

St John the Evangelist *Burgess Hill*

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Burgess Hill

THE ANNUAL REPORT *and* **ACCOUNTS** **2023**



Refurbished clock faces

Aims & Purposes

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Burgess Hill (the PCC) has as its primary objective 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, Fr David Charles, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. We aim to know Jesus better – and make Him better known.

Objectives and Activities

Fr David Charles, on behalf of the PCC

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St John's. 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'. The PCC 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.



2023 was a very full year for us here at St John's – a number of major projects associated with the fabric of the church were instigated and will be properly covered in the subsequent Churchwardens' and Fabric Manager's reports. It has, however, been particularly pleasing to see that the full restoration of the organ is now underway; we are so grateful to all of those who have donated to enable this to happen, over a long

period of fundraising; an initiative which will not only be of benefit to our committed congregation, but also to the wider town – thinking of the facilities and resources we can offer: for community concerts, recitals, and other local events. Relatedly, it has already been wonderful to see a more expansive programme of concerts reinstated following the disruptive years of Covid – and to see many people coming through our doors, who might not otherwise experience the beauty of the building, the solace of the sanctuary, and the wonderful welcome at St John's.

The additional community facility that St John's is best known for is its Spire Café. Our thanks to all who have volunteered to ensure that this has been able to reopen much more extensively than previously. In the New Year, it is hoped that grant applications can be made, with the aim of undertaking a full and professional refurbishment.

A particular highlight of 2023 was our 160th celebrations – marking the consecration of St John's as a church in 1863. Several events were arranged over a week of festivities – a particularly meaningful event was having the Bishop of Lewes come for a special Confirmation service at our church, when 8 children and 6 adults were confirmed. That total of 14 confirmands is the highest St John's has had in over two decades.



Regarding the wider lay ministry, it has been great to see new people joining the team of servers, and we hope to train and licence four new Lay Ministers of Communion in 2024.

Conscious that we are living in a much more digital age, concerted efforts have been made this year to improve our online presence – through Facebook, our website, and our already existing channels that strive to promote online giving. The Stewardship campaign that ran in Lent was particularly successful, and the PCC thanks the congregation for their sacrificial and great generosity – especially in times that are tough for us all.



We kept – and expanded – our usual programme of liturgical and social events. The Walsingham Pilgrimage at the end of July saw over 25 pilgrims attending and was a valued opportunity for refreshment and renewal.



The parish had a good number of attendees at the Diocesan Walsingham Festival Day in Brighton in October. Gifts donated at Harvest Festival and at the Toy Service were thankfully received by Family Support Work, to help disadvantaged families across both East and West Sussex.



Our Remembering Service, held at All Souls, proves to be an increasingly popular way of reaching out to the bereaved, as we seek to continue pastoral care, beyond just the point of the funeral. Also, towards the end of the year, it was a pleasure and privilege to welcome the Ven Angela Martin, Archdeacon of Horsham, to preach at a Deanery Combined Choirs Evensong – a service for which our Director of Music, Paul Simpson, pulled out all the stops (albeit on the keyboard!). There were some celebratory refreshments following, and it is great that we have had several other social occasions throughout the year, helping our people enjoy the shared faith, friendship and fellowship that our church seeks to further.

Our ongoing working relationship with the Town Council continues to be consolidated and strengthened. The Vicar was involved with the inauguration of Burgess Hill's first Holocaust Memorial Day service, and this is now set to be annual fixture. We worked collaboratively for the usual Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday services – additional celebrations were arranged to mark our new King's coronation. Additionally in 2024, plans are in hand to join for the observance of the 80th anniversary of D-Day.



The Vicar has enjoyed the opportunity to be interviewed on Mid Sussex Radio and has given a talk for a local bereavement group, and – following approaches – has this year been able to see the headteachers of three of our local schools. In addition to being able to welcome these – and others – to our church for school visits, it has also been a pleasure and privilege to visit the classes; we hope there will be more opportunities for working together more closely.

The Vicar continues to serve as Chaplain to all three of our Bishops in the Diocese – providing support for Licensings, Confirmations, and other special services. He continues to serve on the Diocesan ‘Council for the Common Good’, and has this year been elected to the Diocesan Synod and appointed by the Bishop to be the Deanery Surrogate for Marriages.

Looking forward, the formulation of a new Mission Action Plan (MAP) will certainly be key for 2024. While the initial stages of progressing, this initiative were scheduled for 2023, sadly the sudden and tragic loss of Liz Hayward, a serving Churchwarden, entailed an inevitable postponement. Thank you to those who have taken on some of the roles that Liz used to fulfil – though of course Liz is still very much missed by so many of us. The MAP project will this year be drawing together the results of the various congregational consultations, to ensure that any future plans can be owned by the entire church family.

As detailed below, church attendance has been steadily increasing over the last two years – the MAP process is focused on ensuring that this growth doesn’t plateau, but rather looks to further (yet realistic) opportunities for expanding our vision and mission.

Achievements & Performance

Services Statistics

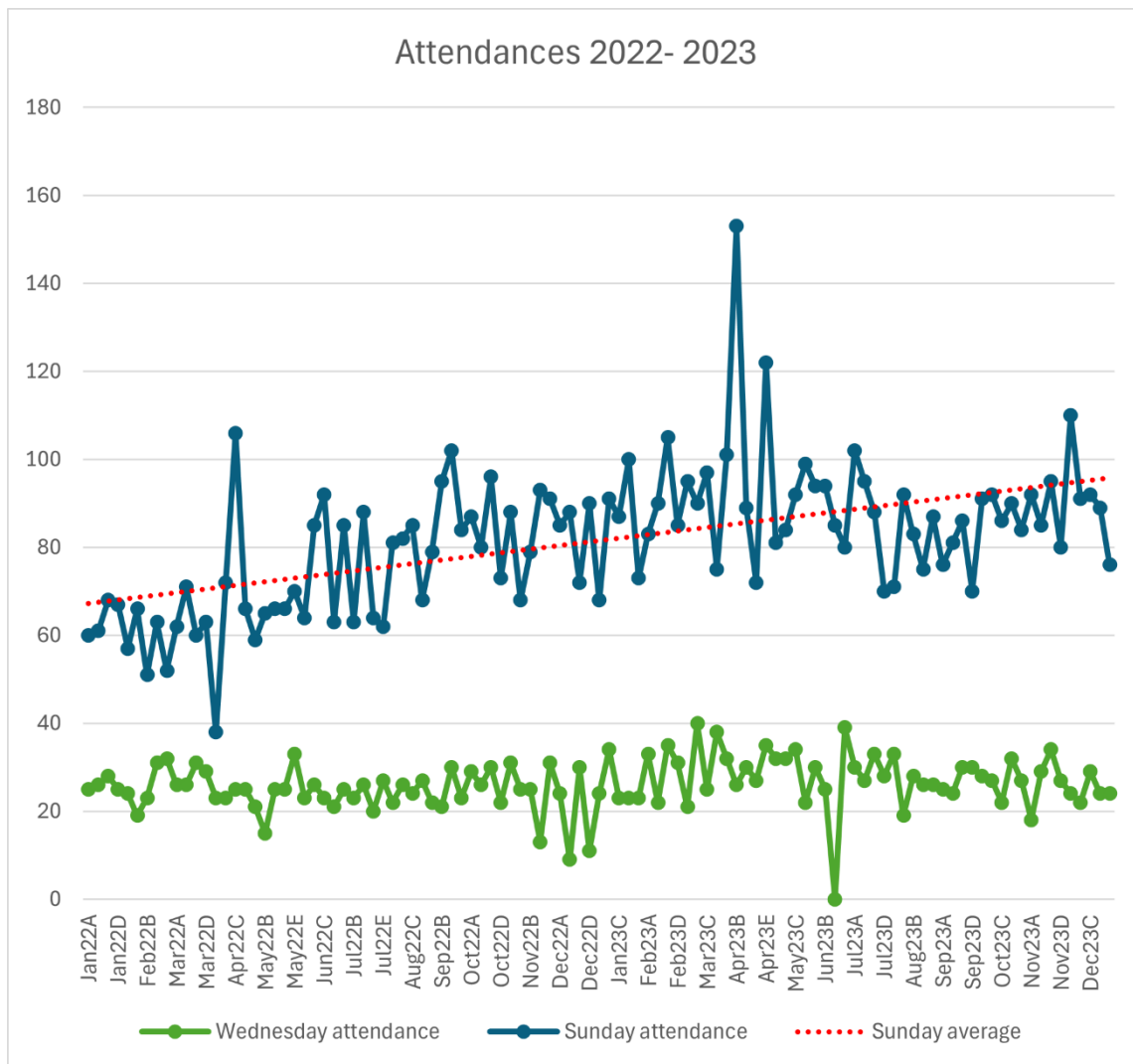
Fr David Charles

The growth in attendance that we saw in 2022 has continued through 2023 – which is evidenced in the graph following. It has been fantastic to welcome new disciples to St John’s, in addition to those who have returned to regular services and worship. We have seen an increase of 15% regarding regular Sunday attendance over the past year, building on the substantial growth witnessed in 2022. The Wednesday midweek service has a large and committed congregation, sometimes approaching 40 in number.



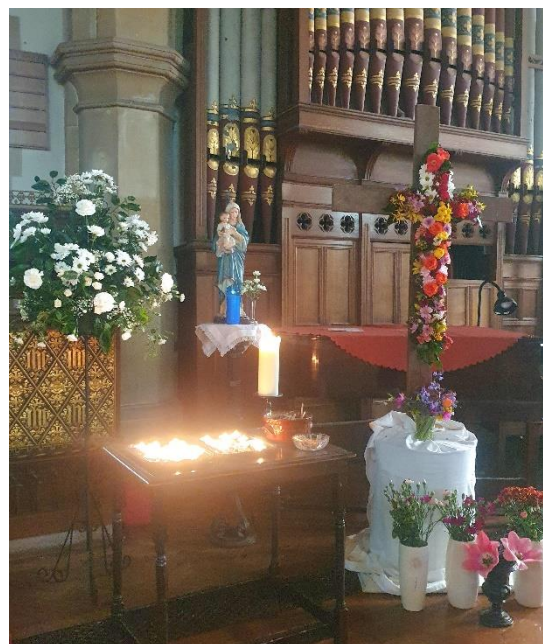
Attendance at Christmas and Easter services continues to flourish – particularly regarding one-off and more informal services, though those who have actually become embedded within the regular congregation seem to have been attracted mainly via the more traditional forms of worship. St John’s is committed to offering a full range of services that will hopefully appeal to all sectors of our community.





At Easter, the attendance was 195, of which 153 were communicants – an 8 am service on Easter Day was additionally offered this year, and the Easter Vigil service was restored – the total figures demonstrate an increase of 80% over 2022. At Christmas, 450 people attended our church on Christmas Eve/Day, of whom 129 were communicants – there was a large increase in attendance at the Crib Service. Additionally, the Parish Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols saw a huge leap in numbers.

There were 4 baptisms during the year, and 3 weddings. 19 funerals were conducted, of which 14 were held in church; there were 2 burials of ashes. That the number of church funerals is well over double that for 2022 sadly reflects the fact that we have lost several stalwart and much-loved members over the year now past.



There are a number of home communicants – some who receive the sacrament during times of sickness or immobility, while those long-term housebound are generally visited by Dcn Stephen.

Churchwarden's Report

Colin Squires and Graham Zimmermann (Churchwardens)

Our first full year without all the COVID restrictions and with Fr David as our vicar life at St John's was looking full of promise. However, this was shattered in early May by the very sad and sudden death of Liz Hayward, Colin's Co-Warden for the last 3 years. Liz had worked so hard for St John's taking on so many roles. She is still greatly missed but Colin is very grateful that Graham Zimmermann agreed to stand as his co-Warden from early July when they were both sworn in by The Archdeacon at St. Peter's, Henfield.



Also, at the end of July Sue Helm, our cleaner, retired after 23 years of service to St. John's and a small party took place to wish her well and to say a big thank you.

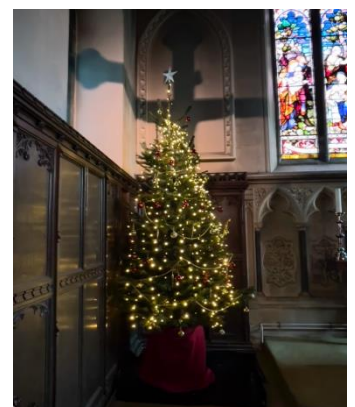


Fabric issues continued in early January with Heatcraft still finishing work on the boilers and Helme & Hallet putting up fencing round the wall that was damaged in November 2022 and the rebuilding took place in November 2023. The leak in the south transept roof where it joins the Lady Chapel had a small repair, but we are waiting to have a proper job done in the New Year. The narthex roof is still giving us concern, but we will need quite a lot of money to do a permanent repair. Some good news was that the Spire roof was repaired – many thanks to The Highmead Christian Foundation for their generous grant, which enabled this to be carried out. All the bulbs in the church were replaced with LEDs thanks to all who sponsored a bulb and to Kevin Bates for fitting them. Work on the town clock in the Spire commenced in mid-October and although the faces were back in situ before Christmas, there was an issue with setting the hands, so it was not running 'til the New Year. Our grateful thanks to Burgess Hill Town Council for paying for this work to be done.

Early in the New Year Paul Simpson took on the role of Acting Director of Music, our grateful thanks to Paul for stepping up and taking this on; thanks also to the various organists who have also helped during the year.

The long-awaited refurbishment of the organ began in mid-June, and Alistair Curtis is doing a fantastic job, and it is hoped that it will be playable by mid-2024 (see the Fabric report for more details). The piano had to be moved to the back of church for this work to be carried out – many thanks to the choir for all their help and understanding, singing from the baptistry.

At the end of the year, it was lovely to have London Mead School back in for their carol service – always standing room only for that service! The lighting of the Christmas tree again attracted a good crowd – many thanks to P & S Gallagher for providing the refreshments and Mid Sussex Brass Band for playing. Also, thanks to Tates of Sussex Garden Centre at South Downs Nurseries for donating the fabulous Christmas tree that was showcased in the sanctuary.



A successful Stewardship campaign was run during Lent and with Gift Aid and a total of approx. £10,000 per annum was pledged. A fantastic result. Thank you to everyone who responded. However, even with this extra income we are still falling short on our Parish Share Contribution, paying less than 50% of what the diocese would like.



Regular bookings in the Spire Café and the Upper room have brought in much needed income, plus the occasional party or meeting.

We had the following concerts at St John's:

- Harp recital in April
- Coro Voices in May
- Mid Sussex Brass Band in July
- Salvation Army Band in September
- Perdido Players in October
- Sussex Harmonisers and Mid Sussex Brass Band in December.

The concerts take lot of arranging so thanks to Amelia in the office for doing organising. Also thank you to the volunteers who help on the day with set up, serving the bar and then clearing up and getting the church ready for Sunday services. If you want to help in this way for 2024, then please let Colin or Graham know.

We also hosted an artist exhibition in November, and it was great to welcome over 100 people to the church during the day.



Felicity has been running her stall at the back of church on most Saturday's and outside when the weather is good (see Felicity's report on page 11). Thank you, Felicity.

The Spire Café has been offering tea, coffee and cakes on Wednesdays and Thursdays when the IT helpers are in, and since mid-year Panini's, jacket potatoes and sandwiches have been available. Very many thanks to all the volunteers who week by week keep the café open. However, the offer of more people to help to spread the load would be most welcome. (see Spire Café report on page 10).

Thanks also to all the duty wardens and sides people who are the welcoming face of St John's and are the first people newcomers meet, it is a valuable ministry.

Also, a final thank you to all those who help clean the silver, tidy the notice boards, take rubbish out to the bins and generally make St John's a clean and welcoming church.

Electoral Roll

Ginny Nicholls (Electoral Roll Officer)

At the beginning of January 2023, we had 162 people on the St John the Evangelist Church Electoral Roll. We were pleased to welcome an additional 19 people onto our Electoral Roll during 2023 after attending the church for more than 6 months.

Sadly, we had 7 church members who died in the year. One church member moved away. This totalled 8 people being removed from the Electoral Roll.

This means at the end of 2023; we had 173 people on the Electoral Roll.

The 2023 Electoral Roll can be broken down as follows:

- 101 people living within the parish
- 72 outside the parish
- 62 male
- 111 female

The figures do not include anyone under the age of 16, or those who come to church regularly but for various reasons have not joined the Electoral Roll.

The total comprises those who come regularly to the main Parish Mass plus people who attend the 8.00 am Sunday Mass or the 10.30 am Wednesday morning Mass.

How do I join the Electoral Roll?

It is possible to go on the Electoral Roll at any time of the year and application forms are available from Father David, the churchwardens (Colin and Graham), the Parish Office or from the Electoral Roll Officer (Ginny Nicholls).

You will need to be over 16, been baptised and not a member of the clergy (e.g. a lay person). Also, you need to live within the parish of St John the Evangelist, if you live outside the area, then you will need to have attended St John the Evangelist for at least 6 months.

A reminder that if you are on the Electoral Roll, and your details change e.g. move house, or email/phone number change, then please inform Ginny.

Why be on the Electoral Roll?

Being on the Electoral Roll allows you to be contacted by the clergy in times of illness, emergency, general support or bereavement.

It also allows you to attend the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting), where you can raise questions, and hear what is happening in the church. You can also join the PCC (Parochial Church Council) which is a committee of church members and clergy, who make decisions on behalf of the church members and looks to support the local community in outreach projects. The PCC meet about 6 times a year.

Fabric

Graham Todd (Fabric Manager)

Organ restoration

Much of this year has been devoted to organising the practical aspects of this work. We are changing the functioning system by using electromagnets to open and close the pipe airways electrically when a key is pressed. We employed a very capable organ contractor from Wadhurst and by the end of 2023 Alistair has completed about 60% or the work.

Picture – The new electromagnets that open and close to allow the air to each of the pipes





Much of the original structure and workings have been removed and new sections made specifically for our instrument. Financially, we have most of the funding in place, but further donations are welcome to complete the restoration of the whole organ.

Spire Clock

I had previously approached the Town Council to suggest that the four clock faces ought to be refurbished as they were very discoloured.

Subsequently the Council sought quotations for that work, as the clock belongs to the people of Burgess Hill and not the church.



One of the dirty faces and on the right, the four refurbished ones below



The work was completed by Christmas and after a few adjustments, the clock is working again and looking smart.

Boundary wall

In November 2022 the west boundary wall was again badly damaged by an unknown driver. The wall has been rebuilt for the fourth time, in my experience. Sadly, our insurers had to fund the rebuild, rather than the unknown driver.

Lightning Conductor

Every 5 years the conductor must be tested, and arrangements were made in December for this to be carried out in January. (the test was successful)

Heating Contract

We decided not to renew Heatcraft's service contract due to their poor quality of service. After considerable research and discussion, we awarded the new contract to PDP in Burgess Hill as they are local and had the appropriate experience.

Working Parties

Two working parties were held during the year. These necessary gardening mornings are essential to do the trimming and weeding jobs that the grass cutting contractors are not contracted to do. A new MSDC grass cutting contractor is likely to be responsible for 2024 so we shall have to build up new relationships next year.

New amplifier

Because the sound system kept cutting out one set of large loudspeakers, we had to organise a replacement amplifier – cost £1100. We managed to encourage a local church Trust to give us a grant to cover the cost.

Spire hall roof

For many years the roof over the hall and the flat roof over the kitchen had deteriorated and leaks were getting worse. During the year we arranged to have the south face of the hall roof overhauled and the tiling re-laid. The flat roof was cleaned of moss and dirt and minor repairs made.

Picture shows the broken and mis-aligned tiles on the hall roof



The Spire Cafe

Kate Rhodes

The Spire Café had been closed for two years so a vast amount of cleaning had to be done before opening (thank you Jean MacCarthy and Colin Squires). Sue McCabe, Jean MacCarthy and I got together in June to work out menus and prices. We agreed the menu to offer a range of sandwiches, panini's, soup, jacket potatoes, cakes and scones.



The Spire Café was opened for a 'taster day' on Wednesday 19th July after the church service. The new venture was well received, and the opening times were decided on as Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm.

Thank you to all the volunteers who help run the Café – Sue McCabe, Jean MacCarthy, Maureen Holt, Jackie Knowles, Carol Smethurst, Marc and for Carol and Colin Monery who make the wonderful cakes.

If you want to join our friendly team, then please do get in touch with me.

Charity Giving

Di Tipler (Charity Co-ordinator)

With the generous support of the congregations at the 8.00am, 10am and 10.30am services we have collected and sent off cheques for the following amounts during 2023.

WINTER COLLECTION – The Pantry Burgess Hill	£250.01
SPRING COLLECTION (no collection due to the launch of the Stewardship Campaign)	
SUMMER COLLECTION – The Stroke Association	£400
AUTUMN COLLECTION – Operation Smile	£265.50

We are always open for future charity suggestions from the congregation and then these would be taken back to the PCC for discussion – if you have any then please speak to Di Tipler or John Carter with as much information as possible regarding your charity choice.

Music

Paul Simpson (Director of Music)

It's been a joy and privilege to be back as Director of Music after an 11-year absence, although 2023 has been a year of two halves for music at St John's. The work on renovating the organ began round the mid-point of the year, which necessitated the transport of the piano from the front of the church to the back, and the choir leaving the choirstalls for seats beside the piano.

The spring saw us prepare special music for Candlemas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter, and I'm grateful for the help from our team of freelance organists across the year – David Curtis-Brignell, Philip White-Jones, Nic Robinson, Philip Sear and Carol Matthews – who covered evening services and others I couldn't manage.

The move to the west end was the catalyst for the re-creation of the Music Group, which has existed on and off for nearly 25 years; the quartet has accompanied the family services monthly, as well as being involved with other special services in the latter part of 2023.

These included a massed Choral Evensong mid-November, to which members of choirs I've been involved with across my musical career were invited. A number of former St John's choristers returned for this, some of whom also joined us for the 9 Lessons and Carols service in December, alongside members of the congregation.



Our regular numbers have grown slightly, with Cherry Greveson returning in the spring and Martha Sadler joining us mid-year, but we had to say goodbye at Christmas to Rachel Staplehurst after 17 years as she moved out of the area. We very much welcome new members – have a word with me or Gill Squires after a service!

My thanks to all the choristers and other musicians for their hard work, good humour and patience, especially to Gill for all she does as Choir Secretary, and to Fr David for all the encouragement he has given to the musical life of St John's since his arrival. We are all looking forward to the organ's unveiling and the opportunities this will bring!

Community Outreach

Felicity Fernee (Market stall and outreach)

In January, the church was opened every Saturday morning to offer refreshments – tea/coffee and cake.

Then from March, we had a monthly stall open on the Saturday set up outside church for people to purchase a variety of homemade marmalade and jams, cakes and second-hand items as to invite them into the church for refreshments. Many thanks to all the volunteers who give up their time allow the church to be open. This gives a social space for people to talk, ask for guidance and prayer. Last year over £2,500 was made from the items sold on the stalls and from refreshments.



Deacon's Report

Deacon Stephen MacCarthy

Perhaps the greatest effect of the changing threat of the Covid 19 Pandemic was the recovery of our public worship and ministry, which grew toward the levels we had taken for granted previously. Indeed, it was good to be able to celebrate the 'Rites of Passage' in individuals family lives in an open and inclusive manner after the restrictions of the previous years. It was a privilege to preside at the wedding of Sam and Melissa Boyer-Frost, regular members of our church family.

Alongside the regular services and opportunities to minister at St Johns I am grateful to Fr David for his generous support, and that I may support him in the life of the parish alongside our other 'Honorary' clergy, Fr Clay, and Fr John. A particular privilege in 2023 was sharing their faith journey with our adult confirmation group, which included my granddaughter, Amy.

I was also able to continue in the role of making home visits and sharing home communion with those parishioners now unable to attend our services, and those temporarily absent through injury or illness. This included our regular monthly service for residents at Clayton Court, which we hope to replicate elsewhere in the coming year, having begun with a Carol Service at Edward House a few days before Christmas.

The other thing I want to recall is the Pilgrimage to Walsingham, which took place at the end of July. With the Shrine still quieter than in pre-covid times this was a time for worship, retreat, and reflection with a group of 25. The group include previous pilgrims as well as those who had not experienced this before. New friendships began, and our faith was renewed in this place known as 'England's Nazareth'. We now look forward to the 2024 pilgrimage with a group numbering 35 at present.

As we look to the Year of The New Testament in our Diocesan life let us remember one another in prayer as we give thanks for love of God that we seek to share in our parish and community.

EcoChurch

Ginny Nicholls

On 14th February 2023 we were awarded the Bronze Award from EcoChurch.

EcoChurch's vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully.





They offer 3 levels of award – bronze, silver and gold and their survey cover 5 areas of church life: 1) Worship and Teaching 2) Buildings 3) Land 4) Community and Global Engagement 5) Lifestyle.

We completed their survey and was able to get the bronze award. We now hope to move towards the silver award over the coming years. Please check out the EcoChurch notice board which gives ideas on how to make small changes in your home to make our world better.

I endeavour to change the notice board every few months, to give the congregation new ideas for improving our planet. Below is the Christmas noticeboard display.

Family Support Work

Felicity Fernee (Hurst Deanery Committee Member)

Family Support Work (FSW) is a Chichester Diocese organisation supporting families in need throughout West Sussex. We now have 20 practitioners working across the county giving personal support and contact to families whatever their need.

St John's support during the year has been through the wonderful collection of food and toiletries at the Harvest Festival, and toys and gifts at the Advent Toy Service. Many thanks to all who have contributed so generously.

On a very gloomy, foggy day the sponsored walk over the South Downs to Alfriston took place, despite getting lost, the walk was enjoyable. We managed to raise £460.00 for FSW.

Flower Arrangers

Carol Matthews (Flower Team Co-ordinator)

Throughout the year, the small team of flower arrangers have maintained keeping flowers in the church on a weekly basis with the exception of the Lenten and advent seasons. My thanks go to Jackie Knowles Jackie Bowers Frost and to Felicity for their help and support over the year. Many people have commented how nice it is to see the flowers in church and how hard we have to work to maintain this,

At the Easter morning service in 2023, you witnessed the creation of the Living Cross during the service. In order for this to happen, all the congregation were asked to bring a flower to church on Easter morning, the finished effect looked wonderful, this was something that Fr David had done in other parishes and is something that will be repeated at St. John's in 2024.



Lastly, I would like to thank the members of congregation who give generously at Easter and Christmas to help with the cost of purchasing flowers and to those individuals who sponsor the flowers on a specific week to commemorate a loved one, or to celebrate a special date.

If anyone feels able to help in anyway with either arranging flowers or providing sponsorship for a specific date, please do contact me.

Servers' Report

Colin Squires (Server and Sacristan)

The serving team has been very stable during 2023, we have been able to put on a full team for all major services throughout 2023. I am very grateful to all the servers who carry out their duties week by week, especially at the extra services over Easter and Christmas. We have a strong team with lots of experience but are always happy to have others join us. It would be great if any young people wished to join as boat boy or girl, as now Thomas has moved away, we only have Ethan as boat boy. We all consider it a privilege to serve at the altar and to assist the priests in whatever way we can. So, if you feel you have a calling to become part of the team, please do not hesitate to speak to me after any service.

From the Belfry

Doug Stewart (Tower Captain)

Another year of struggle to keep the bells ringing. Sometimes we are down to 3 ringers only on Sundays. Usually, 5 or 6 and in this connection, I must mention Jo and Joan who regularly come to us from Twineham.

I am pleased to say we have 3 learners, who will join us as full band members later this year. However, we still require more volunteers. Unfortunately for the ringers, there was not many weddings in 2023 to use their skills. We did however ring out on Coronation Day. If you know of anyone wanting to learn, please send them along.

Children's Church and Youth Group

Claire Elliot (Children's Church Leader)

Leadership Team:

St John's Children's Church remains an important and active part of the life of St John's, particularly within the Sunday services. However, the issues of a diminishing team of leaders and helpers is ever more evident. At the end of the year, one of our regular leaders moved away from the parish and another stepped down, due to other family commitments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank these two leaders for their hard work and support over the years and also all those involved with children's church.

Fr David has arranged cover so that he has been able to join the Sunday group teaching team. For Children's Church to have more groups based on age, and to be able to meet more frequently, we must recruit more helpers and leaders. If you are interested in this part of church ministry, please talk with Claire Elliot.

Sunday morning teaching sessions:

We continue to offer children's church once a month on the 3rd Sunday. We run groups for two age groups from toddler - 9 years and 10 - 16 years. There are a larger proportion of children in the age range 0 - 9 years, and we would love to offer several groups within this age span. When we return to the service, we are invited to share the children's work with the congregation. This helps raise the profile of the children's church, celebrates the hard work the children and young people have done and hopefully builds their confidence within the church community.

Mothering Sunday, 19th March:

The children worked on a craft activity, at the back of the church, which they then gave to their Mums and grandmothers at the end of the service.

Palm Sunday, 2nd April:

After the procession from the band stand with their palm crosses, the children stayed in church to help illustrate the Passion reading by bringing forward items to place on the altar. We had good feedback from members of the congregation on this visual element.

Good Friday, 7th April:

We held a Children's Church/all age Stations of the cross at 10.00am followed by hot cross buns in The Spire. We used the Station of the Cross Eggs to help illustrate the themes and involve the young people, as we move around the church.

Easter Saturday, 8th April:

The children did an amazing job at transforming the Lenten Garden into a beautiful colourful and vibrant Easter Garden. They also decorated a cross with yellow and white flowers to be placed at the altar on Easter day.

Easter Sunday, 9th April:

The Alleluia Banner was resurrected and processed by the children, along with the flower cross, to the altar. Many keen volunteers were involved with this.

160th Anniversary activities:

In April and May Children's Church focussed on creating some art projects to celebrate the 160th Anniversary of St John's. They went on display the weekend of 10 and 11th June.

On the notice board in the Welcome area is a large image of the church which was created using 160 bricks with a global, local or St John's event written on them, one for each of the 160 years. The children painted lots of stones in vibrant colours which sit along the Rood screen. These will be distributed amongst the congregation at Pentecost, at the end of the 160th year.



Confirmation, 7th June:

Eight young people from St John's. This process began with an information meeting held on the 5th of March when the young people and parents could ask questions. Father David and Claire then ran six sessions the "Faith Confirmed – preparing for confirmation" resources.

Harvest Thanksgiving Festival, 1st October:

We used the decorated boxes to hold the harvest donations, which add colour to the altar. Although all the families on our data base were invited to the service, there were only a small number of children at church for Harvest. However, there were still a good number of donations for Family Support Work, FSM.

Remembrance Sunday, 12th November:

The children and young people went out to lay poppies on the war graves in the churchyard and spent time learning about the Armistice and why we wear poppies.

Advent:

During Advent in November and December, we held rehearsals for the Nativity Crib service. We performed the Animals Nativity, which was written by our Music director, Paul Simpson, back in 2007. This is a highlight of the year for the Children's Church and also involves visiting children, who join in on the day.

Christmas parties:

We held two parties just before Christmas on 9th December. One party was for children up year 5 and a second one for year 6 and above. The parties were well attended by both regular attenders and other children who are on our database.

Other initiatives:

Claire has developed some activity worksheets for visiting school pupils to help them learn about the church. A worksheet for students with learning disabilities is currently being developed.

Deanery Synod

Deacon Stephen MacCarthy and Jean MacCarthy (Hurst Deanery Synod Representatives)

The Hurst Deanery Synod met three times during the year, with an additional joint meeting with Cuckfield Deanery Synod in October 2023. Each meeting began with an act of worship, most usually Evening Prayer. The format usually includes a Finance Report, a substantive subject for the evening, often with an invited speaker, and matters arising in the Deanery together with any advertised events to be publicised.

The initial meeting: 2nd February 2023 at St John the Evangelist, Burgess Hill.

A presentation was given by Emma Arbuthnot, Senior Church Buildings and Pastoral Reorganisation Officer and Revd P Doick, as Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, was focused on the Faculty Process.

There had been many changes to Church buildings regulations over the last few years and the Diocesan Advisory team were there to support parishes and ensure that things ran legally. Emma stressed that the DAC only gave advice. The Chancellor made the decisions.

For any work there are three Levels of Permission.

- List A – no permission needed for unlisted buildings and maintenance.
- List B – Works the Archdeacon can authorise.
- Faculty – Works not covered by Lists A and B. When a faculty is needed it is best to speak first, informally, with the DAC about all the various options.

As well as these three, there are also 'Minor Matters' directions. These are items that aren't on List A&B but are considered urgent and don't require a full faculty.

2nd meeting: 23rd May 2023 in the Church of the Transfiguration, Pyecombe.

Initially there was a welcome for the new Rural Dean Revd Rachel Cornish from ASC&T parish, and thanks were given to the retiring Rural Dean Revd Paul Doick from Henfield parish. The presentation was given by Steve Argent (Assistant Warden for Lay Ministry in Horsham Archdeaconry). He began with the job description for a parish priest, concluding that it was an impossible challenge and consisted of unfair and unreasonable expectations. He stressed that the Parish needs to care for the clergy, who need lay support.

Congregations need to be engaged and not just think of themselves as an audience. Teams need to be built which are diverse and not comprised of people who are all the same. He pointed out that Jesus' disciples were a very diverse group.

The diocese had several training courses to assist teams to work effectively:

- The Living Faith Course.; a 9-week course engaging with people and taking them back to the basics of Christianity.
- Authorised Lay Ministers; an intensive course which has many options for specialization (e.g. For various chaplaincies). At the end of the course the candidates are commissioned in Chichester Cathedral. More information can be found on the Diocesan website.
- Lay Readership. This is demanding training and often leads to ordination courses.

3rd meeting: 22nd November 2023 in the Emmanuel Chapel, Ditchling.

The Rural Dean gave a presentation on Eco Church Rewards and the Deanery Mission Plan.

Revd Debbie Beer, the Diocesan Environmental Officer spoke about The Parish Environmental Support Network. The network encouraged mutual support on environmental action in the parishes. It was aiming to encourage churches to be more aware of climate change and environmental issues. The Diocesan group persuaded Diocesan Synod to adopt the Net Zero initiative, although at the present time the Diocese was concentrating on clergy property and schools.

The group are working towards the environmental goals (which are within Hurst Deanery Mission Action Plan) to:

- Produce a creation care policy
- To work towards Eco Church awards
- To work towards Net Zero by 2030

Cuckfield and Hurst deaneries held a joint autumn meeting St Andrew's Church Burgess Hill on 19th October 2023

The Archdeacon of Horsham, Angela Martin, and Gabrielle Higgins (Chichester Diocesan Secretary) were present to lead a Finance discussion.

The Archdeacon thanked all the parishes for their pledges last year and explained that as we are a family of faith the Diocesan Board of Finance relies on the parishes to pay for clergy and clergy housing, as well as the other items. Parish Ministry Costs are calculated by averaging the total costs across all the parishes across the Diocese. The Diocese does not present the figure as an invoice. Some parishes would find it difficult to pay the average cost and it is helpful when more affluent parishes assist them.

Given the cost-of-living crisis and inflation, it is extremely unlikely that the Diocese will be able to sustain present commitments into the future as an extra £1.5million would be needed in 2024. Therefore, 2024 would be a transitory year. The work of God would continue but there would be re-adjustments to the Diocesan expenditure, so that the Diocese would be in a stronger position in 2025.

Gabrielle Higgins (Diocesan Secretary) took over the presentation and again thanked the parishes for their hard work and sacrifices. Last year a very generous £13.7m had been raised in parish share but the forecast outcome for 2023 was a deficit of £1m considering increased costs and a decrease in pledges. For 2024 the Diocese was budgeting for a deficit of £1.6m, with half of the shortfall coming from restricted funds. Although the Diocese was expecting to evolve, maintaining the parish ministry system was still its priority.

Gabrielle further mentioned:

- Church House was already 'pared to the bone' and further cuts would be very painful and affect the services that could be provided to parishes.
- The level of clergy stipend is to be increased by 5% but if the income from Parish Share is better than expected this would be increased.
- Clergy housing was now back to the same level as before the pandemic, but at an increased level of expenditure.
- For 2024 the average Parish Ministry Cost for a parish with one full-time stipendiary post would increase by 3.4%

Treasurer's Report

Geoff Burton (Treasurer)

2023 saw our overall total income improve due to the Stewardship Campaign which ran in the Spring – highlighting to the congregation different ways they can give to the church and how much it costs to run. The Stewardship Campaign and a variety of other special appeals throughout the year brought in £26,000 more than last year. Regular giving, including Gift Aid owed by HMRC has improved from last year.

Total costs have increased by £22,000, mostly due to major repairs to the Organ, which are still on-going. Excluding these costs gives an increase of expenses this year was caused by a big jump in energy prices. The church further reduced its planned Parish Contribution by £7,400, and as a result has been able to increase General Funds slightly. Regular giving this year has covered 70% of our costs, compared with 72% last year. If we include the maintenance cost this percentage drops to 61%.

In 2023 it cost £82,000 to run the church. This is the minimum cost. Maintenance, charitable donations, concerts and the Spire Cafe costs are in addition to this figure. This is £1,577 per week. £16.60 per week per person regularly attending this church. Every week, even if you don't come every week.

If the church paid full Parish Contribution, this would rise to £120,000 per annum, or £2,308 per week (£24.30 pp per week). The Diocese will not be able to continue this situation for long as most churches are currently not paying the full amount.

The decoration to the vicarage were only carried out due to a generous loan from a member of the congregation. This loan will need to be repaid at some stage.

The PCC has been active in reducing some of the costs, particularly printing and we are looking at other areas where reductions can be made, but we have built up some arrears on stonework maintenance which cannot be put off much longer.

The listed building status of the church means we often have to pay more for repairs, particularly external repairs.

General Funds have risen to £7,000. However, the church should try to maintain a General Reserve of £20,000, otherwise necessary repairs have to be delayed or subject to a special appeal.

All other funds (mostly Organ Fund) have to be kept for the specific use of those funds and they cannot be used to keep the church open. Clearly, we all need to re-consider our giving.

Safeguarding

Dr Vince Elliot (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Our Church is committed to maintaining a safe environment for all children, young people and vulnerable adults, while remaining open and inclusive, to all worshippers.

We have adopted and implemented the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy, ensuring that all those who work with children and young people are safely recruited and appropriately trained.

There have been no significant safeguarding issues since the last APCM.

As already stated, we continue to ensure that all those who work with children and vulnerable adults, and who require a DBS check, are up to date with their checks. The review date is now every three years and several will require renewal this year. The DBS application process has been simplified with digital identity checks, which makes the process much quicker and easier for the applicant, though this is dependent on the applicant having the necessary hardware and suitable documentation.

We continue to implement safeguarding training, with those who have responsibilities for children and vulnerable adults, encouraged to engage in the various training courses, the level of training being dependant on the level of responsibility.

All those, of whom I am aware, require to complete the Basic Awareness Training, have been informed and given details for how to access the course. However, this course is available to anyone in the congregation, irrespective of whether they have safeguarding responsibilities. It is an Internet based course and takes about 1 ½ hours and I would encourage anyone who has is interested in increasing their knowledge regarding the care and well-being of children and vulnerable adults, to consider this course. If anyone would like further information, please do contact me and I shall provide details of how to access the course.

The higher-level courses, the Foundation course and the Leadership course are required for those who have greater responsibilities. There have been some changes in the requirements and all those who require these specific levels of training, will be informed and the appropriate training arranged.

Finally, if anyone has any concerns or questions regarding the safety or wellbeing of any child, or vulnerable adult, no matter how minor or trivial they may seem - please come and talk to me about it. Anything you say will be treated in the utmost confidence.

I am in Church every Sunday and my contact details are on the notice board in the Narthex and in the Spire Café.

Structure, Governance and Management

Ginny Nicholls (PCC Secretary)

The PCC is a charity (Charity number: 1165166) registered with the Charity Commission. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

The PCC and Churchwardens are elected under the terms of the Church Representation Rules 2006 (Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended by Statutory Instrument 2004 No 1889).

The Vicar serves under licence from the Bishop; Churchwardens and Deanery (and, whenever applicable) Diocesan Synod delegates are the subject of separate elections to their posts. All these then serve on the PCC ex officio.

Churchwardens are elected annually, four lay members of the Deanery Synod for a three-year term, and a maximum of twelve members of the church are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, for a three-year term, on a rolling cycle. The electorate comprises those persons on the Electoral Roll.

All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll; members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent; a Financial Procedures Policy is in place. A Grievance Procedure and Disciplinary Procedure have both been adopted in respect of church employees.

The Standing Committee (SC) of the PCC transacts PCC business between PCC meetings – either because the matter is urgent, or, on the other hand, because the issue is sufficiently routine that waiting for a full PCC discussion would be unnecessary. The Committee consists of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary and one other elected PCC member.

In 2023, the PCC was comprised of the following members, after the March 2023 APCM:

Name	Appointment (expiry)
Fr David Charles	Incumbent: Chair of the PCC, Standing Committee
John Carter	PCC (2026), Standing Committee
Claire Elliot	Deanery Synod (2026), Standing Committee
Vince Elliot	PCC (2026), Parish Safeguarding Officer
Liz Griffiths	PCC (2026)
Roy Horn	PCC (2025)
Jean MacCarthy	Deanery Synod (2026)
Sue McCabe	PCC (2025)
Ginny Nicholls	PCC (2025), Electoral Officer, PCC Secretary, Standing Committee
Colin Squires	Churchwarden, Standing Committee
Doug Stewart	PCC (2026)
Diana Tipler	PCC (2026)
Graham Todd	Deanery Synod (2026), Standing Committee
Averil West	PCC (2024)
Graham Zimmerman	Churchwarden (started in July, filling the vacancy from Liz Hayward's death in May), Standing Committee
Geoffrey Burton	Treasurer, Standing Committee, Co-opted
Deacon Stephen MacCarthy	Co-opted

The PCC held 6 meetings during 2023 on the following dates:

- 26th January
- 26th March (a short meeting of the newly formed PCC following the APCM for the election of PCC officers.)
- 25th May
- 27th July
- 5th October
- 30th November

It was agreed at the October PCC meeting that a short summary of the PCC minutes would be posted on the church notice board. This allows visitors and members of the congregation to have an overview of what is being discussed at PCC meetings.

Administrative Information

Church Address:

St John the Evangelist Church, Lower Church Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 9AA

Administrative Address:

St John the Evangelist Church, Lower Church Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 9AA

Incumbent: Fr David Charles: 01444 244340 or vicar@stjohnschurchbh.org.uk

Charitable status of the parish

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission: number 1165166.

Name and address of Independent Examiner:

Helen Preece, Unit 1, Teknol House, Victoria Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 9LH

Copy of the previous APCM minutes is printed below:

The Parish of St John the Evangelist, Burgess Hill

Meeting of the Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 26th March 2023 11.30am in Church

Chaired by Father David Charles

MINUTES

1. Father David opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Apologies had been received from Sue McCabe and John and Veronica Holden.
3. Election of Churchwardens. Nominations had been received for:

Liz Hayward

Proposed by Felicity Fernee and seconded by Colin Monnery

Colin Squires

Proposed by Vince Elliot and seconded by Richard Ellis

All were in favour and they were duly elected.

Father David took the opportunity to express his huge thanks to them both for not only the practical work they had undertaken in the last year but also the complementary skills they have brought to the role and their relationship with him. It has been a pleasure, privilege and joy to work with them and he looks forward to the coming year.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting then followed:

1. Acceptance of the minutes of the APCM 22nd May 2022

Proposed: Jean MacCarthy

Seconded: John Carter

All in favour that they are a true and accurate report of the meeting.

2. There were no matters arising. Fr David signed the minutes.
3. Acceptance of the Annual Report

Father David thanked Liz Hayward for producing the Annual Report booklet. There are a number of reasons why we should be proud of what it represents and what we have achieved in the last year. So many people have been involved in a number of different activities. The PCC has approved the Annual Report.

A question was asked about the attendance graph. The letters refer to the weeks of the month: week A is the first week etc. The graph shows a growth in attendance of 20+ during 2022. This was helped by restarting the 8am service and also a growth in numbers at the 10am Mass. It is important to remember that the report was written as at the 31st December and we already have many reasons to be thankful in 2023. There is much to look forward to including the Confirmation with Bishop Will and the Mission Action Plan after Easter.

Proposed: Graham Todd
Seconded: Paul Simpson
All in favour.

4. Adoption of the Accounts

Geoff Burton reported that our income has held up reasonably well and we were able to host a couple of concerts last year which added much needed funds. Planned giving was the same in 2022 as in 2012. We have lost members of our congregation through moving away and some have died. The gas and electricity bills are a major concern. In 2019 we paid £2007 for the whole year but in Dec 2002 the bills were £2800 (reduced to £2300 after the Government subsidy). Our tariffs are fixed until the end of this year and may not go down even then. Other items such as hosts and candles have increased in cost.

We have currently pledged to pay less than half of what we should be paying of our Parish Share. We promised £37000 but Geoff predicts that it is unlikely that we will be able to pay more than £27000 this year.

Liz commented that the response to the Stewardship Campaign had been fantastic and that it was very encouraging that so many people were willing to increase their support of the Church at a time of such economic uncertainty. Perhaps our future isn't so bleak.

Last year our expenses amounted to £105000 in total which included £14000 in repairs and £1000 in concert costs. In a normal year it costs £120000 to run the Church.

Geoff stated that he had been doing the job of Treasurer for us for 10 years and would be 75 next year so was giving notice that this would be his last year. He will do the end of year accounts and is willing to support his replacement in any way he can.

Geoff was asked how long we can "not pay" our share before we are penalised, for example by losing our incumbent. For example if we were only to pay £27000 what might be the penalties? In the long term the situation is unsustainable as the Diocese would become bankrupt if too many parishes were in this position.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Kate Rhodes and seconded by Alan Rhodes.

All were in favour.

5. The roll stands at 162. This is 6 more than at the last APCM. Ginny Nicholls (Electoral Roll Officer) referred us to page 7 of the Annual Report for a detailed breakdown of the Roll.
6. Report on Goods and Ornaments: Colin Squires reported that there had been no changes to the terrier as at 31st December 2022
7. Election of four Deanery Synod members - there were only four nominations so all were duly elected.

Claire Elliot	Proposed: Jean MacCarthy Seconded: Rachel Staplehurst
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Liz Hayward	Proposed: Diana Tipler Seconded: Graham Todd
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Jean MacCarthy	Proposed: Jane Hatt Seconded: Averil West
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Graham Todd	Proposed: Liz Hayward Seconded: Averil West
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8. Election of PCC members - there were only six nominations for nine places. Of these, four were members willing to stand for re-election. One further nomination was forthcoming at the meeting:

John Carter	Proposed: Colin Squires Seconded: Averil West
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Vince Elliot	Proposed: Colin Squires Seconded: Doug Stewart
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Liz Griffiths	Proposed: Claire Elliot Seconded: Jean MacCarthy
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Virginia Nicholls	Proposed: John Carter Seconded: Liz Griffiths
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Douglas Stewart	Proposed: Richard Ellis Seconded: John Carter
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Diana Tipler	Proposed: Liz Hayward Seconded: Graham Todd
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Graham Zimmerman	Proposed: Liz Hayward Seconded: Colin Squires
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Father David thanked Kate Rhodes who had decided not to stand for re-election. Her support and work, particularly with The Spire was greatly appreciated. Liz also thanked Kate on behalf of the Wardens and added that they are very pleased that she will be continuing in her role as volunteer co-ordinator.

9. Appointment of an Independent Examiner: **Helen Preece** is prepared to continue.
Proposed: Graham Todd
Seconded: Felicity Fernee

All were in favour.

10. Any Other Business.

Graham suggested it would be appropriate to update people on the progress of the organ restoration project.

Father David commented that the Public Notice was on the door and noticeboard and people have until Wednesday 29th March to notify the Diocesan Registrar of any objections. We are fortunate in that the DAC did not put any provisos on the faculty application so there is no reason why it will not go ahead. Graham had done a fantastic job in putting the application together for us. Paul Simpson does very well when playing the organ, but it is in an awful state. It is important that the project goes ahead and that the money which has so generously been donated over many years is put to good use. Each year this is delayed its value decreases.

It is hoped the Chancellor will grant the faculty in April or May and that Alistair Curtis, the organ builder, will be able to achieve a substantial amount of work during July and August. The total cost will be in the region of £80000 and at the moment there is £47000 in restricted funds. Graham has applied for a grant for £10000 and will pursue other grants. Dr Alan Thurlow is very supportive of the project which may help with further fund raising.

The question was asked about the roof was secure. To the best of our knowledge, it is - yes.

The most essential tranche of work will go ahead first with the hope that we will get the money to complete further stages (all of which are included in the one faculty).

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting ended at 12.15 pm.



***Thank you for your faithfulness over 2023
and
Please continue to pray for our church and local community of Burgess Hill***

St John the Evangelist Accounts 2023 and Examiner's Report

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	88,052	32,959	-	121,011	87,265	
Charitable activities	3,327	65	-	3,392	1,172	
Other trading activities	13,282	-	-	13,282	4,650	
Investments	515	1,647	-	2,162	1,065	
Other receipts	32	-	-	32	611	
Total income	105,208	34,671	-	139,879	94,763	2
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	977	-	-	977	960	
Charitable activities	94,685	28,968	-	123,654	103,649	
Other trading activities	2,706	-	-	2,706	1,003	
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	
Total expenditure	98,368	28,968	-	127,337	105,612	3
Net gains (or losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-	8
Net income or (net expenditure)	6,839	5,703	-	12,542	(10,849)	
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	10
	6,839	5,703	-	12,542	(10,849)	
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	11
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	1,533	1,533	-	
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>						
Net movement in funds	6,839	5,703	1,533	14,075	(10,849)	
Total funds brought forward	1,100	47,781	16,407	65,288	76,137	
Total funds carried forward	7,939	53,484	17,940	79,363	65,288	

Balance Sheet

	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	
Intangible assets	-	-	
Tangible assets	-	-	
Heritage assets	-	-	
Endowed investments	17,940	16,407	
Total fixed assets	17,940	16,407	11
Stocks	-	-	
Debtors	2,822	4,252	14
Investments	-	-	
Cash at bank and in hand	75,708	61,286	
Total current assets	78,530	65,539	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(13,106)	(12,658)	15
Net current assets or (liabilities)	65,423	52,881	
Total assets less current liabilities	83,363	69,288	
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	(4,000)	(4,000)	
Provisions for liabilities	-	-	
Total net assets or (liabilities)	79,363	65,288	
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds	17,940	16,407	
Restricted income funds	53,484	47,781	
Unrestricted funds	7,939	1,100	
Revaluation reserve	-	-	
Total unrestricted funds	7,939	1,100	
Total charity funds	79,363	65,288	18

Notes to the financial report (continued)

Analysis of income and endowments

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	46,801	-	-	46,801	48,422	
Planned giving (no tax refunds)	-	-	-	-	-	
Loose cash collections	6,480	-	-	6,480	6,621	
Summer fete & Christmas bazaar	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Fund Raising Events	3,665	-	-	3,665	3,476	
Concerts	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Special appeals	10,104	32,628	-	42,732	8,224	
Gift Aid recoverable	14,005	331	-	14,337	15,245	
Legacies	237	-	-	237	-	
Grants	6,761	-	-	6,761	5,276	
Donations and legacies	£88,052	£32,959	-	£121,011	£87,265	
Fees for weddings & funerals	3,327	65	-	3,392	1,172	
Charitable activities	£3,327	£65	-	£3,392	£1,172	
Café/Church Hall	5,504	-	-	5,504	1,585	
Concerts	4,614	-	-	4,614	2,198	
Sales of the parish magazine	-	-	-	-	-	
Rent from letting of Parish house	-	-	-	-	-	
Bible study notes	-	-	-	-	-	
Church centre hiring fees	3,164	-	-	3,164	868	
Magazine advertisement fees	-	-	-	-	-	
Bookstall sales	-	-	-	-	-	
Other trading activities	£13,282	-	-	£13,282	£4,650	
Bank & CBF deposit interest	23	1,647	-	1,670	574	
CBF investment fund dividend	492	-	-	492	491	
Rent from letting of investment property	-	-	-	-	-	
Investments	£515	£1,647	-	£2,162	£1,065	
Other receipts	32	-	-	32	611	
Total income and endowments on all funds	£105,208	£34,671	-	£139,879	£94,763	8

Notes to the financial report (continued)

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Special appeals costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Stewardship costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Grants costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Other fundraising costs	977	-	-	977	960	
Cost of raising funds	£977	-	-	£977	£960	
Charitable grants and donations	-	-	-	-	70	4
Mission & evangelism costs	585	-	-	585	82	
Diocesan parish share	38,766	-	-	38,766	45,834	
Clergy and other people's expenses	-	-	-	-	309	
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	8,673	-	-	8,673	11,773	
Upkeep of services	-	-	-	-	-	
Church running costs	31,217	-	-	31,217	16,975	
Sunday school	-	-	-	-	153	
Church maintenance and repair	11,837	28,651	-	40,488	14,349	
Upkeep of churchyard	-	-	-	-	-	
Upkeep of vicarage	-	-	-	-	10,544	
Storage costs of donated goods	-	-	-	-	-	
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	
Administration	3,607	317	-	3,924	3,360	
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	-	
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	8
Governance	-	-	-	-	200	
Cost of charitable activities	£94,685	£28,968	-	£123,654	£103,649	
Summer fete/Christmas bazaar costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Concert Costs	2,172	-	-	2,172	935	
Church centre hiring costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Church hall running costs	534	-	-	534	-	
Bible study notes	-	-	-	-	-	
Parish magazine costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Bookstall costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Storage costs of donated goods	-	-	-	-	-	
Other trading costs	-	-	-	-	67	
Cost of other trading activities	£2,706	-	-	£2,706	£1,003	
Total expended on all funds	£98,368	£28,968	-	£127,337	£105,612	

Notes to the financial report (continued)

Missionary and charitable giving:

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Overseas:						
Water Aid	28	-	-	28	245	
Christian Aid	-	-	-	-	-	
Home:						
The Childrens Society	569	-	-	569	673	
St. Peter & St. James Hospice	283	-	-	283	-	
DEC Ukraine	-	-	-	-	734	
DEC Turkey	493	-	-	493	542	
Blind Veterans	239	-	-	239	229	
Family Support Work	-	-	-	-	878	
Stroke Association	401	-	-	401	-	
Burgess Hill Pantry	250	-	-	250	-	
Bishops Discretionary Fund	83	-	-	83	-	
Royal British Legion	128	-	-	128	70	
BBC Children in Need	-	-	-	-	-	
Headway Charity	55	-	-	55	534	
Sussex Historic Churches	-	-	-	-	-	
Missions for Seamen	-	-	-	-	-	
Burgess Hill Community Foodbank	126	-	-	126	-	
Forget-me-not café	-	-	-	-	-	
Mid-Sussex Older Persons Council	-	-	-	-	-	
Toybox	-	-	-	-	-	
Brighton Homeless	131	-	-	131	-	
Young Minds	-	-	-	-	-	
	2,786	-	-	2,786	3,905	

Staff costs

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Remuneration						
Wages and salaries	8,673	-	-	8,673	11,773	
Employer social security costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Employer pension costs	-	-	-	-	-	
	8,673	-	-	8,673	11,773	

Governance

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Independent examination	200	-	-	200	-	
Accounts production	-	-	-	-	-	
Bookkeeping	-	-	-	-	-	
	200	-	-	200	-	

Transfers between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	

Notes to the financial report (continued)

Fixed Assets

a Investments

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Market value 1 January 2022	-	-	16,407	16,407
Disposals at carrying value	-	-	-	-
Purchases at cost	-	-	-	-
Net gains and revaluation	-	-	1,533	1,533
Market value 31 December 2022	-	-	£17,940	£17,940

b Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Audio visual equipment	Office equipment	Total fixed assets
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2022	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	-	-	-	-
Charge for impairment				
At 1 January 2022	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	-	-	-	-
Net book amounts				
At 31 December 2022	-	-	-	-
<i>At 31 December 2021</i>	-	-	-	-

Notes to the financial report (continued)

Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Fixed assets for church use	-	-	-	-	-	
Investment fixed assets	-	-	17,940	17,940	16,407	
Current assets (except cash)	-	-	-	-	-	
Cash at bank and on deposit	28,901	46,807	-	75,708	61,286	
Current liabilities	12,715	391	-	13,106	(12,658)	
Long term liabilities	4,000	-	-	4,000	(4,000)	
	£45,616	£47,198	£17,940	£110,754	£61,035	

Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Income tax recoverable	2,173	331	-	2,505	3,324	
Prepayments and accrued income	317	-	-	317	929	
Other debtors	-	-	-	-	-	
	£2,490	£331	-	£2,822	£4,252	

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Deferred income	-	-	-	-	100	
Accruals for utilities and other costs	10,715	-	-	10,715	7,001	
Archdeacon's loan	-	-	-	-	-	
Other creditors	2,000	391	-	2,391	5,557	
	£12,715	£391	-	£13,106	£12,658	

Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Deferred income	-	-	-	-	-	
Accruals for utilities and other costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Archdeacon's loan	-	-	-	-	-	
Other creditors	4,000	-	-	4,000	4,000	
	£4,000	-	-	£4,000	£4,000	

Notes to the financial report (continued)

Prior year Statement of Financial Activities comparative figures for this year

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	80,761	6,504	-	87,265
Charitable activities	1,172	-	-	1,172
Other trading activities	4,650	-	-	4,650
Investments	498	567	-	1,065
Other receipts	611	-	-	611
Total income	87,692	7,071	-	94,763
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	960	-	-	960
Charitable activities	94,880	8,769	-	103,649
Other trading activities	1,003	-	-	1,003
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	96,843	8,769	-	105,612
Net gains (or losses) on investments	-	-	-	-
Net income or (net expenditure)	(9,151)	(1,698)	-	(10,849)
Transfers between funds	(123)	123		
	(9,274)	(1,575)	-	(10,849)
Other recognised gains/(losses):				
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	(2,185)	(2,185)
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>				
Net movement in funds	(9,274)	(1,575)	(2,185)	(13,035)
Total funds brought forward	10,374	49,357	18,592	78,322
Total funds carried forward	1,100	47,781	16,407	65,288

Statement of funds

	Balances b/fwd 01-Jan-23	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31-Dec-23
	£	£	£	£	£
Church Charity	£6,733			629	7,363
The Crunden Church Charity	£9,674			904	10,577
Total of all endowed funds	£16,407	-	-	1,533	17,940
Organ fund	£44,410	34,521	(28,888)	-	50,043
Charity fund	£0	-	-	-	0.00
Bells Fund	£1,747	130	(80)	-	1,797
Other Special Appeals	£460	-	-	-	460
Christmas Lights fund	£1,164	20	-	-	1,184
	-				
Total of all restricted funds	£47,781	34,671	(28,968)	-	53,484
General fund	£(10,023)	99,467	(96,679)	10,000	2,764
Designated funds	£11,123	5,741	(1,689)	(10,000)	5,175
Revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	-
Total of all unrestricted funds	£1,100	105,208	(98,368)	-	7,939
Total funds	£65,288	£139,879	£(127,337)	£1,533	79,363

139,879

127,337

balance_ty	account_ty	ledger_cod	account	31_Dec_2023 amount
Asset	Fixed Asse	F.207	Investments Revaluation	1532.91
Asset	Fixed Asse	F.207	Investments	0
Asset	Fixed Assets - Long T		The Church Charity	6733.39
Asset	Fixed Assets - Long T		The Crundon Church Charity	9673.58
Asset	Current As	A.406	Gift Aid Pending	2504.72 AIT
Asset	Current As	A.409	Prepayments & Accrued Income	317 AI
Asset	Current As	B.000	CCLA General Funds	431.32 B
Asset	Current As	B.000	CCLA Organ Fund	46806.91 CCLAR
Asset	Current As	B.100	Cash/Undeposited Receipts	181.69 B
Asset	Current As	B.000	HSBC	27785.82 B
Asset	Current As	B.000	Natwest Bank	502.12 B
Liability	Supplier	S.000	Clergy Locum	ACC
Liability	Supplier	S.000	Supplier Accounts Payable	0
Liability	Liability -	L.301	Accruals & Deferred Income	-10715.05 ACC
Liability	Liability -	L.501	British Heart Foundation	-82.83 CF
Liability	Liability -	L.501	Burgess Hill Food Bank	-42.5 CF
Liability	Liability -	L.501	Operation Smile	-332 CF
Liability	Liability -	L.501	Ronald Mac D Hospital Homes	-123 CF
Liability	Liability - Current		Royal British Legion	8.7 CF
Liability	Liability -	L.501	St. Peter & St. James Hospice	283.4 CF
Liability	Liability -	L.501	Stroke Association	10 CF
Liability	Liability - Current		Syrian Families	-113.08 CF
Liability	Liability -	L.501	Receipts on Behalf of 3rd Parties	0
Liability	Funds	X.X	Church Charity	-7362.5 CC
Liability	Funds	X.X	Crunden Church Charity	-10577.38 CCC
Liability	Funds	X.X	Endowment Capital Funds	0
Liability	Funds	X.X	Bells Fund	-1797.2 BF
Liability	Funds	X.X	Candle Tree	-460 CT
Liability	Funds	X.X	Christmas Lights	-1183.85 CL
Liability	Funds	X.X	Organ Fund	-50043.16 OF
Liability	Funds	X.X	Restricted Funds	0
Liability	Funds	X.X	Childrens Church	-32.43 GF
Liability	Funds	X.X	Hall Fund	-6227.6 GF
Liability	Funds	X.X	Legacies Fund	-870.81 GF
Liability	Funds	X.X	Unrestricted Designated Funds	0
Liability	Funds	X.X	General Fund	-853.22 GF
Liability	Funds	X.X	Unrestricted General Funds	0
Liability	Liability -	L.900	G A Todd Loan	-6000 LTL
Liability	Liability -	L.900	Bank Loans & Overdrafts	0
Liability	Liability -	L.900	Bank Loans & Overdrafts	0

Examiners Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St John the Evangelist Church, Burgess Hill.

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31/12/2023 which are set out on pages to .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

The members of the Church's PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The members of the Church's PCC 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;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination included 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has 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.

Signed:

H Preece

Name: Helen Preece

Date: 09/04/2024

Professional Qualification: ACMA, ACIB

Address: Unit 1, Teknol House, Victoria Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 9LH