

The Parish Church of St Mary and St Gabriel

in the Totnes Mission Community, Diocese of Exeter

www.stokegabrielchurch.co.uk

Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2023

Incumbent & Team Rector: Rev'd Jim Barlow

Associate Priest: Rev'd Chris Martin

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, Palace Avenue, Paignton

Independent Examiner: David Blood FCCA

4, Yonder Meadow, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes TQ9 6QE

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary and St Gabriel is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and a Registered Charity (No:1138315). Its address for correspondence is The Vicarage, School Hill, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes TQ9 6QX

AIM and PURPOSE

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Gabriel (PCC) cooperates with the Incumbent and the Associate Priest in promoting the mission and ministry of the church in the parish of Stoke Gabriel.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to keeping the church at the centre of parish life, providing a range of services, both BCP & CW, said and sung, and opportunities for worship that put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, reflection, music and sacrament. It is also committed to bring people together in fellowship, providing care for the community, and marking significant events in the life of individuals, the community and the nation.

The PCC manages the care, finances and administration associated with its Grade 1 listed church building and churchyard, and also for its other properties, the Old School Room (Church Hall), the Verger's Cottage and the Church House Inn, which is subject to a full repairing lease to a tenant landlord. The PCC's absolute title to the Old School Room and the Verger's Cottage was made the subject of an application to the Land Registry and the outcome is awaited.

The PCC encourages members of the congregation to live out their faith as part of the family of Christ, supporting the missional and pastoral objectives of the Church and contributing to its day-to-day care and administration. Our Church enjoys a warm sense of community which is reflected in the parish as a whole. Central to church life is the support, nurture, protection and safeguarding of every individual.

STUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of the trustees, that is the PCC members, is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC comprises ex officio members and members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The PCC meets six times a year.

Members who served from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved were:

Ex Officio Members	
Incumbent & Team Rector	Rev'd Fr Jim Barlow
Associate Priest (Stoke Gabriel)	Rev'd Gill Still (Until 14 th May)
	Rev'd Chris Martin (From 11 th October)
Churchwardens	Mr Mike Stott
	Mrs Sue Clement (Until 15 th March)
	Mr Gerald Watson (From 15 th March)
Deanery Representatives	Mr Alan Hill (Until 15 th March)
	Mr Norman Betts (Until 15 th March)
	Mrs Liz Ball (From 15 th March)
	Mrs Sue Roach (From 15 th March)
Elected Members	
Reader	Mr Alan Hill (From 15 th March)
PCC Secretary	Mrs Liz Ball (Until 15 th March)
PCC Treasurer	Mr Ian Potham
Verger	Mr Norman Betts (From 15 th March)
	Mrs Anne-Marie Curror (Until 15 th March)
	Mrs Christine Hunt (Until 15 th March)
	Mr Derek Nott (Until 15 th March)
	Mrs Evelyn Watson
	Mrs Val Proctor

	Dr Michael Rhodes (Until resignation in May)
	Mrs Anne Miles (Until resignation in September)
	Mrs Sue Clement (Until resignation in September)
	Prof Ken Miles (Until resignation in November)
	Mr Michael Brown (From 15 th March)
	Mrs Nickie Jones (From 15 th March)
	Mr Mark Yallop (From 15 th March)

Mrs Liz Ball and Mr Ian Potham were elected as PCC Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Mr Norman Betts is the Verger but has been on sick leave from 25th June since when Mr John Ball has been deputizing for him.

ACHIEVEMENTS and PERFORMANCE

2023 was a year of significant change in the life of the parish. Rev'd Gill Still retired as the Associate Priest for Stoke Gabriel in May after more than seven years of faithful ministry. There followed a short interregnum of five months during which the parish was the beneficiary of the clergy resource available within the Totnes Team Ministry, allowing all our regular services to continue as normal. Then, with grateful appreciation to the Incumbent for the successful implementation of a strategy of focused ministry within the Mission Community, Rev'd Chris Martin was installed as the new Associate Priest on the 11th October. Together with his wife, Tina, and black labrador, Welly, they have moved into the Vicarage and quickly settled into their new life.

Services were fully back to normal following Covid although the communion cup continues to be used with safeguards and with some controversy. A few elderly church members have not returned to church services, but the numbers have been more than offset by the number of new members. The size of the congregation has grown slightly over the year and remains healthy although continues to lack representation from younger members of the parish.

A succession plan was developed to provide long-term cover and succession for the Offices of Churchwarden, Treasurer and Secretary and PCC membership. Five new members joined the PCC at the AGM but since then there have been four resignations and one member on long-term sick leave. The plan needs to be re-activated and more people encouraged to stand for election.

Performance Metrics:

Membership of the church electoral roll increased to 107 while the number of participants increased from 80 to 82.

The usual attendance numbers at our principal Sunday services of Choral Eucharist and Choral Matins increased marginally over the previous year and now stands at about 52. A similar marginal increase was also experienced with the Sunday 8.15 service of Holy Communion with the usual attendance being about 13. Monthly services of Choral Evensong were attended by some 15 to 40 people. The Wednesday 10.00 service of Holy Communion was attended by about 10 people.

Attendances at Easter and Christmas services increased significantly on the previous year with numbers of 142 and 184 respectively. The Crib service on Christmas Eve continues to attract the largest number of attendees of any service with some 170 adults and children, for whom many families see this event as an integral part of their Christmas celebrations.

A service of celebration of the King's Coronation was held on Sunday 7th May at 11.00 followed by celebratory fizz and shortbread.

During the year, there were 3(7) baptisms, 1(3) wedding, 2 marriage blessings, 5(9) funerals and 10(10) interment of ashes (with the numbers for 2022 shown in brackets). There are eight burial plots remaining before the churchyard is full although there is sufficient space for the interment of ashes for another decade. An application to close the churchyard will be made in 2024, no objection having been made by either SHDC or the Parish Council.

A Lent course was held within the village with about 8 in attendance on each occasion. A Team pilgrimage to celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation took place around the village on Saturday 25th March with about 20 pilgrims.

PARISH OUTREACH

Under the leadership of the team clergy, the church continued to bring the Good News to the younger members of the parish and their families. Contact was maintained with the pre-school group and with the village primary school. An Easter trail was mounted in the village orchard. Tailored for children, Crafty Events were held on six occasions. Three were held during Lent, Easter and Advent, two were held in celebration of St Valentine and St Francis and one was held in summer during Carnival week.

The lonely, bereaved and vulnerable in our community were supported through regular one-to-one contact and social events. In particular, lunches and afternoon teas for the senior folk of the parish continue to be very popular. There were 9 lunches at Emma's with more than 30 people at each one, one New Year's lunch in the Village Hall with about 60 people, and an afternoon cream tea in the Village Hall with about 50 people. The numbers for Emma's are increasing, occasionally requiring two separate sittings.

The church continued its support of charities locally and further afield. Locally, it included Stepping Stones in Totnes. Further afield, it included the Mission to Seafarers, Children's Society, Royal British Legion, Christian Aid and Water Aid. We also continue to sponsor a young Ugandan girl, Winny Angel, through World Vision. Regular monthly collections were made in support of Stepping Stones and the CRUK (Christian Response to Ukraine).

MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

An important medium of communication with the parish and beyond, the parish magazine has a print run in excess of 420 copies, of which about 350 are hand delivered to households and the remainder are sold through local outlets. Focusing on church services and events, a weekly Pew Sheet is emailed to over 100 recipients with about 45 copies being printed and made available at the principal Sunday service. Online communication to a wider audience is provided by the church web site, stokegabrielchurch.co.uk, ACNY (A Church Near You) and the social media platform, Facebook, which has a membership in excess of 330. Posters are displayed around the parish on telephone poles and notice boards to inform the wider community of church events and to keep the mission of the church alive in the public eye.

SAFEGUARDING, GDPR & SAFETY

We continue to commit ourselves to the support, nurture, protection and safeguarding of every individual, especially the young and vulnerable. We are also GDPR and safety compliant.

CARE OF CHURCH AND OTHER PROPERTY

The church building continues to be open from about 9.00 to 17.00 every day for visitors and locals requiring an opportunity for peace and reflection. During the year, the following works were undertaken:

- Survey of bells carried out and now awaiting itemised costings
- Repairs to organ trumpet and oboe pipes undertaken and completed, also tuned
- A "Big Churchyard Help Out" was organised in May at which much of the ivy was removed from the east wall of churchyard
- Retaining churchyard wall repaired; collapsed west wall due to be repaired in 2024
- South Porch roof leak repaired
- Waterproofing & repointing of tower roof, wood treatment in bell and clock chamber, restoration of door, and minor tower infill stonework repairs
- Net Zero Projects
 - All nave halogen downlights replaced by LED lights
 - Quooker removed and hot water for coffee now provided by kettles
 - Hot water for washing now on timer switch
 - External flood lighting now on timer/light sensor switches
 - Reduced usage of night time storage heaters in vestries

The Old School Room boiler was replaced. No work of any note was required to the Verger's Cottage or to Church Walk.

VOLUNTEERS

The church is blessed with an army of loyal and committed volunteers from among and beyond the church membership who give generously in support of the church and its mission to the community of Stoke Gabriel. In particular, the Friends of Stoke Gabriel Church raises much-needed funds for the repair of its church building. The PCC thanks them all wholeheartedly.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The full Statement of Financial Activities and the Report of the Independent Examiner are attached hereto.

In summary, receipts of £110,843 and payments of £121,281, resulted in a deficit of £10,438.

Regular giving of £46,658, an increase of £4,274 on last year, with plate collections and planned giving, through standing orders and envelope scheme, all up.

The Church House Inn rental income of £9,500, although £500 up on last year, is only 53% of Pre-Covid levels. We are in the process of renewing/negotiating a new lease, looking to again achieve a return of £18,000 p.a.

We continued to meet our Common Fund request of £49,765, an increase of £4,185 on 2022.

During the year we carried out organ repairs, at a cost of £12,200, covered by a small grant and £11,750 from the Friends of Stoke Gabriel Church, The Friends also contributed £5,160 to other essential repairs and maintenance.

We continued with energy efficiency measures spending £2,088, helping to hold energy costs of £2,414 at last year's level.

Schoolroom and Verger's Cottage expenditure went up by £5,925 to £10,230, reflecting legal fees £3,560 and £2,640 for boiler replacement.

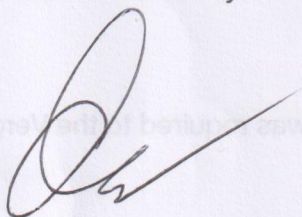
Looking ahead, 2024 will be equally challenging, particularly with an increase of 8.6% in our Common Fund request to a staggering £54,046.

The incredible support of the Friends will no doubt cover the costs of essential maintenance, and until we are able to obtain a decent return from the new Church House Inn lease, we may need to dip into our reserves to make ends meet. These are held in the M & G Charifund and valued at £42,188 at the year end.

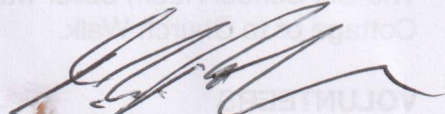
Reserves Policy:

To build a reserve of £50,000, so that the Church and its assets, are kept in a good state of repair, and to meet our Common Fund commitment in full.

This Annual Report and Financial Statement was approved by PCC on March 5th 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev'd Chris Martin
Associate Priest (Stoke Gabriel)



Mr Ian Potham
PCC Treasurer

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of the charity on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016) adapted to meet the needs of unincorporated organisations, as modified by FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015, (as amended by the Bulletin issued in February 2016), (The SORP), published by the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW), and under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page .

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner and the basis of the report

As described on page , you, the charity's Trustees, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and all other applicable law and with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, applicable to smaller entities, and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view.

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that there is no requirement in the Governing Document for the conducting of an audit. As a consequence, the Trustees have elected that the financial statements be subject to independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements are not required to be audited under any legal provision, or otherwise, and are eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

- a) examine the financial statements of the charity under Section 145 of the Act;
- b) follow the applicable procedures in the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement and scope of work undertaken

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under s145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act setting out the duties of an independent examiner in relation to the conducting of an independent examination. An independent examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and of the accounting systems employed by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning such matters. The purpose of the examination is to establish as far as possible that there have been no breaches of charity legislation and that, on a test basis of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures made, the financial statements comply with the SORP.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and information supplied by the Trustees in the course of the examination is not subjected to audit tests or enquiries and does not cover all the matters that an auditor would consider in arriving at an opinion. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide

Consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements, and in particular, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity, and my report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

I planned and performed my examination so as to satisfy myself that the objectives of the independent examination are achieved and before finalising the report I obtained written assurances from the Trustees of all material matters.

Independent Examiner's Statement, Report and Opinion

Attention is drawn to the accounting policy stating that, notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, and in order to accord with current best practice, the Trustees have determined to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015, (as amended by the Bulletin issued in February 2016), (The SORP). I concur with this approach, and any references in my report to the regulations should be read subject to this comment.

Subject to the limitations upon the scope of my work as detailed above, I have completed my examination: and can confirm that:-

This is a report in respect of an examination carried out under 145 of the Act and in accordance with Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act which may be applicable;

and that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:-

accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by with Section 130 of The Charities Act 2011;

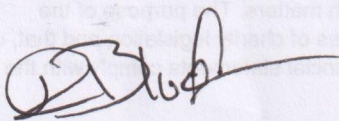
the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination;

have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles set out in the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015, (as amended by the Bulletin issued in February 2016), (The SORP).

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

David Blood FCCA - Independent Examiner



Chartered Certified Accountants

4 Yonder Meadow
Stoke Gabriel
Devon
TQ9 6QE

This report was signed on 5 March 2024

The Parish of St Mary and St Gabriel - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	SORP Ref	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
		2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
Income & Endowments from:					
Donations & Legacies	A1	71,703	620	72,323	57,330
Charitable activities	A2	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	A3	-	5,482	5,482	2,523
Investments	A4	12,410	-	12,410	12,138
Other	A5	18,650	1,978	20,628	19,483
Total income	A	102,763	8,080	110,843	91,474
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	B1	-	3,753	3,753	3,128
Charitable activities	B2	114,119	3,409	117,528	110,638
Total expenditure	B	114,119	7,162	121,281	113,766
Net gains on investments	B4	-	-	-	-
Net expenditure for the year		(11,356)	918	(10,438)	(22,292)
Transfers between funds	C	2,485	(2,485)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(8,871)	(1,567)	(10,438)	(22,292)
Reconciliation of funds:-					
Total funds brought forward	E	51,112	10,629	61,741	84,033
Total funds carried forward		42,241	9,062	51,303	61,741

The Parish of St Mary and St Gabriel - Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	SORP		2023	2022
	Note Ref		£	£
Fixed assets				
Investments held as fixed assets	A4		40,204	50,255
Total fixed assets			40,204	50,255
Current assets	B			
Cash at bank and in hand	B4	11,099	11,486	
Total current assets		11,099	11,486	
Net current assets			11,099	11,486
The total net assets of the charity			51,303	61,741
Restricted Revenue Funds	D2		9,062	10,629
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	D3		42,241	51,112
Total charity funds			51,303	61,741

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of charity legislation with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The charity is subject to Independent Examination under charity legislation, and the report of the Independent Examiner is on page -1.

The Trustees are satisfied that, although the charity is not registered under the Companies Acts, if it were so registered, it would be eligible to prepare accounts in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Reverend Chris Martin
Trustee

Mr Ian Potham

Approved by the board of trustees on 5 March 2024

The Parish of St Mary and St Gabriel

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2023 as required by the SORP 2015

This analysis is classified by conventional nominal descriptions and not by activity.

Donations and Legacies

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2023 £	Current year Total Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2022 £
Donations and gifts from individuals				
Donations and gifts from individuals				
Small donations individually less than £1000	8,080	-	8,080	6,696
Total donations and gifts from individuals	8,080	-	8,080	6,696

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Legacies receivable

Small legacies individually less than £1000

legacies over £1000

Total legacies receivable

-	-	-	-
2,835	-	2,835	2,250
2,835	-	2,835	2,250

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Planned giving and gift aid

individual amounts under £1,000

Total Planned giving and gift aid

38,408	170	38,578	35,688
38,408	170	38,578	35,688

Other voluntary receipts

Individual amounts under £1,000

donations over £1000

Total Other voluntary receipts

5,470	450	5,920	5,668
16,910	-	16,910	9,279
22,380	450	22,830	14,947

Total Donations and Legacies

71,703	620	72,323	57,331
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Income from other, non charitable, trading activities

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2023 £	Current year Total Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2022 £
Concerts	-	5,482	5,482	2,523
Total from other activities	-	5,482	5,482	2,523

The Parish of St Mary and St Gabriel

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2023 as required by the SORP 2015

Investment income

	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Property rental Income	9,500	-	9,500	9,000
Dividend Income	2,910	-	2,910	3,138
Total investment income	12,410	-	12,410	12,138

Other income and gains

	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Statutory fees	5,247	-	5,247	5,313
Summary of Other income				
Church magazine	6,744	-	6,744	6,296
Old school room	6,520	-	6,520	6,540
Refund clergy expenses	-	-	-	-
Outreach, Choir and Sundries	139	1,978	2,117	1,334
Total other income	18,650	1,978	20,628	19,483

Expenditure on charitable activities - Direct spending

	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Gross wages and salaries - charitable activities	7,094	-	7,094	6,753
Mission	4,219	90	4,309	5,111
Diosean parish share	49,765	-	49,765	45,580
Team clergy expenses	1,837	-	1,837	1,432
Magazine expenditure	5,522	-	5,522	4,585
Insurance	3,814	-	3,814	3,611
Other running costs	12,057	1,029	13,086	8,542
Organ Repairs	11,750	450	12,200	-
Total direct spending	96,058	1,569	97,627	75,613

The Parish of St Mary and St Gabriel

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2023 as required by the SORP 2015

Premises Expenses

Light heat and power	2,414	-	2,414	2,409
Old school room and verger's cottage	10,230	-	10,230	4,305
Churchyard and church walk maintenance	5,284	1,195	6,479	6,229
Church house inn upgrades	-	-	-	-
Clock repairs	133	645	778	22,082
Total support costs	18,061	1,840	19,901	35,025

Total Charitable expenditure

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2023 £	Current year Total Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2022 £
Total direct spending	96,058	1,569	97,627	75,613
Total charitable trading costs	-	-	-	-
Total grantmaking costs	-	-	-	-
Total support costs	18,061	1,840	19,901	35,025
Total Governance costs	-	-	-	-
Total charitable expenditure	114,119	3,409	117,528	110,638

Expenditure on raising funds and costs of investment management

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2023 £	Current year Total Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2022 £
Concerts	-	3,753	3,753	3,128
Total fundraising costs	-	3,753	3,753	3,128

The Parish of St Mary and St Gabriel

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2023 as required by the SORP 2015

Salary Costs

Salary costs include verger, organist and cleaner.

Investments

Investments have been valued as at 31 December 2023

Investment	2940 M and G Charifund Income units
Cost	£40,204.00
Market Value	£42,188.00

Properties

The church through Trusteeship owns the following properties:

- Church House Inn. Valued by Croft surveyors at £1,300,000 on 6th July 2023 for insurance purposes.
- Church cottage. Buildings insured by Ecclesiastical at £358,033 from 29th September 2023.
- Old School Room Buildings. Building insured by Ecclesiastical at £494,476 confirmed via e mail 31 August 2023.

Restricted Fund summary 31 December 2023

	£
Concerts	3,850.62
Choir fund	1,605.77
Kildare James Legacy	2,500.00
Outreach	1,105.49
	<u>9,061.88</u>