

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SHERE

England & Wales · Charity number 1138039

Details

Other names	SHERE PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-09-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

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

Activities: We are a Church of England Parish that is one of three in a United Benefice. We seek to be open and inclusive in spirit, broad and central in Anglican churchmanship (neither high nor low), and active in serving all who live in our parish. We provide a wide range of Church Services, opportunities to explore and develop faith, pastoral support, and a Christian presence at the heart of our community.

Classification

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

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Surrey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£241,826	£245,977	-	-
2024-12-31	£260,188	£254,292	-	-
2023-12-31	£211,204	£245,299	-	-
2022-12-31	£203,000	£206,000	-	-
2021-12-31	£173,193	£173,109	-	-
2020-12-31	£151,623	£149,042	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev TIMOTHY DANIEL HEANEY	Chair	2019-03-25
ANGUS JONATHAN D'ARCY DENNY		2018-05-09
Adrian Bryan Patrick O'Loughlin		2026-05-17
Catherine Mary Mead		2026-05-17
IAN TREVOR ALLEN		2024-05-05
Ian Clifford James Gregory		2024-05-05
JANE SARAH BUGLEAR		2019-12-04
JONATHAN HARRY CROSS		2018-04-25
James Colville		2024-05-05
James Hutton		2026-05-17
Jane Margery Davis		2024-05-05
Jennifer Janse		2026-05-17
Katharine Mary Denny		2023-05-10
Kenneth Mead		2024-05-05
Marion Patricia Taylor-Cotter		2025-05-18
Philippa Magaret Galloway		2025-05-18
Rev SARAH FIELDING HUTTON		
Robert Adrian Beck		2026-05-17
STUART JOHN MADDEN		2014-04-30
Sarah Catherine Wagstaff		2026-05-17
Susan Duncan		2024-05-05
Victor Javed Kumar		2024-05-05

Accounts



THE PARISH OF SHERE
incorporating the villages of Gomshall, Peaslake and Shere



Shere Parochial Church Council

Annual Report and

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 2025

Annual Report – Table of Contents

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1. Ministry Report

In 2025 each of our parishes was required to go through the parish needs process (PNP) and review their church development plans (CDP). Albury had only one focus – what to do following the loss of their resident minister in 2024, while Shere and Chilworth came up with some good individual suggestions to address their particular challenges and opportunities. The Benefice Ministry Team however began to feel that there was a need to step back and look at the bigger picture and to review our longer-term strategy as a Benefice in the light of our core beliefs and objectives (our theology), the challenges we all face, and the opportunities open to each of us.

Alongside this, during Lent, Shere Parish had been studying Sam Well's book 'Incarnational Ministry' and the Ministry Team increasingly felt that the central theme within it - that the eternal and essential nature of God is to be in loving relationship, that God's primary desire in relationship with humanity was simply presence (to 'be with' us), and that we should try to do the same – was a missiology that fitted well with the nature of our Benefice.

Mission Plan and Priorities

From these two things grew a mission plan that focused on being with God, being with each other, and being with the world. Applying this to our current situation we identified three priorities:

Firstly, greater integration across the Benefice – 'Being With' each other more often and in larger numbers. "Working With" each other to provide more mutual support, lighten the load, and achieve more. Secondly, increasingly loving our neighbours not just with acts of service (which are important in themselves) but by our intentional presence (Being With) and by looking for additional opportunities to intentionally share and point out the love of God at work in their lives, their communities, and creation itself. And thirdly, applying an 'Incarnational' focus to the things we are already doing. Looking at our existing activities and looking for ways we can increase our levels of engagement with our communities and within them - both as individuals and as the visible presence of Jesus. From this we developed a strategy with four main goals.

Strategy and Goals

1. Rolling out an Incarnational Ministry focus across the benefice (i) replicating some of the things already being done in Shere (ii) Looking for things that might achieve the same 'being with' goals but be parish specific. (iii) simply working more closely together as a Benefice
2. Increasing paid clergy time but also cutting back some of the things we do, so as to improve individual wellbeing and ministry, free up time to do other things, and enable congregations to worship and gather together more often. NB. It is noted that St. Martha's is a very different church: it has no resident community around it and few of its congregation live in the parish. Most therefore do not consider themselves part of a local community in the way members of our other churches should and do. They are therefore far less likely to visit other parts of the Benefice.
3. Looking for small incremental ways in which we can increase the spiritual elements of everything we do. "Turning up the temperature one degree at a time". Regularly reviewing all our activities by asking how are we exercising and witnessing the love of God in this venture? and how can we do it a little bit more?
4. Looking for practical Economies of scale as we work more as a united Benefice. Reviewing how we do admin in each parish, how we might do it better, and how we might combine activities and share resources to reduce overall effort.

From this we identified specific action points, all of which have been completed or initiated at the time of writing.

Actions Taken

1. Rename and relaunch the benefice as the 'Tillingbourne Benefice'.
2. Recruit the extra Clergy hours using Albury's reserves
3. Reduce the number of Sunday Services
4. Introduce more Benefice Services, more services with a 'being with' focus, and more lay lead services.
5. Create a Community Team that attends and has a presence at events and activities already happening in our communities (Currently Shere based but needs be Benefice wide).
6. Run Sam Wells' "Being With" course as a Benefice study course.
7. Hire a consultant to do a Benefice administration review.

Conclusion and looking forward

The amount we have achieved so far has been amazing and I am incredibly grateful to those who have participated in the changes and enabled them to happen. Particularly perhaps those who have found some of the changes understandably painful but have participated anyway.

On the other hand many people are excited and energized by what we have done so far, especially perhaps those who have fully grasped the power of the 'being with' philosophy and seen it in action. We still have much work to do in helping more people understand the philosophy fully and share it with others.

Other challenges ahead include developing our work with children and families, but I think the ethos of the Shere after school club, that we started in 2025, of rather than just trying to get children to come to us we go out to 'be with' them is a good one. David Oakden has also now been able to start doing assemblies in Chilworth thanks to his licencing as Associate Minister to the Benefice in December (in addition to already being Resident Minister in Chilworth).

Equally the experience of the Community Team at the events they have attended so far has been great (and very rewarding for the team members) but the team, now ably coordinated by Ian Gregory who we commissioned as Lay Chaplain at the start of the year, is still quite small and needs to grow if we are to grow this aspect of our 'being with' outreach.

In these last years of my own full-time ministry it has been incredibly fulfilling for me to discover a whole new way of looking at ministry which at the same time draws together many of the themes and connections that I have been drawn to since ordination. Focusing and prioritising our ministry on "Being with God, Being with Each Other, Being with The World" at first seems simple (and almost obvious) but the deeper you go into it the more it makes sense of and connects every area of our Christian life and service in a new and coherent way. I have also greatly enjoyed being part of many of the new things we have done and I hope and pray that in the months ahead the whole Tillingbourne Benefice will increasingly come to understand the path we are on and find similar enjoyment in treading it together. Thank you for travelling it with me – I really appreciate being with you.

God Bless, Tim.

2. Financial Report

In 2025 the Parish has benefitted from a surplus on our unrestricted funds (monies available for day-to-day expenditure) of £15,800. This compares with a small surplus in 2024 of £1,100. Overall including restricted resources income was £241,800 and expenditure was £246,000. However despite this in-year surplus our general reserves have continued their decline.

Our most important source of income, Planned Giving, has decreased by 2.4%, to £113,400 (£116,000). This decline, after a slight increase 2024, is additionally worrying once inflation is taken into account. The benefits of previous planned giving campaigns have now fully worked through and the decline is as a result of givers ceasing their donations, through moving away or otherwise, slightly offset by some increases in the last year. The small 2025 overall surplus has been largely generated by weddings and funerals fee income of £18,700 (£11,500).

Unrestricted donations increased to £17,600 (£16,700). This figure includes money collected at Carols in the Square. However we received £11,100 in donations and associated tax reclaims towards the St James' lighting project and the Peaslake cemetery fence. Funds for these projects are treated as restricted resources (ringfenced) and are separate from general unrestricted funds. Including restricted funds donations in 2025 increased to £28,800, up from £22,000.

The St James' lighting project was completed, at a cost of £37,100. Of this £19,700 was raised through donations, leaving £17,400 contributed from general funds.

The St Mark's cemetery fence project fundraising continued all year, contributing a further £23,700 to the prior year balance of £1800. These monies have been deferred into 2026 as there was no material in year

project expenditure. (Since 2025 year end additional funding of £11,800 has been received, leaving the fence fund at £37,300 at the time of writing).

Collections from services increased from £7,900 in 2024 to £8,800. The Old Parsonage on Lawbrook Lane continues to be let, which provided a gross income of £18,600 (£18,600). This is unchanged as there has not been a rent review.

We were very grateful for a generous legacy of £5,000 from the estate of Shirley Thomson as well as a grant from Shere Parish Council as a contribution towards the upkeep of our churchyards and cemeteries.

As previously mentioned income from wedding and funeral fees of £18,700 was a substantial increase from 2024 (£11,500). Within that figure wedding income of £9,900 reflected the increase in the number of weddings in the year, and funeral offices from £6,500 to £8,700. Magazine income was up to £29,600 from £28,700. This increase was entirely due to sales and subscription income; advertising revenue was very slightly down at £18,100.

On the expenditure side, included in our unrestricted (excluding designated) expenditure total of £207,000 (£215,000) is our diocesan parish share of £98,500 (£95,500), an increase of just over 3% (5%). For comparison our 2026 parish share will increase by 4% to £102,400.

Our mission support giving was £17,400 (£19,300). As well as donations to our long-standing regular charities of Barnabus, Larchfield and Amos Trust (Al-Ahli hospital we donated £2,100 to the Delhi Brotherhood in India. Carols in the Square raised over £4,800 after costs, which was down slightly on the previous year. The proceeds were shared equally between SALV and the Children's Society, who each received over £2,400.

Apart from the lighting project at St James' mentioned above there were no major items of expenditure on the fabric of our two church buildings in 2025. Maintenance expenditure totaled £9,300 up from £6,600 and included some electrical works at St James'.

Following the completion of the Old School Room wheelchair access project there has been no major expenditure this year on the Old School Room. It is noted however that there is likely to be significant expenditure in the near term for repairs and renovations to the external porches and windows.

Expenditure on utilities, mainly gas and electricity, for our church buildings for the year was £6,000 (£8,000), a decrease of 25%. This reduction, which continues a trend from 2024, whilst welcome is largely as a result of the general decrease in utility prices after the steep increases in recent years but does also reflect our eco-church initiative. Specifically looking at the electricity spend at St James' this was £1,545, down from £2,602 in 2024, so we are starting to see the benefit of the new LED lighting installation. However, we must continue to be vigilant and continue to look at ways to reduce our utilities spend, mindful that heating forms the largest part.

Excluding the lighting project expenditure on our church buildings was £9,400 (£6,600). The increase was largely one of timing – surveys for gas and electrical safety (and associated remedial works), fire extinguishers, lightning conductors all falling due.

The net result for the year was a surplus of income over expenditure of £16,300 (2024 surplus £1,100) before transfers on unrestricted and designated funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totaled £120,000 (2024: £124,000). This decrease reflects the continuing decline in our reserves (from £149,000 at the end of 2022). The major factor this year was the contribution to the St James' lighting project from general reserves (£17,400, mentioned earlier).

The value of our investment funds lodged with the Church of England deposit fund reduced by £2,800, compared with a small increase of £1,300 in 2024.

The Camino project in partnership with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Guildford has completed. All funds (treated as a Restricted Fund) have now been consumed.

Related Party Transactions: No PCC member (Trustee) has received any benefits (2024: £0), but clergy members of the PCC have been re-imbursed expenses not exceeding £1450 (£3300) in total.

Finally I want to thank other key members of the Parish finance team during 2025, including Stuart Madden, Ken Mead, and Bruce Buglear and others without whose invaluable assistance managing the church finances would be much harder.

In summary the overall message this year is that we need to consider carefully how we stem the decline in our reserves, to enable us to continue thriving as a viable church delivering God's mission in the Parish of Gomshall, Shere and Peaslake. *Angus Denny, Treasurer*

3. Electoral Roll Report

In 2025, prior to the Annual Church Parish Meeting (APCM), a completely new Roll was compiled in accordance with Church of England regulations. The totals for 2025 were 139 people from 99 households. Only those on the Roll can take part in the APCM.

Jonathan Cross, Electoral Roll Officer

4. Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod had 2 meetings in 2025 and the second one in 2025 had the Head of Safeguarding for the Guildford Diocese helping the safeguarding officers in the Parishes of the Cranleigh Deanery Synod sort out problems they were having with the reporting system. We also welcomed Sarah Hutton as our new Area Dean.

Ian Gregory, Deanery Synod Representative

5. Sidespeople, Welcomers and Refreshments

St James'

The team of Roger Moulden, Caroline Evans, Jane Cross, Jonathan Cross, Kate Denny, James Hutton, Ken Mead, Ian Gregory, Sarah Egerton, Rod Duncan and Ian Allen ably performed their sides and welcomer duties on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month throughout 2025. Generally two side persons and one welcomer attended each service, however for busy services such as baptisms an extra person was enlisted. Thanks go to all those who help with serving of refreshments after the services.

Sarah Egerton and Christine O'Loughlin

St Mark's

Sidesperson duties in 2025 are performed on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the month. 1st Sundays were covered by Christine Harrison and one other, either Brad Day or Ian Gregory, depending who is available with Rod Duncan if either Brad or Ian are not available. 3rd Sundays were covered by Chris Lewis and Anne Heyes. All sidespersons act as Welcomers.

Verger duties in 2025 were covered by Christine Harrison, Chris Lewis, Ian Gregory and Kate Denny, singly or in pairs according to the requirements of the service for Weddings and Funeral Services. Duties included seeing the church was ready and welcoming.

Christine sees that the wafers, batteries, lighting tapers are kept stocked in the vestry.

Refreshments 2025 after the 10.00am services were arranged by Christine who sets up The Old School Room for this purpose and also makes up the Servers rota throughout the year so there is continuity. Christine also purchases the coffee and biscuits needed.

Christine Harrison

6. Families and Children's Work

Mustard Seeds

Mustard Seeds is the after-school club which takes place every Friday between 3pm and 4.15pm in Shere School. There are 20 children aged 5 – 7 years on its register so sessions are lively. We have been exploring the big Bible themes through 2025. Each session involves a bible story, video (often Veggie tales), an interactive song, prayer and craft. We begin with a drink and snack with Lego and colouring. Each term there is one session in St James' Church.

There is a great team of faithful leaders with Jinny McMonigall supporting in much of the creative planning. This is a vital aspect of our mission and outreach as a church as we build up relationships with the children and their families. The staff at Shere school are very supportive. I am hugely grateful for those who help regularly or on an ad hoc basis. This is a team effort and so worthwhile as we see the children grow in their faith.

Sarah Hutton

Muddy Church

Bishop Andrew said to me following the Confirmation Service in April 2025 in St James', 'You must get that family involved.' And so, I did!

Laura Hancock and I met to plan a new initiative for a different way of doing church. Muddy Church takes place at 4pm outside about once a month in St James' Churchyard – and beyond. Each takes place around a theme so the first one in August took place in the Tillingbourne river. Others have involved the sheep in the upper field and through the winter around a fire pit. There is a scavenger hunt for the memory verse, which is pegged up, a game (thanks to Laura's creativity) and an explore of the theme interactively through creating something together. Prayer takes many forms, such as writing them on bark and floating them down the river and then we finish with a picnic tea accompanied by hot chocolate. Each one is different. It is messy and can be muddy. Each of us are exploring our faith so all voices are equally valid with the younger voices being heard. We talk through things together and it has been a joy to see many attending and being comfortable with a different way of doing church. This service is open to the whole benefice. We have between 7 and 20 children attending with about the same number of adults plus leaders and helpers. Once again this is a team effort, and I am hugely grateful to Laura and Ian Hancock (and their three boys) and my long-suffering husband, James for enabling this important part of our mission and outreach to happen.

Sarah Hutton

7. Pastoral Care Report

We recognise that there are many people who support friends and neighbours across the Parish in Gomshall, Peaslake and Shere. We are very fortunate to live in a community where people look out for others. There are times when it's good to offer specific visits when people find themselves facing particular struggles and welcome someone to chat to and pray with. The group has been running for many years continuing from the time of Rev George Egerton. We always maintain confidentiality, especially remembering our responsibilities under the DBS requirements. We try to encourage those who are not able to attend church regularly to come to the Songs of Praise services which are held during the year. These give the opportunity for people to meet up and share times of prayer which give support and comfort to those who are struggling. Thank you to all those who have supported the group over many years. In the new year we shall be considering how we continue to do this in a more co-ordinated way within Safeguarding regulations so thank you very much to all those who have been so supportive over many years. *Judy Potter*

8. Outreach Report

Men's Discussion Group.

Over the last year we have had many discussions in the group ranging from politics to the suffering of people around the globe. We have also explored how these topics fit in with Christianity. The group size ranges from 6 to 10 people. However, we get more people in the summer months as there are less commitments for the people attending during the summer months.

Simply Faith.

Simply Faith was lead by Rod Duncan in 2025 and we covered topics like euthanasia, prophecy, spiritual gifts, reading the Bible. We also touched on resurrection of Jesus and forgiveness. We explored the Lord's prayer week by week. We also explored a number of other contentious worldly issues.

Outreach and Being with.

In 2025 I was commissioned on January the 12th to do outreach work and the clergy team wanted me to go into the community to be with people. Accordingly, I participate in activities at Tanyard Hall, where I have observed that several members of the church are present. This group provides older adults with opportunities for social engagement, fostering a sense of community and enjoyment among individuals of similar age. Volunteers working with Guildford Borough Council manage this group. I also attend the Peaslake coffee morning to be a presence there. Christine and David Harrison run this group.

A group of individuals is actively involved in community outreach, myself included, participating in local events such as the Peaslake Open Gardens, Peaslake Fair, and Shere Hill Climb. The idea of this is to be a church presence at these events.

Pilgrim Group

This group works at enhancing St James' as a Pilgrim Church. This year we have produced a free Welcome leaflet with a guided map of the important features of the church. Our thanks must go to Steve Thurston for enabling this to happen. There are prayer cards in each pew for visitors which we see as spiritual pilgrims. Ongoing work is being done to produce in the same style as the welcome leaflet, a welcome banner and more detailed information at each key feature using a QR codes. This is a work in progress.

The group meets monthly to pray the hundreds of prayers which are written and pegged up in St James' Church. This is deeply moving as we notice the heartfelt and repeated nature of the petitions. In 2025 a new prayer tree was made by Adrian O'Loughlin using old pews and special branches in memory of a late friend of his. Each liturgical season a different shape and colour of prayer card is produced by the team.

The team runs Open for Peace which took place most months during 2025 in St James' on a Saturday between 11am and 4m. Over 150 people come through the doors. This is an opportunity to light a candle and say a prayer. Sadly this vigil continues as although a cease fire in Gaza has taken place wars continue to ravage the world.

My thanks to Sue Moulden, Jane Davis and Susie Duncan who form the core of this committed group.

Rev. Sarah Hutton, Associate Minister
Ian Gregory, Parish Lay Chaplain

9. Flower Arrangers Report

St. James' Flower Team

Luckily we still have our team of eight flower arrangers who very kindly decorate the Church for Easter, Open Gardens, Harvest and Christmas. In addition, an effort is made to ensure that there is always an arrangement adjacent to the Altar throughout the year except during Lent. These ladies are always willing to provide beautiful arrangements when requested for which I thank them most sincerely. *Lesley Childs*

St Mark's Flower Team

Once again it is time to extend special thanks to the loyal team of Flower Arrangers who work hard to keep St. Mark's looking lovely week by week, and our thanks as well to the extra help that comes in preparing for the Special seasonal Festivals. This is much appreciated by the congregation and visitors.

We welcome Kate Cuff, Hurtwood House who has volunteered to organise the yearly rota, and extend very grateful thanks to Anne for her sterling work over many years organising the Flower Arranges team as she steps down at the end of 2025. *Anne Heyes*

10. Vestry Report

St James', Shere Vestry Team Report

The Vestry Team's main function is to prepare all the items required to celebrate a Eucharist. Afterwards, they clear the altar then wash up the silver and glassware ready for the next service. In addition, there is the altar linen to be washed and ironed – and in some cases, starched!

The Vestry Team is made up of five back-room girls, performing the role of Sacristan, preparing everything required on the altar for a service of Holy Communion.

Needless to say, each member also performs a variety of other roles as and when required, with the emphasis being on teamwork to ensure the smooth running of the church in its myriad ways.

Well done team! *Cathy Mead*

St Mark's Peaslake Vestry Team Report

The Vestry Team continues to run smoothly at St Mark's in Peaslake, thanks to a reliable and painstaking Team of five. One longstanding member has resigned over a church matter, but another volunteer has kindly stepped in to take her place and has swiftly learnt the ropes.

We continue to be supported by those who ensure we have enough wine and communion wafers.

Deb Stevens

11. Cleaners Report

The five cleaning teams continued to do a fantastic job at St James'. With the ever-increasing visitor numbers in the village, many of whom come into the church – often after a muddy walk, there's no shortage of things to do. With a surprising number of visitors going up to the lectern, the carpeted steps can prove a bit of a challenge.

There was no Annual Big Clean in 2025 as I was confidently expecting that someone would answer my plea to take over from me and organise all cleaning. Sadly, my confidence was misplaced.

St Mark's in Peaslake has a wonderful team helping to keep the church clean and tidy, but sadly the numbers continue to dwindle and there are now only twelve people involved. Helen Mills is going to try something of a recruitment drive!

Cathy Mead and Helen Mills

12. Church Choirs of St James' and St Mark's Report

It is a real pleasure to look back over another strong and rewarding year for the church choirs of St James' and St Mark's, and to record heartfelt thanks to all the singers whose commitment, generosity of spirit and considerable musical talents continue to enrich the worship of both churches so profoundly. Week by week, and often behind the scenes, choir members give their time, energy and skill with remarkable faithfulness, and we are deeply grateful to each and every one of them.

The year was marked by a number of memorable musical highlights but also the choir sang wonderful music beginning with Benjamin's Britten's *The Birds*, a song which speaks of Christ's infancy and which they performed on Epiphany Sunday. The choir then joined the choir of St Nicolas Cranleigh to sing choral evensong in late January which was a lovely opportunity to sing some rather roly-poly Victorian music and some of those choral gems which make evensong such a precious part of our choral tradition. St Nicolas then joined us in March to sing for the confirmation service led by the late Bishop Andrew who was, as ever, very enthusiastic about the music in worship in the parish and we will miss his kind words and enthusiastic support.

The main work of the summer term was a choir concert to raise funds for the new lighting system in the church. We performed a programme of music centred around the theme of light including Elgar's *Light of the world* and Wood's *O thou the Central Orb*. The programme also included some much 'lighter' items such as an African gospel song *Babethandaza* accompanied by djembe drum and Irving Berlin's perennial favourite *Blue Skies*.

Later in the year, the deeply moving All Souls' service in late October set the tone, followed soon afterwards by another fine carol service which saw the church filled to capacity. These services not only demonstrated the choir's musical standards, but also their ability to support and enhance moments of great reflection and shared devotion.

Advent Sunday was particularly busy and joyful. The day began with a lovely Advent carol service at Peaslake in the morning, before the choir went on to join forces in the evening with the choir of St Nicholas, Cranleigh for a carol service that was very warmly received. This spirit of collaboration and shared music-making was a real feature of the season.

Soon after came the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Shere, where the choir once again led a capacity congregation with confidence and warmth. Alongside much-loved congregational carols, the choir offered classic choral works, including Bach's famous *Wachet auf!* and a beautifully sensitive setting of John Joubert's *There is no rose*, both of which were sung with poise and expressive depth.

In addition to all of these regular services and commitments the choir also sang at numerous weddings and some funerals and we thank them for this extra commitment to helping people celebrate and commemorate these important family events. These extra events require a lot of extra help, as does the running of the choir and we must highlight the huge amount of work that Cathy Mead does in organizing the choir for events, sorting out music, setting up for choir practices and translating the choir master's instructions/intentions to sometimes slightly baffled choir members! Thank you Cathy, your capacity for getting things done and your clear thinking are what holds the choir together!

This has been another strong and life-giving year for the choirs of St James' and St Mark's. We look ahead with confidence and enthusiasm—and we are always delighted to welcome new members, so please do spread the word!

Doug Mcilwraith, Director of Music

13. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches

St James' Church

Thanks to the members of our Property Team who together do so much to keep our buildings in such good repair, particularly to Robert Beck and Ken Mead, who put in enormous efforts during the year in initiating, reviewing mobilising contractors and implementing projects concerning the interior and exterior maintenance aspects.

Projects

The major project completed in May 2025 was the successful upgrading of the electricity at St James' to a LED system, with appropriate PAT certificates for the completed electrical works. The system is working satisfactorily and will result both in better lighting and in terms of cost savings.

The property Committee has inspected in detail the condition of the fabric of the building and identified priority works that need to be done in the short term. A contractor has been approached to implement in the immediate future essential works including guttering and downpipe replacement at high level to the Nave roof north side, repairs to damaged churchyard boundary wall in two places, bird/squirrel damage to underside of roof above Gallery, toilet door repairs, and the checking and clearing of valley gutter. Future works comprising render and stonework repairs and a loose louvre panel to the bell tower were noted for when funds are available.

Assessments and Reviews

A fire risk assessment has been carried out and quotations received for a wireless fire detection and alarm system to principally provide protection for the tower bellringers. The team will be contacting Surrey Fire & Rescue Services to request their specialist advice over the risks and whether the proposed alarm was the appropriate solution.

A Risk Management Survey was carried out by a surveyor from Ecclesiastical Insurance on the valuation and buildings contents including a review has been of health & safety checks in the Church and regular churchyard inspection will be carried out and recorded to check for trip hazards on paths and the safety of headstones. A working party will be organised to reduce hazards.

An Energy Audit was carried out from Inspired Efficiency (Guildford Diocese) in April 2025 and the possibility reviewed of replacing the current gas heating system with an electrical system in the future. Preliminary costs have been estimated. These will require fund raising projects.

A draft comprehensive and detailed *Health and Safety Policy* has been prepared by Robert Beck and will be presented for review and approval by the PCC. This will cover inter alia risk assessments, information dissemination and training, first aid, accident reporting and all aspects related to larger church buildings etc.

Routine Servicing and Inspections

During the year expenditure ensured that the high standard levels were ensured for routine servicing and inspections of the gas boiler for the heating, 5 year installation electrical test certificate, maintenance of the clock in the Bell tower, and tuning and repair of the organ. The regular check on fire extinguishers was carried out, as well as the lightning conductor test.

Treeline have been requested to inspect the two large trees on the northern boundary of the churchyard by the river when they come into leaf. This follows concerns raised by the Swimming Pool Committee. The churchyard and cemetery have had grass cutting and strimming on a regular programme, with a special attempt to control the hedging on Lime Walk

Goods and Ornaments

Goods and ornaments are generally satisfactory. It should be mentioned that the altar frontals should be kept in review to ensure that any maintenance is carried out in a timely manner.

Javed Kumar, Churchwarden

St Mark's Church

St Mark's Church had its quinquennial this year. The quinquennial is the five yearly detailed inspection by a qualified architect. Overall, the church is in a good state of repair but in the next year the roof of the building will need an inspection by a competent roofer. Bats continue to come and go depending on the time of year. The heating boiler was serviced last June and a Hive system to control the heating was installed in September. To allow the system to work, the broadband connection was extended into the vestry and additional electricity sockets were installed near the fuse board in the vestry.

The goods and ornaments are in a satisfactory condition. However, the white altar frontal is in a bad state of repair and it was decided that we would repair it in house. In the churchyard the cherry tree at the south side of the church had its canopy reduced early last year so it's state will continue to be reviewed.

The Old School Room has had a new access door fitted. The eaves were painted last year which improved the look of the building but more work needs to be done on windows and porches.

The church has been working with the community to raise funds to replace the fencing around the Cemetery. Finally I would like to thank all of those people who contribute so selflessly to the life of St Mark's, especially the sides people, the flower arrangers, the cleaners, the locking and opening team, Robin who looks after the clock, Chris who looks after the Cemetery and the Harrisons who look after the activities in the Old School Room and anyone else I may have forgotten.

Kate Denny, Churchwarden

14. Peaslake Visitors and Lunch Group

The Group was set up following an initiative from the Diocese, in the early 1980's, to ensure that elderly and vulnerable people in rural parishes were identified and kept in contact with. The remit of the Group developed over time and in the late 1980's the scope was extended to include a lunch each month during the autumn and winter periods when the food would be prepared by members of the committee and served in The Old School Room.

In addition, the programme now includes a summer drive-and-tea at a garden centre as well as summer and Christmas lunches at Ridgmount.

From 2012 a monthly coffee morning has been held for members and the wider community.

This year, 2025, the monthly lunches were served in September, October, November, January, February and March to approximately 30 persons.

Summer and Christmas lunches were held at Ridgmount for members and guests.

In May there was a visit to Newbridge Garden Centre for members, with a cream tea.

Monthly coffee mornings were held throughout the year in The Old School Room, on the last Friday of each month, which were well attended.

Christine Harrison

15. The Old School Room

It has been a good year for The Old School Room (OSR) with use for church related functions and use by community organisations. We have benefited from having the wheelchair access availability, particularly for village lunches, church and coffee mornings. In addition the WC refurbishment this year is a great improvement and there have been many appreciative comments by visitors.

Church related functions have free use of the OSR. Other organisations pay a charge according to the period of use.

Church related use has included:

- Coffee after morning service
- Church meetings
- Eco Church events
- Peaslake Visitors & Lunch Group, Last Friday Coffee Morning
- MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Deanery Quiet Day
- Little fishes
- Peaslake School

Other organisations

Other organisations who have used the OSR include: Peaslake Mah-Jong group, Villagers Book Club, Peaslake Players, Shooting Club, British Legion Womens' Section, Villagers Group, Bridge Club, Friends of the Hurtwood, Recreation Ground Committee, Community Fund,

Bookings

I keep a calendar of bookings and collect payments which are remitted to Shere PCC Treasurer.

Christine Harrison

16. Shere Bell Tower Report

We had a core band of 12 regular ringers throughout 2025. One former ringer came along and revived their old skill for a while, but then found that arthritis in their hands was making this too difficult and gave up again. Towards the end of the year we were joined by a mature learner who seems to be making good progress. We have been unable to recruit any young people to learn and it is a concern that we find this so difficult as most of us find that our own abilities seem to decline as we age. During 2025 three of our experienced ringers decided that they no longer have the stamina to ring a quarter peal as that requires 45 minutes of unbroken ringing.

We rang the bells for 16 weddings during 2025, but sometimes did need to call for help from neighbouring tower bands when we could not find enough available Shere ringers to pull the 6 ropes required. I believe that we also rang for every regular service that we were expected to mark.

We were unable to enter the District Striking Competition in 2025, as it clashed with one of the weddings we had been asked to ring for. This was a little disappointing as we had gained some useful experience at this event in 2024. We managed to ring one successful quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles during the autumn. This was Richard Morris's and Andrew Baker's first for this method on the treble and on an inside bell respectively. We lost a subsequent attempt at a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor (changes rung on 6 bells, so more complicated than the 5 bells changing in "Doubles") and will try that again in 2026. Barbara Norman continues to ring advanced methods with ringers from a range of towers around the district and we are glad of her continued help and support in Shere.

In September we took part again in the Heritage Open Day, giving demonstrations and talks about bell ringing to an impressively large number of visitors. The sound of a bell being chimed repeatedly probably brought visitors into the church as well. And over the year our bells have been used by several visiting bands of ringers – we are grateful for the support of the clergy when these requests come in, as there is a long tradition of ringers moving around to gain experience and skill on different bells.

The bells themselves appear to remain in good condition, and no significant maintenance problems were found in 2025.

Graham Hughes, Bell Captain, St James' Bell Tower

17. Mission Support Report

Our Parish gives a guaranteed source of income to a number of charities. These are (currently): Barnabus in Manchester, the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza and the Larchfield Orphanage in Tanzania. The money is paid out of the Parish's Outward Giving fund.

Barnabus - the Christian Homeless Centre supported by our Parish

Shere Parish, through the Mission Support Group, has continued to give financial aid (£4000) during the last year to Barnabus, which is situated in Manchester. In addition, their Chief Executive, Yvonne Hope, addressed the congregation at St. James' one Sunday morning in September. She spoke of the current crisis in homelessness in Manchester and gave details of how Barnabus are expanding their work into also providing supported housing for clients genuinely wanting to change their lives and to come to terms with a settled life within the community. Yvonne was very warmly welcomed and sent back to Manchester with the donation from the Parish, plus many gifts of food from parishioners. The reasoning behind our support of Barnabus is that the Mission Support Group feel that it is important to look outward beyond our immediate area whilst, at the same time, supporting local people in need.

Al Ahli Hospital

Our Support for the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza continues in a sadly declining situation of greater uncertainty and violence amid virtual physical destruction of all utilities and buildings. The situation has been compounded by the difficulties of getting any aid blocked by the Israelis. Despite this the Hospital continues to operate at a basic level. We committed £4000 for the year and funds are being held by the Amos Trust until opportunities and a conduit arises for getting through to help with key initiatives such as hospital activities and trauma therapy.

The Larchfield Orphanage, Tanzania

On Sunday, August 3rd, at the Parish Communion Service in St Mark's, the congregation had the opportunity to hear from Jim Berry, founder, and Rob Sherman, Project Manager of the Larchfield Children's Home in Tanzania—an orphanage that the church supports as part of its mission outreach programme. Their insightful and uplifting story of Larchfield was by way of an interview during which Jim and Rob were able to articulate the ethos of Larchfield, its children and current and future plans for the development of the campus. Jim told us that the home aims to promote a strong sense of community and responsibility among the children. Funding mainly comes from generous benefactors, with ongoing plans for self-sustainability. Rob described some of the key projects recently finished, along with future plans, focusing on improving the living conditions, education, and self-sustainability of vulnerable children. Projects such as a 25-metre-deep borehole, a desalination plant, and a large multi-purpose hall are designed to enhance the lives and learning environment for the 41 children. Future initiatives include developing a sustainable fish farm to support everyone on campus and generate additional income through sales in the local market, together with their current sales of fruit and vegetables. Additionally, there are plans for a solar power system to reduce energy costs and increase reliability.



There was much to captivate the congregation due to the vision and energy of these two selfless gentlemen. The Larchfield story will surely go from strength to strength. *Mike Currier*

Photo, by Jonathan Cross, shows Rev Mike Currier with Jim and Lulu Berry (lead of the Larchfield Child Development Programme) and Rob Sherman.

The Delhi Brotherhood, India

Towards the end of 2025 the Mission Support Team recommended The Delhi Brotherhood as the fourth charity to support - to replace the Camino Refugee project completed in 2024. Whilst no decision was made to support them on an ongoing basis a donation of £2100 was made. The Brotherhood was established in 1877 with the objective of promoting education and social outreach among disadvantaged communities in Dehli. It is a Christian institution which from the very beginning, has focused on the upliftment of disadvantaged children and families, disadvantaged backgrounds, supporting them through education, care, and hope for a better future.

Children's Society Boxes – £937.96 was collected in 2025. Thanks to Christine O'Loughlin for all the hard work to look after the boxes this year.

Food Bank – we continue to collect and deliver donated food and hygiene items to the local foodbanks, alternating each month between the Salvation Army in Guildford and the North Guildford food banks. We delivered 15 car loads of food products during the year. On a number of occasions, we also delivered food to the Food Larder in Gomshall, to add to their stocks. Our local donation points are in St James' and St Mark's, and food purchased at the Coop in Shere can be left at the counter for the food bank.

Caroline Evans, on behalf of the Mission Support team

18. Songs of Praise

During 2025 we continued our services of Songs of Praise which have been welcomed by many people, especially those who are not able to come to the regular Sunday services. They are held during the afternoon, usually Wednesdays, and we share four gatherings during the year.

We arrange one to coincide with Easter tide when the brighter days are arriving and the signs of Spring are around us. Then we mark the warmer days of summer before suddenly finding ourselves marking Harvest time before realising the year is coming to an end as we celebrate Christmas time. After the singing there are good opportunities for people to chat to those they might not see very often – there's a good deal of laughter and happy voices helped along by cups of tea and seasonal cakes and biscuits. It really is a delight to share with everyone as we remember that we worship God and give thanks for his goodness.

Judy Potter

19. Eco-Church Report

The Parish of Shere Eco Church has continued to team up with Tillingbourne Earth to run a monthly Climate Café event, usually on the first Sunday of the month and based in the Old School Room, Peaslake. Attendance is usually between 20-35 people, with approximately 80 people attending different events. Talks have included an evening learning about 'Doughnut Economics' and another all about designing Peaslake Community Garden. Daytime, outdoor events included a Community Litter Pick and 'Walking with Trees', a meditative afternoon thinking deeply about our relationship with trees and nature. More actively, about 60 people helped with a day of hedge planting at Peaslake Farm/Community Garden with more than 2000 hedging whips planted in the day.

In March we hosted our first Eco Film Festival. This had two sections – an afternoon of short films in St James' on a wide variety of sustainability related subjects. This worked well as a 'walk-in' event, with some people staying for the whole afternoon and many people dropping in for a shorter time. The evening film event was a very well attended collaboration with Shere Village Cinema, showing 'Wilding', preceded by an excellent talk by the Chief Ecologist of Knepp.

We continue to have a monthly Eco Church page in the Parish Magazine which aims to inform the community of local events which they might join in with and ideas to help people think sustainably.

As an Eco Church, we are delighted that the lights in St James' were converted to low energy LEDs in 2025.

Jenny Janse & Shiona Bacon, Eco-church Officer

20. Safeguarding Report

The last 12 months have seen an increasing awareness of the importance of safeguarding within the parish and the community as a whole, with some good progress on the activities within the Safeguarding Action Plan.

Some of the high (and low) lights of the last 12 months:

- We have had good support from the Diocese with the occasional safeguarding issues that have occurred.
- In August 2025 APCS (our DBS handler) notified us that their software supplier had suffered a data breach. This affected seven members of our church and was handled in a sensitive and timely manner.
- As a result of the above the Diocese has selected MSW as the DBS enabler and their system is now being used for all future checks.
- Our **Safeguarding Dashboard**, which tracks how well we are doing to keep abreast of the mandatory items concerning training etc, and which generates an Action Plan for the PCC, has improved from the high 60s to the low 80s. Further improvements are anticipated in the near future as additional items are updated, and additional work is carried out on the Safeguarding Standards.
- The **Safeguarding Hub**, which helps us keep track of the forthcoming training and DBS needs for the 60 or so people involved in church activities, is being populated; this will bring all of this data into one secure place thus making the ongoing management of this task much simpler.

Our Church Culture

The PCC, following a request from the Diocese, submitted their comments on the **Strengths and Weaknesses** of the church culture. The comments were encouragingly positive with many key words such as: tolerant, welcoming, approachable and loving. The leadership team is seen as inclusive and approachable. However areas of concern included:

- Not enough young people attending, or becoming involved, in the church
- Apparent reluctance to change - we've always done it this way
- Meetings rushed with insufficient time for discussion
- Some people carrying too heavy a load
- Difficult for some newcomers to feel at home

The role of Parish Safeguarding Officer is both satisfying and, on occasion, dare I say, frustrating, and I am looking forward to the continued improvement of our work in this area. Thank you for your support and encouragement as I settle into my new role. *Philippa Galloway, Parish Safeguarding Officer*

21. Parish Magazine Report

EDITORIAL (Jane Kumar)

Another year of hard work and deadlines for the team of Rev Mike Currier, Naia Edwards and Wendy Innes. Rosanna Collingwood is our loyal proof reader.

Deadlines are sadly being ignored by many contributors, which makes a lot of extra work for me. They are clearly marked on the back cover of each magazine, and it would be much appreciated if they could be observed. I try to be flexible but my limits are being stretched!

Stag Print Services Ltd has proved a very worthy successor to Sy Hills Print and maintained a high standard of printing with excellent photo reproduction making for a clean and professional magazine.

We have reduced our print run to 900 copies per month as there were too many copies being left over and the magazine routinely runs to between 88 and 96 pages of news and information.

ADVERTISING (Javed Kumar) In terms of adverts the number have shown a little variation but broadly kept the same as the following table shows:

DATE	QUARTER B&W	QUARTER COLOUR	HALF COLOUR	FULL PAGE COLOUR	TOTAL
2024 (March)	13	41	28	3	85
2025(January)	14	43	24	6	87
2026 (Feb)	15	40	28	4	86

Over time, some advertisers retire or, due to economic circumstances stop. However, in terms of revenue, while the loss particularly of full-page adverts affects the overall income, this is usually compensated by new adverts during the year. It was decided not to increase charges in the current year since they had been increased in the previous year, an eye is being kept on printing costs, so that rates can be reviewed if necessary at the year end.

In terms of pages devoted to advertising, these have remained at around one-third to ensure that editorial copy is not affected. *Javed Kumar, Advertising Manager*

DISTRIBUTION (Ken Mead)

Another successful year of distributing our magnificent Parish Magazine is down to the 50 distributors who work tirelessly without a whimper. Thanks to Steve and Louisa, who coordinate the Peaslake distribution and also to Chris Capstick for stepping in when I have not been in the country. Over 700 magazines are delivered to the villages along with a number that are posted out and are looked after by Margaret Jones, who makes sure the local news is spread far and wide. Thanks to everyone that is involved in bringing together our impressive magazine for us to deliver to the happy subscribers.

22. Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Notes

a) Accounting Policies

- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.
- The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

b) Funds

- The general reserve includes the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.
- Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Funds given for a particular purpose are restricted to use for that purpose.
- The accounts 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 main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

c) Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised in the same accounting year as the associated income is received.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
- Funds raised by parish events are accounted for gross.
- Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

- Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised for the period of rental falling within the accounting year.

Income from investments

- Dividends are recognised when receivable.
- Interest is recognised in respect of the periods for which it is earned that fall within the accounting year.

Gains and losses on investments

- Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.
- Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December. Unrealised gains are included in the revaluation reserve.

d) Resources used

Grants

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

Activities directly related to the work of the Church

- The Diocesan quota or Parish Share is accounted for when payable. Any quota 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

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
- No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and equipment

- Equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over each asset's estimated useful life.

f) Investments

- Investments are carried at market value at 31 December.

g) Current assets

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

Shere Parochial Church Council
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Income from Donors	-	-	-	-	-
Planned Giving	113,406 -	-	-	113,406	116,167
Donations	17,686 -	-	11,126	28,812	22,167
Collections	8,813 -	-	-	8,813	7,898
Wall safe	1,845 -	-	-	1,845	1,721
Bequests and Grants	7,689 -	-	6,617	14,306	45,718
Income from Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Weddings	9,986 -	-	-	9,986	4,957
Funerals	8,787 -	-	-	8,787	6,566
Income from Property & Trading	-	-	-	-	-
Magazine	29,641 -	-	-	29,641	28,713
OP Rent	18,689 -	-	-	18,689	18,689
OSR Hire	1,883	70 -	-	1,953	2,238
Bookstall sales	-	-	-	-	46
Income from Investments	4,833 -	-	-	4,833	4,732
Other Income	334	417 -	-	751	571
Total income	223,595	487	17,743	241,826	260,188
Resources used					
Mission Support & Other Giving	17,412 -	-	380	17,793	19,345
Ministry Team	1,430 -	-	5	1,436	3,306
Upkeep of Services	3,315 -	-	-	3,315	3,123
Church Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Utilities	6,008 -	-	-	6,008	8,056
Maintenance and upkeep	9,372 -	-	37,016	46,389	6,671
Churchyard	4,641 -	-	-	4,641	7,235
Other	5,516 -	-	-	5,516	5,232
Music	13,148 -	-	-	13,148	11,688
Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Parish Share	98,508 -	-	-	98,508	95,566
Deanery and Tower	170 -	-	-	170	165
Events & Christian Development	5,087 -	-	32	5,120	7,429
Administration	-	-	-	-	-
Administrator	10,697 -	-	70	10,767	10,034
Telephone / Internet	2,422 -	-	-	2,422	2,185
Bank Charges	553 -	-	-	553	397
Examiner / other	1,002 -	-	930	1,933	1,819
Property and Trading	-	-	-	-	-
Magazine	22,047 -	-	-	22,047	24,846
OP	963 -	-	-	963	5,420
OSR and PO	4,086 -	-	-244	3,843	40,736
Bookstall	1,398 -	-	-	1,398	1,030
Total expenditure	207,784 -	38,192	38,192	245,977	254,292
Net income resources before transfer	15,810	487	-20,450	-4,152	5,895
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	5,530	570	22,378	28,479 -	-
Gross transfers between funds - out	-22,949	-570	-4,961	-28,480 -	-
Other recognised gains / losses	-	-	-	-	-
Gains/losses on investment assets	-2,866 -	-	-	-2,866	1,322
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	-4,474	487	-3,032	-7,018	7,218
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	124,698	878,900	28,230	1,031,828	1,024,610
Total funds carried forward	120,225	879,387	25,198	1,024,811	1,031,828

Balance Sheet

Shere Parochial Church Council Balance Sheet (Separate funds)						
	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	At 31/12/2025 £	At 31/12/2024 £
Fixed assets						
Tangible Assets	-	875,000	-	-	875,000	875,000
Investments	57,015	-	-	-	57,015	59,881
	57,015	875,000	-	-	932,015	934,881
Current assets						
Debtors	9,694	-	1,088	-	10,782	7,496
Investments	62,975	-	-	-	62,975	60,249
Cash At Bank And In Hand	7,467	4,387	51,538	-	63,393	59,939
	80,136	4,387	52,627	-	137,151	127,684
Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	16,927	-	27,428	-	44,355	30,737
	16,927	-	27,428	-	44,355	30,737
Net current assets less current liabilities	63,209	4,387	25,198	-	92,795	96,947
Total assets less current liabilities	120,225	879,387	25,198	-	1,024,811	1,031,828
Liabilities						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets less liabilities	120,225	879,387	25,198	-	1,024,811	1,031,828
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
Unrestricted - General Fund	120,225	-	-	-	120,225	124,698
Designated						
Designated - Holiday Club	-	417	-	-	417	-
Designated - Rectory Premises Reserve	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000
Designated - Young People	-	600	-	-	600	600
Designated - Old School Room	-	1,870	-	-	1,870	1,800
Designated - Old Parsonage	-	875,000	-	-	875,000	875,000
Designated - Parish Emergency Fund	-	500	-	-	500	500
Restricted						
Restricted - Camino	-	-	-	-	-	380
Restricted - OSR Wheelchair Access	-	-	1,241	-	1,241	998
Restricted - St James Lighting 2024	-	-	50	-	50	3,444
Restricted - St Marks Fencing 2024	-	-	1,818	-	1,818	1,818
Restricted - StJ - General	-	-	6,952	-	6,952	6,952
Restricted - St James - Churchyard	-	-	250	-	250	250
Restricted - StJ - Spire	-	-	3,295	-	3,295	3,295
Restricted - StM - General	-	-	1,422	-	1,422	922
Restricted - StM - Cemetery	-	-	4,765	-	4,765	4,765
Restricted - Old School Room	-	-	4,425	-	4,425	4,425
Restricted - Choir Social	-	-	979	-	979	979
Fund Totals	120,225	879,387	25,198	-	1,024,811	1,031,828

Balance sheet signed:



Rev Tim Heaney, Rector

Analysis of income and expenditure

a) Income

Shere Parochial Church Council

Analysis of income and expenditure 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Last year
Incoming resources					
Income from Donors					
0101 - PG GA (Standing Orders)	18,411	-	-	18,411	22,356
0102 - PG GA (PGS Direct Debits)	72,904	-	-	72,904	70,416
0600 - Tax Reclaim - PG non-PGS	4,561	-	-	4,561	6,428
0601 - Tax Reclaim - ex-PGS	17,528	-	-	17,528	16,965
0450 - Donations GA & NGA	4,814	-	5,956	10,770	6,168
0470 - Donations Online Giving	9,674	-	3,335	13,009	13,513
0610 - Tax Reclaim - Donations	3,197	-	1,835	5,032	2,485
0310 - Cash Collect GASDS	8,127	-	-	8,127	7,151
0375 - BMF Collections GASDS / NGA	686	-	-	686	747
0430 - Wall Safes	1,845	-	-	1,845	1,721
Income from Donors Totals	141,751	-	11,126	152,877	147,955
Bequests and Grants					
0700 - Bequests	5,000	-	500	5,500	-
0750 - Grants	2,689	-	6,117	8,806	45,718
Bequests and Grants Totals	7,689	-	6,617	14,306	45,718
Income from Fees					
1111 - Fees - Weddings - PCC	6,966	-	-	6,966	3,217
1112 - Fees - Weddings - Verger / Other	3,020	-	-	3,020	1,740
1121 - Fees - Funerals - PCC	7,152	-	-	7,152	5,401
1122 - Fees - Funerals - Verger / Other	1,635	-	-	1,635	1,165
Income from Fees Totals	18,773	-	-	18,773	11,523
Income from Property & Trading					
1250 - Mag - adverts	18,120	-	-	18,120	18,201
1260 - Magazine - sales	1,909	-	-	1,909	1,824
1265 - Magazine - subscriptions	9,611	-	-	9,611	8,688
1140 - OP Rent	18,689	-	-	18,689	18,689
1230 - Rent - OSR hire and other	1,883	70	-	1,953	2,238
1220 - Bookstall Sales	-	-	-	-	46
Income from Property & Trading Totals	50,214	70	-	50,284	49,687
Income from Investments					
1010 - Interest - Bank	411	-	-	411	759
1020 - Interest - CBF / other	4,421	-	-	4,421	3,972
Income from Investments Totals	4,833	-	-	4,833	4,732
Other Income					
1210 - Unexpected Income	334	417	-	751	571
Other Income Totals	334	417	-	751	571
Incoming resources Grand totals	223,595	487	17,743	241,826	260,188

b) Expenditure

Shere Parochial Church Council

Analysis of income and expenditure 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Last year
Resources used					
Mission Support & Other Giving					
3610 - Outward Giving - Partner 1 Barnabus	4,000	-	-	4,000	5,000
3630 - Outward Giving - Partner 3 Larchfield	4,000	-	-	4,000	2,500
3640 - Outward Giving - Partner 4 Amos Trust	4,000	-	-	4,000	2,500
3690 - Outward Giving - Other	5,412	-	380	5,793	9,345
Mission Support & Other Giving Totals	17,412	-	380	17,793	19,345
Ministry Team					
3110 - Ministry Team - Expenses	1,430	-	5	1,436	1,725
3120 - Ministry Team - Other	-	-	-	-	1,221
3130 - Ministry Team - Training / Retreats	-	-	-	-	360
Ministry Team Totals	1,430	-	5	1,436	3,306
Upkeep of Services					
3710 - Upkeep of Services - Consumables	669	-	-	669	589
3720 - Upkeep of Services - Printing	343	-	-	343	307
3730 - Upkeep of Services - Other	911	-	-	911	1,159
3740 - Upkeep of Services - Flowers	21	-	-	21	137
3750 - Upkeep of Services - Verger	1,370	-	-	1,370	930
Upkeep of Services Totals	3,315	-	-	3,315	3,123
Church Buildings					
4510 - StJ - Gas	2,451	-	-	2,451	2,875
4520 - StJ - Electricity	1,545	-	-	1,545	2,602
4530 - StJ - Water	183	-	-	183	187
4610 - StM - Gas	1,368	-	-	1,368	1,852
4620 - StM - Electricity	458	-	-	458	538
4550 - StJ - Maint / Housek	5,950	-	-	5,950	2,649
4560 - StJ - Projects	-	-	37,016	37,016	-
4650 - StM - Maint / Housek	3,421	-	-	3,421	4,022
4540 - StJ - Churchyard	3,001	-	-	3,001	5,760
4640 - StM - Churchyard	1,640	-	-	1,640	1,475
4580 - StJ - Insurance	3,661	-	-	3,661	3,455
4680 - StM - Insurance	1,855	-	-	1,855	1,776
Church Buildings Totals	25,539	-	37,016	62,556	27,195
Music					
3310 - Music - Organist Fees	11,391	-	-	11,391	9,880
3330 - Music - Choir Expenses	1,619	-	-	1,619	1,618
3390 - Music - Music Licences and Other	137	-	-	137	190
Music Totals	13,148	-	-	13,148	11,688
Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs					
3500 - Parish Share	98,508	-	-	98,508	95,566
3510 - Deanery & Tower	170	-	-	170	165
Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs Totals	98,678	-	-	98,678	95,731
Events & Christian Development					
3810 - Parish Events	-	-	32	32	-
3820 - Community Engagement	3,266	-	-	3,266	1,065
3840 - Christian Development - Adult	613	-	-	613	455
3850 - Christian Development - Schools	1,005	-	-	1,005	407
3860 - Christian Development - Children & You	201	-	-	201	5,500
Events & Christian Development Totals	5,087	-	32	5,120	7,429
Administration					
4400 - Admin - Parish Administrator	9,599	-	-	9,599	9,339
4470 - Online Giving Fees	1,097	-	70	1,168	694
4430 - Admin - Telephone / Internet	2,422	-	-	2,422	2,185
4460 - Admin - Bank Charges	553	-	-	553	397
4410 - Admin - Stationary, Postage & Books	215	-	-	215	92
4420 - Admin - Office Equipment	18	-	-	18	960
4440 - Admin - Examiner	350	-	-	350	350
4450 - Admin - PCC expenses	15	-	930	945	20
4490 - Admin - Other	402	-	-	402	397
Administration Totals	14,675	-	1,001	15,676	14,437
Property and Trading					
5310 - Magazine - Printing	20,817	-	-	20,817	23,669
5320 - Magazine - Editor Expenses	736	-	-	736	735
5330 - Magazine - Distribution	493	-	-	493	441
4950 - OP - Maint	-	-	-	-	4,282
4990 - OP - Other	963	-	-	963	1,138
4710 - OSR - Utilities	1,393	-	-	1,393	1,805
4750 - OSR - Maint / HouseK	2,122	-	-	2,122	1,400
4755 - OSR - Projects	-	-	244	244	37,002
4760 - OSR - Insurance	571	-	-	571	528
5440 - Bookstall - Stock	1,398	-	-	1,398	1,030
Property and Trading Totals	28,495	-	244	28,252	72,034
Resources used Grand totals	207,784	-	38,192	245,977	254,292

Movement of Funds

Shere Parochial Church Council
Fund movement summary
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Fund	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Journal Entries	Fund balances Carried forward
Cam - Camino	380	-	380	-	-	-	-
HC - Holiday Club	-	417	-	-	-	-	417
OSR-WA - OSR Wheelchair Access	998	-	(244)	-	-	-	1,241
Rectory - Rectory Premises Reserve	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
StJ-Light - St James Lighting 2024	3,444	16,307	37,119	17,417	-	-	50
StM-Fence - St Marks Fencing 2024	1,818	-	-	-	-	-	1,818
Tim W 2025 - Tim Heaney Wedding 2025	-	936	936	-	-	-	-
General - General fund	124,698	223,595	207,784	(17,418)	(2,866)	-	120,225
YP - Young People	600	-	-	-	-	-	600
StJ-Gen - StJ - General	6,952	-	-	-	-	-	6,952
StJ-C - St James - Churchyard	250	-	-	-	-	-	250
StJ-Spire - StJ - Spire	3,295	-	-	-	-	-	3,295
StM-Gen - StM - General	922	500	-	-	-	-	1,422
StM-Cem - StM - Cemetery	4,765	-	-	-	-	-	4,765
OSR - Old School Room	6,225	70	-	-	-	-	6,295
Ch-Soc - Choir Social	979	-	-	-	-	-	979
OP - Old Parsonage	875,000	-	-	-	-	-	875,000
PEF - Parish Emergency Fund	500	-	-	-	-	-	500
Totals	1,031,828	241,826	245,977	-	(2,866)	-	1,024,811

These accounts as approved by Shere Parochial Church Council and dated 19th April 2026.

Signed:



Rev Tim Heaney, Rector

Independent Examiners Report

SHERE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of Shere

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out in the Financial Statements section of this Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners in section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 matters have come to my attention which give 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 the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a part of an independent examination.

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



Mr Michael Keeble ACA
The Cottage
Lower Street
Shere
Guildford GU5 9HX

29th January 2026

Accounts



THE PARISH OF SHERE
incorporating the villages of Gomshall, Peaslake and Shere



Shere Parochial Church Council

Annual Report and

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 2024

Annual Report – Table of Contents

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1. Ministry Report

The busyness of rural Parish Ministry often causes us to over focus on the current season. Our forward planning sometimes suffers, and we perhaps don't do as much reflection on the past as we should. The Annual Report at least makes us look at the previous year in some depth - and in stepping back and doing so this year I can see that even if we have not been as overtly strategic as we should, God has guided us down a good path and as a result we have made significant progress over the last three years. The message I think for both churches and individuals is that a combination of being faithful and diligent in our regular service to God, and also being open to God leading us in new directions, enables God's will to be done in our lives and in our parish.

In this parish being faithful and diligent in our regular service to God involves a large amount of effort and a large number of people. The Ministry Team and PCC are very grateful to all those involved in the many, many unseen but vital tasks that make this possible. Our regular services, outreach activities, and community pastoral work are the bedrock of our church life – thank you for making them happen.

It is this foundation which gives us space to actively listen to God and to respond when God seems to be drawing us in a particular direction.

As we came out of Covid in 2021 we felt that the 'Ministry of Welcome' was where God wanted us to focus and so in 2022 we developed new ways of welcoming people into our gatherings and into our buildings. These initiatives continue in things like our Sidespersons and Welcomers Team (welcoming people to our gatherings) and our Pilgrimage Group - currently focusing on enhancing the visitor experience at St James'. In 2023 we felt God was asking us to look more inwardly, and so the focus became how we could do more individually and corporately to grow into the likeness of Jesus. Our Autumn course that year (Salt and Light) began to explore this theme and led not only to personal growth for those taking part but also specific initiatives such as the starting of a new home group - 'Simply Faith'.

In 2024 both our study courses had a direct discipleship theme – in Lent we used the film 'The Way' to compare the pilgrimage of a group of people travelling to Santiago de Compostela to our own spiritual journey, and in the Autumn we used Bishop Andrew's Book 'Confidence in the Living God' which uses the story of David and Goliath to show how God can develop a proper self-confidence within individuals and the Church. Bishop Andrew himself took part in one of the sessions.

As we grew as disciples we felt God asking us to look outwards again – but this time not at ways we could attract people in, but rather how we could go out and be with people in the community. In the latter part of 2024 we experimented with having a presence at Gomshall's Fieldfest and Peaslake's Fair – the success of which convinced us to explore this type of Incarnational Ministry further in 2025.

Alongside this Parish development we are looking at more coordination across the Benefice (i.e. Albury and Chilworth). This is something we have long felt we should put more effort towards – but it was precipitated in 2024 by the retirement of Andrew Pearson in Albury and the greater input required by the Shere Ministry Team as a result.

The rest of this report puts some flesh on what it means for us to be "faithful and diligent in our regular service to God" – so many people spend so much time in this service, please take a short time to read about their efforts and then hold them in your prayers.

Revd Tim Heaney, Rector

2. Financial Report

In 2024 the Parish has benefitted from a small surplus on our unrestricted funds (monies available for day-to-day expenditure) of £1,100. This compares with a deficit in 2023 of £31,000. Overall including restricted resources income was £260,000 and expenditure was £254,000.

On the income side, unrestricted income has increased by 4.85% from 2023 (£216,000 vs £206,000). Within that figure regular Planned Giving, our most important source of income, has increased by 3.3%, to £116,000

(from £112,000 in 2023 and £114,000 in 2022). Whilst good news that regular giving has slightly increased year on year, overall it is declining over the recent past once inflation is taken into account. The benefits of our 2021 planned giving campaign have now fully worked through and the gradual decline is as a result of givers ceasing their donations, through moving away or otherwise, slightly offset by some increases in the last year.

Unrestricted donations declined slightly to £16,700 (£17,000). This figure includes money collected at Carols in the Square. To a certain extent the decline is offset by donations for our two new projects – the St James lighting and the Peaslake cemetery fence. Funds for these projects are treated as restricted resources (ringfenced) and are separate from general unrestricted funds. Including restricted funds donations in 2024 increased to £22,000, up from £19,000. A second Goodbox device was installed at St Marks and is starting to make a contribution, complementing the device at St James' which continues to collect donations from the many visitors to the church.

Collections from services increased from £6,600 in 2023 to £7,900. The Old Parsonage on Lawbrook Lane continues to be let, which provided a gross income of £18,600 (£17,000), an increase of 9%, as the results of the most recent rent review are fully reflected in the annual figures.

Income from wedding and funeral fees of £11,500 was a slight increase from 2023 (£11,000). Within that figure wedding income was down because there were fewer weddings in the year, offset by an increase in funeral offices from £5,000 to £6,500. Magazine income was down slightly to £28,700 from £29,500. An increase in sales and subscription income was offset by a slight decline in advertising revenue, which is expected to be reversed in 2025.

On the expenditure side, included in our unrestricted (excluding designated) expenditure total of £215,000 (£237,000) is our diocesan parish share of £95,500 (£91,000), an increase of almost 5% (1.5%). For comparison our 2025 parish share will increase by 3% to £98,500.

Our mission support giving was £17,600 (£14,200). As well as donations to our long-standing regular charities of Barnabus and Amos Trust we continued to donate to the Tanzanian orphanage Larchfield. Our support over three years for the Camino project concluded in 2024. Carols in the Square raised over £5000 after costs, a stunning result, up again from the previous year. The proceeds were shared equally between the Save the Children Emergency Fund and Guildford Action, who each received over £2500.

The figures for 2024 include a full year of salary payments for our church administrator and a part year funding of our 50% contribution towards the benefice children's and family worker which has now concluded.

There were no major items of expenditure on the fabric of our two church buildings in 2024. Maintenance expenditure totalled £6,600 down from £34,600 in 2023 which included roof repairs and the refurbishment of the south porch at St James.

The Old School Room benefitted from a major project to make the building accessible for wheelchairs. Income and expenditure were treated as restricted funds. Income of £38,000 was in the form of a grant received from Surrey County Council. Expenditure on the project was contained on budget at £37,000. Overall the small retained surplus will be put towards other anticipated OSR expenditure.

Expenditure on utilities, mainly gas and electricity, for our church buildings for the year was £8,000 (£11,000), a decrease of 27%. This decrease, whilst welcome is largely as a result of the general decrease in utility prices after the steep increases in recent years but does also reflect our eco-church initiative. However we must continue to be vigilant and continue to look at ways to reduce our utilities spend, mindful that heating forms the largest part.

Expenditure on our church buildings was £6,600, down from £34,000. There was no major maintenance expenditure incurred at either St James or St Mark's church this year.

The net result for the year was a surplus of income over expenditure of £1,100 (2023 deficit £31,000) on

unrestricted and designated funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totaled £124,000 (2023: £122,000). This increase, albeit small, is a welcome change from two years of our reserves declining (from £149,000 at the end of 2022).

However as the church is looking to commission two major projects in 2025 (St James lighting and St Marks fencing), we should expect to see future declines in our reserves.

Our reserves would have declined for a third year but for an increase in the value of our investment funds lodged with the Church of England deposit fund, which increased in value by £1,300 (2023: £4,900).

At year end 2024 balances for the St James lighting project stood at £3,400 and the St Marks fence fund £1,800.

The Camino project in partnership with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Guildford has largely completed. We manage the finances. Funds are treated as a Restricted Fund, and at year end there was a small remaining balance of £380 (£3,900), which will be consumed this year.

Related Party Transactions: No PCC member (Trustee) has received any benefits (2022: £0), but clergy members of the PCC have been re-imbursed expenses not exceeding £3300 (£2000) in total.

Finally I want to thank other key members of the Parish finance team during 2024, including Stuart Madden, Ken Mead, and Phil Doherty and others without whose invaluable assistance managing the church finances would be much harder. We welcome Bruce Buglear to the team who has taken over as banker for St Mark's.

In summary the overall message this year is that we need to consider carefully how we stem the decline in our reserves, to enable us to continue thriving as a viable church delivering God's mission in the Parish of Gomshall, Shere and Peaslake.

Angus Denny, Treasurer

3. Electoral Roll Report

The 2024 Electoral roll numbers were 176 people from 119 households. There will be a complete revision of the roll in 2025.

Jonathan Cross, Electoral Roll Officer

4. Deanery Synod Report

It was agreed in 2023 that the meetings of Deanery Synod would be reduced to two a year, and in the course of this year we met in January at St John The Baptist, Wonerish, and at St Nicholas, Alfold in July.

The Area Dean Canon Roy Woodhams updated the meeting with "the comings and goings" in the Deanery, with vacancies in Bramley and in Dunsfold and Hascomb, and the news that Andrew Pearson would be retiring from Albury in June. The effect of all this would be that in the second half of the year, only half the parishes in the Deanery would have ministers in place.

The principal business of the meeting was to introduce to us the Youth Catalyst Briefing, aiming to be a fresh way of approaching youth work in the communities, and led by Alistair Etheridge. He explained how the project was intended to work, and then welcome Oli, the hub leader at Christ College. This went into a question and answer session from members of Synod. I need to mention that this part of the meeting was organised by the Rev'd Sarah Hutton.

Unfortunately, our meeting in July was held on a date when I was not able to be present, and I therefore missed our guest Archdeacon Catherine Mabuza, who told everyone what she had been doing within the Diocese and what she intended to do, having been in post so far only four months. She responded to vigorous questioning from members, and then asked the representatives of the individual parishes what joys they could identify and what challenges.

Our first meeting in 2025 will be on the 6th February.

Martin Betts, Deanery Synod Representative, Synod Lay Chairman

5. Sidespeople, Welcomers and Refreshments

Making people feel welcome when they come to our churches is so important. At services a lot of this responsibility falls to our sidespeople and welcomers, so we have put a lot of effort into recruiting and training these last few years. Equally important are the refreshments served afterwards.

Thank you to all of those who are members of both teams, and special thanks to Sarah Egerton (sidespeople) and Christine O'Loughlin (refreshments) who organise the rotas at St James' and Christine Harrison who does both rotas at St Mark's.

6. Families and Children's Work

Family Feast

Despite all the effort put into Family Feast activities over the last few years attendance continued to decline and last year we made the decision to stop meeting and review how best to resource this type of mission – especially to children under 11. Sadly this also meant we decided to end sooner than expected the funding of our Young Communities Leader Jeff Bartholemew.

Towards the end of 2024 we made the decision to start an after school club at Shere School in 2025.

Little Fishes

The important activity for pre-schoolers and their carers continues each Wednesday morning during term time at St Mark's at (as with all our children's activities) we are grateful to those on the organising team who make it possible.

Schools Report

The ministry team and Cathy Mead have been working hard again this year, leading weekly assemblies in both Shere and Pealake schools. General topics covered have included "Living well together", which was centred on the Sermon on the Mount with various parables, working out what they mean for us and the children today. "Growing in God's garden" was another fun topic, using stories from the life of Jesus to show how we can make the best of ourselves and how our behaviour affects those around us, while "The chef's weighing scales" showed how much God loves each and every one of us. The Church's festivals were all celebrated in style, with Easter (and Easter bonnets!), Harvest and Christmas being especially enjoyable. The children came into church at the end of each term and some came to other services too. The Christmas Nativity at St Mark's was, as always, a highlight of their year. We continue to endeavour to spread the Gospel of Jesus to the children with fun and story, and we pray that they will come to know and love Our Lord for the rest of their lives.

The Ministry Team.

7. Outreach Report

As we reflected on the Parish Development Plan and mentioned in the Ministry Report above, the focus has moved away from creating new events to draw people in, to recognising what is already happening in our community and joining in. This is being intentionally present at village community events, not just by lending a hand but being a Christian witness, opening up our sacred spaces, offering a space for connection and conversations and then see where God leads us.

In 2024 a small team group offered a gazebo space with kids' crafts, stone painting and a prayer tree at Gomfest and Peaslake Fair. In 2025 our intention is to develop this area of ministry under the auspices of our Pastoral Chaplain, Ian Gregory

Revd. Sarah Hutton, Associate Minister

8. Flower Arrangers Report

St. James' Flower Team

Luckily we still have our team of eight flower arrangers who very kindly decorate the Church for Easter, Open Gardens, Harvest and Christmas. In addition, an effort is made to ensure that there is always an arrangement adjacent to the Altar throughout the year except during Lent. These ladies are always willing to provide beautiful arrangements when requested for which I thank them most sincerely.

Lesley Childs

St Mark's Flower Team

Many thanks to the loyal team of Flower Arrangers who work hard to keep St. Mark's looking lovely week by week and for the Special Festivals. This is much appreciated by the congregation and visitors.

Anne Heyes

9. Vestry Report

St James', Shere Vestry Team Report

The Vestry Team's main function is to prepare all the items required to celebrate a Eucharist – the giving of Holy Communion. Afterwards, they clear the altar then wash up the silver and glassware ready for the next service. In addition, there is the altar linen to be washed and ironed – and in some cases, starched! When Pat Simmonds was in charge, she washed and ironed the enormously long altar cloth; happily, this now goes to the cleaners!

There are 6 members of the team which not only means we can share the workload, but becomes very useful at Festivals such as Easter and Christmas when there are extra requirements and up to 3 services in a 24-hour period.

Well done team!

Cathy Mead

St Mark's Peaslake Vestry Team Report

The 5 strong Vestry Team at St Mark's continues to run smoothly on a rota basis. As there are no washing facilities at St Mark's, we sometimes take the glass decanters home for a deep clean, but the outside tap is sufficient for washing the chalices and ciborium, with two of us long-standing members doing a fast turnaround and setting up for the extra communions over Christmas, Easter etc., and we are all adept at laundering the linen used during communion.

As most of those on the regular weekly church cleaning rota do not have vestry keys, we also tackle the vestry cobwebs and sweep the floor in addition to usual duties of polishing the silverware, estimating and counting out the wafers, refilling the port decanter and washing and putting fresh water in the other decanter, making sure everything is in its place locked in the safe ready for the next communion service.

Deb Stevens

10. Cleaners Report

Those on the cleaners' rotas continue to do a grand job keeping our churches spic and span. Their weekly sprucing ensures a clean church for the Sunday services, but also (with both churches open every day) for visitors.

The 15 stalwart cleaners on the St James' are kept hard at work by the size of the building and the increasingly large number of visitors we receive every day – but particularly at weekends.

The much smaller number at St Mark's increases the burden on those there – and additional volunteers are badly needed (please contact Helen Mills if you can help). Their task was also made harder in 2024 by the bats living in the roof!

Many on both teams have been cleaning our churches for decades and their dedication is both admirable and much appreciated.

Cathy Mead

11. Choir Report

Since the last choir report in Spring 2024, the choir has continued to enrich worship with a fine selection of music made possible by their commitment, enthusiasm, talent and hard work. A highlight of the early summer was a short informal concert of light music in St James' given after a morning service in June which included an arrangement of Irving Berlin's *Blue Skies* and a South African gospel song *Bebethandaza* (which translates as 'They were praying') brought to life with a bit of drumming on the djembe drum - now a required skill for parish organists! We were also treated to two fine solos given by Jane who sang *Silent Worship* (from the opera *Tolomeo*) by Handel and Ryan who sang *Evermore* from *Beauty and the Beast* and which was made famous by Josh Groban. The wonderful singing of our soloists and choir was much appreciated by those staying for coffee and more of these informal concerts seem like a good idea.

In the autumn the choir made a fine contribution to the harvest service in St Mark's and their music for All Souls included the opening of Mozart's *Requiem* and *The Spirit of the Lord* by Elgar and a lovely cello solo by Jenny Janse of *Litanei auf das Fest aller Seelen* – Schubert which was particularly poignant and appropriate. Advent began with a new service of music and readings for Advent in St Mark's which was ably led on this occasion by Andrew due to Doug's unavoidable absence for school duties. The music was a fine blend of ancient plainsong, Lutheran chorales, an arrangement of *Angelus ad virginum* and a lovely methodist hymn *There's a light upon the mountain* which Andrew introduced to us. The year ended, as usual, with music for Christmas and the carol service, highlights of which were Pearsall's perennial favourite *In dulci jubilo*, Peter Warlock's profoundly meditative *Bethlehem Down* alongside some deliberately chosen Christmas favourites to ensure there was something familiar for everyone to enjoy.

We have enjoyed our recent choral relationship with St Nicholas, Cranleigh and our choir joined them again for another choral evensong in January which happily coincided with their ecumenical service at which were representatives of all the churches in Cranleigh. We are not quite sure what they all thought of this heavy dose of Anglican responses, magnificats and anthems, but I think we got the thumbs-up and we enriched a very worthwhile service. The choir continues to provide music for worship every Sunday and, increasingly, the music is specifically chosen to represent the progress of the Church Year. A good example of this was Eccard's *When to the temple Mary went* and the *Nunc dimittis in Bb* by Stanford which were particularly appropriate for the Candelmas service in early February. At the time of writing, the choir are preparing for another joint venture with the choir of St. Nicholas, Cranleigh where they will provide music for the confirmation service with Bishop Andrew.

I hope this short report brings home to all of the congregation how much work is done behind the scenes by our wonderful choir and how much we rely on their hard work, talent and commitments. We'd also like to thank Cathy for looking after the music and many other little jobs, and without whom there would be much more confusion and crossed wires! We have been blessed with many new members recently but, sadly, we said goodbye to Andrew and Ryan in early 2025 as they take their next steps upon life's highway. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all that they brought to the Parish and particularly to Andrew for also deputising as organist on numerous occasions. We wish them well and hope that they will indeed be able to return and join us, as they each said they would like to, as they found the Parish and the people so inviting and supportive.

Doug McIlwraith, Director of Music

12. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches

St James' Church

Thanks to the members of our Property Team who together do so much to keep our buildings in such good repair, particularly to Robert Beck and Ken Mead who put in enormous efforts during the year in initiating, mobilising contractors and implementing projects concerning the roofing and maintenance (in 2023) and the upgrading of the electricity to LED (to be implemented in 2025)

In 2024 no major projects were initiated although much effort was put in to developing the LED project. The largest expenditure (£800) was for the acquisition of a ramp to ease access to the altar from the nave and Bray Chapel.

The fabric of the church is in reasonable order. The roofing and works carried out on the north face of the chancel in 2023 appear to have been effective. The leak near the vestry at the west door was controlled by adjustment to the guttering, but additional work is being quoted for.

Routine Servicing and Inspections

During the year expenditure ensured that the high standard levels were ensured for routine servicing and inspections of the gas boiler for the heating, maintenance of the clock in the Bell tower, and tuning and repair of the organ. A fire risk assessment was carried out and recommendations made on actions to be taken for future safety. The regular check on fire extinguishers was carried out.

Goods and Ornaments

Goods and ornaments are generally satisfactory. It should be mentioned that the altar frontals should be kept in review to ensure that any maintenance is carried out in a timely manner.

Churchyard and Cemetery

The churchyard and cemetery have had grass cutting and strimming on a regular programme, with a special attempt to control the hedging on Lime Walk. Thanks also to the volunteers who spent a morning in tidying up the Churchyard to make it a splendid backdrop to our magnificent church.

Javed Kumar, Churchwarden

St Mark's Church

St Mark's Church had its quinquennial this year. The quinquennial is the five yearly detailed inspection by a qualified architect. Overall, the church is in a good state of repair but in the next year the roof of the building will need an inspection by a competent roofer. Bats continue to come and go depending on the time of year. The heating boiler was serviced last June and a Hive system to control the heating was installed in September. To allow the system to work, the broadband connection was extended into the vestry and additional electricity sockets were installed near the fuse board in the vestry.

The goods and ornaments are in a satisfactory condition. However, the white altar frontal is in a bad state of repair and it was decided that we would repair it in house. In the churchyard the cherry tree at the south side of the church had its canopy reduced early last year so its state will continue to be reviewed.

The Old School Room has had a new access door fitted. The eaves were painted last year which improved the look of the building but more work needs to be done on windows and porches.

The church has been working with the community to raise funds to replace the fencing around the Cemetery.

Finally I would like to thank all of those people who contribute so selflessly to the life of St Mark's, especially the sides people, the flower arrangers, the cleaners, the locking and opening team, Robin who looks after the clock, Chris who looks after the Cemetery and the Harrisons who look after the activities in the Old School Room and anyone else I may have forgotten.

Kate Denny, Churchwarden

13. Shere Bell Tower Report

We had a core band of 11 regular ringers, aided by 2 more who are transitioning from learners to occasional service ringers, with a couple of potential new recruits just about to start learning as 2024 ended. We are grateful for the occasional support of Sam Norman when he is home from university. We have been unable to recruit any young people to learn and it is a concern that we find this so difficult as most of us find that our own abilities seem to decline as we age. Sadly, we had to allow our former tower captain, John Parker, to retire altogether during 2024 as his health declined. He had rung for the last 36 years at St James', so this represents a significant change.

We rang the bells for 6 weddings during 2024, without needing to call for help from neighbouring tower bands. I believe that we also rang for every regular service that we might have been expected to mark, and one or two funerals in addition.

In June 2024 we entered a District Striking Competition, held at Bramley. This was the first time in a few years that we tried anything competitive, so it was more of a learning experience for a few of the band, and we came 2nd out of 2 teams in the basic "rounds" category. We were not disgraced and all those taking part enjoyed themselves, so we will be aiming to do better in 2025. Whilst I don't see bell ringing as a naturally competitive activity it was a good way to meet other ringers in our area and to give ourselves a target for further improvement in our own skills.

We also rang 2 successful quarter peals of Grandsire Doubles during the autumn. One of these was Richard Morris's first such effort, and the other allowed Andrew Baker to achieve his first quarter on an inside bell, these were two notable achievements. Barbara Norman is learning to ring advanced methods with ringers from a range of towers around the district and we are glad of her continued help and support in Shere.

In September we took part in the Heritage Open Day, giving demonstrations and talks about bell ringing to an impressively large number of visitors. And over the year our bells have been used by several visiting

bands of ringers – we are grateful for the support of the clergy when these requests come in, as there is a long tradition of ringers moving around to gain experience and skill on different bells.

The bells themselves appear to remain in good condition, and no significant maintenance problems were found in 2024. Unfortunately, the people who ring the bells seem to require more maintenance as we get older, if only we could be as resilient as the bells.

Graham Hughes, Bell Captain, St James' Bell Tower

14.Mission Support Report

Our Parish gives a guaranteed source of income to a number of charities. These are (currently): Barnabus in Manchester, the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, the Larchfield Orphanage in Tanzania and the Camino project. (The Camino project ended in December 2024 - see below). The money is paid out of the Parish's Outward Giving fund.

Barnabus - the Christian Homeless Centre supported by our Parish

Barnabus has had one of their toughest years in their 33-year history. They have experienced a massive demand for help from even more people including many families facing homelessness. It's been a struggle at times to get all the resources together to best help them. They state that, despite this, *and with particular thanks to the support of the Parish of Shere*, they were able to have what can only be described as a brilliant year where they have helped an incredible 166 people to get off the streets. Their housing team is supporting 26 people in their own homes, have 5 people in their supported accommodation and another 4 ready to move into new Barnabus supported accommodation this year. They have also helped hundreds of people to reconnect with family, access mental health, drug and alcohol support and supported people off the streets and into temporary accommodation.

They are excited to continue this success in 2025 and sincerely hope the Parish of Shere will be there with them because together they can help many more people on their journey off the streets.

Al Ahli Hospital

The PCC approved a donation of £2500 for Al Ahli Hospital and payment was made to Amos Trust in December 2024 for distribution of funds. However, as the war continued through the year Amos was obliged, through restrictions on the ground by the Israeli government, to hold back funding projects in the main Hospital itself. So, the funds were kept in reserve for when circumstances would allow for financing programmes previously carried out such as breast screening, which we previously supported. In the meantime, funds have been used to support the staff and their families living in refugee camps and to outreach temporary clinics at Rafah. It appears that despite all the problems the hospital is still operating in any way that it can. Our continuing support is vital for saving lives at an existential level. The Amos Trust Christmas appeal in December 2024 raised well over £250,000.

The Larchfield Orphanage, Tanzania

Our donations to them are primarily being used to support the orphanage's agricultural programme – which helps feed the children but also it is hoped will eventually provide extra income. Land around Larchfield has been cleared to plant maize, and work is underway to build a chicken farm. They currently have a wonderful volunteer project manager, Rob Sherman, who has stayed and worked at Larchfield several times. His efforts have significantly upgraded the agricultural programme, water storage and management. Some of the projects Rob is working on include arranging for a borehole to be drilled and building a solar farm.



Other supporters have helped Larchfield raise the funds to build a multi-purpose auditorium for which completion is expected this Summer. Once finished, Larchfield kids will have a new dining hall, which will double up into shaded classrooms and play areas. One of the existing buildings can then be freed up to admit more kids in need.

The orphanage is also now the proud owner of a brand-new minibus kindly donated by a corporate sponsor. Enjoyed by all, this has greatly increased the mobility for the kids, enabling them to be taken to outside schools and on outings.

Larchfield founder Jim Berry (a member of our Rector's previous church in Dubai) thanks the church for our support of the children - "Your heartfelt commitment to their well-being and progress means you are an essential ally and your consistency really matters".

The Camino Project

Our Syrian family – Abdulwahab and Emtithal Almidani and their son Ghaith - have settled in very well during their second year. The parents quickly learned to get themselves to their English lessons at Guildford College and St. Saviour's Church by bus; Ghaith, already fairly fluent in English, managed to pass 6 subjects at GCSE level after only one and a half terms in St. Peter's school - plus extra coaching through weekends and holidays with the team's ESOL teachers plus one Business Studies expert! He is now continuing Business Studies at Farnborough College, and he has recently completed work experience at a charity shop in Guildford. He passed the theory exam for driving but failed the driving test on first attempt. He will try again as soon as possible. The family manage to budget effectively, allowing them to save a little of their income towards the eventual purchase of a small car, which will improve their lives and appreciation of our country considerably.

Concerned that they lead such a quiet life in Guildford, and would benefit from more informal conversation practice, we ran a series of tea parties last summer with games where possible - which led to the discovery that Abdu is a champion table-tennis player! They both enjoy attending a regular skittles afternoon at Diane's church and we hope to go on introducing them to exercise/art/conversation classes, etc.

Our responsibility for their resettlement was for two years and has now come to an end. However, we have grown so fond of this family that we shall continue to see them frequently as friends and are already thinking of another summer party to introduce them to more friends.

Other Outward Giving/Support from the Parish –

Children's Society Boxes – collected a total of £1023.09 in 2024.

Food Bank – we continue to collect and deliver donated food and hygiene items to the local foodbanks, alternating each month between the Salvation Army in Guildford and the North Guildford food banks. We delivered 14 car loads of food products during the year. On a number of occasions, we also delivered food to the Food Larder in Gomshall, to add to their stocks. Our local donation points are in St James' and St Mark's, and food purchased at the Coop in Shere can be left at the counter for the food bank.

Caroline Evans, on behalf of the Mission Support team

15.Pastoral Care Report

The Parish Pastoral Group has continued to meet on a regular basis, usually about every five or six weeks. The members include representatives from across the Parish. When we meet we hear updates about those who are not able to get out and about very easily or those we are aware of who struggle at times. Usually someone is able to give an update (maintaining confidentiality) as to how things are going and if further assistance is needed. It's good that we hear about neighbours offering help and also catch up with recent activities. We keep in touch with Tanyard Hall and hear about what is happening there. The Group provides a good forum to encourage links with other Parish activities especially the popular Songs of Praise services held four times a year. These enable people who are unable to get to Sunday services to share together informally and meet up in a relaxed way.

Judy Potter

16. Songs of Praise

We enjoyed our usual four services of Songs of Praise during 2024. We marked Easter and the coming of Spring in April. In July we welcomed the warmer days of summer and then moved on to Harvest in October. We finally marked Christmas in December. At all these services a good group of people came together, some who can't manage to come to other services during the year. We are delighted to see them and it gives an opportunity for those who don't get out very often to come and chat to friends who they don't otherwise see. At the end of the service tea and cake, are very welcome!

Judy Potter

17. Eco-Church Report

We have had a second very active year and achieved our Silver Eco Church award (for our two churches) in September. Within our churches we now have Eco book baskets (small eco libraries) and in the porches we have recycling boxes for medicine blister packs and other 'Boot's' difficult to recycle products, plus Ryman's recycling (printer cartridges, plastic pens and glue sticks). The blister packs recycling is especially successful.

We have encouraged life-style audit - Alison Moulden was our guest preacher to encourage people to take part in the 'Creation Care lifestyle audit', and we have our own 10 point Community Eco Challenge to reduce our waste and carbon emissions. We ran a waste and recycling themed Family Feast.

Climate Café

Since January 2024 Eco Church (Jenny Janse and Shiona Bacon) has been collaborating with Tillingbourne Earth (Christian Staunskjaer and Suzanne Rogers) to run monthly Climate Café events for our church and wider community. These have proved popular and successful with people attending from a wide area (our villages but also, Bookham, Dorking, Guildford, Holmbury). Most events have been held in the Old School Room (Peaslake) on the first Sunday evening of the month and have a simple format of people gathering and chatting over a glass of wine or tea/coffee, followed by an expert speaker or film, then discussion. Topics have included:

behavioural change, 'no such thing as throwing away' (plastic/recycling/waste), 'No Mow May' and using our verges and gardens to help wild life and pollinators, What is Net Zero?, Creating a community garden, home energy, food and farming.

Other Climate Café events have included a Community Litter Pick and, in June, our second biodiversity survey of St Mark's Churchyard, as part of National Burial Ground Week.

Jenny Janse, Eco-church Officer

18. Safeguarding Report

The Church of England's attitude and response to Safeguarding continues to develop rapidly: this Parish, along with the Diocese, does not tolerate abuse of any kind.

As Parish Safeguarding Officer, I have been the first line of contact, together with Tim Heaney and Sarah Hutton, for any concern, however small it may seem, regarding people in our church community or parish. If any of us are alerted to a concern, we consult the Diocese's highly skilled and experienced safeguarding team for advice – we do not solve safeguarding problems ourselves - that is for the professionals.

We also keep track of people who are required to undergo regular Safeguarding Training and DBS (Disclosure and Disbarring Service) checks. This is to ensure that the highest standard of awareness and protection of the vulnerable in the church community is maintained – of both adults and young people. Melody Barnett is our DBS validator and will contact those whose DBS need renewal, now every three years.

Safeguarding Training is required for all those who hold positions of responsibility or undertake roles within the church community - including the clergy team, the PCC, Bell Tower captain and choir leaders. There are 5 different training courses – depending on the role held, – from basic understanding of safeguarding to leadership, awareness of domestic abuse and recruitment - and each course has to be refreshed every three years

About 25 safeguarding courses were completed in 2024: by PCC members, clergy, bellringers, and sidespeople & welcomers – and there is more to be done with new arrivals, and people ‘refreshing’ their training.

There are public displays of our Parish Safeguarding Policy in the churches, and on the website is a guide to how to report any Safeguarding concerns or seek help if needed.

We are well under way with the Church of England Safeguarding ‘Dashboard’ for the Parish. This is a useful online tool which helps us to keep track of all we are required to do, which covers any church activities – or non-church activities on our premises - and generates a Safeguarding Action Plan for the PCC. There is plenty to do, or re-do, as we continue to honour our commitment to safeguarding in the parish.

The PCC and the Incumbent have a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in the community and thus have responsibility for Safeguarding. It is a responsibility we extend to everyone, and one that we take very seriously.

Helen Murray, Parish Safeguarding Officer

19.The Parish Magazine Report

Editorial (Jane Kumar)

Another year of hard work and deadlines for the team of Rev Mike Currier, Naia Edwards and our new community news collator Wendy Innes, who has nobly stepped into the shoes of Bekah Heaney. Wendy lives in Peaslake and is a great find. Rosanna Collingwood is our loyal proof reader.

The mag has weathered the unexpected sudden closure of Surrey Hills Print and we are now using an equally professional and friendly printer based locally in Merrow, Stag Print Services Ltd.

We continue to print 950 copies per month and the magazine routinely runs to 96 pages of news and information. The cover price has now been raised to £1.50 after being pegged at £1 for a number of years, with the annual subscription increased to £15

Advertising (Javed Kumar)

Advertising charges have been pegged at the 2023 level. Overall income is expected to remain steady and new advertising inquiries come in on a regular basis.

Advertisements now account for 36 pages – approximately one-third of the magazine. This balance is considered to be the maximum limit, to stop detracting from the magazine content. A comparison of previous year is shown below:

ADVERT TYPES	No. of advertisers Dec 2023	No of Advertisers Jan 2025
Quarter B & W	15	14
Quarter Colour	50	43
Half page Colour	28	26
Full Page Colour	4	5
TOTAL	97	88

Distribution (Ken Mead)

The distributors have stepped up again this last year and my thanks go to all of them for enabling over 700 magazines to be hand delivered monthly around the villages. On top of that the distributors also delivered over 1300 Christmas cards which enabled more people to know what was happening over the festive period. My thanks go to Steve and Louisa who coordinate the Peaslake distribution and to Margaret who oversees the postal subscribers who read the magazine in numerous homes around the UK. My thanks also go to Chris Capstick, who steps up without a murmur and oversees proceedings in my absence. We have had a few distributors that have hung up their boots and have passed the mantle on to new people. Special thanks go to two of those special people, Beryl Blake and Ian Allen, who between them have distributed thousands of magazines over the years and racked up many miles trudging the streets. We have a very special magazine that we are very proud of and the numerous complimentary letters and cards that I receive are a reflection as to how it is received. What a distribution team we have.

20.Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Notes

a) Accounting Policies

- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.
- The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

b) Funds

- The general reserve includes the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.
- Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Funds given for a particular purpose are restricted to use for that purpose.
- The accounts 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 main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

c) Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised in the same accounting year as the associated income received.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
- Funds raised by parish events are accounted for gross.
- Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

- Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised for the period of rental falling within the accounting year.

Income from investments

- Dividends are recognised when receivable.
- Interest is recognised in respect of the periods for which it is earned that fall within the accounting year.

Gains and losses on investments

- Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.
- Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December. Unrealised gains are included in the revaluation reserve.

d) Resources used

Grants

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

Activities directly related to the work of the Church

- The Diocesan quota or Parish Share is accounted for when payable. Any quota 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

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
- No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and equipment

- Equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over each asset's estimated useful life.

f) Investments

- Investments are carried at market value at 31 December.

g) Current assets

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

Statement of Financial Activities

Shere Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Income from Donors					
Planned Giving	116,167	-	-	116,167	111,699
Donations	16,685	-	5,482	22,167	19,054
Collections	7,898	-	-	7,898	6,596
Wall safe	1,721	-	-	1,721	2,044
Events	-	-	-	-	513
Bequests and Grants	7,718	-	38,000	45,718	3,660
Income from Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Weddings	4,957	-	-	4,957	5,940
Funerals	6,566	-	-	6,566	5,014
Income from Property & Trading	-	-	-	-	-
Magazine	28,713	-	-	28,713	29,572
OP Rent	18,689	-	-	18,689	17,055
OSR Hire	2,238	-	-	2,238	1,869
Bookstall sales	46	-	-	46	29
Income from Investments	4,732	-	-	4,732	4,699
Other Income	571	-	-	571	3,461
Total income	216,705	-	43,482	260,188	211,210
Resources used					
Mission Support & Other					
Giving	17,645	-	1,699	19,345	22,050
Ministry Team	3,306	-	-	3,306	2,069
Upkeep of Services	3,123	-	-	3,123	3,351
Church Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Utilities	8,056	-	-	8,056	11,034
Maintenance and upkeep	6,671	-	-	6,671	34,643
Churchyard	7,235	-	-	7,235	4,457
Other	5,232	-	-	5,232	6,466
Music	11,688	-	-	11,688	11,768
Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Parish Share	95,566	-	-	95,566	91,033
Deanery and Tower	165	-	-	165	150
Events & Christian Development	7,429	-	-	7,429	13,580
Administration	-	-	-	-	-
Administrator	9,994	-	39	10,034	9,652
Telephone / Internet	2,185	-	-	2,185	1,632
Bank Charges	397	-	-	397	457
Examiner / other	1,819	-	-	1,819	1,032
Property and Trading	-	-	-	-	-
Magazine	24,846	-	-	24,846	25,165
OP	5,420	-	-	5,420	1,503
OSR and PO	3,734	-	37,002	40,736	3,783
Bookstall	1,030	-	-	1,030	1,467
Total expenditure	215,551	-	38,741	254,292	245,299
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	1,154	-	4,741	5,895	34,089
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	-	-	1,000
Gross transfers between funds - ou	-	-	-	-	1,000
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	1,322	-	-	1,322	4,928
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets,	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	2,477	-	4,741	7,218	29,161
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	122,221	878,900	23,488	1,024,610	1,053,770
Total funds carried forward	124,698	878,900	28,230	1,031,828	1,024,610

Balance Sheet

Shere Parochial Church Council Balance Sheet for the year ending 31/12/2024

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	At 31/12/2024 £	At 31/12/2023 £
Fixed assets						
Tangible Assets	-	875,000	-	-	875,000	875,000
Investments	59,881	-	-	-	59,881	58,558
	59,881	875,000	-	-	934,881	933,558
Current assets						
Debtors	7,496	-	-	-	7,496	4,984
Investments	60,249	-	-	-	60,249	57,212
Cash At Bank And In Hand	22,998	3,900	33,041	-	59,939	42,646
	90,743	3,900	33,041	-	127,684	104,843
Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	25,926	-	4,811	-	30,737	13,791
	25,926	-	4,811	-	30,737	13,791
Net current assets less current liabilities	64,817	3,900	28,230	-	96,947	91,051
Total assets less current liabilities	124,698	878,900	28,230	-	1,031,828	1,024,610
Liabilities						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets less liabilities	124,698	878,900	28,230	-	1,031,828	1,024,610
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
Unrestricted - General Fund	124,698	-	-	-	124,698	122,221
Designated						
Designated - Rectory Premises Reserve	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000
Designated - Young People	-	600	-	-	600	600
Designated - Old School Room	-	1,800	-	-	1,800	1,800
Designated - Old Parsonage	-	875,000	-	-	875,000	875,000
Designated - Parish Emergency Fund	-	500	-	-	500	500
Restricted						
Restricted - Camino	-	-	380	-	380	1,899
Restricted - OSR Wheelchair Access	-	-	998	-	998	-
Restricted - St James Lighting 2024	-	-	3,444	-	3,444	-
Restricted - St Marks Fencing 2024	-	-	1,818	-	1,818	-
Restricted - StJ - General	-	-	6,952	-	6,952	6,952
Restricted - St James - Churchyard	-	-	250	-	250	250
Restricted - StJ - Spire	-	-	3,295	-	3,295	3,295
Restricted - StM - General	-	-	922	-	922	922
Restricted - StM - Cemetery	-	-	4,765	-	4,765	4,765
Restricted - Old School Room	-	-	4,425	-	4,425	4,425
Restricted - Choir Social	-	-	979	-	979	979
Fund Totals	124,698	878,900	28,230	-	1,031,828	1,024,610

Balance sheet signed:



Rev Tim Heaney, Rector

Analysis of income and expenditure

a) Income

Shere Parochial Church Council

Analysis of income and expenditure 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Total Last year
Incoming resources					
Income from Donors					
0101 - PG GA (Standing Orders)	22,356 -	-		22,356	18,323
0102 - PG GA (PGS Direct Debit)	70,416 -	-		70,416	64,128
0201 - PG NGA (PGS & SO) -	-	-	-		6,235
0210 - PG NGA Envelopes and C-	-	-	-		1,420
0600 - Tax Reclaim - PG non-PG	6,428 -	-		6,428	4,068
0601 - Tax Reclaim - ex-PGS	16,965 -	-		16,965	17,523
0450 - Donations GA & NGA	3,737 -		2,431	6,168	6,794
0470 - Donations Online Giving	11,493 -		2,020	13,513	9,906
0610 - Tax Reclaim - Donations	1,453 -		1,031	2,485	2,353
0310 - Cash Collect GASDS	7,151 -	-		7,151	4,940
0350 - WhiteE GA -	-	-	-		1,458
0375 - BMF Collections GASDS /	747 -	-		747	197
0430 - Wall Safes	1,721 -	-		1,721	2,044
0910 - Parish Events - NGA -	-	-	-		513
Income from Donors Totals	142,472 -		5,482	147,955	139,908
Bequests and Grants					
0750 - Grants	7,718 -		38,000	45,718	3,660
Bequests and Grants Totals	7,718 -		38,000	45,718	3,660
Income from Fees					
1111 - Fees - Weddings - PCC	3,217 -	-		3,217	4,065
1112 - Fees - Weddings - Verger /	1,740 -	-		1,740	1,875
1121 - Fees - Funerals - PCC	5,401 -	-		5,401	4,079
1122 - Fees - Funerals - Verger / C	1,165 -	-		1,165	935
Income from Fees Totals	11,523 -	-		11,523	10,954
Income from Property & Trading					
1250 - Magazine - advertising	18,201 -	-		18,201	19,740
1260 - Magazine - sales	1,824 -	-		1,824	1,551
1265 - Magazine - subscriptions	8,688 -	-		8,688	8,281
1140 - OP Rent	18,689 -	-		18,689	17,055
1230 - Rent - OSR hire and other	2,238 -	-		2,238	1,869
1220 - Bookstall Sales	46 -	-		46	29
Income from Property & Trading Totals	49,687 -	-		49,687	48,527
Income from Investments					
1010 - Interest - Bank	759 -	-		759	614
1020 - Interest - CBF / other	3,972 -	-		3,972	4,084
Income from Investments Totals	4,732 -	-		4,732	4,699
Other Income					
1210 - Unexpected Income	571 -	-		571	3,461
Other Income Totals	571 -	-		571	3,461
Incoming resources Grand totals	216,705 -		43,482	260,188	211,210

b) Expenditure

Shere Parochial Church Council					
Analysis of income and expenditure					
01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024					
	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Total Last year
Resources used					
Mission Support & Other Giving					
3610 - Outward Giving - Partner 1 Barnabus	5,000	-	-	5,000	2,750
3630 - Outward Giving - Partner 3 Larchfield	2,500	-	-	2,500	2,750
3640 - Outward Giving - Partner 4 Amos Trust	2,500	-	-	2,500	2,750
3690 - Outward Giving - Other	7,645	-	1,699	9,345	13,800
Mission Support & Other Giving Totals	17,645	-	1,699	19,345	22,050
Ministry Team					
3110 - Ministry Team - Expenses	1,725	-	-	1,725	-
3120 - Ministry Team - Other	1,221	-	-	1,221	1,709
3130 - Ministry Team - Training / Retreats	360	-	-	360	360
Ministry Team Totals	3,306	-	-	3,306	2,069
Upkeep of Services					
3710 - Upkeep of Services - Consumables	589	-	-	589	881
3720 - Upkeep of Services - Printing	307	-	-	307	517
3730 - Upkeep of Services - Other	1,159	-	-	1,159	799
3740 - Upkeep of Services - Flowers	137	-	-	137	102
3750 - Upkeep of Services - Verger	930	-	-	930	1,050
Upkeep of Services Totals	3,123	-	-	3,123	3,351
Church Buildings					
4510 - StJ - Gas	2,875	-	-	2,875	4,233
4520 - StJ - Electricity	2,602	-	-	2,602	3,255
4530 - StJ - Water	187	-	-	187	201
4610 - StM - Gas	1,852	-	-	1,852	2,730
4620 - StM - Electricity	538	-	-	538	613
4550 - StJ - Maintenance / Housek	2,649	-	-	2,649	32,148
4650 - StM - Maint / Housek	4,022	-	-	4,022	2,494
4540 - StJ - Churchyard	5,760	-	-	5,760	3,095
4640 - StM - Churchyard	1,475	-	-	1,475	1,361
4580 - StJ - Insurance	3,455	-	-	3,455	3,286
4590 - StJ - Other	-	-	-	-	1,466
4680 - StM - Insurance	1,776	-	-	1,776	1,713
Church Buildings Totals	27,195	-	-	27,195	56,601
Music					
3310 - Music - Organist Fees	9,880	-	-	9,880	9,347
3330 - Music - Choir Expenses	1,618	-	-	1,618	2,155
3390 - Music - Music Licences and Other	190	-	-	190	266
Music Totals	11,688	-	-	11,688	11,768
Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs					
3500 - Parish Share	95,566	-	-	95,566	91,033
3510 - Deanery & Tower	165	-	-	165	150
Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs Totals	95,731	-	-	95,731	91,183
Events & Christian Development					
3810 - Parish Events	-	-	-	-	29
3820 - Community Engagement	1,065	-	-	1,065	2,072
3840 - Christian Development - Adult	455	-	-	455	397
3850 - Christian Development - Schools	407	-	-	407	355
3860 - Christian Development - Children & Young	5,500	-	-	5,500	10,724
Events & Christian Development Totals	7,429	-	-	7,429	13,580

Shere Parochial Church Council

**Analysis of income and expenditure
01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024**

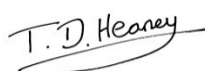
	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Total Last year
Resources used					
Administration					
4400 - Admin - Parish Administrator	9,339	-	-	9,339	8,960
4470 - Online Giving Fees	655	-	39	694	691
4430 - Admin - Telephone / Internet	2,185	-	-	2,185	1,632
4460 - Admin - Bank Charges	397	-	-	397	457
4410 - Admin - Stationary, Postage & Books	92	-	-	92	175
4420 - Admin - Office Equipment	960	-	-	960	55
4440 - Admin - Examiner	350	-	-	350	350
4450 - Admin - PCC expenses	20	-	-	20	87
4490 - Admin - Other	397	-	-	397	363
Administration Totals	14,397	-	39	14,437	12,774
Property and Trading					
5310 - Magazine - Printing	23,669	-	-	23,669	24,007
5320 - Magazine - Editor Expenses	735	-	-	735	670
5330 - Magazine - Distribution	441	-	-	441	397
5390 - Magazine - Other	-	-	-	-	90
4950 - OP - Maintenance	4,282	-	-	4,282	302
4990 - OP - Other	1,138	-	-	1,138	1,200
4710 - OSR - Utilities	1,805	-	-	1,805	2,436
4750 - OSR - Maintenance / Housekeeping	1,400	-	-	1,400	805
4755 - OSR - Projects	-	-	37,002	37,002	-
4760 - OSR - Insurance	528	-	-	528	541
5440 - Bookstall - Stock	1,030	-	-	1,030	1,467
Property and Trading Totals	35,032	-	37,002	72,034	31,919
Resources used Grand totals	215,551	-	38,741	254,292	245,299

Movement of Funds

Shere Parochial Church Council							
Fund movement summary							
01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024							
Fund	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Journal Entries	Fund balances Carried forward
Cam - Camino	1,899	181	1,699	-	-	-	380
OSR-WA - OSR Wheelchair Access	-	38,000	37,002	-	-	-	998
Rectory - Rectory Premises Reserve	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
StJ-Light - St James Lighting 2024	-	3,464	19	-	-	-	3,444
StM-Fence - St Marks Fencing 2024	-	1,837	19	-	-	-	1,818
General - General fund	122,221	216,705	215,551	-	1,322	-	124,698
YP - Young People	600	-	-	-	-	-	600
StJ-Gen - StJ - General	6,952	-	-	-	-	-	6,952
StJ-C - St James - Churchyard	250	-	-	-	-	-	250
StJ-Spire - StJ - Spire	3,295	-	-	-	-	-	3,295
StM-Gen - StM - General	922	-	-	-	-	-	922
StM-Cem - StM - Cemetery	4,765	-	-	-	-	-	4,765
OSR - Old School Room	6,225	-	-	-	-	-	6,225
Ch-Soc - Choir Social	979	-	-	-	-	-	979
OP - Old Parsonage	875,000	-	-	-	-	-	875,000
PEF - Parish Emergency Fund	500	-	-	-	-	-	500
Totals	1,024,610	260,188	254,292	-	1,322	-	1,031,828

These accounts as approved by Shere Parochial Church Council and dated 7th May 2025.

Signed:



Rev Tim Heaney, Rector

Independent Examiners Report

SHERE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of Shere

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out in the Financial Statements section of this Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners in section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 matters have come to my attention which give 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 the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a part of an independent examination.

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



Mr Michael Keeble ACA
The Cottage
Lower Street
Shere
Guildford GU5 9HX

19th February 2025

Accounts



THE PARISH OF SHERE
incorporating the villages of Gomshall, Peaslake and Shere



Shere Parochial Church Council

Annual Report and

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 2023

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1. Ministry Report

Shortly after 2023 finished I wrote this to be published in our Parish Magazine: “On the window ledge of our downstairs toilet there is a small cartoon Diane placed there of Charlie Brown giving Snoopy a piggy-back. The caption reads; “In life it’s not where you go, it’s who you travel with”. Of course, she knew that “where you go” is important too – but the sentiment is clear.

For over half my life Diane was my main travel companion, but not the only one – I am very blessed not just with family and friends but also with my church and my community”.

We have spoken before about what a strong church community we have, but 2023 really brought this home to me. I had three months Extended Ministerial Study leave over the summer, and then had Diane’s declining health, and eventual death, as my main focus in the later months of the year – but church services, events, and activities not just continued as normal, but also new things happened and were achieved.

The Arts week that was held in the Summer and the Eco Fair that was held in the Autumn both took an enormous amount of preparation and organisation – and both were a triumph. The discipleship course that we ran in the Gomshall club in October/November was well received and well attended – a sign that we are not just growing in what we do but are also growing spiritually in who we are. This spiritual growth as a congregation has continued and been built upon in 2024, and I feel is also reflected in our Sunday worship – supported by our continually growing and improving choir.

Naturally there are struggles and challenges (e.g. our outreach to children and young families) but there were also many other things achieved during the year. Too many for me to mention here but hopefully all included in the rest of this Annual Report, please do read about them.

Of course, all the above was made possible because of our Ministry Team, our Administrator Jo Norfolk, our Wardens David & Adrian and the PCC, so I am very grateful to all of them. But all those things were also made possible by the many dozens of other people who also give of themselves for the life and ministry of our church.

Shortly after my return from Study Leave I attended Charlie Hunt’s funeral and I had time, because I wasn’t leading it, to look around St James’ and notice all the members of our church community that were working so hard to make it the inspirational event that it was – not just Sarah and the ‘up front’ members of the Ministry Team, but the vergers, and the choir, and others who had stepped forward to help with all the arrangements necessary to accommodate the 500+ congregation in such a dignified manner. I was very proud of my church family that day, and then very grateful to you all when you did the same thing for me and my family at Diane’s funeral a few months later.

We’ve been thinking a lot about pilgrimage recently as a metaphor for our life journey as individuals and as a parish. I am very comfortable with the road we are travelling as a church community, and I feel very blessed by the people I am travelling with. Thank you all of you for being my companions on The Way.

Revd Tim Heaney
Rector

2. Financial Report

Overall, in 2023 the Parish has incurred a deficit on our unrestricted funds (monies available for day-to-day expenditure) for the second year running of £31,000 (2022: deficit of £2,600).

Income has increased marginally by 0.7% from 2022 (£206,000 vs £204,000). However, within that figure regular planned giving, our most important source of income, has fallen by 3%. Expenditure increased to £237,000, up from £206,000 in 2022.

Income from Planned Giving through standing orders and the PGS direct debit scheme was £112,000 (2022: £114,000). The benefits of our 2021 planned giving campaign have now fully worked through and the decline



is as a result of givers ceasing their donations, through moving away or otherwise.

Unrestricted donations rose to £17,000 (£14,900). This figure includes money collected at Carols in the Square, and a large part of the increase is through the increasing preference for cashless giving. The Goodbox contactless device at St James' continues to collect donations from the many visitors to the church.

Collections from services decreased from over £8,000 in 2022 to £6,600. This decline reflects the general trend in society for people not to carry cash. The Old Parsonage on Lawbrook Lane continues to be let, which provided a gross income of £17,000 (£14,000), an increase of 21%, as the results of the most recent rent review are fully reflected in the annual figures.

Income from wedding and funeral fees of £11,000 reduced from 2022 mainly as a result of fewer funeral offices during the year. Magazine income was up again from £23,000 to £29,000. This is primarily because of an increase in advertising rates and advertisers returning and renewing after the pandemic.

On the expenditure side, included in our unrestricted (excluding designated) expenditure total of £237,000 (£206,000) is our diocesan parish share of £91,000 (£89,000), an increase of 1.5% (4.7%). This increase is slightly less than was predicted at the end of 2022. For comparison our 2024 parish share will increase by 5% to £95,600. Two major one-off items of expenditure at St James' this year were £19,000 spent on repairing the roof, and £6,700 on refurbishing the South Porch.

Our mission support giving was £14,200 (£12,000). As well as donations to our long-standing regular charities of Barnabus and Amos Trust we continued to donate to the Tanzanian orphanage Larchfield. We continued to support the Camino project which you can read about elsewhere in this Report where we donated £1000. Carols in the Square raised over £4600 after costs, a stunning result, up 32% from 2022. The proceeds were shared equally between the UNICEF GAZA appeal and the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, who each received over £2300.

The figures for 2023 include a full year of salary payments for our church administrator and our 50% contribution towards the benefice children's and family worker.

Expenditure on utilities, mainly gas and electricity, for our church buildings for the year was £11,000 (£10,100), an increase of 9%. This is not as great an increase as had been expected, and much less than the 45% increase experienced in 2022, and can be attributed not only to utility price rises being less than forecast, but also to results from our eco-church initiative. However we must continue to be vigilant and continue to look at ways to reduce our utilities spend, mindful that heating forms the largest part.

Expenditure on our church buildings was £34,600 (£14,900), which included the major one-off items identified above as well as other minor quinquennial repairs. There was no major maintenance expenditure incurred at St Mark's church this year.

The net result for the year was a deficit of income over expenditure of £31,000 (2022 deficit £2,600) on unrestricted and designated funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totaled £122,000 (2022: £149,000 and 2021: £162,000). This is the second year that our reserves have declined and is a trend that we as a church want to avoid continuing. The decline would have been more severe had we not been fortunate to benefit from an increase in the value of our investment funds lodged with the Church of England deposit fund, which increased in value by £4,900 (2022: reduction of £7,000).

We continue as part of the Camino project in partnership with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Guildford. We manage the finances. Funds are treated as a Restricted Fund, and at year end the balance was £1,900 (£3,900).

Related Party Transactions: No PCC member (Trustee) has received any benefits (2022: £0), but clergy members of the PCC have been re-imbursed expenses not exceeding £1710 (£1132) in total.

Finally I want to thank other key members of the Parish finance team during 2023, including Stuart Madden, Ken Mead, Nick Bray and Phil Doherty and others without whose invaluable assistance managing the church finances would be much harder. In particular a special note of thanks to Nick Bray who after many years of service is handing over his role as banker for St Mark's.

In summary the overall message this year is that we need to consider carefully how we stem the decline in our reserves, to enable us to continue thriving as a viable church delivering God's mission in the Parish of Shere and Peaslake.

Angus Denny, Treasurer

3. Electoral Roll Report

The number on the Electoral Roll, as of 1st May 2023, is 173 names from 117 households (2022; 177 names from 120 households). Thank you to Howard Potter who has been the ER Officer for many years.

Jonathan Cross, Electoral Roll Officer

4. Deanery Synod Report

The proposal having been raised to reduce the number of meetings of Deanery Synod, to two each year, and then consider the consequences, in fact we managed to hold only one during 2023.

On the 6th July, notwithstanding an impressive list of apologies, including your lay chairman, the Area Dean Canon Roy Woodhams welcomed those who were able to attend, and he ran through a number of house keeping points, starting with the election of a new secretary to Synod, Nicola Craven-Smith. All present were in favour! Roy also said that he would like to see another member of the laity join the Leadership Team, which meets two or three times a year and presently comprises, in addition to himself, Revd. Sally Davis, Revd. Sarah Hutton, Tony Robinson the Treasurer, and myself. The meeting was pleased to vote Jill Parrott, of Bramley, into this position.

Revd. John Valentine, the Dean of the Local Ministry Programme spoke of the new initiatives in LMP, which is a non-residential theological college where ordinands and locally licensed ministers are trained, and he also introduced a two-year course offering training or retraining towards becoming a Lay Associate Minister. Attendees were invited to look to their congregations for potential candidates.

The formal decision to reduce the number of meetings to two, was made at this meeting of Deanery Synod, although not all in favour, and some suggested that more should be held, rather than fewer. However, the new arrangements are not final.

We will be holding the right number of meetings in 2024, as the first of these will be on the 23rd January.

Martin Betts

Deanery Synod Representative

5. Sidespeople, Welcomers and Refreshments

Making people feel welcome when they come to our churches is so important. At services a lot of this responsibility falls to our sidespeople and welcomers, so we have put a lot of effort into recruiting and training these last few years. Equally important are the refreshments served afterwards.

Thank you to all of those who are members of both teams, and special thanks to Sarah Egerton (sidespeople) and Christine O'Loughlin (refreshments) who organise the rotas at St James' and Christine Harrison who does both rotas at St Mark's.

6. Families and Children's Work

Little Fishes

It has been another lovely year of Little Fishes on Wednesday mornings at St. Mark's! We have our usual merry band of Little Fish that attend and have been delighted to welcome two new members this year. We said a fond farewell to Jackie Kennedy, who has worked as a childminder in Peaslake for many years. She has been such a faithful friend of Little Fishes over the years and she and the many children she has cared for will be much missed.

Now that Jackie has retired our regular group currently consists of 6 children and 7 adults which is lovely. All new members are welcome, and we have advertised at the recently reinstated Peaslake Toddler Group (held on the last Thursday of the month in the Village Hall). We also have links with Peaslake Nursery and School.

We have enjoyed re-telling the Bible stories - from Noah's Ark through to the Christmas Story and many besides - singing lots of songs and being creative with crafts and colouring. The refreshments at the end provide an opportunity for the children to play together and for the grown-ups to catch up.

We are looking forward to the year ahead :-)

Shiona Bacon

Family Feast

We had some wonderful individual Family Feast meetings last year and a huge thank you is due to the team of volunteers who helped with leading the crafts and activities and supplied the sumptuous teas for the children and cake and refreshments for the adults. Lots of fun was had and it was wonderful to help the children who came to learn more about God and to see them grow in their faith and understanding.

When we restarted Family Feast after the pandemic it was conspicuous that numbers attending regularly had dropped far more than with our other services. We were aware that this was a national trend however and hoped to gradually attract people back and attract new participants. Sadly, this has not been the case and although a few specific meetings bucked the trend average attendance was disappointing across 2023. In 2024 we will therefore be reviewing the services we provide to families and children and assessing the future of Family Feast going forward.

Revd Tim Heaney
Rector

Holiday Club

This was another successful Holiday Club, much appreciated by children and parents. As always it was a valuable experience for young leaders too. After a reduced number of children in 2022, which was the first year it was possible to run in person after the pandemic restrictions, bookings were back in the pre-pandemic range (average daily attendance was 56). It was particularly good that the highest-ever proportion of children were booked for all four days. It was also good to see children living in Chilworth back in the numbers after their mysterious absence last year. The key concern was recruiting enough adult and teenage help for the number of children. We had enough leaders and helpers to run safely and successfully, but more would be a definite help and would also allow greater assistance for any children with special educational needs. The online booking system is proving its worth. Overall feedback from parents and children has been extremely positive and it is clear that Ian and Elaine Coules retain their gifts of communication. Next year the available leadership will change. We hope that Holiday Club will run in some form, but decisions will be needed on what is appropriate and achievable.

Revd Andrew Pearson
Minister for Albury

Schools Report

“Let the little children come to me”, says our Lord.

The children in the schools in our Parish are of great importance, and it is a real privilege and joy to have the access that we do in both our schools, in Shere and in Peaslake.

Each school has a church - led assembly each week, Shere on a Monday afternoon and Peaslake on a Wednesday morning. Four of us - Rector Tim, Rev Mike Carrier, Rev Rosemary Mason and Cathy Mead, take these on a rota basis, and it is working very well. This year, we have continued to have proactive joint meetings with both schools, we use assembly topics suggested to and by the schools, and this is helping us to fit in better with their overall curriculum.

In January, the overall topic was being loving and serving our community. Starting with the Epiphany, we then showed how Jesus acted out of love, such as at the wedding at Cana, moving on to the Sermon on the Mount, then Palm Sunday and Easter. In the summer we focussed on what it means to be a Christian, using people such as St. Alban and St. James as examples. The whole emphasis was on loving one another. The Christmas term saw us with a weekly cliff-hanger of a story about a candle-maker, which leads very well up to Christmas. This was extremely popular with the children, and there was always an audible sigh when we said, “I’ll tell you the next bit next week”.

It is always a delight when the children come into either of our churches, whether that is for their Nativity plays, to explore, for example, the different liturgical colours, to join in our Harvest or Mothering Sunday or Father’s day services, to come to the War memorial as a school to lay a wreath, for their end-of-term celebrations, or for any other reason. It is very important, we feel, that they feel relaxed and “at home” in our churches, and that they come to know the love of God in their lives. We welcome them and their parents and families with open arms. Our sincere thanks go to the headteachers, all the staff and the pupils of both our schools, for always making us feel so welcome.

Revd. Rosemary Mason

7. Flower Arrangers Reports

St James’ Flower Team

Eight Ladies very kindly provide flower arrangements at Easter, Harvest and Christmas time to enable a lovely display throughout the Church. Five of these Ladies also provide several fortnightly arrangements on the pedestal adjacent to the Altar during the remainder of the year. Three of these Ladies do not worship at St. James’ Church, so we feel extremely lucky that they are willing to give of their expertise. The increased cost of flowers continues to be a problem and therefore most flower arrangers donate the cost of these. However, it would be helpful to be allocated a budget for the provision of at least the cost of the Easter lilies.

We now await the wedding scheduled for 2024 in the hope that some brides will leave an arrangement in the Church after their wedding!

Lesley Childs

St Mark’s Flower Team

Many thanks to the loyal team of Flower Arrangers who work hard to keep St. Mark’s looking lovely week by week and for the Special Festivals. This is much appreciated by the congregation and visitors.

Anne Heyes

8. Vestry Report

St James'

It was another busy year for the Vestry Team preparing the requirements for services, then clearing away and washing up afterwards. Our thanks to the Communion Assistants who lay the altar if it is a Service with Communion.

Needless to say, Easter and Christmas are our busiest times. The church is fortunate in having several sets of Communion silverware which enables us to prepare the wine and wafers for several services in advance. Before the present team evolved, Pat Simmonds was the church's Sacristan for 25 years. A Paten (used for the wafer to be blessed) was commissioned to commemorate her exceptional service to the church and presented to her in the Spring. This partners the Ciborium (used for the congregation's wafers) she gave several years ago in memory of her husband.

Cathy Mead

St Mark's

Thank you also to the small group who continue to do a similar job at St Mark's. It is less complicated but there are also fewer of them, so their input and support of David and Christine is much appreciated.

9. Cleaners Report

St. James'

A stalwart trio arrive at 09:00 every Saturday morning to clean St James'. Each team has their preferred way of working which means that over the course of a month, all lower-level areas receive good attention.

In September we borrowed Howard Potter's extraordinary set of extending brushes, enabling the accumulated dust and cobwebs to be banished from the ledges below the rafters then from down the full height of the walls. 17 determined souls, working as a very efficient team, ensured that all rarely touched areas and items received attention.

One member has had to retire, and we are grateful to Geri Wells for joining us as her replacement.

Cathy Mead

St Mark's

Thank you also to those who clean St Mark's, and especially Helen Mills who organises the rota.

10. Choir Report

The choir had a very busy and productive year in 2023. Highlighted events included a visit to sing evensong with the choir of St Nicholas in Cranleigh in January and they then joined us for our Palm Sunday evening service in April. The music for this service went from the triumphal splendour of Handel's *Lift up your heads* announcing Christ's entry into Jerusalem to more meditative and reflective works as we looked forward to Holy Week. The choir sang Taize chants for the Maundy Thursday service and then split as usual for Easter morning.

The main focus of the summer months was in preparing for the summer concert in the Arts Festival. This was a great focal point and the choir worked hard to learn some fairly demanding music including *Schubert's Mass in G* and Stanford's *Te deum*. The choir and audience particularly enjoyed the gospel items including Ken Burton's *Put on the armour of the Lord* and Reni Arbo's *Crossing the bar*.

When the choir returned in September, we had an upswell in choir membership and by the time of writing this report we have one new soprano, two new altos and two basses. The choir sang their usual All Souls service which included *How lovely are they dwellings* by Brahms and *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace* by Wesley. This was followed by another joint service, this time in Cranleigh, for an evening advent Carol service. This was a splendid event and, if we decide to do this annually, then it would be great to encourage more of our own congregation to join and participate. This is a well-established event in Cranleigh and seemed a fitting way to begin Advent. However, it did raise comments in the choir about past Advent services at Peaslake which I discuss further at the end of this report.

After a year in the wilderness, our plans to smarten up the choir by buying surplices was finally realised and many thanks go to Cathy Mead for gently pushing that through. We think it has made a splendid difference and they were first worn for the Carol service in December. With the influx of new members, the choir is now capable of tackling more challenging works, either because these pieces require more singers or because greater numbers allows for greater confidence! Such was the case for the Carol service when the choir sang Paul Manz's *E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come* and Peter Warlock's *Bethlehem Down*, both fine pieces but quite demanding in terms of tuning and ensemble. In addition, having such a capable choir is a particular strength to the community in difficult times and I know that they were honored to be able to support Tim and his family by singing at Diane's funeral, and they did this extremely well opening the service with Faure's *Kyrie* from the *Requiem* which was in their repertoire.

Due to later dates, Epiphany this year seemed to go on for quite a long time into January and this gave the opportunity to sing Mendelssohn's *There shall a star from Jacob come forth* which has become a form choir favourite and was enjoyed by the congregation at Peaslake, although the proximity of the rather loud choir and those taking communion was commented on. We were also able to sing Rutter's *Carol of the Magi* with sublime cello accompaniment from Jenny Janse. Candelmas came around and we sang Eccard's *When to the temple Mary went* and we entered Lent with Wesley's *Wash me thoroughly*. At the time of writing, the choir is preparing for Palm Sunday once again with the choir of St Nicholas, Cranleigh.

So, the choir has been very productive, membership is strong and we have learned a very significant amount of new music. The choir has become better and better at learning and performing new music and they should be commended for their efforts and commitments. In particular, Cathy Mead does a huge amount to ensure smooth running, Rosanna Collingwood who often helps with music and Olivia Ames-Lewis who binds our broken hymn books!

Thoughts for the future

In order to keep things moving forward I have had to mention attendance at rehearsals and services a few times. The way we run the choir is very 'family friendly' but I have started to ask for a little more commitment for extra services for which I am contracted to play: Palm Sunday, All Souls and the Carol Service which become difficult if numbers fluctuate too much.

Prompted by our participation at the Cranleigh Advent service, we have had a conversation about Advent services and the choir would like to pursue the idea of having the morning service on Advent Sunday at Peaslake as an Advent carol service.

It would also be good to think of lighting solutions for choir rehearsals at Shere as it can be rather dark in the winter months.

Doug McIlwraith on behalf of the Choir

11. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches

I am very grateful to every member of our Property Team who together do so much to keep our buildings in such good repair. Special mention this year however must go to three people: Firstly, David Harrison who does so much at St Mark's (see his report below). Secondly Roger Moulden, who as well as being the previous chair of the Property Team has taken the practical lead at St James' for years and very kindly continued to do so in view of my situation last year. His overseeing of the quinquennial work mentioned

below is very much appreciated. Thirdly John Parker, who has also been a member of the team for many years and has finally decided to stand down. His experience and contribution will be much missed, as will his specific input to the care of the tower at St James' and longstanding maintenance of the Shere churchyard and graveyard.

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St James' Church, Shere

As mentioned in the financial report the two major one-off items of expenditure this year were £19,000 spent on repairing the Northern slope of the Chancel roof, and £6,700 on refurbishing the South Porch (including a new storage cupboard for the flower and refreshment teams use). Both roofs were identified as part of the recent quinquennial report undertaken by the church architect – a five-yearly assessment of the condition of the church building and fabric. Other smaller but essential quinquennial work was also undertaken, and we are well on target to complete it all before the next one.

Thank you also to the Pilgrimage Team who are working on signage and decoration to improve the visitor experience for pilgrims and tourists (and all those in between).

Tim Heaney – Chair, Property Team.

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St Mark's Church, Peaslake

The fabric of St Mark's is in reasonable order with no specific defects awaiting attention. The presence of bats continues to be an issue in warmer weather both for the weekly cleaning team and at other times when sweeping up is required before an event. Other subjects are outlined below.

Routine Servicing and Inspections

Routine servicing and inspections were carried out during the year for Heating, Lightning Protection, Clock, Organ and Fire Extinguishers. This last also included the OSR and Parish Office in its' scope.

Broadband and Card Reader

The Broadband cable was pulled through, via an agreed route, into the church on 31st May. Earlier, the external cable had been trenched in from the fence line through to the vestry wall, and this internal route is located via the eaves to a termination point in the sound system cupboard. Installing the cable was undertaken after prior consultation with the Diocesan Architect. On the same day the fibre inner cable was blown through. A router was subsequently installed in the sound system cupboard and the broadband made live.

A card reader was installed, initially located above the sound cupboard, but subsequently relocated to a position adjacent to the main door.

Electrics

Servicing of the church lighting was carried out involving the PIR light at the west end, the organ light, and the outside light, and including the fitting of an additional light for the choir stalls. An extension lead was also fitted to power the card reader.

Heating

The central heating system has been set to provide heating for services and events and also to come on for short periods at regular intervals for reasons of building maintenance particularly in respect of the organ and the fitted cabinets at the west end. Adgas, the heating contractor, attended to correct a leak at a radiator valve and at the same time checked all the radiator valves in the church. A fan heater has been provided for the space at the rear of the altar.

Goods and Ornaments

Goods and ornaments are generally satisfactory. It should be mentioned that the altar frontals should be kept in review to ensure that any maintenance is carried out in a timely manner.

Churchyard and Cemetery

The churchyard and cemetery have had grass cutting and strimming on a regular programme for the year depending on the seasonal needs. Trees are kept in review and the cherry tree near the church is scheduled for canopy reduction in early 2024. Thank you to Chris Lewis, my predecessor as Church Warden, for the work she does in looking after the cemetery.

David Harrison, Churchwarden

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Old School Room and Parish Office

These are generally in good condition. The water heater in the Parish Office was replaced on 8th November, and external painting of the building is scheduled for Spring 2024. We are also exploring the possibility of a new entrance that will provide wheelchair access.

Special thanks to Christine Harrison who oversees the day to day running of the Old School Room and all its external hires.

Tim Heaney – Rector

12. Shere Bell Tower

It has been a much quieter year for the bell ringers, despite the amount of noise that our activity creates. The biggest event was the Coronation of King Charles III for which we rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles as our contribution to the celebrations on the Sunday morning after the main event. We also held a session of open ringing for anyone who wanted to join in during the hour before the ceremony began, and we recorded this with a group photograph.

We have the same band of 11 regular ringers as a year ago, and we are grateful for the occasional support of Sam Norman when he is home from university. We have been joined by Rosemary Carr, who learned to ring many years ago and is now trying to combine this with her role singing in the choir, and we were very grateful for her help at a couple of weddings last summer. We also have two new learners, Ted Horton and Carol Glasstone, who are just moving on from basic bell-handling to start ringing rounds with the band. We have been unable to recruit any young people to learn and it is a concern that we find this so difficult as most of us find that our own abilities seem to decline. At least we have had no retirements during the last 12 months, and our former tower captain John Parker continues to ring regularly, and we are very grateful for all of this.

We rang for 11 weddings during the summer of 2023, and managed to do this without needing to call for help from neighbouring towers. I believe that we also rang for every regular service that we might have been expected to mark, and several funerals in addition.

The bells themselves remain in good condition, so far as we can tell. The tower clock suffered a failure however, when the nut securing its hands fell off. Fortunately Bill Egerton was able to find the nut and restore it to its proper place so that the clock continues to display the time as well as chiming the hours.

Graham Hughes, Tower Captain

13. Mission Support Report

Contributions from Caroline Evans, Tim Heaney, Javid Kumar, Lesley Childs and Marilyn Jarrett

Our Parish gives a guaranteed source of income to four main charities. For 2023 these were:

Barnabus

The Parish of Shere has continued to provide financial support to Barnabus, the Christian Homeless Centre in Manchester, during the last year. Sky-high rents, a steep rise in no fault Section 21 evictions, family breakdowns and people's inability to withstand the housing and cost of living crises have all converged on homelessness with the result that numbers have risen dramatically and Barnabus has many, many more people seeking their assistance. The good news is that Barnabus raised enough funds to get their supported housing project up and running. They now have three flats housing five people and a house with two tenants. Following a successful appeal through the "Big Give" they have raised enough to employ two further members of staff to support their clients further. Our Parish contributed £2,750 to the "Big Give" Appeal allowing a total of £5,500 to be given to Barnabus.

Yvonne Hope, the Chief Executive, visited the Parish in March, and gave a lively and inspiring talk at the 10am service in St Mark's, updating the congregation on the work of Barnabus, and answering queries/requests for further information afterwards.

Al Ahli Hospital

Due to the allocation of funds from the PCC budget to three instead of four charities from the previous year our donation to the Al Ahli increased from £2000 to £2,750. This was paid out through Amos, who will be distributing the funds to the Hospital through local intermediaries. Subsequent to the events of October 7 and the ensuing war and continuing devastation in Gaza, all donations will be used to ensure that whatever aid gets through will be used for saving lives at the existential level. Amos' special Gaza Appeal at Christmas raised over £100,000. Despite the turmoil, the Hospital remained, in mid-January (2024) as one of a few still functioning in any capacity. It is operating with a single medical team of seven doctors serving ninety patients, as well as emergency cover for wartime injuries. The situation underlines the importance of our continuing support.

The Larchfield Orphanage

Larchfield is a purpose-built children's home in Tanzania which serves as a safe and secure refuge for 50+ children in the Mkuranga district of Tanzania (south of Dar-es-Salaam). Many of the children are there because their families have been dislocated and destroyed by HIV.

The project also includes a centre for vocational training in agriculture and our donations are being used to fund the planting of papaya, okra and guava trees plus peanuts and lentils to aid the agricultural project and sustainability initiative. The aim is to be able to feed the Larchfield family and generate revenue by selling and distributing the produce in the market.

The Camino Project

The Mission Support group introduced a fourth charity during the summer of 2022, called the Camino Project: a partnership of three Churches working together to sponsor the resettlement of a refugee family locally. With the initial £9,000 raised, as required by the Home Office, an application for a family was made and all subsequent input, financial and other has been shared by all partners: our Parish, the Catholic Church of Guildford and Rev. Diane Peters, ex-Diocesan representative for resettlement of refugees with her Anglican Church of St Francis in North Guildford. The group had rented and refurbished a ground floor two-bedroom flat in Onslow Village in June. However, the Syrian refugee family (which the Home Office offered to us as the parents needed hospital care, and flat was close to the Royal Surrey hospital) didn't arrive until December 2022. The Almidani family were delighted with the warmth of our welcome at their new, well-furnished home.

Over the first months of 2023 Camino team's specialist members were busy helping the family to learn the practicalities of daily life in England - setting up a bank account, budgeting for regular payments of rent and utility services and dealing with the complex benefit system. We were later joined by a retired GP who helps with their special health needs. It took until mid-spring term to obtain a school place for their 15-year-old son, but he was finally allowed to join a pre-GCSE class in St. Peter's Catholic School. Camino's ex-teachers of ESOL provided the family with the required 8 hours English language tuition per week, until classes became available through Guildford Council.

Meanwhile team members and a few Syrian friends have shared driving the family to the supermarket and their various appointments, and to familiarise them with the surrounding area. They are now able to use the buses and become more independent. The Camino Team held a party in December to celebrate the family's first year in England where Syrian and English friends shared genial company and an overwhelming amount of food, much of it supplied by Mrs. Almidani – an exceptional cook! Both Mr and Mrs Almidani continue to receive care from the RSCH because of their health problems.

Food Bank – we continue to collect and deliver donated food and hygiene items to the local foodbanks, alternating each month between the Salvation Army in Guildford and the North Guildford food banks. We

delivered 15 carloads of food/hygiene products during the year. In August and December, we also delivered food to the Food Larder in Gomshall, to add to their stocks. Our local donation points are in St James' and St Mark's, and food purchased at the Coop in Shere can be left at the counter for the food banks.

Children's Society Boxes – £905.47 has been collected in 2023.

14. Pastoral Care Report

I am very grateful to the members of the Teams (led by Judy Potter in Shere and Anne Currier & Christine Harrison in Peaslake) who try to keep an eye out for anyone in the Parish who is ill, housebound, or in particular need. At any one time there are usually about 40 people on our list. If appropriate we will try to keep in touch and sometimes visit (possibly with home communion). Of course, we also pray for them. Each team meets regularly to make sure we are not missing anyone, and occasionally the two teams meet to update on progress.

Revd Tim Heaney, Rector

15. Eco-church Annual Report

Eco Church officers: Jenny Janse and Shiona Bacon

Our first full year of Parish of Shere Eco Church has been very active. On Sunday 15th January, Alison Moulden, Guildford diocese Environment Officer, spoke at our morning service in St Mark's. Alison challenged us and encouraged us to make environmental sustainability and awareness a significant importance in our personal lives as well as in our church and community goals.

In November 2022 we achieved Bronze Eco Church awards for both our churches (mostly a fact-finding exercise). Since then, we have been working towards our Silver awards. This is a much larger, time-consuming challenge with much work needed in the wider community as well within the church community. The five areas of challenge concern the environmental sustainability of our energy use in church buildings, in our resources (eg paper, refreshments, cleaning products), encouraging biodiversity on our land, a green awareness in our worship and teaching, community and global engagement, and the environmental sustainability of our individual and community lifestyles (including personal audits).

Since January 2023, we have been writing a monthly Eco Church page in Shere Parish Magazine as part of our community engagement.

Biodiversity Survey

The first Peaslake Cemetery Biodiversity Survey took place on 4th June. Our survey was part of the national 'Love your burial ground week' survey, or 'Big Count' organised by the charity 'Caring for God's Acre'. St Mark's was one of 8 churches in Surrey to have taken part this year. Twenty-eight adults and five children helped identify and record some of the many different species of flora and fauna in the cemetery. We were particularly delighted that Dr June Chatfield, an expert in mosses, lichens, woodlice, slugs, snails (and it seems, most things to do with Natural History), came to help. It was fascinating discovering not only the beautiful flora and fauna but their fabulous names: heath bedstraw, frizzled pin-cushion moss, farinose cartilage lichen, a malachite beetle, hedgehog slug, and caterpillars from the antler moth and the common quaker and mottled umbar. Of course, we have the usual local array of bluebells, oaks, rhododendrons, foxgloves, holly etc.

Peaslake Fair

We had our first Eco Church stall at Peaslake Fair in August. As well as telling people about Eco Church we raised money to twin the Old School Room toilet with an earth toilet in Zambia, through the charity TearFund. This was so successful that we continued to fund raise at the Harvest Festival tea and Eco Fair,

and by the end of September had also twinned both the ladies and gent's toilets in Peaslake Memorial Hall with toilets in Nepal and Malawi.

First Shere Parish Eco Weekend, St James', Shere, 16th and 17th September

More than 250 people attended the Eco Fair and approximately 80 people attended the film night. The weekend was organised in conjunction with Tillingbourne.Earth.

St James' was transformed into a beautiful film venue by Christian Staunskjaer and Shere Green Cinema. The massive screen was hung from the church's central arch for the showing of David Attenborough's life witness statement, "A Life on Our Planet".

Our Eco Fair was an event of many parts: colourful stalls run by conservation and wildlife charities (Surrey Wildlife Trust, West Surrey Badger Group, Surrey Dormouse Group, Friends of the Hurtwood, Guildford Beekeepers) and environmental and action groups (Extinction Rebellion, Guildford Environmental Forum, Tillingbourne. Earth). Kingfisher Farm Shop's wonderfully tasty looking stall was filled with local produce including their delicious watercress products – encouraging people to 'eat local' and reduce food miles. Activities included building the new St James' Bug Hotel (under the big yew tree), making bird feeders, colourful cloth-printing with Shere School Eco Club and reflectively choosing a pebble or shell to paint and place on the earth as a pledge to help heal our world. Youngsters absolutely loved story reading time with author Lily Murray (dressed as a ladybird) and making paper bugs.

The vegan café did a fast trade in delicious cakes, flapjacks and falafels. People enjoyed having a rummage through the pre-loved clothes swap stall, giving and taking from the produce swap stall and were inspired to pick up free packs of local wild-flower seeds.

On our Eco Church stall we tested people's recycling knowledge and continued our mission to raise funds to 'twin' our local toilets through the charity TearFund, and therefore pay for earth closets to be built for communities in Africa where there is no access to sanitation.

For thirty minutes in the middle of the afternoon, the hubbub of the fair was replaced by serious, focused talks. Professor Alasdair Skelton, from the Bolin Centre for Climate Research at Stockholm University, had very generously recorded a short video specially for us, explaining the climate crisis, the cause (in simple terms), the solution (we have to stop burning fossil fuels) and questioning why after nearly 130 years of knowledge of the science, the world is not acting. Talks then explained Net Zero and how imperative it is (Simon Hallett), why we need direct action even if it inconveniences some people (Dr Rob Basto of Extinction Rebellion), about local initiatives and groups (Christian Staunskjaer of Tillingbourne.Earth, Alastair Atkinson of Guildford Environmental Forum) and an extra-ordinarily powerful speech written by 11 year old Summer Rogers, read by local youngsters CJ and Oliver. Finally there was a speech by Jenny Janse (Eco Church, on the theme of hope).

Blue hearts

In October, Shiona Bacon commissioned two blue hearts to be made for each of our churchyards. They are part of the BLUE Campaign which aims to restore biodiversity to our grass verges, gardens and churchyards. Blue hearts (on stakes) are being encouraged by Surrey County Council. Each one marks a commitment to let wildflowers and grasses grow (rather than be mowed) and help our ailing insects and birds.

Toy Swap

On 18th November we held a community pre-Christmas Toy Swap, in the Old School Room, Peaslake. As an Eco Church, we are encouraging sustainability through re-use and recycling.

'Think sustainable' Christmas Tree

Parish of Shere Eco Church entered the Cranleigh Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicolas in Cranleigh. All decorations on our tree were made by Shiona Bacon, Jenny Janse and Sandy Eve, and all made from rubbish, highlighting our world problems of unsustainability. After the festival, the tree and its decorations and signs were displayed in the Bray Chapel, St James'.

16. Safeguarding Report

The Church of England's attitude and response to Safeguarding continues to develop rapidly: this Parish, along with the Diocese, does not tolerate abuse of any kind.

As Parish Safeguarding Officer, I am the first line of contact, together with Tim Heaney and Sarah Hutton, for any concern, however small it may seem, regarding people in our church community or parish. If any of us are alerted to a concern, we consult the Diocese's highly skilled and experienced safeguarding team for advice – we do not solve safeguarding problems ourselves - that is for the professionals.

I also keep track of people who are required to undergo regular Safeguarding Training and DBS (Disclosure and Disbarring Service) checks. This is to ensure that the highest standard of awareness and protection of the vulnerable in the church community is maintained – of both adults and young people. Melody Barnett is our DBS validator and will contact those whose DBS need renewal, now every three years.

Safeguarding Training is required for all those who hold positions of responsibility or undertake roles within the church community - including the clergy team, the PCC, bellringing captain and choir leaders. There are 5 different training courses – depending on the role held, – from basic understanding of safeguarding to leadership, awareness of domestic abuse and recruitment - and each course has to be refreshed every three years. About 43 safeguarding courses were completed in 2023: by PCC members, clergy, bellringers and sidespeople & welcomers – and there is more to be done with new arrivals to bellringing, and people 'refreshing' their training.

There are public displays of our Parish Safeguarding Policy in the churches, and in prominent on the web site is a guide to how to report any Safeguarding concerns or seek help if needed.

We are well under way with our Church of England Safeguarding 'Dashboard' for the Parish. This is a really useful online tool which helps us to keep track of all we are required to do, which covers any church activities – or non-church activities on our premises - and generates a Safeguarding Action Plan for the PCC. We are working our way through this and have now reached the 3rd level, although there is always more to do, or re-do, as we continue to honour our commitment to safeguarding in the parish.

The PCC and the Incumbent have a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in the community and thus have responsibility for Safeguarding. It is a responsibility we extend to everyone, and one that we take very seriously.

Helen Murray
Parish Safeguarding Officer

17. The Parish Magazine report

Editorial Report 2023/2024

Our editorial team of Rev Mike Currier, Bekah Heaney and Naia Edwards has again worked really hard to produce a good magazine packed with news and information. Their time and efforts are very much appreciated.

Huge thanks are due to Bekah for her contribution, gathering in all the reports and carrying out very professional and time-consuming proofreading every month for the last three years. She is now relinquishing her role and we after a false dawn are still looking for someone to take over the copy collecting/editing side

of her role. Rosanna Collingwood has kindly agreed to join the team and take over the proofreading so a big thank you to her.

Highlights of the year included the King's coronation, the Shere Arts Week and the Eco-Weekend.

We continue to print 950 copies per month with subscribers paying the full cover price of £12 for the year. Surrey Hills Print under Dominic's management has again done us proud with great quality reproduction. And prices have been pegged at the 2023 level for the coming year, which is great news as we had to have two consecutive years of substantial hikes in advertising rates in 2022 and 2023 to offset increased production costs. This means we can keep our advertising rates at the current level – a big help for local businesses in this difficult economic climate.

Jane Kumar Editor

Distribution report

We are most grateful to all the distributors who enable over 700 people to enjoy the magazine when it is delivered to their door every month. Ken, Steve and Louisa bundle up the magazines ready to be picked up by the distributors. Margaret sends out the magazines to those that live further afield and these include subscribers from Hertford, Bucks, Yorkshire, Kent and Ayrshire. Ken receives many letters from happy readers praising how good the magazine is and stating that we are most fortunate to have such a quality magazine. During Covid it kept many people connected with the local community's activities and they were very grateful that the magazine continued to be published during those difficult times. The number of subscribers continues to go up and in one particular case their magazine is read by as many as nine people!

Ken Mead Distribution Manager

Advertising

Due to a significant increase in printing costs, a decision was taken to raise advertising rates by 15% from January 2023. This appears to have been accepted by advertisers as necessary given inflation levels. A few adverts were not renewed but this was mainly due to retirement or lack of local response. These have been compensated for by new advertisers.

Since printing costs have not gone up in 2023 it has been decided to peg the rates for 2024. Overall income is expected to remain steady due to a few larger adverts compensating for the drop in smaller ads.

Advertisements now account for 34 pages – approximately one-third of the magazine. This balance is considered to be the maximum limit, to stop detracting from the magazine content.

Advert types	No of advertisers Jan 2022	No. Advertisers December 2023	Difference
Quarter B&W	19	15	-4
Quarter Colour	38	50	+12
Half Page Colour	30	28	-2
Full Page Colour	4	4	0
TOTAL	91	97	

Javed Kumar, Advertising Manager

18. Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements

a) Accounting Policies

- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.
- The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

b) Funds

- The general reserve includes the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.
- Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Funds given for a particular purpose are restricted to use for that purpose.
- The accounts 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 main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

c) Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised in the same accounting year as the associated income is received.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
- Funds raised by parish events are accounted for gross.
- Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

- Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised for the period of rental falling within the accounting year.

Income from investments

- Dividends are recognised when receivable.
- Interest is recognised in respect of the periods for which it is earned that fall within the accounting year.

Gains and losses on investments

- Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.
- Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December. Unrealised gains are included in the revaluation reserve.

d) Resources used

Grants

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

Activities directly related to the work of the Church

- The Diocesan quota or Parish Share is accounted for when payable. Any quota 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

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
- No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and equipment

- Equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over each asset's estimated useful life.

f) Investments

- Investments are carried at market value at 31 December.

g) Current assets

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

Statement of Financial Activities

Shere Parochial Church Council Statement of Financial Activities For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Income from Donors	-	-	-	-	-
Planned Giving	112,449	-	750	111,699	114,919
Donations	17,174	-	1,880	19,054	25,426
Collections	6,596	-	-	6,596	8,283
Wall safe	2,044	-	-	2,044	3,000
Events	513	-	-	513	223
Bequests and Grants	1,660	-	2,000	3,660	7,932
Income from Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Weddings	5,940	-	-	5,940	5,658
Funerals	5,014	-	-	5,014	7,199
Income from Property & Trading	-	-	-	-	-
Magazine	29,572	-	-	29,572	23,030
OP Rent	17,055	-	-	17,055	13,968
OSR Hire	1,869	-	-	1,869	1,586
Bookstall sales	29	-	-	29	35
Income from Investments	4,699	-	-	4,699	2,361
Other Income	1,729	-	1,731	3,461	1,581
Total income	206,349	-	4,861	211,210	215,204
Resources used					
Mission Support & Other Giving	14,217	-	7,833	22,050	15,894
Ministry Team	2,069	-	-	2,069	1,170
Upkeep of Services	3,289	-	62	3,351	3,757
Church Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Utilities	11,034	-	-	11,034	10,146
Maintenance and upkeep	34,643	-	-	34,643	14,912
Churchyard	4,457	-	-	4,457	12,353
Other	6,466	-	-	6,466	4,685
Music	11,768	-	-	11,768	10,739
Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Parish Share	91,033	-	-	91,033	89,622
Deanery and Tower	150	-	-	150	90
Events & Christian Development	13,580	-	-	13,580	11,793
Administration	-	-	-	-	-
Administrator	9,652	-	-	9,652	8,743
Telephone / Internet	1,632	-	-	1,632	1,516
Bank Charges	457	-	-	457	451
Examiner / other	964	-	68	1,032	580
Property and Trading	-	-	-	-	-
Magazine	25,165	-	-	25,165	23,805
OP	1,503	-	-	1,503	2,187
OSR and PO	3,783	-	-	3,783	2,439
Bookstall	1,467	-	-	1,467	3,692
Total expenditure	237,335	-	7,964	245,299	218,580
Net income / (expenditure) resources before	- 30,986	-	3,103	- 34,089	3,376
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	1,000	1,000	3,000
Gross transfers between funds - out	- 1,000	-	-	1,000	3,000
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	4,928	-	-	4,928	7,057
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	- 27,058	-	2,103	- 29,161	10,433
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	149,278	878,900	25,591	1,053,770	1,064,202
Total funds carried forward	122,221	878,900	23,488	1,024,610	1,053,770

Balance Sheet

Shere Parochial Church Council Balance Sheet for Year Ending 31/12/2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	At 31/12/2023 £	At 31/12/2022 £
Fixed assets						
Tangible Assets	-	875,000	-	-	875,000	875,000
Investments	58,558	-	-	-	58,558	53,630
	58,558	875,000	-	-	933,558	928,630
Current assets						
Debtors	4,984	-	-	-	4,984	7,547
Investments	57,212	-	-	-	57,212	55,435
Cash At Bank And In Hand	13,947	3,900	24,798	-	42,646	74,510
	76,144	3,900	24,798	-	104,843	137,494
Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due	12,481	-	1,310	-	13,791	12,354
	12,481	-	1,310	-	13,791	12,354
Net current assets less current	63,662	3,900	23,488	-	91,051	125,139
Total assets less current liabilities	122,221	878,900	23,488	-	1,024,610	1,053,770
Liabilities						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets less liabilities	122,221	878,900	23,488	-	1,024,610	1,053,770
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
Unrestricted - General Fund	122,221	-	-	-	122,221	149,278
Designated						
Designated - Rectory						
Premises Reserve	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000
Designated - Young People	-	600	-	-	600	600
Designated - Old School						
Room	-	1,800	-	-	1,800	1,800
Designated - Old Parsonage	-	875,000	-	-	875,000	875,000
Designated - Parish						
Emergency Fund	-	500	-	-	500	500
Restricted						
Restricted - Camino	-	-	1,899	-	1,899	3,940
Restricted - StJ - General	-	-	6,952	-	6,952	6,952
Restricted - St James -						
Churchyard	-	-	250	-	250	250
Restricted - StJ - Spire	-	-	3,295	-	3,295	3,295
Restricted - StM - General	-	-	922	-	922	922
Restricted - StM - Cemetery	-	-	4,765	-	4,765	4,765
Restricted - Flowers Easter						
Lilies	-	-	-	-	-	62
Restricted - Old School						
Room	-	-	4,425	-	4,425	4,425
Restricted - Choir Social	-	-	979	-	979	979
Fund Totals	122,221	878,900	23,488	-	1,024,610	1,053,770

Balance sheet signed:



Rev Tim Heaney, Rector

Analysis of income and expenditure

Shere Parochial Church Council
Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

INCOME	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Total Last year
Income from Donors					
0101 - PG GA (Standing Orders)	18,323	-	-	18,323	19,678
0102 - PG GA (PGS Direct Debits)	64,128	-	-	64,128	61,989
0110 - PG GA PGE Envelopes	-	-	-	-	338
0201 - PG NGA (PGS & SO)	6,235	-	-	6,235	5,615
0210 - PG NGA Envelopes and CAF	1,420	-	-	1,420	2,053
0600 - Tax Reclaim - PG non-PGS	4,818	-	750	4,068	9,745
0601 - Tax Reclaim - ex-PGS	17,523	-	-	17,523	15,498
0450 - Donations GA & NGA	5,664	-	1,130	6,794	20,613
0470 - Donations Online Giving	9,906	-	-	9,906	3,501
0610 - Tax Reclaim - Donations	1,603	-	750	2,353	1,312
0310 - Cash Collect GASDS	4,940	-	-	4,940	3,296
0350 - WhiteE GA	1,458	-	-	1,458	2,539
0375 - BMF Collections GASDS / NGA	197	-	-	197	2,447
0430 - Wall Safes	2,044	-	-	2,044	3,000
0910 - Parish Events - NGA	513	-	-	513	223
Income from Donors Totals	138,778	-	1,130	139,908	151,853
Bequests and Grants					
0700 - Bequests	-	-	-	-	5,000
0750 - Grants	1,660	-	2,000	3,660	2,932
Bequests and Grants Totals	1,660	-	2,000	3,660	7,932
Income from Fees					
1111 - Fees - Weddings - PCC	4,065	-	-	4,065	4,103
1112 - Fees - Weddings - Verger / Ot	1,875	-	-	1,875	1,555
1121 - Fees - Funerals - PCC	4,079	-	-	4,079	5,849
1122 - Fees - Funerals - Verger / Oth	935	-	-	935	1,350
Income from Fees Totals	10,954	-	-	10,954	12,857
Income from Property & Trading					
1250 - Magazine - advertising	19,740	-	-	19,740	14,087
1260 - Magazine - sales	1,551	-	-	1,551	1,574
1265 - Magazine - subscriptions	8,281	-	-	8,281	7,369
1140 - OP Rent	17,055	-	-	17,055	13,968
1230 - Rent - OSR hire and other	1,869	-	-	1,869	1,586
1220 - Bookstall Sales	29	-	-	29	35
Income from Property & Trading Totals	48,527	-	-	48,527	38,620
Income from Investments					
1010 - Interest - Bank	614	-	-	614	36
1020 - Interest - CBF / other	4,084	-	-	4,084	2,324
Income from Investments Totals	4,699	-	-	4,699	2,361
Other Income					
1210 - Unexpected Income	1,729	-	1,731	3,461	1,581
Other Income Totals	1,729	-	1,731	3,461	1,581
Incoming resources Grand totals	206,349	-	4,861	211,210	215,204

Shere Parochial Church Council
Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

EXPENDITURE	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Total Last year
Resources used					
Mission Support & Other Giving					
3610 - Outward Giving - Partner 1 Barnabus	2,750	-	-	2,750	1,500
3630 - Outward Giving - Partner 3 Larchfield	2,750	-	-	2,750	500
3640 - Outward Giving - Partner 4 Amos Trust	2,750	-	-	2,750	2,000
3690 - Outward Giving - Other	5,967	-	7,833	13,800	11,894
Mission Support & Other Giving Totals	14,217	-	7,833	22,050	15,894
Ministry Team					
3120 - Ministry Team - Other	1,709	-	-	1,709	1,132
3130 - Ministry Team - Training / Retreats	360	-	-	360	38
Ministry Team Totals	2,069	-	-	2,069	1,170
Upkeep of Services					
3710 - Upkeep of Services - Consumables	881	-	-	881	378
3720 - Upkeep of Services - Printing	517	-	-	517	318
3730 - Upkeep of Services - Other	799	-	-	799	1,513
3740 - Upkeep of Services - Flowers	40	-	62	102	196
3750 - Upkeep of Services - Verger	1,050	-	-	1,050	1,350
Upkeep of Services Totals	3,289	-	62	3,351	3,757
Church Buildings					
4510 - StJ - Gas	4,233	-	-	4,233	5,131
4520 - StJ - Electricity	3,255	-	-	3,255	2,591
4530 - StJ - Water	201	-	-	201	57
4610 - StM - Gas	2,730	-	-	2,730	1,934
4620 - StM - Electricity	613	-	-	613	432
4550 - StJ - Maintenance / Housek	32,148	-	-	32,148	10,396
4650 - StM - Maint / Housek	2,494	-	-	2,494	4,515
4540 - StJ - Churchyard	3,095	-	-	3,095	10,463
4640 - StM - Churchyard	1,361	-	-	1,361	1,890
4580 - StJ - Insurance	3,286	-	-	3,286	3,049
4590 - StJ - Other	1,466	-	-	1,466	-
4680 - StM - Insurance	1,713	-	-	1,713	1,636
Church Buildings Totals	56,601	-	-	56,601	42,097
Music					
3310 - Music - Organist Fees	9,347	-	-	9,347	8,139
3330 - Music - Choir Expenses	2,155	-	-	2,155	1,205
3390 - Music - Music Licences and Other	266	-	-	266	1,394
Music Totals	11,768	-	-	11,768	10,739
Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs					
3500 - Parish Share	91,033	-	-	91,033	89,622
3510 - Deanery & Tower	150	-	-	150	90
Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs Totals	91,183	-	-	91,183	89,712
Events & Christian Development					
3810 - Parish Events	29	-	-	29	-
3820 - Community Engagement	2,072	-	-	2,072	549
3840 - Christian Development - Adult	397	-	-	397	1,923
3850 - Christian Development - Schools	355	-	-	355	558
3860 - Christian Development - Children & Youn	10,724	-	-	10,724	8,760
Events & Christian Development Totals	13,580	-	-	13,580	11,793
Administration					
4400 - Admin - Parish Administrator	8,960	-	-	8,960	8,424
4470 - Online Giving Fees	691	-	-	691	319
4430 - Admin - Telephone / Internet	1,632	-	-	1,632	1,516
4460 - Admin - Bank Charges	457	-	-	457	451
4410 - Admin - Stationary, Postage & Books	175	-	-	175	41
4420 - Admin - Office Equipment	55	-	-	55	-
4440 - Admin - Examiner	350	-	-	350	300
4450 - Admin - PCC expenses	87	-	-	87	13
4490 - Admin - Other	295	-	68	363	224
Administration Totals	12,705	-	68	12,774	11,290
Property and Trading					
5310 - Magazine - Printing	24,007	-	-	24,007	22,548
5320 - Magazine - Editor Expenses	670	-	-	670	646
5330 - Magazine - Distribution	397	-	-	397	610
5390 - Magazine - Other	90	-	-	90	-
4950 - OP - Maintenance	302	-	-	302	1,302
4990 - OP - Other	1,200	-	-	1,200	884
4710 - OSR - Utilities	2,436	-	-	2,436	1,343
4750 - OSR - Maintenance / Housekeeping	805	-	-	805	592
4760 - OSR - Insurance	541	-	-	541	503
5440 - Bookstall - Stock	1,467	-	-	1,467	3,692
Property and Trading Totals	31,919	-	-	31,919	32,125
Resources used Grand totals	237,335	-	7,964	245,299	218,580

Movement of Funds

Shere Parochial Church Council
Fund movement summary
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Fund	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Journal Entries	Fund balances Carried forward
Cam - Camino	£ 3,940	£ 4,861	£ 7,902	£ 1,000	-	-	£ 1,899
Rectory - Rectory Premises Reserve	£ 1,000	-	-	-	-	-	£ 1,000
General - General fund	£ 149,278	£ 206,349	£ 237,335	-£ 1,000	£ 4,928	-	£ 122,221
YP - Young People	£ 600	-	-	-	-	-	£ 600
StJ-Gen - StJ - General	£ 6,952	-	-	-	-	-	£ 6,952
StJ-C - St James - Churchyard	£ 250	-	-	-	-	-	£ 250
StJ-Spire - StJ - Spire	£ 3,295	-	-	-	-	-	£ 3,295
StM-Gen - StM - General	£ 922	-	-	-	-	-	£ 922
StM-Cem - StM - Cemetery	£ 4,765	-	-	-	-	-	£ 4,765
F-EL - Flowers Easter Lilies	£ 62	-	£ 62	-	-	-	-
OSR - Old School Room	£ 6,225	-	-	-	-	-	£ 6,225
Ch-Soc - Choir Social	£ 979	-	-	-	-	-	£ 979
OP - Old Parsonage	£ 875,000	-	-	-	-	-	£ 875,000
PEF - Parish Emergency Fund	£ 500	-	-	-	-	-	£ 500
Totals	£ 1,053,770	£ 211,210	£ 245,299	-	£ 4,928	-	£ 1,024,610

PCC Approval of the Accounts

These accounts as approved by Shere Parochial Church Council and dated 17th April 2024.

Signed:



Rev Tim Heaney, Rector

Independent Examiners Report

SHERE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of Shere

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out in the Financial Statements section of this Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners in section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

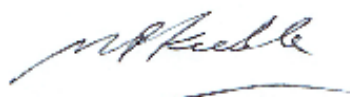
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or 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 matters have come to my attention which give 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 the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a part of an independent examination.

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



Mr Michael Keeble ACA
The Cottage
Lower Street
Shere
Guildford GU5 9HX

16th February 2024

Accounts



St. James'
Shere

THE PARISH OF SHERE
incorporating the villages of Gomshall, Peaslake and Shere



St. Mark's
Peaslake

Shere Parochial Church Council

Annual Report and

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 2022

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1. Ministry Report

As I said last year, the ministry of our church really comprises everything we do, and so the other reports in this Annual Report each speak as much about the mission of our church as this one. Please do take the time to read as much as you can therefore - because each report (and other activities without their own heading like cleaning, supplying refreshments, etc.) reflect loving service for God's Kingdom in our parish. The Ministry Team and the PCC are extremely grateful for all those whose work is reflected in these pages and perhaps even more so for those whose efforts go publicly unsung.

Emotionally 2022 was dominated by Her Majesty the Queen, with her platinum jubilee in February and her death in September. Along with our parish we celebrated the first and mourned the second. Our role was particularly important in September as we provided opportunities for public mourning and sought to put Her Majesty's death in the context of our, and her, belief that death is not the end.

All this was in the context of us gradually shedding the last of our Covid restrictions and by the end of the year general service attendance at last returning close to pre-Covid numbers. That this was ahead of the average national trend is, I think, partly a reflection of how well we did in keeping in touch with people during the pandemic. The exception to this is perhaps regarding families and young people; here we are more in line with national figures and Family Feast attendance remains noticeably down on pre-Covid levels. While numbers are down the content of the services themselves is certainly not, thanks to the great work of the Feast Team. The faithful members of the team who got things started again were joined in January by Jeff Bartholomew, our new Benefice Young Communities Leader, and later by a few other new members - all of which has strengthened the team enormously (though more helpers are still needed).

Alongside this we were able to facilitate the start of a new service at St James' – a monthly Saturday evening contemporary service of praise and prayer which grew from those involved with our 2021 Alpha Course and is made possible with worship input from outside members, for which we are very grateful. This service is very different in style from anything else taking place here and is an exciting opportunity for those with an alternative churchmanship or those seeking something different.

At PCC level we recognised what a helpful tool developing and implementing a strong Church Development Plan (CDP) had been in 2021, so we spent some time reviewing and updating the 2021 plan to give us clear new set of priorities and goals moving into 2023. A major addition to the new plan is a set of environmental goals, work towards which began in the latter part of the year such that we were able to apply for our bronze Eco Church Award by December – this is just the beginning however, as we start to work towards the much more demanding Silver Award in 2023 and the long term goal of being carbon neutral by 2030.

Looking beyond the parish early in 2022 our Mission Support Team recommended to our PCC that we add a refugee charity to those we support. Excitingly this developed into a partnership with Guildford Catholic Parish to actually bring a refugee family to the UK and house them locally. It has been wonderful to be part of this ecumenical and 'hands on' group (which we named 'Camino Guildford') and thrilling when the refugee family arrived in December.

You can read more about the Camino family in the Mission Support report below, and also about Family Feast in the Families and Children's Work report. Whilst I have highlighted here some of the exceptional or new things we have been doing (and you'll find reference to some others in the report below) it is never the less the regular weekly pattern of church life; supporting and partnering our local community, worshipping through the liturgical seasons, loving God and loving our neighbours, that remains our primary endeavour – thank you to all those who make this possible.

Tim Heaney
Rector

2. Financial Report for 2022

As the parish has emerged from the pandemic and resumed business as usual church activities the parish finances have returned to a largely steady state. Overall we have incurred a small loss on our unrestricted funds (monies available for day-to-day expenditure) for the year of £2,600 (2021: surplus of £84). Income increased overall, as we continued to benefit from the 2021 Planned Giving campaign, and increases in donations and collections, bequests and the magazine. Expenditure increased as we delivered on our objectives from the Planned Giving campaign, particularly our pledges to fund parish administration support and contribute to a benefice youth worker.

Total income on general unrestricted (excluding designated) funds was £203,000 (£173,000), an increase of 15%.

Income from planned giving through standing orders and the PGS direct debit scheme was £114,000 (£104,000), an increase of 9% (2021: 14%). This welcome uplift is as a continuing result of the Planned Giving campaign in the spring of 2021.

Unrestricted donations rose to £14,900 (£7,900). This figure includes money collected at Carols in the Square, making a welcome return after two years absence. Collections from services increased to over £8,000 (£3,200). The Old Parsonage on Lawbrook Lane continues to be let, which provided a gross income of £14,000 (£14,000). In addition we were fortunate to receive a bequest during the year of £5,000 (£0).

Income from wedding and funeral fees reduced from 2021 mainly as a result of fewer funeral offices during the year. Magazine income was up from £19,600 to over £23,000. This is primarily because of advertisers returning and renewing after the pandemic.

On the expenditure side, included in our unrestricted (excluding designated) expenditure total of £206,000 (£173,000) is our diocesan parish share of £89,000 (£85,000), an increase of 4.7% (0%). Parish share is our largest single item of expenditure and was increased in 2022 after being held by the Diocese at 2020 levels. For comparison our 2023 parish share will increase by 2% to £91,400.

Our mission support giving was £12,000 (£10,200). As well as donations to our long-standing regular charities of Barnabus and Amos Trust we further donated to the Tanzanian orphanage Larchfield. An exciting development is our support of the Camino project which you can read about elsewhere in this Report where we donated £3000, including £1000 brought forward from 2023. Carols in the Square raised over £3000 which was shared between the Christian Aid East Africa appeal and the North Guildford Food bank, who each received over £1700.

The figures for 2022 include a full year of salary payments for our church administrator and our 50% contribution towards the benefice children's and family worker.

A word on utility bills. Expenditure on utilities, mainly gas and electricity, for our church buildings for the year was £10,100 (£6,900), an increase of 46%, and a slight increase on the pre-Covid expenditure in 2019 of £9,900. Utilities expenditure had been artificially depressed for the prior two years because of several one-off factors (the pandemic, a VAT rebate and refunds from over-estimated bills). For 2022 these one-off factors dropped out of the figures. The expected national uplifts in gas and electricity prices were fortunately not as severe as initially predicted, but we must continue to be vigilant and continue to look at ways to reduce our utilities spend, mindful that heating forms the largest part. The recent eco-church initiative will hopefully begin to yield savings on our utilities spend.

Expenditure on our church buildings was £14,900 (£13,600), which included the final payments for the replacement bell, work on St Mark's roof and minor repairs identified in the previous quinquennial report.

The net result for the year was a deficit of income over expenditure of £2,600 (2021 surplus £84) on unrestricted

and designated funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totaled £149,000 (£162,000). This total includes deposit and investment funds lodged with the Church of England deposit fund, which decreased in value by £7,000.

We are part of the Camino project in partnership with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Guildford. We manage the finances. Funds are treated as a Restricted Fund, and at year end the balance was £3,900 (£0).

Reserves Policy: The reserves policy was agreed by the PCC in September 2020. It is detailed in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Related Party Transactions: No PCC member (Trustee) has received any benefits (2021: £0), but clergy members of the PCC have been re-imbursed expenses not exceeding £1132 (£602) in total.

Finally I want to thank other key members of the parish finance team, including Stuart Madden, Ken Mead, Nick Bray and Phil Doherty and others without whose invaluable assistance managing the church finances would be much harder.

Angus Denny, Treasurer

3. Electoral Roll Report

The number on the Electoral Roll, as of 4th May 2022, is 177 names from 120 households.

Howard Potter, Electoral Roll Officer

4. Deanery Synod Report

Because of the pandemic, there were only two meetings of Deanery Synod during the year, of which the first was quite short and held through Zoom. The usual administrative matters were discussed, and the Area Dean, Reverend Roy Woodhams reported that there would be later in the year elections to Diocesan Synod, and he also said that the Deanery needed to appoint a new lay chairman. Those taking part also discussed the problems with opening churches, and holding services during the pandemic.

It was with satisfaction that it proved possible to hold the Synod meeting on the 7th July at St. John the Baptist, Loxwood. Following on from the meeting in February, Roy was able to report that there was one candidate for the position of lay chairman, myself. No one objected to my being elected!

The principal business of the meeting was Reverend Sally Davies' presentation on Living in Love and Faith, in which she introduced this initiative from the House of Bishops, which has now been presented to all the Parishes, including of course our own. Sally explained the course material, and those who attended the subsequent meetings will be aware of the book that has been published to accompany the course, and the videos put together to lead participants into discussion.

*Martin Betts
Deanery Synod Representative*

5. Families and Children's Work

Little Fishes

It has been another lovely year of Little Fishes get togethers on Wednesdays at 10am, meeting at St Mark's Church. It was suggested that we move to the Old School Room during the colder months of the year and that has worked very well. We are delighted to have 8 children that come regularly with 5 parents and 3 carers along with 3 in the team and we have become a close group. We enjoy Bible stories, prayers and singing lots of songs with instruments! Then we all enjoy refreshments at the end, with a craft or colouring for the children. We look forward to the year ahead :-)

Shiona Bacon

Family Feast

It's hard to believe a year has passed since writing my first annual update.

Remembering our Queen was a poignant Family Feast for us and together the children & families created a Prayer Board for our late Queen Elizabeth II and our new King, Charles.

Recently Anne Currier has gradually taken steps away from Family Feast and we are all incredibly grateful for her generous contribution and time that she has dedicated to the refreshments team. A VERY BIG THANK YOU ANNE

We have welcomed Ian & Maggie to our planning team. Maggie has a passion for art and crafts and we are all delighted to have Maggie's creative ideas and support. Ian is great with the children and we are so glad that he has joined us to help out at both St.James' & St.Mark's.

Recently a couple of teenagers joined us for Family Feast, both aged 16, we are really keen to keep up momentum and get them as much involved as possible. We may even get to enjoy some live musical instrument performances in the coming months.

One of the most important elements of Family Feast I believe is the day to day Christian values and application for those children and parents who attend. At the end of 2022 we started a series focussing of the Fruit of the Spirit and we have seen our families engage in acts of kindness and other practical elements of the season.

We would really love to build on the creative element of the team for Peaslake having seen the wonderful activities that Maggie has been able to share with us for Shere.

We have brought the talk or story closer to the Family Feast starting time, so that we can play games and have a song at the very start of our time together. We then have a brief description of the crafts for the families and children to then enjoy the activities. We will, hopefully, have some role plays too and have everyone join in some storytelling and acting.

Meanwhile we will be doing more to ensure that there is more of a Family Feast presence on the notice boards of both churches and we are keen to continue the momentum with The Gomshall Club.

On average we have seen about 14-16 children attending regularly at St.James' and 10 to 14 at St.Mark's.

We have received some feedback from families in both Shere and Peaslake asking if we could possibly start Family Feast slightly earlier and we have recently asked those attending if this indeed is something that would benefit them.

We had a full house for the Christingle service 2022 and it was great to have the Family Feast team assist where needed.

*Jeff Bartholomew
Young Communities Leader
Benefice of Albury, Chilworth & Shere*

Holiday Club

Holiday Club returned to Shere Village Hall in the last week of August following the break due to the pandemic. In August 2022 Covid was still quite prevalent across the Benefice and surrounding area. We felt it most important that the children have the opportunity to gather again. Attendance for the 2022 Holiday Club was considerably down in numbers much like the national phenomena.

The vast majority of the children who attended were engaged, attended the four mornings, and really enjoyed the experience.

We have been encouraging our young leaders and we are praying for new additions next summer.

*Jeff Bartholomew
Young Communities Leader
Benefice of Albury, Chilworth & Shere*

Schools Report

Shere School Fox Class (Reception)

We have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming the youngest children from Shere School into St James' Church. It's lovely to hear their voices as they approach the church, they're so full of excitement and interest. They come through the door and just stop then they look around before walking down the aisle as they look around and see what's changed since their last visit. They notice the change of colour of the altar frontal as the seasons move round and they quickly tell me if there are different flowers (or indeed no flowers as during Lent and Advent). They love seeing the number of prayers which are hanging on the prayer tree and then sitting in the Bray chapel for a Bible story. We join in a song and a prayer just before they wave bye bye on their way back to school. It's such a joy that they come and are so relaxed.

Main School Report

"Let the little children come to me", says our Lord.

The schools in our Parish are of great importance, and it is a real privilege and joy to have the access that we do to both our schools, in Shere and in Peaslake.

Each school has a church-lead assembly every week, Shere on a Monday afternoon, and Peaslake on Wednesday morning. Four of us – Rector Tim, Rev Mike Currier, Rev Rosemary Mason and Cathy Mead, take these on a rota basis, and this is working very well.

In the past, we ourselves have decided on the topics for the term, using the many excellent books available for this purpose. This year, however, we have started to have proactive joint liaison meetings with both schools, and this is helping us to fit better into the general curriculum of the schools.

Topics covered include "A Jesse tree for Christmas", in which each week we told the story of one of the ancestors of Jesus, then coloured a "bauble" to hang on the silver Jesse tree in each school. Based on the parable of the mustard seed, we have also looked at the spread of the worldwide church. We are now looking at the events in the life of Jesus, from Palm Sunday to Easter, as seen through the eyes of some time-travelling "witness" birds. The children love these "cliffhanger" stories and there is an audible sigh when we say "we'll carry on next week".

It is always a delight when the children come in to either of our churches, whether that is for their nativity play, to explore the different liturgical colours, to join in our Harvest or Mothering Sunday or Father's Day services, for their end of term celebrations, or any other reason. We welcome them and their parents with open arms. It is so important that they feel familiar and relaxed in church, and that they come to know the love of God in their lives.

Our sincere thanks go to the Headteachers, all the staff and the pupils of both our schools, for always making us feel so welcome.

Revd. Rosemary Mason

6. St James' and St Mark's Flower Arrangers Report

St. James' Flower Team

2022 was an unusual one for the St. James's flower arranging team as many wedding ceremonies took place following on from the pandemic. The usual practice is for the wedding couple to leave a flower arrangement in the Church after their service and this year was no exception. Therefore the team had a much easier year but, of course, also provided the usual wonderful flower displays at Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas.

As Flower Secretary I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my marvellous team of volunteers who quietly and modestly display their talents and regularly respond to my requests.

Lesley Childs

St Mark's Flower Team

Many thanks to the loyal team of Flower Arrangers who work hard to keep St. Mark's looking lovely week by week and for the Special Festivals. This is much appreciated by the congregation and visitors.

Anne Heyes

7. Vestry Report

St. James'

The chief role of the Vestry Team is to prepare all the items required for the giving of Communion including the special items of linen, the wine, the chalices and other containers for wine and water, the ciborium and the wafers. This becomes quite a challenge at Christmas when there are three communion services in the space of nine hours! After a service the candles need to be trimmed and everything washed up. Needless to say there is a myriad of other little jobs that need doing as well. My thanks go to Jane Davies, Louise Main, Sue Moulden and Gill Parker for all they do on a regular basis and their flexibility.

Cathy Mead

8. Cleaners Report

St. James'

St James' has a splendid band of 15 willing cleaners. There are three in a team who arrive once a month at 09:00 on a Saturday morning. There is also a more occasional team for the few fifth Saturdays. Everyone has their favourite part of the church to dust/polish/sweep/ hoover – whatever they choose and enjoy doing. With the large footfall of visitors, many of whom come with muddy boots during a hike, there's always a satisfying pile in the dustpan! Appreciative comments from visitors on seeing the gleaming pews give testament to the teams' hard work.

Cathy Mead

9. Choir Report

The choir has had another very positive and successful year, amongst other things, gaining two new members. It is a delight to be led and encouraged by such an accomplished and inspiring musician as Doug. We have all benefitted hugely from his leadership, tackling pieces that we would have thought way beyond our capabilities!

In addition to supporting the worship at St James' and St Mark's we sang for five weddings and three funerals. Special mention must be given to the Festivals for which we provide an added input – Palm Sunday, Easter, Harvest, All Souls' and Christmas. Rather than singing an entire choral work, the

programme for these services was of a very diverse nature including old favourites such as Stainer's 'God So Loved the World' and 'Ave Verum' by Byrd and new-to-us pieces. The ethereal 'Bethlehem Down' by Warlock and Chilcott's 'Where Riches is Everlastingly' – complete with bongo drums – stand out in my mind. Following the restrictions imposed upon us by the pandemic, it was very encouraging to see the congregation for 9 Lessons and Carols almost back to pre-2020 numbers.

In a new venture, in January we joined the choir of St Nicholas' Cranleigh for Choral Evensong singing Stanford's 'Canticles in C', 'Teach Me O Lord' by Attwood and the Smooth Responses. This was quite challenging yet very enjoyable. With our two splendid new Sopranos, we could now do with some more support for the Tenor and Bass lines. Come on chaps – give it a try!

Cathy Mead on behalf of the Choir

10. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches.

Many thanks to all the members of the property team, but I would like to particularly thank two people this year - David Harrison for all his work caring for the fabric of St Mark's and for his detailed report below, and Roger Moulden who stepped back from chairing the committee last year, and would like to step back further, but continues to be on the committee and for now is still acting as our primary link with contractors for work on St James'. I am currently chairing the committee, hence the relatively brief St James' report.

Tim Heaney – Rector

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St James' Church, Shere

Our two largest items of expenditure last year were both either mainly or entirely funded by donations - for which we are very grateful. They were the new flagpole and the recasting of Bell 4 (which you can read about in the bellringers report). Apart from some major work on the trees in the graveyard the rest of our expenditure could mostly be described as routine upkeep and maintenance, mowing the graveyards, maintaining the boiler etc., but with a building of our age and complexity that is still a significant annual amount.

In the latter part of 2022, we had our legally required five year inspection ("quinquennial"); the report from which shows the need for some larger expenditure in 2023 – particularly on the rooves. The other major work going forward will be trying to make our buildings carbon neutral by 2030.

Tim Heaney – Chair, Property Team.

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St Mark's Church

Heating

The central heating system had been suffering from pressure loss causing boiler cut outs. In February '22 a pipework leak was identified behind the cabinets at the west end necessitating removal of the corner cabinet and repair to the pipework. Since then the operating pressure of the boiler has been satisfactory. The Central Heating systems in the church and in the Old School Room (OSR) were serviced and gas Safety Certificates issued in July '22. The operating periods for the central heating have been re-adjusted as cooler temperatures within the church were having adverse effects on the organ and the cabinet work at the west end.

Organ and Clock

The organ was tuned in April '22 and again in August '22. Later in the year some sticking of keys was noted. The temperature within the church was adjusted, as noted above, and the problem abated. The Clock was serviced in July '22.

Fire Safety

The fire extinguishers were inspected in May '22. The service provider was not entirely satisfactory and a further inspection by another provider was made in July '22, with 3 units being serviced and 6 units being replaced.

Quinquennial Work

In May '22 work identified in the Quinquennial report was carried out comprising – clearing nesting material from the bell chamber and fitting of netting; replacement of a bell rope; fitting of lead gaiters to roof plate ends on the West gable and North Gable; re-battening and tiling of the west slope of the South Porch.

Old School Room (OSR) and Parish Office (PO)

The floor above the OSR and PO toilets was cleared of an old metal water tank and scrap insulation. A loft ladder was fitted to improve safe access and the area used for storage, with items placed in storage boxes and wheeled trunks. The ceiling of the kitchen was renewed, as part of work on the flat above, and a water leak from above was corrected. Low energy lamps were fitted where accessible (similar replacement of lamps at high level will be undertaken in 2023). The kitchen sink waste pipe has been replaced as the poor alignment of the previous waste pipe caused it to become frozen in cold weather. An Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) was carried out on the OSR in July '22. Use of electricity and gas in the PO was checked and unnecessary demand was switched off or adjusted.

Maintenance and Cleaning

A new contract for grass cutting was put in place for 2022 with J Dunican. This included mowing around the church monthly in the summer months, mowing of the bank down to the road twice in the year at appropriate times, removal of bracken in the autumn from the bank above the church, grass cutting in the cemetery twice in the year at appropriate times. The cleaning contract with Smarter Homes for the OSR and the PO was continued on a monthly basis. Cleaning of the interior of St Mark's has continued through the year by a team of volunteers. On 19th March there was a working party in St Mark's cemetery tidying grass and shrubs. A number of issues were identified for future action. On 6th June excess soil was removed from the St Mark's Cemetery, by M Nicholson. The soil had been left behind by Undertakers from burials and had accumulated over the years into two significant heaps. The soil has been placed in a pile outside the cemetery boundary by agreement with Friends of the Hurtwood and will be taken by them and used for various re-instatement works.

David Harrison, Churchwarden

11.Shere Bell Tower Annual Report

The main event during the last 12 months in the tower was the recasting of the 4th bell. The cracked bell had been removed earlier and sent to Loughborough where it was prepared for melting down and recasting in a mould made from itself. A large party of ringers and friends travelled up to the foundry and enjoyed watching as the molten metal was poured into the mould, where it was left to cool slowly in a process that has changed very little since its original casting over 300 years ago. On 5th June 2022 the 'new' bell was blessed in the church and a few days later it was hoisted up the tower and fitted back into the frame ready to be rung once more. Our huge thanks go to Adrian and Christine O'Loughlin who generously donated the funds to pay for the recasting work, and to Bill Egerton who organised the whole process, including the necessary works in the tower.

The remainder of the ringing fabric is in good shape, although there are some minor issues with the clock mechanism as the strike is about 2 minutes ahead of the hands on the clock-face reaching the hour. Hopefully this can be sorted out at the clock's next regular service check.

On the human side, the number of ringers is stable at 11. The main change has been that John Parker has stepped down from his role as Tower Captain, and that mantle has been taken on jointly by Ken Berry and Graham Hughes. Ken Berry has also taken over the role of treasurer from Eric Thornton. John and Eric had been in post for a very long time and we all owe them both a huge vote of thanks for their sterling service and ringing over the last 30 years or more. Of the 11 ringers, 2 are learners who have become competent

bell-handlers in the last year and are now starting to face the complexities of change-ringing. With this number we have managed to ring for nearly all of the services and 8 weddings during the year and we also managed to ring for the events around the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II, the first time any of us had rung the bells fully muffled. We are now planning for ringing to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Graham Hughes, Tower Captain

12. Mission Support Report

Barnabus

This Parish has been supporting Barnabus, a Christian homeless charity in Manchester, which aims to empower and equip individuals, and recently whole families, experiencing particularly life threatening and challenging times especially when sleeping rough in freezing cold weather.

This year our Parish's annual donation went towards Barnabus's Big Give Christmas Challenge to enable them to raise funds for their life changing New Homes - New Futures project. Our donation was 'match funded' which was an extra bonus for Barnabus. We are now looking forward to a visit this March from Yvonne Hope, their chief executive when we will receive an update on the Charity.

Al-Ahli Hospital

Our Support for the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza continues in a sadly declining situation of greater uncertainty and violence with Israeli incursions into Gaza causing deaths and casualties to which the Hospital must respond.

In addition to our annual commitment of £2000 we were in a position to donate a further £1500 in December through the Amos Trust Christmas Appeal – a figure which was doubled through matched funding. The funds were targeted at helping women in Gaza and the breast screening programme in the Hospital. Amos have also produced an in-depth interview with Dr Suheila Tarazi and her staff, available on their website, which shows the reality on the ground and justifies our continuing support.

Camino Guildford

This is the name of our latest Mission Support project: to sponsor and support a refugee family for resettlement in Guildford.

Together with our two partners: Rev. Diane Peters and her Church in North Guildford and the Catholic Church of Guildford, we made an application to the Home Office and were duly asked to take a Syrian family of three - two parents with special health needs and their 15-year-old son. (Their four older sons remain in Syria and in Turkey).

After a thorough refurbishment of a two-bedroom flat in Onslow Village, which was available for a reasonable rent, we were ready to welcome the Almidani family when they arrived in early December. Since then, our variously skilled team members have been kept busy setting them up with banking, benefits, medical care and language tuition. Their teenage son has been accepted at St. Peters School, has joined the local football club and is now discovering the area on a bicycle.

They are a delightful family, extremely grateful for our support and a joy to work with as we try to integrate them into local life.

Larchfield Children's Home

Larchfield is a purpose-built children's home in Tanzania which serves as a safe and secure refuge for children in the Mkuranga district of Tanzania (south of Dar-es-Salaam). Many of the children are there

because their families have been dislocated and destroyed by HIV.

The project will also include a centre for vocational training in agriculture and our donations are being used to fund the planting of papaya, okra and guava trees plus peanuts and lentils to aid the agricultural project and sustainability initiative. The aim is to be able to feed the Larchfield family and also generate revenue by selling and distributing the produce in the market.

After a visit to Larchfield in November 2022 founder Jim Berry wrote to us saying;
“I had a look around and saw Okra and Papaya plants etc - I have taken some photos (*see church website*). One thing that’s obvious is that the sandy soil needs to be enriched by good growing soil and manure mixed together. As it stands, the sand is too porous to provide nutrition where it’s needed. Once we have done this, I expect the yield to be really good. My personal thanks to you and to your congregation for their support”.

Contributions from Caroline Evans, Tim Heaney, Javid Kumar, Lesley Childs and Marilyn Jarrett

Other Outward Giving/Support from the Parish –

Children's Society Boxes – £922.95 has been collected in 2022.

13.Safeguarding Report

The Church of England’s attitude and response to Safeguarding continues to develop rapidly: this Parish, along with the Diocese, does not tolerate abuse of any kind.

As Parish Safeguarding Officer, I am first line of contact, together with Tim Heaney, for any concern, however small it may seem, regarding people in our church community or Parish.

I also keep track of people who are required to undergo regular Safeguarding Training and DBS (Disclosure and Disbarring Service) checks. This is to ensure that the highest standard of awareness and protection of the vulnerable in the church community is maintained – of both adults and young people. Melody Barnett is our DBS validator and will contact those whose DBS need renewal, now every three years.

Safeguarding Training is required for all those who hold positions of responsibility or undertake roles within the church community – including the clergy team, the PCC, bellringing captain and choir leaders. There are 5 different training courses – from basic understanding to leadership, awareness of domestic abuse and recruitment – depending on the role held, and each course has to be refreshed every three years.

About 29 safeguarding courses were completed by PCC members, and the clergy and administration team amongst others in the Parish in 2022.

Training has now been extended to bellringers, sidespeople and welcomers, and so many more will be doing more in 2023 – it is a sign of commitment when people do them as soon as they are notified!

Our Parish Safeguarding Policy is displayed in the churches, and on the website is a guide on how to report any Safeguarding concerns.

As directed by the Diocese, we now have a Church of England Safeguarding ‘Dashboard’ for the Parish. This allows to keep track of all we are required to do, and generates a Safeguarding Action Plan for the PCC– we are working through this.

The PCC and the Incumbent have a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in the community and thus have responsibility for Safeguarding. It is a responsibility we extend to everyone, and one that we take very seriously.

Helen Murray
Parish Safeguarding Officer

14. The Parish Magazine report

SHERE PARISH MAGAZINE – EDITORIAL REPORT 2022/2023

Our team of Rev Mike Currier, Bekah Heaney and Naia Edwards has continued to work well and I would like to record my thanks to them for their hard work and support for me during the year. I could/would not do it without them! It is a lot of work!

Moving the print contract to Surrey Hills Print, (formerly Careprint) has been a great success. Dominic is a pleasure to deal with and he has done a really good job every month. The quality I think is excellent. Significant events covered in the magazine during the year include the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Her Majesty's death and the King's Proclamation and the re-casting of St James' No 4 bell.

We have continued with the print run of 950 copies per month. There are around 690 subscribers and they now pay the full monthly cover price, so the annual subscription has risen from £10 to £12. Shere Distribution Manager Ken Mead reports that actual readership is increasing with magazines being passed around, and that feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. There is also a keen postal readership who like to remain connected to the parish after they have moved away. He has received many letters of thanks and appreciation.

After many years of very loyal service, Peaslake Distribution Managers Elsbeth and Ray Moran decided to retire. Grateful thanks to them such heroic work. Fortunately Steve and Louisa Leake have volunteered to take over the role. Huge thanks to them too!

Nick Winford gave us a very good price for the printing, considering that the cost of paper and toner continues to rise. In order to absorb the increase while protecting the cover price for the time being, we have again adjusted our advertising rates.

Jane Kumar Editor

SHERE PARISH MAGAZINE – ADVERTISING REPORT 2022/2023

Due to the significant increase in printing costs, a decision was taken to raise advertising rates by 15% from January 2023 when the majority of annual adverts are renewed. A few adverts were not renewed but this was mainly due to retirement or lack of local response. Advertisers were generally aware that in the present economic climate, prices would be rising.

Overall there was a small drop in advertisers, but this has not affected the overall income due to a few more larger adverts compensating for the drop in smaller ads.

Advert types	No of advertisers Jan 2022	No. Advertisers Jan 2023	Difference
Quarter B&W	23	19	-4
Quarter Colour	44	38	-6
Half Page Colour	28	30	+2
Full Page Colour	1	4	+3
TOTAL	96	91	-5

Javed Kumar Advertising Manager

15. Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Notes

a) Accounting Policies

- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.
- The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

b) Funds

- The general reserve includes the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.
- Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Funds given for a particular purpose are restricted to use for that purpose.
- The accounts 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 main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

c) Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised in the same accounting year as the associated income received.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
- Funds raised by parish events are accounted for gross.
- Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

- Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised for the period of rental falling within the accounting year.

Income from investments

- Dividends are recognised when receivable.
- Interest is recognised in respect of the periods for which it is earned that fall within the accounting year.

Gains and losses on investments

- Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.
- Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December. Unrealised gains are included in the revaluation reserve.

d) Resources used

Grants

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

Activities directly related to the work of the Church

- The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota 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

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
- No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and equipment

- Equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over each asset's estimated useful life.

f) Investments

- Investments are carried at market value at 31 December.

g) Current assets

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

h) Reserves Policy (agreed by the PCC in September 2020)

The PCC, as a body which should fundamentally operate through faith in God's provision, considers:

it is not appropriate stewardship to hold large reserves without any specific plans as to what they would be used for, and that as a charity it must have the aim of being in existence in perpetuity.

In recognition of the above it is the policy of the PCC to hold reserves sufficient to meet unexpected extra costs (eg unforeseen repairs) and to smooth out short-term mismatches between income and expenditure. After due consideration the PCC has determined that it should hold approximately nine months general running costs, including mission support, and to hold an amount for likely building works arising from the next quinquennial inspections of both churches.

In 2019 general running costs, including mission support but excluding project expenditure, equalled £184,000 (2018: £174,000). Therefore the PCC's objective is to retain a General Fund reserve of a minimum of £138,000.

At 31st December 2019 the General Fund stood at £143,000.

If the General Fund reserve exceeds £150,000, the PCC will consider how it will use the excess. If the General Fund reserve is below £100,000, the PCC will consider how to manage this shortfall.

The reserves policy will be reviewed every two years.

Shere PCC - Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources						
Income from Donors						
Planned Giving	£114,169		£750		£114,919	£104,230
Donations	£14,936		£10,490		£25,426	£7,898
Collections	£8,283				£8,283	£3,234
Wall safe	£3,000				£3,000	£1,975
Events	£223				£223	
Bequests and Grants	£7,932				£7,932	£3,302
Income from Fees						
Weddings	£5,658				£5,658	£6,011
Funerals	£7,199				£7,199	£9,244
Income from Property & Trading						
Magazine	£23,030				£23,030	£19,629
OP Rent	£13,968				£13,968	£13,968
OSR Hire	£1,586				£1,586	£1,298
Bookstall sales	£35				£35	£29
Income from Investments	£2,361				£2,361	£1,598
Other Income	£1,581				£1,581	£773
Total income	£203,964		£11,240		£215,204	£173,193
Resources used						
Mission Support & Other Giving	£10,094		£5,800		£15,894	£10,221
Ministry Team	£1,170				£1,170	£602
Upkeep of Services	£3,688		£68		£3,757	£3,180
Church Buildings						
Utilities	£10,146				£10,146	£6,912
Maintenance and upkeep	£14,912				£14,912	£13,602
Churchyard	£6,808		£5,545		£12,353	£7,478
Other	£4,685				£4,685	£4,565
Music	£10,159		£579		£10,739	£8,994
Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs						
Parish Share	£89,622				£89,622	£85,607
Deanery and Tower	£90				£90	£75
Events & Christian Development	£11,793				£11,793	£3,264
Administration						
Administrator	£8,743				£8,743	£2,267
Telephone / Internet	£1,516				£1,516	£1,530
Bank Charges	£451				£451	£394
Examiner / other	£570		£9		£580	£2,757
Property and Trading						
Magazine	£23,805				£23,805	£21,295
OP	£2,187				£2,187	£920
OSR and PO	£2,439				£2,439	£2,094
Bookstall	£3,692				£3,692	£495
Total expenditure	£206,577		£12,003		£218,580	£176,259
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(£2,612)		(£763)		(£3,375)	(£3,065)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in			£3,000		£3,000	
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£3,000)				(£3,000)	
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	(£7,056)				(£7,056)	
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use						£7,539
Net movement in funds	(£12,668)		£2,236		(£10,432)	£4,473
Total funds brought forward	£161,947	£878,900	£23,355		£1,064,202	£1,059,729
Total funds carried forward	£149,278	£878,900	£25,591		£1,053,770	£1,064,202

Shere PCC - Balance sheet

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets		£875,000			£875,000	£875,000
Investments	£53,630				£53,630	£60,687
	£53,630	£875,000			£928,630	£935,687
Current assets						
Stocks and work in progress						£2,891
Debtors	£6,797		£750		£7,547	£7,275
Investments	£55,435				£55,435	£54,716
Cash at bank and in hand	£45,820	£3,900	£24,790		£74,510	£76,949
	£108,053	£3,900	£25,540		£137,494	£141,833
Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	£12,405		(£51)		£12,354	£13,317
	£12,405		(£51)		£12,354	£13,317
Net current assets less current liabilities	£95,648	£3,900	£25,591		£125,139	£128,515
Total assets less current liabilities	£149,278	£878,900	£25,591		£1,053,770	£1,064,202
Total net assets less liabilities	£149,278	£878,900	£25,591		£1,053,770	£1,064,202
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	£149,278				£149,278	£161,947
Designated						
Diane Aston Memorial Fund						
Old Parsonage		£875,000			£875,000	£875,000
Parish Emergency Fund		£500			£500	£500
Rectors Discretionary Fund						
Rectory Premises Reserve		£1,000			£1,000	£1,000
St James WC Project						
Buildings Maintenance						
Young People		£600			£600	£600
Mission Support						
StJ - Sound and Vision						
Old School Room		£1,800			£1,800	£1,800
Restricted						
Camino			£3,940		£3,940	
Lent Lunch						
Flowers Easter Lilies			£62		£62	£131
Old School Room			£4,425		£4,425	£4,425
Hymn Books						£579
Choir Social			£979		£979	£979
St James Flagpole						£1,055
Dedicated Collections						
StJ - General			£6,952		£6,952	£6,952
St James - Churchyard			£250		£250	£250
StJ - Spire			£3,295		£3,295	£3,295
StM - General			£922		£922	£922
StM - West End						
StM - Cemetery			£4,765		£4,765	£4,765
Funds of the church	£149,278	£878,900	£25,591		£1,053,770	£1,064,202

Balance Sheet signed:



Rev Tim Heaney, Rector

Shere PCC - Movement of Funds

Fund	Fund balances brought forward		Incoming Resources		Outgoing Resources		Transfers		Gains and Losses		Journal Entries		Fund balances Carried forward	
Unrestricted														
General - General fund	£	161,947	£	203,964	£	206,577	-£	3,000	-£	7,057	-		£	149,278
Sub-totals	£	161,947	£	203,964	£	206,577	-£	3,000	-£	7,057	-		£	149,278
Designated														
Rectory - Rectory Premises Reserve	£	1,000	-		-		-		-		-		£	1,000
YP - Young People	£	600	-		-		-		-		-		£	600
OSR - Old School Room	£	1,800	-		-		-		-		-		£	1,800
OP - Old Parsonage	£	875,000	-		-		-		-		-		£	875,000
PEF - Parish Emergency Fund	£	500	-		-		-		-		-		£	500
Sub-totals	£	878,900	-		-		-		-		-		£	878,900
Restricted														
Cam - Camino	-		£	7,750	£	5,809	£	2,000	-		-		£	3,940
Flag-StJ - St James Flagpole	£	1,055	£	3,490	£	5,545	£	1,000	-		-		-	
StJ-Gen - StJ - General	£	6,952	-		-		-		-		-		£	6,952
StJ-C - St James - Churchyard	£	250	-		-		-		-		-		£	250
StJ-Spire - StJ - Spire	£	3,295	-		-		-		-		-		£	3,295
StM-Gen - StM - General	£	922	-		-		-		-		-		£	922
StM-Cem - StM - Cemetery	£	4,765	-		-		-		-		-		£	4,765
F-EL - Flowers Easter Lilies	£	131	-	£	68		-		-		-		£	62
OSR - Old School Room	£	4,425	-		-		-		-		-		£	4,425
Hymn - Hymn Books	£	579	-	£	579		-		-		-		-	
Ch-Soc - Choir Social	£	979	-		-		-		-		-		£	979
Sub-totals	£	23,355	£	11,240	£	12,003	£	3,000	-		-		£	25,591
Totals	£	1,064,202	£	215,204	£	218,580	-	-£	7,057		-		£	1,053,770

Shere PCC - Analysis of income and expenditure

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
a) INCOME						
<i>Income from Donors - Planned Giving</i>						
PG GA (Standing Orders)	£19,678				£19,678	£21,931
PG GA (PGS Direct Debits)	£61,989				£61,989	£53,721
PG GA PGE Envelopes	£338				£338	£793
PG GA PGE Envelopes St Mark						£377
PG NGA (PGS & SO)	£5,615				£5,615	£3,798
PG NGA (PGS Direct Debits)						£1,663
PG NGA Envelopes and CAF	£2,053				£2,053	£544
CAF						£800
Tax Reclaim - PG non-PGS	£8,995		£750		£9,745	£7,025
Tax Reclaim - ex-PGS	£15,498				£15,498	£13,575
Total	£114,169		£750		£114,919	£104,230
<i>Income from Donors - Donations</i>						
Donations GA & NGA	£10,821		£9,792		£20,613	£1,144
Donations NGA						£2,122
Donations Online Giving	£3,501				£3,501	£3,996
Tax Reclaim - Donations	£614		£698		£1,312	£635
Total	£14,936		£10,490		£25,426	£7,898
<i>Income from Donors - Collections</i>						
Cash Collect GASDS	£3,296				£3,296	£963
Cash Collect GASDS St Mark						£170
WhiteE GA	£2,539				£2,539	£580
WhiteE GA St Mark						£550
BMF Collections GASDS / NGA	£2,447				£2,447	£747
BMF Collections NGA						£223
Total	£8,283				£8,283	£3,234
<i>Income from Donors - Wall safe</i>						
Wall Safes	£3,000				£3,000	£1,814
Wall Safe NGA St Mark						£161
Total	£3,000				£3,000	£1,975
<i>Income from Donors - Events</i>						
Parish Events - NGA	£223				£223	
Total	£223				£223	
<i>Bequests and Grants</i>						
Bequests	£5,000				£5,000	
Grants	£2,932				£2,932	£3,302
Total	£7,932				£7,932	£3,302
<i>Income from Fees - Weddings</i>						
Fees - Weddings - PCC	£4,103				£4,103	£4,401
Fees - Weddings - Verger / Other	£1,555				£1,555	£1,610
Total	£5,658				£5,658	£6,011
<i>Income from Fees - Funerals</i>						
Fees - Funerals - PCC	£5,849				£5,849	£8,649
Fees - Funerals - Verger / Other	£1,350				£1,350	£595
Total	£7,199				£7,199	£9,244
<i>Income from Property & Trading - Magazine</i>						
Magazine - advertising	£14,087				£14,087	£11,137
Magazine - sales	£1,574				£1,574	£1,297
Magazine - subscriptions	£7,369				£7,369	£7,195
Total	£23,030				£23,030	£19,629

				Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year Last year
<i>Income from Property & Trading - OP Rent</i>					
OP Rent	£13,968				£13,968 £13,968
Total	£13,968				£13,968 £13,968
<i>Income from Property & Trading - OSR Hire</i>					
Rent - OSR hire and other	£1,586				£1,586 £1,298
Total	£1,586				£1,586 £1,298
<i>Income from Property & Trading - Bookstall sales</i>					
Bookstall Sales	£35				£35 £29
Total	£35				£35 £29
<i>Income from Investments</i>					
Interest - Bank	£36				£36 £9
Interest - CBF / other	£2,324				£2,324 £1,589
Total	£2,361				£2,361 £1,598
<i>Other Income</i>					
Unexpected Income	£1,581				£1,581 £773
Total	£1,581				£1,581 £773
INCOME TOTAL	£203,964		£11,240		£215,204 £173,193

b) EXPENDITURE

				Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year Last year
<i>Mission Support & Other Giving</i>					
Outward Giving - Partner 1 Barnabus	£1,500				£1,500 £3,166
Outward Giving - Partner 3 Larchfield	£500				£500 £3,166
Outward Giving - Partner 4 Amos Trust	£2,000				£2,000 £3,166
Outward Giving - Other	£6,094		£5,800		£11,894 £721
Total	£10,094		£5,800		£15,894 £10,221
<i>Ministry Team</i>					
Ministry Team - Other	£1,132				£1,132 £602
Ministry Team - Training / Retreats	£38				£38 £602
Total	£1,170				£1,170 £602
<i>Upkeep of Services</i>					
Upkeep of Services - Consumables	£378				£378 £374
Upkeep of Services - Printing	£318				£318 £236
Upkeep of Services - Other	£1,513				£1,513 £2,404
Upkeep of Services - Flowers	£127		£68		£196 £165
Upkeep of Services - Verger	£1,350				£1,350 £165
Total	£3,688		£68		£3,757 £3,180
<i>Church Buildings - Utilities</i>					
StJ - Gas	£5,131				£5,131 £2,684
StJ - Electricity	£2,591				£2,591 £1,596
StJ - Water	£57				£57 £28
StM - Gas	£1,934				£1,934 £2,349
StM - Electricity	£432				£432 £253
Total	£10,146				£10,146 £6,912

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
<i>Church Buildings - Maintenance and upkeep</i>						
StJ - Maintenance / Housekeeping	£10,396				£10,396	£10,553
StJ - Projects						£1,560
StM - Maintenance / Housekeeping	£4,515				£4,515	£1,488
Total	£14,912				£14,912	£13,602
<i>Church Buildings - Churchyard</i>						
StJ - Churchyard	£4,918		£5,545		£10,463	£5,367
StM - Churchyard	£1,890				£1,890	£2,111
Total	£6,808		£5,545		£12,353	£7,478
<i>Church Buildings - Other</i>						
StJ - Insurance	£3,049				£3,049	£2,946
StM - Insurance	£1,636				£1,636	£1,559
StM - Other						£60
Total	£4,685				£4,685	£4,565
<i>Music</i>						
Music - Organist Fees	£8,139				£8,139	£7,389
Music - Music Licences						£110
Music - Choir Expenses	£1,205				£1,205	£958
Music - Music Licences and Other	£814		£579		£1,394	£535
Total	£10,159		£579		£10,739	£8,994
<i>Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs - Parish Share</i>						
Parish Share	£89,622				£89,622	£85,607
Total	£89,622				£89,622	£85,607
<i>Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs - Deanery and Tower</i>						
Deanery & Tower	£90				£90	£75
Total	£90				£90	£75
<i>Events & Christian Development</i>						
Parish Events						£1,592
Community Engagement	£549				£549	
Christian Development - Adult	£1,923				£1,923	
Christian Development - Schools	£558				£558	£1,000
Christian Development - Children & Young	£8,760				£8,760	£672
Total	£11,793				£11,793	£3,264
<i>Administration - Administrator</i>						
Admin - Parish Administrator	£8,424				£8,424	£2,106
Online Giving Fees	£319				£319	£161
Total	£8,743				£8,743	£2,267
<i>Administration - Telephone / Internet</i>						
Admin - Telephone / Internet	£1,516				£1,516	£1,530
Total	£1,516				£1,516	£1,530
<i>Administration - Bank Charges</i>						
Admin - Bank Charges	£451				£451	£394
Total	£451				£451	£394
<i>Administration - Examiner / other</i>						
Admin - Stationary, Postage & Books	£41				£41	£939
Admin - Office Equipment						£768
Admin - Examiner	£300				£300	£600
Admin - PCC expenses	£13				£13	
Admin - Other	£215		£9		£224	£448
Total	£570		£9		£580	£2,757

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
<i>Property and Trading - Magazine</i>						
Magazine - Printing	£22,548				£22,548	£20,176
Magazine - Editor Expenses	£646				£646	£600
Magazine - Distribution	£610				£610	£518
Total	£23,805				£23,805	£21,295
<i>Property and Trading - OP</i>						
OP - Maintenance	£1,302				£1,302	
OP - Other	£884				£884	£920
Total	£2,187				£2,187	£920
<i>Property and Trading - OSR and PO</i>						
OSR - Utilities	£1,343				£1,343	£910
OSR - Maintenance / Housekeeping	£592				£592	£149
OSR - Insurance	£503				£503	£908
OSR - Other						£126
Total	£2,439				£2,439	£2,094
<i>Property and Trading - Bookstall</i>						
Bookstall - Stock	£3,692				£3,692	£495
Total	£3,692				£3,692	£495
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	£206,577		£12,003		£218,580	£176,259
GRAND TOTAL	(£2,612)		(£763)		(£3,375)	(£3,065)

These accounts as approved by Shere Parochial Church Council and dated 19th April 2023.

Signed:



Rev Tim Heaney, Rector

SHERE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of Shere

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 which are set out in the Financial Statements section of this Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners in section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 matters have come to my attention which give 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 the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a part of an independent examination.

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



Mr Michael Keeble ACA
The Cottage
Lower Street
Shere
Guildford GU5 9HX

7th March 2023

Accounts



THE PARISH OF SHERE
incorporating the villages of Gomshall, Peaslake and Shere

Shere Parochial Church

Council

Annual Report and

End of Year Financial

Statements

Year ending 2021

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1. Ministry Report “By their fruits ye shall know them.” (Matt. 7:20)

The ministry of our church really comprises everything we do, and so the other reports in this Annual Report each speak as much about the mission of our church as this one. Please do take the time to read as much as you can therefore - because each report (and other activities without their own heading like cleaning, supplying refreshments, etc.) reflect loving service for God’s Kingdom in our parish. I and the PCC are extremely grateful for all those whose work is reflected in these pages and perhaps even more so for those whose efforts go publicly unsung.

2021 was a pivotal year in that we began it still very much struggling with the pandemic and ended it with most of our activities resumed - all be it still with some restrictions and some people still shielding. In last year’s report I said: “As a church our major challenge in 2021 is how we productively manage our exit from the pandemic” and I think we rose to that challenge pretty well.

Two things in particular stand out, firstly we worked at developing and implementing a strong Church Development Plan (CDP), and secondly - with the help of a team led by Stuart Madden, we ran a very successful Stewardship Campaign that is helping us with that implementation.

We began working on the CDP at the start of May and the PCC were able to formally approve the final version at a meeting on July 14th. Below is an extract of the plan which includes the five specific action points which the process identified as the highest priorities.

	Wider Aim	Goal	Specific Action Points
1	To improve Local outreach	(a) Develop a healthy Onsite - Online - Offsite Service balance	1. Analyse our online, onsite and offsite services strengths, weaknesses, and potential outreach. (a) Meetings and discussions (b) Questionnaires and research
		(b) Make our Churches as welcoming as possible	2. Recruit and train welcomers
2	To increase Interaction with Families and Children	(a) Increase Interaction with Families and Children in the wider community	3. Appoint children and families’ worker
3	To enhance support services	(a) Enhance Administration	4. Write role description for and recruit a P/T Church Administrator
		(b) Enhance Technology	5. Explore Audio-Visual equipment necessary to support Online services

The

consultation process for the plan included open meetings in June and July (point 1a above) and thank you to those who took part. Those meetings didn’t just contribute to the structure and prioritisation of the plan but also to a lot of the detail within the action points

By the end of the year a number of the specific action points had been achieved, including; appointing a Parish Administrator, appointing a Children's and Families Worker, starting a second monthly Family Feast. Others like training and recruiting welcomers have taken longer, and some like upgrading our Audi Visual equipment are still being worked on.

You can read about some of these things in the reports below plus smaller things from the fuller detail of the plan. This is very much a continuous process however and as I write this we are preparing for a meeting at the end of April which will restart the process so we can review the current CDP and start to develop a revised 2022 plan to take us on the next part of our journey.

2. Financial Report

As mentioned elsewhere in this Annual Report, just like 2020, 2021 has been another exceptional year for our Parish. As the country began to emerge from pandemic our church finances have not been unaffected, with continued out of the ordinary movements in our income and expenditure for the year.

Overall we have incurred a tiny surplus on our unrestricted funds (monies available for day-to-day expenditure) for the year of £84 (2020: £1,326). Income and expenditure both increased overall, income through the successful Planned Giving campaign, and expenditure as we reopened our buildings and began to resume services and normal church life.

Total income on unrestricted (excluding designated) funds was £173,000 (£150,000), an increase of 15%. For comparison our pre-pandemic 2019 income was £178,000.

Income from planned giving through standing orders and the PGS direct debit scheme was £104,000 (£91,000), an increase of 14% (2020: decline of 5%). This welcome uplift is as a direct result of the Planned Giving campaign in the spring of 2021 and reflects approximately six months of increased giving.

Donations totalled £7,900 (£3,700). The Old Parsonage on Lawbrook Lane continues to be let, which provided a gross income of £14,000 (£14,500). The slight reduction merely reflects the timing of payments received.

Income from wedding and funeral fees was substantially increased as our church buildings opened for these important events. Magazine income was reduced primarily as a result of advertisers declining to renew during the pandemic. Encouragingly early signs for 2022 are that this trend is reversing and advertising income is increasing to pre-pandemic levels.

On the expenditure side, included in our unrestricted (excluding designated) expenditure total of £173,000 (£149,000) is our diocesan parish share of £85,000 (£85,000). Parish share is our largest single item of expenditure and was held by the Diocese at 2020 levels. For comparison our 2022 parish share will increase by over 5% (£4,600) to £89,600.

On a positive note we increased our mission support giving to £10,200 (£6000). As well as donations to our long-standing regular charities of Barnabus and Amos Trust we donated to the Tanzanian orphanage Larchfield and in addition we distributed a

one-off £2,000 carry forward from 2020. For the second year running without Carols in the Square we were not able to make our traditional one-off donations to other charities.

As church activities slowly started returning to pre-pandemic levels other areas of expenditure have increased. Expenditure on buildings maintenance, music and upkeep of services (communion perquisites etc) has increased.

The figures for 2021 include part year salary payments for our church administrator and one month of a 50% contribution towards the new benefice children's and family worker.

A word on utility bills. Expenditure on utilities, mainly gas and electricity, for our church buildings for the year was £6,900 (2020: £2,000). In 2019 it was £9,900. Utilities expenditure has been artificially depressed for the last two years because of several one-off factors (the pandemic, a VAT rebate and refunds from over-estimated bills). For 2022 as we return to normal and these one-off factors drop out of the figures then together with the unprecedented national uplifts in gas and electricity prices we will see a substantial increase in our church utility bills. I am expecting at least 50% on our 2019 figures to around £15,000, a more than 100% increase over 2021. It is beholden on all of us to look at ways to reduce our utilities spend, mindful that heating forms the largest part.

Expenditure on our church buildings was £13,600 (£5,300). Work undertaken included bird proofing of the spire at St James and repairs identified in the last quinquennial report.

The net result for the year was a surplus of income over expenditure of £84 (£1,326) on unrestricted and designated funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totaled £162,000 (£154,000). This total includes deposit and investment funds lodged with the Church of England deposit fund, which increased in value by £7,500.

Reserves Policy: The reserves policy was agreed by the PCC in September 2020. It is detailed in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Related Party Transactions: No PCC member (Trustee) has received any benefits (2020: £0), but clergy members of the PCC have been re-imbursed expenses not exceeding £900 (£3,100) in total.

Finally I want to thank other key members of the parish finance team, including Stuart Madden, Ken Mead, Nick Bray and Phil Doherty and others without whose invaluable assistance managing the church finances would be much harder.

Angus Denny, Treasurer

3. Electoral Roll Report

The number on the Electoral Roll, as of 28th April 2021, is 181 names from 124 households.

Howard Potter, Electoral Roll Officer

4. Deanery Synod Report - 2020

Because of the pandemic, there were only two meetings of Deanery Synod during the year, of which the first was quite short and held through Zoom. The usual administrative matters were discussed, and the Area Dean, Reverend Roy Woodhams reported that there would be later in the year elections to Diocesan Synod, and he also said that the Deanery needed to appoint a new lay chairman. Those taking part also discussed the problems with opening churches, and holding services during the pandemic.

It was with satisfaction that it proved possible to hold the Synod meeting on the 7th July at St. John the Baptist, Loxwood. Following on from the meeting in February, Roy was able to report that there was one candidate for the position of lay chairman, myself. No one objected to my being elected!

The principal business of the meeting was Reverend Sally Davies' presentation on Living in Love and Faith, in which she introduced this initiative from the House of Bishops, which has now been presented to all the Parishes, including of course our own. Sally explained the course material, and those who attended the subsequent meetings will be aware of the book that has been published to accompany the course, and the videos put together to lead participants into discussion.

*Martin Betts
Deanery Synod Representative*

5. Families and Children's Work

Live services in the first half of 2021 were limited and those that took place were under tight restrictions. Face to Face children's work was impossible and so what we managed was all online. Some activities resumed in the Summer (outside when practical) and then developed further in September.

Little Fishes

Judy Potter and Jane Davis did a fantastic job of running weekly Zoom Little Fishes sessions for the first five months of the year and then in June live sessions began in Peaslake, ably lead by Shiona Bacon and Anne Currier. These meetings continue and are thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend.

Family Feast

Monthly Family Feast at St James' resumed in June – some outside and then when inside with families spaced and bringing their own picnics rather than a shared

tea. In September we were excited to increase to two a month with the new one being at Peaslake. This increase was only made possible by Melody Barnett stepping up to take the lead roll and we are very grateful to her for the months she did this. In December we were finally able to recruit Jeff Bartholomew as the Benefice Children's and Families Worker and he began by seeing how we do things and then in 2022 picking up the reins from Melody. Jeff writes:

It has been wonderful to see children and families getting together within the church to celebrate Fun, Food, Faith & Friendship.

Family Feast had a bit of a bumpy start to 2022 due to sickness and as recently as March has been impacted by another increase in Covid cases within the Parish. We had to cancel several Family Feasts in both Shere & Peaslake and at one point all but one of the Family Feast crafts & activities team tested positive. We would like to encourage parents, some youngsters and others to boost our volunteer team and could do with looking at a recruitment drive in the months ahead.

Going forward we will be building on the theme of Jesus the Storyteller based on the Parables and would also like to explore ways to have some activities for older children and pre-teens. We will then be looking at the theme of Jesus the miracle worker, focussing on how Jesus can calm the storms in our lives. As the weather warms we are thinking of hosting some of the Family Feasts outdoors and we will discuss various options with the team.

We held a small gathering at the Gomshall Club on Good Friday 2022, although this was not a Family Feast it was well received by the 9 children who attended and the 17 adults. The children were keen to share their knowledge of the Easter story and it was a joy to see and hear.

It is wonderful to have such a dedicated team supporting Family Feast, we would like to say a special thank you to Revd. Tim, Revd. Sarah, Melody, Michelle, Zoë, Revd. Judy, Anne Currier and the refreshments team. We look forward to welcoming everyone and we pray for continued growth.

*Jeff Bartholomew
Young Communities Leader
Benefice of Albury, Chilworth & Shere*

Schools Report

One of the great joys of our Ministry is working with the children in the Parish and to this end members of the clergy team visit both Shere and Peaslake schools every week in term time to take an assembly. Sadly, however, Covid has again seriously curtailed this for us during this past year.

In the Spring term we had no access to the schools at all but did produce some online assemblies which we were able to share.

During the summer term in 2021, we could not go into either school for the first six weeks or so. Then, after the summer half term, we were able to take assemblies in Shere, sitting outside on their lovely fake grass, rather than being

in the classroom. Shere School also held their leavers' end-of-term service outside. Sadly, we were not able to go up to Peaslake.

Some children from Shere School did come to our Harvest Festival at St James and Revd Tim was able to attend Peaslake's School Harvest Festival during school time at St Mark's

Assemblies began again in the Autumn term, but were once again curtailed. After the October half term, we began a series of 6 Assemblies which lead up to Christmas, but unfortunately we were only able to deliver 3 of these before once more Assemblies were halted. However, Peaslake School performed a wonderful end-of-term Nativity play in St. Mark's Church, attended by a few parents sitting the regulation feet apart! As always, it was a real joy to see them re-enact the Christmas story. Shere held their Christmas activities in School, but they were no less happy for that.

A New Year and new hopes. Since the February half term we have been able to go into both schools each week - and with a bit of ingenuity, the Assembly series for Christmas was tweaked to lead up to Easter!

Shere School pupils took a lively active part in the morning service in St. James' on Mothering Sunday, and they all came into church - together with a great many parents - for their Easter service - the children all wearing the most amazing Easter bonnets for the occasion. I was privileged to be at this service, and a really happy, celebratory occasion it was.

The regular assembly team consists of Revd. Tim, Revd. Mike, Cathy Mead, and myself, Revd. Rosemary.

Meanwhile, Revd. Judy and Jane Davis look after the younger children. Back in September, it was hoped that the Nursery and Reception classes from Shere would alternate with visits to the Church. However, since Christmas, only the Reception class have been coming across to St James', on alternate Thursdays. Do read Revd. Tim's leading article in the April 2022 magazine, to see the sort of thing they get up to, and the amazing depth of their understanding, when you consider how young these children are. The clergy have not yet been able to visit these 2 groups back in school, but we will see how things work out after Easter.

We now have a School Liaison Team which meets once a term and includes church members involved directly in the ministry or with schools experience plus representatives from both schools.

Even though the various restrictions from Covid have limited the time we have been able to spend with the children this past year, it is nevertheless a vital part of the life of the Church, and of immense benefit to the children and staff alike. We are always made so welcome, and feel that we and the Church are a vital and important part of the life of both Schools. Our sincere thanks to all those concerned.

Revd. Rosemary Mason

6.St James' and St Mark's Flower Arrangers Report

St. James' Flower Team

During the year 2021 eight ladies volunteered to be included on the rota for fortnightly flower arrangements in St.James' Church. However, following the lifting of Covid pandemic restrictions, many weddings took place, almost each couple leaving a flower arrangement adjacent to the Altar for all to enjoy which also eased the flower arranging rota. The flower team rallied at Easter, Harvest and Christmas and decorated the Church beautifully.

It would appear that there will be fewer weddings held in 2022 so the flower team will need to become much more active once more.

Lesley Childs

St Mark's Flower Team

Many thanks to the Flower Team who keep St Marks looking so nice all the Year, and all the other helpers who come on special occasions, such as Christmas and Easter.

Anne Heyes

7.Choir Report

Under the inspirational leadership of our Director of Music, Doug MacIlwraith, the Parish Choir have continued to go from strength to strength. His energy, patience and determination – not to mention his extraordinary ability to sing all four parts – has led us to tackling some amazing pieces and thus enabling us to develop our musicianship both individually and as a group. We have also gained strength in number with three new regular members of the soprano line.

Covid inevitably continued to place restrictions upon our ability to support services but we adapted to the changing circumstances and challenges. From June onwards we were permitted to sing for weddings, attending five in St James' and one in St Mark's. We were also pleased to be able to support the Memorial Services for Brian Cooper and Phyllis Coates.

Christmas saw the return to an in-person Nine Lessons and Carols in St James' albeit with a reduced, socially-distanced congregation. The technical skills acquired by the Rector during lockdown enabled the service to be filmed, edited and posted on the Parish's YouTube channel! Who would have imagined this just three years ago?

Cathy Mead on behalf of the Choir

8. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches.

The majority of the work carried out this year related to working through the St James' Quinquennial Report (QR), the additions being the decoration of both vestries and the East wall behind the altar at St James' and the annual servicing of our boilers and fire extinguishers.

The Quinquennial work involved roof repairs carried out to both the Nave & Chancel south slopes and at the same time the duckboards were lifted and repaired, the valley gutters cleaned and their lead coverings checked over. A proper Code 4 lead flashing was fitted to the Nave tower to replace the temporary flashband repair. Following earlier flooding problems in the boiler room under the vestry an electrical Sump Pump was fitted in the floor together with all necessary pipework to avoid any future problems.

The damaged and flaking plasterwork to the west wall behind the Font was removed and new coats of lime plaster applied prior to re-decoration.

A tree survey of the churchyard was undertaken towards the end of the year and work to fell and trim a number of unsafe trees is currently ongoing. At the end of the year the No 4 bell at St James was found to be badly cracked and having been removed from the belltower it is in the process of being recast at the foundry.

The west gable and porch roof at St Mark's required repairs from their Quinquennial report and this work is due to be carried out after Easter.

The Old Parsonage, a tenanted property owned by the Parish has not required much expenditure this year. Some tree work has been undertaken and roof tile repairs are due to be carried out by the same roofing contractor when the St Mark's porch roof is completed.

Roger Moulden - Property Team.

9. Shere Bell Tower Annual Report

The focus of this year's report from the bell tower at St James is on the misfortune of the Number 4 bell.

Following ringing one practice evening in early November it was necessary for one of the ringers to climb up into the bell chamber to replace a broken stay. This turned out to be a stroke of good fortune as a deep crack was noticed in the Number 4 bell. Had it not been seen and immediately deemed unsafe for any further ringing, this could have had very serious repercussions. It is not unknown for fatigue cracks to happen due to strong impact conditions or material insufficiencies when the clapper hits the bell. We did have a similar occurrence in 1990/1.

There are two ways in which such a crack may be repaired – speciality welding or recasting. The latter method involves melting down the bell and pouring the molten metal into a prepared mould. After careful consideration, due to the nature of the crack, this seemed to be the most appropriate for our bell, originally cast in 1712. Unfortunately, however, recasting is considerably more expensive than the welding method. It was at this point that two long standing members of our congregation, Adrian and Christine O'Loughlin, stepped in with a very generous offer to cover the cost.

Having worked through the various procedures of obtaining the necessary Faculty and quotes, I am pleased to report that the work has now been set in motion. Led by Bill Egerton and his team, assisted by some ringers and other parishioners, on 5th February 2022 the bell was removed from its 'pit' in the bell chamber, lowered into the ringing room, then through the trap door into the Crossing. This was not an easy task! The bell has now been transported by Bill to Taylor's Bell Foundry of Loughborough where it is awaiting attention, scheduled for 21st April.

Taylor's have found that there is considerable interest in the foundry work, not just from bellringers, so welcome groups of up to 30 people to observe the process. We have taken up this opportunity, so a coach has been organised to enable interested bellringers, clergy & other parishioners to watch the recasting of our own bell (after this report has been written).

After the first stage of the recasting process, the bell will be allowed to cool slowly in earth over a period of days. The ring of the bell is restored so that it is identical to the original. Whilst this can be done by a computerised numerical control lathe, Taylor's tune bells by hand. It should also be noted that the recast bell will retain the original inscriptions of 1712 with the addition of the names of Adrian and Christine whose generosity has now enabled the bell to be restored in this way.

The final stage of Number 4's journey will be its return by Taylor's to St James' Bell Tower. Fortunately, they will be responsible for the lifting and re-hanging of the bell. The ringers will be truly glad to see its return. Being in the centre of the octave, its absence was very noticeable. It has been hard to ring a combination of the other bells which produced a reasonably harmonious sound!

Unfortunately, we were unable to arrange this mammoth project to take place before Easter 2022 but we look forward to being able to ring out our bells in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee. That we will be able to do so is due to the generosity of several individuals, including not only our financial benefactors but also all those who have given their time, particularly Bill. Our grateful thanks to them all.

John Parker, Tower Captain

10. Mission Support Report

Our Parish gives a guaranteed source of income to a number of charities. Last year the PCC asked the Mission Support Team to review the charities we support and the recommendation the team made was that we continue our sponsorship of Barnabus, the homeless charity in Manchester, and of the Al Ahli hospital in Gaza - but that we look for a new third charity and that a fourth should be added again as soon as our finances recovered.

The PCC accepted this and so in December we added the Larchfield Children's Home as our third charity. It was not 'til March 2022 (following the presentation of favourable draft 2021 accounts) that it was agreed to add the Guildford Refugee Support Scheme as a fourth.

The money is paid out of the Parish's Outward Giving fund which is 10% of our planned giving for the previous year.

Barnabus

The Parish of Shere has continued to support Barnabus, the Homeless centre in Manchester, during the last year. During 2021 as some government restrictions have been lifted, following the Covid 19 epidemic, Barnabus has been focussing on outreach and restoring some of their afternoon sessions. This has been done in the hope of creating some momentum to encourage the homeless to engage with the services offered by Barnabus including the use of the IT cafe which we finance

(£3666.67 in 21/22). They are also working hard on their Resettlement and Sustain projects with their long-term aim to get people off the streets and into private rented accommodation wherever possible. This obviously needs understanding landlords to provide accommodation so is not an easy task. 2021 was actually Barnabus's 30th anniversary of supporting rough sleepers and people experiencing homelessness.

They are already seeing new people affected by the pandemic who have lost their jobs or on a very low income, those who have suffered bereavements, abuse in the home or trauma because of mental and physical effects. Demand is, sadly, expected to grow.

Obviously, there are a lot of uncertainties ahead following the final lifting of restrictions, but Shere Parish continues to wish Barnabus good luck and much success as the dedicated staff continue their excellent work supporting the homeless.

Al Ahli Hospital

Our support for the Al Ahli Hospital continued through the Year through the Amos Trust. In addition to our annual donation of £2000, the Parish was in the fortunate position to provide an extra donation of £1666.67 in March 2022. This is a timely donation as the Diocese of Jerusalem is organising a special appeal at Easter for the Healthcare sector in Gaza. Chris Rose of Amos is currently in Palestine and it is hoped to get more information on how the Hospital is coping in extremely difficult situations.

Larchfield Children's Home

Larchfield is a purpose-built children's home in Tanzania which serves as a safe and secure refuge for children in the Mkuranga district of Tanzania (south of Dar-es-Salaam) whose families have been dislocated and destroyed by HIV. It is currently housing 50 children, but the phased plan is to accommodate eventually up to 300. The project will also include a medical dispensary and a centre for vocational training in agriculture. Our donations will be used over the next 3 years to fund the planting of papaya, okra and guava trees plus peanuts and lentils to aid the agricultural project and sustainability initiative. The aim is to be able to feed the Larchfield family and also generate revenue by selling and distributing the produce in the market.

Guildford Refugee Support Scheme (Adopted 2022 so no funding 2021)

Before the current Ukrainian refugee crisis our Mission Support Team were already looking at joining the Guildford Refugee Support Scheme which currently supports 8 refugee families in Woking and 6 families in Guildford. The PCC have decided to support this suggestion whereby we would partner with the Catholic Church in Guildford through which we would hope to jointly support a specific refugee family (probably from Afghanistan) to resettle locally. Our support will not just be financial however, we will need to be actively involved in helping the family relocate and settle in. If you would like to be part of this initiative and to represent us on the coordinating committee (training will be given) please contact admin@parishofshere.com.

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) - Afghanistan Crisis Appeal

The PCC confirmed that we can again support a 4th charity via the Parish Outward Giving fund. Until a decision is made about a new 4th charity, the Mission Support team agreed that the money ((£2000) should go to providing life-saving aid to the people of Afghanistan who were(are) facing catastrophic hunger.

Other Outward Giving/Support from the Parish -

Children's Society Boxes - £836.01 has been collected in 2021.

Food Bank - we continue to collect and deliver donated food and hygiene items to the local foodbanks, alternating each month between the Salvation Army in Guildford and the North Guildford food banks. We delivered 16 car loads of food/hygiene products during the year. Our local donation points are in St James' and St Mark', and food purchased at the Coop in Shere can be left at the counter for the food banks.

Mary's Meals charity - feeding children at a place of education in 19 of the poorest countries. In 2021 we were given and collected sufficient items (clothes, towels, toiletries, school equipment etc) to fill 200 backpacks to go out to schools in Malawi, where children are being fed by Mary's Meals.

Caroline Evans

11. Safeguarding Report

The Church of England's attitude and response to Safeguarding continues to develop rapidly: this Parish, along with the Diocese, does not tolerate abuse of any kind. As Parish Safeguarding Officer, I am first line of contact, together with Tim Heaney, for any concern, however small it may seem, regarding people in our church community or parish. I also keep track of people who are required to undergo regular Safeguarding Training and DBS (Disclosure and Disbarring Service) checks. This is to ensure the highest standard of awareness and protection of the vulnerable in the church community is maintained - of both adults and young people. Melody Barnett is our DBS validator and will contact those whose DBS need renewal, now every three years.

Safeguarding Training is required for all those who hold positions of responsibility or undertake roles within the church community - including the clergy team, the PCC, bellringing captain and choir leaders. There are now 5 different training courses depending on the role held - and each course has to be refreshed every three years - all training courses are now remote. As part of the national focus on domestic abuse, the Church has developed a new online course on 'Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse' - and all PCC members now need to do it. About 20 safeguarding courses were attended by this Parish in 2021.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually by the PCC, with copies then displayed on the church notice board and sent to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, now Jackie Broadfoot. The public display of this policy also guides people as to who they should report any Safeguarding concerns: this is myself as Parish Safeguarding Officer, Tim Heaney as Incumbent, or Jackie Broadfoot, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

As directed by the Diocese, we now have a Church of England Safeguarding 'Dashboard' for the Parish. This allows to keep track of all we are required to do, and generates a Safeguarding Action Plan for the PCC- we are well on our way through this.

The PCC and the Incumbent have a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in the community and thus have responsibility for Safeguarding. It is a responsibility that we take very seriously.

Helen Murray
Parish Safeguarding Officer

12. The Parish Magazine report

Jane Kumar took over as editor from Tim Austin in January 2021, leading a team including Rev Mike Currier, Bekah Heaney and Naia Edwards, and the print contract was moved to local firm Careprint in Albury, now renamed Surrey Hills Print. In response to a request from distribution manager Ken Mead, the print run was extended from 900 to 950 copies per issue.

The handover went smoothly and all was well until Christmas time when a fire in a toner factory in Japan, followed by the precautionary shutdown of all their toner factories, caused shortages for small printing businesses. The magazine was farmed out by Surrey Hills Print to a bigger company in Croydon, which delayed delivery but ensured publication of the magazine. Apart from this problem, which was outside their control, Surrey Hills Print has been an excellent partner, producing good quality issues on time.

Printing is now hard hit by rising costs of paper and toner, which is a global trend, and this is likely to push up costs further in the near future.

SHERE PARISH MAGAZINE - ADVERTISING REPORT 2021/2022

Javed Kumar took over the Advertising from Lesley Austin in January 2021. Under the previous system advertisers were generally taken on for a year's subscription whenever they started. The system is now formalised and standardised to the end of the year so all renewals occur in January, making follow up easier.

According to the accounts advertising revenue, in 2020 was £15,127, in 2021 £11,137. A drop of around £4,000. The main reasons for this drop were:

- Fall in numbers of advertisers
- Reduced payments to end of year rather than annual payments

There was a total of 98 advertisers in 2020. 18 advertisers dropped out in 2021. The reasons seem to be mainly the effect of COVID lockdown on business, disappointing response and retirement. Estimated loss from these dropouts was £ 3,200.

We have since had a number of new advertisers, making up the deficiency. At the same time, we have increased the advertising rates by approximately 16% to cover higher printing costs from December 2021.

There are currently 690 subscribers, who pay an annual rate of £10. It was decided to keep subscriptions at the same level.

Jane and Javed Kumar

13. Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Notes

a) Accounting Policies

- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.
- The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

b) Funds

- The general reserve includes the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.
- Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Funds given for a particular purpose are restricted to use for that purpose.
- The accounts 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 main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

c) Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised in the same accounting year as the associated income is received.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
- Funds raised by parish events are accounted for gross.
- Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

- Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised for the period of rental falling within the accounting year.

Income from investments

- Dividends are recognised when receivable.
- Interest is recognised in respect of the periods for which it is earned that fall within the accounting year.

Gains and losses on investments

- Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.
- Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December. Unrealised gains are included in the revaluation reserve.

d) Resources used

Grants

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

Activities directly related to the work of the Church

- The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota 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

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
- No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and equipment

- Equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over each asset's estimated useful life.

f) Investments

- Investments are carried at market value at 31 December.

g) Current assets

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

h) Reserves Policy (agreed by the PCC in September 2020)

The PCC, as a body which should fundamentally operate through faith in God's provision, considers:

it is not appropriate stewardship to hold large reserves without any specific plans as to what they would be used for, and that as a charity it must have the aim of being in existence in perpetuity.

In recognition of the above it is the policy of the PCC to hold reserves sufficient to meet unexpected extra costs (eg unforeseen repairs) and to smooth out short-term mismatches between income and expenditure. After due consideration the PCC has determined that it should hold approximately nine months general running costs, including mission support, and to hold an amount for likely building works arising from the next quinquennial inspections of both churches.

In 2019 general running costs, including mission support but excluding project expenditure, equalled £184,000 (2018: £174,000). Therefore the PCC's objective is to retain a General Fund reserve of a minimum of £138,000.

At 31st December 2019 the General Fund stood at £143,000.

If the General Fund reserve exceeds £150,000, the PCC will consider how it will use the excess. If the General Fund reserve is below £100,000, the PCC will consider how to manage this shortfall.

The reserves policy will be reviewed every two years.

Statement of Financial Activities

year	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Prior
	funds	funds	funds	funds	funds	total
funds						
Incoming resources						
Income from Donors						
Planned Giving	104,230	—	—	—	104,230	91,601
Donations	7,898	—	—	—	7,898	3,749
Collections	3,234	—	—	—	3,234	3,699
Wall safe	1,975	—	—	—	1,975	656
Bequests and Grants	3,302	—	—	—	3,302	2,368
Income from Fees						
Weddings	6,011	—	—	—	6,011	743
Funerals	9,244	—	—	—	9,244	4,878
Income from Property & Trading						
Magazine	19,629	—	—	—	19,629	23,435
OP Rent	13,968	—	—	—	13,968	14,505
OSR Hire	1,298	—	—	—	1,298	1,502
Bookstall sales	29	—	—	—	29	336
Income from Investments	1,598	—	—	—	1,598	1,793
Other Income	773	—	—	—	773	2,353
Total income	173,193	—	—	—	173,193	151,623
Resources used						
Mission Support & Other Giving	8,221	2,000	—	—	10,221	6,066
Ministry Team	602	—	—	—	602	3,078
Upkeep of Services	3,165	—	15	—	3,180	445
Church Buildings						
Utilities	6,912	—	—	—	6,912	2,043
Maintenance and upkeep	13,602	—	—	—	13,602	5,289
Churchyard	6,343	1,135	—	—	7,478	4,708
Other	4,565	—	—	—	4,565	6,517
Music	8,994	—	—	—	8,994	6,139
Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs						
Parish Share	85,607	—	—	—	85,607	85,607
Deanery and Tower	75	—	—	—	75	80
Events & Christian Development	3,264	—	—	—	3,264	729
Administration						
Administrator	2,267	—	—	—	2,267	173
Telephone / Internet	1,530	—	—	—	1,530	1,509
Bank Charges	394	—	—	—	394	428
Examiner / other	2,757	—	—	—	2,757	994
Property and Trading						
Magazine	21,295	—	—	—	21,295	20,818
OP	920	—	—	—	920	2,411
OSR and PO	2,094	—	—	—	2,094	1,810
Bookstall	495	—	—	—	495	189
Total expenditure	173,109	3,135	15	—	176,259	149,042
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	84	(3,135)	(15)	—	(3,065)	2,580
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	—	—	—	9,234
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	—	—	—	(9,234)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—	3,194
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	7,539	—	—	—	7,539	—
Net movement in funds	7,623	(3,135)	(15)	—	4,473	5,775
Total funds brought forward	154,324	882,035	23,370	—	1,059,729	1,053,953
Total funds carried forward	161,947	878,900	23,355	—	1,064,202	1,059,729

Balance sheet

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	—	875,000	—	—	875,000	875,000
Investments	60,687	—	—	—	60,687	53,148
	60,687	875,000	—	—	935,687	928,148
Current assets						
Stocks and work in progress	2,891	—	—	—	2,891	2,891
Debtors	7,275	—	—	—	7,275	7,784
Investments	54,716	—	—	—	54,716	54,687
Cash at bank and in hand	49,605	3,900	23,444	—	76,949	69,826
	114,489	3,900	23,444	—	141,833	135,191
Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	13,228	—	89	—	13,317	3,610
	13,228	—	89	—	13,317	3,610
Net current assets less current liabilities	101,260	3,900	23,355	—	128,515	131,581
Total assets less current liabilities	161,947	878,900	23,355	—	1,064,202	1,059,729
Total net assets less liabilities	161,947	878,900	23,355	—	1,064,202	1,059,729
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	161,947	—	—	—	161,947	154,324
Designated						
Diane Aston Memorial Fund	—	—	—	—	—	1,135
Old Parsonage	—	875,000	—	—	875,000	875,000
Parish Emergency Fund	—	500	—	—	500	500
Rectors Discretionary Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rectory Premises Reserve	—	1,000	—	—	1,000	1,000
St James WC Project	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buildings Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	—
Young People	—	600	—	—	600	600
Mission Support	—	—	—	—	—	2,000
StJ - Sound and Vision	—	—	—	—	—	—
Old School Room	—	1,800	—	—	1,800	1,800
Restricted						
St James Flagpole	—	—	1,055	—	1,055	1,055
Flowers Easter Lilies	—	—	131	—	131	146
Old School Room	—	—	4,425	—	4,425	4,425
Hymn Books	—	—	579	—	579	579
Choir Social	—	—	979	—	979	979
Dedicated Collections	—	—	—	—	—	—
StJ - General	—	—	6,952	—	6,952	6,952
St James - Churchyard	—	—	250	—	250	250
StJ - Spire	—	—	3,295	—	3,295	3,295
StM - General	—	—	922	—	922	922
StM - West End	—	—	—	—	—	—
StM - Cemetery	—	—	4,765	—	4,765	4,765
Lent Lunch	—	—	—	—	—	—
Funds of the church	161,947	878,900	23,355	—	1,064,202	1,059,729

Balance Sheet signed:



Rev Tim Heaney, Rector

Movement of Funds

Fund and type	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Journal Entries	Fund balances carried forward
Unrestricted							
General - General fund	154,324	173,193	173,109	—	7,539	—	161,947
Sub-totals	154,324	173,193	173,109	—	7,539	—	161,947
Designated							
Diane Aston Memorial Fund	1,135	—	1,135	—	—	—	—
Rectory Premises Reserve	1,000	—	—	—	—	—	1,000
Young People	600	—	—	—	—	—	600
Mission Support	2,000	—	2,000	—	—	—	—
Old School Room	1,800	—	—	—	—	—	1,800
Old Parsonage	875,000	—	—	—	—	—	875,000
Parish Emergency Fund	500	—	—	—	—	—	500
Sub-totals	882,035	—	3,135	—	—	—	878,900
Restricted							
St James - Flagpole	1,055	—	—	—	—	—	1,055
St James - General	6,952	—	—	—	—	—	6,952
St James - Churchyard	250	—	—	—	—	—	250
St James - Spire	3,295	—	—	—	—	—	3,295
St Mark - General	922	—	—	—	—	—	922
St Mark - Cemetery	4,765	—	—	—	—	—	4,765
Flowers Easter Lilies	146	—	15	—	—	—	131
Old School Room	4,425	—	—	—	—	—	4,425
Hymn Books	579	—	—	—	—	—	579
Choir Social	979	—	—	—	—	—	979
Sub-totals	23,370	—	15	—	—	—	23,355
Totals	1,059,729	173,193	176,259	—	7,539	—	1,064,202

Analysis of income and expenditure

		Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted
	Endowment	This year	Last year
INCOME			
Income from Donors - Planned Giving			
PG GA (Standing Orders)	21,931	—	—
PG GA (PGS Direct Debits)	53,721	—	—
PG GA PGE Envelopes St James	793	—	—
PG GA PGE Envelopes St Mark	377	—	—
PG NGA (Standing Orders)	3,798	—	—
PG NGA (PGS Direct Debits)	1,663	—	—
PG NGA PGE Envelopes St James	544	—	—
CAF	800	—	—
Tax Reclaim - PG non-PGS	7,025	—	—
Tax Reclaim - ex-PGS	13,575	—	—
Total	104,230	—	—
Income from Donors - Donations			
Donations GA	1,144	—	—
Donations NGA	2,122	—	—
Donations Online Giving	3,996	—	—
Tax Reclaim - Donations	635	—	—
Total	7,898	—	—
Income from Donors - Collections			
Cash Collect GASDS St James	963	—	—
Cash Collect GASDS St Mark	170	—	—
Cash Collect NGA St James	—	—	—
Cash Collect NGA St Mark	—	—	—
WhiteE GA St James	580	—	—
WhiteE GA St Mark	550	—	—
BMF Collections GA	—	—	—
BMF Collections GASDS	747	—	—
BMF Collections NGA	223	—	—
Total	3,234	—	—
Income from Donors - Wall safe			
Wall Safe NGA St James	1,814	—	—
Wall Safe NGA St Mark	161	—	—
Total	1,975	—	—
Bequests and Grants			
Grants	3,302	—	—
Total	3,302	—	—
Income from Fees - Weddings			
Fees - Weddings - PCC	4,401	—	—
Fees - Weddings - Other	1,610	—	—
Total	6,011	—	—
Income from Fees - Funerals			
Fees - Funerals - PCC	8,649	—	—
Fees - Funerals - Other	595	—	—

Total	9,244	—	—	—	9,244	4,878
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Income from Property & Trading - Magazine

Magazine - advertising	11,137	—	—	—	11,137	15,127
Magazine - sales	1,297	—	—	—	1,297	1,431
Magazine - subscriptions	7,195	—	—	—	7,195	6,876
Total	19,629	—	—	—	19,629	23,435

Income from Property & Trading - OP Rent

OP Rent	13,968	—	—	—	13,968	14,505
Total	13,968	—	—	—	13,968	14,505

Income from Property & Trading - OSR Hire

Rent - OSR hire and other	1,298	—	—	—	1,298	1,502
Total	1,298	—	—	—	1,298	1,502

Income from Property & Trading - Bookstall sales

Bookstall Sales	29	—	—	—	29	336
Total	29	—	—	—	29	336

Income from Investments

Interest - Bank	9	—	—	—	9	31
Interest - CBF / other	1,589	—	—	—	1,589	1,762
Total	1,598	—	—	—	1,598	1,793

Other Income

Unexpected Income	773	—	—	—	773	2,353
Total	773	—	—	—	773	2,353
INCOME TOTAL	173,193	—	—	—	173,193	151,623

EXPENDITURE

Mission Support & Other Giving

Outward Giving - Partner 1 Barnabus	3,166	—	—	—	3,166	2,000
Outward Giving - Partner 2 C4C	—	—	—	—	—	2,000
Outward Giving - Partner 3 Larchfield	3,166	—	—	—	3,166	—
Outward Giving - Partner 4 Amos Trust	1,166	2,000	—	—	3,166	2,000
Outward Giving - Other	721	—	—	—	721	66
Total	8,221	2,000	—	—	10,221	6,066

Ministry Team

Ministry Team - Mileage / Travel	—	—	—	—	—	174
Ministry Team - Other	602	—	—	—	602	2,665
Rectory - Upkeep	—	—	—	—	—	239
Total	602	—	—	—	602	3,078

Upkeep of Services

Upkeep of Services - Consumables	374	—	—	—	374	77
Upkeep of Services - Printing	236	—	—	—	236	—
Upkeep of Services - Other	2,404	—	—	—	2,404	318
Upkeep of Services - Flowers	150	—	15	—	165	49
Total	3,165	—	15	—	3,180	445

Church Buildings - Utilities

StJ - Gas	2,684	—	—	—	2,684	278
StJ - Electricity	1,596	—	—	—	1,596	930
StJ - Water	28	—	—	—	28	158
StM - Gas	2,349	—	—	—	2,349	511
StM - Electricity	253	—	—	—	253	164
Total	6,912	—	—	—	6,912	2,043

Church Buildings - Maintenance and upkeep

StJ - Maintenance / Housekeeping	10,553	—	—	—	10,553	3,477
StJ - Projects	1,560	—	—	—	1,560	—
StM - Maintenance / Housekeeping	1,488	—	—	—	1,488	1,812
Total	13,602	—	—	—	13,602	5,289

Church Buildings - Churchyard

StJ - Churchyard	4,232	1,135	—	—	5,367	3,868
StM - Churchyard	2,111	—	—	—	2,111	840
Total	6,343	1,135	—	—	7,478	4,708

Church Buildings - Other

StJ - Insurance	2,946	—	—	—	2,946	2,906
StJ - Other	—	—	—	—	—	1,128
StM - Insurance	1,559	—	—	—	1,559	1,509
StM - Other	60	—	—	—	60	972
Total	4,565	—	—	—	4,565	6,517

Music

Music - Organist Fees	7,389	—	—	—	7,389	5,758
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Music - Music Licences	110	—	—	—	110	266
Music - Choir Expenses	958	—	—	—	958	47
Music - Other	535	—	—	—	535	68
Total	8,994	—	—	—	8,994	6,139

Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs - Parish Share

Parish Share	85,607	—	—	—	85,607	85,607
Total	85,607	—	—	—	85,607	85,607

Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs - Deanery and Tower

Deanery & Tower	75	—	—	—	75	80
Total	75	—	—	—	75	80

Events & Christian Development

Parish Events	1,592	—	—	—	1,592	—
Community Engagement	—	—	—	—	—	657
Christian Development - Adult	—	—	—	—	—	72
Christian Development - Schools	1,000	—	—	—	1,000	—
Christian Development - Children & Young	672	—	—	—	672	—
Total	3,264	—	—	—	3,264	729

Administration - Administrator

Admin - Parish Administrator	2,106	—	—	—	2,106	173
Admin - Online Giving Fees	161	—	—	—	161	—
Total	2,267	—	—	—	2,267	173

Administration - Telephone / Internet

Admin - Telephone / Internet	1,530	—	—	—	1,530	1,509
Total	1,530	—	—	—	1,530	1,509

Administration - Bank Charges

Admin - Bank Charges	394	—	—	—	394	428
Total	394	—	—	—	394	428

Administration - Examiner / other

Admin - Stationary, Postage & Books	939	—	—	—	939	230
Admin - Office Equipment	768	—	—	—	768	—
Admin - Examiner	600	—	—	—	600	600
Admin - Other	448	—	—	—	448	164
Total	2,757	—	—	—	2,757	994

Property and Trading - Magazine

Magazine - Printing	20,176	—	—	—	20,176	20,633
Magazine - Editor Expenses	600	—	—	—	600	—
Magazine - Distribution	518	—	—	—	518	184
Total	21,295	—	—	—	21,295	20,818

Property and Trading - OP

OP - Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	1,396
OP - Other	920	—	—	—	920	1,015
Total	920	—	—	—	920	2,411

Property and Trading - OSR and PO

OSR - Utilities	910	—	—	—	910	975
OSR - Maintenance / Housekeeping	149	—	—	—	149	648
OSR - Insurance	908	—	—	—	908	186

OSR - Other		126	—	—	—	126	—
	Total	2,094	—	—	—	2,094	1,810

Property and Trading - Bookstall

Bookstall - Stock		495	—	—	—	495	189
	Total	495	—	—	—	495	189
EXPENDITURE TOTAL		173,109	3,135	15	—	176,259	149,042
GRAND TOTAL		84	(3,135)	(15)	—	(3,065)	2,580

These accounts as approved by Shere Parochial Church Council and dated 27th April 2022.

Signed:



Rev Tim Heaney, Rector

SHERE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the parish of Shere

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 which are set out on pages 12 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners in section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 matters have come to my attention which give 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 the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a part of an independent examination.

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



Canon Michael Bishop, B.Eng., MBA
3 Sadlers Close
Guildford GU4 7DA

28th April 2022

Accounts



THE PARISH OF SHERE
incorporating the villages of Gomshall, Peaslake and Shere



Shere Parochial Church Council

Annual Report and

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 2020

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1. Ministry Report

Although there were some amazing live events in 2020 (Remembrance, Mobile Nativity, etc.) the year will most be remembered for how much we managed to do online from such a low starting point. No one would have guessed in January that by the end of the year our Parish would have produced so many high quality online services of such variety. From regular weekly worship to occasional all age services with school and family participation we climbed a steep learning curve and found new ways to interact with each other and our community. Highlights included a United Benefice Service visiting all seven churches, the animals in our Harvest Festival and Pet Service, the many local businesses in our Community Christmas Service, and the growing confidence of our Choir culminating in a superb Carol Service which currently has over 800 views.

In addition to this YouTube output we developed our Zoom usage from simple meetings and Morning Prayer to after service gatherings and on to using it for Take Time, Little Fishes and eventually a full blown Virtual Alpha Course.

All these positive outcomes of the Pandemic should not gloss over the human cost of the lockdowns and restrictions - both to the mission of the church and the welfare of our community. We are very grateful to the work of our Visiting Team in trying their best to keep in touch with the lonely and the vulnerable in our parish, and also to those both within and beyond the church membership who actively increased their care for their neighbours.

As a church our major challenge in 2021 is how we productively manage our exit from the pandemic. The temptation will be to assume we just return to 'normal' - but this will be a huge missed opportunity. Now is the time to examine what we used to do and be honest about whether it is worth re-starting or whether there are in fact better uses of our resources. Now is the time to look in amazement at all the new things we have learnt to do over the last year and ask our ourselves whether there might not therefore be other amazing new things we could learn just as well in the year ahead. Now is the time to ask how best we might serve God in this place by allowing the events of the last year to inform our actions going forward.

Next year's report will tell us how well we addressed this challenge. We will probably make mistakes, we will probably take some wrong turns - but I hope we do not look back on the struggles of 2020 and feel we failed to at least try to turn them into something good in 2021, I pray we can look back upon the blessings that God brought out of 2020 and know that we did our best to use them to build new attitudes to mission and ultimately a stronger church.

God Bless

Tim

2. Financial Report

As mentioned elsewhere in this Annual Report, 2020 has been an exceptional year for our Parish. The church finances have not been unaffected, with some extraordinary (and hopefully exceptional) movements in our income and expenditure for the year.

I am pleased to report that despite the pandemic we have been able to maintain a small surplus of income over expenditure of £1,326 (2019: £159), and we have not had to draw down on our reserves. Income has fallen, but we have been successful in restraining our expenditure.

Total income on unrestricted (excluding designated) funds was £150,000 (£178,000), a decline of 16%.

Income from planned giving through standing orders and the PGS direct debit scheme was £91,000 (£96,000), a decline of 5% (2019: 10%). I am hopeful that the 2021 planned giving campaign will help to address this shortfall. Donations totalled £3,700 (£5,400). The Old Parsonage on Lawbrook Lane continues to be let, which provided a gross income of £14,500 (£13,400), where we continue to benefit from the recent rent review.

Our other sources of income (collections, wall safe, fee income from weddings and funerals) were all substantially reduced because of the pandemic restrictions and especially the closure of our church buildings.

On the expenditure side, included in our unrestricted (excluding designated) expenditure total of £149,000 (£178,000) is our diocesan parish share of £85,000 (£81,000), an increase of 5.6%. Parish Share is our largest single item of expenditure. For 2021, parish share will be held at 2020 levels.

Almost all other areas of expenditure have reduced. The lack of services has meant lower music expenditure and lower services costs. Expenditure on utilities, mainly gas and electricity, for our church buildings was £2,000 (£9,900). Apart from not needing to heat or power the church buildings we have benefited from a VAT rebate and refunds from over-estimated bills.

In terms of mission support we have been able to maintain annual donations to our three supported outward giving partners, but overall outward giving has reduced as we have not been able to hold events to raise funds (eg Carols in the Square).

Expenditure on our church buildings excluding major projects was £5,300 (£8,500).

The net result for the year was an excess of income over expenditure of £1,326 (£159) on unrestricted funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totaled £154,000 (£142,000). This total includes deposit and investment funds lodged with the Church of England deposit fund, which increased in value by £3,200.

Reserves Policy: The reserves policy was agreed by the PCC in September 2020. It is detailed in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Related Party Transactions: No PCC member (Trustee) has received any benefits (2019: £0), but clergy members of the PCC have been re-imbursed expenses not exceeding £2,800 (£5,900) in total.

Angus Denny, Treasurer

3. Electoral Roll Report

The number on the Electoral Roll at the Covid delayed APCM held on 14 October 2020 was 166.

Howard Potter, Electoral Roll Officer

4. Deanery Synod Report - 2020

My contribution to the Annual Report usually records three meetings of Deanery Synod in the course of the year. In 2020, however, there was only one, held on the 11th February at Albury Village Hall, where our host was the Revd. Andrew Pearson. Following on from the appointment of the new Area Dean, the Revd. Roy Woodhams, in 2019, a new lay chairman had been appointed and a new hon. Secretary, respectively Dr. John Hall and Katherine Tuck. Dr. Hall lives in Bramley and by profession is a pharmaceutical researcher. The Area Dean reported that a new priest-in-charge at Dunsfold and Hascomb had been licenced, Ian Maslin, and a new vicar of Bramley Andrew Davis was due to be inducted on the 23rd April. The meeting had two presentations on that occasion. The Revd. Greg Cushing, who is vicar of Alfold and Loxwood and a sports co-ordinator for the Diocese spoke about the Sports Ministry and what he wanted to achieve for every parish in the Diocese. The other presentation came from our Archdeacon Paul Davies who spoke of the Diocesan Vision for Deaneries, noting some lack of guidance being provided to Area Deans and lay chairman, so that much of the work that is done now is reactive. The idea is to create a leadership team for each Deanery, and Paul was very enthusiastic to take this forward.

Martin Betts

Deanery Synod Representative

5. Families and Children's Work

In a year where adaption to a changing scene has been vital, we have ensured that we remain in contact with families as much as we can. The year began with the usual pattern of worship and contact and then everything changed!

Little Fishes has gone online and has met weekly on Zoom since the Autumn ably led by the team of Judy Potter, Jane Davies, Shiona Bacon and Anne Currier. Online weekly since the Autumn with on average 6 families attending

Family Feast had a final service in St James' in February before it stopped. Instead, when possible, we have done outside services, one on the swimming pool field was well supported by families seated around on their own blankets with their picnics. A Christingle service planned for the churchyard had such high numbers booking (100 children before counting the adults) that very sadly that had to be cancelled due to safety issues. The Christingles oranges were collected together with a prayer instead.

Fathers' Day was an online recorded service and it was good to have families joining in the Zoom coffee afterwards.

The United Benefice Holiday Club went online with the Razzamatazz Robots in August. We had 15 regular attendees for this week. A surprising amount of work was involved and thanks must go to Cathy Mead and Andrew and Sheena Pearson who did the heavy lifting!

Outside has been the name of the game and a Christmas churchyard trail was set up by the McMonigall family in Shere and we joined in with the Shere School Advent window trail.

Throughout these months the main aim has been to keep in gentle contact with as many of our overstretched families as we can. This has been done through house-to-house deliveries of bags of activities such as for Advent and Lent.

For teenagers living through this changeable year, we had Taketime meditations from time to time and continued doing day walks walking the Pilgrim Way, when possible.

School visits to the two churches continued when possible, as did live assemblies to be followed by recorded one.

The highlight must surely have been the Mobile Living Nativity which toured the three villages the weekend before Christmas stopping for a short thought and prayer in numerous places proclaiming that, 'No! Christmas is NOT cancelled!'. Rob Arrow built a stable on the back of his truck which he drove with the Wagstaff family as the Holy Family and Christmas carols ringing out. Shouts of, 'There's a real baby Jesus!' were heard. Bringing the Good News of the Gospel to where people are and not waiting for them to come to us must be the way to go.

Plans are being made for the appointment of a part time children and families worker shared with Albury church in 2021.

Revd. Sarah Hutton

6. St James' and St Mark's Flower Arrangers Report

Obviously, due to the pandemic, the flower arrangers have not been as active as usual. A much reduced team decorated the Churches for Harvest Festival and for Christmas. During the remainder of the year we have been grateful to Pattie Hendrie who has very kindly provided an arrangement near the Altar in St James' that has needed very minimal attention in order to allow the rest of the team to shield if necessary. We look forward to life returning to normal later on this year and to being able to provide fresh flower arrangements in St. James' Church and St Mark's Church once Services recommence. Particular thanks are extended to Jenny Walters, as she steps down, for her sterling work as flower arranger at St Mark's Church.

Lesley Childs

7. Choir Report

It has been a year of interesting challenges for the choir - and our Musical Director, who has added technical wizardry to his already impressive range of talents.

We responded accordingly to the changing 'rules of engagement'. We sang, socially distanced, in the Bray Chancel for a few services and met up in church, whilst we could, to record vocals for carols and videos for hymns. When this was not possible, Doug recorded and sent us the organ music for numerous hymns so that we could record the vocals individually at home. He then learned how to put up to fourteen separate recordings together into a cohesive performance for the weekly online services.

The hugely enjoyed online '7 Lessons and Carols' was a testament to the skills developed over the year by both Doug and Tim, ably supported by the editing skills of Katharine Heaney.

Cathy Mead on behalf of the Choir

8. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches.

With the pandemic over the past year there is not a lot to report in terms of work undertaken on the church. Recently however work has been done to repair the oak louvres and fit heavy gauge wire in the bell tower to try and prevent jackdaws gaining access to nest, it is hoped that if this is successful that in time swifts will return to the tower.

Annual gutter clearance has been carried out together with boiler and fire extinguisher servicing.

Our annual churchyard tidy up this year was very well supported at both churches and a great deal was achieved.

We continue to work on the Quinquennial report and it is hoped to give more details on this at the APCM.

The Old Parsonage our tenanted property, owned by the Parish, has not required any expenditure in the past year.

Roger Moulden - Property Team.

9. Shere Bell Tower Annual Report

Ringling ceased with the first lockdown in March and because of the lack of space on our staircase and in our ringing chamber was not able to recommence. Therefore a year of frustrating inactivity. Thanks are extended to Jim Heyes and Angus Denny for bell ringing at St Mark's.

John Parker, Tower Captain

10. Mission Support Report

Our Parish gives a guaranteed source of income to a number of charities. These are (currently): Barnabus in Manchester, Chance for Childhood in Northern Uganda, and the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. The money is paid out of the Parish's Outward Giving fund.

Chance for Childhood - We continued throughout 2020 to support the work of Chance for Childhood (C4C) in northern Uganda, where we help fund the agribusiness training project at the Patongo Youth Centre. We have had heart-warming feedback on the success of many young men and women who learn business skills as well as how to grow crops that can flourish during the ongoing climate change. Once their training is completed, not only do they manage to provide a better life for themselves but for their families too.

Unfortunately, the arrival of Covid-19 brought many aspects of progress to a standstill as the government enforced a severe lockdown. With schools and drop-in centres closed, young people had no access to safe places or to the basic food they provided. C4C were quick to organise visits to check on families at risk, even in remote areas. They organised mask-making, introduced hand-washing and sanitising facilities, family food packages, and set up a safe-guarding watch with their local partners. In August, the Patongo Youth Centre reopened and immediately enrolled 122 students into 5 different training courses. One example of C4C's success is of a young man who lost both parents as a child and used to eat just one meal a day. Having completed the agribusiness training, he is already providing food and education for his uncle's family, as well as having a good living for himself!

Al Ahli Hospital – Our Mission support for the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza continued at the annual rate of £2000. Given the deteriorating political situation, continuing border closures and control of imports of basic goods by the Israeli Authorities, the hospital has been working in an extremely difficult working environment, with a shortage of medicines, equipment, and with a small and dedicated staff. This has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 situation, and the unavailability of vaccines and ICUs. The problems were brought home to us in a 'virtual meeting' with the Director and staff of the Hospital, organised by AMOS, through whom our donations are channelled. This showed how increasingly important and vital, our continuing contribution is to the well-being of the local population.

Barnabus - the Christian Charity supporting the Homeless - 2020 was even more challenging for Barnabus than the previous year due to the pandemic. During the national lockdowns volunteers had to go back onto the streets to provide what help they could to the homeless when the Beacon Centre had to close and showers, meals, clean clothes etc. had to be curtailed. When the building has been allowed to open, obviously with fewer clients visiting at any one time, a new approach has allowed the staff to give deeper support to individuals and the resettlement team has begun to make really positive changes. We are the sole supporters of the I.T. cafe and the use of the equipment has been invaluable to both clients and staff for contacting the Council regarding accommodation during the winter months, keeping in touch with relatives etc. There are many uncertainties regarding the next few months but, hopefully, life and services at the Beacon Centre will have returned to normal by the Summer.

Other Outward Giving/Support from the Parish –

Due to the pandemic Shere Lent lunch was cancelled, there was no collection in Church last November for the Royal British Legion, and Carols in Square was not held. Children's Society Boxes went ahead (£717 collected) and for Send Prison £540 of vouchers and tokens

were donated by parishioners, for the children of the women and mothers in prison.

Food Bank – we contributed donated items to the local foodbanks, alternating between the Salvation Army and the North Guildford food banks. We have delivered at least 15 carloads of food.

Hygiene Bank – donated items have been collected, initially to where the need was the greatest, but during the lockdowns to the foodbanks as above.

Mary's Meals charity – feeding children at a place of education in 19 of the poorest countries. Due to government lockdowns and school closures in the countries concerned, Mary's Meals sent food packages to the children (and families) in place of meals at their schools, and the community contributed to this via the 'Double the Love' campaign. We were given and collected sufficient items (clothes, towels, toiletries, school equipment etc) to fill 200 backpacks to go out to schools in Malawi, where children are being fed by Mary's Meals. However, because of Covid restrictions in Malawi meaning that backpacks cannot be delivered, all items are being safely stored until the project can re-start in due course.

11.Safeguarding Report

The Church of England's attitude and response to Safeguarding continues to develop rapidly: this Parish, along with the Diocese, does not tolerate abuse of any kind.

As Parish Safeguarding Officer, I keep track of people who are required to undergo regular Safeguarding Training and DBS (Disclosure and Disbarring Service) checks. This is to ensure the highest standard of awareness and protection of the vulnerable in the church community is maintained – of both adults and young people.

Melody Barnett and Martin Betts are DBS validators and will contact those whose DBS need renewal. This is required every 5 years.

Safeguarding Training is required for all those who hold positions of responsibility or undertake roles within the church community. There are now 5 different training courses depending on the role held - some people need to do more than one course, and each course has to be refreshed every three years. Currently, face to face training has been suspended, so delivery of training is either online or virtually by zoom, depending on the course – and this is expected to continue for the time being. I send a reminder to those who need to update their training and people should book on the course suggested promptly, informing me when it is completed. All PCC members need to undertake the Foundation course. About 20 safeguarding courses were attended by this Parish in 2020.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually by the PCC, with copies then displayed on the church notice board and sent to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, now Jackie Broadfoot. The public display of this policy also guides people as to who they should report any Safeguarding concerns: This is myself as Parish Safeguarding Officer, Sarah Hutton, the PCC Safeguarding Representative, Tim Heaney as Incumbent, or Jackie Broadfoot, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

The PCC and Incumbent have a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in the community and thus have responsibility for Safeguarding. It is a responsibility that we take very seriously.

Helen Murray
Parish Safeguarding Officer

12. Parish Magazine: a seismic year

It was never going to be easy producing the Parish Magazine throughout a national pandemic and three lockdowns, so 2020 was a seismic year in several respects. However, not only did the Mag keep going under very difficult and unusual circumstances (some other parish mags decided to close, at least for the duration)

but also the January 2021 edition brought to an end the 17-year Editorship of Tim Austin with his wife Lesley as Advertising Manager.

With the first national lockdown being announced in mid-March and many church and village events being cancelled at very short notice, production of the April/Easter Mag was one of the most difficult that the editorial team had ever had to face. Ken and Cathy Mead in Shere and Ray and Elsbeth Moran in Peaslake rapidly adjusted arrangements for the distribution of the Mag at the end of the month, taking into account all the sanitising and social distancing regulations that were to become so familiar as the year progressed.

The next problem was a call, out of the blue, from our regular printers, A3 Design & Print at Farnham, to say that they were closing for the foreseeable future on account of Covid-19. A frantic 24 hours ensued as we had to find alternative printers, but Careprint, run by our former Parish Choirmaster Nick Winford at the Home Farm business units opposite the Silent Pool, came to the rescue with an 88-page edition expertly printed and delivered on time. In early May, A3 unexpectedly told us that they were returning to work and could print the June edition, so another frantic round of phone calls and emails ensued; it was decided to return to A3 because of their past excellent service but a promise was made to Careprint that the situation would be reviewed at the end of 2020 when the editorial team was due to change.

For the rest of the year, editions ranging from 84 pages to 96 duly came out on time, surprisingly packed with reports, features and information despite virtually all village and church activities – at least in the form of live gatherings – being cancelled. The year of Zoom helped to save our communities and also the Mag – and even gave our church family new horizons across which we could continue to communicate.

The Mag for January 2021 was duly produced just before Christmas, with Tim and his team saying farewell and Jane Kumar taking over as Editor-in-Chief, heading up a reorganised structure of “section heads” – Mike Currier taking charge of the church section, Naia Edwards the Village Voices and Rebekah Heaney the village and communities section, with Javed (J) Kumar taking over the advertising from Lesley Austin.

The Parish generously laid on a farewell presentation to Tim and Lesley at a Zoom coffee morning following the YouTube Morning Service on Sunday, January 17, with Rector Tim presenting the couple with a magnificent inscribed crystal bowl. A week later, the first edition of the Mag under new management appeared – another 88-page edition but this time printed by the new printers, Careprint. Jane and her new team were rightly applauded for having produced a splendid first issue. The Mag clearly goes forward in safe and talented hands.

Tim Austin

13. Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

Notes

a) Accounting Policies

- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.
- The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

b) Funds

- The general reserve includes the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.
- Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Funds given for a particular purpose are restricted to use for that purpose.
- The accounts 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 main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

c) Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised in the same accounting year as the associated income is received.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
- Funds raised by parish events are accounted for gross.
- Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

- Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised for the period of rental falling within the accounting year.

Income from investments

- Dividends are recognised when receivable.
- Interest is recognised in respect of the periods for which it is earned that fall within the accounting year.

Gains and losses on investments

- Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.
- Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December. Unrealised gains are included in the revaluation reserve.

d) Resources used

Grants

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

Activities directly related to the work of the Church

- The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota 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

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
- No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and equipment

- Equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over each asset's estimated useful life.

f) Investments

- Investments are carried at market value at 31 December.

g) Current assets

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

h) Reserves Policy (agreed by the PCC in September 2020)

The PCC, as a body which should fundamentally operate through faith in God's provision, considers:

it is not appropriate stewardship to hold large reserves without any specific plans as to what they would be used for, and that as a charity it must have the aim of being in existence in perpetuity.

In recognition of the above it is the policy of the PCC to hold reserves sufficient to meet unexpected extra costs (eg unforeseen repairs) and to smooth out short-term mismatches between income and expenditure. After due consideration the PCC has determined that it should hold approximately nine months general running costs, including mission support, and to hold an amount for likely building works arising from the next quinquennial inspections of both churches.

In 2019 general running costs, including mission support but excluding project expenditure, equalled £184,000 (2018: £174,000). Therefore the PCC's objective is to retain a General Fund reserve of a minimum of £138,000.

At 31st December 2019 the General Fund stood at £143,000.

If the General Fund reserve exceeds £150,000, the PCC will consider how it will use the excess. If the General Fund reserve is below £100,000, the PCC will consider how to manage this shortfall.

The reserves policy will be reviewed every two years.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources						
Income from Donors						
Planned Giving	91,601	—	—	—	91,601	96,713
Donations	2,694	—	1,055	—	3,749	5,447
Collections	3,500	—	199	—	3,699	13,846
Wall safe	656	—	—	—	656	2,811
Events	—	—	—	—	—	3,555
Bequests and Grants	2,368	—	—	—	2,368	24,995
Income from Fees						
Weddings	743	—	—	—	743	3,281
Funerals	4,878	—	—	—	4,878	7,225
Income from Property & Trading						
Magazine	23,435	—	—	—	23,435	26,947
OP Rent	14,505	—	—	—	14,505	13,457
OSR Hire	1,502	—	—	—	1,502	2,268
Bookstall sales	336	—	—	—	336	1,500
Income from Investments	1,793	—	—	—	1,793	2,055
Other Income	2,353	—	—	—	2,353	1,901
Total income	150,369	—	1,254	—	151,623	206,005
Resources used						
Mission Support & Other Giving	6,066	—	—	—	6,066	11,608
Ministry Team	3,078	—	—	—	3,078	14,988
Upkeep of Services	445	—	—	—	445	2,446
Church Buildings						
Utilities	2,043	—	—	—	2,043	9,909
Maintenance and upkeep	5,289	—	—	—	5,289	102,748
Churchyard	4,708	—	—	—	4,708	6,846
Other	6,517	—	—	—	6,517	5,303
Music	6,139	—	—	—	6,139	11,327
Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs						
Parish Share	85,607	—	—	—	85,607	81,084
Deanery and Tower	80	—	—	—	80	130
Events & Christian Development	729	—	—	—	729	1,746
Administration						
Administrator	173	—	—	—	173	4,132
Telephone / Internet	1,509	—	—	—	1,509	2,200
Bank Charges	428	—	—	—	428	808
Examiner / other	994	—	—	—	994	1,962
Property and Trading						
Magazine	20,818	—	—	—	20,818	19,833
OP	2,411	—	—	—	2,411	2,419
OSR and PO	1,810	—	—	—	1,810	2,049
Bookstall	189	—	—	—	189	1,248
Total expenditure	149,042	—	—	—	149,042	282,793
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	1,326	—	1,254	—	2,580	(76,788)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	8,099	1,135	—	—	9,234	102,314
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,135)	(1,697)	(6,401)	—	(9,234)	(102,314)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	3,194	—	—	—	3,194	7,577
Net movement in funds	11,485	(562)	(5,147)	—	5,775	(69,210)
Total funds brought forward	142,838	882,597	28,517	—	1,053,953	1,123,164
Total funds carried forward	154,324	882,035	23,370	—	1,059,729	1,053,953

Balance Sheet

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	—	875,000	—	—	875,000	875,972
Investments	53,148	—	—	—	53,148	49,953
	53,148	875,000	—	—	928,148	925,926
Current assets						
Stocks and work in progress	2,891	—	—	—	2,891	2,891
Debtors	7,784	—	—	—	7,784	13,514
Investments	54,687	—	—	—	54,687	54,456
Cash at bank and in hand	39,063	7,035	23,728	—	69,826	72,687
	104,428	7,035	23,728	—	135,191	143,549
Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	3,248	—	362	—	3,610	15,522
	3,248	—	362	—	3,610	15,522
Net current assets less current liabilities	101,180	7,035	23,366	—	131,581	128,027
Total assets less current liabilities	154,328	882,035	23,366	—	1,059,729	1,053,953
Total net assets less liabilities	154,328	882,035	23,366	—	1,059,729	1,053,953
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	154,324	—	—	—	154,324	142,838
Designated						
Diane Aston Memorial Fund	—	1,135	—	—	1,135	—
Old Parsonage	—	875,000	—	—	875,000	875,000
Parish Emergency Fund	—	500	—	—	500	500
Rectors Discretionary Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rectory Premises Reserve	—	1,000	—	—	1,000	1,000
St James WC Project	—	—	—	—	—	1,697
Buildings Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	—
Young People	—	600	—	—	600	600
Mission Support	—	2,000	—	—	2,000	2,000
StJ - Sound and Vision	—	—	—	—	—	—
Old School Room	—	1,800	—	—	1,800	1,800
Restricted						
St James Flagpole	—	—	1,055	—	1,055	—
Flowers Easter Lilies	—	—	146	—	146	146
Old School Room	—	—	4,425	—	4,425	4,425
Hymn Books	—	—	579	—	579	579
Choir Social	—	—	979	—	979	979
Dedicated Collections	—	—	—	—	—	—
StJ - General	—	—	6,952	—	6,952	6,753
St James - Churchyard	—	—	250	—	250	250
StJ - Spire	—	—	3,295	—	3,295	3,295
StM - General	—	—	922	—	922	7,324
StM - West End	—	—	—	—	—	—
StM - Cemetery	—	—	4,765	—	4,765	4,765
Lent Lunch	—	—	—	—	—	—
Funds of the church	154,324	882,035	23,370	—	1,059,729	1,053,953

Balance Sheet signed:



Rev Tim Heaney, Rector

Fund movement

Fund and type	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Fund balances carried forward
Unrestricted						
General - General fund	142,838	150,369	149,042	6,964	3,194	— 154,324
Sub-totals	142,838	150,369	149,042	6,964	3,194	— 154,324
Designated						
Diane Aston Memorial Fund	—	—	—	1,135	—	— 1,135
Rectory Premises Reserve	1,000	—	—	—	—	— 1,000
St James WC Project	1,697	—	—	(1,697)	—	— —
Young People	600	—	—	—	—	— 600
MissionSupport	2,000	—	—	—	—	— 2,000
Old School Room	1,800	—	—	—	—	— 1,800
Old Parsonage	875,000	—	—	—	—	— 875,000
Parish Emergency Fund	500	—	—	—	—	— 500
Sub-totals	882,597	—	—	(562)	—	— 882,035
Restricted						
St JamesFlagpole	—	1,055	—	—	—	— 1,055
StJ - General	6,753	199	—	—	—	— 6,952
St James - Churchyard	250	—	—	—	—	— 250
StJ - Spire	3,295	—	—	—	—	— 3,295
StM -General	7,324	—	—	(6,401)	—	— 922
StM - Cemetery	4,765	—	—	—	—	— 4,765
Flowers Easter Lilies	146	—	—	—	—	— 146
OSR - Old School Room	4,425	—	—	—	—	— 4,425
Hymn - Hymn Books	579	—	—	—	—	— 579
Ch-Soc - Choir Social	979	—	—	—	—	— 979
Sub-totals	28,517	1,254	—	(6,401)	—	— 23,370
Totals	1,053,953	151,623	149,042	—	3,194	— 1,059,729

Analysis of income and expenditure

		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
INCOME							
Income from Donors - Planned Giving							
PG GA (Standing Orders)	24,393	—	—	—	24,393	27,058	
PG GA (PGS Direct Debits)	43,234	—	—	—	43,234	44,252	
PG GA PGE Envelopes St James	403	—	—	—	403	1,092	
PG GA PGE Envelopes St Mark	516	—	—	—	516	904	
PG NGA (Standing Orders)	2,598	—	—	—	2,598	1,948	
PG NGA (PGS Direct Debits)	1,823	—	—	—	1,823	1,683	
PG NGA PGE Envelopes St James	437	—	—	—	437	315	
CAF	480	—	—	—	480	485	
Tax Reclaim - PG non-PGS	6,907	—	—	—	6,907	7,910	
Tax Reclaim - ex-PGS	10,809	—	—	—	10,809	11,063	
Total	91,601	—	—	—	91,601	96,713	
Income from Donors - Donations							
Donations GA	650	—	—	—	650	660	
Donations NGA	1,441	—	1,055	—	2,496	2,293	
Tax Reclaim - Donations	603	—	—	—	603	2,493	
Total	2,694	—	1,055	—	3,749	5,447	
Income from Donors - Collections							
Cash Collect GASDS St James	961	—	—	—	961	3,599	
Cash Collect GASDS St Mark	279	—	—	—	279	1,103	
Cash Collect NGA St James	5	—	—	—	5	3,611	
Cash Collect NGA St Mark	2	—	—	—	2	84	
WhiteE GA St James	627	—	—	—	627	3,735	
WhiteE GA St Mark	653	—	—	—	653	1,307	
BMF Collections GA	105	—	—	—	105	—	
BMF Collections GASDS	866	—	—	—	866	83	
BMF Collections NGA	—	—	199	—	199	320	
Total	3,500	—	199	—	3,699	13,846	
Income from Donors - Wall safe							
Wall Safe NGA St James	575	—	—	—	575	2,648	
Wall Safe NGA St Mark	81	—	—	—	81	163	
Total	656	—	—	—	656	2,811	
Income from Donors - Events							
Parish Events - NGA	—	—	—	—	—	3,555	
Total	—	—	—	—	—	3,555	
Bequests and Grants							
Bequests	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Grants	2,368	—	—	—	2,368	24,992	
Total	2,368	—	—	—	2,368	24,995	

Income from Fees - Weddings

Fees - Weddings - PCC	608	—	—	—	608	2,266
Fees - Weddings - Other	135	—	—	—	135	1,015
Total	743	—	—	—	743	3,281

Income from Fees - Funerals

Fees - Funerals - PCC	4,878	—	—	—	4,878	7,225
Total	4,878	—	—	—	4,878	7,225

Income from Property & Trading - Magazine

Magazine - advertising	15,127	—	—	—	15,127	18,360
Magazine - sales	1,431	—	—	—	1,431	1,950
Magazine - subscriptions	6,876	—	—	—	6,876	6,637
Total	23,435	—	—	—	23,435	26,947

Income from Property & Trading - OP Rent

OP Rent	14,505	—	—	—	14,505	13,457
Total	14,505	—	—	—	14,505	13,457

Income from Property & Trading - OSR Hire

Rent - OSR hire and other	1,502	—	—	—	1,502	2,268
Total	1,502	—	—	—	1,502	2,268

Income from Property & Trading - Bookstall sales

Bookstall Sales	336	—	—	—	336	1,500
Total	336	—	—	—	336	1,500

Income from Investments

Interest - Bank	31	—	—	—	31	54
Interest - CBF / other	1,762	—	—	—	1,762	2,000
Total	1,793	—	—	—	1,793	2,055

Other Income

Unexpected Income	2,353	—	—	—	2,353	1,901
Total	2,353	—	—	—	2,353	1,901

INCOME TOTAL	150,369	—	1,254	—	151,623	206,005
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EXPENDITURE

Mission Support & Other Giving

Outward Giving - Partner 1	2,000	—	—	—	2,000	2,000
Outward Giving - Partner 2	2,000	—	—	—	2,000	2,000
Outward Giving - Partner 4	2,000	—	—	—	2,000	2,000
Outward Giving - Other	66	—	—	—	66	5,608
Total	6,066	—	—	—	6,066	11,608

Ministry Team

Ministry Team - Mileage / Travel	174	—	—	—	174	1,730
Ministry Team - Other	2,665	—	—	—	2,665	4,241
Rectory - Upkeep	239	—	—	—	239	9,016
Total	3,078	—	—	—	3,078	14,988

Upkeep of Services

Upkeep of Services - Consumables	77	—	—	—	77	668
Upkeep of Services - Printing	—	—	—	—	—	361
Upkeep of Services - Other	318	—	—	—	318	1,227
Upkeep of Services - Flowers	49	—	—	—	49	188
Total	445	—	—	—	445	2,446

Church Buildings - Utilities

StJ - Gas	278	—	—	—	278	4,840
StJ - Electricity	930	—	—	—	930	2,314
StJ - Water	158	—	—	—	158	185
StM - Gas	511	—	—	—	511	2,050
StM - Electricity	164	—	—	—	164	518
Total	2,043	—	—	—	2,043	9,909

Church Buildings - Maintenance and upkeep

StJ - Maintenance / Housekeeping	3,477	—	—	—	3,477	6,073
StJ - Projects	—	—	—	—	—	10,208
StM - Maintenance / Housekeeping	1,812	—	—	—	1,812	2,556
StM - Projects	—	—	—	—	—	83,910
Total	5,289	—	—	—	5,289	102,748

Church Buildings - Churchyard

StJ - Churchyard	3,868	—	—	—	3,868	4,216
StM - Churchyard	840	—	—	—	840	2,630
Total	4,708	—	—	—	4,708	6,846

Church Buildings - Other

StJ - Insurance	2,906	—	—	—	2,906	2,852
StJ - Other	1,128	—	—	—	1,128	—
StM - Insurance	1,509	—	—	—	1,509	1,478
StM - Other	972	—	—	—	972	972
Total	6,517	—	—	—	6,517	5,303

Music

Music - Organist Fees	5,758	—	—	—	5,758	8,230
Music - Music Licences	266	—	—	—	266	140
Music - Choir Expenses	47	—	—	—	47	1,880
Music - Other	68	—	—	—	68	1,077
Total	6,139	—	—	—	6,139	11,327

Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs - Parish Share

Parish Share	85,607	—	—	—	85,607	81,084
Total	85,607	—	—	—	85,607	81,084

Diocesan, Deanery & Tower Costs - Deanery and Tower

Deanery & Tower	80	—	—	—	80	130
Total	80	—	—	—	80	130

Events & Christian Development

Parish Events	—	—	—	—	—	96
Community Engagement	657	—	—	—	657	586
Christian Development - Adult	72	—	—	—	72	780
Christian Development - Children & Young	—	—	—	—	—	283
Total	729	—	—	—	729	1,746

Administration - Administrator

Admin - Parish Administrator	173	—	—	—	173	4,132
Total	173	—	—	—	173	4,132

Administration - Telephone / Internet

Admin - Telephone / Internet	1,509	—	—	—	1,509	2,200
Total	1,509	—	—	—	1,509	2,200

Administration - Bank Charges

Admin - Bank Charges	428	—	—	—	428	808
Total	428	—	—	—	428	808

Administration - Examiner / other

Admin - Stationary, Postage & Books	230	—	—	—	230	553
Admin - Office Equipment	—	—	—	—	—	348
Admin - Examiner	600	—	—	—	600	600
Admin - PCC expenses	—	—	—	—	—	219
Admin - Other	164	—	—	—	164	242
Total	994	—	—	—	994	1,962

Property and Trading - Magazine

Magazine - Printing	20,633	—	—	—	20,633	19,389
Magazine - Distribution	184	—	—	—	184	304
Magazine - Other	—	—	—	—	—	140
Total	20,818	—	—	—	20,818	19,833

Property and Trading - OP

OP - Maintenance	1,396	—	—	—	1,396	540
OP - Other	1,015	—	—	—	1,015	1,879
Total	2,411	—	—	—	2,411	2,419

Property and Trading - OSR and PO

OSR - Utilities	975	—	—	—	975	1,535
OSR - Maintenance / Housekeeping	648	—	—	—	648	328
OSR - Insurance	186	—	—	—	186	185
Total	1,810	—	—	—	1,810	2,049

Property and Trading - Bookstall

Bookstall - Stock	189	—	—	—	189	1,248
Total	189	—	—	—	189	1,248
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	149,042	—	—	—	149,042	282,793
GRAND TOTAL	1,326	—	1,254	—	2,580	(76,788)

These accounts as approved by Shere Parochial Church Council and dated 14th April 2021.

Signed:



Rev Tim Heaney, Rector

13. Independent Examiners Report

SHERE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the parish of Shere

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 which are set out on pages 9 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners in section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 matters have come to my attention which give 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 the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a part of an independent examination.

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



Canon Michael Bishop, B.Eng., MBA
3 Sadlers Close
Guildford GU4 7DA

22nd April 2021