.97 units	10,104	9,879
Moore Sinderson Trust	10.48 units	710	689
COIF Investment Shares			
McGrath Trust	31.1 units	631	617
		93,496	89,466

16 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gift Aid due	4,274	3,822
Prepayments and accrued income	-	48
	4,274	3,870

17 Cash at Bank and in hand

		Cash	
		2024	2023
		£	£
Current Accounts			
Santander		10,970	16,947
Co-op		2,861	3,448
Barclays		2,997	6,095
Barclays		770	750
Barclays		69	69
CBF Deposit Funds			
Forest Row PCC		40,400	40,400
Forest Row Griffiths Bequest		6,721	6,382
St Dunstons Maintenance		3,436	3,263
St Dunstons		80	76
As at 31st December		68,304	77,430

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent Examination Fee	2,100	2,400
Repairs	-	189
Energy Costs	1,569	1,272
Total	<u>3,669</u>	<u>3,861</u>

19 Endowment Funds

Endowment funds represent assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included in unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the assets form part of the fund.

	Balance at 1 Jan 23	Rev'ns Gains & Losses	Balance at 1 Jan 24	Rev'ns Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 24
	£	£	£	£	£
Expendable Endowments					
Moore/Sinderson Trust	653	36	689	21	710
Sinderson Trust	7,376	694	8,070	185	8,255
Stipend Endowment Trust	9,029	850	9,879	226	10,105
	<u>17,058</u>	<u>1,580</u>	<u>18,638</u>	<u>432</u>	<u>19,070</u>

20 Restricted Funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes

	Balance at 1 Jan 23	Incoming Resources	Movement in Funds Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 23
	£	£	£	£	£
Holy Trinity Refurbishment Fund	81,247	0	0	(81,247)	0
Spire Lighting Grant	0	50	(50)	0	0
Warm Room Grant	0	500	(500)	0	0
	<u>81,247</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>(550)</u>	<u>(81,247)</u>	<u>0</u>

No Restricted Funds in 2024

Holy Trinity Refurbishment Fund - Represented work carried out at Holy Trinity Church to form a kitchen area, install a toilet and refurbish the vestry. The transfer represented funds spent on these works that have been capitalised.

Spire Lighting Grant - represented a grant received to light Holy Trinity spire at night

Warm Room Grant - represented a grant received to run warm rooms during the winter at Holy Trinity

FOREST ROW PCC**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****21 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances at 31 December are represented by:			
Tangible Assets	306,383		306,383
Investments	74,426	19,070	93,496
Current Assets/ (liabilities)	68,910		68,910
	<u>449,719</u>	<u>19,070</u>	<u>468,789</u>

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 December are represented by:			
Tangible Assets	306,383		306,383
Investments	70,828	18,638	89,466
Current Assets/ (liabilities)	77,439		77,439
	<u>454,650</u>	<u>18,638</u>	<u>473,288</u>

22 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none)



Contact Us



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FOREST ROW
PARISH CHURCHES

A Growing Family : Proclaiming the Gospel :
For the Kingdom, the Church and the World

Accounts



**FOREST ROW PARISH
ANNUAL REPORT
2023**



**The Annual Report of the Trustees
of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Forest Row
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row

St Dunstan's Church, Ashurst Wood

St Stephen's Church, Hammerwood (Closed)

Registered Charity no. 1132867

Website: www.frparish.co.uk

Incumbent: Vacant

Independent
Examiner: Richard Place Dobson, Chartered Accountants
1—7 Station Road, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1HT

Bankers: Santander UK plc, Bootle
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Parochial Church Council of Forest Row

Trustees Annual Report for 2023

Introduction

2023 has been a learning curve for all of us. Although, the Venerable Angela officially didn't leave until the middle of April, we really felt our interregnum had started in January, as Angela along with Gareth, was on Sabbatical. Our grateful thanks to them both for their nearly nine years in our Parish. Many thanks for always being there in the face of our community, at public occasions and being able to support many through times of joy and sadness with Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. Also, through the pandemic, she produced numerous services on line, thanks to all the technical help which she received from her family and she started Morning Prayer on line, which continues and organised the weekly bulletin. This is a great form of outreach and mission to our Parish, as this goes out to over 160 every week.

During the year our numbers at regular services have been constant, but it is sad that some have not returned since pre-Covid. We are relying on a relatively small number trying to keep our Churches running and unfortunately nobody is getting any younger! This again has had an impact on the governance of the church. This year we have not been able to fill all the places on our Parochial Church Council, meaning we have only three quarters of the number of people we need to run as an effective PCC. We are grateful to those who have volunteered their time and talent and would like to make it known that without their time and dedication we would be in a very difficult position. Particularly, we need to say thank you to Ian King and Keith Stacey, who have kept the Church and Parochial accounts through the year.

With the very grateful help of many clergy, especially Revd Chris Sutton, Revd Karen Higgs and Revd Canon Julia Peaty, we have been able to keep our normal pattern of services running for the majority of the year.

We have celebrated all the major festivals with great gusto and despite the reduced numbers, the celebrations of Epiphany, Candlemas, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, Ascension, Trinity, Harvest, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas have been kept with fervent prayer and praise. We have also continued to faithfully meet together on zoom for daily morning prayer.

MISSION

Throughout the year it has been wonderful to have a mix of Clergy, listening to various preachments, which has for many been inspirational.

More people have taken up reading 'New Daylight' a publication with daily scripture readings and meditations. Our morning prayer group spend time thinking about the various saints and martyrs as well as reflecting on scripture.

During Lent, we met in Holy Trinity Hall and studied the Diocesan Lent Course 'Who then is this?' written especially for the year of the Old Testament. All those who attended participated and shared in each session.

During Advent, unfortunately for the first time, we didn't participate in a course. Hopefully, this will start again in the future.

The monthly Parish News goes out to over 450 in Forest Row, Ashurst Wood and Hammerwood. Our grateful thanks to Michael Ricks and Wendy Stacey for all the ongoing work they put into this publication.

The weekly on line bulletin, that goes out to over 160, keeps many in touch with the Churches' services and activities and hopefully will encourage more to enter our doors on a more regular basis.

Mission is all about joining in with God's work, it does mean that God's work doesn't get done if we don't do it. It means that if we lose touch with our creator, we miss out on the blessings we receive when we join in with his work.

Conclusion

2023 has been a challenging year for our Churches and thankfully we have survived. Looking forward, we hope and pray that our Profile will help to encourage a new Priest to come to our Parish, to lead us in our worship and hopefully to help our Churches to grow and continue to be central to both our villages.

Simon Morris and June Spoor



Statutory Reports

Fabric Goods and Ornaments

Holy Trinity Church

During the last year we have been able to fulfil a number of necessary repairs and issues. My grateful thanks to Graham Bedford, who continues to take control of our fabric maintenance and also reports to the DCC through the year.

Roof repairs to the Hall are still ongoing. During the year we negotiated a grant from the National Churches Trust of £1,288. With the scaffolding having been erected recently, we hope the work will have been completed by the date of the APCM.

A number of gas leaks have been repaired and routine boiler maintenance has been carried out. With this a few problems were encountered. We now have a specialist firm looking after the hall warm air boiler.

During the year we commenced research into options for replacement of our ageing boiler, including electrical infrared, air to water heat pumps and simply a new gas boiler. This is an ongoing situation.

Routine electrical repairs including repair of heating convectors and replacement of one external light fitting, have been carried out.

The hall was used as a "Warm Room" during the winter months 2022/2023. The local Parish Council made a grant of £750 towards our additional heating costs.

The clock was serviced as usual and thankfully has kept to time!

The organ blower was serviced in July. The organ and piano have both been tuned once during the year. The organ trumpet stop needs work at some point as there is a high level of dirt, dust and grit which does not help the tuning. When money allows, we hope this could be rectified, although some form of cover may be needed to avoid this happening again, as it is close to the archway.

The sound system continues to be monitored.

A new lock has been fitted on the coffee cupboard door.

The damaged sign board at St Stephen's Hammerwood was repaired, painted and put back up.

During the year, the Church has had an occasional 'spring' clean and my grateful thanks to those who have helped on these occasions. Thank you to Jeff Horner and his team for grass cutting during the year and also to Graham Bedford, who is also helping with the garden alongside the Vicarage garden. It is always so wonderful that people enter our Church and garden so regularly and that they have the opportunity to enjoy such welcoming environments.

My special thanks go to Pamela Bainbridge and Carol Holden who have very kindly opened and locked the Church through the year and help our Church stay open 7 days a week.

My thanks to all members of the congregation who continue to make our Church such a special place in the lives of the community.

Simon Morris – Churchwarden

St Dunstan's Church

Fabric

By far the most significant project in 2023 has been the replacement of the heating system in the worship area. This time last year a decision had been taken to replace the gas powered hot air blower system with new electric infra-red heaters. A decision on the application for a faculty for the new system was awaited. The choice of new system was based partly on cost but more importantly on the environmental benefits of changing from gas to electric. The new system has been in use since October and is working satisfactorily.

The flat roof adjoining the office has been repaired following storm damage. This involved covering the whole area with fibreglass and finishing with fibreglass impregnated paint which should give it a long life. The cost, excluding the excess of £250, was met by the insurers.

The gable ends at the front and rear of the Church have been repainted and essential re-pointing has been undertaken. The servicing of the hall boiler, fire alarm system, fire extinguishers and kitchen shutters has been undertaken as well as the tuning of the organ.

Ornaments

A plaque has been placed at the entrance to the hall recognising the generous bequest by Don Rootes which enabled the replacement of the church heating system.

June Spoor, Churchwarden

St Stephen's Churchyard, Hammerwood

The Church Building

A formal draft "Pastoral Scheme" was issued by the Church Commissioners in April 2021 to provide for the lease of the closed church and part of the Churchyard for "cultural, social, and community purposes and for occasional Christian worship." The period for representations to be made ended on the 27th May 2021. As far as I know the matter is still in the hands of Solicitors.

Churchyard Use

There were no burials and no interment of ashes. What ever happens to the church building, the churchyard will remain open and available for use by anyone living in the parish of Forest Row.

Churchyard Maintenance

This has been carried out by me with help from Kate Bryant. We will re-commence mowing in the spring, that is, if it ever dries up enough!

The Quinquennial Inspections of Holy Trinity and St Dunstan's were carried out in 2021/22 but the graveyard at St Stephens was not included in either. It was hoped that responsibility for most of the perimeter walling and the lych gate would have transferred to a new lease holder by now but that has not happened yet. If we are to remain liable for the maintenance of those elements, then financial provision needs to be made for maintenance. At the moment, we only mow the areas used for ashes and burials together with the grass paths. Some work was done on trees and shrubs which were beginning to obstruct access.

Notice Board

The notice board, damaged by a falling branch, was refurbished, painted and re-erected on new posts.

Graham Bedford



Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

We continue to update various members of our congregations with their DBS renewal. Some members of the PCC plus others, have completed online safeguarding training, so we are able to continue with Open the Book, Play Café, Little Saplings (Sunday School) and taking Holy Communion to the housebound, therefore extending our outreach to the wider community.

There are various items in both churches with contact details of who and where to contact if there are concerns of abuse in children or vulnerable adults.

Marilyn Morris

Music and Worship

2023 has certainly been a challenging year, with Angela on Sabbatical from January to March and then we were officially into our Interregnum in the middle of April. As already stated, we have been extremely grateful to all the clergy who have kindly led our worship and given their time to our Parish.

All the major festivals have been celebrated, although some were moved to the nearest Sunday, i.e. Epiphany, Candlemas, Ascension and All Saints'. Through the year we continued our pattern of 8am and 10am services alternating between Holy Trinity and St Dunstan's. Our Worship Group has continued to lead services on the 5th Sunday of the month. These have been warmly received, leading Candlemas, an Easter service, Summer service and Bible Sunday. The group would welcome more support if anyone would like to join them. There have only been three occasions during the year when the Churchwardens have led twice with Morning Prayer and the Harvest Thanksgiving. In May we held a Coronation Celebration Service for Charles III with Afternoon Cream Tea.

During the year 'ecumenically' the 'World Day of Prayer' took place in March at the Baptist Church, the annual 'Walk of Witness' from Holy Trinity to the Baptist Church took place on Good Friday, the Remembrance Sunday service took place at Holy Trinity in November and Advent Sunday was celebrated at the Baptist Church.

I am pleased to say we have 10 members of the choir who regularly sing for all services at Holy Trinity.

Sadly, in the latter part of the year, Kay Taylor died at the grand age of nearly 102. A great achievement for a wonderful lady, who was an inspiration to us all. It was lovely to have a few past members of the choir come back to sing at her funeral. Although small in number, we have continued to sing anthems at the majority of our services and manage to recruit one or two extras for special occasions. During late April, May and June the choir were joined to

make the Festival Choir, leading to our annual Charity Concert, which was a great success raising £800. We completed the year by leading the Parish Carol Service which was a wonderful evening, ending our Christmas Tree Festival.

My grateful thanks for the support I have been given by all the congregation, not forgetting the choir, who give such a commitment, throughout the year. My thanks to Nicholas Smith, Chris Harris and Geoff Hempstead for playing the organ helping with services and also Weddings and Funerals at both churches if I am unavailable.

Both Church organs and the piano have been tuned during the year. Hopefully the work needed on Holy Trinity's may happen when funds allow.

I look forward to continue music making throughout the Parish during the next year.

Simon Morris (Parish Director of Music)



Children's Work

Open the Book



I would first like to pay tribute to the work Rev Rosie Hewson did to establish and maintain the work of Open the Book at Ashurst Wood School. Her enthusiasm is much missed. Since I took over the administration of Open the Book and engaged with the team we have been able to visit the school most months. I am pleased to welcome Lynne and Stephen Fallowell to the team, which now numbers 8 members. On February 12th we are hosting a regional training day and are excited to see how we can grow the work of Open the Book from here.

Reverend Karen Higgs

Schools

Forest Row Primary School

Since January, I have been leading worship once a month at the school following their Values of Fairness, Respect, Hope, Responsibility, Love and Kindness and Resilience. In addition to this the school have attended Holy Trinity to celebrate major festivals. The feedback from the school and the children has been positive and all enjoy these celebrations. The school recently underwent a Siam's inspection which concluded in its findings 'that Forest Row Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a church school.'

The report also acknowledged the improved partnership with the church. The school is building a stronger partnership with the parish church and local clergy. As a result, worship is led by clergy once a month and church leaders are a positive presence around the school. There is a growing relationship with other local churches and ministers lead worship in school. Harvest Festival, the Christmas Carol Service, Easter and the leavers service are celebrated at Holy Trinity church. These special times are thoroughly enjoyed and very well attended by pupils and family members.

We continue to look forward to further opportunities to engage with the school throughout the year.

Reverend Karen Higgs

Ashurst Wood Primary School

Since the spring I have been visiting the school once a month to take an afternoon assembly. This has been a wonderful way to follow up from the Open the Book assemblies and to keep continuity. This improved contact with the school has led to the school visiting St Dunstan's for both Harvest and Christmas services. Led by Deborah Matthews another successful Christingle service was held, attended by children from the school and their parents. In addition to this a small group of children and the Headteacher, Lisa Hobby, attended the Remembrance Service and laid a wreath at the memorial. We look forward to continued opportunities to engage with the school throughout the year.

Reverend Karen Higgs

Play Groups

St Dunstan's Play Café

We were all very sad to lose our lovely friend, Janet, who died in August. Janet helped to start up the Play Café and we really miss her sense of fun, her wise words and her skill in interacting with parents and little ones.

St Dunstan's Play Café will be celebrating its second Birthday on 17th March 2024.

During this past year Julie, Helen and Brenda have welcomed two new volunteers – Chris Slater and Jean Bloom to help us run the Play Café and they are valued members of our group.

We continue to run the Play Café every Friday in West Sussex term-time. To fit in with the village Primary School and Pre-School start times, we changed our start and finish time and we now open the Play Café from 9:00am and run until 11:00am. We provide hot and cold drinks, biscuits and toddler snacks in a warm, friendly environment.

We have kept our set up of toys the same as when we started and have had some lovely toys and craft items donated to us by a local family. There is an area especially for babies and plenty of toys for toddlers, including a 'home' corner', dressing up clothes, books, puzzles and an activity table for the older children featuring crafts such as play dough, colouring, cutting and sticking and some themed activities depending on the time of year.

During 2023 we welcomed 41 families, with a total of 53 children and babies. We have started to welcome more families from surrounding areas who have become regular members of our group.

During the summer when the weather is warmer, we continue to use the Church garden, putting out ride-on toys, 'playground chalks', bubbles and water play. We have chairs and picnic blankets for the adults and babies and have toys for the babies and toddlers as well.

St Dunstan's Play Café is continuing to be a thriving parent/carer and baby/toddler group in our village. We are very pleased with how the Play Café is going and feel we are providing a much-needed space for local families. We have received positive feedback from our families and we are looking forward to the year ahead.

Julie Brown, Helen Dennis, Brenda Evans, Chris Slater & Jean Bloom

Eco Church

As Simon has mentioned, in 2023 it felt as though the interregnum had begun in January when Angela and Gareth went on Sabbatical. The Eco-Church Group felt somewhat adrift, as Gareth had been our Chairman and we hadn't actually considered the 'succession'! However we decided to try and carry on and Patrick has ably taken the lead in checking our status on the A Rocha website and he was agreeably surprised to find that we were nearer to achieving the Silver Award than we had thought, so that has been our focus in recent months.

It was felt that we needed to concentrate a little more on the Community and Global Engagement element and, while we couldn't organise a Green Fair at short notice, we did have a 'Green stall' at the Twinning Fair, with plenty of material available to provide starting points for conversations with members of the public, which proved interesting.

As regards to charities, we have been actively supporting Water Aid in the last year and it is regularly mentioned in the intercessions on Sundays. Our parish also supports Christian Aid and takes part in the World Day of Prayer.

We have gradually been able to engage more with the community and the 'new' Forest Row Parish Council elected last May. We were able to support the Christmas Trail, organised by the Forest Row Business Forum, which was a great success and brought many young families into the church. We hope to pursue closer cooperation with such events.

(Note: In the last few weeks confirmation has been received that our parish has achieved the A Rocha Silver Award. Much of the credit should go to Patrick who has worked hard to support our application. We have decided to take a break for now to consolidate, in the hope that a new vicar may soon be appointed and then we may 'go for gold'!)

The Eco Church Team – Julie Martin, Brenda Evans, Peter McLaren, Patrick Crawford.

Churches Together

We continue to meet on a regular basis with representatives of the Baptist Church. We continue with the Good Friday Walk of Witness starting at Holy Trinity Church and finishing at the Baptist Church with fellowship and refreshments.

The two churches organise a service on the World Day of Prayer. This alternates between the Baptist Church, Holy Trinity and St Dunstan's. It has now become the custom for our joint service at Advent to be the main morning service for both churches. This is normally at the Baptist Church. It is well attended and is part of our working together. We continue to discuss other ways of working together in a visible way in the villages.

Keith Stacey

Interim

12 ladies are attending on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Church hall. We had our usual Christmas lunch but this year at the Three Crowns, Ashurst Wood which was enjoyed by all who attended. Again we entered a tree at Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival called Baubles of Friendship. We are hoping to have a talk by one of our ladies on working for British Airways but in the mean time people seem to be happy chatting and having coffee.

Lin Smith



Outreach

Support for Charities

Given the financial situation the churches find themselves in the opportunities to support charities have been limited. However, they support charities during the year where they can and the congregations continue to respond well to appeals for specific projects. £497 was donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal being the church collections and money raised by the annual concert. £101 was donated to the Children's Society following the Christingle Service. The annual summer charity concert at Holy Trinity raises money for a different charity each year and £100 was donated to the Wildlife Fund, the charity nominated by the musicians.

Members of the congregations continue to use the collecting tubs to collect small change for a nominated charity. This is a good way of raising £200 or £300 for a small charity project that can make a real difference. £334 was sent to Spotlight Uk, early in the year. This charity provides emotional and practical support to help increase the confidence and esteem of children and young people. We are currently collecting for Jigsaw, a local charity supporting children and young people through bereavement following the loss of a parent or sibling.

Patrick Crawford raised £435 (plus more through Gift Aid) for the Sussex Historic Churches Trust, cycling the lanes of East Sussex and Kent, visiting a variety of churches.

Keith Stacey

100 Club

Over the year we lost a couple of subscriptions, but as time progressed new members filled and then exceeded the previous numbers. We now have an end of year total of 113 tickets throughout our members. In consequence the monthly prize money has fluctuated, but currently stands at £272. This brings in a much needed boost to our Parish funds, but there is every need to climb to a higher total if at all possible. So if you meet anyone who might be interested in joining please encourage them to do so. Currently church funds are being boosted by £3,000 a year which is great, but could we make it £4,000 by this time next year? Maybe an extra ticket or two in your own membership? To conclude, I would like to thank everyone who contributes at present, without their generous support we would be in even greater financial difficulty than we are now.

Thank you.

Keith Major

Community Cafe at St Dunstan's

This is the 2023 annual report for the Community Café. The year was disrupted in the peak summer due to August closure to give volunteers a break, followed by the heating works within the Church itself which resulted in extending this closure by two weeks into early September on grounds of health and safety. Other than that, the café operated seamlessly the remainder of the year.

Some 40 volunteers fulfilling the essential tasks of cooks, assistant cooks, waiting staff, drivers, care taking, and administration/finance support, all under the continuing leadership of Frances Jupp, provided an outstanding Tuesday lunchtime service to customers, regular and occasional, and grateful thanks are expressed to all.

During 2023 the café served 1,339 (1,466) customers. In total 884 (874) soups, 1,269 (1,366) mains, and 1,088 (1,203) puddings were cooked and sold. The figures in brackets indicate the comparable figures for the previous year. Total

income from the sale of meals, including gratuities, totalled £9,590.57 (£9,790.37), while outgoings, including the cost of food and kitchen-related supplies, rent, a donation to St. Dunstan's Church of £370, and charity donations of £125 each to St. Catherine's Hospice and Evelina London Children's Charity, totalled £9,029.78 (£9,621.33). The weekly rent to the Church was £60 per week, which reflects both preparatory work in the kitchen on Mondays and use of the halls and kitchen on the Tuesdays. Prices of starters, mains and puddings remained unchanged at respectively £2, £4, and £2.

As of 31 December 2023, the café's accounts shows as £4,079. 14, slightly up on the previous year, when they stood at £3,529.35. The accounts have been independently examined by Mrs Alexandra Durrant, Chartered Accountant, in a personal capacity who, having examined the accounting records, bank statements, and invoices, confirmed that the accounts for the year "show a fair and balanced view of the transactions for 2023."

C J Rolley, Honorary Treasurer

Knit and Natter at Holy Trinity

The Knit and Natter group, have met on most first Tuesdays of the month during the year. Although our numbers fluctuate from meeting to meeting, everyone continues with their craft, either for themselves or for charity. We look forward to welcoming everyone, including new members, for a cup of coffee or tea, maybe biscuits or cake and a lot of talking, while hopefully some knitting, crocheting or needlework is undertaken.

Marilyn Morris

Coffee Mornings at St Dunstan's Church

Coffee mornings on the 2nd Saturday of each month have continued to be held at St Dunstan's throughout the year. We provide an informal space in Ashurst Wood to come and meet and have a chat. Our annual plant sale was held in May, which is always very popular.

Home made cakes, marmalade, jam and chutney are available for sale, all funds going to support St Dunstan's church.

Alison Harman

Holy Trinity Flowers



Flowers are arranged throughout the year to enhance the beauty of the building and give pleasure to those who attend the services and visit the Church. There are 6 ladies on the rota who provide flowers except in the seasons of Lent and Advent. This is augmented by another 5 who help decorate for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Thank you to all these ladies. We are grateful for the donations we receive at Easter as a contribution to the cost of the Easter flowers in memory of a loved one. If you would like to help with the flowers please do get in touch.

Lin Smith

St Dunstan's Flowers

Very many thanks to all our flower arrangers who faithfully provide flowers in the church throughout the year. We are few in number but work together as a team for the three major festivals – Easter, Harvest and Christmas and an occasional wedding! We are grateful also for the donations we receive at Easter as a contribution to the cost of the Easter Flowers, often in memory of a loved one. We can always use an extra pair of hands so if you would like to help with the flowers please do get in touch.

Wendy Stacey



Parish Day

During the successful “parish day” in November 2022, to which all members of the congregation were invited, the first three booklets in the CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) course materials were used, looking at the questions “Why does the Church exist”, “Why does the PCC exist” and “What is the best way to conduct our meetings”. We intend to hold a second parish day using the remaining three booklets: “Reviewing church life - worship”, “Reviewing church life - mission” and “Reviewing church life - community” Again, all members of the congregation will be invited, and we hope that as a result more will feel moved to join the PCC and DCC’s.

Tim Leeney and Keith Major

Social and Fundraising

Holy Trinity

A time of fellowship after services has again been very popular throughout the year. As a Parish we had the opportunity to say goodbye to Angela and Gareth at St Dunstan’s on April 16th when Cheese and Wine were served and gifts were presented, as part of our thank you for the nearly nine years they had been with us.

In May we celebrated the Coronation of Charles III and Queen Camilla, with a thanksgiving service followed by an Afternoon Cream Tea with Quiz, which was very successful and enjoyed by all those who attended.

In June the annual Charity Concert took place, with the Holy Trinity Festival Choir and Lingfield Prep Orchestra performing, raising £800 towards our Churches.

In September the annual ‘Ride and Stride’ took place, raising money for our Churches as well as Sussex Historic Churches Trust. Our thanks to Patrick Crawford and to all those who sponsored him.

As part of our Harvest Thanksgiving, Holy Trinity was opened to view the flowers and have light refreshments. As well as the Harvest service, in the afternoon a Cream Tea and a Quiz were held to finish a successful weekend.

In November, the R.B.L. Poppy Recital took place with Margaret Watson, Harp and Simon Morris, Piano, raising money jointly for the Poppy Appeal and our Churches.

During the autumn, Christmas Cards were available at both Churches. The weekend before Christmas the now annual ‘Christmas Tree Festival’ took place, which again brought many organisations and the community into the Church. Our grateful thanks to Graham Bedford and Patrick Crawford who helped to organise the event. The Festival concluded with the Parish Carol Service with Mulled Wine and Christmas refreshments afterwards.

Simon Morris – Churchwarden



St Dunstan’s

As previously mentioned the monthly coffee mornings continued throughout the year. Attendances have fluctuated but these provide a good opportunity for fellowship with the wider community and are a good source of income. We are grateful to Alison Harman for continuing to organise these and for her home-made marmalade, jam and mincemeat. The plant sale and other stalls at the May coffee morning were again very popular boosting the income in that month. The total received in 2023 from the coffee mornings etc was £1,177. We are indebted to Alison for her ongoing commitment to the success of the coffee mornings.

Richard Gooderson organised a Ukulele Concert in May which again proved popular and raised £265.

Our involvement in the Christmas Market changed this year. Instead of providing the mulled wine we served teas and coffee along with a choice of cakes. These proved popular and raised £130. The Market is now a slightly smaller affair. However, it is a good opportunity for the Church to be seen active in the community and, like the coffee mornings, provided an opportunity to renew acquaintances.

We were able to sell most of the remaining supply of note pads and Christmas Cards made by Rachel Hutchinson raising an additional £50.

Keith Stacey

A great way to contribute to the work and ministry of the Parish is by using our QR code.



Financial Review:

It will be seen from the accounts that the PCC generated a surplus in 2023. However, this was only made possible by the Diocese agreeing part way through the year to our request for a reduction of £12,000 in our original Parish Share pledge of £40,000.

Having taken into account the level of regular income, the PCC felt obliged to pledge to make Parish Share payments in 2024 of £1,000 a month. To put this into perspective, the full Parish Ministry Cost for a parish with a full time stipendiary Minister in 2024 is £81,445 and for a parish with a half time post is £52,557. The Diocese have been sympathetic and understand that it is difficult to increase income significantly during an interregnum but Parish Share payments at this level cannot carry on.

Going forward, to sustain our two churches we have to ask the congregation to review their giving and to increase it where possible. The Annual Report highlights some successful fundraising projects that have been held during the year and we are grateful to the organisers of these events. However, they have made a comparatively small contribution to overall income. The PCC are shortly to launch a Just Giving project with the aim of raising the money for major items of expenditure required, particularly at Holy Trinity.

We are grateful for the continuing support from the Forest Wood Lottery.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to hold surplus funds over and above working balances, representing six months of current expenditure. This allows for large and unanticipated expenditure to be easily met. Although future costs have reduced thanks to the reduction in the Parish Share, we have not been able to hold such an amount.

Treasurer

Over a year ago Ian King gave notice that he wished to relinquish the role of Treasurer. He has fulfilled the role since 2015 and we owe it to him to find a replacement. Steps have been taken to try to do so, personal approaches and advertising, but so far without success. Although he has now resigned, Ian has reluctantly continued to keep the books with some assistance. The PCC are duty bound to have a Treasurer and, in the event of failure to appoint one, the duties would fall upon the Churchwardens. This is not a practical solution. The only other alternative would be to employ a person or business which would cost a significant sum. Please think about whether you know of someone who could be approached. In the meantime we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Ian for performing the role over the last 9 years.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent: The Venerable Angela Martin, Chairman (until April 2023)
Wardens: Simon Morris, Vice Chairman
June Spoor

Elected Members Ian King (resigned October 2023)
Julie Brown (until 2026)
Brenda Evans (until 2026)
Jeremy Kirk (until 2026)
Keith Major (until 2026)
Julie Martin (until 2026)
Keith Stacey (until 2026)
Sue Walter (until 2026)
4 vacancies

Deanery Synod Timothy Leeney
2 vacancies

Secretary: Saskia Schuit (Not an elected member of the PCC)

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and 12 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for a three year term and retire in thirds. Following the APCM in May there remained vacancies for three members of the Holy Trinity congregation and one member of the St Dunstan’s congregation. Members of the congregation are warmly encouraged to consider standing for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

Parochial Church Council

The PCC met six times during the year. During the interregnum the meetings were general meetings to enable the PCC to discuss all kinds of matters during a certain meeting. The Standing Committee took decisions between meetings. These were generally on matters of a non-contentious nature and the decisions were subsequently endorsed by the PCC. There is no separate Finance Committee, but the Treasurers monitor receipts and payments, produce budgets and other financial data and make regular reports to the PCC.

There is a District Church Council at each church with delegated authority to deal with some aspects of worship, mission and the maintenance of the fabric of the buildings. Holy Trinity DCC and St Dunstan’s DCC met on three occasions .

This Trustees Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Simon Morris, PCC Vice Chair

Signed:
Simon Morris

Date: 2024



FOREST ROW
PARISH CHURCHES

FOREST ROW PCC

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FOREST ROW PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Forest Row PCC (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

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

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Richard Place Dobson Services Limited

Ground Floor
1 - 7 Station Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1HT

Dated:

FOREST ROW PCC**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES*****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023*****Current financial year**

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endowment funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes					
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>						
Donations and legacies	3	64,407	550	-	64,957	70,628
Charitable activities	4	6,596	-	-	6,596	2,713
Other trading activities	5	13,156	-	-	13,156	6,365
Investments	6	1,969	-	-	1,969	879
Other income	7	1,473	-	-	1,473	330
Total income		87,601	550	-	88,151	80,915
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Raising funds	8	3,881	-	-	3,881	1,295
Charitable activities	9	89,884	550	-	90,434	87,800
Total expenditure		93,765	550	-	94,315	89,095
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	7,937	-	1,580	9,517	(8,615)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		1,773	-	1,580	3,353	(16,795)
Gross transfers between funds		81,247	(81,247)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		83,020	(81,247)	1,580	3,353	(16,795)
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		371,630	81,247	17,058	469,935	486,730
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		454,650	-	18,638	473,288	469,935

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

FOREST ROW PCC**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)*****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023*****Prior financial year**

		Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes				
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	67,797	2,831	-	70,628
Charitable activities	4	2,713	-	-	2,713
Other trading activities	5	6,365	-	-	6,365
Investments	6	879	-	-	879
Other income	7	330	-	-	330
Total income		78,084	2,831	-	80,915
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Raising funds	8	1,295	-	-	1,295
Charitable activities	9	84,969	2,831	-	87,800
Total expenditure		86,264	2,831	-	89,095
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	(6,325)	-	(2,290)	(8,615)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		(14,505)	-	(2,290)	(16,795)
Net movement in funds		(14,505)	-	(2,290)	(16,795)
Fund balances at 1 January 2022		386,135	81,247	19,348	486,730
Fund balances at 31 December 2022		371,630	81,247	17,058	469,935

FOREST ROW PCC**BALANCE SHEET*****AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023***

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		306,383		306,383
Investments	15		89,466		79,949
			<u>395,849</u>		<u>386,332</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	16	3,870		2,806	
Cash at bank and in hand		77,430		85,556	
		<u>81,300</u>		<u>88,362</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(3,861)		(4,759)	
		<u></u>		<u></u>	
Net current assets			77,439		83,603
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>473,288</u>		<u>469,935</u>
Capital funds					
<u>Endowment funds - general</u>					
General endowment funds		18,638		17,058	
		<u>18,638</u>		<u>17,058</u>	
Permanent endowment		-		-	
Expendable endowment		18,638		17,058	
	18		18,638		17,058
Income funds					
Restricted funds	19		-		81,247
Unrestricted funds			454,650		371,630
			<u>473,288</u>		<u>469,935</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on

.....
A Martin
Trustee

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Constitution, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Not depreciated
-----------------------------	-----------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £
Donations and gifts	64,407	550	64,957	67,797	2,831	70,628

FOREST ROW PCC**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)*****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023*****3 Donations and legacies (Continued)****Donations and gifts**

Planned giving (excl tax refunds)	36,430	-	36,430	38,892	-	38,892
Collections at services	5,928	-	5,928	6,691	-	6,691
Gift days and donations	13,178	-	13,178	16,794	-	16,794
Gift aid recoverable	8,871	-	8,871	5,420	-	5,420
Other grants	-	550	550	-	2,831	2,831
	<u>64,407</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>64,957</u>	<u>67,797</u>	<u>2,831</u>	<u>70,628</u>

4 Charitable activities

	Church Activities 2023 £	Church Activities 2022 £
Fees for weddings and funerals	<u>6,596</u>	<u>2,713</u>

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Fundraising events	4,880	-
Lettings etc	<u>8,276</u>	<u>6,365</u>
Other trading activities	<u>13,156</u>	<u>6,365</u>

6 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Interest	<u>1,969</u>	<u>879</u>

FOREST ROW PCC**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)*****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023*****7 Other income**

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Other income	1,473	330
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

8 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
<u>Trading costs</u>		
Church hall running costs	3,881	1,295
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>3,881</u>	<u>1,295</u>

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

9 Charitable activities

	Church Activities 2023 £	Church Activities 2022 £
Staff costs	11,033	10,978
Diocesan parish share	28,000	44,328
Clergy and other persons' expenses	1,339	4,192
Church maintenance and repair	29,696	10,162
Upkeep of services	1,778	908
Upkeep of churchyard and garden	238	642
Church running costs	17,014	15,421
Charitable grants and donations	1,251	1,169
Sundry expenses	85	-
	<u>90,434</u>	<u>87,800</u>
	<u>90,434</u>	<u>87,800</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	89,884	84,969
Restricted funds	550	2,831
	<u>90,434</u>	<u>87,800</u>

10 Trustees

During the year, Churchwarden Simon Morris received £6,216 (2022: £6,216) for his role as Director of Music.

Under diocese guidelines, parish bodies paid work expenses of the clergy PCC member, totalling £1,339 (2022: £4,192).

A total of £243 (2022: £271) were reimbursed to other trustees during the year for expenses incurred.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	<u>11,033</u>	<u>10,978</u>

FOREST ROW PCC**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**11 Employees****(Continued)**

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Endowment funds general	Total	Unrestricted funds	Endowment funds general	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revaluation of investments	7,937	1,580	9,517	(6,325)	(2,290)	(8,615)

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £
Cost	
At 1 January 2023	307,283
At 31 December 2023	307,283
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 January 2023	900
At 31 December 2023	900
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2023	306,383
At 31 December 2022	306,383

FOREST ROW PCC**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**15 Fixed asset investments**

	Investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2023	79,949
Valuation changes	9,517
At 31 December 2023	89,466
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2023	89,466
At 31 December 2022	79,949

Investments that had a value of 5% or more of the market value held at the year end are:

CBF Investment Fund: £70,211

Diocese of Chichester Sinderson Fund: £8,070

Diocese of Chichester Stipend Fund: £9,879

16 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	3,822	2,806
Prepayments and accrued income	48	-
	3,870	2,806

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	3,861	4,759

FOREST ROW PCC**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023****18 Endowment funds**

Endowment funds represent assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the assets form part of the fund.

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Revaluations gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2023	Revaluations gains and losses	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Expendable endowments					
Moore/Sinderson Trust Investment	754	(101)	653	36	689
Sinderson Trust Investment	8,360	(984)	7,376	694	8,070
Stipend Endowment Investment	10,234	(1,205)	9,029	850	9,879
	<u>19,348</u>	<u>(2,290)</u>	<u>17,058</u>	<u>1,580</u>	<u>18,638</u>

19 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Holy Trinity Refurbishment Fund	81,247	-	-	-	81,247
Holy Trinity Clock Fund	-	1,431	(1,431)	-	-
FR PC Grants	-	850	(850)	-	-
Spire Lighting Grant	-	50	(50)	-	-
Warm Room Grant	-	500	(500)	-	-
	<u>81,247</u>	<u>2,831</u>	<u>(2,831)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,247</u>

	Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Holy Trinity Refurbishment Fund	81,247	-	-	(81,247)	-
Holy Trinity Clock Fund	-	-	-	-	-
FR PC Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Spire Lighting Grant	-	50	(50)	-	-
Warm Room Grant	-	500	(500)	-	-
	<u>81,247</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>(550)</u>	<u>(81,247)</u>	<u>-</u>

FOREST ROW PCC**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023****19 Restricted funds****(Continued)**

Holy Trinity Refurbishment Fund - Represents work carried out at Holy Trinity Church to form a kitchen area, install a toilet and refurbish the vestry. The transfer represents funds spent on these works that have been capitalised.

FR PC Grants - Represents grants from Forest Row Parish Council to put towards energy costs.

Holy Trinity Clock Fund - Represents a grant received to repair the clock at Holy Trinity.

Spire Lighting Grant - Represents a grant received to light the spire at night during the winter.

Warm Room Grant - Represents a grants received to run warm rooms during the winter at Holy Trinity.

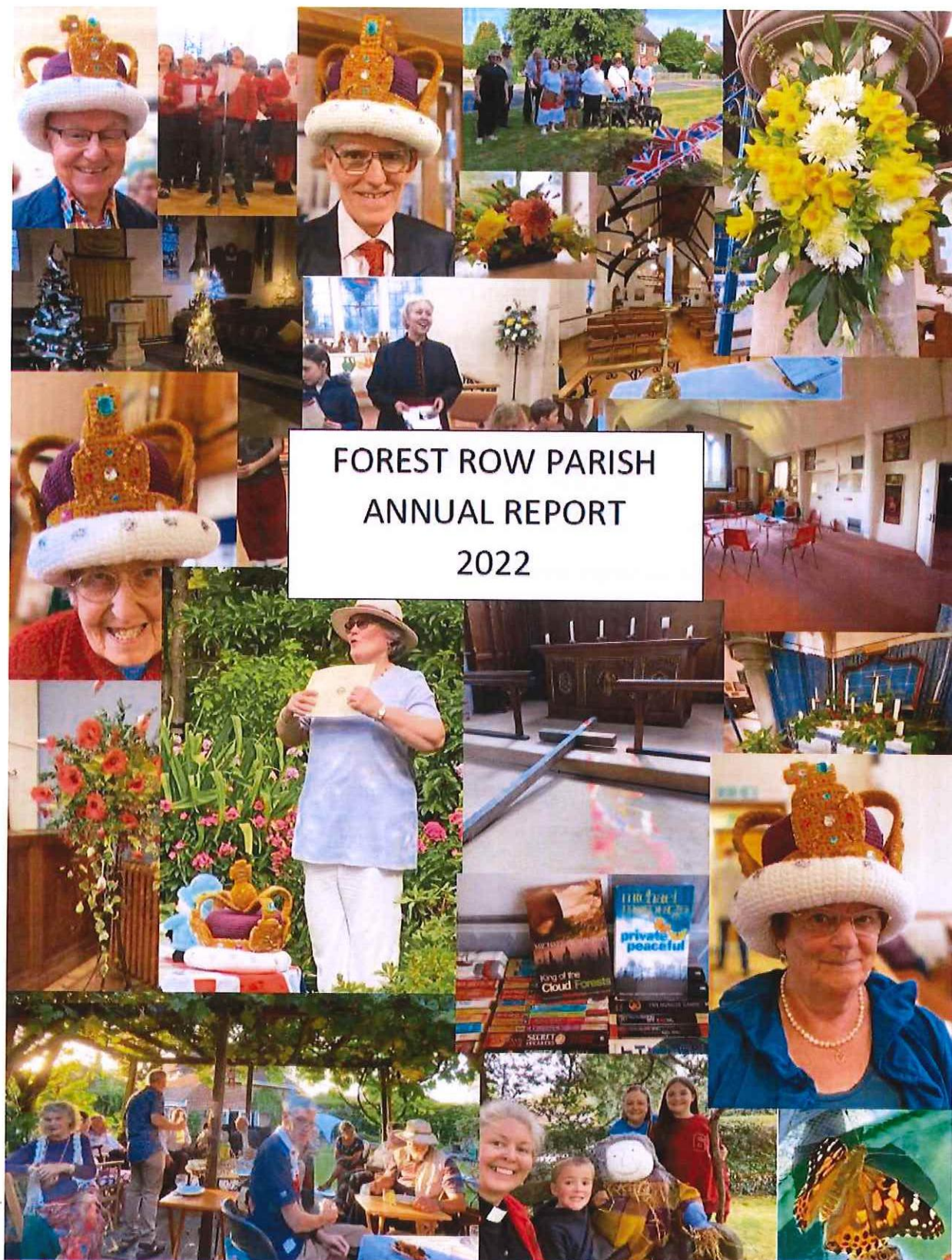
20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endowment funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	306,383	-	-	306,383
Investments	70,828	-	18,638	89,466
Current assets/(liabilities)	77,439	-	-	77,439
	<u>454,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,638</u>	<u>473,288</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	225,136	81,247	-	306,383
Investments	62,891	-	17,058	79,949
Current assets/(liabilities)	83,603	-	-	83,603
	<u>371,630</u>	<u>81,247</u>	<u>17,058</u>	<u>469,935</u>

21 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

Accounts



FOREST ROW PARISH
ANNUAL REPORT
2022

**The Annual Report of the Trustees
of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Forest Row
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row

St Dunstan's Church, Ashurst Wood

St Stephen's Church, Hammerwood (Closed)

Registered Charity no. 1132867

Website: www.frparish.co.uk

Incumbent: The Venerable Angela Martin
The Vicarage, Ashdown Road, Forest Row, RH18 5BW

Independent Examiner: Darren Harding
Richard Place Dobson, Chartered Accountants
1—7 Station Road, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1HT

Bankers: Santander UK plc, Bootle
Barclays Bank plc, 17 High Street, East Grinstead, RH19 3AH

Trustees: The Venerable Angela Martin
Simon Morris
June Spoor
Ian King
Jeremy Kirk
Keith Major
Sue Walter
Timothy Leeney
Fiona Rogers

Principal Address: Garden House, Ivy Dene Lane, Ashurst Wood, East Grinstead, RH19 3TN

Parochial Church Council of Forest Row

Trustees Annual Report for 2022

INTRODUCTION

This year has been our first full year post Covid without any closures or disruption to our regular services. As with so many voluntary organisations we had seen a drop in the number of people coming to church and those who feel they can volunteer their help. This has had quite an impact on the governance of the church. This year we have not been able to fill all the places on our Parochial Church Council. This means that we have only half the number of people we need to run as an effective PCC. I am so grateful to those who have volunteered their time and talent and would like to make it known that without their time and dedication we would be in a very difficult position.

The highlights of the year have been the return to a more normal worshipping life together. We have celebrated all the major festivals with great gusto and despite the reduced numbers the celebrations of Candlemas, Easter, Pentecost, Ascension, Trinity, Harvest, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas have been kept with fervent prayer and praise. We have also continued to faithfully meet together on zoom for daily morning prayer.

As we come to the end of the year we are saying goodbye to our PCC Treasurer Ian King who has done an amazing job of keeping our finances in check for the last 7 years. Ian has gone above and beyond to organise our accounts and has kept them impeccably and we will miss him. I will also miss his banter and quirky sense of humour! Thank you Ian for 7 years of hard work and a lot of laughs. I will also be moving on to pastures new as we move into 2023. On the 18th December we announced my departure from the Parish as I take up a new parish role alongside my role as Archdeacon of Horsham. After my Extended Ministerial Development Leave in early 2023 I will be moving after Easter to become the Priest in Charge of Nuthurst and Mannings Heath a rural parish just 4 miles from Horsham. I have loved being here among you all this last 8 years and will miss the people of Forest Row and Ashurst Wood, as well as the wonderful countryside and great farm shops.



MISSION

Our aim this year has been to 'raise the spiritual temperature'. Through preaching and offering bible study groups we focused on trying to reach more people and open up the opportunity to think on about their faith.

During Lent rather than a Lent group we used the 'Christianity Explored' material during our Sunday Services. This did make our worship slightly longer with coffee in the middle alongside the video narrated by Rico Tice and extended readings from Mark's gospel. This was well received.

More people have taken up reading 'New Daylight' a publication with daily scripture readings and meditations. Our morning prayer group spend time thinking about the various saints and martyrs as well as reflecting on scripture. During Advent we looked at a very simple book called 'Not just another Christmas' which in a similar way to the Christianity Explored sessions reminded us that we often assume that we already know everything about our Christian faith and we walk on by not paying attention to the amazing offer in front of us.

War

The War between Russia and Ukraine put pressure on the world food and fuel supplies and as 2022 went on it became obvious that many people were suffering from the austerity that country was under. Despite the difficult times many of us opened our homes as hosts to families from Ukraine seeking a safe haven. As a village we have a number of these families and we have pulled together as a community to provide help and support. As a host family here at the Vicarage I can say this has been an enriching experience as we have all learnt about each other's culture and language as well as the real toll of war. Something many of our generation have not had to face.

Warm Rooms

With the winter looming the PCC discussions turned to the question "What can we do to help?" Despite our poor financial state we decided that the best thing we could do was to offer warm spaces to help those who may struggle to keep their home warm all day. We opened up a warm room in each of our churches offering warmth, hot drinks including soup, biscuits and some amusements in the form of books, games and jig saw puzzles. The start of the winter was very mild and the room at St Dunstan's was closed for a short while. However, it became clear that these spaces were not just being used to keep warm, but had become a safe haven for those who needed a pit-stop. We feel so blessed to be able to offer these spaces to our communities. And we are very grateful to Forest Row Parish Council who granted an application for funding to help us keep the heating on and the Community Fridge who have offered

additional food. Another example of the community working together and to me that is a best expression of the Holy Spirit moving among us.

Mission is all about joining in with God's work, it does mean that God's work doesn't get done if we don't do it. It means that if we lose touch with our creator we miss out on the blessings we receive when we join in with His work.

Conclusion

2022 has been a challenging year for so many people within and without of our worshipping community. There will be many who will be looking forward to seeing the back of this year but I also wonder how many will be looking forward to welcoming the new year. I think the lesson we have all learnt this year is that we need each other to survive and not just survive but to thrive. And as we say so often in church 'with the help of God we will'.

Ven. Angela Martin

Statutory Reports

Fabric Goods and Ornaments

Holy Trinity Church

During the last year we have been able to fulfil a number of necessary repairs and issues. My grateful thanks to Graham Bedford, who continues to take control of our fabric maintenance and also reports to the DCC through the year.

The Quinquennial electrical inspection has been completed. Various failed lighting fittings have been dealt with. The Lightning Conductor has been tested and passed.

Roof repairs have been completed. All gutters have been cleared during the year and although the Church Hall roof has been checked, there is further roofing work required, then the hall ceiling can be repaired.

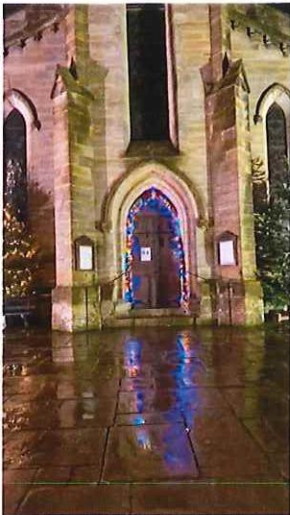
The clock has been working well through the year. Unfortunately, the snow in December caused the clock to be running slow. However this was repaired in January 2023.

The stained glass window near the Baptistry was repaired.

Scotts did their annual services on both boilers for the Church and the Hall.

The organ and piano have been tuned once during the year. The organ trumpet stop needs work at some point as there is a high level of dirt, dust and grit which does not help the tuning. When money allows we hope this could be rectified, although some form of cover may be needed to avoid this happening again as it is close to the archway.

At the end of 2022 with the cold weather the Church Hall was opened as a 'Warm Room' from 10-4pm each day. With a grant from the Parish Council we have been able to keep the hall at 15 degrees and this has helped to make the hall more welcoming.



The sound system has been better during the year, but is constantly monitored.

During the year the Church has had an occasional 'spring' clean and my grateful thanks to those who have helped on these occasions. Our thanks also go to Jeanne and Bob Dyke who have worked extremely hard in the garden for many years, but unfortunately are now beginning to find this more difficult. We are occasionally paying a gardener to help, but obviously this involves financial outlay. Part of this work was clearing the Church forecourt of plantain, growing between the paving slabs. We must also say a big thank you to Jeff Horner and his team for grass cutting during the year. It is always so wonderful that people enter our Church and Garden so regularly and that they have the opportunity to enjoy such welcoming environments. My special thanks go to Pamela Bainbridge and Carol Holden who have very kindly opened and locked the Church through the year and help our Church stay open 7 days a week.

At St Stephen's churchyard in Hammerwood a fallen branch from a tree was removed.

My thanks to all members of the congregation who continue to make our Church such a special place in the lives of the community.

Finally, my thanks to Angela, June, my co warden and Sue my deputy warden for all their support throughout the year.

Simon Morris – Churchwarden

St Dunstan's Church

This year has seen the need for significant expenditure on the fabric, as well as the normal maintenance items. In addition, the need for some priority work has been identified in the Quinquennial Report and action has been taken to replace the heating system in the worship space.

Maintenance

The following routine items have been undertaken.

The hall boiler and unvented cylinder have been serviced. Two new valves were required to the latter. Subsequently a new electrode set was fitted to overcome irregular lockout requiring resetting the boiler.

The organ has been tuned, the extinguishers and fire alarm system serviced and the lightning conductor tested. The annual gas safety check of the Rangemaster cooker has been undertaken (paid for by Community Café).

Some minor maintenance work requested by the Community Café has been undertaken in the kitchen. This ensured that they achieved a 5 star rating for a further year. The Café covered the cost of this work.

Heating

As previously reported, the gas powered hot air blower system that heats the worship space is at the end of its useful life. The PCC has approved replacing the existing system with new electric infrared heating at a cost of £13,528 (including VAT). This meets certain fundamental requirements viz: it is affordable; can be expected to last for a minimum period of 10 years; addresses the topical concern of a reduction in carbon emissions; benefits the congregation when attending worship or other activities; is not detrimental to the fabric of the building; and is not obstructive when in use during church services. An application for a faculty has been submitted and a decision is awaited.

Groundwork

A large shrub has been removed from the front of the Church to provide access for re-pointing under the "east window" and to reduce damp retention. The hedge along Hammerwood Road/Chapel Lane frontages has been reduced in width significantly as it was overhanging the kerb.

The path providing access to the under-croft has been reconstructed. The wooden shuttering providing support to the path had rotted and fallen away making it unsafe to use the path. The shuttering was replaced with low level concrete shuttering to provide a permanent solution.

Fabric

There was storm damage to the pitched roof where the hall joins the church early in the year. Remedial work was completed at a cost of £700. While this damage was being investigated it was noticed that part of the felt roof had been damaged and an insurance claim has been submitted for dealing with this, the cost of which is £988. The result of the claim is awaited.

The five yearly electrical inspection was undertaken in October and has identified some items requiring attention as a priority.

The report of the Quinquennial Inspection has also been received and identifies some items which will need to be addressed in 2023, particularly some re-pointing of the brickwork and painting of the wooden apexes over the front and rear doors.

We acquired two Bishops Chairs and two Wardens Wands, which were a legacy from St Stephen's Church at Hammerwood. The contents of the Church have been checked against the inventory.

June Spoor - Churchwarden

St Stephen's Churchyard, Hammerwood

The Church Building

A formal draft "Pastoral Scheme" was issued by the Church Commissioners in April 2021 to provide for the lease of the closed church and part of the Churchyard for "cultural, social, and community purposes and for occasional Christian worship." The period for representations to be made ended on the 27th May 2021. As far as I know the scheme has not been "made" i.e. come into force so I guess there were objections. I have made enquires and have been told that the matter is in the hands of Solicitors.

Churchyard Use

There was three interments of ashes this year. Two were placed in a burial plot.



Churchyard Maintenance

This has been carried out by me with help from Kate Bryant who has very kindly offered to help. A huge thank you to Kate. We will re-commence mowing in the spring, that is, if it ever dries up enough!

The Quinquennial Inspections of Holy Trinity and St Dunstan's were carried out in 2021/22 but the graveyard at St Stephens was not included in either. It was hoped that responsibility for most of the perimeter walling and the Lych Gate would have transferred to a new lease holder by now but that would now seem to be in some doubt and the position needs to be clarified. If we are to remain liable for the maintenance of those elements then financial provision needs to be made.

Notice Board

In August, a limb of a beech tree in the churchyard split off and fell across the notice board. The limb was removed and the notice board, though flattened, was not badly damaged. I plan to clean it up and fit a panel of coloured Perspex over the out of date wording. The board will then be re-erected. At the moment it is leaning against a tree.

Graham Bedford

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

We continue to update various members of our congregations with their D.B.S. renewal. Some members of the P.C.C plus others, have completed on-line Safeguarding training, so we are able to continue with Open the Book, Play Café, Little Saplings (Sunday School) and taking Holy Communion to the housebound, therefore extending our outreach to the wider community. There are various items in both churches, with contact details of who and where to contact, if there are concerns of abuse in children or vulnerable adults.

Marilyn Morris

Music and Worship

Having had two years of our worship interrupted at times due to the Pandemic it was good in 2022 to be back to regular worship every week. All the major festivals were celebrated, although some were moved to the nearest Sunday, i.e. Epiphany, Candlemas, Ascension and All Saints'. Through the year we continued our pattern of 8am and 10am services alternating between Holy Trinity and St Dunstan's. During the year we reformed our Worship Group with the aim of leading services on the 5th Sunday of the month. So far these have been warmly received, having led Sea Sunday, an Iona style service and All Saints'. The group would welcome more support if anyone would like to join them. The Eco Group led our Harvest Thanksgiving in October.

In February we had the long awaited visit of the Chichester Cathedral Choir, which had been postponed at the eleventh hour the year before. This was a wonderful occasion with the Lay Vicars singing, but unfortunately the boys couldn't attend due to the weather conditions. We also had Bishops Martin and Ruth with us, along with the Dean of the Cathedral and the four Archdeacons. The congregation came from around the Parish, as well as many from Parishes around the local area and deanery. We hope this occasion can be repeated in the future when hopefully the whole Cathedral Choir can attend.

I am pleased to say we have 12 members of the Choir who regularly sing for all services at Holy Trinity. In the first part of the year we sang Evensong for Candlemas and then sang anthems for Mothering Sunday and the Holy Week and Easter services. During late April, May and June the Choir were joined to make the Festival Choir, leading to our Platinum Jubilee Charity Concert which was a great success raising £1,000. From September, we restarted regular Choir Practices on the Fridays before Holy Trinity services. This has enabled the Choir to sing anthems more regularly. Songs of Praise was led in September and anthems were sung for most Sundays including Bible Sunday, Remembrance, Advent and then leading the Parish Carol Service at Christmas.

During the year we have marked the Accession of Her Majesty the Queen on Sunday 6th February and then her Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June with an Ecumenical service, when we welcomed our Baptist brothers and sisters to St Dunstan's.

My grateful thanks for the support I have been given by Angela and all the congregation, not forgetting the Choir, who give such a commitment, throughout the year. At both churches, my thanks to Ann Woodard, Georgina Westlake, Nicholas Smith and Chris Harris for playing the Organ, who have helped with services and also Weddings and Funerals, if I am unavailable.

Both Church Organs and the Piano have been tuned during the year. Hopefully the work needed on Holy Trinity's may happen when funds allow.

I look forward to continue music making throughout the Parish during the next year.

Simon Morris (Parish Director of Music)

Children's Work

Open the Book

The Open the Book Team continue to do as many stories as possible for Ashurst Wood school. Sometimes the school are not available, as with the Christmas assembly this year. Easter changes to school holiday dates have seriously curtailed presenting the Easter story as well. We are averaging 2-3 assemblies each term. Assemblies continue to be well received.

Our team now consists of Rosie Hewson, Keith Major, Gwenda Kirk, Lin Smith, Richard Gooderson and Tom Hewson. Rosie is not always available due to illness, but is active in planning and leading at this time.

Rosie Hewson



Sunday School

This year our little saplings have been wonderful. I have been supported by Trish which has been very helpful. We continue to work with a small group of youngsters with craft based activities and a simple Christian message. This year the children have created a mustard tree poster - interacting with the congregation to collect personalised leaves to add to the tree. You can see it alongside the eco church display at Holy Trinity. They have made little floating doves and decorated a beautiful Christmas tree with a multitude of hand rolled paper candles for the annual Christmas tree festival. For Valentine's Day the children made lovely clay heart badges and we look forward to our next session building an Easter garden and the arrival of the next batch of caterpillars that the children love to nurture. Watch out for their release day party!!!!

Natasha Crawford



Schools

Forest Row Primary

This summer we said good-bye to Mr. Sean Smith the Headteacher at Forest Row Primary school. Mr. Smith had steered the school through the most difficult time having started in September 2019 to be thrust into a global pandemic and all that it entailed for the next 2 years. Mr. Smith pulled a great team together and has left the school in a much better place than when he arrived. We will all miss him, in particular the children, and we wish him every success as he looks to the future. We also said a fond farewell to Miss Emma Lofthouse a much loved year 6 teacher and Deputy Head. Miss Lofthouse took up her new role as Head teacher in Bolney Primary School in September and she is much loved by all there and already making a difference. I too stepped down as Chair of Governors this summer after taking up the reigns in December 2019. The departure of both our Headteacher and our Deputy Head gave the school the opportunity to look at how to proceed afresh. The Governing Board took on 2 very experienced Governors from ESCC, Jenni Barnard-Langston who took up the role of Chair of Governors and Shaun Collins who took on investigating the possibility of Forest Row Primary joining a local federation. After some research by a small group of Governors the Governing Board did take the path of joining the Bluebell Federation on a trial basis for one year. This meant that after a rigorous interview process we appointed Miss Laura Drury as Head of School who became part of the senior leadership team alongside an executive Head and Head of Federation. This gave not only stability but access to much wider experience and expertise. Since the summer the Governors have been about to recruit filling all the necessary spaces on the board.

Ashurst Wood School

Very sadly there has been little contact with Ashurst Wood school over this last year. The school has had some staff changes and the Vicar has not been able to secure regular visiting slots. We do hope that this situation will change in the new year. We did enter the scarecrow competition run by the school again this year which is always a joy. The additional challenge this year for both of our village schools and play groups has been the arrival of families from Ukraine. The children from these families have been going to school and both the children and the teaching staff have had to find ways to overcome the language barrier as well as helping our guests settle into a new and different way of

life. All involved have done an amazing job with the end result being happy children, and there is no better result than that.

Brambletye

In the early part of 2022 Brambletye School employed a part-time chaplain Revd. Karen Higgs who was also head of religious education. Due to changes at school Revd. Karen left Brambletye at the end of the summer term having been a teacher there for many years. Other changes to the school teaching schedule meant that the Saturday Chapel service was no longer run. This in turn meant that the Vicar was no longer invited to preach at this service. The school did invite the good folk of Ashurst Wood to their wonderful Christmas carols in school with mince pies and music which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. They also donated a wonderful tree for the outside of Holy Trinity at Christmas.

Michael Hall

There have been no visits from Michael Hall this year and this may be due to changes made during Covid but we do hope that they will be back to visit us soon. They too donated a magnificent tree for the outside of Holy Trinity Church this Christmas.

Ashdown House School

Ashdown House School closed this year and the site is now up for sale as development land.

Play Groups

Forest Row Community Pre-School

We continue to have great links with the Pre-School with either the children visiting church or the vicar visiting the school. This year our plans have been slightly thwarted by bad weather, sickness and the Vicar's hip operation.

Ashurst Wood Community Pre-School

We are beginning to forge more links with the Pre-School.

Ven Angela Martin - Vicar

St Dunstan's Play Café

We have a new and thriving Play Café which will celebrate its first Birthday on 17th March 2023. We are open every Friday in West Sussex term-time from 9:15am – 11:15am. We welcome local families (parents, grandparents, carers and their babies and toddlers). We provide hot and cold drinks, biscuits and toddler snacks in a warm, friendly environment. There is a safe corner especially for babies and plenty of toys for toddlers, including a 'home corner', dressing up clothes, books, puzzles and an activity table for the older children featuring crafts such as play dough, colouring, cutting and sticking and some themed activities depending on the time of year. During 2022 we welcomed 35 families, with a total of 44 children and babies. We use the garden when the weather is warm, putting out ride-on toys, 'playground chalks', bubbles and water play. We have chairs and picnic blankets for the adults and babies and have toys for the babies and toddlers as well.

We are very pleased with how our first year has gone and hope to build on this in the future.

Julie Brown, Helen Dennis, Janet Gooderson and Brenda Evans

This is a wonderful tribute to Lin Simmons who over many years influenced and grew the faith of so many of our children.

Ven Angela Martin - Vicar

Eco Church

The Eco Church Group has been working towards achieving the A Rocha Silver Award this year. In certain categories we have met the criteria – for example, in the Worship and Teaching (which has achieved Gold). A summary of what we have achieved in the main categories is listed below.

WORSHIP & TEACHING: Angela invited Julie to form a Worship Group which has organised four services this year, including a Sea Service and Harvest Service.

BUILDINGS: Gareth reported that the energy carbon footprint for Holy Trinity was about the same in 2021 as in 2020. Gareth has identified areas where the environmental impact of operating the buildings which could be improved, such as lights (all of which should be LED), insulation, environmental cleaning products, better recycling facilities and the installation of bike-stands.

The gas fired heating system at Holy Trinity is responsible for by far the greatest proportion of the building's carbon emissions. During the year we have reduced the heating related carbon emissions by about 40% by only

heating the church when absolutely necessary. These changes were planned and done by Simon and Gareth. The changes also reduced the escalating heating bill due to increasing gas prices.

The gas heating systems at St Dunstan's are also the largest contributors to that building's carbon emissions. A new electric heating system is planned to replace the old gas fired hot air blower in the Worship Space. This will produce zero carbon emissions since St Dunstan's electricity is provided from renewable energy sources. The new electric system is anticipated to provide rapid and comfortable heating during services, and the running costs are estimated to be similar to the existing old gas fired hot air system. The PCC has approved these plans and it is anticipated that Diocese approval will be given and the new system can be installed soon afterwards.

These types of measures will help us contribute towards the Church of England's target of being carbon neutral by 2030. Members of the congregation could also check their own household carbon footprint and identify ways to reduce energy consumption and save on their energy bills (a framework for this is available on the WWF website).



LAND – We have roped off an area to the SW of Holy Trinity garden for the purpose of 'rewilding'. We hope to develop this idea also in Hammerwood, possibly with the intention of establishing a 'meditation garden'. A 'mini-wetland' has been created in St Dunstan's garden, using run-off water from a drainpipe near the back porch. Most of the work has been done, although the project requires more plants and bricks.

Our parish participated in the Churches' Count on Nature on the 12th of June 2022, to gather information on wildlife in churchyards. The project is being run collaboratively by conservation charities Caring for God's

Acre, A Rocha UK, the Church of England and the Church of Wales. The initiative was coordinated in Holy Trinity by members of the Eco Church team, led by Gareth, who encouraged us to download the 'Seek by inaturalist' app, an incredibly useful tool for identifying flora and fauna. Using this app we identified well over a score of different species in the time we spent outside. These included: Red Valerian, Nipplewort, Orchard Grass, Orange Hawkweed, Greater Celandine, Germander Speedwell and Ninebarks. The data from the "churches count on nature" scheme will be added to the National Biodiversity Network, which collates wildlife information from around the country.



COMMUNITY and GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT:

There have been several meetings between members of the group and the Climate Café at Tablehurst Farm. An outreach worker at the farm will be invited to attend a future Eco Church service, hopefully to give a talk (for example, on soil health). Brenda has put posters on the boards of both churches to draw attention to Eco-Church websites, including one called, 'You and your food' and other Lifestyle matters. During the Litter Pick on April 9th from 10.00 – noon, six sacks of litter was collected. Gareth had been interviewed by Alan Potter who runs the Wildheart Radio Show. Julie has suggested that we could try to organise an environmental awareness event, perhaps a kind of 'Green Fair' and possibly in Holy Trinity. Potential sources of cooperation were the Friends of the Medway group, the Green Party and the Farm Shops. We could try to involve the local MP, our District Councillor Patricia Patterson Vanegas and our County Councillor Georgia Taylor. Also Kate Taylor-Smith and others involved with FROCAL, plus the Woodland Trust and the Friends of Weirwood.

In conclusion, we are so grateful for Gareth's and Ven. Angela's leadership and we will miss them so much. We will endeavour to continue along the path they have shown us.

Patrick Crawford

Churches Together

We continue to meet on a regular basis with representatives of the Baptist Church.

We were able to resume holding the Good Friday Walk of Witness in 2022, starting at Holy Trinity Church and finishing at the Baptist Church with fellowship and refreshments.

A joint service to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee was held at St Dunstan's.

The usual combined service was held on Remembrance Sunday.

For the second year it was decided that our joint service at Advent should be the main morning service for both churches. This year we joined together at the Baptist Church. This was well attended and the intention is to make this a regular feature of our working together.

The Baptist Church are currently advertising their vacancy for a Minister which will be a half time position. We are asked to pray for the right person to come forward.

Keith Stacey

Interim

Fourteen ladies are attending on the 2nd Tuesday of the month of which two are new ladies joining the group. We had our usual Christmas lunch at the Swan which was enjoyed by all who attended. Again we entered a tree at Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival called Baubles of Friendship

We recently had a very interesting talk by Marilyn Morris on Maundy Money which she received last year.

We may have a talk later in the year by one of our new ladies on working for British Airways but in the mean time people seem to be happy chatting and having coffee.

Lin Smith

Outreach

Support for Charities

Regrettably the Parish has not been in a position to tithe 10% of regular income for a number of years. However, it supports charities during the year where it can and the congregation responds well to appeals for specific projects.

Early in the year there was a nationwide appeal for funds to support those affected by the invasion of Ukraine.

Donations from the congregation enabled us to send £500 to the appeal.

This year Spotlight UK was the nominated charity for the collecting tubs used by the congregation to collect small change, normally for a specific project. Spotlight supports children who have mental issues, have experienced domestic abuse or are in care and affected by loss or separation. £334 was sent to Spotlight early in 2023.

The annual charity concert at Holy Trinity raises money for a different charity each year and £100 was sent to Place 2 Be a charity concerned for children's mental health.

£489 was donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and £30 was donated to the Bible Society following the Christingle Service.



Keith Stacey

100 Club

2022 proved a bit of a roller-coaster. During the first part of the year we lost a couple of subscriptions, but as time progressed new members filled and then exceeded the gaps. This brought us up to an end of year total of 110 tickets compared with our starting figure of 104. In consequence the weekly prize money has fluctuated between £260 & £275. This brings in much needed funds for our Parish, but we cannot rest on our laurels in this time of severe income shortage. With all that lies ahead with our new situation, we do need to pick up more participants in the coming weeks. As the saying goes every little helps. So if you meet anyone who might be interested in joining please

encourage them to do so. In closing, I would like to thank everyone who contributes at present, without whose support we would be in even greater difficulty than we are now.
Thank you.

Keith Major

Community Cafe at St Dunstan's

Report for the Year ending 31.12.2022

This is the 2022 annual report for the Community Café, a year which saw relative normality return to the Tuesday lunch service, after two years of Covid interruption.

Some 40 volunteers fulfilling the essential tasks of cooks, assistant cooks, waiting staff, drivers, caretaking, and administration/finance support, all under the continuing leadership of Frances Jupp, provided an outstanding service to customers, regular and occasional, and grateful thanks are expressed to all.

During 2022 the Café served 1466 customers. In total 874 soups, 1366 mains, and 1203 puddings were cooked and sold. Total income from sale of meals, including gratuities, totalled £9,790.37, while outgoings, including rent, a donation to the Church of £1,200 for kitchen repairs, and the cost of food and other outgoings totalled £9,621.33. The weekly rent to the Church was £50 per week, which reflects both preparatory work in the kitchen on Mondays and use of the halls and kitchen on the Tuesdays. Prices of starters, mains and puddings were respectively £2.00, £4.00, and £2.00.



As of 31 December 2022, the balance in the café's accounts shows as £3,529.35, marginally up on the previous year, when it stood at £3,359.31. The accounts have been independently examined by Mr Brian Rugg who confirmed that the accounts for the year "show a fair and balanced view of the transactions for 2022."

C J Rolley, Honorary Treasurer

Knit and Natter at Holy Trinity

The Knit and Natter group, met on the 1st Tuesday of every month during the year. Although our numbers fluctuate from meeting to meeting, everyone continues with their craft, either for themselves or for Charity. We look forward to welcoming everyone, including new members, for a cup of coffee or tea, maybe biscuits or cake and a lot of talking, while hopefully some knitting, crocheting, needlework is undertaken.

Marilyn Morris

Coffee Mornings at St Dunstan's Church

We have continued to hold monthly coffee mornings on 2nd Saturdays of the month. Many people are regular attenders and enjoy meeting up with friends and it is an opportunity for people to get to know new folk in the Village. This last year I have greatly appreciated the help of Netta Evans until she moved away to Dorset in May and Valerie and others when they are available.

In May we held a plant sale with the Coffee Morning which was a great success.

We continue to sell marmalade, jam and chutney throughout the year. "Every little helps" as they say!

Alison Harman

Holy Trinity Flowers

Flowers are arranged in Holy Trinity throughout the year to enhance the beauty of the building and to give pleasure to those who attend services and visit the Church. There are 7 ladies on the rota who provide flowers except in the seasons of Advent and Lent. This is augmented by another 4 who help decorate the Church for Christmas, Easter and Harvest. If you would like to join the flower ladies to help, please contact Lin Smith.

On behalf of the flower ladies. Simon Morris

St Dunstan's Flowers

Thank you to all our flower arrangers who faithfully provide flowers in the church throughout the year. We are few in

number but work together as a team for the three major festivals – Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We are grateful also for the donations we receive at Easter as a contribution to the cost of the Easter Flowers often in memory of a loved one. If you would like to help with the flowers please do get in touch.

Wendy Stacey

Parish Day

Following an inspiring CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) zoom presentation in February 2022, all members of the congregation were invited to take part in a “parish day” in November. The first three booklets in the CPAS course materials were used, looking at the questions “Why does the Church exist”, “Why does the PCC exist” and “What is the best way to conduct our meetings”. 19 attended, the meeting went well, and useful pointers for the future were identified.

A second “parish day” is planned for 20th May, at which the remaining three booklets will be used, namely “Reviewing church life - worship”, “Reviewing church life - mission” and “Reviewing church life—community.” Again, all members of the congregation will be invited, and it is hoped that as a result more will feel moved to join the PCC and DCC’s.

Tim Leeney and Keith Major

Social and Fundraising

Holy Trinity

A time of fellowship after services has again become very popular throughout the year, especially having returned to the back of Church since the Pandemic, where we have more space to socialise.

In February the visit of the Chichester Cathedral Choir to sing Choral Evensong, attended by a large congregation, was followed by an excellent tea in the Freshfield Hall. Our grateful thanks to Lin Smith and the ladies of the Parish who provided the refreshments.

In June the Platinum Jubilee Charity Concert took place, with the Holy Trinity Festival Choir and Lingfield Prep Orchestra performing, raising £1,000 towards our Churches.

In September, a Songs of Praise service took place which was followed by a time of fellowship with Cheese and Wine. The following weekend the annual ‘Ride and Stride’ took place, raising money for our Churches as well as Sussex Historic Churches. Our thanks to all those who rode, particularly Keith Stacey, Patrick Crawford and Richard Evans and to those who sponsored them.

In November, the RBL Poppy Recital took place with Margaret Watson, Harp and Simon Morris, Piano raising money jointly for the Poppy Appeal and our Churches. A good audience attended considering the inclement weather.

During the Autumn, Christmas Cards were available at the back of Church. the Christmas Hamper raffle and ‘brain teasing’ Quiz were made available. Our thanks to Ken Farrar for producing the quiz, which is always a talking point amongst many. The weekend before Christmas, the now annual ‘Christmas Tree Festival’ took place, which again brought many organisations and the community into the Church. Our grateful thanks to Gareth Martin who kindly organised this event again. The Festival concluded with the Parish Carol Service with Mulled Wine and Christmas refreshments afterwards.

Simon Morris - Churchwarden

St Dunstan’s

The monthly coffee mornings continued throughout the year. Attendances have fluctuated but these provide a good opportunity for fellowship with the wider community and are a good source of income. We are indebted to Alison Harman for continuing to organise these and for her home-made marmalade, jam and mincemeat. In total they raised just over £1,000 in 2022. The plant sale and other stalls at the May coffee morning were again very popular boosting the income in that month by £300, giving a total for the year of £1,372. Richard Gooderson organised a Ukulele Concert which again proved popular and raised £266.

We were again able to provide the mulled wine and other refreshments at the Ashurst Wood Christmas Market which raised just over £100. This is less than previous years but the Market was a slightly smaller affair. It was good for the Church to be seen active in the community and, like the coffee mornings, provided an opportunity to renew acquaintances.

In addition, we ran a stall with items previously made by Rachel Hutchinson – note pads, Christmas decorations, Christmas Cards etc.

Keith Stacey

A great way to contribute to the work and is by using our QR code.



ministry of the Parish

Ven. Angela Martin - Vicar

Financial Review:

It gives me no pleasure to have to report that our deficit for 2022 has increased over what it was in 2021. Whilst income has increased for which the PCC is very grateful, in these difficult times expenditure has increased at a greater rate, which has resulted in an increase in the deficit sustained (before movements on investments) of some £3,000 to over £8,000.

Early indications in 2023 are that the PCC continues to be in deficit. With non-quantifiable increases in costs anticipated, particularly with power, all indications are that the situation is getting worse.

On a positive note the PCC applied for grants from Forest Row Parish Council to pay for repairs to the Holy Trinity clock. We also applied for grants from the Parish Council towards lighting of the Holy Trinity spire, and our "warm room" which we opened up for use in the winter months. Our applications were successful and we record our thanks to the Council for this support.

It is necessary to increase our fundraising activities as well as asking the congregation to increase regular giving if possible. Unfortunately, increasing costs which affect us in our daily lives also hit the Parish.

We are grateful for the continuing support from the Forest Wood Lottery..

Ian King

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to hold surplus general funds over and above working balances, representing six months of current expenditure. This allows for large and unanticipated expenditure to be easily met. In the light of the continuing deficit this has not proved possible.

Ian King

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent:	The Venerable Angela Martin. Chairman	
Wardens:	Simon Morris June Spoor	Vice Chairman
Secretary:	Saskia Schuit	

<i>Elected Members</i>	Ian King	(until 2025)
	Jeremy Kirk	(until 2023)
	Keith Major	(until 2023)
	Sue Walter	(until 2023)

<i>Deanery Synod</i>	Timothy Leeney
	Fiona Rogers
	Two vacancies

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and 12 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

Following the APCM in April there remained vacancies for four members of the Holy Trinity congregation and four members of the St Dunstan's congregation. Members of the two congregations are warmly encouraged to consider standing for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

Parochial Church Council

The PCC met six times during the year.

To ensure that sufficient time is devoted to mission, every endeavour is made to arrange business so that alternate meetings are devoted to mission. During the interregnum the meetings will be general meetings to enable the PCC to discuss all kinds of matters during a certain meeting.

The Standing Committee took decisions between meetings. These were generally on matters of a non-contentious nature and the decisions were subsequently endorsed by the PCC. There is no separate Finance Committee, but the Parish Treasurer monitors receipts and payments, produces budgets and other financial data and makes regular reports to the PCC.

There is a District Church Council at each church with delegated authority to deal with some aspects of worship, mission and the maintenance of the fabric of the buildings. Holy Trinity DCC and St Dunstan's DCC met on three occasions .

Please note that The Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 is presented and was approved by the PCC as a separate report.

This Trustees Annual Report (without the Annual Financial Report) was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Simon Morris, PCC Vice Chair

Signed:
Simon Morris

Date: 16 March 2023

FOREST ROW PCC

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FOREST ROW PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Forest Row PCC (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

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

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

D. Hardy
Darren Harawa

Richard Place Dobson Services Limited

Ground Floor
1 - 7 Station Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1HT

Dated: 10/07/2023

FOREST ROW PCC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Current financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
	Notes					
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>						
Donations and legacies	3	67,797	2,831	-	70,628	71,874
Charitable activities	4	2,713	-	-	2,713	4,226
Other trading activities	5	6,365	-	-	6,365	2,350
Investments	6	879	-	-	879	325
Other income	7	330	-	-	330	-
Total income		78,084	2,831	-	80,915	78,775
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Raising funds	8	1,295	-	-	1,295	2,102
Charitable activities	9	84,969	2,831	-	87,800	81,163
Total expenditure		86,264	2,831	-	89,095	83,265
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	(6,325)	-	(2,290)	(8,615)	12,586
Net movement in funds		(14,505)	-	(2,290)	(16,795)	8,096
Fund balances at 1 January 2022		386,135	81,247	19,348	486,730	478,634
Fund balances at 31 December 2022		371,630	81,247	17,058	469,935	486,730

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

FOREST ROW PCC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Prior financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Endowment funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
	Notes				
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	71,874	-	-	71,874
Charitable activities	4	4,226	-	-	4,226
Other trading activities	5	2,350	-	-	2,350
Investments	6	325	-	-	325
Total income		78,775	-	-	78,775
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Raising funds	8	2,102	-	-	2,102
Charitable activities	9	81,163	-	-	81,163
Total expenditure		83,265	-	-	83,265
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	10,313	-	2,273	12,586
Net movement in funds		5,823	-	2,273	8,096
Fund balances at 1 January 2021		380,312	81,247	17,075	478,634
Fund balances at 31 December 2021		386,135	81,247	19,348	486,730

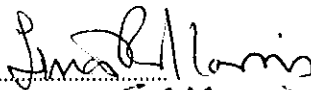
FOREST ROW PCC

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		306,383		306,683
Investments	15		79,949		88,564
			<u>386,332</u>		<u>395,247</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	16	2,806		5,160	
Cash at bank and in hand		85,556		92,807	
		<u>88,362</u>		<u>97,967</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(4,759)		(6,484)	
Net current assets			83,603		91,483
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>469,935</u>		<u>486,730</u>
Capital funds					
<u>Endowment funds - general</u>					
General endowment funds		17,058		19,348	
		<u>17,058</u>		<u>19,348</u>	
Permanent endowment		-		-	
Expendable endowment		17,058		19,348	
	18		17,058		19,348
Income funds					
Restricted funds	19		81,247		81,247
Unrestricted funds			371,630		386,135
			<u>469,935</u>		<u>486,730</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 8th June 2023


A. Martin
Trustee

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Constitution, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Not depreciated
-----------------------------	-----------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2022	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	67,797	2,831	70,628	71,874

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

3 Donations and legacies (Continued)

Donations and gifts				
Planned giving (excl tax refunds)	38,892	-	38,892	39,634
Collections at services	6,691	-	6,691	5,739
Gift days and donations	16,794	-	16,794	13,143
Gift aid recoverable	5,420	-	5,420	5,775
Legacies	-	-	-	6,000
Government grants	-	-	-	1,583
Other grants	-	2,831	2,831	-
	<u>67,797</u>	<u>2,831</u>	<u>70,628</u>	<u>71,874</u>

4 Charitable activities

	Church Activities 2022 £	Church Activities 2021 £
Fees for weddings and funerals	<u>2,713</u>	<u>4,226</u>

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
Lettings etc	<u>6,365</u>	<u>2,350</u>

6 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
Dividends and interest	<u>879</u>	<u>325</u>

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

7 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2022	2021
	£	£
Other income	330	-
	<u>330</u>	<u>-</u>

8 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Special appeals costs (adverts, brochures etc)	-	250
	<u>-</u>	<u>250</u>
<u>Trading costs</u>		
Church hall running costs	1,295	1,852
	<u>1,295</u>	<u>1,852</u>
	<u>1,295</u>	<u>2,102</u>

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

9 Charitable activities

	Church Activities 2022 £	Church Activities 2021 £
Staff costs	10,978	10,342
Diocesan parish share	44,328	41,201
Clergy and other persons' expenses	4,192	4,587
Church maintenance and repair	10,162	10,022
Upkeep of services	908	1,828
Upkeep of churchyard and garden	642	150
Church running costs	15,421	11,938
Charitable grants and donations	1,169	1,095
	<u>87,800</u>	<u>81,163</u>
	<u>87,800</u>	<u>81,163</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	84,969	81,163
Restricted funds	2,831	-
	<u>87,800</u>	<u>81,163</u>

10 Trustees

During the year, Churchwarden Simon Morris received £6,216 (2021 - £6,216) for his role as Director of Music.

Under diocese guidelines, parish bodies paid work expenses of the clergy PCC member, totalling £4,192 (2021 - £4,587).

A total of £271 were reimbursed to other trustees during the year for expenses incurred.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	<u>10,978</u>	<u>10,342</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Endowment funds general	Total	Unrestricted funds	Endowment funds general	Total
	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revaluation of investments	(6,325)	(2,290)	(8,615)	10,313	2,273	12,586

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £
Cost	
At 1 January 2022	307,283
At 31 December 2022	307,283
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 January 2022	600
Depreciation charged in the year	300
At 31 December 2022	900
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2022	306,383
At 31 December 2021	306,683

15 Fixed asset investments

	Investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2022	88,564
Valuation changes	(8,615)
At 31 December 2022	79,949
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2022	79,949
At 31 December 2021	88,564

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

15 Fixed asset Investments

(Continued)

Investments that had a value of 5% or more of the market value held at the year end are:

CBF Investment Fund: £62,327

Diocese of Chichester Sinderson Fund: £7,376

Diocese of Chichester Stipend Fund: £9,029

16 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	2,806	4,200
Prepayments and accrued income	-	960
	<u>2,806</u>	<u>5,160</u>

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>4,759</u>	<u>6,484</u>

18 Endowment funds

Endowment funds represent assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the assets form part of the fund.

	Balance at 1 January 2021	Revaluations gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2022	Revaluations gains and losses	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Expendable endowments					
Moore/Sinderson Trust Investment	808	(54)	754	(101)	653
Sinderson Trust Investment	7,314	1,046	8,360	(984)	7,376
Stipend Endowment Investment	8,953	1,281	10,234	(1,205)	9,029
	<u>17,075</u>	<u>2,273</u>	<u>19,348</u>	<u>(2,290)</u>	<u>17,058</u>

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

19 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds		Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2021	Incoming resources	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Holy Trinity Refurbishment Fund	81,247	-	81,247	-	-	81,247
Holy Trinity Clock Fund	-	-	-	1,431	(1,431)	-
FR PC Grants	-	-	-	850	(850)	-
Spire Lighting Grant	-	-	-	50	(50)	-
Warm Room Grant	-	-	-	500	(500)	-
	<u>81,247</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,247</u>	<u>2,831</u>	<u>(2,831)</u>	<u>81,247</u>

Holy Trinity Refurbishment Fund - Represents work carried out at Holy Trinity Church to form a kitchen area, install a toilet and refurbish the vestry.

FR PC Grants - Represents grants from Forest Row Parish Council to put towards energy costs.

Holy Trinity Clock Fund - Represents a grant received to repair the clock at Holy Trinity.

Spire Lighting Grant - Represents a grant received to light the spire at night during the winter.

Warm Room Grant - Represents a grants received to run warm rooms during the winter at Holy Trinity.

FOREST ROW PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	225,136	81,247	-	306,383
Investments	62,891	-	17,058	79,949
Current assets/(liabilities)	83,603	-	-	83,603
	<u>371,630</u>	<u>81,247</u>	<u>17,058</u>	<u>469,935</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Endowment funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	306,683	-	-	306,683
Investments	69,216	-	19,348	88,564
Current assets/(liabilities)	10,236	81,247	-	91,483
	<u>386,135</u>	<u>81,247</u>	<u>19,348</u>	<u>486,730</u>

21 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021 - none).

Accounts

Ecclesiastical Parish of Forest Row



Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report of the Parochial Church Council 2021

Independent Examiner’s Report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Forest Row for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of Forest Row on the annual report for the year ending 31 December 2021 as set out on pages 19 to 30

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 matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: R C Dyke

Date: 31 March 2022

Examiner’s address 17 Freshfield Bank
Forest Row
East Sussex
RH18 5HQ

12 Debtors

Income tax recoverable	4,200	4,200	3,400
Prepayments and accrued income	960	960	1,239
Other debtors	-	-	-
	5,160	5,160	4,639

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Deferred income				-	-	
Accruals for utilities and other costs	1,609			1,609	1,763	
Other creditors	4,875			4,875	879	
	6,484			6,484	2,642	

14 Impact of Covid-19

In accordance with Government guidelines, our activities were severely affected, and we were unable to have services or otherwise use our facilities. It is not possible to quantify with any certainty the financial impact of the pandemic. No adjustments have been made to any figures in the accounts as a result of the pandemic.

The Annual Report of the Trustees
of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Forest Row
for the year ended 31 December 2021

Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row

St Dunstan's Church, Ashurst Wood

St Stephen's Church, Hammerwood (Closed)

Registered Charity no. 1132867

Website: www.frparish.co.uk

Incumbent: The Venerable Angela Martin
The Vicarage, Ashdown Road, Forest Row, RH18 5BW

Independent Examiner: Mr Robert Dyke
17 Freshfield Bank, Forest Row, RH18 5HQ

Bankers: Santander UK plc, Bootle
Barclays Bank plc, 17 High Street, East Grinstead, RH19 3AH

Parochial Church Council of Forest Row registered charity number 1132867
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2021 (continued)

10 Fixed Assets

a Investments

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Market value at 1 January 2021	58,903		17,074	75,978	69,454	
Disposals at carrying value						
Purchases at cost						
Net gains and revaluations	10,313		2,273	12,586	6,524	
	69,216		19,348	88,564	75,978	

b Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2021	306,983
Additions - office equipment	-
Disposals	-
Revaluation	-
Depreciation	-300
At 31 December 2021	306,683
Net book amounts	
At 31 December 2021	306,683
At 31 December 2020	306,983

The freehold land and buildings comprise the costs of the redevelopment of the Church, hall and office at St Dunstan's Church, Ashurst Wood.

11 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Fixed assets for church use - land and buildings	306,683			306,683	306,983	
Investment assets	69,216		19,348	88,564	75,978	
Current assets (except cash)	5,160			5,160	4,639	
Cash at bank and on deposit	11,560	81,247		92,807	93,676	
Current liabilities	-6,484			-6,484	-2,642	
	386,135	81,247	19,348	486,729	478,633	

Within Unrestricted funds are Designated Funds which amounted to £36,478 at the Balance Sheet date. (2020 - £36,478.)

4 Missionary and charitable giving

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Royal British Legion	375			375	117
Embrace the Middle East	309			309	-
Climate Stewards (Emissions offsetting)	411			411	-
Church Urban Fund				-	400
East Grinstead Tadpoles				-	400
	1,095			1,095	917

5 Staff costs

Remuneration Salaries	10,342			10,342	8,634
	10,342	0	0	10,342	8,634

6 Payments to PCC Members

The Director of Music, who is a member of the PCC, was paid £6,216 during the year.

Other payments were made to PCC members in the year for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC:
Clergy support: Council tax £2,638; Water charges £640. Other expenses of the office of vicar, curate and ministry team £1,309.
No person received remuneration in excess of £60,000.

7 Transactions with persons related to PCC members

There were no transactions with persons related to PCC members

8 Governance

The PCC incurred no costs in connection with governance

9 Transfers between funds

All monies received during the year have been allocated to General Funds. Where legacies have been received these or part thereof have been allocated to Designated Reserves within Unrestricted Funds where appropriate

Parochial Church Council of Forest Row
Trustees Annual Report for 2021

The most significant piece of work that the PCC has carried out this year is to update our Mission Action Plan which is included in the report below. This has been part of a much wider Diocesan Deanery Planning project carried out during 2021. The PCC spent 6 months carefully and prayerfully working through a Mission Action Plan Tool Kit, a series of searching questions about faith, mission and church life. The result of these meetings is our new MAP (Mission Action Plan) which we hope everyone will feel able to fully participate in.

As a church community 2021 has been yet another year disrupted by the covid pandemic. It was a great joy to be able to gather together again as a worshipping congregation on Palm Sunday and in particular to sing together! Having put all the necessary measures in place we were able to enjoy worshipping together in a safe environment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Church Wardens for their flexibility and hard work over this last year. I would also like to make a special mention of our Sidesmen. Those within our church family who volunteer to be sidesmen (and women!) are our welcomers and the first touch point for newcomers in church. It is essential that the first point of contact for anyone coming into church is a warm smile and a reassuring hello! Over the last year with new people joining our congregations this particular role has become even more important.

At the beginning of 2021 the Bishop of Chichester invited me to become one of the Acting Archdeacons for Horsham and on the 4th July I became the new Archdeacon of Horsham. This meant a change in role for me and the parish. The decision was taken to stay in Forest Row and the Vicar alongside my new role as Archdeacon of Horsham. This meant that the parish did not go into vacancy and there would also be a reduction in the expected pledge for Parish Ministry Cost, something the parish has struggled with for many years now. Although this means I spend a great deal of time outside of the Parish carrying out my duties as Archdeacon it also means that the life of the Parish has been able to continue in much the same way with just a few adjustments. One of those adjustments has been to the working life of the Parish Office and in particular our Parish Administrator Saskia Schuit. Saskia has taken on, and continues to take on, more of the administrative elements of parish life. Our aim is to make the Parish Office a hub for first contact and for all arrangements of occasional offices, in other words ensuring that proper records are kept of the funerals, weddings and baptisms which happen across the parish. I would like to note my thanks to Saskia for all that she does to support me in my role as Vicar and the parish.



As part of these changes, we now have regular clergy support from the Parish of St Swithun with Revd. Canon Julia Peaty and Revd. Karen Higgs coming along once a month to cover a Sunday service. This is not only a great support to me as Archdeacon, enabling me to visit the parishes across my Archdeaconry throughout the year but it is also a great joy to our regular worshipping community as they have a varied diet of leadership for the Eucharist and in preaching. I am very grateful for the support and fellowship extended to us in this way by Julia and Karen and the Parish of St Swithun.

As part of our MAP we have also seen the beginnings of a new Worship Group. This we hope will be expanded and enable more lay-led worship within the parish extending our breadth of worship styles leading to possible numerical growth. The PCC have agreed to the proposal that we endeavour to organise a non-Eucharistic family style service for the 5th Sundays in the year. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Julie Martin.

Mission Action Plan

This Mission Action Plan was prepared by the Standing Committee for Forest Row PCC on 20.1.2022 from the results of the Mission Audit tool as agreed by the PCC at the December 2021 meeting. This was the culmination of 6 months’ work that the PCC had prayerfully undertaken to consider the questions posed in the Mission Audit document which forms part of the Diocesan Deanery Planning exercise. After completing the 8 questions in the audit document the PCC felt called to focus on Qu7 of the mission audit.

“Qu7; A growing church is likely to nurture disciples, encouraging people to explore and deepen their faith and live it out in their daily lives.”

The PCC when answering this session, gave to 7 out of the 8 questions posed an answer of ‘NO’. The conclusion drawn from this was that the way we bring people to faith and grow in our own faith journey, our Bible study, our prayer life and our relationship with the Holy Spirit was the area we most needed to focus on.

The PCC authorised the Standing Committee to meet and develop the final MAP.

The aims of the Standing Committee were to complete our Parish MAP which needed to be SMART and in line with the Diocesan Strategy of the ‘Four Mores’; More Open, More Converted to Jesus Christ, More Generous, More Engaged. These are linked to the words of the Creed - One, Holy, Apostolic and Catholic church.

Specific
Measurable
Achievable
Realistic
Time limited

Specific aim:
To raise the spiritual temperature of the regular worshipping community.
As a family of faith we are a gathered community of Christians committed to Sunday worship. We know that theological thinking must be built on a combination of Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience. Amongst our church family we have some understanding of our Christian faith but not a deep level of understanding neither on a personal and/or a corporate level. By learning to balance the elements of Scripture, Tradition and Reason and Experience our aim is to grow in faith and raise the spiritual temperature across the parish.

Measurable aim:
Simply by recording the scope and number of people who engage with this process.

Achievable aim:
How to achieve this and the ideas explored to offer the opportunity for everyone to engage and grow in depth of faith.

Sermon series.
To use well known and accessible materials during the sermon slot on a Sunday at the main act of worship as a teaching tool. It was suggested that we begin by using resources from the ‘Christianity Explored’ course including the videos narrated by Rico Tice. To then encourage the congregation to use the time at coffee after the service for discussion. This would begin at the start of Lent.

Men’s Breakfast.
To arrange an opportunity for men to gather and talk about their faith and life. While encouraging diversity we must also acknowledge that we all have a slightly different perspective and that there are fewer men within the worshipping community than there are women. There are also already well established groups that, although not advertised as exclusively for women, on the whole are only frequented by women. (Quilting group, Knit & Natter, Interim)

Book Club.
To encourage people to read a particular book over the period of 6 months and to gather monthly to discuss the content. A suggestion for the first title is ‘The Bible - the story that makes sense of life’ written by Dr Andrew Ollerton.

Parochial Church Council of Forest Row registered charity number 1132867
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2021 (continued)

3 Analysis of expenditure						
	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Special appeals costs (adverts, brochures etc)	250			250	0	
Cost of raising funds	250	0	0	250	0	
Charitable grants and donations	1,095			1,095	917	
Diocesan parish share	41,200			41,200	57,162	
Clergy and other persons' expenses	4,587			4,587	4,991	
Salaries and NI	10,342			10,342	8,634	
Upkeep of services	1,828			1,828	1,571	
Church running costs	11,938			11,938	11,360	
Church maintenance and repair	10,022			10,022	6,282	
Upkeep of churchyard and garden	150			150	130	
Governance	0			0	0	
Cost of charitable activities	81,163			81,163	91,048	
Church hall running costs	1,852			1,852	1,279	
Cost of other trading activities	1,852			1,852	1,279	
Total expended on all funds	83,265			83,265	92,327	

2 Analysis of income and endowments						
	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Planned giving (excl tax refunds)	39,634			39,634	41,869	
Collections at services	5,739			5,739	4,241	
Gift days and donations	13,143			13,143	11,830	
Fetes, bazaars and other fund-raising events				0	0	
Gift aid recoverable	5,775			5,775	5,520	
Legacies	6,000			6,000	5,000	
Government grants	1,583			1,583	3,634	
Grants (other)				0	0	
Donations and legacies	71,874	0	0	71,874	72,094	
Fees for weddings and funerals	4,226			4,226	2,196	
Charitable activities	4,226			4,226	2,196	
Lettings etc	2,350			2,350	2,651	
Other trading activities	2,350			2,350	2,651	
Dividends and interest	325			325	621	
Investments	325			325	621	
Total income and endowments on all funds	78,774	0	0	78,774	77,561	

Supper Club.
This would be a social group to offer people the opportunity to get to know one another on an informal level. During our preparations we recognised that to be able to have a frank and open conversation about your faith we all need to feel comfortable with each other and confident that we are in a safe space. The aim of the Supper Club would be to build trust.

Pubs.
Our first task is to grow spiritually but looking ahead we need to be thinking about building on this and reaching out to become more open. We felt that it is also important to encourage engagement in the community and particularly gathering in our local pubs. This seems like an odd thing to encourage but within our small Parish we have several pubs, each attracting different cross-sections of our village communities. If we are to be successful in our outreach we must first get to know those who we are reaching out to. Pub quizzes and regular meetings, possibly book club held in our pubs will be part of our mission moving forward.

Church Family events.
Christian Quiz - this could be a fun event held at our regular Saturday morning Café
Quiet/Away Day - we have had 2 successful Quiet days over the past 7 years. It is proposed that we aim to arrange a Quiet day of reflection open to all.

Pilgrim Courses.
Distinctive short, led courses based on various themes all relating to different aspects of faith and church life. The proposal is that these can be run in small house groups.

New Daylight.
New Daylight is a popular and well-loved book with daily devotional scripture readings and related reflections. We propose that this book be encouraged as a daily discipline and a regular group set up (revived) to meet monthly to discuss the readings and reflections. There had been just such a group in existence and the hope is that this can be gathered again.

Realistic aim.
To only carry out a few of our ideas and not to try to do them all!
We felt that the following would be achievable.
Sermon series
New Daylight
Book Club
Men’s Breakfast
Supper Club - summer months

The hope is that as we move through the year we may find we have also been able to begin some of the other ideas.

Conclusion.
The element of the Four Moors we are concentrating on in phase [i] 2022 is **More Converted to Jesus Christ.**

The SMART aims are;
S To raise the spiritual temperature
M The record of the number of people who engage with the process
A To work with the suggestions offering opportunities for people to grow in faith
R Only do a few of our ideas
T Phase [i] Ends Dec 2022 - phase [ii] in 2023 - More Open

Statutory Reports
Fabric Goods and Ornaments

Holy Trinity Church

During the last year we have been able to fulfil a number of necessary repairs and issues. My grateful thanks to Graham Bedford who has taken control of our fabric maintenance and also reports to the D.C.C. through the year.

The Quinquennial has been completed and we await the report for this.

Roof repairs have been completed. All Gutters have been cleared during the year and Church Hall roof checked for leaks.

The Clock has had ongoing maintenance throughout the year and at last seems to be working well in February 2022!! We received a grant from the Parish Council to cover the majority of this work.

A fallen 'carved label stop' near the Chancel Window was replaced. Also stained glass windows repairs in the nave and porch are under consideration.

Scotts did their annual services on both Boilers for the Church and the Hall.

Toilets have had various repairs during the year and the Toilet Macerator is to be serviced.

The Organ and Piano have been tuned once during the year. The Organ Blower has been serviced, for the first time since 1962. The Organ trumpet stop needs work at some point as there is a high level of dirt, dust and grit which does not help the tuning. When money allows we hope this could be rectified, although some form of cover may be needed to avoid this happening again as it is close to the archway.

The main Church Notice board opposite Freshfield Hall is in a bad state of repair and the possibility of replacing this is under consideration.

The font has a leak in it when being emptied and various options are being considered avoiding too much expense.

The Church Hall continues to cause concern. We again are keen to make some progress in making this a more welcoming area during the next year.

The sound system is still under review and is being looked at by Pete Caruana during the early part of 2022 and in March is certainly a great improvement.

The Bell Rope in the main porch was purchased and replaced.

During 2022 we are planning to apply for a grant towards the Spire Lighting running costs.

During the year the Church has had some 'spring' cleans and my grateful thanks to those who have helped on these occasions. Our thanks also go to Jeanne and Bob Dyke who work extremely hard in the Garden and to Jeff Horner and his team for grass cutting during the year. It is always so wonderful that people enter our Church and Garden so regularly and that they have the opportunity to enjoy such welcoming environments. My special thanks go to Pamela Bainbridge and Carol Holden who have very kindly opened and locked the Church since the National Day of Reflection on 23rd March 2021 and have helped to keep our Church open 7 days a week.

My thanks to all members of the congregation who continue to make our Church such a special place in the lives of the community.

Finally, my thanks to Angela, June, my co-warden and Sue my deputy warden for all their support throughout the year.



Simon Morris – Churchwarden

St Dunstan's Church

The annual servicing of the fire alarm system, fire extinguishers and kitchen security shutters took place. The smoke detector sensor in the Gathering Space had to be replaced.

The hall boiler was serviced. The control panel for regulating the heating and hot water had to be replaced. Minor safety work in the meter cupboard to satisfy gas regulations was undertaken.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Fixed Assets (continued)

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold

properties over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Fixtures and fittings	25%
Computer equipment	33%

No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings as the useful economic life of these assets exceeds 50 years and residual values so high that potential depreciation would be immaterial. It is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. Resulting from regular impairment reviews, provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value as at the balance sheet date.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors, less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit with either the CCLA or at the PCC's bank accounts.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Other trading activities

Trading activities are where income is receivable in return for selling goods or providing services. Income from trading is recognised either: a) when received, or b) in the case of other activities, for the year in which the event occurs, irrespective of the date of receipt. Moneys received in advance are included in creditors until the event has taken place.

Rents received from hall lettings are recognised when due.

Investment income

Dividends and interest are accounted for as they are received.

All other income

All other income is recognised in accordance with the above overall policy.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold.

Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation as at 31 December.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, payment is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded when the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for on an annual basis, reflecting the allocation set by our Deanery. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided in the financial statements as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets
Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by s.10 (2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishing is held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected but are not included in the financial statements. For other property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not stated in the financial statements.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £1,000 is written off in the year in which they are incurred.

A fault with the hearing loop amplifier was rectified.
The annual organ tuning took place.
The light bulbs in the globes were replaced to improve the level of lighting.

The grass and hedges continue to be maintained by Pete Pollard. Alison takes good care of the rose garden. The undercroft hedge has been trimmed. The entrance to the car park has been renovated and has provided another car parking space.

The investigations into the renewal of the church boiler have been ongoing. It has been decided, in principle, to replace the old gas boiler with some form of electric heating which would be more cost effective and environmentally friendly. Alternatives are still being explored.



June Spoor Churchwarden

St Stephen's Church, Hammerwood

The churchyard at Hammerwood continues to be lovingly cared for by Graham Bedford and his team. The church building is in the process of being sold after its formal closure in 2016.

Ven. Angela Martin - Vicar

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Throughout the year various members of our congregations have had their D.B.S. renewed, to enable them to continue with Open the Book, Sunday School and taking Holy Communion to the housebound, therefore extending our outreach to the wider community. There are various items in both churches, with contact details of who and where to contact, if there are concerns of abuse in children or vulnerable adults.

Marilyn Morris

Music and Worship

2021, apart from celebrating the Epiphany on the first Sunday in January, started with us in lockdown through to the end of March. Continuing our daily practice of Morning Prayer on Zoom we held a regular Sunday service. This became quite popular, with sometimes between 25 and 30 attending. After the initial weeks we even sang a hymn to end. As Holy Week approached at the end of March we were able to return to services in Church. We decided to have joint services for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, basically said but starting and ending each service outside with a hymn. The remainder of Holy Week was marked by daily Morning Prayer. After this, we returned to our normal pattern of services up and down the hill, with our main services said. At Holy Trinity the Choir sang shortened versions of the hymns with the final hymn sung outside at both St Dunstan's and Holy Trinity. By the end of July we were back to hymn singing at both churches. Towards the end of August Mass Settings were reintroduced. With some new orders of service the musical settings were streamlined, so we would be singing the same music at both churches in Ordinary Time and Penitential seasons and each Church would keep to its main setting for Christmas/ Epiphany and Easter.

With the return to hymn singing we were able to resurrect the Church Choir and I am pleased we have 11 regular members, with others I can call upon to help out. We meet each Sunday when at Holy Trinity and had main Choir Practices on Fridays before Harvest, Remembrance and leading up to Christmas. At the end of July we were able to have Songs of Praise followed by Cheese and Wine.

My grateful thanks for the support I have been given by Angela and all the congregation, not forgetting the Choir, who give such a commitment, throughout the year. At the end of July the Choir

were invited to the Vicarage for a social gathering which was greatly appreciated. At both churches, my thanks to Ann Woodard who has played the organ for services and also to Nicholas Smith and Chris Harris who often help with Weddings and Funerals, if I am unavailable. Both Church Organs have been tuned during the year. Hopefully the work needed on Holy Trinity's may happen when funds allow. The Piano also was tuned having not been tuned since 2019. Unfortunately, our annual Charity Concert was cancelled again. We look forward to our Platinum Jubilee Charity Concert on Saturday 11th June. Social activities have been put on hold until we all feel it is safe to travel to London, which I know many will look forward to. I look forward to continuing music making throughout the Parish during the next year.

Simon Morris (Parish Director of Music)

Children’s Work

Open the Book



St. Dunstan’s Team continues to be: Rosie Hewson, Keith Major, Gwenda Kirk, Lin Smith, Jacqui Gosnall, Richard Gooderson and Tom Hewson.

We resumed assemblies in September this year, opting for monthly stories as we are all finding it a bit challenging to produce two assemblies a month. The school continue to be grateful for everything we can do. Due to Covid, we had to omit Christmas, but began January with the Three Star Watchers, which was very well received.

Rosie Hewson

Sunday School

As you can imagine, it has been an unusual year for the youngsters at Holy Trinity. We managed to have a small project nurturing butterflies remotely. I was able to keep in touch with small groups of children and sent photographs of the butterflies that we bought online.

It was such a wonderful thing to see the caterpillars metamorphosising into chrysalises and then into painted lady butterflies. Sadly, the inclement weather meant that they emerged a little too early to release outside on the chosen date. I kept them in the warm conditions of our snug which made a great lepidopterarium. They were released a couple of weeks later. The children also looked after individual plants that were especially attractive to butterflies and planted these in their gardens.



Throughout lockdown periods, Angela was able to include activities from “Roots” in the weekly electronic bulletin. I’m sure many families found this interesting and helpful. We took a break after this time but restarted just before Christmas with the children back in the church. The children worked so beautifully to roll and cut out clay stars which they hand painted and these were hung on their little Christmas tree with lights and entered in the Christmas Tree Festival. The real tree was later replanted and is flourishing in St. Albans!

Since Christmas our little saplings have made small white paper doves suspended on twigs to celebrate the Baptism of Christ and remind us of the Holy Spirit.

They have baked a fruit cake to represent the Holy Trinity and the unity of the church remembering that everyone is like an ingredient in a cake and together we combine to become a wonderful church family. The cake was enjoyed by members of the congregation after the service! In February the children drew and cut out little Valentine hearts which they gave to each member of

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current (2016) Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities, (SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds - general funds which can be used by the PCC for ordinary purposes.

Designated funds - monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific purposes or projects. These allocations are a proportion of the Unrestricted Funds, and may be released back to non-designated Unrestricted Funds by agreement of the PCC.

Restricted funds - a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; b) donations or grants received for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment funds - funds for which the capital must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment.

Income and endowments

All income and endowments, accounted for without deduction for any costs of receivability, are recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are generally recognised when received. Where a donation is received for a particular purpose it is recognised in the appropriate accounting year.

Planned giving receivable is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount accords with the Gift Aid declaration or other record of intention to donate.

Gift aid recovered is recognised when the income to which it is attached is recognised.

Grants and legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the funding, is received by the PCC.

Charitable activities

Statutory fees for weddings and funerals are recognised when the office occurs.

Parochial Church Council of Forest Row registered charity number 1132867
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

Our financial position and summary of funds at the year end were

	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020	Notes
	£	£	
Intangible Assets	-	-	
Tangible Assets	375,899	365,886	
Endowed invest-ments	19,348	17,074	
Investments			
Total fixed assets	395,247	382,960	10,11
Debtors	5,160	4,639	12
Cash at bank	92,807	93,676	
Total current assets	97,967	98,315	12
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	6,484	2,642	13
Total net assets	486,729	478,633	
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds	19,348	17,074	11
Restricted funds	81,247	81,247	
Unrestricted funds	386,135	380,312	11
	486,729	478,633	

This Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2021, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by the Venerable Angela Martin, PCC Chairman:

..... Angela Martin

on 31 March 2022

the congregation. Written on each heart was the message- with love x

We have three little families with groups of siblings who come to Little Saplings intermittently and we are overjoyed to have them joining the congregation. They are always a delight and bring real joy to all the congregation.

Future Little saplings dates are:
Sunday 27th February
Sunday 27th March Mothering Sunday
Sunday 17th April Easter Sunday
Sunday 8th May

Natasha Crawford

Schools

We have continued to support our local schools as far as possible during another very difficult year. Open the Book was not allowed in for much of the year but delivered assemblies when it was allowed to. As Vicar I continued to support the school in Forest Row as Chair of Governors and doing assemblies when restrictions allowed. There has been no contact with our local independent schools this year. Ashdown House sadly closed its doors to students. We have had no contact with Michael Hall and Greenfields except through the Christmas Tree festival when Greenfields once again entered a very creative and beautiful tree. Brambletye School have now employed Revd. Karen Higgs as their School Chaplain and Chapel is no longer on a Saturday. These changes have meant that even the limited contact we did have has diminished further. Our joy is that we still have strong ties with Brambletye school through Revd. Karen Higgs.

Ven Angela Martin - Vicar



Caring for God’s precious planet and creation is part of our Parish mission. We have a responsibility to care for the Earth and God’s creation - using its resources wisely and protecting them for future generations. The Holy Trinity and St Dunstan’s Eco Church Group is encouraging action that cares for the environment and stops the harm that affects people and nature in our own community, and further afield. The Eco Church Group has met about once per month during the year. We have incorporated care for creation in aspects of worship. A Sea Sunday service in July 2021 featured sustainability of the oceans and how, for example, sustainable fishing is important. The 2021 Harvest Festival Service in September was also our *Climate Sunday* service when we considered how climate change is affecting people’s lives around the world and prayed for a good outcome at the November 2021 UN climate change conference. Caring for creation has also regularly featured in some other weekly services, in Ven. Angela’s weekly bulletin and in the Parish News. As well as in our worship and teaching, we continued with other Eco Church themes of reducing the environmental footprint of our buildings, using our church lands wisely for nature, reaching out to the wider community, and considering what we can all do to reduce the environmental impact of our lifestyle choices.

We estimated the sources of annual “carbon” emissions, contributing towards climate change, from both Holy Trinity and St Dunstan’s churches to see how they could be reduced. The combined, total emissions from both churches in 2020 was estimated at around 18 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, which is more than twice as much as the average UK household produces in a year. 80% of those emissions come from the natural gas used in heating of both churches. We are investigating new, lower carbon heating for St Dunstan’s and Holy Trinity, particularly to replace the aging heating system for the Worship Space at St Dunstan’s.

Our ambition is to reduce our carbon emissions to as low as possible. In the meantime, we “offset” the carbon emissions produced in 2020 so that they do not contribute towards climate change. We did this by supporting projects where the carbon that we produced is absorbed or reduced somewhere else. This was by donating £411 to the Climate Stewards Christian charity for projects that help poor people in countries of Africa or Asia, as well as reducing carbon emissions. You can find out more about *Climate Steward* projects at climatestewards.org. We continue to work with other local organisations that also care for the environment. As in previous years we organised a Forest Row village litter pick for the first time and participated with the Friends of the River Medway in a clean-up of parts of the river in Forest Row. We are looking forward to continuing our work in the coming year so that we continue to care for God’s precious and fragile creation.

Gareth Martin

Churches Together

Covid-19 continued to affect our ability to organise joint activities.

In place of the normal walk of witness on Good Friday Venerable Angela and Mary McLachlan prepared jointly an on-line meditation for Good Friday.

In the summer we said farewell to Mary McLachlan. She left her position as Minister at the Baptist Church in July. Mary and David returned to run Dormansland Church for a fixed term of two years while they plan for their future. It was sad to say goodbye to Mary as it had been a joy to work with her. The usual combined service was held on Remembrance Sunday. The two churches continued to meet together and will hopefully be able to organise more joint events in 2022.

Keith Stacey

Interim

At the moment we have seventeen people attending the group on the second Tuesday of the month at Holy Trinity Church Hall of which two are men. Not a great deal happened in 2021 due to several lockdowns and people being nervous of meeting up. We started up again in October with most people returning. Early in December fifteen had a lovely Christmas meal at The Swan in Forest Row. We also put a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival. In March this year we had an interesting talk by Mr Jim McAtamney on his life working for Sainsburys.

Lin Smith

Outreach

Support for Charities

The opportunities to support charities through fundraising events and special collections have continued to be limited during the pandemic. Nonetheless donations totalling £1,095 were made to the following charities in 2021:

Parochial Church Council of Forest Row registered charity number 1132867
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

The financial effect of our activities during the year can be summarised as follows:

	Unrestrict- ed fund	Restricted funds	Endowed funds	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	71,874			71,874	72,094	
Charitable activities	4,226			4,226	2,196	
Other trading activities	2,350			2,350	2,651	
Investments	325			325	621	
Other receipts	0			0	0	
Total income	78,774			78,774	77,562	2
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	250			250	0	
Charitable activities	81,163			81,163	91,048	
Other trading activities	1,852			1,852	1,279	
Other expenditure	0			0	0	
Total expenditure	83,265			83,265	92,327	3
Net gains/losses on investments	10,313		2,273	12,586	6,519	
Net income	5,823	0	2,273	8,096	-8,246	
Transfers between funds						
Other recognised gains/losses						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						
Other gains/(losses)						
Reconciliation of funds:						
Net movement in funds	5,823	0	2,273	8,096	-8,246	
Total funds brought forward	380,312	81,247	17,074	478,633	433,976	
Total funds carried forward	386,135	81,247	19,348	486,729	425,730	

Unrestricted funds include £36,478 allocated to Designated funds for particular purposes.

Royal British Legion	£375
Embrace the Middle East	£309
Climate Stewards (Emissions offsetting)	£411

The donation to Embrace the Middle East was money raised through the collecting tubs. Late in the year we started collecting for our next charity “Spotlight UK” which supports children who have mental issues, have experienced domestic abuse or are in care and affected by loss or separation.

The donation to Climate Stewards was to support projects that help to reduce carbon emissions by an amount equivalent to the emissions unavoidably generated by the parish.

In addition, Ven Angela, Gareth Martin and Patrick Crawford participated in the Sussex Historic Churches Trust ‘Ride & Stride’ cycle ride. This raised £475, half of which went to the Trust and half to our churches.

Keith Stacey



100 Club

2021 proved a stable year for the club, partially due to Covid restrictions no doubt. During the course of the year we suffered one retirement but gained a new member thus balancing our membership at 106 tickets. This meant that last year we gave out £3,175.00 in prizes and raised almost the same amount for the Parish. Now that we are crawling out of the Covid crisis we must try and expand the membership with the aim of doubling the size of the members. Sounds fantastic? Not a bit of it!

Keith Major

Community Cafe at St Dunstan's

This is the 2021 annual report for the Community Café, a second year blighted by Covid-19. As a result of lockdown, the Café only opened for the year at the start of July.

2021 saw the Café under new leadership of Frances Down who, with the valuable support of her colleague volunteers – cooks, assistant cooks, waiting staff, drivers, caretaking, and administration/finance support - did wonderfully well to maintain this much valued community service in Ashurst Wood.

During 2021 the Café served 697 customers over 23 weeks of sittings. In total 425 soups, 654 mains and 606 puddings were cooked and sold. Total income from sale of meals, including gratuities, totalled £4,173.35, while expenditure on meals, excluding central supplies, was £2,385.54. The weekly rent to the Church was £50 per week, which reflects both preparatory work in the kitchen on Mondays and use of the halls and kitchen on the Tuesdays. Prices of starters, mains and puddings were respectively £1.50, £3.50, and £1.50 still unchanged from the Café’s inception in August 2010, though these three categories will each increase by 50p in 2022.

No charitable donations were made in 2021 due to uncertainty associated with Covid. It is anticipated that such donations will be possible again from later in 2022.

As of 31 December 2021, the balance in the café’s accounts shows as £3,359.31, only a small amount down compared with the previous year when it stood at £3,420.09. The accounts have been independently examined by Mr Brian Rugg who found everything to be in good order, and that ‘the accounts show a fair and balanced view of the transactions for 2021’.

C J Rolley, Honorary Treasurer

Knit and Natter at Holy Trinity

The Knit and Natter group, restarted on the 6th October and we have continued to meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month, since then. Although not meeting, everyone had been busy either knitting squares, children’s clothes, adult hats and gloves for Charity. We look forward to welcoming everyone, including new members, for a cup of coffee or tea, maybe biscuits or cake and a lot of talking, while hopefully some knitting, crocheting, needlework is undertaken.

Marilyn Morris

Coffee Mornings at St.Dunstan’s Church

Since June 2021 we have resumed hosting our monthly Coffee Mornings on 2nd Saturdays at St. Dunstan’s. We have many regular attenders and welcome new people where hopefully there is an opportunity to get to know others in the villages. We miss Rachel Hutchinson with her table of used gifts and homemade cards and thank her for all her hard work over the last few years and wish her well in her recovery. Sales of marmalade, jam and chutney and cakes are popular. On March 12th we combined the Coffee Morning with the Village Litter Pick. It was good to see so many families and children taking part and staying for refreshments afterwards.

Alison Harman

Social and Fundraising

Holy Trinity

At the beginning of the year as we were in lockdown, our social activities were curtailed. Unfortunately, it wasn’t until August that we reconvened a social gathering and time of fellowship after all main services, although we had our Cheese and Wine social at the end of July after our annual Songs of Praise. At Holy Trinity we returned this to the back of the Church, which has been greatly appreciated by all the congregation.

During the Autumn, Christmas Cards were sold after services. the Christmas Hamper raffle and ‘brain teasing’ Quiz were made available. Our thanks to Ken Farrar for producing the quiz, which is always a talking point amongst many. The weekend before Christmas, the now annual ‘Christmas Tree Festival’ took place, which again brought many organisations and the community into the Church. Our grateful thanks to Gareth Martin who kindly organised this event again. On the Friday in Forest Row and Saturday in Ashurst Wood, Carol Singing took place around the villages, bringing some of the congregation and community together.

As I write this, we look forward to the visit of Chichester Cathedral Choir to sing Choral Evensong on Sunday 20th February, followed by a social for all our visitors in the Freshfield Hall. We are ever hopeful, that during 2022 we will be able to resurrect some of our social and fundraising occasions.

Simon Morris

St Dunstan’s

Covid-19 restricted our ability to organise activities at the beginning of the year. However, we were able to resume the monthly coffee mornings in May. As usual this one included extra stalls – plants, books and bric-a-brac – and raised £266. The coffee mornings then continued through the rest of the year and these coupled with the sale of Alison Harman’s popular home-made marmalade and jam (and mincemeat) raised £658. We were again able to provide the mulled wine and other refreshments at the Ashurst Wood Christmas Market and this raised £257.

Keith Stacey



**The Annual Financial Report
of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Forest Row
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row
St Dunstan's Church, Ashurst Wood
St Stephen's Church, Hammerwood (Closed)

Registered Charity no. 1132867

CONTENTS

Page	
21	Statement of Financial Activities
22	Balance Sheet
23 - 30	Notes to the Accounts
31	Report of the Independent Examiner



A great way to contribute to the work and ministry of the Parish is by using our QR code.

Ven. Angela Martin - Vicar

Financial Review

The continuation of the Covid pandemic into 2021, and long periods of reduced activity have undoubtedly had a negative effect on our finances, although it is impossible to measure this with accuracy. As noted in the 2020 report, we offered to the Diocese a Parish Share of £40,000 for 2021. We did increase our monthly contributions in the summer but were unable to sustain this. We continued to furlough staff where possible, and we acknowledge Government support to the extent of £1,583. Once again, we were fortunate to receive a legacy. This was £6,000 from the estate of Maureen Watson. We are most grateful for this.

The final financial results for 2021 show a deficit of £4,491 after the legacy referred to above. The underlying deficit is therefore over £10,000 and is clearly not sustainable. Given the current high rate of inflation, costs are likely to continue to rise. Therefore, we need to increase our regular income whether by regular giving or by fund-raising.

Early indications are that there is still a deficit running currently. There will be a large increase in energy costs for 2022. The gas and electricity prices for Holy Trinity have increased by 112% and 60% respectively due to general energy price increases in the UK, and could also have been affected by the supplier for Holy Trinity going into administration. We have taken action to reduce energy costs by more closely monitoring and controlling the heating and subsequent gas consumption at Holy Trinity, and we are investigating an alternative supplier. Fortunately, St Dunstan's has a fixed price contract running to the autumn of 2022, but the price of gas and electricity can be expected to increase after that time.

Forest Wood Lottery continues to support our finances and we gratefully acknowledge their donations.

Ian King

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to hold surplus general funds over and above working balances, representing six months of current expenditure, thus allowing for large and unanticipated expenditure to be easily dealt with. This has not been possible, and our cash resources have continued to decline in the first few months of 2022.

Ian King

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent:	The Venerable Angela Martin. Chairman	
Wardens:	Simon Morris June Spoor	Vice Chairman
Secretary:	Saskia Schuit	

Elected Members

Ian King	(until 2022)
Jeremy Kirk	(until 2023)
Keith Major	(until 2023)
Fay Margo	(resigned 07/21)
Julie Martin	(until 2022)
Sue Walter	(until 2023)

Deanery Synod

Timothy Leeney

Fiona Rogers

Two vacancies

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and 12 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

Following the APCM in April there remained vacancies for three members of the Holy Trinity congregation and for three members of the St Dunstan’s congregation. The resignation of Fay Margo in July 2021 increased the Holy Trinity vacancies to four. Members of the two congregations are warmly encouraged to consider standing for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

Parochial Church Council

The PCC met six times during the year. The first two meetings were conducted via Zoom due to the lockdown.

To ensure that sufficient time is devoted to mission, every endeavour is made to arrange business so that alternate meetings are devoted to mission. The mission meetings were for a large part devoted to putting together the Mission Action Plan as included in this report.

The Standing Committee took decisions between meetings. These were generally on matters of a non-contentious nature and the decisions were subsequently endorsed by the PCC. There is no separate Finance Committee, but the Parish Treasurer monitors receipts and payments, produces budgets and other financial data and makes regular reports to the PCC.

There is a District Church Council at each church with delegated authority to deal with some aspects of worship, mission and the maintenance of the fabric of the buildings. With the lockdown, Holy Trinity DCC and St Dunstan’s DCC only met on two occasions

This Trustees Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by the Ven. Angela Martin, PCC Chair

Signed:
Ven. Angela Martin

Date: 31 March 2022

Accounts

Ecclesiastical Parish of Forest Row



Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report of the Parochial Church Council 2020

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Forest Row for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of Forest Row on the annual report for the year ending 31 December 2020 as set out on pages 21 to 31.

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 matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: R C Dyke

Date: 1 April 2021

Examiner's address 17 Freshfield Bank
Forest Row
East Sussex
RH18 5HQ

12 Debtors

Income tax recoverable	3,400	3,400	6,488
Prepayments and accrued income	1,239	1,239	842
Other debtors	0	0	0
	4,639	4,639	7,330

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Deferred income				-	-	
Accruals for utilities and other costs	1,763			1,763	360	
Other creditors	879			879	860	
	2,642			2,642	1,220	

The Annual Report of the Trustees
of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Forest Row
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row

St Dunstan's Church, Ashurst Wood

St Stephen's Church, Hammerwood (Closed)

Registered Charity no. 1132867

Website: www.frparish.co.uk

Incumbent: The Revd Angela Martin
The Vicarage, Ashdown Road, Forest Row, RH18 5BW

Independent Examiner: Mr Robert Dyke
17 Freshfield Bank, Forest Row, RH18 5HQ

Bankers: Santander UK plc, Bootle
Barclays Bank plc, 17 High Street, East Grinstead, RH19 3AH

Parochial Church Council of Forest Row registered charity number 1132867
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

10 Fixed Assets

a Investments

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Market value at 1 January 2019	53,453		16,000	69,454	57,260	
Disposals at carrying value						
Purchases at cost						
Net gains and revaluations	5,450		1,074	6,524	12,193	
	58,903		17,074	75,978	69,453	

b Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2020	306,383
Additions - office equipment	900
Disposals	-
Revaluation	-
Depreciation	-300
at 31 December 2020	306,983
Net book amounts	
At 31 December 2020	306,983
At 31 December 2019	306,383

The freehold land and buildings comprise the costs of the redevelopment of the Church, hall and office at St Dunstan's Church, Ashurst Wood.

11 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Fixed assets for church use - land and buildings	306,983		0	306,983	306,383	
Investment assets	58,903		17,074	75,978	69,454	
Current assets (except cash)	4,639			4,639	7,479	
Cash at bank and on deposit	12,429	81,247		93,676	105,085	
Current liabilities	-2,642			-2,642	-1,520	
	380,312	81,247	17,074	478,633	486,881	

Within Unrestricted funds are Designated Funds which amounted to £36,478 at the Balance Sheet date. (2019 - £36,478.)

4 Missionary and charitable giving

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Royal British Legion	117			117	550
Church of England Children's Society				0	50
St Catherine's Hospice				0	313
Tear Fund Yemen Appeal				0	263
Bible Society				0	92
Church Urban Fund	400			400	100
East Grinstead					
Tadpoles	400			400	100
Parkinsons Disease Society				0	450
Kent,Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance				0	100
	917			917	2,018

5 Staff costs

Remuneration					
Salaries	8,634			8,634	8,658
	8,634	0	0	8,634	8,658

6 Payments to PCC Members

The Director of Music, who is a member of the PCC, was paid £6,216 during the year.

Other payments were made to PCC members in the year for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC:

Clergy support: Council tax £3,589; Water charges £774. Other expenses of the office of vicar, curate and ministry team £628.

No person received remuneration in excess of £60,000.

7 Transactions with persons related to PCC members

There were no transactions with persons related to PCC members

8 Governance

The PCC incurred no costs in connection with governance

9 Transfers between funds

All monies received during the year have been allocated to General Funds. Where legacies have been received these or part thereof have been allocated to Designated Reserves within Unrestricted Funds.

Parochial Church Council of Forest Row

Trustees Annual Report for 2020

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The primary objective of Forest Row PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Revd Angela Martin, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

For our ecumenical Advent service we took the ancient theme of the Jesse Tree, reminding ourselves of the reason we have a decorated tree at Christmas. We retold the story of our journey with God so far from creation, to the prophets and finally the birth of Christ. We created 3 Jesse Trees, one for each church, Holy Trinity, St Dunstan's and Forest Row Baptist church. Each day of Advent each church added another decoration depicting a particular element of the journey.

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Ir2020 has been a difficult year for many, a year of highs and a great many lows. None of us could have predicted the events that unfolded as we moved from the beginning of January with the news coming in from China of an unknown virus that was sweeping through the population causing many deaths, to the historic announcement by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to close the churches as we entered our first national lockdown in March. At the time it was almost unthinkable that we would be closed for Easter but we were.

However, the doors of our buildings may have been closed but the work of the church continued. We quickly put in place a prayer chain, organising a list of volunteers to call those who were on their own or vulnerable, to ensure that even though we would be apart physically, we would remain in contact as a church family. My thanks to all those who have volunteered and not given up! The weekly eBulletin was established, again to keep as many of us informed and in contact as possible. The circulation for the bulletin grew from 75 to almost 150 over the course of the year, and again my grateful thanks to those who every week have printed off the bulletin and delivered it to those who are not on the internet. We created a Parish YouTube channel to enable us to post recordings online for all to see. Our Parish Facebook page came into its own as a means of sharing our weekly recorded reflections, bible readings and of course when were able to return to live church services briefly at the end of the summer, it also became a vehicle to share our service recordings. As you might expect this has been a steep learning curve and there have been some teething problems along the way, one being that our live-streaming hasn't always been as successful as we might have hoped. However, even this turned into a blessing with over 1000 hits as we streamed our entire service on its side! The Lord moves in mysterious ways his wonders to perform.

The other great addition to communication in 2020 has been the development of our new Parish Website with grateful thanks to ChurchPages who worked throughout the first lockdown to produce this for us. We purchased a licence to share recorded music online along with our ZOOM registration which has allowed us to pray together, to study together and to meet as a PCC throughout 2020. And, of course, we have also employed a **new Parish Administrator Saskia Schuit** who started in September. With the retirement of Keith Stacey as our PCC Secretary at our ACPM in October the PCC decided that this role should be taken on by the new Parish Administrator. As the Vicar I am indebted to **Keith Stacey** for his depth of knowledge and understanding, as well as the selfless amount of time he has spent in his role as PCC Secretary. He is definitely going to be a very hard act for Saskia to follow and I will miss him sat at my side during PCC meetings offering quiet words of advice. Thank you Keith for all you have contributed to Parish life as our PCC Secretary and many thanks for continuing to play an integral role as our Treasurer at St Dunstan's church.

The Lows - 2020 has been a year of loss. Loss of loved ones, made harder by the lack of social contact and in many cases not being able to be with our loved ones at the end of their life. The pain

of not being able to attend a funeral, not being able to gather and share memories and support each other in these life-changing events. Loss of contact has come at a high price, and that price is loneliness and great sadness. As a family of faith we must work hard in the future to bring healing into our community by acts of kindness, love, compassion and of course through prayer. Hospitality lies at the very heart of our faith, we are called to gather around the Lord's table to be fed and nourished, hospitality is the way we will be able to feed and nurture ourselves and those around us back to health. Many have lost their jobs, and those who were furloughed have been living on reduced means for almost a year now, while living costs have stayed the same. Our children and young people have perhaps lost out the most without social contact and living with the underlying fear of the effects of the virus. Younger children in particular have been worried and concerned, even anxious, about life in a world of pandemic. Many parents have struggled to continue to work at home and keep up with the demands of home-learning for their children. Teenagers have missed out on a year of social interaction and personal formation as they grow into young adults.

The highs - But the year hasn't been without its high points too. We have all learnt to become more savvy with the technology around us. We have zoomed, facetimes, WhatsApp'ed, and live-streamed, we have formed new social networks with neighbours, family and friends. Many have been able to access church for the first time through social media. Able to drop into a service and join in without having the worry or awkwardness of stepping through the church doors for the first time. I hope those who have been joining in with our virtual and recorded services will feel more comfortable about joining us in person in 2021. We have become mini film makers and presenters, recording readings, prayers and music. We have rediscovered the importance of being together. We have continued to support our local food banks, and many more people have become volunteers, some for the first time. 2020 hasn't been all bad.

Revd Angela Martin - Vicar

Statutory Reports

Fabric Goods and Ornaments

Holy Trinity Church

During the last year we have only been able to deal with a small number of necessary repairs and issues. My grateful thanks to Graham Bedford and Gareth Martin who have very kindly met various contractors while work was being done.

The clock has had some maintenance during the year.

The two notice boards either side of the main door have been greatly improved and repaired after bad weather caused some damage.

Scotts did their annual services on both boilers for the church and the hall.

Lighting in the chancel and security lighting around the church hall were improved in the early part of the year.

Substantial work has been done on the side porch doors. These have been repaired after break-in damage and in the process, security has been improved.

The organ has been tuned once during the year. There have been no tunings for the piano, which can hopefully be rectified in 2021.

The church hall continues to cause concern. This has become a storage area during the year with all kneelers, books etc having been removed from the church due to the pandemic. Again we are keen to make some progress in making this a more welcoming area during the next year.

The sound system is still under review and is an ongoing scenario.

During the year the church has had three 'spring' cleans and my thanks to those who have helped on these occasions. Our grateful thanks to Jeanne and Bob Dyke who work extremely hard in the garden and to Jeff Horner and his team for grass cutting during the year. It is always so wonderful that people enter our church, when open, and the garden so regularly and that they have the opportunity to enjoy such welcoming environments.

My thanks to all members of the congregation who continue to make our church such a special place in the lives of the community.

Finally, my thanks to Angela, Alison and then June, my co-wardens and Sue my deputy warden for all their support throughout the year.

Simon Morris – Churchwarden

Parochial Church Council of Forest Row registered charity number 1132867
Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

3 Analysis of expenditure					
	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019 Notes
	£	£	£	£	£
Special appeals costs (adverts, brochures etc)				0	79
Cost of raising funds	0	0	0	0	79
Charitable grants and donations	917			917	2,018
Diocesan parish share	57,162			57,162	58,464
Clergy and other persons' expenses	4,991			4,991	6,550
Salaries and NI	8,634			8,634	8,658
Upkeep of services	1,571			1,571	3,886
Church running costs	11,360			11,360	17,814
Church maintenance and repair	6,282			6,282	6,089
Upkeep of churchyard and garden	130			130	622
Governance	0			0	0
Cost of charitable activities	91,048			91,048	104,101
Church hall running costs	1,279			1,279	1,555
Cost of other trading activities	1,279			1,279	1,555
Total expended on all funds	92,327			92,327	105,735

2 Analysis of income and endowments						
	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Planned giving (excl tax refunds)	41,869			41,869	50,702	
Collections at services	4,241			4,241	10,301	
Gift days and donations	11,830			11,830	14,097	
Fetes, bazaars and other fund-raising events				0	6,288	
Gift aid recoverable	5,520			5,520	10,003	
Legacies	5,000			5,000	500	
Government grants	3,634			3,634	0	
Grants (other)	0			0	4,000	
Donations and legacies	72,094	0	0	72,094	95,891	
Fees for weddings and funerals	2,196			2,196	5,892	
Charitable activities	2,196			2,196	5,892	
Lettings etc	2,651			2,651	6,177	
Other trading activities	2,651			2,651	6,177	
Dividends and interest	621			621	783	
Investments	621			621	783	
Total income and endowments on all funds	77,561	0	0	77,561	108,743	

St Dunstan’s Church

The annual servicing of the fire extinguishers and the hall boiler have taken place.

The steps to the undercroft have been rebuilt and the handrail at the front has been stabilised. The bin store has been repaired.

Peter Pollard has continued to maintain the grass and hedges. Alison has had several garden days to maintain the rest of the garden.



The scruffy area at the entrance was cleared at the beginning of the year and a contract has been awarded for excavating the roots, removing the soil, laying a permeable membrane, levelling the area, installing the grass guard grid system and finishing with granite chips to provide an additional parking area. The work will be undertaken shortly.

Investigations into the best solution for replacing the church heating system are continuing.

June Spoor Churchwarden

St Stephen’s Church, Hammerwood

The churchyard at Hammerwood continues to be lovingly cared for by Graham Bedford and his team. This wonderful space within our parish was used in the summer for the out-door Eco-Church service recording this year. This service was also the Diocesan service at the end of August. We hope to do the same in 2021. The church building is in the process of being sold after its formal closure in 2016.

Revd Angela Martin - Vicar

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

We continue to update training and records for all P.C.C. members and any other adults, who have dealings with children and vulnerable people. This is to be made a priority once the next A.P.C.M. has taken place. There are various items in both churches, with contact details of whom to contact, if there are concerns about abuse of children or vulnerable adults.

Marilyn Morris

Music and Worship

Over the last year, music has very unfortunately had to take rather a ‘back seat’ as an important part of our worship due to the pandemic restrictions. Back in January, our year started with a Taize service for Epiphany. The whole parish and wider community were looking forward in anticipation to the February visit of Chichester Cathedral Choir with the Bishops, Archdeacons and Cathedral Chapter. Very sadly, this was cancelled literally on the day due to Storm Dennis. We do hope in the future that we will be able to reorganise this very special occasion. Our Parish services up and down the hill have continued when we are open, and continue to be popular with both congregations. Mothering Sunday was to be the first of our new All Age Worship services which we had agreed would fall on 5th Sundays during the year. After much organising and meetings with a core group, this was cancelled due to the first lockdown. Angela bravely started to do weekly services on social media, as we all began to get to grips with Zoom, Facebook, Microsoft Teams, Facetime and Skype etc. Services were streamed from her garden, office and living room and these all worked well. Pentecost and Trinity Sunday were celebrated in Church and it was a joy for everyone to see the inside of the buildings after so long, even if it was online. Apart from a Wedding and Diamond Wedding celebration in July, there were no public services at all.

In August, we had the real joy of returning to Church for services. They were very different, being said, with only C.D's being played for music, before, during and after communion and after the service, and obviously with all the rules of the pandemic in place. Our pattern of services continued with 8am and 10am alternating as always. At the beginning of October, as it was Harvest Thanksgiving, Hymns were played using Organ and C.D. music were played, which was a real joy with the congregation humming along behind their masks. Soon after this, I was released from 'Furlough' so could start to play the organ again. Voluntaries were played as well as hymns which again started to make the services feel a little more like normal.

November was another real blow, with plans for Remembrance being changed a number of times and being all prepared for our maximum number of people in church, when we had our second lockdown. The Remembrance service planned was recorded at Holy Trinity and was well received by many who viewed it. In December, we were able to reopen in time for Christmas. A cancelled Wedding was inserted and the Parish Carol Service was recorded. All the readings were read from home and sent in and a small socially distanced choir was gathered at Holy Trinity to record the Carols and Canticles. Our Crib / Nativity services were again recorded on Zoom. All other Christmas services through to Epiphany took place in church.

My grateful thanks for the support I have been given by Angela and all the congregation, not forgetting the choir when we are together, who give such a commitment, throughout the year. Again the choir had their New Year meal, this time at Java and Jazz, which was enjoyed by those who attended.

At both churches, my thanks to Ann Woodard who has played the organ for services and also to Chris Harris who often helps with weddings and funerals, if I am unavailable. Unfortunately, our annual Charity Concert was cancelled. We hope to be able to resurrect this in the future. Both church organs have been tuned during the year. Hopefully the work needed on Holy Trinity's may happen when funds allow. Due to the pandemic the piano did not receive tuning this year but we hope this will be rectified in 2021. Social activities have been put on hold until we all feel it is safe to travel to London, which I know many will look forward to. I look forward to continuing music-making throughout the Parish during the next year.
Simon Morris

Children’s Work

Open the Book

The Open the Book Team continued to tell Bible stories monthly at Ashurst Wood School until Lockdown in March when the schools were closed. We accessed web assemblies for the school from The Bible Society web-site (www.openthebook.net) to assist in their RE lessons.



The St. Dunstan’s Team continues to be: Rosie Hewson, Richard Gooderson, Tom Hewson, Keith Major, Lin Smith and Gwenda Kirk and Jacqueline Gosnall.

The team have persisted in working hard to keep our storytelling in top form. Into early October we met occasionally in the garden to plan our contact with the school. We made posters for the hallways and teachers’ room with photos of the team and encouraging words and prayers. We made at least one batch of goodies to keep the teachers knowing we care about their predicament.

At Christmas this year, the church enabled us to buy the story book of the Nativity by Bob Hartman which was so expertly produced by the Bible Society. Rev Angela videoed Keith Major reading the story – complete with props! – to give to the school for their Christmas OtB Assembly. A fine bit of work on all counts I must say!

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Fixed Assets (continued)

Depreciation
Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Fixtures and fittings	25%
Computer equipment	33%

No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings as the useful economic life of these assets exceeds 50 years and residual values are so high that potential depreciation would be immaterial. It is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. Resulting from regular impairment reviews, provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value as at the balance sheet date.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors, less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit with either the CCLA or at the PCC's bank accounts.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Other trading activities

Trading activities are where income is receivable in return for selling goods or providing services. Income from trading is recognised either: a) when received, or b) in the case of other activities, for the year in which the event occurs, irrespective of the date of receipt. Moneys received in advance are included in creditors until the event has taken place.

Rents received from hall lettings are recognised when due.

Investment income

Dividends and interest are accounted for as they are received.

All other income

All other income is recognised in accordance with the above overall policy.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold.

Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation as at 31 December.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, payment is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded when the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for on an annual basis, reflecting the allocation set by our Deanery. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided in the financial statements as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by s.10 (2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishing is held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected but are not included in the financial statements. For other property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not stated in the financial statements.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £1,000 is written off in the year in which they are incurred.

I continue to stress the importance of this ministry. Our Team is in close contact and are waiting for the next possible time we will be allowed into the school.

Rosie Hewson

Sunday School

During this difficult lockdown time I have been very grateful to Angela and all of those involved with the Church online bulletin- this has enabled the children of the Parish to have access to some interesting topics and activities via the Roots children's resources.

When the children are in church, we always focus on a creative activity-making something small that the children can take home. Early in the year we discussed the parable of the lost sheep and the children made the most delightful cotton-wool sheep with little black faces and legs. In another session we planted out little baby spider plants in small pots. It is a great pleasure supporting our youngsters and I am always proud of their achievements especially when they help one another. When they re-join the congregation at the end of the service they are always a source of joy for the grownups!

Natasha Crawford

Schools

Our schools have been working very hard this year caring for the children and ensuring that they are kept safe and that their education doesn't suffer too much. This past year has put a great deal of pressure on teaching staff and in particular Headteachers, as they have had to navigate through a year of sudden change and detailed planning with complex risk assessments which are updated almost every other week. Due to the 1st national lockdown many teachers did not have an Easter or half term break as they worked hard to put online learning in place, as well as keep the schools open for the children of key workers. Teachers spent time preparing lessons in new and creative ways, keeping in contact with the children and their parents. As the children went back to school in September there was some catching up to do and more importantly the need to ensure the children's wellbeing. For the majority of children, going back to school was a great joy, to see their friends and their teacher but for some going back to into an environment with so many others after being at home on their own was difficult. Thanks to the skill of the teachers in the schools across the Parish our children are in good hands.

We have lost one school in the parish this year due to a decline in numbers and the effects of Covid-19 as Ashdown House closed its doors on 1st June 2020.

At Forest Row Primary the Vicar became the Chair of the Governor Board in March 2020 after the resignation of Mike McNally.

Revd Angela Martin - Vicar

Mission

Study Groups

This year our Lent course began at the beginning of March but was interrupted by the National Lockdown as we all began to learn how to do things in a different way. Our study book was 'Saying Yes to Life' by Ruth Valerio, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book choice for 2020. It was a good read and I think we will return to this book at a later date.

Our Advent course was via ZOOM and we followed 'Lights for Christ', a course produced by Sheffield Diocese. We gathered on a Tuesday afternoon to reflect on the light of Christ in the world and the themes of Distance, Safety, Trust and Normal as we reflected on the effects of the pandemic. The notes for the course were circulated on the weekly e-Bulletin and could be used on your own or by joining the zoom group. This year we have also had the addition of a weekly Home Reflection sheet attached to our e-Bulletin for both adults and the children.

His world in
our hands



Our world in
His hands

Caring for God's precious planet and creation is part of our Parish mission. We have a responsibility to care for the Earth and God's creation - using its resources wisely, and protecting them for future generations.

The Holy Trinity and St Dunstan Eco Church Group is encouraging action that cares for the environment and stops the harm that affects people and nature in our own community, and further afield.

This includes looking after the environment in our local gardens, streets and countryside. It also means considering the global effects of our actions, such as climate change which threatens all aspects of creation and if left uncontrolled will affect everyone, with the most vulnerable people at home and abroad suffering most. There are direct actions we can take in church and in our personal lives, for example by reducing waste, being efficient in the use of electricity, gas and vehicle fuels, and buying food and products responsibly.

Despite the Covid restrictions the Eco Church Group has continued to meet virtually on a monthly basis, although there was a gap of a couple of months from April 2020. We have continued to consider how we can all improve our environment, and despite periods of lockdown this has also involved the wider church community.



We have incorporated care for creation in aspects of worship. Before the March 2020 Covid lockdown the Parish 2020 Lent Course was based on the Church of England's environment-themed "Saying Yes to Life" Lent Book based around the days of Creation. In August we held both a physical and virtual eco-themed service, during a period when we were able to gather in church. The recorded service was used as the Parish's turn to produce the on-line service for the Diocese, which meant we could spread the word even wider than our own Parish. Over the coming year we plan to host some external speakers to improve our understanding of how we can care for God's creation. Caring for creation has also regularly featured in some other weekly services, in Revd Angela's weekly bulletin and in the Parish News.

As well as in our worship and teaching, we continued with other Eco Church themes of reducing the environmental footprint of our buildings, using our church lands wisely for nature, reaching out to the wider community, and considering what we can all do to reduce the environmental impact of our lifestyle choices. We have produced some "Eco Tips" to help people make changes that reduce their environmental impact, such as by reducing food and other waste, and saving energy.

We have identified ways in which we can reduce the "carbon footprint" of our church activities as a contribution to reducing climate change, such as through changes to the church heating systems and recycling more. We aim to implement some of those actions in the coming year.

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current (2016) Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities, (SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds - general funds which can be used by the PCC for ordinary purposes.

Designated funds - monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific purposes or projects. These allocations are a proportion of the Unrestricted Funds, and may be released back to non-designated Unrestricted Funds by agreement of the PCC.

Restricted funds - a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; b) donations or grants received for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment funds - funds for which the capital must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment.

Income and endowments

All income and endowments, accounted for without deduction for any costs of receivability, are recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Collections are recognised when received.

Planned giving receivable is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount accords with the Gift Aid declaration or other record of intention to donate.

Gift aid recovered is recognised when the income to which it is attached is recognised.

Grants and legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the funding, is received by the PCC.

Charitable activities

Statutory fees for weddings and funerals are recognised when the office occurs.

Our financial position and summary of funds at the year end were

	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019	Notes
Intangible Assets	-	-	
Tangible Assets	365,886	359,837	
Endowed investments	17,074	16,000	
Total fixed assets	382,961	375,837	10,11
Debtors	4,639	7,479	12
Cash at bank	93,676	105,085	
Total current assets	98,314	112,564	12
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	2,642	1,520	13
Total net assets	478,633	486,881	
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds	17,074	16,000	11
Restricted funds	81,247	81,247	
Unrestricted funds	380,312	389,632	11
	478,633	486,879	

This Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2020, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by the Reverend Angela Martin, PCC Chairman:

..... Angela Martin

On

In October we organised a successful Forest Row village litter pick for the first time and in September we participated in a clean-up of parts of the River Medway in Forest Row. We plan to organise similar activities in the coming year that we hope will also involve people from outside our own church community.



We are planning to encourage local wildlife such as by promoting the use of bird boxes and bird feeders on our church land and by other people. We are blessed that St Stephen's churchyard in Hammerwood is a natural haven for some of the local wildlife.

Although this was a challenging year, the Eco Church Group has continued to try and improve our environment and the nature around us. We are looking forward to being able to get together again so that collectively we can continue to care for God's precious and fragile creation.

Gareth Martin - Chair of Eco Church group

Churches Together

The group continued to meet throughout the year to pray with and for each other. However, apart from the annual World Day of Prayer service, our plans for coming together for joint services and events were thwarted by the lockdown. This service at the beginning of March was organised by representatives from the Baptist Church and Holy Trinity and St Dunstan's and was held at Holy Trinity.

The lockdown prevented us from joining together for the annual Walk of Witness on Good Friday.

During the summer we were advised by the Bishop to prepare to hold our Remembrance Sunday service outside. A lot of thought was put into how we could hold a joint service outside and plans were well advanced but, in the event, even an outside service was not permitted.

Attendance at the Annual Ecumenical Advent Service at 4pm had generally been fairly poor over the years and before the lockdown it had been agreed to try holding this at 10am as the main service for both churches. Once it was known that we would not be able to meet in Holy Trinity, discussions took place about holding this in the open air but again this did not prove possible. However, Revd Angela and Baptist Minister Mary McLachlan recorded a service with readings, reflections and prayers at Holy Trinity that was made available on-line.

When it was realised that it would not be possible to hold the Annual Carol Service in Holy Trinity, discussions took place about holding an ecumenical carol service in Holy Trinity Garden. That did not prove possible either.

The fact that we did not have more joint events was not due to a lack of trying!

Keith Stacey

Interim

I don't have anything to report over the last year. Member numbers are the same. We did meet in January and February in the church hall just for coffee and a chat. We had planned to go in March to Dunnings Mill for lunch, but too many members were anxious about doing this because of the Covid threat. I have phoned members during this difficult time to catch up with them. There is no plan to start up again at the moment.

Lin Smith

Outreach

Support for Charities

For several years now, regrettably, it has not been possible to tithe 10% of our income. However, we have endeavoured to support charities through fundraising events and special collections. The lockdown meant that it was not possible to hold the fundraising events that have become part of our annual calendar. In addition, there was not the same opportunity for people to hand in their collecting tubs which we use to support a nominated charity.

We did, however, donate £117 to the Royal British Legion. Also, in January 2020 £400 each was donated to East Grinstead Tadpoles and the Church Urban Fund. This was part of the 2019 giving, but the money was not sent until after the end of the financial year.

It is to be hoped that the lockdown will ease during 2021 and that we will be able to undertake some fundraising.

Keith Stacey

100 Club

2020 proved a difficult year for us all, though that hardly needs to be stated. Despite this however, I am pleased to say that we have now slightly increased our take-up of tickets to 106. This means that we now have a monthly prize fund of £265.00. The tickets belong to 40 members due to multiple ticket ownership

It is not possible to overstate how important the funds generated for our churches in the two villages are to our finances. So if you will bear with me, I would like to re-iterate our plea for more ticket sales. If you know anyone who would enjoy joining in, please use the opportunity to encourage them to do so. As a source of revenue it is extremely helpful, currently bringing in £3,000 to our funds.

Keith Major

Community Cafe at St Dunstan's

This is the 2020 annual report for the Community Café, a year blighted by Covid-19, and which, from 24 March, saw the seated Café service close and a delivery to door provision installed in its place for the most vulnerable customers. The heroic endeavours of the cooks, drivers and, particularly the Co-ordinator, Joy Munro, should be commended. It was pleasing to note that Joy herself was awarded a certificate by the High Sherriff of West Sussex for her endeavours, a Special Recognition Volunteer Award, which she generously accepted on behalf of the whole team.

During 2020 the Café served 1,286 (1,759) customers over 11 weeks of sittings and 38 weeks of deliveries. In total 797 (1,147) soups, 1,270 (1,688) mains and 1,033 (1,307) puddings were cooked and sold. Total income from sale of meals, including some gratuities, totalled £7,288 (£10,015), expenditure on meals was £3,492 (£5,631). The figures in brackets show the 2019 equivalent. The weekly rent to the Church was £50 per week, reducing to £25 per week after 17 March, as from that date the kitchen was only used for preparation purposes. Prices of starters, mains and puddings were respectively £1.50, £3.50, and £1.50 still unchanged from the Café's inception in August 2010.

During 2020 the café was able to award a charitable donation of £250 to the East Grinstead Foodbank. A matching sum was awarded to St Dunstan's Church.

As of 31 December 2020, the balance in the café's accounts shows as £3,420 (£2,944). The accounts have been independently examined by Mr George Stoker who found everything to be in good order.

The Café closed until further notice at the end of 2020. It is hoped that it will re-open in the future when COVID-19 restrictions are much reduced, and we can revert to the traditional seated Café arrangement. It will be necessary before then to recruit new volunteers as a number of people have now retired, and replacements will be required across all disciplines.

Parochial Church Council of Forest Row registered charity number 1132867 Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

The financial effect of our activities during the year can be summarised as follows:

	Unrestrict- ed fund	Restricted funds	Endowed funds	Total funds 2020	Total funds 2019	Notes
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	72,094			72,094	95,891	
Charitable activities	2,196			2,196	5,892	
Other trading activities	2,651			2,651	6,177	
Investments	621			621	783	
Other receipts	0			0	0	
Total income	77,561			77,561	108,743	2
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	0			0	79	
Charitable activities	91,048			91,048	104,101	
Other trading activities	1,279			1,279	1,555	
Other expenditure	0			0	0	
Total expenditure	92,327			92,327	105,735	3
Net gains/losses on investments	5,445		1,074	6,519	12,193	
Net income	-9,320	0	1,074	-8,246	15,201	
Transfers between funds						
Other recognised gains/losses						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						
Other gains/(losses)						
Reconciliation of funds:						
Net movement in funds	-9,320	0	1,074	-8,246	15,201	
Total funds brought forward	389,632	81,247	16,000	486,879	433,976	
Total funds carried forward	380,312	81,247	17,074	481,633	449,177	

Unrestricted funds include £36,478 allocated to Designated funds for particular purposes.

Chris Rolley

Knit and Natter at Holy Trinity

The Knit and Natter group met in January, February and March but this was then curtailed due to the Pandemic. We hope to restart this on the 1st Tuesday of the month in Holy Trinity Church Hall, once restrictions have been lifted. We look forward to welcoming everyone, including new members, for a cup of coffee or tea, maybe biscuits or cake and a lot of talking, while hopefully some knitting, crocheting and needlework is undertaken.

Marilyn Morris

Pop-in Café at St Dunstan's

With special thanks to Eskie and Penny for their reflections on our Pop-in Café for this report, it's great to hear from those who have enjoyed going along.

As many of you will know the Pop-in Café was an inspired initiative started and run by Lin Simmons who sadly lost her battle with cancer as we were writing this report. Lin was an integral part of our church family, working quietly behind the scenes doing all the jobs no one else wanted to do. She was deeply committed to the community of Ashurst Wood and the life of the church. In short, she was, and remains an example of faithful Christian living to us all and she will be much missed by everyone both young and old.

Dear Angela

I really loved going to the Thursday coffee morning so did Jensen he cheered everyone up. I loved the community aspect of it and chatting to everyone hearing about their life stories, sadly some of the people have passed away now but because of the coffee mornings I got to know them more than I would have done otherwise and I'm so grateful for that. I have missed the coffee mornings a great deal as it was something to look forward to and an activity for me to do and we didn't just sit around chatting. We did quizzes, crafts and just had a nice friendly time, there were never any arguments and it gave some people the chance to actually see people and talk to others which they might not normally have and gave them something to talk about and sadly they don't have this now with the coffee morning being shut. I know that reopening the coffee mornings would really help some of the residents not to feel so alone in the village as a lot of people have lost loved ones and they need somewhere to go to take their mind off whatever troubles they may have. I look forward to future news on the coffee mornings restarting.

Yours sincerely

Eskarina Samantha Middleton

Dear Angela

hello thank you for message about cafe I would like to see it reopen, it was so nice to meet everyone it would be nice to get more people involved. I hope when all this covid clears maybe it will be able to get going again. Love Penny

Eskarina Samantha Middleton, Penny & Revd Angela

Social and Fundraising

Holy Trinity

At the beginning of the year, we continued to have a social gathering and time of fellowship after all main services. Unfortunately, this has been curtailed since the first lockdown, due to social distancing, caused by the pandemic.

The middle of February would have seen the Chichester Cathedral Choir coming to Holy Trinity, which was due to bring many people from the surrounding area as well as the Parish and Deanery. This could have been a great social occasion for the Parish after the service, but unfortunately was cancelled literally on the day, due to the arrival of Storm Dennis.

At the end of February we held our first Jumble Sale in the Church and the hall. This was an experiment which went extremely well, and was a very sociable occasion raising much needed funds. This was to have been repeated at the beginning of April, but sadly was cancelled due to the

pandemic lockdown.
All other Social and Fundraising events were cancelled due to the ongoing Pandemic
In September, the annual 'Ride and Stride' took place, raising money for our own Church as well as Sussex Historic Churches Trust. Our thanks to those who rode and to those who sponsored them.
During the Autumn, Christmas Cards were sold after services. The Christmas Hamper raffle and 'brain teasing' Quiz were made available. Our thanks to Ken Farrar for producing the quiz, which is always a talking point amongst many. The weekend before Christmas, the now annual 'Christmas Tree Festival' took place, which again brought many organisations and the community into the Church. 15 trees were displayed which was really lovely, as we had wondered whether the event would actually take place. Our grateful thanks to Gareth Martin who kindly organised this event again. On the Saturday in Forest Row and Sunday in Ashurst Wood, Carol Singing took place around the villages, bringing the congregations and communities together.
We are ever hopeful that during 2021 we will be able to resurrect some of our social and fundraising occasions.

Simon Morris

St Dunstan's
The Saturday coffee mornings were held at the beginning of the year, but none since March.

We had a successful quiz in February which raised £249.

Alison's sale of jam and marmalade has continued and raised £110 in 2020.

Rachel's handmade Christmas cards were again successful and raised £192

We have achieved quite a lot considering the difficult conditions.

June Spoor

Ride & Stride for Sussex Historic Churches Trust

Keith Stacey, Roger Collins (a Ride & Stride stalwart from St Swithun's, East Grinstead) and I set out on a mild September Saturday for an unofficial local ride, to fundraise for the Sussex Historic Churches Trust. From the shade of the Forest Way we emerged into full sunshine at St Mary's, Hartfield. The sun accompanied us for most of the day, but, despite that, the temperature was pleasant. It allowed us to really take in the idyllic setting of St Michael and All Angels, Withyham and the sequestered peace at St Thomas's in Groombridge. Thanks to Keith's map-reading skills, we were able to avoid the gruelling Groombridge Hill by taking a footpath that led to the top, where we took a pleasant coffee break at the nearby Groombridge Farm Shop, before pressing on to All Saints, Langton Green.
After St Paul's in Rusthall (which was open for business as the Kent Ride and Stride was operating fairly normally) we sped past the United Reformed Church in Rusthall and then – following our instincts and the directions of several horse riders – arrived at St Mary's, Speldhurst, remarkable for its Burne-Jones and William Morris stained-glass windows. After hurtling downhill to St John the Baptist in Penshurst we had worked up an appetite, so stopped for lunch at the Bottle House pub. Refreshed, we headed for home by way of St Mary Magdalene, Cowden, and back to St Dunstan's (bypassing St Peter's Holtye and St Stephen's Hammerwood). That added up to 29 miles of enjoyable company and pedalling (except for a few pesky hills on the way back!). Thanks to the generosity of all our sponsors, we have raised over £350, half of which will go to the Trust and half to our parishes.



Patrick and Keith at St Mary's Speldhurst

**The Annual Financial Report
of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Forest Row
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row
St Dunstan's Church, Ashurst Wood
St Stephen's Church, Hammerwood (Closed)

Registered Charity no. 1132867

CONTENTS

Page	
21	Statement of Financial Activities
22	Balance Sheet
23 - 30	Notes to the Accounts
31	Report of the Independent Examiner

Patrick Crawford

Conclusion

Due to the pandemic there have been very limited opportunities to raise much needed funds this year. The PCC is very grateful to everyone who continues to contribute towards the mission and ministry in this place.

Personally I think one of the themes running throughout this year for those of us who regularly go to church is that we have not been allowed to sing. I think Simon has expressed this in his music report. We did record a Carol Service with a small choir which was a great joy and we did run 2 outdoor Carol Singing events in both villages, again this was a great joy for all those who attended. I hope the fast from singing and being together will encourage us to treasure this aspect of our worship more and instead of saying 'I can't sing' we hear more people saying 'I'd love to join you for a good sing!!' When we sing we gather together in a very particular way, we breathe together and speak together as we praise and worship God, giving thanks for every blessing. My prayer for 2021 is that we re-energise our singing voices and raise the church roof in wonderful worship.

Revd Angela Martin - Vicar

Stewardship

At the end of 2020 at the budget meeting the PCC took the difficult decision to reduce the financial contribution we make to the Diocese towards our full ministry costs. This was with the hope that in 2021 we can once again begin to encourage giving and increase our offer. The raw facts of this decision are that if we are unable to raise the necessary funds to bring us back to a point where we can offer an amount closer to the full cost of ministry here, we may have to re-imagine the shape of that ministry in the future. My thanks go to our Treasurers Ian and Keith for all they do to prepare financial statements for the DCC's and the PCC and for keeping us all on the straight and narrow during this difficult year. In particular I would like to thank Ian for also taking on board responsibility for Holy Trinity finances after the resignation of Margaret Keen in January, in addition to his Parish-wide responsibility.

A great way to contribute to the work and ministry of the Parish is by using our QR code.

Revd Angela Martin - Vicar



Financial Review

Financially, 2020 has been a turbulent year for the PCC. When we were forced to lock down in March 2020 because of the Covid Pandemic, our incoming resources were severely hit. Donations and most regular sources of income, including fees from weddings and funerals and lettings were reduced, whilst the expenditure on looking after our obligations did not reduce to the same extent. The PCC took action to reduce expenditure. Application was made to the Diocese to reduce the Parish Share payments for three months. This reduced costs by £3,054, and we are grateful to the Diocese for their consideration in this matter. We furloughed staff when possible, and applied for Grants under the Government's Job Retention Scheme. This resulted in grants of £3,634 being received. We were extremely grateful to the late Alison Bellac who left us a legacy of £5,000. Without these contributions the position would have been significantly worse. The final position for the year on normal activities was a deficit of almost £15,000 compared with a surplus of just over £3,000 in 2019.

In late 2020, we took action to reduce our Parish Share in 2021 from just over £57,000 to £40,000.

We undertook to review this after three months, but this will probably need to be deferred.
We continue to receive donations from the Forest Wood Lottery and we are grateful for this support.
We were unable to maintain the previous level of Charitable Giving.
The PCC will carefully monitor the position going forward, but is currently running a significant deficit in 2021.

Ian King

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to hold surplus general funds over and above working balances, representing six months of current expenditure, thus allowing for large and unanticipated expenditure to be easily dealt with. This has not been possible, and our cash resources have continued to decline in the first few months of 2021.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council. Due to the lockdown caused by the Covid-19 outbreak, the APCM was delayed until October. Consequently some members served for a slightly extended period:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent:	The Revd Angela Martin	Chairman
Wardens:	Alison Harman	until October 2020)
	Simon Morris	Vice Chairman
	June Spoor	(from October 2020)
Secretary:	Saskia Schuit	

Elected Members

Richard Gooderson	(until 2021)
Colin Keen	(until 2020)
Ian King	(until 2022)
Jeremy Kirk	(until 2023)
Keith Major	(until 2023)
Fay Margo	(until 2023)
Julie Martin	(until 2022)
Pippa Pease	(until July 2020)
June Spoor	(until October 2020)
Sue Walter	(until 2023)

Deanery Synod

Timothy Leeney
Fiona Rogers
Two vacancies

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and 12 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Following the APCM in October there remained vacancies for three members of the Holy Trinity congregation and two for members of the St Dunstan's congregation. Members of the two congregations are warmly encouraged to consider standing for election to the PCC and we try to

ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

Parochial Church Council

The PCC met seven times during the year. All but two of the meetings were conducted via Zoom. To ensure that sufficient time is devoted to mission, every endeavour is made to arrange business so that alternate meetings are devoted to mission. Of necessity, during 2020 most meetings were devoted to essential business. However, in January 2020 the meeting concentrated on "Vision for Growth", the Diocesan Strategy document encouraging us to look at our strategic plan for the next 5 years. In January 2021 the meeting received a presentation from the Eco-Church Group and discussed steps that we could take to look after God's planet.

The Standing Committee took decisions between meetings. These were generally on matters of a non-contentious nature and the decisions were subsequently endorsed by the PCC. There is no separate Finance Committee, but the Parish Treasurer monitors receipts and payments, produces budgets and other financial data and makes regular reports to the PCC. There is a District Church Council at each church with delegated authority to deal with some aspects of worship, mission and the maintenance of the fabric of the buildings. With the lockdown, there was no real reason for Holy Trinity DCC to meet in 2020 and St Dunstan's DCC only met on two occasions, specifically to discuss concluding a contract for some groundworks.

This Trustees' Annual Report was **approved** by the PCC and signed on their behalf by the Revd Angela Martin, PCC Chairman

Signed: Revd Angela Martin

Date: 19 March 2021