

**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 2024

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Christ Church St Leonards

Annual Report 2024

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1. Aims & 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, 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.

Achieving 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 2024/5 we have 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;

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.

The Rector, Wardens and PCC are committed to developing a long term Action Plan for the next five years.

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) excluding Christmas & Easter is 100.

Baptisms continue to be celebrated throughout the year plus confirmations. We conduct a small number of funerals, mainly of former parishioners.

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 courses over the past year to allow parishioners to explore their faith and what happens at Christ Church..

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 concerts and events.

2. Serving the Community.

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

The church is open daily for members of the public to come and pray, light a candle, reflect and find peace. It continues to be used regularly by members of the public in this respect and we are pleased to be able to offer this opportunity.

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 Christ Church House Improvement Society Ltd
- Installing a Defibrillator on London Road entrance to the Courtyard
- Hosting weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.
- Members of the sewing group has been contributing knitted items of clothing to charities such as Surviving the Streets and Warming Up The Homeless.
 - Regular contact and support is maintained with Surviving the Streets and some funding has been given to them via the Sarah Brisco charity and weekly food contributions from the congregation.

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 continues on Thursdays. It has been a great success, open from 10am to 4pm and staffed by Christ Church Volunteers. There has been a constant good foot fall. 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

The Parish Hall and Crypt have continued to be used by vulnerable groups such as AA and a variety of exercise and well being groups. and both rooms are open to the wider public for bookings.

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.

A good link has been established between the local festival A Town Explores A Book. The church is used as a venue for their events and displays. This is a complete community project involving shops, local open spaces, school and community groups of all ages.

The church continues to host a variety of music concerts run by Hastings Philharmonic and Max Bailey as well as other individual choirs and drama groups. It is also continuing to be used as a rehearsal venue by Hastings Philharmonic choir and their children's choir Songbirds.

3. Fundraising and Fellowship

Apart from the rector Christ Church is run by volunteers.

Without this faithful, diligent band of people it would not run as smoothly.

A massive vote of thanks is extended to all who help in so many ways:

Cleaning team, finance, sacristy, office, web master, sales, coffees and catering, flowers, Cosy Crypt, Sunday School and others that help in many ways. You are all an asset and important to the running of our church.

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.

The church has also been used by other musical and arts groups which have put on performances for the public and catering for a wide range of ages.

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

The church became involved in the St Leonards on Sea community Frost Fair and parade with participants dressing up as angels and promoting Christmas activities in the church as part of our general outreach.

Open days and guided tours continue to be held and are popular with members of the public.

Monthly Sales act as an important point of interaction with the local community.

4. Financial Review

Throughout 2024 the PCC continued to highlight different ways in which people can financially contribute to the mission and ministry of the Church in this Parish. Whilst there was no specific Stewardship campaign this year the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) was promoted, enabling a more direct means of reclaiming Gift Aid from givers, 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 continue to be lost.

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 and Clock plans forward.

The urgent fabric restoration repairs to the external fabric were finally completed in 2024. Although subject to a grant by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which has covered a large part of the costs, but has still required us to utilise over £44,500 of our reserves. As the NLHF require ongoing Interpretation as part of their award this increased costs, but has provided much improvement to the welcome to visitors and Parishioners including the Tours of the Church as mentioned elsewhere. Additionally the gas boilers in the Parish Centre had to be replaced at a cost of £8,250 partially covered by a grant.

During 2024 donation income was £5,100 greater than in 2023. However this disguises a reduction in Planned Giving of more than £1,000, with the majority of the increase in income arising from Monthly Table Sales income, and a one-off Gift Aid receipt. Income from the use of the Church Hall and Crypt together with concerts in the Church, was £3,200 greater than in 2023, with the income from Concerts in the Church being the majority of this and a valuable contribution to Church funds. The PCC continue, where possible, to keep expenditure under tight control. However the day-to-day deficit, although continuing to benefit from the negotiated 3 year reduction in our Parish Share payments to the Diocese, was £1,710. The value of our investment holdings, in line with market trends in 2024, increased by £7,566. The overall effect has been to decrease our Reserves by £42,973.

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 2024 to make the progress desired, and it remains essential that we make further progress on increasing our Income in 2025.

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 2024 there was an excess of expenditure over income of £49,000 before the exceptional increase in the value of our Investments is taken into Account, the majority of which relates to fabric costs.
- 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 and 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 Curate:

The Revd Dr Richard Ralph (Stipendiary, NSM and voluntary)

Authorised Lay Ministers

Jane Hart

Julie Gidlow

Wardens:

Susan Shaw *PCC Vice Chairman*

Maureen Harman

Elected Members:

William Baker

Jane Read

David Smith

Liz Mackay

Anne Hanney

Julie Gidlow

Jack Carwardine

Deanery Synod Representatives

Julie Gidlow

Anne Hanney

Elizabeth Mackay.

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, 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. The Directors have the responsibility of administering and maintaining St Richard's House, Pevensey Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. During 2024, 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. Costs continue to increase, and after a gap of three years rents had to be increased. This still did not eliminate the deficit. Whilst the Society has ample reserves to meet this, it remains necessary to address this and Tenants were advised that rents will be increased again in April 2025, but still to a level well below current market rentals. This will also help fund the 5 year plan of improvements with the replacement of all windows one floor at a time, that began in 2024 and also with building now more than 70 years old Pointing replacement. 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.

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 2024 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, and urgent small grants to three other families in need.

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, Rev.d Thomas Crowley, Bishop Peter Wheatley (until January 2025), Mrs Maureen Harman, Bishop Nicholas Reade, Mrs Susan Parsons, Mr Paul Lewis, Mr Peter King (from March 2024) and Mr Andrew Knight serve as Trustees. Mr Andrew Knight was also Clerk to the Trustees until April 2024 with Mr Peter Knight appointed from then.

The Trustees met on six occasions during 2024

Highlights for 2024 have been:

- Amended composition of Trust Board membership.
- Discussed the appointment of a joint Christ Church and Old Building Trust Site Manager.
- Accounts for year 2023/24 approved by independent financial adviser.
- Replacement of iron gate and electronic locks in passageway between Alfred Street and London Road.
- Investigation of reported damp concerns in walls.
- Gas safety and fire alarm test inspections carried out.
- Received Community Audit report to Mother Agnes Trust presented by Rev.d Thomas Crowley.

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.

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 have since been updated.

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

* Boilers - at present the Church heating is being supplied by only one of the two industrial boilers. The other boiler needs another part to get it working. We have a quote of £21000 two new boilers. This is obviously expensive. Sadly, our present boilers are obsolete and our engineer has had difficulty getting parts. The concern is as one boiler has broken down, the other may well do at any time. Fortunately as summer is coming, hopefully, heating will not be necessary, but a decision has to be made well before September.

* Locks and Keys - the keypad on the Crypt door has been replaced. More keys are needed for the Parish Centre. Costs are being explored.

* Organ - the organ has been tuned and the de-humidifier serviced.

* Sanctuary Lamps - as you will all have noticed, one of our lamps had to be removed as it had fallen. A decision has yet to be reached as to whether other lamps should be removed. At present it is considered unsafe to lower them to light them.

* Annual Servicing - the font lifting mechanism has been serviced, as have the fire extinguishers in both Church and Parish Centre. Electrical items in both buildings have been PAT tested. The Parish Centre has had a fire safety check.

* Electrics - Hannington Gilbert recently carried out an electrical survey of the Church. (This is supposed to happen every five years). At time of writing the report has not been received. Security light faults in the courtyard have been rectified. Several lights in the Church are not working. As a cherry picker and/or scaffolding will be needed, it is wise to wait until more need doing. Wall lights at the top of the stairs in the Crypt are to be replaced.

* Gutters and Downpipes in both the Church and the whole of the Parish building are in urgent need of clearing. The cost will be shared with CCOBT. I have a quote of £5994.00 from George Stone. I am awaiting further quotes.

* Defibrillator - this has been erected on the courtyard gatepost facing London Road. I understand we are awaiting training.

* Finally - the Church is indebted to Terry Knight who has carried out painting in the Crypt and other repairs in the Church.

John Read.

13. Safeguarding

Anne Hanney is the Safeguarding Office. There were no Safeguarding issues that have arisen since the last Annual Report

14. Children's Ministry

I took over the running of PALS in May 2024 and it was rebranded to Christ Church Sunday School. Due the numbers of adults it was trialled at the back of the church. I am extremely happy with this and the children seem to like this. They can always see their parents, and I feel it's important for them to use all their senses during the service. We are able to hear the reading and prayers. We come out to hear the Gospel readings, are able to see baptisms and receive the holy waters.

The number of children has increased and we do various different activities.

The children stay for the full service rather than returning at the offertory.

I follow the weekly Gospel as much as possible but have also introduced learning about Saints, church festivals, the old testament. I have also introduced Acts, our drama productions where we act of the Gospel stories. These are very popular with the children and congregation and I have many wanting to join in.

Sunday school has also increased its community involvement, we took part in the St Leonards Festival last July and have been asked to join this year

We took part in our second Frost fair, held our second Christmas eve Nativity play, and this year held our first Easter play. To promote this we took the cross out into the streets which has given me idea for next year!

Id like to say how many incredibly proud I am of all the Sunday school children, their behaviour is remarkable and their knowledge and want to learn, develop and promote Christian values. Christ church are very blessed to have them.

Krystyne Walsgrove

15. Deanery Synod

Christ Church is represented by Anne Hanney, Julie Gidlow and Elizabeth Mackay

16. Youth Groups: Group Scout Leaders Report 2023

Many thanks to all 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.

17. Sacristy

Like last year, I am writing this immediately post Easter when it's always hard to think what the Sacristy Team has been up to over the whole year, not just the last couple of weeks. Was Maundy Thursday really only one week ago? It feels like it was years ago and Palm Sunday seems like a distant memory! We certainly pack quite a lot into a very short space of time – this year including Compline by Candlelight for the first time, as well as a low Latin Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week.

The team is much as it was last year, with regular help from my co-Sacristans Mark and Tina, and Gail who still covers Wednesdays and 8.00am Sunday. Sue Edwards still washes the small altar linens and we have been joined by Sarah Salisbury who has valiantly undertaken to launder and press the large altar linens, along with Rev.d Thomas's Alb and Amice. Having at times tried to deal with the large linens myself I know that this is no small task. The timing is crucial – the linens have to be pressed at an optimum point in the process of drying so that they come out crisp. Too wet and the linen will stick and burn, too dry and you will not get the crumples out. Being able to devote a solid two days to the task is essential – just ironing the large altar cloths can take half a day, and a Sacristan trying to do this late at night when up against the time pressure of Christmas or Easter looming is not something anyone should ever have to witness (just ask Chris!)

Re-dressing the altars for the major Feasts also takes some time because there are so many of them – we have six altars (seven including Christ the King) that require three cloths each for Christmas and Easter. We are halfway through the project we started last year of labelling each linen so it is easy to find the right one for a particular altar – when this is complete, it will dramatically reduce the time it takes to do this job. Tina has “adopted” the altar of SS Peter and Paul meaning that she will now take responsibility for dressing that one at Christmas and Easter, for which I am immensely grateful. I wonder if anyone else would like to adopt one of the remaining altars for the same purpose? It would entail joining us on a few days each year (Christmas Eve, Holy Saturday, Advent) simply to reset that one, which would take no more than an hour. It really is a wonderful way in which to serve the church, and is extremely satisfying to see when done. Do please let me know if you feel able to help in this way.

Another project with regard to altars this year is to measure each one in order to have new linens made. Many of the cloths we have are worn through, or spoiled with age and are no longer usable. We also need new purificators and Corporals as well as large altar linens, especially at busy times of the year when we have a succession of elaborate services back to back.

You might think that in all this we have no time to relax or enjoy ourselves. This year, however, as well as enjoying our first Sacristy meal at Fortes, I was able to take two whole months off in the summer. I am extremely grateful to Mark, Tina and Gail for keeping it all going while I was not around – it was wonderful to have some Saturdays off. And, as always, thanks are due to everyone who was drafted in to help with the heavy lifting when the church was reset at Easter and Christmas - Philip Mackay, Harry Walsgrove, John Zachariah, Will Baker, Graeme Monk and Terry Knight.

Lastly, let me mention my favourite subject – candles! This year we decided on a new Paschal Candle design. Having whittled down the options in the Charles Farris catalogue to just a few we decided to put it to the vote – Mark, Tina, Rev.d Thomas and I unanimously chose the same one! Hopefully you all like it as much as we did. Some of you will have noticed that we are using real flowers to decorate it with this year. This was a very happy outcome to what could have been disastrous when we went to dust the artificial flower wreath on Wednesday of Holy Week to discover that it is missing. After an initial panic, Maureen came to the rescue and ordered the flowers from La Collina, something we hope to repeat next year too. Also new this year is an investment in longer hand-held candles for the people at the Easter Vigil and Christmas. I felt that the smaller ones we have previously used become quite difficult to handle and these new ones, which are twice as long, will be easier to hold. The sight from the Sanctuary on Holy Saturday was certainly very impressive, a sea of beautiful light.

I will end with my particular favourite sight of the year, again related to candles. Rev.d Thomas decided to hold a dawn Rorate Mass just before Christmas which, because it was scheduled to start at 6.30am, initially caused my heart to sink. He promised, however, that he would do all the necessary work to get it ready and I could just turn up at the start time. Walking in to the church at that time in the morning to see all the candles alight, and everything set up perfectly was wonderful. I know how long it takes to put all this together, and it was amazing to be able to just come along and worship without the extra worry of making it happen. Thank you Rev.d Thomas!

Julie Gidlow – Sacristan

18. Christ Church Parish Church Choir

The choir currently consists of 3 Sopranos, which includes one occasional, 1 Alto, 2 Tenors (one of whom is the organist) and 1 Bass. We have had quite a busy year which has involved some changes. The choir continues to lead 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 making them much more part of 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, which included the introduction of Sung Compline on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of Holy Week. These services were very well attended and were sung by candlelight which made them the perfect "ending of the day."

On Saturday 1st June, our choir set off to travel to Bury St Edmunds to sing Evensong at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, together with the choir of St Neots. I had the great privilege of playing the magnificent Cathedral organ. The service was streamed on their website.

It was a joy to welcome the choir of St Mary's Parish Church, St Neots in Cambridgeshire to sing Evensong with us on 29th September 2024. They enjoy coming to Christ Church as Charles Lyndhurst-Vaughan was their Rector before he came to Christ Church. Our choir went to sing Evensong at St Neots on 28th July 2024 as part of their organist's 40 years of service at that church.

On Saturday 4th January, our choir set off again to travel to Bury St Edmunds to sing Evensong at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, together with the choir of St Neots. I had the great privilege of playing the magnificent Cathedral organ for the second time this year. The service was again streamed on their website.

We are looking forward to our 150 celebrations and our choir will be joined by the choirs of St Neots and St Saviours Eastbourne to sing choral Evensong at 5:00 pm on Sunday 18th May.

Future dates include:

Saturday 10th January - Evensong at Southwark Cathedral, London. There is also a possibility that the choir may go to Rochester Cathedral as well next year

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

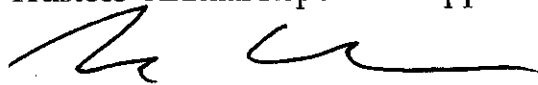
David Smith
Director of Music

19. Webmaster

The role of Parish Webmaster entails me to design, register, arrange payment of and regularly update our parish website. In addition to this main role I have a number of side roles which are all IT related; • To be on hand as IT support to the wardens resolving minor issues with the parish computer. • On an ad-hoc basis setup new computers in the parish office linking, establishing &/or registering accounts of any type as needed and arranging payment of those accounts or services. • Designing, printing and refreshing regular event and directional posters on Church premises. • Setting up and linking email addresses for Parish officers as and when needed & resolving problems with email accounts for existing addresses. • Ensuring that the Weekly Parish Booklets & notices are printed. This year, as part of my contribution to mark the 150th Anniversary year of the opening of the second Christ Church, I've designed a new Parish Website enabling Parishioners and Volunteers better insight and communication externally/internally. The new Parish website has been launched as well as the new Parish admin system. This new admin system means double booking for our spaces and rooms is a thing of the past as the booking process itself is now digital, so users are/will be able to request a booking online as well as being able to call into the office in person as before or phone up. Please bear with us all as the system is bound to have teething problems initially. Our new site has exactly the same internet address www.christchurchstleonards.co.uk. Please take time to have a look and explore the site there are new layouts and much new content on every page. As our site is a Parish not solely Church site I invite organisations from within St Leonard's to send me details of events as part of their advertising which I'll display in good time on the site.

Philip Mackay

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



Revd. Thomas Crowley PCC Chairman

Date: 9.1.25

**Christ Church with St Mary Magdalen and St Peter and St Paul St
Leonards-on-Sea**

Registered Charity no. 1170031

Statement of Financial Activities for the 12 months ended 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total Funds	Total Funds 2023
	£	£		£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	78,017			78,017	72,920
Charitable activities	162			162	291
Other trading activities	78,266	6,383		84,648	242,629
Investments	11,128	478		11,606	13,277
Other receipts	0			0	0
Total income	167,573	6,861	0	174,434	329,117
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	2,778			2,778	4,671
Charitable activities	188,608	478		189,086	350,560
Other trading activities	26,463	6,646		33,109	22,291
Other expenditure	0	0		0	0
Total expenditure	217,849	7,124	0	224,973	377,521
Net gains (or losses) on investments	7,164	388	14	7,566	15,131
Net income or (net expenditure)	-43,111	124	14	-42,973	-33,273
Transfers between funds				0	0
	-43,111	124	14	-42,973	-33,273
Other recognised gains/(losses):				0	0
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>					
Net movement in funds	-£43,111	£124	£14	-£42,973	-£33,273
Total funds brought forward 31.12.2023	£342,128	£0	£0	£342,128	
Total funds carried forward	£299,016	£124	£14	£299,155	

Christ Church with St Mary Magdalen and St Peter and St Paul St Leonards-on-Sea

Registered Charity no. 1170031

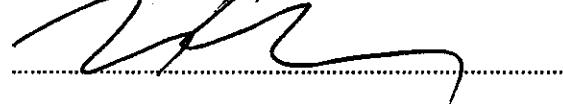
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024

	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023	
	£	£	
Intangible assets	-	-	
Tangible assets	-	-	
Investments	337,709	330,157	Note 9
Endowed investments	476	462	Note 9
Total fixed assets	338,185	330,619	
Stocks	-	-	
Debtors	6,120	25,921	Note 10
Cash at bank and in hand	46,073	77,078	Note 15
Total current assets	52,193	102,999	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(49,151)	(49,418)	Note 11
Net current assets or (liabilities)	3,042	53,581	
Total assets less current liabilities	341,227	384,200	
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	-	-	Note 12
Provisions for liabilities	(42,072)	(42,072)	Note 13
Total net assets or (liabilities)	299,155	342,128	
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds	476	461	
Restricted income funds	18,987	18,830	
Unrestricted funds	279,692	322,837	
Revaluation reserve	-	-	
Total unrestricted funds	279,692	322,837	
Total charity funds	299,155	342,128	
Analysis of Funds	Balances b/f	Income	Expenditure
Endowment funds	462	14	476
Restricted Funds			
YACC	577		577
Walsingham Pilgrimage	971	6,383	6,646
Sunday School	120		-34
Trollopes Charity	17,161	865	478
Total Restricted Funds	18,829	7,248	7,090
General Fund – Unrestricted	322,837	174,738	217,883
Total charity funds	342,128	182,000	224,973
			299,155

This Annual Financial Report, for the year ended 31st December 2024, including the notes following, was

Approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by

Revd. Thomas Crowley Chairman



Date 7th May 2025

Notes to the financial report

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.

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 cease 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.

Notes to the financial report (continued)

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.

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.

f Current Assets

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

2 Analysis of income and endowments 12 months to 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£		£	£
Planned giving (excl. Gift Aid)	12,247			12,247	12,817
Planned Giving (incl Gift Aid)	13,160	-		13,160	13,887
Donations	22,250			22,250	18,878
Loose cash collections	6,595			6,595	5,961
Fund Raising Events	2,377	-		2,377	2,357
Special Appeals (not incl. Gift Aid)				-	0
Cosy Crypt	516	-		516	1,551
Table Sales	7,069			7,069	5,531
Gift Aid recoverable	10,235			10,235	8,881
Legacies	22			22	-
Online and Contactless Donations	3,547	-		3,547	3,057
Donations and legacies	£78,017	-	-	£78,017	£72,920
Fees for weddings & funerals	162	-		162	291
Charitable activities	£162	-	-	£162	£291
Coffee and Candles	3,397	-		3,397	4,292
Rent from letting of St Peters Hall	-	-		-	0
Church Hall and Office Letting	22,361	-		22,361	19,140
Grants	52,507			52,507	214,315
Walsingham Pilgrimages		6,383		6,383	4882
					0
Other trading activities	£78,266	£6,383	-	£84,648	£242,629
Bank & CBF deposit interest	2,373	-		2,373	4,220
CBF investment fund dividend	8,688	478		9,166	9,027
HMRC Interest re Gift Aid	67			67	30
Investments	£11,128	£478	-	£11,606	£13,277
	-	-		-	
Total income and endowments on all	£167,573	£6,861	-	£174,434	£329,117

Notes to the financial report (continued)

3 Analysis of expenditure 12 months to 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£		£	£
Cosy Crypt	63	-	-	63	988
Summer fete & Christmas bazaar costs	-	-	-	-	0
Planned Giving Costs	-	-	-	-	0
Stewardship costs (e.g. printing envelopes)	-	-	-	-	0
Grants costs (e.g. making E/Heritage application)	2,715	-	-	2,715	3663
Other fundraising (non-trading) costs	-	-	-	-	20
Cost of raising funds	£2,778	-	-	£2,778	£4,671
Missionary and charitable giving					
Ministry:					
<i>diocesan parish share</i>	35,600	-	-	35,600	34,550
<i>other clergy costs</i>	5,363	277	-	5,640	6,182
Staff	12,085	-	-	12,085	9,845
Upkeep of services	3,944	201	-	4,145	2,587
Church running	23,997	-	-	23,997	15,323
Sunday school	34	-	-	34	175
Church maintenance and repair	7,678	-	-	7,678	10,073
Fabric Repairs	90,106	-	-	90,106	260,736
Special Appeals costs (Clock/Organ/Legacies)	-	-	-	-	0
Insurance of Church Building	7,697	-	-	7,697	7,529
Grants	-	-	-	-	265
Architects Fees	-	-	-	-	1,234
Bank charges	251	-	-	251	241
Rectory Costs	-	-	-	-	0
Governance	1,920	-	-	1,920	1,820
Cost of charitable activities	£188,608	£478	-	£189,086	£350,560
Summer fete & Christmas bazaar costs	-	-	-	-	0
St Peters Hall costs	-	-	-	-	0
Church Hall and Crypt running costs	26,463	-	-	26,463	17,756
Curate costs	-	-	-	-	0
Parish magazine costs	-	-	-	-	0
Bookstall costs	-	-	-	-	0
Walsingham Pilgrimages	-	6,646	-	6,646	4,535
Sundry Expenses	-	-	-	-	0
Cost of other trading activities	£26,463	£6,646	-	£33,109	£22,291
Total expended on all funds	£217,849	£7,124	-	£224,973	£377,521

Notes to the financial report (continued)

4 Missionary and charitable giving

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Overseas:	-	-	-	-	-
Home:	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

5 Staff costs

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Remuneration					
Wages and salaries	12,085	-	-	12,085	9,845
Social Security costs	-	-	-	-	-
	£12,085	-	-	£12,085	£9,845

6 Governance

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Independent examination					
Accounts production	1,920	-	-	1,920	1,820
Bookkeeping	-	-	-	-	-
	£1,920	-	-	£1,920	£1,820

7 Analysis of transfers between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

Notes to the financial report (continued)

8 Fixed Assets

a Investments

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds	Notes
	£	£	£	£	
Market value 1 January 2024	312,995	17,162	462	330,619	
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Net (losses)/gains and revaluation	7,164	388	14	7,566	
Market value 31 December 2024	£320,159	£17,550	£476	£338,185	

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	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	-	-	-	-

Notes to the financial report (continued)

9 Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Investment fixed assets	320,159	17,550	476	338,185	330,617	
Current assets (except cash)	6,120	-	-	6,120	25,921	
Cash at bank and on deposit	45,001	1,072	-	46,073	77,078	
Current liabilities	(49,151)	-	-	(49,151)	(49,418)	
Provisions for Liabilities	(42,072)	-	-	(42,072)	(42,072)	
	£280,057	£18,622	£476	£299,155	£342,126	

10 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Income tax recoverable	3,355	-	-	3,355	3,747	
Prepayments and accrued income	2,765	-	-	2,765	2,401	
Other debtors	-	-	-	-	19,773	
	£6,120	-	-	£6,120	£25,921	

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Deferred income	-	-	-	-	-	
Accruals for utilities and other costs	49,151	-	-	49,151	49,418	
Other creditors	-	-	-	-	-	
	£49,151	-	-	£49,151	£49,418	

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Other creditors	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	

Notes to the financial report (continued)

13 Provisions for Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
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 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
DBF Funds	462	-	-	14	476
				-	-
Total of all endowed funds	462	-	-	14	476
Rector & Churchwardens	-	-	-	-	-
YACC	577	-	-	-	577
Walsingham Pilgrimage Fund	971	6,383	6,646	-	708
Sunday School	120	-	(34)	-	154
Trollopes Charity	17,161	478	478	388	17,549
Total of all restricted funds	18,829	6,861	7,090	388	18,988
General fund	322,837	167,573	217,883	7,164	279,691
Total of all unrestricted funds	322,837	167,573	217,883	7,164	279,691
Total funds	£342,128	£174,434	£224,973	£7,566	£299,155

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.

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 £350,835 that can be utilised for expenditure by the authority of the Rector and Churchwardens only.

Notes to the financial report (continued)

15 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023	Notes
	£	£	
Cash in hand including non-notice deposits	46,073	77,078	
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-	
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-	
Total cash and cash equivalents	£46,073	£77,078	

16 Related parties and 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 2024**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st December 2024 set out on pages 1 to 29.

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.



Mr S Rosling FCCA
For and on behalf of Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited
Accountants and Business Advisors
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

Date: 23.5.2025