

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE

ANNUAL REPORT

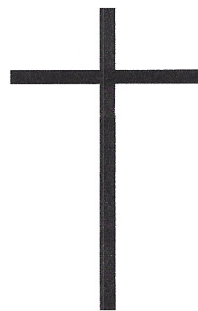
AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OF THE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ended 31 December 2023



St Mary the Virgin, High Street, Battle

Dean: The Very Revd Lee Duckett, The Deanery, Caldbec Hill, Battle TN33 0JY

Independent Examiner: Manningtons Chartered Accountants, 39 High Street, Battle, TN33 0EE

Bankers: National Westminster Bank plc Hastings (A) Branch, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1GW

Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Battle

Annual Report for 2023

Administrative Information

St Mary the Virgin is situated adjacent to the High Street, Battle. It is part of the Chichester Diocese within the Church of England.

The PCC Secretary during 2023 was Mr Roy Hyde.

The parish is a charity and is registered with the Charity Commission under the terms of the Charities Act 1993, as subsequently amended. The registration number is 1141300.

Following the 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC):

Dean	The Very Revd Lee Duckett	Chair
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1. Churchwarden	Mr Paul Lewis
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2. Churchwarden	Mr Philip Collins
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Retired Priest with PTO	The Rev. Canon Edward Bryant Revd P Messenger Revd C Channer
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Readers	Mrs Alison Hassell, Mr Peter Armstrong
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Deanery Synod Representatives (4) (elected for 3 years)	Mrs A Hassell (until April 2023) Mrs B Cox (resigned April 2023) Mrs J Thorp (re-elected until April 2026) Mr P Armstrong (elected until April 2026) Vacant Vacant
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Elected Members (elected in April)	Until 2023	Mrs Sue Blackman (retired April 2023) Mr David Parfitt (retired April 2023) Mrs Patricia Roberts (retired April 2023) Mrs Carolyn Collins (elected April 2022) Mrs Tracy Dixon (co-opted 11 th May 2022) Mrs Jackie Richards (co-opted May 2022)
	Until 2024	Mr Richard Williams Mrs Elaine Murray Mr Kieran Hills Mrs Tina Staton
	Until 2025	Mrs Gia Selmon Mr Rowan Smith Mr John Roberts Mrs Carolyn Collins (re-elected April 2023)
	Until 2026	Mrs Tracy Dixon (re-elected April 2023) Mrs Jackie Richards (re-elected April 2023) Vacant Vacant

Structure, governance and management

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the Dean; Readers - Mrs Alison Hassell, Mr Peter Armstrong; the Churchwardens and members of the Deanery Synod) and twelve members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). The latter twelve members are elected on a rotary basis, four being elected each year to serve for a three-year term. Individuals may serve for a total of six years and then must stand down for two years before being eligible for re-election.

Objectives and Activities

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

The PCC is responsible for the worship and general life of the church throughout the parish and for the buildings at St Mary's site. The Church of the Ascension and Churchyard at Telham are owned by a separate charity, Dean Crake's Gift, which has its own managing Trustees.

Public benefit is achieved through the provision of public worship; education of adults and children in the Christian faith; availability as a venue for Christian marriage services and provision of funeral services and associated pastoral support. The Church Hall provides accommodation for uniformed organisations, Battle & Bexhill Foodbank and other Community Organisations. These are available to all parishioners within the legislative provision of the Church of England.

Achievements and performance

As at 31st December 2023 there were 151 members of the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 46 were not resident in the parish. The numbers have risen slightly in the past year.

The PCC are working with the incumbent to continue to develop a financially sustainable model in accordance with the Mission Action Plan, involving Tourism and Heritage in the Church, and the refurbishment of the Upper Hall. Work has begun on registering St Mary's as a Major Church working with the DAC to secure registration. Work also continues to develop a plan for the reordering of Church of The Ascension Telham. An appeal to review congregational giving involved a series of sermons at the 9.30am and 11.15am services on the discipleship of giving. This was followed by a gift day held as a response to review and plan individual giving.

Contribution to the life of local schools:

The historical relationship between St Mary's and Battle Abbey School continues to flourish. This includes the longstanding annual services for Founders Day Service in the autumn at St Mary's, Christmas Carols, and Speech Day in the summer. Since the beginning of 2022, Battle Abbey School have held their weekly Tuesday assembly and end of term Mark Reading in the church. A series of summer lunchtime concerts held in the church were well attended by parents and members of the public.

A St Mary's Battle Organ Scholarship was set up to enable a student from the school to undertake organ lessons and attend a day at Chichester Cathedral in the autumn, to gain experience of Cathedral worship. The aim is to encourage future students to work towards an Oxbridge, Conservatoire, or Musical College scholarship and contribute to the much-needed future organists in the Church of England. Funding for this was from a donation for this initiative and the Dean is seeking to find further funding for continuing years. The esteemed organist Mr Travis Baker works with the Dean to run the scholarship and teaches both organ and piano lessons in St Mary's.

The Dean and Church Reader Mrs Alison Hassell have continued to serve as Foundation School Governors at Battle & Langton Church of England Primary School during 2023. The Dean also works ecumenically with Battle Baptist Church to take part in leading collective worship at the school during the week. The annual Leavers' Service and Christmas Carols Service took place at St Mary's which were both well attended by students and parents.

Cranmer Awards School Competition:

St Mary's hosted its third annual Prayer Book Society 'Cranmer Awards' School Regional Competition for Chichester Diocese. Various local schools and wider afield entered up to 4 students each in both the junior and senior categories with 2 finalists being entered in the national final at Liverpool Hope University in February 2023, and Hampton Court Palace in February 2024.

Claremont Independent School held three carol services for their pre-prep, prep school and senior school and Claverham Community College held their awards evening at the beginning of the year.

Significant Services at St Mary's

St Mary's continues to perform its role as a Civic Centre Church with various services including Remembrance Sunday attended by local civic dignitaries, including High Sheriff Richard Bickersteth, constituency MP Huw Merriman, community leaders and uniformed organisations. The RAF Battle 88 SQN ATC formed a guard of honour as well as taking part in the service.

In May the Dean led a vigil for the King before the Coronation, and conducted an ecumenical Celebration Coronation Service for the King attended by the Deputy Lieutenant, Graham Peters DL and his wife Mrs Sarah Peters along with civic dignitaries, religious and community leaders, uniformed organisations and Baptist, Methodist and Roman Catholic congregations.

In September, the Dean conducted a Civic Service for Rother District Council attended by the Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Councillors, and Officers of Rother District council, Mayors, Chairs and Clerks of all the parishes.

The Church Carol services including Advent Carols, Carols by Candlelight and Christingle all took place, and were very well attended. Carols in the Churchyard continues to grow with people who would not normally come to a church service.

The Dean represented the parish after being invited to attend the Thanksgiving Service and Summer Reception for the High Sheriff of East Sussex with his wife.

The Dean as Chairman of the Prayer Book Society for Chichester Diocese represented the parish with more than 600 people gathered in Westminster in October to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Prayer Book Society. A service of Holy Communion was led in St Margaret's church by the Society's Ecclesiastical Patron, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon. The Lord Chartres as well as attending the Prayer Book Society lunch in Church House with an address by the Bishop of Oswestry, the Rt Revd Paul Thomas. The Dean also attended the Prayer Book Society service at Chichester Cathedral and stepped in as the after dinner speaker on the day.

The Dean as president of the Battle Choral Society has worked with the society to enable them to relocate, gather and rehearse at St Mary's. The Choral Society are continuing to grow and perform concerts in the church. Our resident Organist Mr Vincent Wade has become the Musical Director of the Society and has helped to reinvigorate the Choir along with the Secretary, Mrs Christine Smith.

Occasional Offices

There were three baptisms, one confirmation, ten weddings, nineteen funerals and three burials of ashes which took place at St Mary's as well as an Archdeacon's Visitation service for the swearing in of Churchwardens.

Overview and financial review of the year

1. The full PCC met eight times in 2023. They considered a number of significant issues; in particular, they considered in detail proposals for the refurbishment of the Church Hall. They also met with the DAC and the Quinquennial Architect Mr John Bailey to explore the reordering of St Mary's as part of the MAP in relation to increasing tourism and heritage.
2. The Dean and PCC would like to extend a special thank-you to the Pastoral Care team, who maintain a high level of contact and care for the elderly, the sick, and housebound. Many thanks also to the Sacristan and his assistant for their faithful services and to all who clean and decorate both churches on a regular basis and to those who help to provide and serve refreshments after services. Additionally, thank you to everyone who helps to organise and run the various services. Thank you to Mrs Julia Thorp who organises the retired clergy and our Readers to cover services at St Mary's and Church of the Ascension Telham.
3. The PCC had pledged £28,000 to the Diocese of Chichester, a carefully considered and budgeted amount based on expected income and available reserves. However, our additional payment from 2022 of £3950 was also added to our pledge for 2023, but this was not noticed until the year end. Therefore, the PCC has paid £31950 for 2023.
4. The PCC received a further payment from the restricted Tom Long Legacy, which was added to funds in the Dean and Churchwardens CCLA account to earn interest until it is needed.
5. St Mary's Church was delighted to host concerts again and welcomed both Battle Choral and the Whatlington Singers for choral concerts. A new initiative

has been to work with Wealden Music Box to help local world class musicians rebuild their careers and livelihood after Covid with St Mary's as one of their venues.

6. St Mary's Church was pleased to host another fundraising event for Ukraine, at which £3034 was received in donations and purchases and forwarded appropriately.
7. The PCC made a total of £8,363 of outward giving donations from income received. This included money from the Ukraine fundraising event, the Christmas Tree Festival, Remembrance Services and the Civic Service for the Coronation among others.
8. St Mary's Church Flower Guild contributed to the Celebration Coronation Service by arranging and displaying locally and sustainably sourced flowers in line with the King's love of nature and green policies.
9. St Mary's Church joined with much of the country in celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III. A vigil was held and a Civic Service held with the attendance of the Deputy Lieutenant and High Sheriff.
10. The baby and toddler group Busy Bees continues to flourish under the leadership of Mrs Sue Blackman, Mrs Margaret Roberts and Mrs Angie Duckett. Sessions are quickly booked up via the Eventbrite app, remaining full all year, with requests for more sessions. More volunteers would be required to enable this to happen and provide this much needed care.
11. The Battle branch of the Bexhill Foodbank continued to operate from the Church Hall and is increasingly busy. This is an ecumenical venture and is in line with the diocesan encouragement to 'serve the common good'. The PCC charges for this use of the premises, but gives a 99% rebate as part of its endeavours to 'serve the common good'. The foodbank have increased their giving to help mitigate the rising fuel costs.
12. The Christmas Tree Festival took place over the weekend of 25th-26th November and the subsequent fortnight. The church was very busy and the weekend was a great success. Three charities were sent £1000 each from the funds raised, and further monies went to the Flower Guild, Mothers' Union and the Pastoral Care funds.
13. During 2023, Mrs Jan Collins fulfilled the Parish Safeguarding Officer role. There were no safeguarding issues during the year and the PCC has complied with its duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.
14. Volunteers - The Church depends on the voluntary services of many helpers in order to offer such a wide range of activities. This is increasingly more difficult due to the nature of the society in which we live and the increasing demands on parents and grandparents.

15. In line with the Charity Commission's recommendation, it is PCC policy that the balance on any unrestricted funds (excluding property) should equate to at least nine months of unrestricted expenditure (considering also some reliable income) as a contingency against unforeseen situations. This was true at the closing balance 31st December 2023. When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. In particular, we try to enable local people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge of, and trust in Jesus; the occasional offices, and administering the sacraments.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- Missionary and outreach work.
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16. To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Mary's in Battle, Church of The Ascension at Telham and the Deanery.

Signed on behalf of the PCC,

Chairman 

Date 13-03-2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023
INCOMING RESOURCES	2				
Voluntary Income		93442	33518	-	126960
Activities for generating funds		4275	254	-	4529
Income from investments		4010	8799	-	12809
Income from Church Activities		46296	-	-	46296
Total incoming resources		<u>£ 148023</u>	<u>£ 42571</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 190594</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED	3				
Costs of generating voluntary income		-	-	-	-
Fund Raising Costs		350	-	-	350
Church Activities		154652	3378	-	158030
Governance Costs		2340	-	-	2340
Total resources expended		<u>£ 157342</u>	<u>£ 3378</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 160720</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(9319)	39193	-	29874
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
<i>Gains /(Losses) on investment assets</i>				8452	8452
<i>Fund transfers</i>		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(9319)</u>	<u>39193</u>	<u>8452</u>	<u>38327</u>
Total funds brought forward 1 January 2023		<u>£ 690634</u>	<u>£ 161889</u>	<u>£ 94476</u>	<u>£ 946999</u>
Total funds carried forward 31 December 2023		<u>£ 681315</u>	<u>£ 201082</u>	<u>£ 102928</u>	<u>£ 985325</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for 2022:

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022
INCOMING RESOURCES	2				
Voluntary Income		108130	61677	-	169807
Activities for generating funds		3486	-	-	3486
Income from investments		4820	30	-	4850
Income from Church Activities		29097	3485	-	32582
Total incoming resources		<u>£ 145533</u>	<u>£ 65192</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 210725</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED	3				
Costs of generating voluntary income				-	-
Fund Raising Costs		280		-	280
Church Activities		139241	5772	-	145013
Governance Costs		1914		-	1914
Total resources expended		<u>£ 141435</u>	<u>£ 5772</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 147207</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		4098	59420	-	63518
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
<i>Gains /(Losses) on investment assets</i>				(12682)	(12682)
<i>Fund transfers</i>		3485	(3485)		
Net movement in funds		<u>7583</u>	<u>55935</u>	<u>(12682)</u>	<u>50837</u>
Total funds brought forward 1 January 2022		<u>683051</u>	<u>£ 105954</u>	<u>£ 107158</u>	<u>£ 896163</u>
Total funds carried forward 31 December 2022		<u>£ 690634</u>	<u>£ 161889</u>	<u>£ 94476</u>	<u>£ 946999</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023	2022
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	5	598242	598242
Investment Assets	6	<u>102928</u>	<u>94476</u>
		701170	692718
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		-	-
Debtors	7	2364	2291
Deposits at Central Board of Finance		226874	131449
Cash at Bank, Building Society and in Hand		<u>57198</u>	<u>122642</u>
		286436	256382
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>2281</u>	<u>2101</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		284155	254281
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after one year			
		-	-
NET ASSETS	9	£ <u>985325</u>	£ <u>946999</u>
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Funds	10	681315	690634
Restricted Funds	10	201082	161889
Endowment Funds	10	<u>102928</u>	<u>94476</u>
		£ <u>985325</u>	£ <u>946999</u>

Approved by the the Parochial Church Council on 13 -03-2024 and signed on it's behalf by:



LEE DUCKETT
Dean



PAUL LEWIS
Churchwarden

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current (2015) Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Funds

Funds held by the PCC are:

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

Designated funds - funds earmarked for a particular future purpose.

Restricted funds -

- i) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest.
- ii) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment funds - funds the capital of which must be maintained: only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the 'purpose' set out in the terms of the original endowment.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Voluntary income

Collections are recognised when received. Planned giving receivable recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

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

Other income

Rental income from the letting of church premises and all other income is recognised when it is receivable.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Income from investments

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

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources used

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

Grants

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

Church Activities

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

Fixed Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets

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

Movable church furnishings held by the Dean and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's Inventory which can be inspected. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £1000 are written off in the year they were incurred.

The Church Hall is shown in the accounts at the 2007 insurance value, this is the deemed valuation as per the Trustees. No depreciation is provided on land and buildings as it is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. The useful economic life of these assets is so long and residual values so high that any depreciation would not be material.

Church equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

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

Current assets

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

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Chancel trust and income grant

Following a review of the law the Chichester DBF decided in 2019 that the previous presentation of Chancel Funds had been misunderstood and that a revision was required.

Income received from Chancel trusts is not investment income, as the PCC does not own the trust fund nor its investments.

Income from Chichester DBF is a Restricted charitable grant to reimburse the cost of insuring the Chancel, which previously has been paid by the PCC from General Funds. In 2023 the grant amounted to £nil (2022 £nil).

The PCC decided to transfer the Restricted grant to General Fund to replenish that fund for the cost of Chancel insurance.

The previously disclosed asset value amounting to £9690.98 has been removed from the value of PCC investments to reflect that the PCC does not legally nor beneficially own the Chancel trust fund nor its investments.

Accumulated grant income not yet received from Chichester DBF and included in Debtors amounted to £2364.55 at 31st December 2023 (2022 £2291.23).

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
2 INCOMING RESOURCES				
a. Voluntary income				
Planned giving:				
Gift Aid Donations	41449	-	41449	39987
Tax recoverable	15284	-	15284	13959
Collections at services	18571	-	18571	15057
Donations	11171	3518	14689	19299
Grants - Other	3905	-	3905	6628
Legacies and Donations in Memory	-	30000	30000	68500
Other Voluntary Income	3062	-	3062	6377
	<u>£ 93442</u>	<u>£ 33518</u>	<u>£ 126960</u>	<u>£ 169807</u>
b. Activities for generating funds				
Christmas Tree Festival	3941	254	4195	2823
General fund raising	334	-	334	663
	<u>£ 4275</u>	<u>£ 254</u>	<u>£ 4529</u>	<u>£ 3486</u>
c. Income from investments				
Dividends and interest	<u>£ 4010</u>	<u>£ 8799</u>	<u>£ 12809</u>	<u>£ 4850</u>
d. Income from Church Activities				
Church and Church Hall lettings	19800	-	19800	13815
Benedicta Whistler Centre	3620	-	3620	1125
Fees from weddings etc	19058	-	19058	10586
Magazine	3818	-	3818	3571
Insurance claim	-	-	-	3485
	<u>£ 46296</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 46296</u>	<u>£ 32582</u>
TOTAL INCOME RESOURCES	<u>£ 148023</u>	<u>£ 42571</u>	<u>£ 190594</u>	<u>£ 210725</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
3 RESOURCES EXPENDED				
a. Costs of generating voluntary income				
Stewardship costs	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
b. Fundraising costs	£ 350	£ -	£ 350	£ 280
c. Church activities				
Ministry costs:				
Parish contribution to Diocese	31950	-	31950	31950
Other clergy costs	14469	-	14469	14283
Church running expenses	28560	1648	30208	18435
Church maintenance	13910	-	13910	21627
Upkeep of services	18266	990	19256	16835
Stationery and telephone	1911	-	1911	2209
Expenditure on magazine	2356	-	2356	2228
Church Halls running costs	19435	-	19435	17454
Benedicta Whistler Centre	2406	-	2406	1136
Flowers	-	740	740	1153
Mission, Outreach and Charitable Giving	8258	-	8258	10142
Staff wages	11197	-	11197	3507
Bank charges	393	-	393	371
Sundry and subscriptions	1087	-	1087	2183
Eco Church Garden	405	-	405	1500
Merchandise Purchases	47	-	47	-
	£ 154652	£ 3378	£ 158030	£ 145013
d. Governance costs				
Independent examination fee	2340	-	2340	1914
Legal and professional fees	-	-	-	-
	£ 2340	£ -	£ 2340	£ 1914
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	£ 157342	£ 3378	£ 160720	£ 147207

4 REGULAR CONTRACTORS' COSTS

During the year payments were made to a church caretaker, parish clerk, finance officer, and organists at St Mary's, an organist at Telham, and a church hall cleaner and caretaker. The total of these payments was £20,910 (2022: £18,945).

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and Buildings	Church Equipment	Restricted Fund Equipment	Total
Cost or Valuation				
As at 1 January 2023	598242	20063	4285	622590
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2023	<u>£ 598242</u>	<u>£ 20063</u>	<u>£ 4285</u>	<u>£ 622590</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1 January 2023	-	20063	4285	24348
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2023	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 20063</u>	<u>£ 4285</u>	<u>£ 24348</u>
Net Book Value at 31 December 2023	<u>£ 598242</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 598242</u>
Net Book Value at 31 December 2022	<u>£ 598242</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 598242</u>

The land and buildings comprise the Church Hall which is shown at an insurance valuation, which is the deemed valuation as per the Trustees.

The equipment consists of a photocopier, the Lady Chapel chairs purchased in 2007, the piano purchased in 2009, projector and screen purchased in 2011 and kitchen equipment, safe and chairs purchased 2012.

6 INVESTMENT FIXED ASSETS

Investments held by the Diocese on behalf of the PCC:

	Purpose:	Historical	Market Value	
		Cost	2023	2022
Permanent endowments:				
1,574 shares in CBF Investment Fund	Church Fabric	3567	35281	32521
1,822 shares in CBF Investment Fund	General Religious	1500	41187	37645
1,004 shares in CBF Investment Fund	Ecclesiastical	3359	22695	20744
2,601 shares in CBF Fixed Interest Securities	Ecclesiastical	3525	3765	3566
Expendable endowment:				
672 shares in CBF Investment Fund	Chancel Fabric	Income		
	Repairs	only	-	-
Total Investments			<u>£ 102928</u>	<u>£ 94476</u>
			2023	2022

7 DEBTORS

Income tax recoverable	-	-
Chichester DBF Chancel insurance grant	2364	2291
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
Other debtors	-	-
	<u>£ 2364</u>	<u>£ 2291</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
8 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals for utilities and other costs	£ 2281	£ 2101

9 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
Fixed Assets	598242	-	102928	701170
Current Assets	85353	201083		286436
Less: Liabilities	(2281)	-	-	(2281)
Fund Balance	£ 681314	£ 201083	£ 102928	£ 985325

10 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance b/f 01.01.23	Income	Expenditure	Transfers/ other gains & losses	Balance c/f 31.12.23
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	641635	135845	151433	12753	638800
Designated fund					
Busy Bees	590	896	803		683
Pastoral Care Team	258	269	169		358
Magazine	5699	3817	2355		7161
Legacies	42025	-	-	(13000)	29025
Eco Church Project	(339)	3905	404	50	3212
Events Committee	767	3291	2131	(303)	1624
Merchandise	-	-	47	500	453
	<u>690635</u>	<u>148023</u>	<u>157342</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>681315</u>
Restricted funds					
Fabric funds (incl. Dean and Church Warden's Fabric)	89322	5395	-		94717
Flower fund	1737	771	739		1769
Dean and Churchwardens (general	10000	-	-		10000
Chichester DBF Chancel insurance grant	2291	74			2365
Tom Long Legacy	55100	33331	-		88431
Telham Organ fund	380	-	-		380
Telham Electricity	997	2000	1649		1348
Organ Scholar	10	1000	990		20
St Mary's Organ Fund	2053	-	-		2053
	<u>161889</u>	<u>42571</u>	<u>3378</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>201082</u>
Endowment funds	<u>94476</u>		<u>-</u>	<u>8452</u>	<u>102928</u>
Total funds	£ 947000	£ 190594	£ 160720	£ 8452	£ 985325

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10 STATEMENT OF FUNDS (Continued)

- a. The endowment funds comprise investments held by the Diocese on behalf of the PCC as detailed in note 6 to these accounts.
- b. The Fabric Funds are restricted to expenditure on the fabric of the church.
- c. The Pastoral Care Fund is money raised or donated specifically to be used by the Pastoral Care Team for incidental expenses.
- d. The Flower Fund represents monies given and used specifically for the provision of flowers at St Mary's.
- e. The Telham Organ Fund represents surplus funds from an appeal made prior to 1 January 2008 for the major refurbishment of the organ at the Church of the Ascension. The monies shown were transferred to the Parish during 2008 and are held for future major refurbishment of the organ but not for routine tuning or minor maintenance.
- f. Telham Electricity Fund is donations and expenses for the cost of electricity of Telham Church.
- g. St Mary's Organ Fund is donations specifically for the repair and upgrade of the organ. Remaining money will be used for future repairs.
- h. Legacies is a separate fund to be used for projects that may include items for the church and church hall as agreed by the PCC.
- i. The Tom Long Legacy is a restricted fund under the care of the Dean and Churchwardens. Under the terms of the will it is to be used for 'primarily for the furtherance of worship at Telham; but is not exclusive to this.

11 TRANSACTIONS WITH PCC MEMBERS

No members of the PCC received expenses or payments for services apart from:

T Dixon	£ 5184	Finance Officer
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE, PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 7 to 16.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with 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 matter considered as 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 enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

R T K WALSH, FCCA
MANNINGTONS
Chartered Accountants
39 High Street
Battle
East Sussex
TN33 0EE



Date: 21/03/24