



ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OF THE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ended 31 December 2024

St Mary the Virgin, Upper Lake, Battle, TN33 0AN

Dean: The Very Reverend 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 2024

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 2024 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 2024 Annual Parochial Church Meeting the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC):

Dean	The Very Reverend Lee Duckett (Chair)	
1. Churchwarden	Mr Paul Lewis	
2. Churchwarden	Mr Philip Collins	
Retired Priest with PTO	The Reverend Canon Edward Bryant Reverend Paul Messenger Reverend Christopher Channer	
Readers	Mrs Alison Hassell, Mr Peter Armstrong	
Deanery Synod Representatives (4) (elected for 3 years)		Mrs J Thorp (re-elected until April 2026) Mr P Armstrong (elected until April 2026) Vacant Vacant
Elected Members (elected in April)	Until 2024	Mr Richard Williams Mrs Elaine Murray Mr Kieran Hills Mrs Tina Staton
	Until 2025	Mrs Gia Selmon Mr Rowan Smith (resigned October 2024) Mr John Roberts (resigned August 2024) 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
	Until 2027	Jonny Snow (elected April 2024) Sandra Walker (elected April 2024) 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 2024 there were 153 members of the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 37 were not resident in the parish.

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.

The Dean worked with the Chichester Diocese DAC and Quinquennial Architect John Bailey from Thomas Ford and Partners to register as a Major Parish Church in the Church of England. At its meeting on 23rd May 2024, it was the view of the Church Buildings Council that Battle Saint Mary the Virgin met the criteria for designation as a Major Parish Church. The Major Church designation was agreed with Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund in recognition of the need to provide additional support for churches that are cathedral-like in terms of size and ministry but without cathedral-like resources. Since then St Mary's has joined the Major Churches Network. The Network is an independent organisation chaired by the Vicar of St Mary Redcliffe, the Reverend Canon Dan Tyndall. The Network operates both nationally and regionally to facilitate discussion of matters of common interest, and to promote the sharing of knowledge and resources. Since then the Dean and the Heritage and Finance Officer Tracy Dixon have attended various Major Churches Network Days in London including St Johns Holland Park, St Alfege, Greenwich, and St Mary Abbots Kensington. This has been very informative learning from the experience of other Major Churches and the challenges they face.

The Dean and Wardens continued to progress feasibility studies working with Thomas Ford and Partners Architects for the reordering of Church of The Ascension Telham. This was to include the installation of an internal toilet and kitchen facilities. The DAC were supportive of the plans as part of mission in the MAP. Over time, various bodies were consulted including the DAC, and Telham Congregation. After various discussions with the congregation, the design was developed looking at both an external building connecting with the church and internal works. A final plan for internal alterations was commissioned by Synergy LLP and fully costed. However the congregation were still deeply divided and could not come to an agreement for the plans and works. Some of the congregation did not want any changes made to the building but to keep it in its current state. The Dean and Church Wardens as trustees came to the decision that due to the increasing building costs and ongoing division within the congregation that the project had now become financially prohibitive. Another meeting was held with the congregation to inform them that the project would not continue and that we would seek to focus on any Quinquennial items that need attention.

An appeal to review congregational giving involved a series of sermons at the 9.30am and 11.15am services at St Marys and Telham on the discipleship of giving. This was followed by a gift day held during Harvest Festival 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 continued to be well attended by parents and members of the public.

The St Mary's Battle Organ Scholarship continues to run well. The esteemed musical director and organist Mr Travis Baker works with the Dean and head of Battle Abbey Music in overseeing the scholarship. The successful organ scholar receives lessons on the church organ develop their understanding of church music and liturgy. Opportunities to play at various church services and festivals are overseen by St Mary's Director of Music Mr Vincent Wade. As part of the scholarship, the student also has an opportunity to visit Chichester Cathedral for a day and meet with the Cathedral Organist and experience Cathedral Worship.

The aim is to encourage students to work towards an Oxbridge, Conservatoire, or Music College scholarship and contribute to the much-needed future organists in the Church of England. Initial funding for the scholarship was for three years from a donation and the Dean is seeking to find further funding for continuing years.

The Dean prepared 12 students from Battle Abbey School for confirmation by running the Youth Alpha Course during lunchtime at the school and a quiet day at Ashburnham Retreat Centre. The Confirmation was conducted at St Mary's by the Rt Reverend Will Hazlewood, Bishop of Lewes followed by a reception in the Battle Abbey Library.

The Dean has continued to serve as Foundation School Governor at Battle & Langton Church of England Primary School during 2024. Our thanks to Mrs Alison Hassell who served as a Foundation School Governor. After consulting with the Chichester Diocese Education Department, the PCC and school, Mrs Jo Reeves, a member of Battle Baptist Church was appointed on the 6th September 2024 as the second Foundation Governor. 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:

In November St Mary's hosted the Prayer Book Society 'Cranmer Awards' School Regional Competition for Chichester Diocese. Various local schools entered and Battle Abbey School came first in the senior and junior section. Twenty-one candidates representing eleven dioceses met at the impressive Holme Pierrepont Hall just outside Nottingham for the 36th annual awards in February 2025. The senior competition was won by Tomas Cassidy, and in the junior competition Frederica Sheppard from Battle Abbey School came runner up.

Claremont Independent School held three carol services for their pre-prep, prep school and senior school which were well attended and Claverham Community College held their awards evening at the church.

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. This year the Deputy Lieutenant Simon Corello represented the King and Rear Admiral Paul Kingwell gave the address. RAF Battle 88 SQN ATC formed a guard of honour as well as taking part in the service. The service was very well attended by the community including schools and uniformed organisations.

The Church Carol services including Advent Carols, Carols by Candlelight and Christingle all took place, and were very well attended. Unfortunately, the Carols in the Churchyard was cancelled due to storm Darragh along with many other events that had to be cancelled in Battle that weekend.

Occasional Offices

There were 8 baptisms, 18 confirmations, 5 weddings, and 13 funerals which took place at St Mary's, and one funeral at the Church of the Ascension, Telham.

Archdeaconry Services

St Mary's hosted the Archdeacon's Visitation service for the swearing in of Churchwardens, the DAC Roadshow for the East, and Chichester Cathedral Choir visit and welcome of the new Dean of the Cathedral with Choral Evensong for the East of the diocese.

Overview and financial review of the year

1. The full PCC met eight times, and attended a PCC Day at St Marys in 2024. They considered a number of significant issues; in particular, they considered in detail proposals for the refurbishment of the Church Hall and St Marys. There was discussion on the principle of applying for Heritage Lottery Funding. As a result of this a decision was made to appoint Craigmyle Fundraising Consultants to develop a fundraising strategy and the implementation of feasibility studies. 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. Another significant issue was the PCC's response to the direction of the Church of England's LLF and PLF. A PCC day was held with a visiting speaker to look at the theology, doctrine, church history and the law in relation to marriage. A motion was passed by the PCC upholding the Church of England's doctrine of marriage between husband and wife, and the diocesan bishop was notified in writing.
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 £32,000 to the Diocese of Chichester, a carefully considered and budgeted amount based on expected income and available reserves, despite a negative budget for 2024 of £10,000 to £15,000. This pledge was honoured and paid in full.
4. The PCC received a legacy from the will of Audrey Marshall for £113,741.75. This has been placed in a designated fund until a decision on what to spend it on can be made by the PCC. A further £9000 was received from the will of Tom Long, which was placed in the restricted Tom Long fund. Two other legacies of £2000 from the will of Marian Eagles and £7395 from the will of Patricia Tudor were received and added to the general legacies fund.
5. St Mary's Church was delighted to host concerts again and welcomed both Battle Choral Society and the Whatlington Singers for choral concerts
6. The PCC made a total of £5802 of outward giving donations from income received. This included the Christmas Tree Festival, Remembrance Services and the Mothers' Union Services among others.
7. The baby and toddler group Busy Bees continues to flourish under the leadership of Mrs Sue Blackman and Mrs Angie Duckett. Sessions are quickly booked up via the Eventbrite app, remaining full all year.
8. 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.
9. The main Christmas Tree Festival took place over the weekend of 30th November and 1st December, opening with an Artisan Fair the previous weekend. This proved very popular and is a pattern to consider repeating. The church was very busy and both weekends were a great success. Two charities were sent £1400 each from the funds raised, and further monies went to the Flower Guild, Mothers' Union, Pastoral Care fund and general Church funds.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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 2024. 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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13. 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 19-3-2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024
INCOMING RESOURCES	2				
Voluntary Income		223537	12532	-	236069
Activities for generating funds		6804	-	-	6804
Income from investments		11651	8316	-	19967
Income from Church Activities		45631	-	-	45631
Total incoming resources		£ 287623	£ 20848	£ -	£ 308471
RESOURCES EXPENDED	3				
Costs of generating voluntary income		-	-	-	-
Fund Raising Costs		4184	-	-	4184
Church Activities		160739	4495	-	165234
Governance Costs		2160	-	-	2160
Total resources expended		£ 167083	£ 4495	£ -	£ 171578
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		120540	16353	-	136893
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
<i>Gains /(Losses) on investment assets</i>		-	(2490)	2690	200
<i>Fund transfers</i>		(181)	181	-	-
Net movement in funds		120359	14044	2690	137094
Total funds brought forward 1 January 2024		£ 681315	£ 201082	£ 102928	£ 985325
Total funds carried forward 31 December 2024		£ 801674	£ 215126	£ 105618	£ 1122418

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024


Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for 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		£ 148023	£ 42571	£ -	£ 190594
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		£ 157342	£ 3378	£ -	£ 160720
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		(9319)	39193	8452	38327
 Total funds brought forward 1 January 2023		 690634	 £ 161889	 £ 94476	 £ 946999
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
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024	2023
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	5	598242	598242
Investment Assets	6	<u>105618</u>	<u>102928</u>
		703860	701170
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		-	-
Debtors	7	4059	2364
Deposits at Central Board of Finance		340206	226874
Cash at Bank, Building Society and in Hand		<u>76573</u>	<u>57198</u>
		420838	286436
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>2280</u>	<u>2281</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		418558	284155
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after one year			
		-	-
NET ASSETS	9	<u>£ 1122418</u>	<u>£ 985325</u>
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Funds	10	801674	681315
Restricted Funds	10	215126	201082
Endowment Funds	10	<u>105618</u>	<u>102928</u>
		<u>£ 1122418</u>	<u>£ 985325</u>

Approved by the the Parochial Church Council on 19-3-2025 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 2024

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 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 2024

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

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 2024

Chancel trust and income grant

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.

Accumulated grant income not yet received from Chichester DBF amounted to £2,490 at 31st December 2024 (2023 £2,365). This is available for Chancel repairs upon request to the DBF.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
2 INCOMING RESOURCES				
a. Voluntary income				
Planned giving:				
Gift Aid Donations	46738	-	46738	41449
Tax recoverable	16209	-	16209	15284
Collections at services	17313	-	17313	18571
Donations	13846	3000	16846	14689
Grants - Other	2205	-	2205	3905
Legacies and Donations in Memory	123137	9000	132137	30000
Other Voluntary Income	4089	532	4621	3062
	<u>£ 223537</u>	<u>£ 12532</u>	<u>£ 236069</u>	<u>£ 126960</u>
b. Activities for generating funds				
Christmas Tree Festival	4202	-	4202	4195
General fund raising	2602	-	2602	334
	<u>£ 6804</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 6804</u>	<u>£ 4529</u>
c. Income from investments				
Dividends and interest	<u>£ 11651</u>	<u>£ 8316</u>	<u>£ 19967</u>	<u>£ 12809</u>
d Income from Church Activities				
Church and Church Hall lettings	19964	-	19964	19800
Benedicta Whistler Centre	3396	-	3396	3620
Fees from weddings etc	17774	-	17774	19058
Magazine	3571	-	3571	3818
Insurance claim	926	-	926	-
	<u>£ 45631</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 45631</u>	<u>£ 46296</u>
TOTAL INCOME RESOURCES	<u>£ 287623</u>	<u>£ 20848</u>	<u>£ 308471</u>	<u>£ 190594</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
3 RESOURCES EXPENDED				
a. Costs of generating voluntary income				
Stewardship costs	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
b. Fundraising costs	£ 4184	£ -	£ 4184	£ 350
c. Church activities				
Ministry costs:				
Parish contribution to Diocese	30500	1500	32000	31950
Other clergy costs	14880	-	14880	14469
Church running expenses	27240	1448	28688	30208
Church maintenance	9165	-	9165	13910
Upkeep of services	18293	990	19283	19256
Stationery and telephone	2365	-	2365	1911
Expenditure on magazine	2471	-	2471	2356
Church Halls running costs	19038	-	19038	19435
Benedicta Whistler Centre	6000	-	6000	2406
Flowers	18	557	575	740
Mission, Outreach and Charitable Giving	5576	-	5576	8258
Staff wages	12404	-	12404	11197
Bank charges	472	-	472	393
Sundry and subscriptions	6760	-	6760	1087
Eco Church Garden	3225	-	3225	405
Merchandise Purchases	2332	-	2332	47
	£ 160739	£ 4495	£ 165234	£ 158030
d. Governance costs				
Independent examination fee	2160	-	2160	2340
Legal and professional fees	-	-	-	-
	£ 2160	£ -	£ 2160	£ 2340
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	£ 167083	£ 4495	£ 171578	£ 160720

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, caretaker and parish worker. The total of these payments was £26,107 (2023: £20,910).

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and Buildings	Church Equipment	Restricted Fund Equipment	Total
Cost or Valuation				
As at 1 January 2024	598242	20063	4285	622590
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2024	<u>£ 598242</u>	<u>£ 20063</u>	<u>£ 4285</u>	<u>£ 622590</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1 January 2024	-	20063	4285	24348
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2024	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 20063</u>	<u>£ 4285</u>	<u>£ 24348</u>
Net Book Value at 31 December 2024	<u>£ 598242</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 598242</u>
Net Book Value at 31 December 2023	<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 Cost	Market Value	
			2024	2023
Permanent endowments:				
1,574 shares in CBF Investment Fund	Church Fabric	3567	36395	35281
1,822 shares in CBF Investment Fund	General Religious	1500	42129	41187
1,004 shares in CBF Investment Fund	Ecclesiastical	3359	23215	22695
2,601 shares in CBF Fixed Interest Securities	Ecclesiastical	3525	3879	3765
Expendable endowment:				
672 shares in CBF Investment Fund	Chancel Fabric Repairs	Income only	-	-
Total Investments			<u>£ 105618</u>	<u>£ 102928</u>
			2024	2023

7 DEBTORS

Income tax recoverable	-	-
Chichester DBF Chancel insurance grant	-	2364
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
Other debtors	4060	-
	<u>£ 4060</u>	<u>£ 2364</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
8 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals for utilities and other costs	£ <u>2280</u>	£ <u>2281</u>

9 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
Fixed Assets	598242	-	105618	703860
Current Assets	205712	215126	-	420838
Less: Liabilities	(2280)	-	-	(2280)
Fund Balance	£ <u>801674</u>	£ <u>215126</u>	£ <u>105618</u>	£ <u>1122418</u>

10 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance b/f 01.01.24	Income	Expenditure	Transfers/ other gains & losses	Balance c/f 31.12.24
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	638799	144429	148466	5218	495551
Designated fund					
Busy Bees	683	595	459	(560)	259
Pastoral Care Team	358	-	81	502	779
Magazine	7161	3571	2470	(2000)	6262
Legacies	29025	9394	6055	(2000)	30364
Eco Church Project	3212	1608	3243	-	1577
Events Committee	1624	4552	4544	(1341)	291
Legacy	-	117591	-	-	117591
Events	-	439	-	-	439
Giftday	-	2962	-	-	2962
Merchandise	453	2482	1765	-	1170
	<u>681315</u>	<u>287623</u>	<u>167083</u>	<u>(181)</u>	<u>801674</u>
Restricted funds					
Fabric funds (incl. Dean and Church Warden's Fabric)	94717	4723	-	-	99440
Flower fund	1769	531	557	181	1924
Dean and Churchwardens (genera	10000	-	-	-	10000
Chichester DBF Chancel insuranc	2365	125	-	(2490)	0
grant	-	-	-	-	-
Tom Long Legacy	88431	12469	1500	-	99400
Telham Organ fund	380	-	-	-	380
Telham Electricity	1348	2000	1448	-	1900
Organ Scholar	20	1000	990	-	30
St Mary's Organ Fund	2053	-	-	-	2053
	<u>201082</u>	<u>20848</u>	<u>4495</u>	<u>(2309)</u>	<u>215126</u>
Endowment funds	<u>102928</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2690</u>	<u>105618</u>
Total funds	£ <u>985325</u>	£ <u>308471</u>	£ <u>171578</u>	£ <u>200</u>	£ <u>1122418</u>

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. The Audrey Marshall legacy received in 2024 is being kept in a separate legacies fund along with accrued interest until a decision can be made for its use. It is unrestricted.
- i. The Tom Long Legacy is a restricted fund under the care of the Dean and Churchwardens. Under 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 £5,548 (2023: £5,184) Finance Officer

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 2024 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: 28/03/25