

# Eastbourne Parish Church (St Mary the Virgin)

Registered Charity No 1133958



## **Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements** of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2023

### Officers

Vicar	Canon Tom Mendel MA SSC <i>(until August 2023)</i>
Churchwardens	Gill Siggs Martin Devonish
PCC Secretary & Treasurer	Nancy Randles MBA
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc Terminus Road Eastbourne BN21 3PG
Investment Managers	Charles Stanley & Co Ltd 55 Bishopsgate London EC2N 3AS

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# Eastbourne Parish Church

## St Mary the Virgin

Registered Charity No 1133958

### Trustees Annual Report for 2023

#### Structure, governance and management

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 Council (Powers) Measure 1956.

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

#### *Ex-Officio Members:-*

Incumbent	Canon Tom Mendel MA SSC ( <i>retired August 2023</i> )
Wardens	Martin Devonish (also Vice-Chairman of the PCC)
	Gill Siggs

#### *Deanery Synod:-*

Brian Etheridge	(also Stewardship Secretary)
Ian MacKellar	(also Clerk of the Works) ( <i>deceased June 2023</i> )
Graham Marsden	( <i>until 2023 APCM</i> )
Elaine Fletcher	( <i>elected at 2023 APCM but resigned June 2023</i> )
John Oliphant	
Nancy Randles	(also Treasurer and Secretary)

#### *Elected Members:-*

Carol Walsh	( <i>until 2023 APCM</i> )
Peter Morston	( “ )
Elaine Beynon	(Safeguarding Officer)
Lyndsay Hylton	
Graham Marsden	( <i>from 2023 APCM</i> )
Avril Bell	( “ )
Liz Forman	( “ )
Ronald Shotter	( “ )
Paul Standen-Payne	( “ )

#### *Co-opted*

John Cooper	( <i>from September 2023 to act as Clerk of the Works</i> )
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#### *Invited to attend Meetings as observers*

Vicky Barton  
Jacqueline Ede

The Vicar and Chairman of the PCC, Canon Tom Mendel, retired during August 2023. The Parish remains in vacancy and the process of appointing a new Vicar is ongoing.

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the Incumbent/Priest in Charge, Curates, Readers licensed to officiate in the church, the Churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods) and up to nine members of the Church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church

Meeting (APCM). Members of the congregation are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and attempts are made where possible to ensure there is a balance of skills and experience on the Council.

## **Aims and Purposes**

The primary objective of St Mary's PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrine and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

The PCC's objectives for the year have continued to be

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church.
- Enabling as many people as possible to find a place of calm and refuge in the church building.
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community at St Mary's.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the Parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within the Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the Incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commissioner's 2018 guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities for the advancement of religion. In particular we try to enable local people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:-

- Worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge of and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the Parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.
- Parish organisations
- To facilitate this work it is imperative that we maintain the fabric of St Mary's Church, The Old Parsonage and The Old Parsonage Barn and Cart Lodge.

## **Committees**

The PCC operates through a number of committees. The Standing and Finance Committee is the only committee required by law. Its membership consists of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Secretary, Treasurer, Stewardship Secretary and Clerk of Works.

## **Achievements and Performance**

### **Church Attendance**

There are 255 people on the electoral roll. Very sadly eleven people have died in the last year. There have been four additions to the electoral roll. There are 115 people resident in the parish and 140 non resident. This is the last annual revision of the present electoral roll before a new roll is prepared next year in 2025 (Mary Peck – Electoral Roll Officer)

Attendance continues to recover from the pandemic. Sunday services have been well attended and in addition, a celebration of the Eucharist was live-streamed every week for the first eight months of the year and viewed both within and outside of the parish. It is planned for this provision to resume in the future.

### **Review of the year 2023**

The PCC met on seven occasions during the year. The Standing Committee met as required during the year and Notes of its deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary. During this period, apart from the usual general business, the PCC discussed the following matters:-

- Christmas arrangements
- Investments and financial matters
- Safeguarding
- Building matters and fabric concerns for the short and medium term
- Matters relating to the search for a new Vicar.

### **Financial Review**

1. The total receipts on general unrestricted funds were £185,627 and are detailed in the Financial Report.
2. The Stewardship receipts through envelopes and bankers' orders were £57,650. Our use of the Gift Aid scheme enabled the recovery of £14,758 tax.
3. The largest expenditure of the PCC was the sum of £60,000; £50,000 paid to the Diocese to cover ministry costs, although this was less than the full parish cost, and £10,000 to help another parish in the Deanery.

### **Reserves Policy**

It is the PCC's policy

- To maintain a balance on the general fund which equates to approximately two months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. The closing result, showing a deficit of £1,458 at the end of 2023 did not fully achieve this.
- To invest surplus funds with Charles Stanley, stockbrokers, to provide an income to support the ongoing work of the church and at least maintain the real capital value.

### **Legacy Policy**

The PCC welcomes and is grateful for legacies, of whatever size, and is always concerned to use every legacy for the benefit of the Parish. All legacies are directed to the PCC's legacies

fund, which is used for capital or other special projects. The PCC's policy is to refrain from using legacies to fund routine running expenses.

The Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements were approved by the PCC on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and signed on its behalf by Martin Devonish, as Churchwarden and Vice-chairman of the PCC, and Nancy Randles, Treasurer.

## **STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

This annual report is for 2023 before our renewal appeal in February this year.

At the end of December 2023 there were 17 contributors using the weekly envelopes.

The number of contributors using monthly or annual bank standing orders totalled 67.

Of the total number of 84 in the Stewardship scheme, 67 have signed Gift Aid certificates, which has enabled the Church to reclaim a further 25p for each pound given.

To help maintain and increase the income of the Church we need to encourage more of the congregation to join the scheme, so that the numbers joining exceed the number leaving.

**Brian Etheridge, Stewardship Secretary**

## **THE EASTBOURNE DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

The Deanery Synod met three times during 2023.

The first meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> February at St Wilfrid's Broad Road, Willingdon. The Archdeacon of Hastings, the Venerable Edward Dowler gave an address reflecting on the Diocesan pilgrimage he had led to the Holy Land and Jordan. One thing he emphasized was that the diocesan party could not but feel the sense of fear engendered by the ongoing conflict between the Jewish authorities and the Palestinian population. When people are consumed by fear, the single greatest need is for the gospel of the risen Christ to reach into their lives.

The second meeting was held on 14<sup>th</sup> June at St Elizabeth's. There was an address by Gerry Howitt, CEO of the Beachy Head Chaplaincy about their work. There is a team of 29 of whom 25 are chaplains. Their task is crisis intervention at Beachy Head, the No 1 suicide destination in the world.

The Revd Bob Dillingham spoke about changes to the Church Commissioners' Strategic Development Fund.

There was a report from the Diocesan Synod.

The third meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> October at St Marys Willingdon. After elections for officers and committees, there was a talk by Revd Simon Hobbs about his work as the diocesan Retired Clergy Adviser. In this diocese we have 370 licensed Clergy, plus 400 retired with PTO (permission to officiate) and 200 without PTO.

Sally Scott-Ralphs outlined the 3-prong approach to bereavement counselling at St John's Meads.

**Brian Etheridge, Deanery Synod Representative**

## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The PCC reviews annually our Policy Statement, a copy of which is published on the Main Noticeboard in Church and on the website. <https://stmaryseastbourne.co.uk>

I took over from Elaine Fletcher as Parish Safeguarding Officer in May 2023 and would like to thank her for the efficient handover and for the many years of good work she carried out in the role.

One of my responsibilities is to ensure that those who have relevant roles and responsibilities within the parish, either as employees or volunteers, receive the correct safeguarding training and undertake DBS checks as required. We expect all PCC Trustees to do the basic safeguarding online training and a DBS check. Training and DBS checks are renewed every three years.

Any member of the congregation may undertake basic safeguarding training which takes 90 minutes online. Please speak to me for further information and guidance.

I have completed all the available training courses provided by the Church of England and the Diocese which includes Safeguarding Leadership, Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse, Safer Recruitment and People Management, Lead Recruiter, Modern Slavery Safeguarding.

The Churchwardens, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, the Parish Administrator, and the PCC have been very supportive in my first year in post.

The Church of England have recently published a review entitled "The Future of Church Safeguarding". This was commissioned by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. We will work with the diocese to implement any changes or improvements required to Church safeguarding good practice.

Please speak to me at any time if you have any safeguarding questions or concerns.

**Elaine Beynon, Safeguarding Officer**

## **BUILDINGS AND FABRIC**

I start this buildings and fabric report by paying tribute to Ian MacKellar. Sadly, Ian died in June last year. He will be greatly missed by the Church, for the many roles he took on, not least for his ten years as Clerk of Works.

I was approached by the Church Wardens towards the end of September, who asked me if I could help out.

## CHURCH

1. Quinquennial inspection report 2022.  
I have met with Peter Pritchett, the architect who prepared this report, and we are working though what is still outstanding.
2. Tower Clock repairs have been done
3. Fire risk assessment completed. Further works are required from the recommendations
4. Contactless payment donation machines installed

## OTHER PROPERTIES

### 1. The Old Parsonage / Barn

- Installation of new heating system to the Old Parsonage rooms and Verger's flat
- Further work to the old pipework is still required
- Fitting of snowguards to the Old Parsonage completed
- New metal guards fitted to openings in each gable of the Barn to prevent pigeons gaining access was completed

### 2. 20 Motcombe Road

- Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors replaced

### 3. 6 Bay Pond Road

- Insurance work to the drains completed
- Further work to replace structural windows yet to be completed

### 4. Church yard

- I have on site met with the officer in charge of maintaining closed churchyards for Eastbourne and Lewes councils.
- One of the cherry trees that had died has been removed and replaced with a new tree
- I would like to express my sincere thanks to Eric Hylton and his team of volunteers that continue to do such good work supplementing what the local authority are charged with doing, weeding around the perimeters and tidying the ashes garden.

### 4. Verger's garden

- The trees to the boundary of the garden and our neighbours have been cut back and reduced and a dangerous tree removed. This reduction needs to be done every few years

## FUTURE WORK

The main item of works planned for 2024 are:

1. Treatment of the roof timbers in the belfry and Barn
2. New roof insulation to the Barn roof
3. Working through the quinquennial report to prioritise works
4. Further investigations of the lighting in the church



**CONCLUSION:**

My thanks to members of the Standing Committee and the PCC for their time and consideration of the matters listed above and also to Wayne Stepney, the Verger, and the architect, Mr Peter Pritchett of Paramount Architecture, for their continued support.

**John Cooper**

# Eastbourne Parish Church - St. Mary the Virgin

## Parochial Church Council Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023	Funds 2022
<b>Incoming Resources</b>						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	104,084			104,084	90,952
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	37,657			37,657	37,887
Income from investments	2(c)	26,424	1,219	1,055	28,698	29,121
Church activities	2(d)	15,147			15,147	9,647
Other incoming resources	2(e)	1,260			1,260	150
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>184,572</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>186,846</b>	<b>166,857</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>						
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(a)	136			136	134
Fund raising trading costs	3(b)	96			96	-
Church activities	3(c)	193,992		128	194,120	214,479
Governance costs	3(d)	100			100	100
<b>Total Resources Used</b>		<b>194,324</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>194,452</b>	<b>214,713</b>
Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources		(9,752)	1,219	927	(7,606)	(47,856)
Unrealised Gains (Losses) on Investments		44,497		1,917	46,414	(67,233)
Transfer between Funds						
Net Movement in Funds		<b>34,745</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>2,844</b>	<b>38,808</b>	<b>(115,089)</b>
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2023		1,018,326	38,048	35,362	1,091,736	1,206,825
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2023		<b>1,053,071</b>	<b>39,267</b>	<b>38,206</b>	<b>1,130,544</b>	<b>1,091,736</b>

*The notes on pages 12 to 19 form part of these accounts.*

# Eastbourne Parish Church - St. Mary the Virgin

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## Parochial Church Council

### Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed Assets	5	253,751	253,751
Investment assets	6	751,259	704,385
		1,005,010	958,136
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	8	17,558	20,113
Short term deposits		89,245	88,028
Cash at bank and in hand		25,462	30,868
		132,265	139,009
<b>LIABILITIES:</b> Amounts falling due within one year	9	6,731	5,409
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		125,534	133,600
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>£ 1,130,544</b>	<b>£ 1,091,736</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Endowment	7/10	38,206	35,362
Restricted	11	39,267	38,048
Unrestricted	12/13	1,053,071	1,018,326
		<b>£ 1,130,544</b>	<b>£ 1,091,736</b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 11 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr Martin Devonish (Churchwarden)

Mrs Nancy Randles (Treasurer)

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### a Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and under current Church Accounting Regulations in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current (2015) Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102), as amended in 2016.

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 church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

### b 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 future purposes or projects.

*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 or invited by the PCC 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 the capital of which 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.

### c Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

#### *Voluntary Income*

*Collections* are recognised when received.

*Planned giving* receivable is recognised only when received.

*Income tax* recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is receivable.

*Grants and legacies* are recognised when the PCC is legally entitled to the amount due.

#### *Income from investments*

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

#### *All other income*

All other income is recognised when it is receivable

#### *Gains and losses on investments*

Realised gains are recognised when investments are sold.

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

### d Resources used

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and are accounted for gross

Grants

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

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2023

### Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for when paid.

### e Fixed Assets

#### *Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings*

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

The insured value of the church and the moveable furnishings is £24,600,000.

#### *Freehold properties*

Included at cost, but see Note 5. No depreciation has been provided as these comprise residential accommodation where the residual value is expected to be maintained, as it is the policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. The useful economic lives of these assets is thus so long and the residual values so high that any depreciation would not be material. These assets will be subject to regular impairment reviews. Provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

#### *Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment*

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £750 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

#### *Investments*

Investments are valued at market value on 31 December.

### f 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 uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or with Virgin Money.

## **g. Pension Arrangements**

Eastbourne Parish Church (St Mary the Virgin) participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of Church Workers Pension Fund for lay staff. The Scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has a section known as the Defined Benefits Scheme, a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic and a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

### **Pension Builder Scheme**

The Pension Builder Scheme of the Church Workers Pension Fund is made up of two sections, Pension Builder Classic and Pension Builder 2014, both of which are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension for members for payment from retirement, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Bonuses may also be declared, depending upon the investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum that members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The Scheme is a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102 as it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers. This means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable (2023 £2,248, 2022 £2,248).

A valuation of the scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent scheme valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a deficit of £4.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 10.1% following improvements in the funding position over 2022. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, Eastbourne Parish Church could become responsible for paying a share of that employer's pension liabilities.

## 2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Funds 2022 £
<b>2(a) Voluntary income</b>					
Planned giving	57,650			57,650	62,439
Collections at all services	4,456			4,456	5,149
Gift days	7,215			7,215	4,885
Sundry donations and appeals	5,005			5,005	2,872
Income tax recoverable	14,758			14,758	14,707
Legacies	15,000			15,000	-
	<u>104,084</u>			<u>104,084</u>	<u>90,052</u>
<b>2(b) Activities for generating funds</b>					
Festivals/Fayre Fund raising	4,568			4,568	2,798
Rental income	33,089			33,089	35,089
	<u>37,657</u>			<u>37,657</u>	<u>37,887</u>
<b>2(c) Investment income</b>					
Dividends and interest	26,424	1,219	1,055	28,698	29,121
	<u>26,424</u>	<u>1,219</u>	<u>1,055</u>	<u>28,698</u>	<u>29,121</u>
<b>2(d) Income from Church Activities</b>					
Church Hall donations	10,025			10,025	7,477
Fees from weddings etc.	5,122			5,122	2,170
Parish Magazine	-			-	-
	<u>15,147</u>			<u>15,147</u>	<u>9,647</u>
<b>2(e) Other incoming resources</b>					
Insurance claims	1,260			1,260	-
Grants	-			-	150
	<u>1,260</u>			<u>1,260</u>	<u>150</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<u>184,572</u>	<u>1,219</u>	<u>1,055</u>	<u>186,846</u>	<u>166,857</u>

### 3. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Funds 2022 £
<b>3(a) Cost of generating voluntary income</b>					
Stewardship costs	136			136	134
	136			136	134
<b>3(b) Fundraising trading costs</b>					
Fayre expenses	96			96	-
	96			96	-
<b>3(c) Church activities</b>					
Missionary & charitable giving:					
Overseas:					
- Missionary societies	-			-	-
- relief development agencies	-			-	-
Home missions & charities	-		-	-	-
	-		-	-	-
Ministry costs:					
parish contribution	50,000			50,000	50,000
to support others	10,000			10,000	10,000
other clergy costs	5,077			5,077	6,015
Church running expenses	56,366			56,366	49,120
Church maintenance	5,002			5,002	5,714
Fabric fund	21,288			21,288	29,058
Legacies fund	-			-	3,310
Upkeep of services	27,384			27,384	24,368
Parish magazine	-			-	-
Educational costs	364			364	126
Old Parsonage & Barn					
Running costs	14,126			14,126	9,865
Repairs	3,318			3,318	6,080
Other Property repairs	396			396	20,066
Bank charges	671		128	799	757
	193,992		128	194,120	214,479
<b>3(d) Governance costs</b>					
Cost of annual accounts	100			100	100
	100			100	100
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	194,324		128	194,452	214,713



#### 4. STAFF COSTS

	Total	Funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	40,924	38,715
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs	2,248	2,248
	<u>43,172</u>	<u>40,963</u>

During the year the PCC employed, a Coordinator, a Verger/ Cleaner, and an Organist.  
No member of the PCC, apart from the clergy who received reimbursement of expenses of office, received any reimbursement of expenses or remuneration.

#### 5. FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

			Office equipment	Freehold land & Buildings	TOTAL
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>					
GROSS BOOK VALUE	At 1 January 2023	Note (1)	22,826	253,751	276,577
	Additions		-	-	-
	At 31 December 2023		<u>22,826</u>	<u>253,751</u>	<u>276,577</u>
DEPRECIATION	At 1 January 2023		22,826		22,826
	Charge for the year		-		-
	At 31 December 2023		<u>22,826</u>		<u>22,826</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	At 31 December 2023		-	253,751	253,751
	At 31 December 2022		-	253,751	253,751

Note (1) The freehold land and the buildings comprise the following property owned by the PCC and vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance: -  
The Old Parsonage - used as Church Hall, Parish Office and Verger's flat  
The Old Parsonage Barn - used as Church rooms

The Old Parsonage was gifted to the parish in 1923 by the Duke of Devonshire. It is insured together with the Church for £24,600,000.

The Old Parsonage Barn was purchased on 1 March 1984 for £65,782 and a further £94,614 has been spent on renovation. It is insured for £909,642.

Curate's House 6 Bay Pond Road was gifted to the parish under the will of Mrs. Dyer deceased on 25 May 1965. Improvements totalling £14,055 were carried out in 1996. It is insured for £458,918.

It is let on a six-monthly tenancy for £1,250 per month.

Curate's House 20 Motcombe Road was bought in May 1979 for £18,500 and is insured for £368,705. It is let on a six-monthly tenancy for £1,100 per month.

House 108 Green Street was bought in September 2011 for £253,751 including all costs and is insured for £445,424. It is let on a six-monthly tenancy for £950 per month. Only the cost of this property is included in fixed asset costs.

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>6. INVESTMENTS</b>		
Snape & Colbeck Trusts		
1678 Units in CBF's Fixed Interest Fund	2,429	2,301
Welfare Fund		
756 shares in CBF's Investment Fund	17,090	15,620
19442 10p shares Lloyds Banking Group plc	9,276	8,829
Cash held by Stockbrokers	7,971	7,511
Other Stocks and Shares (Investment portfolio with Charles Stanley)	714,493	670,124
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	751,259	704,385
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 7. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total £
Fixed Assets	978,644		26,366	1,005,010
Current Assets	81,158	39,267	11,840	132,265
Current Liabilities	(6,731)			(6,731)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Balance	1,053,071	39,267	38,206	1,130,544
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 8. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Income tax recoverable	13,141	13,443
Prepayments	2,687	5,370
Debtor	1,730	1,300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	17,558	20,113
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 9. LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals and deferred income	3,253	2,189
Creditors for goods and services	886	1,899
Other creditors	2,592	1,321
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,731	5,409
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 10. FUND DETAILS

The endowment fund comprises the Welfare Fund and is a permanent endowment which requires the income to be spent at the Vicar's discretion in connection with the Sick & Poor of the Parish. The fund also includes the Vicar's discretionary fund.

The restricted funds comprise the Dick Relf Choir Presentation Fund and the Tower Bell Fund.

The unrestricted funds comprise the Fabric/Property Maintenance Fund, the Legacies & Memorial Fund, the Clergy Housing Fund and the Sinking Fund: Roof, all of which are designated by the PCC. The General Fund is also an unrestricted fund.

In addition, the Snape & Colbeck Trust assets are held for church purposes and are therefore unrestricted but the PCC has designated the income for Fabric Fund purposes.

The Upwick Mission Church & Hall site proceeds are unrestricted funds and have been invested in the property at 108 Green Street, Eastbourne.

## 11. MOVEMENTS IN RESTRICTED FUNDS

	<b>Tower Bell Fund £</b>	<b>Dick Relf Choir Fund £</b>	<b>TOTAL £</b>
Donations & Fundraising			
Investment Income	1,125	94	1,219
Expenditure			
	1,125	94	1,219
Balances at 1 January 2023	35,104	2,944	38,048
Balance at 31 December 2023	36,229	3,038	39,267

## 12. MOVEMENTS IN DESIGNATED/UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	<b>Clergy Housing Fund £</b>	<b>Upwick Mission Fund £</b>	<b>Fabric/ Property Fund £</b>	<b>Legacies Fund £</b>	<b>Sinking Fund: Roof £</b>	<b>General Fund £</b>	<b>TOTAL £</b>
Donations/ other income			1,260	15,000		141,792	158,052
Investment income	-		52			26,372	26,424
	-		1,312	15,000		168,164	184,476
Expenditure			24,606			169,622	194,324
	-		(23,294)	15,000		(1,458)	(9,752)
Realised gains/(losses)		-	-	-			-
Unrealised gains/(losses)			128	41,264	3,105		44,497
Transfer							
NET MOVEMENTS	-	-	(23,166)	56,264	3,105	(1,458)	34,745
Balances at 1 Jan 2023	278,136	130,139	77,172	440,128	92,690	61	1,018,326
Balances at 31 Dec 2023	278,136	130,139	54,006	496,392	95,795	(1,397)	1,053,071

Note: The Fabric Fund received no restricted income in 2023.

### 13. MISSIONARY & CHARITABLE GIVING

2023	2022
£	£

#### Home Missions and Charities

Mothers Union – Away from it all holidays

-	-
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-	-
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**In addition** *the following amounts have been raised within the Parish for Missions and Charities and sent direct by the Secretaries concerned:*

£

#### Special Collections in Church

DEC Turkey (February 2023)	368
Christingle service (The Children's Society)	107

#### Raised and sent direct by the Secretaries concerned

For Overseas Work by the MU	-
For Home Work by the MU	847
For USPG (Sec. Mr. I MacKellar)	22
For The Children's Society (Sec. Mrs. E. Fletcher)	-

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St. Mary's Parish Church, Eastbourne**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 9-19, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Respective Responsibilities of Trustees (Members of the PCC) and the Examiner**

As the members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulations and section 144 of the Act, do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulations.

#### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### **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
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

*Al Guthrie*

26 March 2024

**Alastair Guthrie**  
**Retired Chartered Accountant**  
**9 Sturdee Close**  
**Eastbourne**  
**East Sussex BN23 6AZ**

# Eastbourne Parish Church - St. Mary the Virgin

## Summarised Results 2023 and Budget 2024

	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
<b>GENERAL INCOME</b>				
Christian Stewardship Contributions	62,439	57,650	62,500	58,000
Tax recoverable	14,707	14,758	15,000	15,000
General Church Collections	5,149	4,456	6,000	5,000
Fees - PCC	2,170	5,122	3,000	4,000
Donations	2,872	5,005	3,000	5,000
Magazine (net)	-	-	-	-
Fund Raising (Summer Fayre/Gift Day)	5,683	9,788	8,000	10,000
Income from Legacy Fund	25,889	26,372	26,000	28,000
Net rents	12,208	33,089	12,500	34,000
Thursday Market/ Coffee Morning	2,000	1,900	2,500	2,500
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>133,117</b>	<b>158,140</b>	<b>138,500</b>	<b>161,500</b>
<b>GENERAL EXPENDITURE</b>				
Hon Assistant Clergy Expenses	500	55	500	500
Vicarage Rates & Taxes	4,360	4,266	4,500	4,500
Clergy House Expenses	404	396	404	400
Clergy Working Expenses	1,155	757	1,200	1,000
OP Flat Expenses	2,200	3,253	2,500	3,500
Parish Administrator	16,356	17,694	17,500	18,500
Verger	13,194	13,968	14,000	14,500
Lighting & Heating of Church	7,569	10,484	9,000	11,000
Organist & Choir	13,402	14,997	14,000	15,500
Sanctuary Expenses	1,575	1,558	1,200	1,600
Insurances	8,104	9,632	9,583	9,632
Education - Sunday School/Youth Work	126	364	200	400
Old Parsonage & Barn (net)	2,388	4,101	2,500	4,000
Stewardship Expenses	94	96	96	96
Printing & Stationery	8,032	10,085	8,000	8,000
Telephone, Internet & Website	1,198	884	1,200	1,000
Grants to Bellringers	250	250	250	250
Minor Repairs	5,714	5,002	5,000	5,000
Water Charges	485	150	500	200
Sundry Expenses	180	391	517	622
Cleaning Materials	632	544	700	600
Vestment Repairs	301	-	-	-
Parish Contribution				
Total Parish Cost	50,000	50,000	50,000	60,000
To support others	10,000	10,000	10,000	-
Missions & Charities	-	-	-	-
Bank Charges	637	671	650	700
Exceptional Expense	-	-	-	-
<b>EXPENDITURE TOTAL</b>	<b>148,856</b>	<b>159,598</b>	<b>154,000</b>	<b>161,500</b>
(Deficit)/Surplus	(15,739)	(1,458)	(15,500)	0

## Other Organisations and activities

### Mothers' Union

It is wonderful to be part of St. Mary's MU where there is a kind consideration of each other, and fellowship as well looking outwards towards the needs of the parish. In this triennial we have a strong committee which is working very well together. They are a rich input to the branch.

In 2023 we were very pleased to welcome 3 new members namely Liz Forman, Janet Bandy and Dinah Taylor. But very sadly we said rest in peace to Joan Balch, Joan Morgan and to Michael Simmons who, although not a member, had given tremendous practical support to our MU over the years and touched all our hearts. We also had two members whose membership lapsed, namely Terry Brooks and Sylvia Slater.

Christine Sutcliffe and myself tried to attend as many Bexhill district meetings as possible so that we could keep members informed of the wider MU world. These included the district committee meetings in Bexhill in February, July and November. Then in August we were at the district Mary Sumner celebration at Hellingly Church, a stirring service and social time and also a fundraiser for the district. (This money is used for district expenses including the hire of the hall for meetings). It was good to be accompanied by several members and we went on to tea at Hilliers in the afternoon. The Diocesan Autumn Members' meeting was held in Brighton this year, and then we moved on to a very enjoyable Advent Quiet Day in early December at St. Mary's Willingdon.

WE gave generously in 2023, disbursing £280 to the Disasters Emergency Committee in February as aid for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake fund (this was the proceeds of the members' Bible auction). £600 shared between AFIA, the Contact Centre and general MU fund. This was all raised by our fund-raising activities. We also gave personally to our speakers, namely £70 to Anna Nolan for the Children's Hospice, £70 to the speaker on Romania and £42 to St. Wilfrids's Hospice. Plus there was a sum of £100 from the previous year's brunch, that was finally handed to the local Refuge just before Christmas.

Our programme of activities for 2023 was varied and included Anna Nolan talking about her faith journey and the life and death of her disabled daughter, Lisa, an excellent Lent reflection by Tony Windross, Janet Webber on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday helicopter ride, Richard Burgess talking about his charity work in Romania, Kathryn Anderson talking about being a helper at the Lambeth Conference and Sarah Marsh updating us about St Wilfrid's Hospice. Our outing was limited to an enjoyable visit in cars to Bexhill Museum, followed by tea in the park, and our closing service was on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Autumn meetings restarted with an opening service in late September led by David Weaver. Our first talk was by Margaret Roylance on her life as a vicar in Tenterden. This was accompanied by her singing and playing the piano, which was much enjoyed, Jill Need followed, talking about her work in California State Parks, including the uniform, and John Oliphant talked about the British Empire and his book based on evidence rather than fancy. We also had an afternoon when we shared details about significant moments, or people, on our own faith journeys.

Activities included a quiz, curry evening at the Spice Garden, and in July a fund-raising Ploughman's Lunch in the OP, raising £322.50. And we finished 2023 with a very enjoyable party on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

The invaluable work at the Cosy Book Club is continuing under the leadership of Gill Siggs and Elaine Beynon, a brilliant idea that is making a real difference at Pashley Down School.

We still had £400 in our kitty from Joan Fairbairn's bequest (and this has now been donated to AFIA in the 2024 accounting year) and about £200 donated in memory of Doris Jackson. This money is earmarked for branch use and we are still considering buying a table microphone and speaker to make listening easier in the OP.

Despite reduced membership post-pandemic, our committee feels that the branch is moving forward in a very positive way and we thank God for our blessings. In 2024 we hope for more new members to carry on the good work. MU must move forward and be relevant in the world in which we are living. Our theme for the triennial remains the same "Transformation.....now"

**Anne Eastbury**

## **Flower Guild**

We have continued during the year to focus on having Flower at the back of the Altar and a Pedestal by the Pulpit rather than the previous three Pedestals that we used to do.

However for the three main Festivals we continued with swags, windows and the usually extras. Thanks go to all the Guild Members who work so hard to decorate the Church to such a high standard.

In-memorial and special arrangements. We did 32 arrangements, this last year, which is about the average for the last few years.

These sponsored arrangements and the donations for lilies at Easter help to pay for the flowers in the Church the rest of the year.

Weddings. This year we dealt with just one Bride, which put £75.00 into our coffers. Sadly as things stand there are no Weddings booked for 2024.

St. Mary's was represented at the Flower Festival held in St. Nicholas' Church, Pevensey's at the end of May. Their theme being 'Sussex by the Sea'

At our AGM in November the following were re-elected, Vanessa Jeffries, Leader and Gillian Cant Treasurer. Unfortunately, due to caring commitments Jackie Marshall has resigned from the Guild, which has left us rather short on experienced arrangers.

Gillian was pleased to report that although we had a deficit last year there would be enough money in the Bank to keep us going.

Training is still on going to get some of the window folk to progress to doing the back of the Altar and we welcomed a couple of new 'swag makers'.

However, we do still need more volunteers, so we welcome anybody who would like to join us 'Experience not necessary' just a willingness to learn and have fun.

Availability of flowers at a reasonable price is still the biggest problem. At Festivals, I have been putting in a bulk order at the nearest wholesaler in Brighton. However, that means getting up early to drive over and collect them before they close at 9am (if I don't order I have to be there for 6am!!). For the rest of the time it is a Supermarket sweep. My thanks go to the Members who spend their time and petrol having to do this.

Finally, we thank God for the beautiful flowers that we work with, the majestic building to put them in and the wonderful friendship that we get from being part of the Flower Guild.

**Vanessa Jeffries**



## **Junior Church**

It is a pleasure to report that we are continuing to offer a family service on the first Saturday of each month at 4.30pm to enable Christian worship to busy families. We introduced this service some years ago after chatting with young parents about how we could fulfil their desire to keep a connection with the church whilst enabling their children to carry out other activities. (We were told that if a child misses the practice sessions they are excluded from the team or game, which doesn't seem fair). We have been very blessed that Fr. Tony Delves has stepped into this role with ease and has been a kind, considerate and very gentle man with the families. He has also taken on the lead role for our workshop services.

We re-introduced the workshops for Good Friday last year and I am pleased to say that they are attracting a lovely crowd of youngsters. We may not have the numbers that attended in the past, but the children and parents who come, do stay for the whole of the session and are very grateful and appreciative of the crafts and worship they receive. It has been great to see the connection between Pashley School and St. Mary's develop since the introduction of the Cosy Book Club which is run at Pashley by Gill Siggs and Elaine Beynon who also represent MU and we have a growing number of pupils attending these events.

The Crib service is a highlight of the festive season for many families, especially those who may not come on a regular basis. We often hear parents saying that this service is the start of their Christmas! The children were outstanding. The readers were very accomplished, and we had a small but perfect set of 'actors' who played out the nativity scene beautifully. Many thanks to all who participated and supported this special service, especially Francesca Vogels, who acts as my 'right hand man'. I cannot finish my report without giving due credit to Fr. Tony again. His relaxed manner and ease with which he addressed the 600 or so people was wonderful. A magical way to begin the true celebrations.

I look forward to what the new year will bring and hope to continue my support of the families who call St. Mary's their church, with our new vicar, in whatever way God plans.

**Elaine Fletcher**

## **St Mary's Association of Change Ringers**

During 2023, the bells have been rung for all Sunday morning services and also for special services/events including, Candlemass, Commonwealth Day, Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Bell Sunday, the Patronal Festival, Armistice Day service, Remembrance Sunday, and all the Christmas Services. Some rings were quarter peal attempts or special rings. The biggest event we rang for, was the King's Coronation where we rang both before the coronation, and later in the afternoon.

We ran 2 successful open towers during 2023, the first in May as part of the 'Ring for the King' May bank holiday. For the first time we set a camera up in the belfry to show the bells swinging whilst we rang them. This worked very well for a number of reasons – it gave us the opportunity to show how we ring as a team, gave a much better idea of how pulling on the rope turns the bells, saved a lot of time and moving people between the chambers, and is far safer than taking people into the belfry. It also helped those learning to ring gain a better understanding of the interaction of the bell, rope and stay/slider.

The tower was also open for the summer fayre in September. Again, the camera was set up to show the bells although this time only one bell was rung to show how we ring. Both open towers have resulted in new recruits and will be worth repeating in 2024.

From the Open Tower and other advertising, we've gained some new ringers. We said g'day to new ringers – Lynda (who started learning in May) and Richard (moved from St Leonards). Going into 2024, we have Alf and Liz starting to learn ringing with us. Sadly, we've said goodbye to Jenny and Mark, both of whom have moved away. And we had some learners who came to learn to ring but, for various reasons, couldn't continue – Caroline, Patrizia, Jonathan and Jocelyne.

Jude and I attended an ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) course for teaching bell handling in September at Hailsham with other ringing teachers from this area. We both found the course very informative and helpful with lots of ideas, and with the group being local, we've also attended a couple of further sessions. Thank you to the PCC for their annual grant which paid for the course. The grant also covered the cost of some new ringing books for the tower to help learners & ringers alike. It is all helping to teach our new learners.

Pre-covid, St Mary's joined with Christ Church and St Saviour's towers to hold a monthly 'combined towers' practice with each tower taking it in turns to host the practice. In November last year this re-started and those practices have been well attended. It gives ringers a chance to ring different bells, (especially those new to ringing), a chance to ring on 10 bells at St Saviour's, and more advanced ringers have an opportunity to ring methods which isn't always possible at a tower's own practice evening.

Unfortunately, we received a couple of complaints about the bells ringing, one by email, and one verbal after a Tuesday evening practice. Thankfully, this hasn't happened again.

I would like to thank Don for all his support especially with the bell maintenance, to Alastair for running the ringing when I am not present, and to Peter for setting up/clearing away the camera and cables in the belfry for the open towers.

Thank you to all who have supported ringing at St Mary's, our members and those from other towers who ring with us on Sundays and other occasions.

**Ann Wright**

### **Family Support Work (FSW)**

The FSW charity is a Sussex based Charity which was founded over 130 years ago with the Churches in the Diocese to offer help to families in need. This help can be financial, emotional or practical and whatever is needed they will do their best to guide and support families through the trauma and hard times that sometimes befall them. They deal with illness, job loss, hardship, mental health issues, homelessness, divorce and death on a regular basis.

To give you an example of what the practitioners do in just 1 month:-

In February they made 245 visits and 1105 calls supporting 257 parents and 209 children

Attended 34 supported meetings with other agencies

Enabled 50 group activity sessions

Delivered 123 food parcels

Now times that by 12 – WOW

Besides all this, they are tirelessly fundraising. They have arranged a family event at Arundel cricket ground to spend a day with the Cricket Foundation. This event enables disadvantaged children an opportunity to experience sport and forest school in an open space within a safe environment. There are also farm visits and other activity days planned to ensure families enjoy their holiday time. FSW also send as many families as possible to the caravans owned and maintained by the MU charity AFIA (Away from it all). It is lovely to know that these two charities are working together and supporting one another.

The annual walk has been moved to 30<sup>th</sup> May and will start from Alfriston at 8.30am. It will be guided by Fr. Peter Blee from Berwick and is an 11 mile walk, but can be joined for all or part of it.

Their Open Gardens season starts on 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> April at Butler's Farmhouse near Herstmonceux and if you would like attend, your support would be most welcome. All details of any of the above fundraising events can be found on their website or google Family Support Work.

Finally, they support in a practical way with food parcels. We can all help with this if we are able to donate food or grocery items. Our collection box is in church on the last Sunday of the month, but items can be given to me at any time.

Thank you for continuing to support this vital work.

**Elaine Fletcher**