



St Mark's Church
to love, to serve, to give, to all - in Jesus' name

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

OF

ST MARK'S CHURCH, PENNINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2024



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Aim and Purposes

St Mark's Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of cooperating with the minister in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC has responsibility for the Grade II listed St Mark's Church together with the churchyard and St Mark's Community Hall.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to be part of our parish community.

When planning our activities we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and particularly the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable people to live out their faith through –

Worship and prayer

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

Missionary and outreach work

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Following the licensing of our new Priest in Charge The Rev'd Canon Michael Burson-Thomas in April we have continued with our usual pattern of services. Our thanks go to all the retired clergy who led services during the vacancy.

Our regular pattern of worship on Sundays is:

8am	BCP Communion
10am	1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday - Family Communion
	2nd and 4th Sunday - Morning Praise, an informal family service

We continue to livestream our Sunday services to those who are unable to attend church in person and we are able to offer this service for weddings, baptisms and funerals upon request.



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The average weekly attendance at our Sunday services is 36 but the numbers increase at our Easter and Christmas services. As well as our regular services we have celebrated 8 baptisms and 1 wedding and held 19 funerals in church.

During 2024 we continued with the joint prayer initiative between St. Thomas' church in Lymington and St. Mark's in Pennington. We meet at 9am on Monday to Friday on Zoom and on Saturdays at 9am in St Thomas' in Lymington and follow the Morning Prayer from Common Worship: Daily Prayer. The numbers vary but all are welcome to join or put in prayer requests.

On a very sad note our Licensed Lay Minister in training, Jane Nicholson, passed away before her licensing service could take place at Winchester Cathedral. She is greatly missed by all the congregation at St Mark's.

At present there are 55 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of which 11 are not resident in the parish.

Community and Social Events

This year St Mark's hosted two drama productions at the Community Hall: 'Old Herbaceous' in March and 'Dracula' in the Autumn. We had a very good response to both productions. They are organised by Culture in Common, funded by the Arts Council, to bring professional performances at affordable prices to people living in rural areas. These performances also raise funds for St Mark's Church as we receive 20% of the box office takings as well as the proceeds from raffle ticket sales and donations given for refreshments. In March we also held our Spring Fair and in August our Summer Fair, both of which were held in the Community Hall. The weather was kind to us and we welcomed a lot of visitors. In July a local historian gave an illustrated talk in church on 'Lymington's Courts and Alleyways'. The talk followed a route along Lymington High Street looking at the buildings and alleyways you walk by without noticing and found out why they were there. Our thanks go to all those who help to make these events successful and to all those who attend.

Other community events include our monthly Friendship Teas which are held on the first Tuesday of the month, bar January and August, at St Mark's Community Hall from 2.30 in the afternoon. It is a friendly get-together when we can all have a good chin-wag over a cup of tea and cake. There is usually a quiz to get our brains working, which is shared among those on each table, and occasionally bingo is played. Sadly, numbers of attendees have dipped a little over the past year and are now generally between 15 and 20, so if you would like to come and join us, please contact Pat or Shirley – we would love to see you. A huge thank you must, of course, go to our band of helpers and home bakers – you are all stars! Our other activity at the hall is the Strictly Come Crafting group which is held twice a month on a Tuesday afternoon. We have 13 members who all enjoy various crafts, plenty of chat and cake and a drink. All are welcome to join us.



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A coffee morning also takes place weekly on a Wednesday morning. This takes place at Belmore Lodge Care Home, apart from the 4th Wednesday in the month when we hold our monthly draw at church. We are joined by residents of the home and our thanks go to Belmore Lodge for the lovely cakes and refreshments they provide for us.

The church choir visited Elmer's Court just before Christmas to give visitors to the hotel a performance of carols which they were able to join in with. A wonderful time was had by choir and hotel visitors and Elmer's Court generously gave a donation to the church

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Ecumenical Relationships

The church is a member of Christians Together in Lymington and Pennington.

As mentioned previously we also have joint prayer initiative with St Thomas Church in Lymington.

Safeguarding

The Church of England is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our church community. It is therefore important that parishes such as the parish of St Mark in Pennington give due focus to this important area. We are committed to following legislation, guidance and recognized good practice.

We aim to ensure that all safeguarding training and DBS certificates are up to date for those who require it so to maintain our compliance with the Church of England regulations.

Any safeguarding incidences should be reported to our safeguarding officer, Eve Jolly, at safeguarding@penningtonchurch.uk.

Pastoral Care

Our parish visitor co-ordinator, Rebecca Rickaby, arranges visits to several parishioners and if you would like a visit please contact the church. We celebrate communion on a monthly basis with the residents of Belmore Lodge Care Home and if you are unable to attend church but would like to receive communion in your own home please let us know.

As noted above we run a monthly Friendship Tea and a crafting group as part of our work in the community.



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Mission and Evangelism

A Fare Share Larder is held every Thursday at St Mark's Community Hall where many volunteers, including from St Mark's, assist with sorting and packing food. Free tea and coffee are available and space for informal chats to connect people to any necessary services (Citizens' Advice Bureau, NHS Social Assistance, NFDC Housing, free clothes/toys swap) are available in the hall before the larder arrives. We normally have up to 30 families, sometimes more, attend the larder and the community spirit is seen as they gather in the hall over refreshments, ably managed by Dorothy. A recycling/repurposing area has been started once a fortnight and people can bring things for repair.

The PCC currently sponsor a child in Africa from whom we receive regular updates.

Our weekly newsletter is emailed or delivered to all those who have requested a copy as well as to those who attend our weekly services.

Schools

Following the licensing of our new Priest in Charge in April we have been able to re-establish our connection with Pennington Church of England Junior School where weekly worship is now being held. In July the school held their leavers' service in church where all those leaving the school were presented with a copy of St Mark's Gospel. We have also established a relationship with one of the pre-schools in the parish with the children coming along to the church.

Churchyard

St Mark's still has an open churchyard and work continues with a small team of dedicated volunteers. Along with the Community Payback Team we have managed to keep on top of the strimming and clearing around the churchyard. The Community Payback supervisor commented how much better the churchyard looked now they felt they had got on top of all the work, especially around the older graves. Work also continues keeping the ditches cleared of leaves and debris.

The rubbish found around the churchyard is regularly collected and where appropriate recycled. Headstones are checked on a regular basis and the families, if known, are informed if unsteady. Our thanks go to the small, dedicated team of volunteers who meet on the first Thursday morning each month. Along with the Community Payback team, the aim is to present a restful, eco-friendly churchyard.



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Financial Review

Total receipts for 2024 amounted to £76,424 compared to £75,868 for 2023. Planned Giving continues to decrease and in 2024 was £19,746, a decrease of £1,133 over the previous year. Please do join our regular giving schemes, either the weekly envelope scheme or the Parish Giving scheme, if you are able as this helps us to budget for forthcoming expenditure. Collections have increased to £3,663 from £2,759 in 2023 and include collections from several funerals for which we are very grateful. Donations for the year totalled £11,266 which included several generous donations including £3,473 from Pennington WI to fund a sound system at our Community Hall. We also received two legacies during the year amounting to £1,443. Thank you to all those who give so generously to enable our church to meet its outgoing commitments. Events and refreshments raised £2,317 in 2024 compared to £1,553 in 2023. Fees for the year have also increased to £9,749 from £5,374 in 2023. We also received a £300 grant from New Forest District Council and £884 in donations from Pennington Community Hub towards the hall costs for the Fare Share Larder. Our Community Hall continues to be popular with both regular and occasional hirers.

Total payments for 2024 were £73,127 compared to £85,286 for 2023. The Common Mission Fund contribution was £26,432 compared to £29,185 for 2023. A decrease of £2,753. Also, our utility costs in 2024 decreased by £1,564 over 2023. Repairs and Maintenance of £11,900 include £6,420 for church roof repairs. Purchase of Equipment includes the cost of the new sound system at the hall costing £3,473. Advertising in 2023 included the cost of advertising for our new Priest in Charge which amounted to £904.

The surplus for the year on unrestricted funds totalled £2,734 together with a surplus of £563 on restricted funds giving an overall surplus of £3,297 compared to a deficit of £9,418 in 2023. The movements on restricted funds during the year are shown in note 3 on page 12 and the balance on the funds at 31st December 2024 amounted to £1,590. The balance on unrestricted funds at 31st December 2024 amounted to £67,733.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Cash funds on 31st December 2024 amounted to £69,323 as opposed to £66,026 at 31st December 2023. Other monetary assets amounted to £3,254 and liabilities at the year-end amounted to £1,712.



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Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates up to approximately twelve months' unrestricted payments. This is also to cover emergency building work as the PCC is responsible for a Grade II listed church building together with St Mark's Community Hall. The balance at the year-end was sufficient to cover this. Any cash balances which are not required in the short-term are invested in the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to keep our church running and for making it a place of welcome for everyone. Special thanks go to the PCC for their valuable contribution.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a body corporate established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church, or co-opted by the PCC during the year.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC met eight times during the year, with standing committee meeting in between times.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Administrative Information

St Mark's Church is situated in Ramley Road, Pennington, SO41 8GQ. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 29 Ramley Road, Pennington, Lymington. The registered charity number is 1173998.



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PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Priest in Charge	In Vacancy (until 24 th April 2024) The Rev'd Canon Michael Burson-Thomas (from 24 th April 2024)
Churchwardens	Teresa Nivison Eveline Jolly
Honorary Officers	Rebecca Rickaby (Hon Secretary) Teresa Nivison (Hon Treasurer)
Deanery Synod	Rebecca Rickaby Shirley Saunders
Elected Members	Susan Beech (until 12th May 2024) Ingrid Bolhoven (from 12th May 2024) Dorothy Davies (from 12th May 2024) Sharon Lloyd Jane Nicholson (until 12th May 2024) Christine Scott Paul Young

Approved by the PCC on the 10th April 2025 and signed on their behalf by

.....*T Nivison*..... (PCC Vice Chair)

ST MARK'S CHURCH, PENNINGTON

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Mark's Parochial Church Council, Pennington

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 10 - 15, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and the examiner

As trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);

To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;

To state whether particular matters have come to my attention; and

issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations .

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement

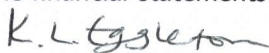
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act and Regulations have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Mrs K Eggleton, F.C.C.A.

Suite 114

Lymington Town Hall

Avenue Road

Lymington

SO41 9ZG

11th April 2025

ST MARK'S CHURCH, PENNINGTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Receipts -					
Planned Giving		18,546	1,200	19,746	20,879
Collections and Other Giving		3,663	-	3,663	2,759
Gift Aid Recovered		4,817	300	5,117	5,238
Other Voluntary Receipts	4a	9,068	6,000	15,068	20,489
		<u>36,094</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>43,594</u>	<u>49,365</u>
Activities for Generating Funds	4b	4,600	-	4,600	3,697
Receipts from Church Activities	4c	24,947	-	24,947	20,888
Investment Income	4d	3,210	73	3,283	1,918
		<u>68,851</u>	<u>7,573</u>	<u>76,424</u>	<u>75,868</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS					
PAYMENTS					
Church Activities -					
Common Mission Fund		26,432	-	26,432	29,185
Clergy and Staffing Costs	4f	2,752	1,500	4,252	4,053
Church Running Expenses	4g	23,802	4,326	28,128	19,200
Community Hall Running Expenses	5	11,514	1,184	12,698	13,333
Mission Giving and Donations	4h	274	-	274	274
		<u>64,774</u>	<u>7,010</u>	<u>71,784</u>	<u>66,045</u>
Costs of Generating Funds	4i	1,343	-	1,343	1,241
Major Works - Community Hall		-	-	-	18,000
		<u>66,117</u>	<u>7,010</u>	<u>73,127</u>	<u>85,286</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS					
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		2,734	563	3,297	(9,418)
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts and Cash at 1st January		64,999	1,027	66,026	75,444
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts and Cash at 31st December		<u>67,733</u>	<u>1,590</u>	<u>69,323</u>	<u>66,026</u>

ST MARK'S CHURCH, PENNINGTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
ASSETS					
Cash Funds					
Bank Current Accounts		6,966	140	7,106	4,569
CBF Deposit Fund		60,737	1,449	62,186	61,426
Diocese of Winchester - CBF Deposit - Churchyard Fund		-	1	1	1
Cash in Hand		30	-	30	30
		<u>67,733</u>	<u>1,590</u>	<u>69,323</u>	<u>66,026</u>
Other Monetary Assets					
Community Hall Letting Income		482	-	482	432
Community Hall Donation		52	-	52	-
Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme		178	-	178	231
Income Tax Recoverable		537	25	562	445
CBF Deposit Fund Interest		740	17	757	815
Prepayments		989	-	989	-
Total Debtors		2,978	42	3,020	1,923
Stock of Items for Resale		234	-	234	250
		<u>3,212</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>3,254</u>	<u>2,173</u>
Assets Retained for the Church Use	2	<u>11,128</u>	<u>16,133</u>	<u>27,261</u>	<u>23,369</u>
LIABILITIES					
St Mark's Draw Club Income Received in Advance		565	-	565	502
Community Hall Letting Income Received in Advance		122	-	122	145
Community Hall Donation Received in Advance		-	-	-	261
Cost of Services		-	-	-	3
Gas and Electricity Costs - Church and Community Hall		731	-	731	840
Repairs and Maintenance		144	-	144	255
Church Administration		66	-	66	59
Advertising		28	-	28	30
Community Hall Expenses		56	-	56	588
		<u>1,712</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,712</u>	<u>2,683</u>

The attached notes on pages 12 to 15 form part of these financial statements

Approved by the PCC on 10th April 2025 and signed on their behalf by

PCC Vice Chair/Honorary Treasurer

PCC Secretary

TA N. Wilson
R. J. Rickaby

ST MARK'S CHURCH PENNINGTON**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

- 1) The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

	2024 £	2023 £
2) Fixed assets retained for Church use are as follows:		
Freehold property at the rear of the old Infant's School, South Street, Pennington consisting of the Community Hall and car park area purchased on 26th November 1963 at cost	250	250
Piano at cost	2,553	2,553
Church Equipment at cost	13,341	12,922
Churchyard Equipment at cost	1,887	1,887
Community Hall Furniture and Equipment	9,230	5,757
	<u>27,261</u>	<u>23,369</u>

The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Moveable church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal

St Mark's Community Hall Furnishings

- 3) The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	1st January	Receipts	Payments	31st December
Building and Fabric Fund	403	22	-	425
Organ Fund	311	16	-	327
Churchyard Fund	314	232	(216)	330
Flower Fund	-	60	(60)	-
Community Hall Project Fund	350	3,491	(3,473)	368
Vegetable Garden Fund	40	-	-	40
Specific Items Fund	<u>(391)</u>	<u>3,752</u>	<u>(3,261)</u>	<u>100</u>
	<u>1,027</u>	<u>7,573</u>	<u>(7,010)</u>	<u>1,590</u>

All funds represent accumulated legacies, donations, grants, fundraising income and interest which can only be used for their respective purposes.

ST MARK'S CHURCH PENNINGTON

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
4) Receipts					
a) Other Voluntary Receipts					
Donations		5,650	5,616	11,266	17,518
Grants - Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme		1,720	-	1,720	463
New Forest District Council		-	300	300	950
Archbishops' Council		-	-	-	1,000
Legacies		1,443	-	1,443	-
Miscellaneous Income		230	-	230	399
Gift Aid Recovered		25	84	109	159
		<u>9,068</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>15,068</u>	<u>20,489</u>
b) Activities for Generating Funds					
Events and Refreshments		2,317	-	2,317	1,553
St Mark's Draw Club	6	2,270	-	2,270	2,128
Traidcraft Sales		2	-	2	4
Sale of Goods		11	-	11	12
		<u>4,600</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,600</u>	<u>3,697</u>
c) Receipts from Church Activities					
Fees for Year		9,749	-	9,749	5,374
Community Hall Letting Income	5	14,388	-	14,388	14,608
Craft Group Income		479	-	479	486
Friendship Teas		331	-	331	420
		<u>24,947</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,947</u>	<u>20,888</u>
d) Investment Income					
CBF Deposit Interest		3,187	73	3,260	1,572
CAF Bank Interest		19	-	19	21
Hampshire Trust Bank		-	-	-	325
H M Revenue and Customs		4	-	4	-
		<u>3,210</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>3,283</u>	<u>1,918</u>

ST MARK'S CHURCH PENNINGTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
4) Payments					
Church Activities -					
f) Clergy and Staffing					
Employee Salary	8	2,703	1,500	4,203	4,003
Assistant Clergy		49	-	49	-
Clergy Expenses		-	-	-	50
		<u>2,752</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>4,252</u>	<u>4,053</u>
g) Church Running Expenses					
Deanery Fees		53	-	53	58
Cost of Services		1,225	-	1,225	928
Heating, Lighting and Water		3,837	-	3,837	5,401
Insurance		2,499	-	2,499	2,392
Repairs and Maintenance		11,386	514	11,900	4,924
Upkeep of Churchyard		1,744	216	1,960	1,415
Flowers		15	60	75	110
Church Administration		1,655	63	1,718	1,259
Purchase of Equipment		419	3,473	3,892	-
Craft Group Expenses		-	-	-	-
Friendship Tea Expenses		76	-	76	90
Training Expenses		270	-	270	395
Advertising		278	-	278	1,195
Bank and Credit Card Charges		78	-	78	83
Trustee Expenses	7	241	-	241	626
Miscellaneous		26	-	26	324
		<u>23,802</u>	<u>4,326</u>	<u>28,128</u>	<u>19,200</u>
h) Mission Giving and Donations					
World Vision		274	-	274	274
		<u>274</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>274</u>
i) Costs of Generating Funds					
Stewardship Expenses		64	-	64	59
Events and Refreshments		191	-	191	103
St Mark's Draw Club	6	1,088	-	1,088	1,079
		<u>1,343</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,343</u>	<u>1,241</u>

ST MARK'S CHURCH PENNINGTON

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

	Note	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
5) Community Hall			
Receipts			
Lettings		14,388	14,608
Grant		300	950
Donations		884	286
		<u>15,572</u>	<u>15,844</u>
Payments			
Employee Salary	8	2,974	2,725
Internal and External Cleaning Costs		1,696	1,291
Utility Costs		4,075	6,255
Insurance		956	915
Repairs and Maintenance		1,859	949
Gardening		140	160
Broadband Costs		698	565
Licences and Sundry		300	473
		<u>12,698</u>	<u>13,333</u>
Surplus of Receipts over Payments		<u>2,874</u>	<u>2,511</u>
6) St Mark's Draw Club			
Receipts		2,270	2,128
Payments		1,088	1,079
Surplus of Receipts over Payments		<u>1,182</u>	<u>1,049</u>

7) Payments to PCC Members

The following payments were made to PCC members:

In respect of her training to become a Licensed Lay Minister the sum of £241 was paid to Ms J Sibley for her study books and travelling costs.

As noted above one PCC member received expenses of £241. No other payments were made to PCC members.

8) Staff Costs

Wages and Salaries	<u>7,177</u>	<u>6,728</u>
Average number of employees	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

During the year the PCC employed an organist and hall caretaker (both part-time). No social security costs were payable.