

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church with St
Mary Magdalen and St Peter and St Paul, St Leonards on Sea

Registered Charity No. 1170031

For the year ended 31 December 2023

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Trustees Annual Report 2023

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1. Aims and Purpose

Our aims and purposes as a charity:

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in:

- The provision and maintenance of the fabric of Christ Church, St Leonards on Sea and its associated buildings;
- Conducting regular Christian worship;
- The celebration of the Holy Eucharist, including on a daily basis at Christ Church; baptisms, marriages and funerals;
- Leaving Christ Church open to the public to enter and benefit from personal spiritual contemplation;

- Promoting the study of Christian teaching, practices and Scriptures;
- The provision of means and encouragement to promote fellowship within the membership of the Churches and the wider community;
- In addition to the above, Christian devotional acts and outreach work is carried out, including:
 - Visiting the sick;
 - Administering the Sacraments to those unable to attend regular acts of Worship, to the sick and dying;
 - Supporting pastoral work;
 - Fostering ecumenical links between differing Christian denominations;
 - Supporting the work of other local charities.

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'.

In 2023/24, we continued to pursue the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church. The Church is now open from 7.30 – 7pm every day, except in exceptional circumstances.

Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community;

Teaching, baptizing and confirming new and existing believers;

Considering how services can involve the many groups that exist within the parish;

Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament;

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Offering worship and prayer

Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus;

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish;

Providing assistance to the poor and needy of the parish;

Maintaining the fabric of the church building as a historic centre and focus of life in the Parish.

Our Mission Action Plan came to an end last year, and the Rector, Wardens & PCC are discerning the next steps to develop one for the next five years. The process began in 2022 with an open meeting of the parish, but the next steps have been delayed by – amongst other things – overrunning building works, a Heritage Engagement Project & the temporary absence of the Rector on sick leave. However, the Rector, Wardens & PCC remain committed to concluding this process to enable us to have a long term plan in place to launch from our 150th Anniversary celebrations.

Christ Church remains open daily for private prayer and public worship: there are is a Daily Low Mass offered either in the daytime (1030am) or evening (7pm) to allow both retired and working people to attend. On Sundays, there is a Low Mass at 8am, followed by a time of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and Morning Prayer at 915. The main Sunday Sung Mass then follows at 1030, which is supplemented by Sunday School. There are also occasional seasonal evening services, usually Evensong, offered by either our choir, a visiting choir or a combination of the two.

As well as the continued offering of the daily Mass, additional opportunities for worship include the Rosary led by the Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham, the celebrations of major feasts and solemnities and – since Lent 2024 – the reintroduction of public daily Morning & Evening Prayer. Christ Church now offers 11 hours of regular public worship per week (572 hours per year – the equivalent of almost 24 solid days!) This doesn't include additional major feasts and solemnities, or the extra programmes of worship offered over Advent, Christmas, Lent & Easter. We can see this has borne fruit as our ASA (Average Sunday Attendance) including Christmas & Easter had increased almost 25% for 2023 compared with 2022, to 110.

Baptisms continue to be celebrated, including most recently at the Easter Vigil, which also included three Confirmations. There were also seven confirmations at the large celebration of St George's Day in April 2023, alongside the Scout Church Parade. We conduct a small number of funerals, mainly of former parishioners.

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Christian teaching occurs weekly in the preaching at weekday and Sunday Masses, as well as in Lent & Advent Courses from the Rector. Visiting clergy have also come to speak and teach on particular topics. There have also been three courses of 5/6 sessions offered twice-weekly (daytime and evening) over the past year to allow parishioners to explore the 'Meaning of the Mass' – what happens at Christ Church, why and how it can be made more reverent. We also ran well-attended Alpha Course this year, and have hopes to repeat this in the future having learned lessons about the most effective approaches to engaging new people and balancing their interests with those of current church members.

The Rector also leads Christian worship at Christ Church Academy at least every week, as well as other additional seasonal services and continues to develop a growing programme of visits from the school and to the school in conjunction with the staff and governors.

Pastoral care is offered to members of our parish and congregation not just by the clergy (both stipendiary and retired) but also by the Eucharistic Ministers of the church, in the form of home visits, home communions and pastoral calls.

Christ Church continues to grow its wider ministry and visibility in the local community as well in a variety of ways including hosting concert series, one-off events such as staging a play about the life of Julian of Norwich and particularly this past year with our Heritage Engagement Project. More details are in the below reports.

2. Fundraising & Fellowship

Monthly table sales, which regularly bring in between £400-500 and are the result of a lot of hard work from our volunteers, have continued. They also act as an important point of interaction with the local community. There have also been other occasional events which have raised funds, such our Epiphany Meal, a Curry Night and a play by a local artist. Concerts also continue to provide both an important revenue stream, and an opportunity to develop links with local groups and people.

As last year, the growth of the congregation and of congregational giving represents an important source of income – as well as a primary aim of Christ Church in and of itself. Sunday worship is now focussed on the 1030 Mass attended by a growing and diversifying congregation followed by fellowship & refreshments for all - as well as the continued provision of an early 8am Mass, and quiet prayer and reflection in between. There have also been a number of 'Bring & Share' parties after major Feasts & Festivals – including Easter & Christmas. A major highlight was the celebration of the King's Coronation in May 2023 with special services and an outdoor party hosted by the parish, and including many visitors and local friends.

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Although the completion of outstanding building works took longer than was originally hoped – and consequently occupied more time and energy for longer than anticipated – these have now come to a close, and put us in an excellent position to focus on our programme of events and fundraising for our 150th anniversary in 2025. This will also allow a greater focus of our collective time and efforts on mission and outreach to the people of God, and the growth of our church family in both faith and number.

Various groups and ministries restarted last year continue to offer the chance for more fellowship and outreach, including the Rosary (an important lay-led ministry) and Coffee hosted by the Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham; Cozy Crypt; ongoing links and hosting of the School, the Fellowship of St Nicholas at Christmas, and our Uniformed Groups. The provision of a 'Scratch Nativity' on Christmas Eve was a new offering and a particular highlight, bringing well over 100 parents and families into church and laying the foundations for a growing ministry of engagement and outreach to this demographic that is still relatively small at Christ Church.

3. Serving The Community

This year we have continued, as much as we can, to continue looking outward in our mission and outreach.

We have still been able to support the local community in these ways:

- The Seaview Project (for the poor and needy) providing items of requirement when needed.
- Serving as local governors at our parish school.
- Serving as trustees of the Christ Church Old Buildings Trust (CCOBT), Sarah Brisco Trust and the St Mary Magdalen Educational Charity.
- Serving as Board members of the Christ Church St. Leonards House Improvement Society Ltd.
- Hosting weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.
- Hosting weekly Cocaine Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings.
- Members of the sewing group are contributing knitted items of clothing to charities such as Surviving the Streets, Dom's Food Mission and Warming Up The Homeless.

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Night Shelters

- Opening the Crypt for the night shelters operated by SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) is no longer operating due to other council arrangements.
- Regular contact and support is maintained with Surviving the Streets and some funding has been given to them via the Sarah Brisco charity.

Discussions re ways forward for the church to continue its support are ongoing and a link between the charity and Christ Church is now firmly linked. We have contributed to the costs of their delivery vehicles and equipment and our Harvest festival collection went to them.

Other Initiatives

The food bank continues to serve the local community and is in regular use. This is run by Surviving the Streets.

Cosy Crypt has been started up on a regular Thursday basis as part of the Warm Space initiative. It has been a great success, open from 10am to 4pm and staffed by Christ Church Volunteers. There has been a constant good footfall. Cosy Crypt offers a warm safe space, friendly faces and an opportunity to chat, rest and have hot drinks and snacks.

A representative from Citizen's Advice Bureau is in regular attendance to give advice.

Church members continue to volunteer to lead our local Scout Group and serve as members of the Scout Group Committee.

Monthly Table Sales have continued and have proven once again to be a great success with local people and also as a means of income. Many thanks to the members of the congregation who tirelessly work on a regular basis to enable the sales to occur.

The Parish Hall and Crypt have continued to be used by vulnerable groups AA, NA, CA and both rooms are open to the wider public for bookings. Active Arts, a charity for people with learning difficulties also use the hall on a frequent basis as do various exercise and well being groups.

The hall is also used for different types of exercise groups.

The 'Book Room' in the Parish Centre is open twice a week and continues to raise a profitable amount of money as well as providing a reading resource for the congregation and wider public.

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The Church has been able to continue to host some concerts this year and has a good ongoing relationship with Hastings Philharmonic Choir and Chamber Choir. We have been able to benefit from a variety of recitals by various people in church and several concerts have taken place with full bookings. The concerts run by Hastings Philharmonic have become an extremely well known and popular feature in our outreach to the wider community.

The children's choir group, Songbirds, set up by Hastings Philharmonic Choir is continuing to take place in church.

A good relationship continues with Citizens Advice Bureau housed in Christ Church Old Buildings Trust in the courtyard.

We have developed a link with the festival 'A Town Explores A book' which engages the community in assorted activities and events round a book theme. In 2023 the opening ceremony took place in the church and discussions re further activities in the church are open.

The church became involved in the St Leonards on Sea community Frost Fair and parade with the Liturgy Group dressing up as angels and promoting Christmas activities in the church.

Various activities involving the Liturgy Group took part in Advent to which members of the public could attend.

This year a National Lottery Heritage Fund series of events open to members of the congregation and the wider public took place. This was co-ordinated by Lucy Bailey and involved a series of activities for children over a period of months which were well attended.

A Community Embroidery depicting church and community was also undertaken in several venues, the main one being Christ Church and the unveiling of this was on Easter Sunday.

As part of the heritage fund initiative open days one of the stone masons from Heritage Stone, working on the building, was on hand to give talks and explanations of the work involved.

4. Financial Review

Throughout 2023 the PCC continued to highlight different ways in which people can financially contribute to the mission and ministry of the Church in this Parish. The 'Mind the Gap' Stewardship campaign was launched again in both May and October, seeking additional giving, and particularly through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), enabling a more direct means of reclaiming Gift Aid, thus helping with our cash flow. Although this brought about a small uptake in numbers of givers, the overall level of regular giving has not increased, since some givers were lost.

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Throughout the year Christ Church continued to engage the fundraising consultancy Craigmyle as professional support to advise on capital campaigns to raise the sums required to take our Tower Clock plans forward, and to create plans to make the annual running costs of the church sustainable without relying on reserves.

The Quinquennial Inspection showed the requirement for urgent fabric restoration repairs. Works to the Tower, and South Elevations were completed in 2022, and the remaining elevations of the Church are the subject of a grant by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which has covered a large part of the costs, but has still required over £100,000 to be found to complete all the necessary works. £70,000 of this has been incurred by the end of 2023, with the remaining £35,000 to be incurred during the first half of 2024. We were fortunate to successfully negotiate a further £10,000 grant in respect of the South Elevation Works.

During 2023 donation income was £17,786 lower than in 2022, entirely resulting from no legacy income during this year. Income from the use of the Church Hall and Crypt together with concerts in the Church, was lower than in 2022, but still a valuable contribution to Church funds. The PCC continue, where possible, to keep expenditure under tight control. However the day-to-day deficit although eliminated during 2023 this was due entirely to the negotiated 3 year reduction in our Parish Share payments to the Diocese. These 3 years are to allow us to address our ongoing deficits. The investment holdings, in line with market trends in 2023, recovered £28,620 of the previous years deficit on their revaluation at the year-end. The overall effect has been to decrease our Reserves by almost £20,000.

The PCC continues to address this unsustainable financial position through its Financial Sustainability Sub-Committee, tasked with achieving a balance of income over expenditure over a five-year period. It has not been possible during 2023 to make much progress, and it is essential that we make further progress on increasing our Income in 2024.

Why we hold some money in reserve

The PCC discussed the following factors in arriving at their reserves policy:

- Money should only be kept in reserve for specific reasons – whilst the Bible clearly indicates that we should not hoard, it is also clear that sensible planning for known events and a contingency for emergencies are important.
- In 2023 there was an excess of expenditure over income of £48,405 before the exceptional increase in the value of our Investments is taken into Account.
- The ongoing income is insufficient to meet the ongoing costs of the Church, the largest item of cost being the Parish Share. Whilst the reduction in Parish Share for the next two years helps address this, there is no immediate cause for concern, given the current levels of cash and other reserves, it remains prudent to make reserves for both ongoing costs and special repair and maintenance costs, for the Church and Church Hall.

Policy: It is the policy of the Church to keep-six months' running costs (£70,000 before the special short-term reduction in Parish Share costs), to cover any unforeseen emergencies. The PCC will also keep in reserve sufficient funds to enable the Church, and Church Hall to be kept in a good and substantial state of repair. Currently an amount of £42,000 is considered to be a reasonable estimate. This policy is reviewed annually.

5. Structure, Governance & Management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members

Rector:

The Rev'd Thomas Crowley

Assistant Curates:

The Revd Dr Richard Ralph (NSM)

Authorised Lay Minister:

Jane Hart

Wardens:

Susan Shaw *PCC Vice Chairman*

Maureen Harman

Elected Members:

William Baker

Trevor Davies

Christopher Gidlow

Tina-Marie Grevett

Michael Hart

Andrew Knight

Jane Read

John Read

David Smith

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Deanery Synod Representatives:

Julie Gidlow

Anne Hanney *Assistant Safeguarding Officer*

Elizabeth Mackay

Susan Parsons

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent, curates), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and [up to] 12 members of the 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.

A Standing Committee meets to transact PCC business between PCC meetings, and the Rector & Churchwardens meet on a regular basis to address any ongoing or arising matters.

6. Christ Church St Leonards on Sea House Improvement Society Ltd

The Board of Directors is chaired by the Rector. The other Directors are, Sue Parsons a member of the PCC, Heidi Ralph and Melanie Clark. The Company Secretary is Trevor Davies and the Managing agents continue to be FPE. Fr Richard Ralph is in attendance at Director's meetings. Sadly during 2023 we lost both Gerald Funnell, a retired Director and George Bryan. Their expertise will be sorely missed and may they Rest In Peace. The Directors have the responsibility of administering and maintaining St Richard's House, Pevensey Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. During 2023, the Board of Directors continued to improve the standard of housing and levels of comfort for our tenants, with flat improvements being made to existing tenants also. A new Intercom Telephone system as well as CCTV to the front of the Building has been installed. Costs continue to increase, but rents were not increased during this difficult time financially. This has led to a deficit again the year. Whilst the Society has ample reserves to meet this, it is necessary to address this and Rents will be increased over a two-year period commencing April 2024, but still to a level well below current market rentals. The registered address is Christ Church Parish Office, 2 Christ Church Courtyard, London Road, St Leonards on Sea, TN37 6GL.

7. St Mary Magdalen Educational Charity

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission (306495). The charity offers cash grants to individuals and organisations that will tend to facilitate education in accordance with the principles of the Church of England, and provides grants to Christ Church School in particular. The charity mainly operates within the parish of Christ Church and St Mary Magdalen, St Leonards-on-Sea or in the wider Borough of Hastings. Other areas where this Charity could offer support are being examined. The Trustees are chaired by the Rector. There are 4 other Trustees including Michael Hart a member of the PCC and Trevor Davies as Treasurer.

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8. Sarah Brisco Charity

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission (211554). The Trustees are The Rector and the Church Wardens and Treasurer. The charity exists for the relief of the poor of the Parish which it does through the making of grants to individuals, and organisations within the Parish of Christ Church, St Leonards-on-Sea, at the absolute and uncontrolled discretion of the Trustees.

In 2023 this included grants to Christ Church School for part of the costs of the needy school-children's Walsingham Pilgrimage, as well as a further contribution to Surviving The Streets for their provision to the needy. The Charity also funded the Defibrillator for Community use in the Courtyard.

9. Christ Church St. Leonards Old Building Trust

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission (1087321)

The Trust owns and manages the buildings parallel to Christ Church known as the Old School Buildings and the land upon which the Christ Church CE Primary and Nursery Academy stands.

The objects of the Trust are:

1. The advancement and promotion of theological education and training for lay and ordained persons in the Church of England.
2. Meeting rooms for the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church and St Mary Magdalen, St Peter and St Paul, St Leonards-on-Sea.
3. Accommodation for clergy and their families within the Church of England.
4. For other charitable purposes connected with the Church of England

The Rector of Christ Church, Fr Thomas Crowley, Bishop Peter Wheatley, Mrs Maureen Harman, Bishop Nicholas Reade, Mrs Susan Parsons, Mr Paul Lewis and Mr Andrew Knight serve as Trustees. Mr Andrew Knight is also Clerk to the Trustees.

Highlights for 2023 have been:

- The completion of the major maintenance of the outside of OSB both South and North sides.
- The continuation of a ten-year lease let to CA1066 (Citizens Advice Bureau) from 2/1/19

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- A rolling 1-year lease let as a private residence for 17 Alfred Street from 1/5/2020
- The continuation of a rolling 1-year lease of the 'Parish Rooms' to the Christ Church PCC
- A continuation of a 125-year lease to Hastings Borough Council for the part of the building known as Renaissance House
- The Board met five times during 2023 and discussed and progressed where possible
 - A closer relationship with the Mother Agnus Trust (MAT)
 - Fire Safety in the Old School Buildings (OSB)
 - Long term strategy of the use of the OSB including discussions with the Mother Agnes Trust and the Diocese
 - A successor for the post of Clerk to the Trustees
 - Anti-Social behaviour in and around the OSB and Christ Church
 - Compliance with the Charities Commission advice on Risk and Financial Control
 - Installation of pigeon deterrents.
 - Agreed an extension of the BHT sub-lease in Renaissance House

10. Risk Assessment

The risks facing the PCC include the state of repair of the church, and the financial requirements to meet its stated activities, including payment of its Annual Parish Share. The structure of the church is continually monitored by the Church Architect reporting regularly to the Standing Committee and PCC. The finances are controlled by careful budgeting and close attention to fundraising, particularly with the employment of professional fundraisers and an ongoing multi-year stewardship campaign.

There have been no serious incidents or other matters relating to this charity over the previous financial year that should have been brought to the attention of the Charity Commissioners but have not.

There is a Church Risk Assessment booklet. It is strongly recommended that all who work in the church read it and abide by it. There is a copy in the Outer Sacristy and more copies are now available for groups who hire the church and for school visits.

11. Organisational Structure

The PCC is responsible inter alia for promoting the mission of the Church, the parochial budget, and all expenditure thereunder, and the care and maintenance of the fabric of the church. All members of the PCC are volunteers.

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New representatives are told of their responsibilities and of the issues facing the Church by existing representatives, and receive such additional training as required. Officers of the PCC, including the Secretary and Treasurer are appointed at the first meeting of the PCC after the Vestry Meeting. The PCC approved a set of Terms of Reference in November 2022 which outlined the expected conduct of members, to which all new members are required to assent. These were updated in July 2023.

As indicated, members of the PCC also serve as representatives on the Deanery Synod.

The church is run entirely by volunteers, as the one stipendiary clergyman is remunerated by the Church Commissioners. Without the work of these volunteers, Christ Church would not function.

12. Fabric

Firstly, it is important to thank Terry Knight immensely for doing many necessary jobs around the Church, including painting the Crypt, dealing with the Fire Extinguisher mountings, and securing loose wooden tiles in the Church Flooring.

SERVICING – The Church alarms, Font lifting mechanism, Altar lamps, Smoke alarms, Fire Extinguishers, PAT Testing and boilers for the Church and Parish Centre, have all been dealt with.

DRAINS – the drains around the Church and Parish Centre have all been checked and cleaned out as necessary.

PARISH CENTRE BOILERS – at present there is no heating or hot water in the Parish Centre. One of the two boilers stopped working. An inspection from Dale Saunders engineer, who completely understands the system, said that the boilers were not fit for the purposes of heating such a large space, which should have been known when the buildings were renovated. Dale Saunders quoted £7,000 for one boiler that would effectively heat the Centre. Two weeks ago the second boiler died. Both Boilers burnt out doing a job they were not equipped to do.

13. Safeguarding

Myself, Anne Hanney and Jessica Midgely Campbell are the Safeguarding personnel for Christ Church. We are responsible for advertising and supporting training and doing DBS checks.

We follow the Diocesan guidelines, and are in regular contact with Church House and the DBS checking agency.

Our policies and procedures are reviewed and updated. This is currently being done as I will be handing this over to Anne as the Lead Recruiter, and therefore stepping back from this role, again to concentrate on my ALM roles.

Jane Hart
Safeguarding Officer

14. Children's Ministry

PALS (Praise and Learn on Sundays) Sunday School in its current format has been running for about 30 years. Over this time, we have had various leaders (some still involved – myself and Fiona -thank you Fiona!), and different styles of teaching and learning. Some leaders have been qualified teachers or teaching assistants, and bring a wealth of knowledge and experience, and others are volunteers from other walks of life. Above all, we have a passion for sharing the love of Jesus with the children of our church and parish. We all have individual and unique skills, so the children benefit from a varied teaching programme.

In recent months the children have taken part in the Scratch Nativity on Christmas Eve, and also The Frost Fair and The St Leonards Festival.

I was privileged, with Tina & Sharon, to be involved in the Walsingham Children's Pilgrimage in March. 18 children went from school, and 1 from church. They gave a presentation on this year's theme 'Mary's Song', on Mothering Sunday, and gave out posies to the ladies of the church.

Fr Thomas was also presented with a very fetching Easter bonnet on Easter Sunday, and the children helped to give out Easter eggs to the congregation.

Those that have been involved on a regular basis are Fiona, Krystyne, Sharon, Kate, Jess, Tina and myself. My thanks go to all of those, and others that have stepped in as needs arise. All leaders are DBS checked and others are supervised.

I am an Authorised Lay Minister for Children & Families, and also an ALM for Liturgy & Worship. These roles have involved study courses, and follow on from my degree in Religious Education Studies. I have recently stepped away from PALS to concentrate on the wider ministry my training affords me, but I will still be involved in the children's ministry, and key events with my ALM hat on.

I hope to have some more Godly Play and Messy Church sessions, which are open to families and individuals. Covid got in the way of much of the children's work, and I feel we are still rebuilding.

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As a team we still plan to have regular Sunday morning sessions, but also these bigger events, and others, both within church and in the wider community. For these we hope to recruit one off volunteers. Watch this space!

You can still contact me on jane.alm@yahoo.com

Jane Hart

Authorised Lay Minister - Children & Families

15. Deanery Synod

Our parish was well represented at the very few Deanery Synod meetings held April to April. Most of the value this year has been literally mixing with other parish representatives. We discover much in common; that other parishes had been running alpha groups, having warm spaces and coffee clubs. Leadership of synod is changing. Reverend Matthew Foy of St Matthews and St Ethelburga's Church has been appointed Rural Dean. It is likely the new chairperson and treasurer will be appointed at the next meeting.

Synod Members representing Christchurch: Sue Parsons, Anne Hanney, Lizzy Mackay, Julie Gidlow

16. Youth Groups: Group Scout Leaders Report 2023

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to all our section leaders, assistant leaders, occasional/parent helpers and young leaders for all the great work they do. Without them we wouldn't be able to run our sections each week and all the activities in-between.

Our young people numbers have grown over this past year (2023), which is really great to see. As the group continues to grow, we have welcomed more volunteer helpers like Sarah Mayes, Krystyne Walsgrove, Charley Roe, Jon Bromell, Catherine Cattaway, Harley Marshall, Alex Stocks and Sharon Irving.

Highlights from this year's programmes...

The Hastings half-marathon returned, which was great. The whole section turned up and it was good to see so many of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts there helping the runners.

We've seen the passing of our Queen and the crowning of our new King and reflected/celebrated both.

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We have been over to RSPCA Mallydams a couple of times this year. The Cubs and Scouts visit was our 'helping nature camp' and the Beavers was their first sleepover.

We also hosted our annual beach clean, with help from the RSPCA education team.

The Beavers also had their annual fun day, over at Bushywood campsite. So many activities seen and done, plus some very tuckered out leaders in attendance.

I would also like to acknowledge that our very own Merry and Tabby received their 5-year service awards, finally. A great achievement, even though these are always received late.

I would also like to extend a special thank you Graeme Monk, our former GSL. As I am finding out first hand, being a Group Scout Leader is never a dull day... never felt so popular before in my life, especially for things I never knew existed or were necessary before. So, I thank you on behalf of the 9th family for all your time, your encouragement and your commitment to being you.

Ronnie

Group Scout Leader

17. Sacristy

"But what do you actually do?" is a question I was asked during Holy Week and, since this is the first time I have been asked to write a report for the APCM, I thought I would try and answer it as a means of introducing the Sacristy Team to the wider congregation of Christ Church.

In the five years since I became a Sacristan there have been some fluctuations to the level of service offered by the Sacristy. Back in 2019, when there were three of us, we covered at least one service every day of the week. A year later, when Covid came, there were initially no services to cover at all and then suddenly we found ourselves having to set up and clear away four services back-to-back every Sunday – that was tough but just about do-able. These days we are back to a more manageable level (at least when it's not Holy Week!) and with the current members of the team we are still usually able to make sure that there is always someone to set out and clear away the items used at Mass.

Essentially the role of the Sacristan is to have charge of the Sacred items used in the offering of Mass, and other services. For each Mass the Sacristy Team set out vestments for the priests, laying them out in a specific order so he can put them on correctly. We set up vessels (chalice and ciborium) with the correct linens, and make sure there are enough wafers, water, and wine for communion.



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We prepare the bowls and towels for the priest to wash his hands during Mass, and extra water and linens for the cleansing of the vessels that takes place in the Lady Chapel post communion. We prepare the liturgical books – the Lectionary, Gospel and Ordo – and make sure that everything is in place on the legilium for the priest, lector and intercessor. We ensure there is oil in the large altar candles, refill numerous wax candlesticks, restock the pricket stands and votives, and most importantly make sure the Tabernacle lamp is constantly alight. We take charge of changing the liturgical colours according to the Season or any special Feast days or Solemnities. We put up and take down the Shrine banners, again according to the Season, and determine how many Shrine candles are put out on any given Sunday.

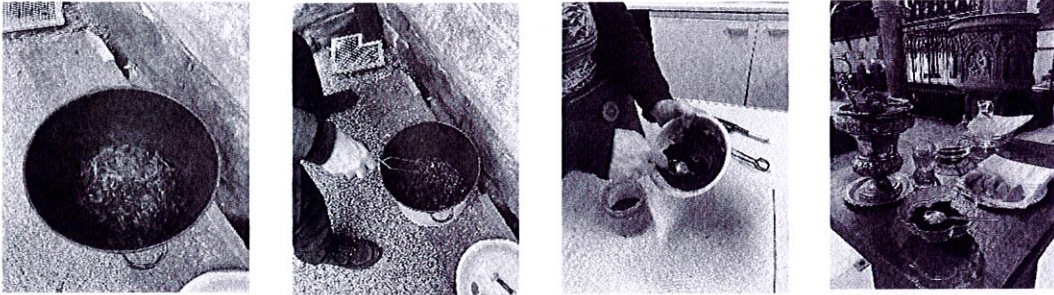
The set up for a normal Sunday takes us approximately two hours each week, but there is always more to do in the Sacristy (stock taking, ordering, cleaning brass and silver, repairing items etc) so we are often in church for much longer.



On special Feast Days – Christmas, Easter, Corpus Christi, All Saints and All Souls – there is considerably more to think about. During Holy Week, for example, we have the equivalent of a regular Sunday set up every day, plus several services that only happen once a year - the Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday (which requires a large bowl, thirteen towels and water at exactly the right temperature), and the Stripping of the Altars (which is a military operation all by itself), the Solemn Liturgy of the Passion on Good Friday, and of course the incredibly complex Easter Vigil

on Holy Saturday, which requires the preparation of not only the usual items for Mass, but the whittling down of a new Paschal candle, the preparation of two Paschal Candle stands, the emptying, cleaning and refilling of the font, the preparation of approximately 100 hand held candles for the congregation, the laying of new linens on six separate altars, the hanging of banners, and placement of flowers, plus twice the number of altar lights to be put out – the set up for this service alone takes almost ten hours.

It goes without saying that none of this can be done without a huge amount of help! After a couple of difficult years following Covid, we started this time last year to build the Sacristy Team. I was joined by Mark O'Sullivan and Tina Grevett (and sometimes Eden too) who give up their time each Saturday to join me in preparing for Sunday services. Gail Salisbury covers what is needed for the largest of the weekday services on a Wednesday. Sue Edwards has taken over the washing of all the small linens for Mass every week, previously done by Louise Fisher (who also washed and ironed the large altar linen cloths – an immense task!) and Val Cooper.



One of the Sacristy tasks: burning the palm crosses and making ash for Ash Wednesday

For the large festivals of Christmas and Easter, regular helpers Graeme Monk, Harry Walsgrove, Philip Mackay, Mark O’Sullivan, Will Baker and John Zachariah are often joined by other members of the Serving Team and congregation who help to carry very large and heavy items around the church for me.

I am deeply grateful to you all – it would not be possible for me to do what I do without your help!

Julie Gidlow - Sacristan

18. Christ Church Parish Church Choir

The choir currently consists of 4 Sopranos, 2 Altos, 2 Tenors (one of whom is the organist and the other occasional) and 1 Bass. We have had quite a busy year which has involved some changes. The choir is now leading the congregational singing from the chancel, a position they occupied when the church was first built. It is a much better position to sing from and the acoustic in that position helps the singers produce a good sound. The climbing of the stairs to the gallery often left individuals out of breath in the past. Now that they are singing in the chancel they are able to process in and out with the servers and clergy, as well as taking part in the prayers before and after the service.

The choir works hard each week preparing the music so that they can lead the congregation in worship Sunday by Sunday. They are a very committed group of individuals and over the week leading up to Easter were singing services on a daily basis.

It was a joy to welcome the choir of St Mary’s Parish Church, St Neots in Cambridgeshire to sing Evensong with us in July 2023. They enjoyed seeing Christ Church as Charles Lyndhurst-Vaughan was their Rector before he came to Christ Church. Our choir went to sing Evensong at St Neots in October.

Trustees Annual Report 2023

Registered Charity No. 1170031

On Saturday 18th November, our choir set off in the School Minibus to travel all the way to Coventry to sing Evensong at the Cathedral, together with the choir of St Neots. I had the great privilege of playing the magnificent Cathedral organ.

Future dates include:

Saturday 1st June - Evensong at St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Sunday 28th July – Evensong at St Neots Parish Church.

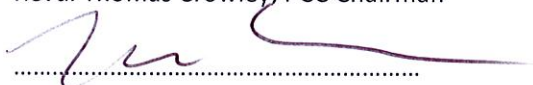
Saturday 24th August – Evensong at Chesterfield Parish Church. (The church with the crooked spire).

If there are any that feel that they could sing as part of our choir they should have an informal conversation with me during coffee after a service.

David Smith
Director of Music

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by:

Revd. Thomas Crowley, PCC Chairman



.....

Date: 30.11.24
.....

Statement of Financial Activities for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2023

Registered Charity No. 1170031

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund(s)	Endowment Fund(s)	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£		£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	72,920	-	-	72,920	90,706
Charitable activities	291	-	-	291	559
Other trading activities	237,747	4,882	-	242,629	191,963
Investments	12,806	471	-	13,277	9,885
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	-
Total income	323,764	5,353	-	329,117	293,113
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	3,683	-	-	3,683	7,911
Charitable activities	350,902	646	-	351,548	347,912
Other trading activities	17,756	4,535	-	22,291	26,627
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	372,341	5,181	-	377,522	382,450
Net gains (or losses) on investments	27,130	1,466	24	28,620	(40,082)
Net income or (net expenditure)	(21,447)	1,638	24	(19,785)	(129,419)
Transfers between funds					
	(21,447)	1,638	24	(19,785)	(129,419)
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>					
Net movement in funds	(21,447)	£1,638	£24	(19,785)	(129,419)
Total funds brought forward 31.12.2022	344,283	17,191	437	361,911	491,330
Total funds carried forward	322,836	18,829	461	342,126	361,911

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023

Registered Charity No. 1170031

	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	
Intangible assets	-	-	
Tangible assets	-	-	
Investments	330,156	301,560	
Endowed investments	461	437	
Total fixed assets	330,617	301,997	8
Stocks	-	-	
Debtors	25,921	5,307	
Cash at bank and in hand	77,078	144,200	15
Total current assets	102,999	149,507	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(49,418)	(47,521)	11
Net current assets or (liabilities)	53,581	101,986	
Total assets less current liabilities	384,198	403,983	
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	-	-	12
Provisions for liabilities	(42,072)	(42,072)	
Total net assets or (liabilities)	342,126	361,911	
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds	461	437	
Restricted income funds	18,829	17,191	
Unrestricted funds	322,836	344,283	
Revaluation reserve	-	-	
Total unrestricted funds	322,836	344,283	
Total charity funds	342,126	361,911	

This Annual Financial Report, for the year ended 31st December 2023, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on it's behalf by

Revd. Thomas Crowley Chairman



Date 30.11.24

Notes to the Financial Report

Registered Charity No. 1170031

1 Accounting Policies

a Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current (2015) Statement Of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS 102).

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

b Funds Accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

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

Designated funds - monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

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

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

c Income and Endowments

All income and endowments are accounted for without deduction for any costs of receivability, are recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Notes to the Financial Report

Registered Charity No. 1170031

Donations and legacies

Collections are recognised when received.

Planned giving receivable is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount accords with the Gift Aid declaration or other record of intention to donate.

Gift aid recovered is recognised when the income to which it is attached is recognised.

Grants and legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the funding, is received by the PCC.

Charitable activities

Sales of magazines and study notes are recognised when received.

Rents from property are recognised in accordance with the rental agreements, when receipt is probable.

Other trading activities

Trading activities are where income is receivable in return for selling goods or providing services. Income from trading is recognised either: a - when received, or b - in the case of concerts: for the year in question, irrespective of date of receipt. Advance bookings are included in creditors until the concert has taken place.

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

All other income

All other income is recognised in accordance with the above overall policy.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold.

Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation at 31 December.

d Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and accounted for gross.

Grants

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

Notes to the Financial Report

Registered Charity No. 1170031

Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for on an annual basis, reflecting the allocation set by our Deanery. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

e Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets

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

Movable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected but are not included in the financial statements. For other property acquired prior to (date) there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not stated in the financial statements.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £1,000 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

◦	Fixtures and fittings	20%
◦	Audio visual equipment	33%
◦	Office equipment	25%

No depreciation is provided on freehold property as it is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. The useful economic life of these assets is so long and residual values so high that any depreciation would not be material. These assets will be subject to annual impairment reviews. Provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

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

Notes to the Financial Report

Registered Charity No. 1170031

f Current Assets

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

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

Notes to the Financial Report

Registered Charity No. 1170031

2 Analysis of Income and Endowments 12 Months to 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund(s)	Endowment Fund(s)	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£		£	£
Planned giving (excl. Gift Aid)	12,817	-	-	12,817	13,503
Planned Giving (incl Gift Aid)	13,887	-	-	13,887	15,673
Donations	21,935	-	-	21,935	23,525
Loose cash collections	5,961	-	-	5,961	2,992
Fund Raising Events	2,357	-	-	2,357	1,890
Cosy Crypt	1,551	-	-	1,551	-
Table Sales	5,531	-	-	5,531	5,129
Gift Aid recoverable	8,881	-	-	8,881	9,243
Legacies	-	-	-	-	18,011
Special Appeals	-	-	-	-	740
Donations and legacies	72,920	-	-	72,920	90,706
Fees for weddings & funerals	291	-	-	291	559
Charitable activities	291	-	-	291	559
Summer fete & Christmas bazaar	-	-	-	-	-
Coffee and Candles	4,292	-	-	4,292	3,221
Rent from letting of St Peters Hall	-	-	-	-	-
Church Hall and Office Letting	19,140	-	-	19,140	22,880
Grants	214,315	-	-	214,315	161,545
Walsingham Pilgrimages	-	4,882	-	4,882	4,317
Other trading activities	237,747	4,882	-	242,629	191,963
Bank & CBF deposit interest	4,220	-	-	4,220	898
CBF investment fund dividend	8,556	471	-	9,027	8,977
HMRC Interest re Gift Aid	30	-	-	30	10
Investments	12,806	471	-	13,277	9,885
	-	-	-	-	-
Total income and endowments on all funds	323,764	5,353	-	329,117	293,113

Notes to the Financial Report

Registered Charity No. 1170031

3 Analysis of Expenditure 12 Months to 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund(s)	Endowment Fund(s)	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£		£	£	
Special appeals costs (e.g. adverts, brochures)	-	-	-	-	-	
Summer fete & Christmas bazaar costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Planned Giving Costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Stewardship costs (e.g. printing envelopes)	-	-	-	-	-	
Grants costs (e.g. making E/Heritage application)	3,663	-	-	3,663	7911	
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Other fundraising (non-trading) costs	20	-	-	20	-	
Cost of raising funds	3,683	-	-	3,683	7,911	
Missionary and charitable giving Ministry:	-	-	-	-	-	4
<i>diocesan parish share</i>	34,550	-	-	34,550	62,500	
<i>other clergy costs</i>	5,909	273	-	6,182	1,561	
Staff	9,845	-	-	9,845	8,295	5
Upkeep of services	2,389	198	-	2,587	2,791	
Church running	16,311	-	-	16,311	17,697	
Sunday school	-	175	-	175	100	
Church maintenance and repair	10,073	-	-	10,073	7,864	
Fabric Costs	260,736	-	-	260,736	220,848	
Insurance of Church Building	7,529	-	-	7,529	6,843	
Grants	265	-	-	265	75	
Special Appeals works (Clock Dials/Sound System/Organ)	-	-	-	-	20,270	
Architects Fees	1,234	-	-	1,234	1,149	
Bank charges	241	-	-	241	262	
Rectory Costs	-	-	-	-	(4,323)	
Governance	1,820	-	-	1,820	1,980	6
Cost of charitable activities	350,902	646	-	351,548	347,912	
Summer fete & Christmas bazaar costs	-	-	-	-	-	
St Peters Hall costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Church Hall and Crypt running costs	17,756	-	-	17,756	16,436	
Curate costs	-	-	-	-	6,332	
Parish magazine costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Bookstall costs	-	-	-	-	-	
Walsingham Pilgrimages	-	4,535	-	4,535	3,859	
Sundry Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	
Cost of other trading activities	17,756	4,535	-	22,291	26,627	
Total expended on all funds	372,341	5,181	-	377,522	382,450	

Notes to the Financial Report

Registered Charity No. 1170031

4 Missionary and Charitable Giving:

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
Overseas:	£	£	£	£	£
Home:	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

5 Staff Costs

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
a Remuneration	£	£	£	£	£
Wages and salaries	9,845	-	-	9,845	8,295
Social Security costs	-	-	-	-	-
	9,845	-	-	9,845	8,295

6 Governance

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
Independent examination	£ 1,820	£ -	£ -	£ 1,820	£ 1,980
Accounts production	-	-	-	-	-
Bookkeeping	-	-	-	-	-
	1,820	-	-	1,820	1,980

7 Analysis of Transfers Between Funds

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

Notes to the Financial Report

Registered Charity No. 1170031

8 Fixed Assets

a Investments

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Market value 1 January 2023	285,865	15,695	437	301,997
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Net (losses)/gains and revaluation	27,130	1,466	24	28,620
Market value 31 December 2023	312,995	17,161	461	330,617

b Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Audio visual equipment	Office equipment	Total fixed assets
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2023	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	-	-	-	-
Charge for impairment				
At 1 January 2023	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	-	-	-	-
Net book amounts				
At 31 December 2023	-	-	-	-
<i>At 31 December 2022</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

Notes to the Financial Report

Registered Charity No. 1170031

9 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Investment fixed assets	312,995	17,161	461	330,617	301,997
Current assets (except cash)	25,921	-	-	25,921	5,307
Cash at bank and on deposit	75,410	1,668	-	77,078	144,200
Current liabilities	(49,418)	-	-	(49,418)	(47,521)
Provisions for Liabilities	(42,072)	-	-	(42,072)	(42,072)
	322,836	18,829	461	342,126	361,911

10 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Income tax recoverable	3,747	-	-	3,747	3,083
Prepayments and accrued income	2,401	-	-	2,401	2,224
Other debtors	19,773	-	-	19,773	-
	25,921	-	-	25,921	5,307

11 Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Deferred income	-	-	-	-	-
Accruals for utilities and other costs	49,418	-	-	49,418	47,521
Other creditors	-	-	-	-	-
	49,418	-	-	49,418	47,521

12 Creditors: Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year

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

Notes to the Financial Report

Registered Charity No. 1170031

13 Provisions for Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Provision for Church Hall Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-
Provision for Church Maintenance	42,072	-	-	42,072	42,072
	42,072	-	-	42,072	42,072

The Board of Trustees have deemed the valuation of the provision for Church Maintenance as reasonable based on the report of the Architect following the Quinquennial Inspection of the structure of the Church and the recommendations included in the Report.

14 Statement of Funds

	Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
DBF Funds	437	-	-	24	461
Total of all endowed funds	437	-	-	24	461
Rector & Churchwardens	-	-	-	-	-
YACC	577	-	-	-	577
Walsingham Pilgrimage Fund	624	4,882	4,535	-	971
Sunday School	295	-	175	-	120
Trollopes Charity	15,695	471	471	1,466	17,161
Total of all restricted funds	17,191	5,353	5,181	1,466	18,829
General fund	344,283	323,764	372,341	27,130	322,836
Total of all unrestricted funds	344,283	323,764	372,341	27,130	322,836
Total funds	361,911	329,117	377,522	28,620	342,126

The endowed fund comprises an historic bequest.

The restricted funds are as set out above. The YACC balance is considered to be a designated account. Restricted funds are not invested permanently, but are to be spent within reasonable timescales.

Notes to the Financial Report

Registered Charity No. 1170031

The unrestricted fund includes a designated sum £42,072 which has PCC has set aside towards the cost of future fabric repairs to the Church.

Within the unrestricted funds are balances totalling £75,100 that can be utilised for expenditure by the authority of the Rector and Churchwardens only.

15 Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents

	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£
Cash in hand including non-notice deposits	77,078	144,200
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	77,078	144,200

16 Related Party Transactions

Certain members of the PCC are also trustees of certain other Charities.

No member of the PCC has any financial transactions with any of these Charities.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH WITH ST MARY MAGDALEN AND ST PETER AND ST PAUL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 set out on pages 20 to 32.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the account in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



S. R. Sampson BFP FCA FCIE DChA
For and on behalf of Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited
Accountants and Business Advisors
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

Date: 2 May 2024