



The Parish of: Easebourne, Lodsworth and Selham

West Sussex

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

OF THE

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Incumbent

Revd Canon Derek Welsman

Independent Examiner

Trevor James

Banks

Barclays Bank Plc, Chichester

Charity Registration No 1151500

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
ST MARY, EASEBOURNE, ST PETER'S LODSWORTH AND ST JAMES SELHAM
REGISTERED CHARITY: 1151500
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023**

Structure, governance and management

The parish is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under the name of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Easebourne, Lodsworth and Selham with the Registered Charity Number 1151500. During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC):

Incumbent:	The Revd Canon Derek Welsman	Chairman
Curate	The Revd Liz Yonge	
Wardens:	Mrs Alison Davis	
	Mr Philip Stringer	
	Mr Deryck Hamon	
	Mrs Lynne Todd	
	Mrs Janet Colman	
Secretary:	Mrs Elizabeth Bounton	
Treasurer:	Mr Tony Kelly	
Deanery Synod Reps:	Mr Eric Bounton	
	Mr Roger Bricknell	
	Mr Peter Marsh	
Elected Members	Mr David Pack	
	Mr Bill Howkins	
	Mrs Emma Glue (Safeguarding Officer)	
	Mrs Penny Tree	
	Mrs Patricia Anne Sankey	
	Mrs Trish Slade	
	Mrs Nicky Edgeley	
	Mrs Rosie Drayson	
	Mr Jeremy Adams (assistant treasurer Selham)	
	Andy Castledine (co-opted May 2023)	
	Kevin Edgeley (co-opted November 2023)	

Standing Committee: Each church holds a standing committee to execute the day to day running of each church community and building. The Standing committee will include: Rector, Church Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary and all elected representatives for the said church community.

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and 12 members of the separate church communities (four from each church) who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

Aim and purposes

The primary objective of the 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 incumbent, the Revd Canon Derek Welsman, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives.

When planning our activities for the year, our incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. The council has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Through its Mission Action Plan the Charity sets out the following objectives:

Unity: In January 2022, we joined our three PCCs together and became the Priory Churches. As we move forward, we commit ourselves, across our three church families to promote and explore unity in our new shared life, by:

- Using our fifth Sundays to celebrate together with services in our school, on one of our farms, in the field at St Peter's and one other event to promote our shared life.
- Taking every opportunity to work together, worship together and socialise together.
- Support each other through attending each other's fetes, social events and associated events.

More Open: *'A family of all ages, loving and serving, contributing and receiving, being transformed and growing together in ways that appropriately reflect the importance of each context and place.'* (Diocesan Strategy 2021)

- Setting up of new Pilgrim groups across the three churches to help us continue our journeys of discipleship.
- Creating worship that is truly 'All Age'
- Churches that are open and welcoming to all.
- Continue our work with families through Messy Church

More Converted: *'A church which communicates the Gospel effectively, so women men and children come to a living, personal and transforming faith in Jesus Christ and join their local church family on a journey to Know, Love and Follow Jesus.'* (Diocesan Strategy 2021)

- Working with our deanery family in delivering an Emmaus course. An opportunity for us to walk alongside people as they explore the stories of Jesus.

More Generous: *'A church characterised by a radical generous response to the self-giving of Jesus Christ with his life...in this household of faith there are 'no needy among them; wealthier parishes contribute joyfully to sustain ministry in deprived areas and economically deprived parishes don't feel a liability to the rest.'* (Diocesan Strategy 2021)

- A church community committed to generously supporting ministry by meeting the challenge of paying 100% of Parish ministry costs and beyond.
- To continue to support our local, national and international charity partners.

More Engaged: *'A church where people have a sense of vocation to love, expressing itself in service; and a church family that nurtures and encourages that vocation.'* (Diocesan Strategy 2021)

- Strengthening our relationship with our schools.
- Fully supporting the work of FSW in our deanery.
- Becoming ECO churches
- Finding new ways to support the lonely vulnerable and isolated in our villages

The Charity maintains an overview of worship throughout the year and works with the Rector to promote services that match the needs of our local community. The services and worship put faith into practise through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. When planning the activities, the charity and the incumbent consider the Charity Commissions guidance on 'public benefit' and in particular, the specific guidance on 'Charities for the advancement of religion'.

Achievement and performance

Church attendance

There are 213 parishioners on the churches electoral roll, 140 at St Mary's, 42 at St Peter's and 31 at St James'. The average weekly attendance counted during October was 80 St Mary's, 20 St Peter's and 15 St James' - but this number increased at festivals.

Review of the year

The full PCC met 6 times during the year with an average level of attendance of 80%. Committees met between meetings and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

Churches at the heart of community: The Priory Churches set themselves the challenge of being churches at the heart of village life and community. The three church families dedicate themselves to being: open, inclusive and accessible to all. The churches provide public worship, occasional offices (weddings baptisms and funerals) and silent space at the heart of village life. The communities work hard to maintain their ancient buildings as a community asset and tend the church yards and burial sites so that families can visit their loved ones buried there.

The Priory Churches, through its PCC, continued in 2023 to set its Mission Action Plan at the heart of its charitable work. The first aim of the Mission Action Plan was to be **'More open'** - the church communities committing themselves to being inclusive, accepting and open to all who wished to be part of a vibrant and worshipping church. This meant, that special attention was placed on continuing to create a church open to and across the life of the villages. The Priory Churches also sought to **'tell their story of their faith'** as expressed in the Aims and Purposes of the charity – 'The primary objective of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England' -through actively offering opportunities to explore the values of Christianity. This was primarily achieved through the day-to-day encounters with the wider life of the village, in baptisms, funerals and weddings, which are delivered in a way that is easily accessed, warmly delivered and to a very high standard. The clergy also helped a group of adults and children to come to confirmation. The churches also set at their heart a desire to be **'generous'**. This is seen in their support of church life through the plate, but also in the way they maintain their church buildings: In 2023 this was demonstrated by the community of St Mary's repairing the church spire and tower. Finally, the Priory Churches, through their action plan, wanted to be **'More Engaged'**. This is seen in their work with both our local schools and with other village organisations such as our parish councils and uniformed organisations. The 'More Engaged' also meant that the Priory Churches, through the work of the PCC set a challenging ECO church agenda, seeking new ways to help protect the environment and playing their part in tackling global climate change. More engaged is also expressed through the church communities desire to be active in village events - In 2023, the community of St Peter's once again ran the tea tent at the village fete. The community of St Mary's hosted a village fete that was open to all groups from across village life. In 2023, Afternoon Tea on a Wednesday afternoon was extended to every week – as part of a desire to make sure that those on their own have a space to meet others and share in fellowship. This has also worked well with Little Lambs, our weekly term time toddler group; many young mums struggle – finding quality time with other parents brings a strong sense of community and support.

As a church, charity and worshipping community, the Priory churches have once again in 2023 demonstrated their commitment to meet their challenging objectives set out in their Mission Action Plan. The plan brings a strong focus to the charity and enables it to be focused and clear in what it stands for and sets out to achieve.

Schools: For the Priory Churches, the relationship with their two schools is an important one. With the Church of England Primary school the work is supportive but also an active working relationship. Through the clergy team, each week there are two acts of Collective Worship, supporting the school's Collective worship across the week. On a Tuesday the Revd Liz Yonge works with year five children to deliver Collective worship in the classroom; delivered by the children but supported by Liz. On a Thursday, with musicians from the parish, the clergy team lead the main act of Collective worship for the week. The church congregation also volunteer across the week to hear children read and support wider school projects. Over the course of the year the Primary school hold five services in St Mary's: Easter, end of term, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas. The teaching staff will also make class visits to the church in support of the RE curriculum. The clergy team both serve as governors and support the teaching of RE where required. In 2023 sadly Caroline Hulbert had to retire early as head teacher. After a thorough interview process, Simon Treharn was appointed head teacher for the new academic year – we look forward to working with Simon over the coming years.

Conifers, an independent school also has a good working relationship with the church. Across the year Conifers hold services in the church and will invite the clergy team to take assemblies when required.

This working relationship with our schools demonstrates the importance of community life and the churches place within it. The Priory Churches and the schools benefit greatly from the mutual support that is offered and the strong relationships promotes the strong sense of community that lies at the heart of village life.

Worship: Offering public worship that is accessible and open to all remains a key part of the Priory Churches life. Across the year and through the seasons of the church's calendar good quality worship is essential for the community's vibrant encounter with God. The strength of the three churches shared life is that across a month there is mixed and varied styles of worship. From Book of Common Prayer holy communion and evensong, through common worship Order One and Order Two holy communion, to family focused worship and the experimental

Celtic evening prayer, the sheer diversity of styles affords accessibility across the traditions. Adding to this, the baptism, wedding and funeral ministry, the Priory churches place 'being church for the wider community' as a key part of their shared life in God and the richness and diversity of worship demonstrates the churches commitment to this..

Charitable work: The Priory churches place charitable support at the centre of church life. Across the year, the three church communities seek to find ways to support local, national and international charities and their work. In 2023, the Priory Churches undertook a challenging Lent appeal to collect essential items to support the peoples of the Ukraine. This appeal, organised by Andy Castledine was extremely successful, not only encouraging the church communities, but also the wider village communities to contribute. On top of this, the churches continued on a weekly basis, their collections for Stonepillow of items such as food and clothing. Stonepillow is also supported at Christmas, when the collection from St Mary's and St Peter's carol services are used to pay for the homeless Christmas dinner at St Jo's. On a weekly basis, the church community also supports the local Foodbank in Midhurst. In a time of national cost of living crisis, this collection point is vital in supporting and helping local families. In 2023 the Priory churches continued their support for the charity Family Support Work. This Deanery wide project has facilitated a FSW worker to work across our deanery bringing much needed support to vulnerable local families. In December the Priory churches donated their collections from their Christingle services to the work of the Children's Society. The Priory Churches have also supported the work of the Royal British Legion by donating the collection from the village remembrance services. The charity also supports the Church of England primary school in the parish by purchasing items to support collective worship and the teaching of RE. In 2023, the charity put together a strong team to raise vital funds for Sussex Historic Churches Trust. Across the day in September several teams managed to raise £1400 towards the important charity and its work. The priory churches look to support charity in many different and varied ways. Their support for the local Macmillan service is through offering St Mary's church as a focus for bereavement support in the form of two-yearly services of remembrance and the holding of the annual Tree of Hope at Christmas which raises essential funds for the charities work. The charity also supports Macmillan through their Rector acting as a chaplain when needed. Across the year, this level of charitable support focuses very clearly on the Priory Churches commitment to a generous and focused community life together.

Children's work: 2023 has been an exciting year of growth and development for our children and family provision at St. Mary's, with our 'Little Lambs' toddler group steadily growing in numbers each week as children enjoy songs, craft, and play, whilst their carers enjoy cuppas, cake, and chat with others from our local area. Highlights include our Christmas party, which attracted carers and children and we have been delighted to see the group grow as a loving community, with new friendships formed and members supporting each other practically and emotionally over the year- we also look forward to baptising more Little Lambs in 2024! Messy Church has also continued to expand, with Easter, Summer, Harvest and Advent sessions held in 2023. 50 children and 40 carers attended our Messy Advent session, engaging with Christ's story through a variety of messy crafts, uplifting worship time and a noisy and abundant Advent tea! Kids, parents, and our volunteers are already looking forward to the 2024 sessions. To our delight, we offered Holy Communion to six of our worshipping children for their first time in 2023. Such was the success of our breakfast preparation course that a new monthly breakfast club for our younger congregation members and their families, Rise and Shine, was born. This smaller forum allows us to engage with our children more fully, exploring a different Christian theme each month as we share breakfast, hear a bible story, and undertake activities together. We especially loved our October session, which saw us working alongside the Yardies- our churchyard maintenance team- to do our bit for the environment by tidying the church grounds- richly rewarded at the end of the session by bacon butties provided by our amazing social gang. We also prepared two young adults for confirmation this year- a real joy. Our school links remain strong, and we are delighted to continue to lead Collective Worship each week, as well as supporting the Year 5 class to plan and lead the school's response to the weekly theme too. We have forged excellent links with the new head in our roles as foundation governors and were truly delighted to see the school awarded the highest grading at a SIAMS inspection in January 2024, with our strong links and worship quality being especially commended.

We look forward to building further on our success in 2024 and beyond. Revd Liz Yonge

Repairs to the church: The three church buildings of the parish are important places of public worship and venues for occasional offices. The PCC works hard each year to maintain the church buildings for the local community for public access and places of prayer and peace at the heart of village life.

In 2023, we completed a major project on our church buildings. The repair of the Spire and Bell Tower, identified by the 2018 Quinquennial Inspection and delayed due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic, was finished. Work started in June and was not completed until Christmas due to inclement weather. A successful fundraising programme with grants from the Sussex Historic Churches Trust and generous donations from the congregation and community are expected to cover the total costs of around £200,000. Phil Stringer

Burial Grounds: The three PCCs see the work of maintaining our church yards and burial grounds as essential to supporting our village life. The Parish Councils continued to support the church with vital financial contributions to grass cutting. All five of our burial sites place a huge financial burden on the PCCs with routine cutting of grass and

essential repairs. During this year, care and maintenance of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's (CWGC) headstones for the 17 casualties buried in our churchyards from the First and Second World Wars, has been provided by Eyes On Hands On volunteers. In addition, CWGC signs have been erected by the Commission at St Mary's and St Peter's. For the first time 4 tours of the burial ground were completed at St Mary's as part of CWGC's War Graves week in May and Madhurst in August, and 30 people including local guides group attended. Phil Stringer

Safeguarding: The safety and protection of children (under 18) and vulnerable adults is a core concern and responsibility for the PCC. The topic is on the agenda of every PCC meeting with reports from Emma Glue who is the Safeguarding officer.

The principal tasks are threefold, firstly keeping the PCC up to date with the ever-shifting policy and practices relating to safeguarding nationally. Secondly ensuring that all those who work with children within our three parishes, particularly Messy Church and Little Lambs and now Rise and Shine, have filled in the appropriate forms or done the required training for their role. Finally, to ensure a culture and awareness and vigilance which is based on having the right policies and procedures and is NOT based on assumptions. All this is in place to a considerable degree, if not ever perfect, and so for us constant vigilance is key. Since our last APCM meeting the church, I feel we are more aware of safeguarding and the need to keep our young people and vulnerable adults safe from harm. We have delivered a face-to-face training to support those unable to access this online and to those who preferred to talk through scenarios as a group, both sessions that we ran were well attended and felt that it was a lot easier to do this face to face and have conversations you might not be able to have if you're doing this independently at home. We are planning the next training session to deliver soon, as the last 2 sessions were well attended.

We have also had many among the Priory churches do their training online, some of this because of the roles they have within the church, and some just to have some awareness of why the need for safeguarding is so important. If you are unsure if you need to complete safeguarding training for your role or if you're interested, please do speak to me. There are now voluntary role descriptions for all jobs within the church, from Bell ringers to Serving, it sets out what their jobs are, and what is expected of them with regards to safeguarding with some very helpful do's and don'ts of how to keep both yourself and others around you safe. This was put before the Archdeacon during his visit, so he was aware of all of our safeguarding that is in place to keep everyone safe within the 3 parishes. This was said to be of very high standard. I really do enjoy my role as your safeguarding officer and it's something I feel I can do well through my knowledge both in my job at our local secondary school and through Girlguiding, I look forward to supporting you all throughout the next year, and plan to visit each church more to be a supportive face for those who may need help or advice, I am always there to be a gentle listening ear for any worries or concerns you may have. Emma Glue.

Eco Church: The Priory Churches continue with the ambitious plan to make our church buildings and communities more environmentally connected. This plan requires each church community to assess its impact upon the environment and to seek ways to change that impact. At Easebourne, the area set aside in the churchyard for a wildflower garden, in which over 70 seedboms with indigenous wild flowers were sown, has had mixed success due to the weather. Plans to get to carbon neutral in the operation of the church include the three Priory Churches measuring their carbon footprint using the Church of England's energy footprint tool and report as part of the annual parish return. All three churches have a high efficiency score (Rated between A+ to A) despite their different carbon footprints. Going forward we plan to achieve the targets set out in the Church Of England's Net Zero Carbon by 2030. Phil Stringer

Diocesan Strategy: In 2020 the Diocese launched its new strategy called 'Vision For Growth'. This strategy calls the peoples of God in the Diocese of Chichester to a new agenda working together on mission, outreach and financial sustainability. The strategy sets at its heart a new model for moving forward: More Open, More Converted, More Generous and More Engaged. This strategy was used in creating the Mission Action Plan for the Priory Churches, which can be seen at the beginning of this document.

The Receipts and Payments Account on page 7 shows a combination of the results of the three churches at Easebourne, Selham and Lodsworth. A combined surplus for the year of £13,804 on unrestricted funds was recorded, comprising £5,392 from Easebourne, £3,636 from Selham and £4,776 from Lodsworth, before its £5,000 contribution to the tower and spire works.

Similarly the Statement of Assets and Liabilities on page 8 combines the cash and investment assets of all three churches for the first time and shows overall net assets of £482,403 on the charity's unrestricted funds, although this includes the sum of £159,702 which has been allocated by the Trustees to Designated Funds for longer term projects. It is envisaged that a significant proportion of the contribution to the tower and spire project will be recovered from various sources in 2024 and that our unrestricted reserves will rise accordingly during the current year.

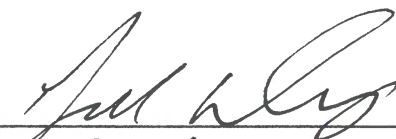
Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding Property) which equates to approximately two months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. Following advice from Chichester Diocese, the PCC has reviewed this policy and adjusted its position to keep £50,000 aside from unrestricted funds as an emergency building/safety fund, and at least six months of current expenditure on ready call for each individual church. The closing balance this year has more than achieved this. The designated fabric fund is retained towards the future cost of the upkeep of the church.

It is PCC policy to invest fund balances with the CBF Church of England deposit fund. A summary of these funds is attached to the financial statement.

This trustees' annual report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by the Revd Canon Derek Welsman, PCC Chairman:

Signed:



Date:

17th April 2024

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S, EASEBOURNE
COMBINED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023**

	Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
RECEIPTS				
Giving				
Planned giving	51,366	-	51,366	48,728
Collections	16,618	-	16,618	16,367
Grants and donations	10,448	34,054	44,502	80,466
Gift Aid	19,074	-	19,074	18,337
Legacy (Designated Funds)	-	-	-	10,000
	<u>97,506</u>	<u>34,054</u>	<u>131,560</u>	<u>173,898</u>
Activities for generating funds				
Village events	1,630	-	1,630	2,350
200 Club income	9,861	-	9,861	9,645
	<u>11,491</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,491</u>	<u>11,995</u>
Church activities				
Fees	18,764	-	18,764	17,687
Other income	662	-	662	1,321
	<u>19,426</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,426</u>	<u>19,008</u>
Investments				
Investment income	16,749	-	16,749	15,741
Investment gains	646	-	646	-
	<u>17,395</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,395</u>	<u>15,741</u>
Total receipts	<u>145,818</u>	<u>34,054</u>	<u>179,872</u>	<u>220,642</u>
PAYMENTS				
Church activities				
Diocesan share	73,061	-	73,061	68,907
Diocese fees	9,601	-	9,601	5,097
Clergy expenses	5,783	-	5,783	4,488
Ministry sundries	5,376	-	5,376	5,066
Services – electricity, gas etc	6,134	-	6,134	5,657
Insurance	8,462	-	8,462	8,719
Church running & misc expenses	17,629	-	17,629	18,364
Building works and projects	-	-	-	500
200 Club prizes	4,775	-	4,775	4,700
Charitable and project expenses	1,193	159,304	160,497	14,536
Designated fund expenses	-	-	-	298
	<u>132,014</u>	<u>159,304</u>	<u>291,318</u>	<u>136,332</u>
Total payments	<u>132,014</u>	<u>159,304</u>	<u>291,318</u>	<u>136,332</u>
Net receipts/(payments)	<u>13,804</u>	<u>(125,250)</u>	<u>(111,446)</u>	<u>84,310</u>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S, EASEBOURNE
COMBINED STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

As at 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Cash Funds				
Easebourne				
Barclays current accounts	43,631	5,925	-	49,556
CBF Deposit account	44,311	-	-	44,311
	<u>87,942</u>	<u>5,925</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>93,867</u>
Selham				
Barclays current accounts	27,954	-	-	27,954
	<u>27,954</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,954</u>
Lodsworth				
Barclays current accounts	22,912	-	-	22,912
CCLA deposit account	124	-	-	124
	<u>23,036</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,036</u>
	<u>138,932</u>	<u>5,925</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>144,857</u>
Investment assets				
Easebourne				
Chancel Trust Investment Funds	-	-	2,621	2,621
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,621</u>	<u>2,621</u>
Selham				
M&G Charitable Income Fund	69,406	-	-	69,406
M&G Charitable Accumulation Fund	15,775	-	-	15,775
	<u>85,181</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>85,181</u>
Lodsworth				
CCLA Repairs Fund	140,590	-	-	140,590
CCLA General Fund	118,090	-	-	118,090
	<u>258,680</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>258,680</u>
	<u>343,861</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,621</u>	<u>346,782</u>
	<u>482,793</u>	<u>5,925</u>	<u>2,621</u>	<u>491,339</u>
Net current liabilities	(390)	-	-	(390)
Net assets	<u>482,403</u>	<u>5,925</u>	<u>2,621</u>	<u>490,949</u>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S, EASEBOURNE**


FUNDS ANALYSIS

YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

	£	£
Restricted Funds		
Balance brought forward		58,857
Net expenditure for the year		(125,250)
Transfer from restricted fund		52,053
Transfer from benevolent fund		20,265
		<hr/>
Balance carried forward		5,925
		<hr/>
Comprising:		
Spire/tower project		-
Other restricted funds		5,925
		<hr/>
		5,925
		<hr/>
Designated funds		
Emergency building/safety fund		150,000
Lodsworth project fund		9,702
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Included within unrestricted funds (below)		159,702
		<hr/>
Unrestricted funds		
General unrestricted funds	322,701	
Designated funds	159,702	
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Balance carried forward	482,403	
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Signed on behalf of The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's, Easebourne


.....
Reverend Canon D Welsman


.....
A Kelly FCA

Date 17/14/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council of The Priory Churches St Mary's, Easebourne, St Peter's, Lodsworth and St James', Selham

I report on my examination of the Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ended 31st December 2023.

This report is made solely to the PCC, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the members of the PCC those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the PCC and the members of the PCC as a body, for any work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act") and the Church Accounting Regulations. You consider that an audit is not required for the year under the Church Accounting Regulations and section 144 (2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under the Church Accounting Regulations and section 145 of the Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 144(2) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

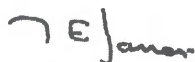
Basis of the independent examiner's report

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 PCC 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 you as members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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13 April 2024