

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARK'S, LITTLE COMMON

England & Wales · Charity number 1135040

Details

Other names ST. MARK'S P.C.C.,LITTLE COMMON

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-03-18

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

Contact

Address 197 Cooden Sea Road
Cooden
Bexhill-on-Sea
TN39 4TR

Phone 01424844210

Email st.markschurchoffice@btconnect.com

Website www.stmarkslittlecommon.co.uk

Activities

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

Activities: The regular public worship open to all. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Taking of religious assemblies in schools. The provision of youth clubs with a Christian ethos. Promotion of Christianity through meetings and the distribution of literature. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

Classification

- **How:** 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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£223,240	£187,797	-	-
2023-12-31	£129,764	£111,473	-	-
2022-12-31	£137,231	£117,217	-	-
2021-12-31	£105,518	£105,118	-	-
2020-12-31	£88,335	£105,947	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev JONATHAN JEREMY FRAIS	Chair	
ANNE ELIZABETH ANDERSEN		2011-06-01
Arthur Gillman		2017-04-18
CAROL LYNNE GENT		
Doone Ellerton		2017-04-18
John Philpot		2011-06-01
MRS SUE ROCHEFORT		
Sandra Frohnsdorff		2021-05-18
Sharon Livings		2017-04-18
Sheila Johnson		2017-04-18
Steve Whiting		2019-04-23
TONY JAMES GENT ACIB		
Thomas Mack		2018-04-17

Accounts

**Independent examiner's report
To the PCC of St Mark's Church, Little Common
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

This is my report to the PCC of St Mark's, Little Common on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024, set out on pages 1 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and you 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. 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. 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 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.....

David Allen
5 Mulberry Close
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex TN39 4RX

Date: 19 March 2025

St Mark's Parish Church

Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex

Registered Charity No. 1135040



Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December, AD 2024

Rector:

The Reverend Jonathan Fraiss
St Mark's Rectory, 11 Coverdale Avenue,
Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 4TY

Independent Examiner:

Mr David Allen
5 Mulberry Close
Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex, TN39 4RX

Bankers:

The Co-operative Bank p.l.c.
PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway,
Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

www.stmarkslittlecommon.co.uk

Parochial Church Council of St Mark's, Little Common
Registered Charity No. 1135040

Annual Report 2024

Administrative information

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Rector: The Reverend Jonathan Fraiss

Churchwardens: Mrs Carol Gent
Mr Steve Whiting

Representatives on Deanery Synod:
Mrs Carol Gent
Mrs Doone Ellerton
Mrs Sandra Frohnsdorff

Elected Members:
Mr Mike Corke
Mr Tony Gent
Mrs Sheila Johnson
Mr Tim Knibbs
Mr John Philpot (Hon. Treasurer)
Mrs Sue Rochefort

In 2024, the PCC met six times. The PCC has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Purpose St Mark's exists to share the gospel of Christ which reveals the saving love of God. In being the parish church in Little Common, we serve the local population by providing a place of Christian assembly to the glory of God (for those in and outside the parish) where his word is heard.

Method We spread the gospel by welcoming everyone to our services shaped by varied Bible teaching throughout the Christian year. We maintain buildings as fit for use, offer pastoral care, and respond to the needs of other charities and people overseas.

Benefit We exist to change lives by presenting Jesus Christ who calls us to "repent and believe the both good news" (Mark 1:15) and who builds faith, hope and love in believing hearts. We offer the community a modern hall with spacious car park both of which are well used. A defibrillator is installed outside the hall. We give hospitality to Guide and Scout groups. We support local causes such as Bexhill Foodbank and overseas Missions. We enjoy links with Little Common Primary School.

FABRIC REPORTS

Church: Minor repair works continue to become necessary in the church and we are grateful for the willingness of church members to undertake these tasks. Routine maintenance also takes place. This includes twice yearly servicing of the intruder alarm by Airtight Security and an annual service of the fire extinguishers by Coastline Fire Protection. Three times a year the valley gutters, drains, downpipes and hoppers are cleared, our current contractor being Harmer Builders. The defibrillator mounted on the outside wall of the hall is registered with Heartstart which is run by the British Heart Foundation.

We are grateful to all who help in the small ways throughout the year, especially the Flower Guild and other helpers who decorate our church week by week, particularly at Festival times.

David and Bronwyn Smith keep the church clean and tidy.

Grounds: Chris Livings maintains the grounds around the hall and has taken over the grass cutting of the Garden of Remembrance. Work to the hand rails up to the Garden of Remembrance and paving slabs is now complete. Simon Briggs looks after the rose bushes and small borders leading up to the church, and with his wife, Heather, keep the paths around the church clear of fallen leaves. Rother District Council cuts the graveyard grass.

Hall: Regular maintenance and servicing is undertaken: Tormax (front doors); Gartec (lift); Airtight Security (intruder and fire alarms); Coastline Fire Protection (fire extinguishers). Annual maintenance on the boilers and other plumbing issues as they arise, are dealt with by Ben Hanlon (a local heating engineer), the three hall boilers have been replaced and Harmer Builders clear the gutters and drains. PAT testing is underway, to be completed early in 2025. Following a Fire Safety Inspection, all matters raised are well in hand.

Angela Lucas is currently employed to clean the hall.

Carol Gent & Steve Whiting

Review of the year

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Following a complete review there are 122 on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 105 are resident and 17 are not resident in the Parish. The average Sunday attendance (sampled in October) was a total of 100 adults and children across both services.

EVENTS

National: the plans of the General Synod of the Church of England to introduce stand-alone services for same-sex couples continues to make slow progress. A majority of the Bishops are in favour of changing our historic teaching on marriage as between a man and a woman. Nevertheless, they also want to accommodate the call of over two thousand clergy to have a separate section in the C of E where biblical ethics may thrive. But, so far, each offer of the Bishops of how this can be arranged has failed to offer the degree of separation required for a distinctive and permanent witness to biblical norms. Dissenting clergy are represented by The Alliance, a network of networks, which includes the Church of England Evangelical Council which, in turn, includes Church Society, of which St Mark's is a Partner Church (in upholding the foundational teaching of the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion).

Sundays: We continue to hold a Holy Communion Service at 8am every Sunday, followed at 10am by either Holy Communion, Morning Worship or - six times a year - a Parade Service.

We were once again able to follow our usual custom of distributing daffodils on Mothering Sunday. Small crosses were distributed on Palm Sunday and Easter Eggs on Easter Sunday.

Junior Church meets for three Sunday mornings a month during term-time, led by Bronwyn Smith and Sharon Livings.

Canon James Clarke preached and led at several services and other clergy helped at the 8am services.

A service of Holy Communion was held on Ash Wednesday.

The church was decorated for *Harvest Festival* followed by a shared lunch.

On Remembrance Sunday an earlier service for the *Royal British Legion* was held with local dignitaries in attendance, this was followed by the Act of Remembrance at 11am and the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial on Little Common roundabout.

In December, we held Carols by Candlelight and a Christingle Service, these were well supported. Christmas Eve & Christmas Day services also took place.

Great use is made of the screen at our 10am service, and people have continued to watch pre-recorded services on Youtube. Refreshments are served following the 10am service and after the Candles by Candlelight Service.

A collection basket is in regular use for Bexhill Food Bank in the hall foyer.

Midweek: The Ark Coffee Lounge continues to offer coffee and fellowship for both church members and visitors on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

In March the World Day of Prayer was hosted by St Mark's. Meeting Point holds monthly meetings on a Friday afternoon for ladies. Focus, a study and fellowship for ladies, meets monthly in the Ark on a Thursday afternoon.

During the autumn, three classes of Year 1 children (aged 5-6) visited the church from Little Common School, and in December the school held four carol services for Years 3-6. A Toddler Group service also took place in December.

We produce over 400 magazines (ten editions each year). Many are delivered and others taken from church or the hall. An edited version is posted on the church website.

The website is maintained by CPO 123, and is updated regularly.

Books made available for £1 during the year were Right with God (M Reeves), Finding Mercy on the Way of Sorrow (R Ham; for Lent), Compelling Stories from the Killing Fields (D Cormack; this book distributed free); Road Map to Jesus (A Chalmers) Courage Persistence Joy (L Gatiss), How to see life: a guide in 321 (Glen Scrivener), Have you ever wondered? (Bannister / Matthews), On Birth and On Death (T Keller), Sing in Exultation (J Landry; for Advent)

During 2024, the Rector led Bible Studies on Jude, Jeremiah, Ruth and James with James Clarke leading us through Lent ('Journey to the Cross'). Heart & Soul, a group for men, met periodically during the year.

Money continues to be raised for good causes such as at Remembrance (for the British Legion) and Christingle (for Chestnut Tree Hospice).

Prayer meetings for the people and churches of Ukraine and other troubled areas were held most weeks.

We remain part of Three Churches of Little Common, Churches Together in Bexhill and the Sussex Gospel Partnership.

During the year, we welcomed visitors including the Bishop of Lewes, Will Hazlewood (for a midweek Confirmation); the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, Rob Munro; mission partners Robin and Lorna Mangles and Kevin and Jennifer Stebbings; and (at 8am) Bishop Nicholas Reade and Canon Edward Bryant.

We also welcomed in baptism Anok Nikhil Jose.

But we said goodbye to those whom the Lord took to be with him in glory including Adrienne Bowles, Ted Brooks, Jean Clarke, Tony Field, Terry Furness, Tony Groves, Sue Harvey, Tony Horne, Margery Peacock, Derek Peddie, Peter Reeves, and Liz Wilkins.

We thank God for His faithfulness to us during 2024 and pray that we will remain faithful to Him during 2025.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our income, as shown on page 6 of the accounts, was well up on the previous year. It is good to see hall lettings increase by some 25% but the really significant figure was in the legacies, which included a substantial sum from the late Angela Doddington.

On the expenditure side (page 7) maintenance of the church and halls was a heavy outlay. We had expected the expenditure on the church roof, as mentioned last year, but we also had to replace the hall boilers and have ordered a new gate for the car park.

Due to Angela's generosity, money on deposit has risen to £150,000. Thank you to her and to all members who have given generously to the running of our church and its activities.

John Philpot

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARK, LITTLE COMMON

Registered Charity no. 1135040

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Page 10	Independent Examiner's Report

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £
Income					
Donations and legacies	2a	171,695	1,485	173,180	91,424
Charitable activities	2b	5,262	-	5,262	1,572
Other trading activities	2c	40,875	-	40,875	32,893
Investments	2d	3,923	-	3,923	3,875
Other receipts	2e	-	-	-	-
Total income		221,755	1,485	223,240	129,764
Expenditure					
Raising funds		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3a	166,912	1,485	168,397	104,239
Other trading activities	3b	19,400	-	19,400	7,234
Total expenditure		186,312	1,485	187,797	111,473
Net income		35,443	-	35,443	18,291
Transfers between funds					
		-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses)					
Gains / (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	-
Other gains / (losses)		-	-	-	-
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Net movement in funds		35,443	-	35,443	18,291
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2024		1,230,912	-	1,230,912	1,212,621
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2024		1,266,355	-	1,266,355	1,230,912

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARK, LITTLE COMMON Registered Charity no. 1135040

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	1,115,370	1,115,370
Total fixed assets		<u>1,115,370</u>	<u>1,115,370</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	6	3,595	3,858
Short term deposits		150,089	96,666
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>10,021</u>	<u>19,779</u>
		163,705	120,303
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>12,720</u>	<u>4,761</u>
Net current assets		150,985	115,542
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,266,355</u>	<u>1,230,912</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>1,266,355</u></u>	<u><u>1,230,912</u></u>
Funds	8		
Restricted funds		-	-
Unrestricted funds		1,266,355	1,230,912
		<u><u>1,266,355</u></u>	<u><u>1,230,912</u></u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 19 March 2025 and signed on its behalf

Rev'd Jonathan Fraiss
Chairman

J D Philpot
Treasurer

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

1. Accounting policies

a Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current (2015) SORP, 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 and the revaluation of fixed assets. 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 for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted funds - 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.

c Income

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

Donations

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 intent to donate.

Collections are recognised when received.

Income tax recoverable is recognised when the income to which it is attached is recognised.

Legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the gift is received by the PCC.

Charitable activities

Fees are recognised when received.

Other trading activities

All such income is recognised when received.

Investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

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

d Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and accounted for gross.

Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for when paid. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

e Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets

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

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector 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 2006 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not shown in the financial statements.

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

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% straight line
Computer equipment	30% straight line

No depreciation is provided on freehold property as it is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. The useful economic life of these assets is so long and residual values so high that any depreciation would not be material. These assets will be subject to annual impairment reviews. Provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

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

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 might prove uncollectible.

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

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

2 Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £
a Donations and legacies				
Planned giving	58,530		58,530	56,339
Collections at services	5,119	1,485	6,604	10,636
Sundry donations	14,514		14,514	6,475
Income tax recoverable	17,142		17,142	15,971
Legacies	76,390		76,390	2,003
	<u>171,695</u>	<u>1,485</u>	<u>173,180</u>	<u>91,424</u>
b Charitable activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	5,262		5,262	1,572
	<u>5,262</u>		<u>5,262</u>	<u>1,572</u>
c Other trading activities				
Church hall lettings	40,306		40,306	32,409
Car park rent				
Parish magazine advertisements	569		569	484
	<u>40,875</u>		<u>40,875</u>	<u>32,893</u>
d Investments				
Interest	3,923		3,923	3,875
	<u>3,923</u>		<u>3,923</u>	<u>3,875</u>
e Other receipts				
Staff furlough grant				
	<u>221,755</u>	<u>1,485</u>	<u>223,240</u>	<u>129,764</u>

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

3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £
a Charitable activities				
Missionary and charitable giving				
Local	855	500	1,355	876
National		468	468	772
Overseas	500	517	1,017	3,119
	<u>1,355</u>	<u>1,485</u>	<u>2,840</u>	<u>4,767</u>
Ministry costs:				
Diocesan parish contribution	81,445		81,445	73,028
Wedding and funeral fees payable to the Diocese	2,746		2,746	772
Other clergy costs	4,746		4,746	4,325
Insurance	1,880		1,880	1,834
Church running expenses	7,907		7,907	5,314
Church maintenance	42,402		42,402	826
Upkeep of services	1,203		1,203	1,118
Upkeep of church and hall gardens	780		780	1,431
Parish magazine and other printing, telecoms.	3,048		3,048	3,591
Church hall running costs (part)	19,400		19,400	7,233
	<u>166,912</u>	<u>1,485</u>	<u>168,397</u>	<u>104,239</u>
b Other trading activities				
Church hall running costs (part)	19,400		19,400	7,234
	<u>19,400</u>		<u>19,400</u>	<u>7,234</u>
	<u>186,312</u>	<u>1,485</u>	<u>187,797</u>	<u>111,473</u>

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

4 Staff costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	8,348	6,801

5 Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Church equipment	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2024	1,115,370	57,159	1,172,529
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	1,115,370	57,159	1,172,529
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2024	-	57,159	57,159
Provided in the year	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	-	57,159	57,159
Net book amounts			
At 31 December 2024	1,115,370	-	1,115,370
At 31 December 2023	1,115,370	-	1,115,370

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Church Hall situated in Green Lane. The balance sheet figure represents its value for insurance purposes at 1 January 2010, following a major redevelopment. The PCC considers this to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property.

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

6 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Income tax recoverable	3,595	3,858
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
	3,595	3,858

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals	12,720	4,761
	12,720	4,761

8 Statement of funds

	Bal b/fwd 1 Jan 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers, other gains and losses £	Bal c/fwd 31 Dec 2024 £
Unrestricted Fund					
General fund	1,230,912	221,755	(186,312)	-	1,266,355
	1,230,912	221,755	(186,312)	-	1,266,355
Restricted Funds					
Specific donations	-	1,485	(1,485)	-	-
	-	1,485	(1,485)	-	-
Total funds	1,230,912	223,240	(187,797)	-	1,266,355

Accounts

St Mark's Parish Church

Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex

Registered Charity No. 1135040



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 Mr Steve Whiting

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 Mrs Doone Ellerton
 Mrs Ruth Frais (until May 2023)
 Mrs Sandra Frohnsdorff

Elected Members:
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 Mrs Sheila Johnson
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 Mr John Philpot (Hon.Treasurer)
 Mrs Sue Rochefort

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Carol Gent & Steve Whiting

Review of the year

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

There are 151 on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 113 are resident and 38 are not resident in the Parish. The average Sunday attendance (sampled in October) was a total of 90 adults and children across both services.

EVENTS

National: the General Synod of the Church of England voted in February to permit clergy to bless same-sex couples and published Prayers of Love and Faith in November for them to use. In response, the PCC voted to become a Partner Church of Church Society - a fellowship that aims to reform and renew the Church of England in the biblical faith (with particular reference to the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion) - and to take steps to direct money from St Mark's towards other churches which maintain the biblical position that the God-appointed place for sexual intimacy is heterosexual marriage as a sign of the eternal love between Christ the bridegroom and the church, his bride.

Sundays: We continue to hold a Holy Communion Service at 8am every Sunday, followed at 10am by either Holy Communion, Morning Worship or All Age Worship services.

We were once again able to follow our usual custom of distributing daffodils on Mothering Sunday. Small crosses were distributed on Palm Sunday.

Junior Church meets for three Sunday mornings a month during term-time, led by Bronwyn Smith. The Rector leads Youth Table-Tennis (with Bible Study) on many Sundays at 4pm.

Canon James Clarke preached and led at several services.

In May we decorated the hall and church for the Coronation of King Charles III. Many enjoyed a special lunch, and a toast to our new King.

The church was decorated for *Harvest Festival* followed by lunch. On Remembrance Sunday an earlier service for the *Royal British Legion* was held with the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Simon Corello, JP in attendance; this was followed by the Act of Remembrance at 11am and the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial on Little Common roundabout.

In December, we held Carols by Candlelight and a Christingle Service, these were well supported. Christmas Eve & Christmas Day services also took place.

Great use is made of the screen at our 10am service, and people have continued to watch pre-recorded services on Youtube. Refreshments are served following the 10am service and after the Candles by Candlelight Service.

A collection basket is in regular use for Bexhill Food Bank in the hall foyer.

Midweek: The Ark Coffee Lounge continues to offer coffee and fellowship for both church members and visitors on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

In March the World Day of Prayer was hosted by Little Common Methodist Church. Meeting Point holds monthly meetings on a Friday afternoon for ladies. Focus, a study and fellowship for ladies, meets monthly in the Ark on a Thursday afternoon.

During the autumn, three classes of Year 1 children (aged 5-6) visited the church from Little Common School, and in December the school held four carol services for Years 3-6. A Toddler Group service also took place in December.

We produce over 400 magazines (ten editions each year). Many are delivered and others taken from church or the hall. An edited version is posted on the church website.

Books made available for £1 during the year were *Broken Works Best* (Catherine Campbell), *The Gift of Gratitude* (Paul Mallard), *Under the Bonnet* (Simon Allaby), *Things We All Have In Common* (Pete Jackson), *The Little Him Book* (Peter Mead), *Happiness* (JC Ryle), *Stand Firm and Fight On* (Lee Gatiss, ed.), *Greater Love* (Simon Allaby), *Incomparable* (Andrew Wilson), and *The Search for Christmas* (JD Greear)

During 2023, the Rector convened a Lent Course on Old Testament Foundations', a Summer course on 'The Supremacy of Christ' Colossians, and an autumn DVD-based series called 'The Genesis Academy'. Heart & Soul, a group for men, met periodically during the year.

Money continues to be raised for good causes such as at Remembrance (for the British Legion) and Christingle (for Chestnut Tree Hospice). In addition, £2,310.50 was raised for Turkish-Syrian Earthquake Relief, distributed through churches known to People International. Also, £809 was raised for the refurbishment of the fire-gutted flat of Alison Giblett, CMS mission partner in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Weekly prayer meetings for the people and churches of Ukraine continued to be held. We remain part of Three Churches of Little Common, Churches Together in Bexhill and the Sussex Gospel Partnership.

During the year, we welcomed visitors including Alison Giblett (CMS), Brigadier Ian Dobbie (SASRA), Al Simms (People International), Bishop Nicholas Reade, and Terry Jin (Minister of the United Reformed Church, speaking at a 70th anniversary service of the Korean ceasefire).

We also welcomed in Baptism Amina and Andrii Grynenko, later Confirmed by the Bishop of Lewes at Ninfield in July. But we said goodbye to Dave Wilkins, Hans Heetveld and Barbara Wells whom the Lord took to be with him in glory.

We thank God for His faithfulness to us during 2023 and pray that we will remain faithful to Him during 2024.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our income, as shown on page 6 of the accounts, was a little down on the previous year. Our expenditure (page 7) was also down. The result was a net surplus of £18,000 which followed on from a surplus of £20,000 for 2022.

We had expected to spend some £30,000 on the church roof in 2023. In the event this was not incurred until early 2024 and we now expect the final sum to come to between £35,000 and £38,000. I see a certain symmetry with the figures in my first paragraph.

After paying for the roof repairs we shall have some £65,000 in our deposit account. It does help your treasurer to sleep at nights. Thank you to all who have given regularly and generously to the running of our church and its activities.

John Philpot

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARK, LITTLE COMMON

Registered Charity no. 1135040

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £
Income					
Donations and legacies	2a	87,007	4,417	91,424	100,945
Charitable activities	2b	1,572	-	1,572	4,467
Other trading activities	2c	32,893	-	32,893	30,855
Investments	2d	3,875	-	3,875	964
Other receipts	2e	-	-	-	-
Total income		125,347	4,417	129,764	137,231
Expenditure					
Raising funds		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3a	99,822	4,417	104,239	110,459
Other trading activities	3b	7,234	-	7,234	6,758
Total expenditure		107,056	4,417	111,473	117,217
Net income		18,291	-	18,291	20,014
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses)					
Gains / (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	-
Other gains / (losses)		-	-	-	-
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Net movement in funds		18,291	-	18,291	20,014
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2023		1,212,621	-	1,212,621	1,192,207
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2023		1,230,912	-	1,230,912	1,212,221

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARK, LITTLE COMMON Registered Charity no. 1135040

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	1,115,370	1,115,370
Total fixed assets		1,115,370	1,115,370
Current assets			
Debtors	6	3,858	3,271
Short term deposits		96,666	80,791
Cash at bank and in hand		19,779	16,207
		120,303	100,269
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	4,761	3,018
Net current assets		115,542	97,251
Total assets less current liabilities		1,230,912	1,212,621
NET ASSETS		1,230,912	1,212,621
Funds	8		
Restricted funds		-	-
Unrestricted funds		1,230,912	1,212,621
		1,230,912	1,212,621

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 20 March 2024 and signed on its behalf

Rev'd Jonathan Frais
Chairman

J D Philpot
Treasurer

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**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 Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current (2015) SORP, 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 and the revaluation of fixed assets. 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 for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted funds - 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.

c Income

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

Donations

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 intent to donate.

Collections are recognised when received.

Income tax recoverable is recognised when the income to which it is attached is recognised.

Legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the gift is received by the PCC.

Charitable activities

Fees are recognised when received.

Other trading activities

All such income is recognised when received.

Investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

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

d Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and accounted for gross.

Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for when paid. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

e Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets

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

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector 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 2006 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not shown in the financial statements.

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

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% straight line
Computer equipment	30% straight line

No depreciation is provided on freehold property as it is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. The useful economic life of these assets is so long and residual values so high that any depreciation would not be material. These assets will be subject to annual impairment reviews. Provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

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

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 might prove uncollectible.

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

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

2 Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £
a Donations and legacies				
Planned giving	56,339		56,339	53,895
Collections at services	6,219	4,417	10,636	11,538
Sundry donations	6,475		6,475	18,119
Income tax recoverable	15,971		15,971	17,393
Legacies	2,003		2,003	
	<u>87,007</u>	<u>4,417</u>	<u>91,424</u>	<u>100,945</u>
b Charitable activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	1,572		1,572	4,467
	<u>1,572</u>		<u>1,572</u>	<u>4,467</u>
c Other trading activities				
Church hall lettings	32,409		32,409	30,426
Car park rent				130
Parish magazine advertisements	484		484	299
	<u>32,893</u>		<u>32,893</u>	<u>30,855</u>
d Investments				
Interest	3,875		3,875	964
	<u>3,875</u>		<u>3,875</u>	<u>964</u>
e Other receipts				
Staff furlough grant				
	<u>125,347</u>	<u>4,417</u>	<u>129,764</u>	<u>137,231</u>

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

3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £
a Charitable activities				
Missionary and charitable giving				
Local	100	776	876	774
National	250	522	772	373
Overseas		3,119	3,119	5,613
	<u>350</u>	<u>4,417</u>	<u>4,767</u>	<u>6,760</u>
Ministry costs:				
Diocesan parish contribution	73,028		73,028	70,729
Wedding and funeral fees payable to the Diocese	772		772	1,990
Other clergy costs	4,325		4,325	4,726
Insurance	1,834		1,834	2,832
Church running expenses	5,314		5,314	4,862
Church maintenance	826		826	6,852
Upkeep of services	1,118		1,118	1,133
Upkeep of church and hall gardens	1,431		1,431	810
Parish magazine and other printing, telecoms.	3,591		3,591	3,008
Church hall running costs (part)	7,233		7,233	6,757
	<u>99,822</u>	<u>4,417</u>	<u>104,239</u>	<u>110,459</u>
b Other trading activities				
Church hall running costs (part)	7,234		7,234	6,758
	<u>7,234</u>		<u>7,234</u>	<u>6,758</u>
	<u>107,056</u>	<u>4,417</u>	<u>111,473</u>	<u>117,217</u>

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

4 Staff costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	6,801	6,416

5 Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Church equipment	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2023	1,115,370	57,159	1,172,529
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	1,115,370	57,159	1,172,529
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	-	57,159	57,159
Provided in the year	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	-	57,159	57,159
Net book amounts			
At 31 December 2023	1,115,370	-	1,115,370
At 31 December 2022	1,115,370	-	1,115,370

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Church Hall situated in Green Lane. The balance sheet figure represents its value for insurance purposes at 1 January 2010, following a major redevelopment. The PCC considers this to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property.

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

6 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	3,858	3,271
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
	3,858	3,271

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals	4,761	3,018
	4,761	3,018

8 Statement of funds

	Bal b/fwd 1 Jan 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Bal c/fwd 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Fund					
General fund	1,212,621	125,347	(107,056)	-	1,230,912
	1,212,621	125,347	(107,056)	-	1,230,912
Restricted Funds					
Specific donations	-	4,417	(4,417)	-	-
	-	4,417	(4,417)	-	-
Total funds	1,212,621	129,764	(111,473)	-	1,230,912

**Independent examiner's report
To the PCC of St Mark's Church, Little Common
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

This is my report to the PCC of St Mark's, Little Common on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023, set out on pages 1 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and you 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. 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. 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 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.....

David Allen
5 Mulberry Close
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex TN39 4RX

Date 20 March 2024

Accounts

St Mark's Parish Church

Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex

Registered Charity No. 1135040



Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December, AD 2022

Rector:

The Reverend Jonathan Fraiss
St Mark's Rectory, 11 Coverdale Avenue,
Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 4TY

Independent Examiner:

Mr David Allen
5 Mulberry Close
Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex, TN39 4RX

Bankers:

The Co-operative Bank p.l.c.
PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway,
Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

www.stmarkslittlecommon.co.uk

Parochial Church Council of St Mark's, Little Common
Registered Charity No. 1135040

Annual Report 2022

Administrative information

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Rector: The Reverend Jonathan Fraiss

Churchwardens: Mrs Carol Gent
 Mr Steve Whiting

Representatives on Deanery Synod:
 Mrs Carol Gent
 Mrs Doone Ellerton
 Mrs Ruth Fraiss
 Mrs Sandra Frohnsdorff (from April)

Elected Members: Mrs Anne Andersen (until April)
 Mr Mike Corke (from April)
 Mrs Sandra Frohnsdorff
 Mr Tony Gent
 Mrs Sheila Johnson
 Mr Tim Knibbs (from April)
 Mr John Philpot (Hon.Treasurer)
 Mrs Sue Rochefort

In 2022, the PCC met seven times. The PCC has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Purpose St Mark's exists to share the gospel of Christ which reveals the saving love of God. In being the parish church in Little Common, we serve the local population by providing a place of Christian assembly to the glory of God (for those in and outside the parish) where his word is heard.

Method We spread the gospel by welcoming everyone to our services shaped by varied Bible teaching throughout the Christian year. We maintain buildings as fit for use, offer pastoral care, and respond to the needs of other charities and people overseas.

Benefit We exist to change lives by presenting Jesus Christ and building faith, hope and love in believing hearts. We offer the community a modern hall with spacious car park both of which are well used. A defibrillator is installed outside the hall. We give hospitality to both Guide and Scout groups. We support local causes such as Bexhill Foodbank and overseas Missions too. We enjoy links with Little Common Primary School.

FABRIC REPORTS

Church: Minor repair works continue to become necessary in the church and are usually undertaken by church members. Routine maintenance also takes place. This includes twice yearly servicing of the intruder alarm by Holts Security and an annual service of the fire extinguishers by Trafalgar Fire. Three times a year the valley gutters, drains, downpipes and hoppers are cleared, our current contractor being Harmer Builders.

In May a full electrical test of the church fixed wiring installation for the Quinquennial Inspection was undertaken by Walco, and subsequent work was completed in October. MDS Com tested and completed work on the Lightning Conductor in June. Battery and pads were renewed on the defibrillator mounted on the outside wall of the hall; it is now registered on the Heartstart Register run by the British Heart Foundation.

In August a Quinquennial Inspection took place on the church. In 2023 we will be attending to the defects as mentioned – mainly to the roof. The LED church uplights have been replaced also a new time clock for the heating. The organ and piano are regularly tuned. In December, new LED floodlighting was installed to the existing cabling in the churchyard.

We are grateful to all who help in the small ways throughout the year, especially the Flower Guild and other helpers who decorate our church week by week, particularly at Festival times. David and Bronwyn Smith keep the church clean, tidy.

Grounds: Graham Austin continued to cut the Garden of Remembrance grass once a month during the summer. Chris Livings maintains the grounds around the hall. In the summer, Doone Ellerton handed over to Simon Briggs who now looks after the rose bushes and small borders leading up to the church, and with his wife, Heather, keep the paths around the church clear of fallen leaves. Rother District Council cuts the graveyard grass. Thanks to Jim Knight who painted the two benches on the south side of the church.

Hall: Regular maintenance and servicing is undertaken: Tormax (front doors); Gartec (lift); Airtight Security (intruder and fire alarms); Trafalgar Fire (fire extinguishers). Annual maintenance on the boilers and other plumbing issues, as they arise, are dealt with by Dale Saunders (a local heating engineer), and Harmer Builders clear the gutters and drains. Angela Lucas is currently employed to clean the hall.

Carol Gent & Steve Whiting

Review of the year

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

There are 149 people on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 114 are resident and 35 are not resident in the Parish. The average Sunday attendance (sampled in October) was a total of 90 adults and children across both services.

EVENTS

Sundays: We continue to hold a Holy Communion Service at 8am every Sunday, followed at 10am by either Holy Communion, Morning Worship or All Age Worship services. On 4th March, many travelled to King's Church in Hastings to hear the Rt Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury. We were once again able to follow our usual custom of distributing daffodils on Mothering Sunday and the banner made by the Frai family was again displayed. Small crosses were also distributed on Palm Sunday. *Junior Church* meets for three Sunday mornings a month during term-time, led by Bronwyn Smith and Sharon Livings. Canon James Clarke preached and led at several services.

In June we decorated the hall and church with bunting and Royal Memorabilia as we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of our late Queen, Elizabeth II. Many enjoyed a special lunch, cake and a toast with something fizzy. In September, a very different mood, as our Queen had died. We marked this with a special photograph of Her Majesty together with an official 'Book of Remembrance' where people were given the opportunity to leave a condolence message in an official 'Book of Remembrance' The church was decorated for *Harvest Festival* followed by lunch. On Remembrance Sunday a

service for the *Royal British Legion* was held with the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Simon Corello, JP in attendance; this was followed by the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial on Little Common roundabout.

In December, we held Carols by Candlelight and a Christingle Service, these were well supported following the last two restricted years. Christmas Eve & Christmas Day services also took place. Great use is made of the screen at our 10am service, and people have continued to watch pre-recorded services on Youtube. Refreshments are served following the 10am service and after the Candles by Candlelight Service. A collection basket is in regular use for Bexhill Food Bank and is now back in the hall foyer.

Midweek: The Ark Coffee Lounge continues to offer coffee and fellowship for both church members and visitors on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. In March the World Day of Prayer was hosted by St Martha's Church, Little Common. Women's Fellowship, now named Meeting point, holds monthly meetings on a Friday afternoon. Stepping Stones, as attendance dwindled, wound up its remarkable work over many years.

During the Autumn, three classes of Year 1 children (aged 5-6) visited the church from Little Common School, and in December the school held four carol services for Years 3-6. Due to adverse weather conditions the toddler carol service was cancelled.

We produce over 400 magazines over 10 months, many are delivered and others taken from church or the hall. An edited version is posted on the church website. Books made available for £1 during the year were War and Faith (D Stephens), Our Faithful Queen (Catherine Butcher), God's Secret Listener (John Butterworth), Pilgrim's Progress (John Bunyan), The Principles of Theology (Griffith Thomas), and The Gift (Glen Scrivener).

During 2022, the Rector convened a Lent Course on Luke (Hope Explored), a Summer Series on Acts (Acts for Today), and an Advent Course on Zechariah (Visions of the King). Heart & Soul, a group for men met periodically during the year. In November there was an inaugural meeting of 'Focus', a new study group for ladies. Following the war in Ukraine, over £2,000 for the Disasters Emergency Committee, and weekly prayer meetings have been held throughout the year. We remain part of Three Churches of Little Common, Churches Together in Bexhill and the Sussex Gospel Partnership.

During the year, we welcomed in baptism Brodie Barnard, Charlotte Bryant, Jess Macdonald, Tyce Mephram and Holly Miller. But we also said goodbye to Jill Burfield, Marianne Gamester, Gordon Monk, Jean Pearson, Bruce Turner and John Woodger whom the Lord took to be with him in glory. We thank God for His faithfulness to us during 2022 and resolve to be faithful to Him during 2023.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our income was again better this year than we had expected at the start of 2022. This was mainly due to a significantly higher level of one-off donations and greater use of the hall. Regular giving was also encouragingly up from the previous year. Again, thanks to all members who contributed so generously.

Expenditure was just a little higher than we anticipated. The overall effect was a surplus for the year of £20,000 and we were able to transfer £18,000 to our deposit account. However, we have now to face expenditure of some £30,000 on the church roof, following the quinquennial report. This causes us to expect a shortfall for 2023 of some £35,000.

We cannot necessarily expect a repeat of the one-off factors in 2022 but we are in the fortunate position of being able to pay for the roof repairs. *But each pound can be spent only once.....*

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARK, LITTLE COMMON

Registered Charity no. 1135040

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2022

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £
Income					
Donations and legacies	2a	94,469	6,476	100,945	85,974
Charitable activities	2b	4,467	-	4,467	3,995
Other trading activities	2c	30,855	-	30,855	14,484
Investments	2d	964	-	964	32
Other receipts	2e	-	-	-	1,033
Total income		130,755	6,476	137,231	105,518
Expenditure					
Raising funds		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3a	103,983	6,476	110,459	99,101
Other trading activities	3b	6,758	-	6,758	6,017
Total expenditure		110,741	6,476	117,217	105,118
Net income		20,014	-	20,014	400
Transfers between funds					
		-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses)					
Gains / (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	-
Other gains / (losses)		-	-	-	-
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Net movement in funds		20,014	-	20,014	400
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2022		1,192,607	-	1,192,607	1,192,207
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2022		1,212,621	-	1,212,621	1,192,607

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARK, LITTLE COMMON Registered Charity no. 1135040

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	1,115,370	1,115,370
Total fixed assets		1,115,370	1,115,370
Current assets			
Debtors	6	3,271	2,955
Short term deposits		80,791	61,827
Cash at bank and in hand		16,207	13,933
		100,269	78,715
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	3,018	1,478
Net current assets		97,251	77,237
Total assets less current liabilities		1,212,621	1,192,607
NET ASSETS		1,212,621	1,192,607
Funds	8		
Restricted funds		-	-
Unrestricted funds		1,212,621	1,192,607
		1,212,621	1,192,607

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 22 March 2023 and signed on its behalf

Rev'd Jonathan Fraiss
Chairman

J D Philpot
Treasurer

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

1. Accounting policies

a Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current (2015) SORP, 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 and the revaluation of fixed assets. 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.

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Funds held by the PCC are:

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

Restricted funds - 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.

c Income

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

Donations

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 intent to donate.

Collections are recognised when received.

Income tax recoverable is recognised when the income to which it is attached is recognised.

Legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the gift is received by the PCC.

Charitable activities

Fees are recognised when received.

Other trading activities

All such income is recognised when received.

Investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

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

d Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and accounted for gross.

Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for when paid. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

e Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets

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

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector 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 2006 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not shown in the financial statements.

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

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% straight line
Computer equipment	30% straight line

No depreciation is provided on freehold property as it is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. The useful economic life of these assets is so long and residual values so high that any depreciation would not be material. These assets will be subject to annual impairment reviews. Provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

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

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 might prove uncollectible.

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

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

2 Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £
a Donations and legacies				
Planned giving	53,895		53,895	47,243
Collections at services	5,062	6,476	11,538	7,599
Sundry donations	18,119		18,119	16,114
Income tax recoverable	17,393		17,393	15,018
Legacies				
	<u>94,469</u>	<u>6,476</u>	<u>100,945</u>	<u>85,974</u>
b Charitable activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	4,467		4,467	3,995
	<u>4,467</u>		<u>4,467</u>	<u>3,995</u>
c Other trading activities				
Church hall lettings	30,426		30,426	13,561
Car park rent	130		130	665
Parish magazine advertisements	299		299	258
	<u>30,855</u>		<u>30,855</u>	<u>14,484</u>
d Investments				
Interest	964		964	32
	<u>964</u>		<u>964</u>	<u>32</u>
e Other receipts				
Staff furlough grant				1,033
				<u>1,033</u>
	<u>130,755</u>	<u>6,476</u>	<u>137,231</u>	<u>105,518</u>

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

3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £
a Charitable activities				
Missionary and charitable giving				
Local	228	546	774	877
National		373	373	456
Overseas	56	5,557	5,613	1,733
	<u>284</u>	<u>6,476</u>	<u>6,760</u>	<u>3,066</u>
Ministry costs:				
Diocesan parish contribution	70,729		70,729	70,430
Wedding and funeral fees payable to the Diocese	1,990		1,990	1,885
Other clergy costs	4,726		4,726	4,570
Insurance	2,832		2,832	2,732
Church running expenses	4,862		4,862	5,582
Church maintenance	6,852		6,852	1,108
Upkeep of services	1,133		1,133	437
Upkeep of church and hall gardens	810		810	735
Parish magazine and other printing, telecoms.	3,008		3,008	2,539
Church hall running costs (part)	6,757		6,757	6,017
	<u>103,983</u>	<u>6,476</u>	<u>110,459</u>	<u>99,101</u>
b Other trading activities				
Church hall running costs (part)	6,758		6,758	6,017
	<u>6,758</u>		<u>6,758</u>	<u>6,017</u>
	<u>110,741</u>	<u>6,476</u>	<u>117,217</u>	<u>105,118</u>

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

4 Staff costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	6,801	6,416

5 Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Church equipment	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2022	1,115,370	57,159	1,172,529
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	1,115,370	57,159	1,172,529
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2022	-	57,159	57,159
Provided in the year	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	-	57,159	57,159
Net book amounts			
At 31 December 2022	1,115,370	-	1,115,370
At 31 December 2021	1,115,370	-	1,115,370

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Church Hall situated in Green Lane. The balance sheet figure represents its value for insurance purposes at 1 January 2010, following a major redevelopment. The PCC considers this to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property.

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

6 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	3,271	2,955
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
	3,271	2,955

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals	3,018	1,478
	3,018	1,478

8 Statement of funds

	Bal b/fwd 1 Jan 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Bal c/fwd 31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Fund					
General fund	1,192,607	130,755	(110,741)	-	1,212,621
	1,192,607	130,755	(110,741)	-	1,212,621
Restricted Funds					
Specific donations	-	6,476	(6,476)	-	-
	-	6,476	(6,476)	-	-
Total funds	1,192,607	137,231	(117,217)	-	1,212,621

**Independent examiner's report
To the PCC of St Mark's Church, Little Common
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

This is my report to the PCC of St Mark's, Little Common on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022, set out on pages 1 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and you 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. 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. 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 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.....

David Allen
5 Mulberry Close
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex TN39 4RX

Date 22 March 2023

Accounts

St Mark's Parish Church

Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex

Registered Charity No. 1135040



Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December, AD 2021

Rector:

The Reverend Jonathan Fraiss
St Mark's Rectory, 11 Coverdale Avenue,
Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 4TY

Independent Examiner:

Mr David Allen
5 Mulberry Close
Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex, TN39 4RX

Bankers:

The Co-operative Bank p.l.c.
PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway,
Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

www.stmarkslittlecommon.co.uk

Parochial Church Council of St Mark's, Little Common
Registered Charity No. 1135040

Annual Report 2021

Administrative information

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Rector: The Reverend Jonathan Fraiss

Churchwardens: Mrs Carol Gent
Mr Steve Whiting

Representatives on Deanery Synod:
Mrs Carol Gent
Mrs Doone Ellerton
Mrs Ruth Fraiss
Mrs Liz Wilkins (until July)

Elected Members: Mrs Anne Andersen
Mr Mike Corke (from April)
Mrs Sandra Frohnsdorff (from April)
Mr Tony Gent
Mrs Sheila Johnson
Mr Tommy Mack (until April)
Mr John Philpot (Hon. Treasurer)
Mrs Sue Rochefort
COopted member: Mr Mike Corke

In 2021, the PCC met five times. The PCC has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Purpose St Mark's exists to share the gospel of Christ which reveals the saving love of God. In being the parish church in Little Common, we serve the local population by providing a place of Christian assembly to the glory of God (for those in and outside the parish) where his word is heard.

Method We spread the gospel by welcoming everyone to our services shaped by varied Bible teaching throughout the Christian year. We maintain buildings as fit for use, offer pastoral care, and respond to the needs of other charities and people overseas.

Benefit We exist to change lives by presenting Jesus Christ and building faith, hope and love in believing hearts. We offer the community a modern hall with spacious car park both of which are well used. A defibrillator is installed outside the hall. We give hospitality to both Guide and Scout groups. We support numerous local causes such as Foodbank, Street Pastors, Family Support Work, and overseas Missions. We enjoy links with Little Common Primary School.

FABRIC REPORTS

Church: As with any older building, minor repair works are undertaken in the church. Routine maintenance also takes place. This includes twice yearly servicing of the intruder alarm by Holts Security and an annual service of the fire extinguishers by Trafalgar Fire. Three times a year BG Environmental Services clear the valley gutters, drains, downpipes and hoppers.

The organ and piano have been tuned. In August, the sound-desk developed a sudden fault and was

out of action for several weeks whilst it was repaired. A thank you to all readers, intercessors and members of the choir who manfully raised their voices to "provide business as usual" in its absence.

We are grateful to all who help in the small ways throughout the year, the ladies who attend to the Communion Linen, the Flower Guild and other helpers who decorate our church week by week and especially at Festival times.

David and Bronwyn Smith keep the church clean, tidy. We continue to follow all government guidelines regarding Covid-19.

Grounds: Graham Austin continued to cut the Garden of Remembrance grass once a month during the summer. Chris Livings maintains the grounds around the church and hall. Doone Ellerton looks after the rose bushes and small borders leading up to the church – thank you. Rother District Council cuts the graveyard grass.

Hall: Regular maintenance and servicing is undertaken: Tormax (front doors); Gartec (lift); Airtight Security (intruder and fire alarms); Trafalgar Fire (fire extinguishers). Annual maintenance on the boilers and other plumbing issues, as they arise, are dealt with by Dale Saunders (a local heating engineer), and BG Drains clear the gutters and drains. Angela Lucas is currently employed to clean the hall. Covid-19 guidelines continued to be observed.

Carol Gent & Steve Whiting

Review of the year

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

There are 147 on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 113 are resident and 34 are not resident in the Parish. The average Sunday attendance (sampled in October) was a total of 90 adults and children across both services.

EVENTS

Sundays: Lockdown Three meant that the church was open for private prayer (but without services for five Sundays (17th January to the 14th February) and thereafter various restrictions were in place. We were unable to follow our usual custom of distributing daffodils on Mothering Sunday but the flower ladies decorated the church and a banner was made by the Frai family. Small crosses were available on Palm Sunday and small Easter eggs were donated for collection on Easter Day.

Junior Church was able to start again in on 2nd May, meeting for three Sunday mornings a month during term-time, led by Bronwyn Smith and Sharon Livings. A collection basket was in regular use for *Bexhill Foodbank*. The church was decorated for *Harvest Festival* followed by lunch. No Harvest gifts were able to be donated, but cash donations were given to *Tearfund*. In November a cash collection (instead of toys) was taken for *Family Support Work*. On Remembrance Sunday a service for the *Royal British Legion* was held with the Mayor of Bexhill in attendance; this was followed by the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial on Little Common roundabout.

In December, we held Carols by Candlelight and a Christingle Service. With the rising of cases of the new Covid variant 'omicron', both services were by ticket only but were well attended. Christmas services also took place.

Between lockdowns in 2020, the Sunday 9.30am and 11am services were combined to offer a 10am service, together with the 8am Prayer Book Communion. In July 2021 this format was ratified by the PCC. The 10am service brings together (from the 9.30am service) modern language texts and Junior Church and (from the 11am service) the choir, a liturgy based on the Prayer Book, and use of eagle lectern and pulpit.

In addition, greater use is made of the screen (a development from the weeks when we were unable to issue paper copies of the service) and people have continued to watch pre-recorded services on Youtube. Also offered online was Sunday Evensong by Zoom (7th March to 6th June).

Midweek: following the Lockdown period the *Ark Coffee Lounge* re-opened on Tuesdays (from 31st August) and then Thursdays too (from 4th November) providing coffee and fellowship for both church members and visitors. Whilst we remained in a pandemic situation, there was no *World Day of Prayer* this year. Once Government restrictions were eased (and following national guidelines), the Women's Fellowship restarted on 10th September under the name of *Meeting Point* - this has become a very popular group with over forty ladies attending each meeting. *Stepping Stones*, a group for bereaved men and women also restarted in the autumn.

Over 23rd to 25th November, three classes of Year 1 children (aged 5-6) visited the church from Little Common School, followed by four carol services for Years 3-6 over Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th of December. A toddler carol service was held on 13th December.

As another way of keeping in touch, the Magazine continues to be produced ten times a year - around four hundred magazines of each edition are either taken or delivered (and an edited version is posted on the website).

Books made available for £1 during the year were *The Forgotten Cross* (Gatiss), *Your Verdict on the Empty Tomb* (Grieve), *Beyond the 'Big C'* (Jeremy Marshall), *Where is God in a Messed-Up World?* (Carswell), *Holiness* (Ryle), *Willing but weak* (Williams), *Through gates of splendour* (Elliot), and *Authority and Joy* (Stott, Ferguson, with an introduction by Don Cormack)

During 2021, the Rector delivered teaching online on the texts we use as liturgy called 'Words of Life' (four sessions from January 20th) and a Lent Course online called 'Re-set' (five studies on John 14-17 from 24th February). Later, and 'in person', he led a Summer Series on Christian Foundations (eight sessions from 10th May) - followed by the Confirmation in Eastbourne of Tim and Angela Knibbs on 6th July - and an Advent Course on 'The Return of Christ' from 2 Peter and Jude (six classes in November and December). Monthly Prayer Meetings were re-established in September with attendance between 2 and 10.

During the year, we welcomed in baptism Angela Knibbs, Amos Nikhil, Cooper Leake and Frances Werrett. But we also said goodbye to Keith Pearson, Beryl Copnall, Peter and Mary Allen, Peter Reeves, David Rossiter, Annie Tarbert, Dennis French, Bill Beattie, Mary Colson, Betty Ralph and Betty Hitchman whom the Lord took to be with him in glory.

We thank God for his mercies past and trust him for all that is to come. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, God has taught us to find him as our refuge and strength, to be a community of hope and our peace, and to grow in His grace and knowledge of His will.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our income held up better than we expected at the start of the year. This was greatly helped by a number of generous one-off gifts. Thank you to all members who have contributed to our running costs. Overall there was a net surplus of £400. Small, but much better than the deficit we budgeted for. This meant that we did not have to draw down our cash on deposit this year.

We shall shortly have the five-year inspection of the fabric of the church. This almost always requires expenditure on maintenance of what is a 180 year old building. We receive no outside help with this expenditure - it all falls on us, the congregation. Next year's financial result is likely to be a deficit.

John Philpot

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARK, LITTLE COMMON

Registered Charity no. 1135040

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2021

Index

Page 2	Statement of Financial Activities
Page 3	Balance Sheet
Pages 4 - 9	Notes to the Financial Statements
Page 10	Independent Examiner's Report

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £
Income					
Donations and legacies	2a	84,588	1,386	85,974	71,280
Charitable activities	2b	3,995	-	3,995	4,697
Other trading activities	2c	14,484	-	14,484	9,685
Investments	2d	32	-	32	331
Other receipts	2e	1,033	-	1,033	2,342
Total income		104,132	1,386	105,518	88,335
Expenditure					
Raising funds		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3a	97,715	1,386	99,101	99,410
Other trading activities	3b	6,017	-	6,017	6,537
Total expenditure		103,732	1,386	105,118	105,947
Net income		400	-	400	(17,612)
Transfers between funds					
		-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses)					
Gains / (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	-
Other gains / (losses)		-	-	-	-
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Net movement in funds		400	-	400	(17,612)
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2021		1,192,207	-	1,192,207	1,225,268
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2021		1,192,607	-	1,192,607	1,207,656

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARK, LITTLE COMMON Registered Charity no. 1135040

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021	2020
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	1,115,370	1,115,370
Total fixed assets		1,115,370	1,115,370
Current assets			
Debtors	6	2,955	3,099
Short term deposits		61,827	61,794
Cash at bank and in hand		13,933	14,663
		78,715	79,556
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	1,478	2,719
Net current assets		77,237	76,837
Total assets less current liabilities		1,192,607	1,192,207
NET ASSETS		1,192,607	1,192,207
Funds	8		
Restricted funds		-	-
Unrestricted funds		1,192,607	1,192,207
		1,192,607	1,192,207

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 2 March 2022 and signed on its behalf

Rev'd Jonathan Frais
Chairman

J D Philpot
Treasurer

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

1. Accounting policies

a Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current (2015) SORP, 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 and the revaluation of fixed assets. 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 for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted funds - 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.

c Income

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

Donations

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 intent to donate.

Collections are recognised when received.

Income tax recoverable is recognised when the income to which it is attached is recognised.

Legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the gift is received by the PCC.

Charitable activities

Fees are recognised when received.

Other trading activities

All such income is recognised when received.

Investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

d Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and accounted for gross.

Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for when paid. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

e Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets

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

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector 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 2006 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not shown in the financial statements.

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

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% straight line
Computer equipment	30% straight line

No depreciation is provided on freehold property as it is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. The useful economic life of these assets is so long and residual values so high that any depreciation would not be material. These assets will be subject to annual impairment reviews. Provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

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

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 might prove uncollectible.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2 Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £
a Donations and legacies				
Planned giving	47,243		47,243	46,619
Collections at services	6,213	1,386	7,599	4,877
Sundry donations	16,114		16,114	3,037
Income tax recoverable	15,018		15,018	11,747
Legacies				5,000
	84,588	1,386	85,974	71,280
b Charitable activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	3,995		3,995	4,697
	3,995		3,995	4,697
c Other trading activities				
Church hall lettings	13,561		13,561	8,572
Car park rent	665		665	765
Parish magazine advertisements	258		258	348
	14,484		14,484	9,685
d Investments				
Interest	32		32	331
	32		32	331
e Other receipts				
Staff furlough grant	1,033		1,033	2,342
	1,033		1,033	2,342
	104,132	1,386	105,518	88,335

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £
a Charitable activities				
Missionary and charitable giving				
Local	180	697	877	2,462
National		456	456	155
Overseas	1,500	233	1,733	806
	<u>1,680</u>	<u>1,386</u>	3,066	3,423
Ministry costs:				
Diocesan parish contribution	70,430		70,430	67,890
Wedding and funeral fees payable to the Diocese	1,885		1,885	2,411
Other clergy costs	4,570		4,570	4,431
Insurance	2,732		2,732	2,680
Church running expenses	5,582		5,582	4,759
Church maintenance	1,108		1,108	2,154
Upkeep of services	437		437	1,334
Upkeep of church and hall gardens	735		735	1,275
Parish magazine and other printing, telecoms.	2,539		2,539	2,516
Church hall running costs (part)	6,017		6,017	6,537
	<u>97,715</u>	<u>1,386</u>	99,101	99,410
b Other trading activities				
Church hall running costs (part)	6,017		6,017	6,537
	<u>6,017</u>		6,017	6,537
	<u>103,732</u>	<u>1,386</u>	105,118	105,947

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

4 Staff costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	6,416	6,073

5 Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Church equipment	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2021	1,115,370	57,159	1,172,529
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	1,115,370	57,159	1,172,529
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2021	-	57,159	57,159
Provided in the year	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	-	57,159	57,159
Net book amounts			
At 31 December 2021	1,115,370	-	1,115,370
At 31 December 2020	1,115,370	-	1,115,370

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Church Hall situated in Green Lane. The balance sheet figure represents its value for insurance purposes at 1 January 2010, following a major redevelopment. The PCC considers this to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

6 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Income tax recoverable	2,955	3,099
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
	2,955	3,099

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Accruals	1,478	2,719
	1,478	2,719

8 Statement of funds

	Bal b/fwd 1 Jan 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers, other gains and losses £	Bal c/fwd 31 Dec 2021 £
Unrestricted Fund					
General fund	1,192,207	104,132	(103,732)	-	1,192,607
	1,192,207	104,132	(103,732)	-	1,192,607
Restricted Funds					
Specific donations	-	1,386	(1,386)	-	-
	-	1,386	(1,386)	-	-
Total funds	1,192,207	105,518	(105,118)	-	1,192,607

**Independent examiner's report
To the PCC of St Mark's Church, Little Common
For the year ended 31 December 2021**

This is my report to the PCC of St Mark's, Little Common on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021, set out on pages 1 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and you 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. 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. 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 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.....

David Allen
5 Mulberry Close
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex TN39 4RX

Date 2 March 2022

Accounts

St Mark's Parish Church

Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex

Registered Charity No. 1135040



Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December, AD 2020

Rector:

The Reverend Jonathan Fraiss
St Mark's Rectory, 11 Coverdale Avenue,
Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 4TY

Independent Examiner:

Mr David Allen
5 Mulberry Close
Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex, TN39 4RX

Bankers:

The Co-operative Bank p.l.c.
PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway,
Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

www.stmarkslittlecommon.co.uk

Parochial Church Council of St Mark's, Little Common
Registered Charity No. 1135040

Annual Report 2020

Administrative information

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Rector: The Reverend Jonathan Fraiss

Churchwardens: Mrs Carol Gent
Mr Steve Whiting

Representatives on Deanery Synod:
Mrs Carol Gent
Mrs Doone Ellerton

Elected Members: Mrs Anne Andersen
Mr Tony Gent
Mr Richard Gillam, until October 2020
Mrs Sheila Johnson
Mr Tommy Mack
Mr John Philpot (Hon. Treasurer)
Mrs Sue Rochefort

In 2020, the PCC met four times and the Standing Committee (Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurer) met once. The PCC has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Purpose St Mark's exists to share the gospel of Christ which reveals the saving love of God. In being the parish church in Little Common, we serve the local population by providing a place for Christian worship and drawing visitors from within and without the parish boundary to the glory of God and according to his word.

Method We spread the gospel by welcoming everyone to our services shaped by varied Bible teaching. We maintain buildings as fit for use, offer pastoral care, and respond to the needs of other charities and people overseas.

Benefit We exist to change lives by presenting Jesus Christ and building faith, hope and love in believing hearts. We offer the community a modern hall with spacious car park both of which are well used. A defibrillator is installed outside the hall. We give hospitality to both Guide and Scout groups. We support numerous causes such as FoodBank and Street Pastors, Family Support Work, and overseas Missions. We enjoy links with Little Common Primary School.

FABRIC REPORTS

Church: As with any older building minor repair works are undertaken in the church. Routine maintenance also takes place. This includes twice yearly servicing of the intruder alarm by Holts Security and an annual service of the fire extinguishers by Trafalgar Fire. Three times a year BG Environmental Services clear the valley gutters, drains, downpipes and hoppers. Following severe weather at the end of November, water came through on the west side of the church. In addition to this, water leaked down the bell rope and flooded the electrical cupboard affecting the electrics to the heating system. Jim Berry from Walco has now replaced the burnt out contacts.

The organ and piano have been tuned.

We are grateful to all who help in the small ways throughout the year, the ladies who attend to the Communion Linen, the Flower Guild and other helpers who decorate our church week by week and especially at Festival times. David and Bronwyn Smith keep the church clean, tidy and during the pandemic sanitised. Following COVID 19 guidelines, hand sanitisers were installed in the church.

Grounds: Graham Austin continued to cut the Garden of Remembrance grass during the summer months, but during 2020 only once a month. Chris Livings maintains the grounds around the church and hall. Doone Ellerton looks after the rose bushes and small borders leading up to the church – thank you. Rother District Council cuts the graveyard grass. The small notice board in the graveyard was found to be unstable and generally in a poor state, this was removed during the summer. The notice boards outside the south porch and on the corner of the car park provide adequate information. Jim Berry (Walco) has fixed the outside flood lights.

Hall: Regular maintenance and servicing is undertaken, Tormax (front doors); Gartec (lift); Airtight Security (intruder and fire alarms); Trafalgar Fire (fire extinguishers). Annual maintenance on the boilers and other plumbing issues, as they arise, are dealt with by Dale Saunders (a local heating engineer) and BG Drains clear the gutters and drains. Angela Lucas is currently employed to clean the hall, but for most of 2020 was furloughed. As required by our insurance company, a five yearly full electrical test was undertaken by Walco and identified works dealt with and a certificate of satisfaction has been issued. The hand rail on the lowers staircase has been safely re-fixed. Following COVID19 guidelines hand sanitisers and paper towel holders were installed. Thank you to Richard Gillam for these and for those in church. Thanks to John Philpot for making a holder for tables in the Walker Hall and shelving in the downstairs cupboard (under the stairs). During the time when the hall was closed, John Piper has now completed decorating the Walker Hall.

Carol Gent & Steve Whiting, Churchwardens

Review of the year

Church Attendance

There are 139 on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 109 are resident and 30 are not resident in the Parish. The average Sunday attendance (sampled in October) was a total of 70 adults and 6 children, across all services.

CHURCH: routine maintenance takes place. This includes twice yearly servicing of the intruder alarm by Holts Security and an annual service of the fire extinguishers by Trafalgar Fire. Three times a year BG Environmental Services clear the valley gutters, drains, downpipes and hoppers. The organ and piano have been tuned. We are grateful to all who help in the small ways throughout the year, the ladies who attend to the Communion Linen, the Flower Guild and other helpers who decorate our church week by week and especially at Festival times. David and Bronwyn Smith keep the church clean and tidy.

GROUNDS: Graham Austin continued to cut the Garden of Remembrance grass during the summer months, Chris Livings maintains the grounds around the church and hall. Doone Ellerton looks after the rose bushes and small borders leading up to the church – thank you. Rother District Council cuts the graveyard grass. Jim Berry (of Walco) attends to lighting and heating issues as they arise.

HALL: Regular maintenance and servicing is undertaken, Tormax (front doors); Gartec (lift); Airtight Security (intruder and fire alarms); Trafalgar Fire (fire extinguishers). Annual maintenance on the boilers and other plumbing issues, as they arise, are dealt with by Dale Saunders (a local heating engineer) and BG Drains clear the gutters and drains. Angela Lucas is currently employed to clean the hall, and an outside contractor to clean the windows outside when required.

EVENTS

The Ark Coffee Lounge closed at the end of March for Lockdown One. The Magazine was re-named The Link and was again produced ten times a year - around four hundred magazines of each edition are either taken or delivered. A collection basket was in regular use for Bexhill Foodbank

On the 9th February, St Mark's hosted an evening with speakers from Creation Ministries International. On 1st March, St Mark's hosted the Deanery Confirmation led by the Rt Revd Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester. Four adults from St Mark's were confirmed in Christian faith; three also being baptised. Refreshments were served in the hall. On 15th March, coffee was served at church for the last time that year, and Lent Course on 'Hebrews' had to be left unfinished.

On Mothering Sunday the church was open for private prayer only. Sixteen attended. Then St Mark's was closed for three months. St Mark's went online with Youtube services, supplemented by thirty deliveries of written materials on paper for those without computers. In this time the bell was rung on Thursday evenings to coincide with 'clapping for the NHS' and for the 75th anniversary of VE Day. The building re-opened for private prayer in June (on Sundays and Wednesdays) and services resumed on July 5th.

The church was decorated for Harvest but no supper was permitted. Following ten years of conscientious work by Peter and Sue Rochefort, the website was upgraded by Carol Gent and now has larger capacity.

Lockdown Two (November) meant no service for Remembrance Sunday but the Rector joined other private individuals at the War Memorial. For the remainder of the month, the church was open for private prayer on Sundays, and also on Thursdays (set by the Archbishops for special prayer following the association of this day with clapping for the NHS in Lockdown One).

In December, Little Common School held three socially-distanced carol concerts at St Mark's (one for each class in Year 6). With rising levels of covid-19 in East Sussex, and with the Rector in isolation following family covid tests (later found to be negative), Christmas services were slimmed down and Christmas day led by lay members of church.

During the year, we welcomed Brig. Ian Dobbie (SASRA) as a visiting preacher and public ministry was also led by local retired clergy such as Don Cormack and John Woodger. Books on sale for £1 at different times were *Do you pray?* (Ryle), *Five things to pray for your city* (P Nicholas and H Thorne), and *Stand* (W. Wiersbe)

In 2020 we said goodbye to Elizabeth Rogers, Ros Evans, Jeanette Miller, Gwen Parke, Jean Machell, Peter Rochefort, Janet Holmes, Richard Mockett whom God took to be with him in glory.

We thank God for his mercies past and trust him for all that is to come. Throughout the pandemic, God has taught us to find him as our refuge and strength, our hope and our peace.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

6 Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	3,099	3,228
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
	<u>3,099</u>	<u>3,228</u>

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Accruals	2,719	5,833
	<u>2,719</u>	<u>5,833</u>

8 Statement of funds

	Bal b/fwd 1 Jan 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Bal c/fwd 31 Dec 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Fund					
General fund	1,209,819	86,578	(104,190)	-	1,192,207
	<u>1,209,819</u>	<u>86,578</u>	<u>(104,190)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,192,207</u>
Restricted Funds					
Specific donations	-	1,757	(1,757)	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,757</u>	<u>(1,757)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>1,209,819</u>	<u>88,335</u>	<u>(105,947)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,192,207</u>

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Signed.....

David Allen
5 Mulberry Close
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex TN39 4RX

Date 20 April 2021