

Parish of South Crawley

Trustees Annual Report for 2023

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent and team vicars, in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical. This can be summed up as 'To know Jesus better and make Him better known'.
- Providing practical and spiritual support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or ability to pay.
- Providing financial support to other organisations with similar objectives.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, our incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

The council has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The parish covers three of the neighbourhoods of Crawley and has a church in each area, namely St Mary's Southgate, Holy Trinity Tilgate, and Christ the Lord, Broadfield. The PCC has oversight of the whole parish. Much of the day-to-day decision-making is delegated to the District Church Council of each church. Each DCC has representatives on the PCC.

For this year we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

Objectives and Activities

We enable as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community:

- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers is something we do at least weekly on Sundays and also through many different weekday meetings.

We offer services of worship to God:

- Five or six services of Christian Worship are held across the parish every week of the year, with extra ones around the festivals of Christmas and Easter.
- Our services are open to all and attract a range of people from the area we serve, including many ethnic minority members.

- We put faith into practice, through prayer and attending to Scripture, through musical worship and sacrament, through community and social events, and especially through involvement in charitable service to those around us.
- During the year, the Team Vicar of Christ the Lord, Broadfield, left for another post. A parish profile was created, and after advertising and interview, the Revd David King was appointed, due to be licensed in April 2024. During the interregnum, the DCC of CtL has worked hard to keep the services and other activities going. Clergy from the Team and Deanery have assisted in leading services and preaching.

We promote the gospel and pray that the unchurched may find life in Jesus Christ:

- We assist people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus.
- We offer courses to advance religion, including the Alpha course, and take part in educational courses, such as safeguarding training.
- We aim to live out our Mission Statements – ‘Worshipping Jesus, Making him known, Sharing his love’ (St Mary’s); ‘The heartbeat of God in the community’ (Holy Trinity); ‘In the community, of the community’ (Christ the Lord).
- We have established home groups at which we learn about the Bible, and engage in worship, prayer and fellowship.

We engage in evangelism and outreach to the parish in various ways:

- We reach out to the unchurched and provide community cohesion through provision of Messy Church, Community Fun Days, The Alpha Course, Craft evenings, ‘Monday Munch’ in Broadfield, Tuesday Communion and Coffee in Tilgate, The Gate Café and ‘Cake and Company’ in Southgate, and our baby group ‘Wriggle and Roll’.
- We share in the town’s worship and witness through the Good Friday event in Queen’s Square, and the Sunrise service in Tilgate Park.

We provide three buildings for people to enjoy:

- We maintain the fabric of the church buildings as a resource for worship and community events for each of our three neighbourhoods.

We provide tangible pastoral and financial support to the poor and needy:

- We actively encourage our members to be involved in the Crawley Foodbank Partnership, Open House (charity for homelessness), Oasis (crisis pregnancy centre) and Christians Against Poverty (Life skills training and debt counselling), Sussex Aid (working with refugees) and the ‘Love your Neighbour’ scheme. We offer financial support to many of these agencies, and are also able to help individuals and families who have emergency needs.

We consider the needs of people served by other charities and overseas:

- We give grants to wider Christian charities. As well as the organisations named above, we give to the national charities CPAS and Home Start. And we give to the international charities TEAR Fund, Mercy Ships, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Kids Alive and New Life Africa International.

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Attendance at worship

The parish has the privilege of serving parts of Crawley which are relatively needy. Deprivation indexes put the area in the lowest quarter of the country as a whole and parts of Broadfield are in the lowest ten percent. While we have people who attend from all parts of the town, most of our attenders are from the parish itself. This is a fulfilment of our aim to serve the whole community of the parish. The churches and their activities are open to everyone, and we are pleased that the racially mixed population of Crawley is well represented in our congregations.

We believe that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ, is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities.

An online presence is maintained through our three websites, which amongst other things, give access to recorded sermons.

A place to learn to accept others just as they are, as they accept me.

Holy Trinity member

The average regular weekly attendance for the parish as a whole, was 123 adults and 16 children. The worshipping community figure for the whole parish is 252. Included in this figure are those who attend the monthly 'Messy Church' event which is run as a combined event for the whole parish.

We are keen to encourage the involvement of all ages, and as well as the Messy Church events in

Tilgate, the churches at Southgate and Broadfield hold regular children's groups on Sundays as well as some midweek activities. 'First Friday Fun Club' at St Mary's attracts a good number of children who do not come on Sundays.

A place to belong and link with others in the local neighbourhood.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers.

St Mary's member

We regularly run the Alpha course in our parish and it is always encouraging to see people coming to faith. We also ran two Lent courses, one in person and one via Zoom. During the year we have baptised nine people and have held funeral services for ten. Some of these were church members, but often we take funeral services for people who have not attended but who have requested a Church of England funeral.

During the year, many of our members meet in small groups (home groups) for fellowship, Bible study and prayer. These groups are mainly lay-led and form a very important part of our support structure. 'The Bible Course' and 'The Romans Course' are examples of home group materials used this year.

Evangelism and outreach

We have a number of ways in which we seek to reach out to and serve our communities: Our cafes at Christ the Lord and St Mary's and our Communion and coffee at Holy Trinity prove popular. We have a group for older people at St Mary's (Cake and Company) which both church attenders and non-attenders enjoy. The group is dementia friendly, and is growing.

'It gives me a reason to go out.'

'Monday Munch' customer

Our Toddler groups, First Friday Fun Club (FFFC) and Messy Church all cater for children and families. FFFC in particular attracts children who do not attend Sunday events. Many are from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Our 'Community Fun Days' take place once or twice a year at St Mary's. The activities and food and drink are free of charge, and it is always good to see members of the community who may not be regular church members enjoying themselves.

Contact with our local schools is strong. We are in touch with all six primary schools in the parish: in many we take regular assemblies, and/or welcome the school communities into our churches for special festivals. Carol services, Harvest Festival, and Easter events took place in our churches this year.

Provision of the church building for people to enjoy.

All three of our churches are multi-purpose buildings and are widely used during the week for both church and community activities. The Church of Christ the Lord in Broadfield is physically connected to the Broadfield Community Centre and works closely with it.

'Cake and Co' is the most friendly group of people I have ever been with.

New member of the group

Community users of our buildings include Songbirds Choir (St M); Choir & Ko, a drum teacher and U3A painting and craft group (HT). Christ the Lord Broadfield has become home to regular performances by the excellent 'Ensemble Reza' which offers its services to the community free of charge. St Mary's and Holy Trinity are also used as polling stations.

Holy Trinity is exploring an approach from the Romanian Orthodox Church to use its building on Sunday afternoons.

In each of our churches, a lot of work goes on to make our buildings safe and weatherproof places for the congregation and community to enjoy. Major work was done at St Mary's in replacing all external doors and some windows. Holy Trinity had work done of the roof, and Christ the Lord made improvements to the forecourt of the church. Much remains to be done in the year ahead.

Non-judgmental, accepting, patient and kind. I have been welcomed since I took my first tentative steps through the door.

St Mary's member

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

Pastoral care is offered by all the clergy, ably assisted by many of the laity. Hospital visits, home visits to the housebound and services in residential homes are regularly

undertaken. We are delighted to have a Parish Nurse on our team who does a wonderful job in Broadfield giving advice and signposting people to the agencies which can provide help.

A number of our members volunteer with Open House (working with the homeless) Crawley Food bank Partnership, Oasis (Crisis pregnancy centre) and Christians Against Poverty Life Skills.

Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

All year round, and especially at harvest time, we collect food to be given to the Crawley Foodbank Partnership. At Christmas, we collect gifts which can be given to the residents at Open House. We also offer some support to Sussex Aid, which provides clothing and other necessary items for refugees, of which there are many in our town.

We have also been able to help families in particular need.

The Gate Café makes such lovely coffee!

Café customer

Other charitable giving

The churches each give a percentage of their income to charities including Mercy Ships, CPAS, TEAR Fund, Kids Alive, Open House, Christians Against Poverty, Easter Team, New Life Africa International, Home Start, Mission Aviation Fellowship.

We help to raise funds for the Diocesan Family Support Worker who is based in Broadfield.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023

The financial statements

These are the statutory financial statements for the whole parish, bringing together the results for each church and the central PCC funds. The law largely prescribes the format, in particular the separate accounting for unrestricted funds, available for any purpose, and restricted funds which must be used for a specific purpose.

Review of 2023

Unrestricted Funds

The combined results for the three Churches plus the Parish Office were:

- Income: £181,675: a decrease of £33,179 compared to 2022 (£214,854)
- Expenses: £191,279: an increase of £19,142 compared to 2022 (£172,137).
- Deficit: £9,605 (2022: Surplus £24,552).

Income was significantly lower than 2022. However the major part of this difference was the result of unplanned gifts of significant size in 2022 amounting to £35,000 including gift aid. The underlying trend in regular giving is flat or decreasing. The increase in expenses was due to rising costs of supplies of all kinds plus higher property maintenance expenses. Given that our budget for 2023 predicted a deficit on unrestricted funds of £37,000, we can be thankful for this result.

The deficit of £9,605 was offset by the gain on investments of £33,784 (2022: loss £18,164). This amount, plus a transfer from restricted funds, resulted in an increase in unrestricted funds of £19,373 (2022: £26,312).

Restricted Funds

The total of restricted funds increased by £14,219 in 2023 and stood at £135,630 at the year-end, of which £116,353 is held in Building Funds. Note 10 provides details of the movements of the restricted and designated funds.

Contribution to the Diocese

The contribution from the parish was £100,700 (2022: £100,700). Income from the Arnold Trust which pays for a part of our contribution was £11,142 (2022: £9,829).

Balance Sheet and Reserves

Our net assets on the balance sheet increased by £5,154 to £425,540 (2022: £420,386). The deficit resulting from our normal activities (£23,630) was reduced by the gain on investments which appears in the Statement of Financial Activities under "Gains/(Losses) on Investments".

Investment Policy

Funds are held in immediate access deposits with Barclays Bank and the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. Interest received from the bank accounts is minimal and exceeded by charges. Partly in response to this, in February 2019 the PCC invested £60,000 in equal amounts of shares in two CBF Church of England Investment Funds. In March 2020 St Mary's added £30,000 to each so that

at 31 December 2020 the PCC had invested £180,000: £60,000 on its own account and £120,000 on behalf of St. Mary's.

The investments are realisable in whole or in part without delay and so form part of our liquid reserves. As at 31 December 2023 their market value was £264,006. The current value represents a gain of £84,006 or 47% on the original investments of £180,000.

Outlook for 2024

In 2023, the PCC fulfilled its pledged contribution to the diocese of £107,000 and has maintained its pledge for 2024 at the same level, which reflects the PCC's commitment to continue to play its part in supporting the wider work of the diocese. It should however be noted that compared to the other parishes in the deanery, the PCC's contribution represents one of the highest in terms of the percentage of unrestricted total income.

In setting a 2024 budget for General Funds the PCC relied on the continuance of pledged giving without considering unplanned generosity. Hence it estimates a budget deficit of £19,600 for 2024.

2023 was a challenging one in terms of ministry resources as a result of the vacancy at Christ the Lord Broadfield. The support of both clergy and laity ensured that the financial consequences for the Church were minimised, though the cost of renovating the vicarage is an expense for the PCC in 2024 and is reflected in the budget.

The building fund reserves of £116,353 will help towards the cost of major work to our infrastructure at Holy Trinity and St Mary's, though it is likely that this will not be sufficient. Depending on fundraising for these projects the extent to which General Funds may be required to cover shortfalls is as yet unknown.

In the midst of these financial uncertainties the PCC will continue to review the financial situation as the year unfolds and hopes that, as in previous years, its deficit predictions will prove unfounded. On the other hand, it is a matter of concern that we are unable to cover our normal expenses as costs continue to rise and regular income is flat. This is an issue that the PCC will need to address in 2024. However, with unrestricted funds (excluding investment gains) standing at £244,916 at the end of 2023, the trustees have concluded that there are no material uncertainties about the PCC's ability to continue as a going concern.

From the start of 2022 we implemented financial management software which enabled the production of the reports which are attached, and appointed a new Independent Examiner. Changes require extra work before their benefits are fully realised. Therefore on behalf of the PCC, I would like to thank Suzette Downs, the church treasurers, and all those who help in any way in the processes that result in the preparation of the financial records.

Peter Wigglesworth April 2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of South Crawly

On accounts for the
year ended

31 December 2023

Charity no

1136132

Set out on pages

1-6 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

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

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's
statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set in the Charities

(Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

S Downes

Date:

25/4/2024

Name:

Suzette Downes

Address:

12 Highwood Crescent

Horsham

RH12 1EN

Parish of South Crawley 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	£	£	
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	163,415	43,663	207,078	225,878	
Church activities	1,126	1,304	2,430	6,822	
Other fundraising activities	11,779	20	11,799	14,228	
Investments	1,107	-	1,107	98	
Other receipts	4,248	2,429	6,677	2,850	
Total income	181,675	47,416	229,091	249,876	2
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	-	-	-	-	
Missionary & Charitable Grants	11,207	5,168	16,375	12,740	
Ministry Costs	106,651	6,984	113,634	113,936	
Other Church Activity Costs	72,922	54,289	127,211	68,561	
Governance	500	-	500	1,000	
Total expenditure	191,279	66,441	257,720	196,237	3
Net income/(expenditure)	(9,605)	(19,025)	(28,630)	53,639	
Gains/ (losses) on investments	33,784	-	33,784	(18,164)	
Transfers between funds	(4,806)	4,806	-		
Net movement in funds	19,373	(14,219)	5,154	35,475	
Total funds brought forward	270,537	149,849	420,386	384,911	
Total funds carried forward	289,910	135,630	425,540	420,386	

Balance Sheet

	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	
Intangible assets	-	-	
Equipment	15,385	2,547	
Total fixed assets	15,385	2,547	4
Stocks	-	-	
Debtors, prepayments, accrued income	10,855	10,079	6
Investments	264,006	230,222	5
Cash at bank and in hand	150,223	181,826	
5 Investments	425,084	422,127	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(14,929)	(4,288)	7
Net current assets or (liabilities)	410,155	417,839	
Total assets less current liabilities	425,540	420,386	
NET ASSETS	425,540	420,386	
Unrestricted funds			
Designated Funds	11,190	10,045	
General Funds	278,721	260,493	
	289,911	270,538	
Restricted Funds	135,630	149,849	
Total charity funds	425,540	420,386	

2: Analysis of income	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Regular Giving	105,406	20,270	125,676	124,389
Unplanned giving at services	13,076	2,810	15,886	16,205
Ad-Hoc giving Special Appeals, Grants	18,401	13,213	31,614	51,397
Gift Aid recoverable	26,532	7,370	33,902	33,887
	-	-	-	-
Donations and legacies	163,415	43,663	207,078	225,878
Fees for weddings & funerals	1,026	1,304	2,330	1,226
Church events/groups with charges	100	-	100	5,596
	-	-	-	-
Church activities	1,126	1,304	2,430	6,822
Church Hall Rental, non-church hirers	8,787	-	8,787	14,048
Other Fundraising Activities	2,992	20	3,012	180
Other Fundraising Activities	11,779	20	11,799	14,228
Bank interest	1,107	-	1,107	98
	-	-	-	-
Investments	1,107	0	1,107	98
Other income	4,248	2,429	6,677	2,850
Total income on all funds	181,675	47,416	229,091	249,876

3: Analysis of expenses	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Obtaining Grants and other funding	-	-	-	-
Cost of raising funds	-	-	-	0
Overseas Mission	537	37	574	-
Christian Relief & Development	5,330	2,031	7,361	6,670
Home mission & church societies	4,030	-	4,030	3,370
Secular charities & relief of the poor	1,310	3,100	4,410	2,700
Missionary & Charitable Grants	11,207	5,168	16,375	12,740
Diocesan Contribution	100,704	-	100,704	100,704
Clergy Housing	4,113	-	4,113	5,561
Other clergy/ministry costs	1,833	30	1,863	1,236
Parish Nurse (Christ the Lord)	-	6,954	6,954	6,435
Ministry Costs	106,651	6,984	113,634	113,936
Building running & maintenance	38,554	2,679	41,233	33,979
Building, Equipment & Furnishing over £500*	11,625	47,326	58,951	14,095
Services & worship	3,105	340	3,445	711
Evangelism, education & training	601	-	601	685
Church Activity Costs	5,296	2,639	7,935	9,238
Bank charges	308	-	308	274
Bookstall & office service costs	2,092	1,304	3,396	1,064
PCC Office Support	11,340	-	11,340	8,515
	0			
Church Activity Costs	72,922	54,289	127,211	68,561
Independent Examination	500	-	500	1,000
Governance	500	0	500	1,000
Total expended on all funds	191,279	66,441	257,720	196,237

4 Tangible fixed assets	Freehold land and buildings	Audio visual equipment	Office equipment	Total fixed assets
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2023	-	-	2,548	2,547
Additions: Holy Trinity: Cooker; Christ the Lord: Projector	-	-	759	759
Additions: Christ the Lord: Projector		5,220		5,220
Additions: St Marys: AV System	-	11,555	-	11,555
Disposals/Adjustment	-	-	-	8
Depreciation	-	-	(4,705)	(4,705)
At 31 December 2023	-	16,775	(1,398)	15,384
5 Investments	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Market value 1 January 2023	230,222	-	-	230,222
Disposals at carrying value	-	-	-	-
Purchases at cost	-	-	-	-
Net gains and revaluation	33,784	-	-	33,784
Market value 31 December 2023	264,006	0	0	264,006
6 Debtors	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Income tax recoverable	6,678	2,877	9,555	8,468
Prepayments and accrued income	1,267	0	1,267	1,590
Other debtors	33	0	33	21
	7,978	2,877	10,855	10,079
7 Creditors: amounts due within one year	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Deferred income	0	0	0	0
Accruals for utilities and other costs	14,566	0	14,566	3,693
Fees Account	363	0	363	595
	14,929	0	14,929	4,288
8 Analysis of net assets by fund	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets for church use	3,830	11,555	15,385	2,547
Investments	169,097	94,909	264,006	230,222
Current assets (except cash)	10,776	0	10,776	10,079
Cash at bank and on deposit	120,998	29,166	150,164	181,826
Current liabilities	-14,105	0	-14,105	-4,288
Long term liabilities				0
	290,596	135,630	426,226	420,386

9 Statement of funds	Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated Funds:					
St. Mary's: Gate Café	2,404	2,137	992	0	3,549
St. Mary's: Ballard Legacy	7,640	0	0	0	7,640
Total: Designated Funds	10,045	2,137	992	0	11,190
Restricted Funds: (over £2,000)					
St. Mary's: Building Fund	118,359	23,998	47,508	60	94,909
St. Mary's: Pot of Grace	5,101	-	4,293	4,300	5,108
St. Mary's: Wriggle & Roll	2,373	356	141	(500)	2,088
Holy Trinity: Building Fund	6,725	13,458	-	1,261	21,444
5 Investments	7,729	4,736	6,954	1,723	7,234
All Others	9,562	4,868	7,546	(2,038)	4,846
Total: Restricted Funds	149,849	47,416	66,441	4,806	135,630
General fund	260,493	280,242	290,991	28,977	278,721
Designated Funds	10,045	2,137	992	-	11,190
Total of all unrestricted funds	270,538	282,379	291,983	28,977	289,911
Total funds	420,386	329,795	358,424	33,783	425,540

Notes:

Transfers, Other Gains & Losses 2023: Balance of Transfers is £0; £33,784 is gain on Investments in PCC and St Mary's.

10 Prior year Statement of Financial Activities for 2022	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:			
Donations and legacies	195,267	30,610	225,877
Church activities	3,493	3,330	6,823
Other Fundraising activities	14,227	-	14,227
Investments	98	-	98
Other receipts	1,768	1,082	-
Total incoming resources	214,853	35,022	247,025
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds	-	-	-
Missionary & Charitable Grants	10,690	2,050	12,740
Ministry Costs	107,501	6,435	113,936
Other Church Activity Costs	52,946	15,614	68,560
Governance	1,000	-	1,000
Total resources used	172,137	24,099	196,236
Gains/(losses) on investments	(18,164)	-	(18,164)
Net income/(expenditure)	24,552	10,923	35,475
Transfers between funds	1,759	(1,759)	-
Net Movement on Funds	26,311	9,164	35,475
Balances B/fwd at 1 Jan. 2022	244,225	140,686	384,911
Balances C/fwd at 31 Dec. 2022	270,536	149,850	420,386