

## **ST JOHN THE DIVINE    WEST WORTHING**



**Parish Priest:** The Reverend Canon Timothy Peskett

**Bank:**

CAF Bank Limited  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
West Malling  
Kent. ME19 4JQ

**Legal Advisers:**

Lings Solicitors  
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**Independent Examiner:**

Garry Lock ACA  
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Durrington, Worthing  
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## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**For the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Registered Charity No: 1178660**

Presentation to the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting  
at St John the Divine, West Worthing on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 11-30am.

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### 1. Structure, Governance & Management

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John the Divine, West Worthing ("the PCC") is a Charity ("the Charity") registered with the Charity Commission under No: 1178660. The members of the PCC, as Trustees, have the responsibility for co-operating with the Incumbent, or, during an interregnum, Deanery and Diocesan Officers to promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has a responsibility for the maintenance of the church hall and grounds in Ripley Road and the interior of the vicarage in Reigate Road, Worthing.

#### Membership

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules. In addition to those members of the church elected at the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM) it also includes Ex Officio members who are the incumbent, Churchwardens and members of the Deanery and Diocesan Synods. Members of the congregation are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

PCC members are also Trustees and must accept the ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of the Charity for the benefit of the public for whom it has been set up, including deciding how the funds of the Charity are to be spent.

**PCC members who are Trustees and have served at any time during the year 2023 are:-**

#### Ex Officio Members

Incumbent        The Reverend Canon Timothy Peskett appointed on 5 May 2020

#### Wardens

Mrs Dorothy Smith   Appointed on 3 September 2023

Mr Martyn Shanks   Appointed on 28 May 2023

Mrs Vanessa Puttick Appointed 11 October 2020 resigned on 31 July 2023

Ms Caroline Burke   Appointed 29 May 2022 resigned as a Warden on 28 May 2023

#### Diocesan and Deanery Synod

Mrs Kim Upton        Appointed 18 April 2018

Mr Martin Lloyd      Appointed 2 April 2017 (also Safeguarding Officer)

Miss Dawn Munn     Appointed 27 April 2019

Mr Martin Puttick    Appointed 20 May 2021 resigned on 31 July 2023

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### Elected Members

Mrs Gillian Almond Appointed 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
Mr Mike Chatfield Appointed 11 November 2020  
Mr Alan Caperon Appointed 11 October 2020 (Treasurer)  
Mrs Ros Ashton Appointed 30 May 2021  
Ms Caroline Burke Appointed 29 May 2022  
Mrs Sheila Hillary Appointed 28 May 2019  
Mrs Margaret Borbone Appointed 29 May 2022 (Secretary)

**Co-Opted Members-** There were no Co-Opted members.

### 2. Aim and Purpose.

The primary objective of the Charity is to promote the whole mission of the church.

- Pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical

The Charity together with the Churchwardens support and cooperate with the incumbent, continue to maintain the condition of St John's church, the church hall and grounds and the interior of the vicarage in Reigate Road. The church maintains the Anglo Catholic tradition for which it was founded in 1901 while still recognising that the world around us is always changing.

### 3. Objectives and activities.

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

The PCC makes suggestions of how our services can involve the many differing groups within the parish.

We put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year we have considered ideas from our mission action group, especially: -

1. Provision of pastoral care for those living in our community, such as the many care homes in our parish.
2. Our community has many single people we need to consider in our outreach.
3. To facilitate this work, we need to be seen to be going out into our community to cover those areas that are being missed.
4. In 2023 St. John's church was used as a polling station for the benefit of the local community.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### 4. Achievements and performance

The PCC is keen to offer a range of church services through the week and during the year that our community will find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling, in quiet reflective worship and also through fellowship after Sunday services.

Our Parish Clergy team continue to visit on a regular basis and offer communion to those people who for whatever reason cannot attend church.

We would like to thank all our volunteers for their hard work in making our church a lively and welcoming community, including the PCC, its sub committees, our honorary Clergy, Servers, Sacristans, lay ministers and flower people, and all those who have worked so hard.

### 5. Review of the year

It is with gratitude and humility that I present to you a review for the annual report for 2023. This review reflects our collective efforts, challenges, and blessings as we strive to fulfil our mission of living and spreading the Gospel message in our community of West Worthing and beyond.

During 2023 we have continued to enjoy our worshipping life with the annual round of Feast and Fast being celebrated at St. John's in a robust, dignified and fitting way. Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2023 was a very moving and spiritual time for the Parish when we drew close to our Lord in His Passion and Resurrection. In our worshipping life, numbers attending services fluctuate, but on an average Sunday attendance across the three services at St. John's numbers between 50 – 60 people. Weekday attendance at Mass remains consistently high.

In 2023 we continued with our weekly bible studies on Monday afternoons. The venue for bible study sessions changed in 2023 from the vicarage dining room to the Lady Chapel, when we have read, studied and meditated on the Sunday Readings for the following Sunday. All are welcome to attend.

During Lent we had Stations of the Cross and Lent Lunches which were very well attended and raised a lot of money for the work of the Samaritans. In May 2023 we had a joyful Coronation party on the day after the Coronation of our new King. The Summer Fair and Christmas Fair brought the local community together and both were a great success and enjoyed by all. For both fairs we joined forces with our sister parish of St. Andrews. The fairs are always hard work, but they bring in much needed funds and bring us all together.

In July 2023 we said farewell to Fr. Josh who had been with us for three years as Assistant Curate. He had honed his considerable skills at St. John's and St. Andrews and has become a very fine young priest.

In early September 2023 a large group of parishioners went to Chichester to see Deacon Rachel being installed as a Canon of the Cathedral. A few days later a group went to Eastbourne for the licensing of Fr. Josh as Priest in Charge of two parishes. In September we also said farewell to Vanessa Puttick and Martin Puttick. Vanessa has been a marvellous churchwarden at St. John's and Martin served as a Lay Reader for a short while. We wish them every blessing in their new life in the North of England.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

Christmas 2023 at St. John's was very well supported, thanks in major part to the Parish Christmas Card drop informing parishioners of Christmas services and events. Thanks to all who delivered cards.

St John's acted as a polling station for the local council elections during 2023. The people who run the Elections enjoy coming to St. John's and they feel it is an ideal place for this purpose. It is also good to bring the entire local community into the church.

St. John's preschool continues to be a much-loved and valued part of our Church life, serving young families in the area and providing learning and creative play to very young children at a very formative time of their young lives. We are so fortunate to have such a good manager in Jude Waterhouse, who is supported by a very dedicated staff team and governing body. St. John's Preschool has been judged as a "Good Provider" by Ofsted.

There is rarely a day at St. John's when nothing much is happening, and St. John's is at the service of the Parish Community seven days a week. Going forward, St. John's will need each and every member to support their parish church both financially and through attendance to secure its future life and witness.

It has been an absolute joy and privilege to be Vicar of such a wonderful parish during 2023 and I am so grateful to everyone for their support and contributions during the year.

**Fr. Tim Peskett**

### 6. Financial Review

St John's Church achieved a total income of £66,456 (2022 £65,171).

The expenditure for the year was £53,797 (2022 £55,324), including a contribution towards our parish share for our clergy of £30,000.

It is pleasing to report that St John's church had a surplus with income exceeding expenditure this year by £12,659 (2022 surplus £9,847).

It should be noted that the market value of investments increased by £2,333 compared to a reduced value in 2022 of £3,308.

The total net assets of St John's church after taking into account debtors and creditors at 31 December 2023 was £139,890 (2022 £124,898).

The St John's Preschool results are included in the Charity's consolidated accounts, and you will note that the Preschool incurred a deficit in the year of £6,105 (2022 surplus £706), after taking into account the hire of the hall of £6,825. In summary, the Preschool made a small surplus of £720 before its contribution to St John's for hall hire.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

The consolidated accounts show that the total assets of the Charity at 31 December 2023 were £195,178 (2022 £186,291), which represented an increase of £8,887. This increase is made up of the net surplus made by St John's church of £14,992 (adjusted for the increase in the value of investments of £2,333), less the St John's Preschool deficit of £6,105.

### 7. Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to retain a level of reserves appropriate to the Charity's future needs.

#### ***Roof funds-restricted and designated***

The restricted roof fund is currently at a level whereby it is unlikely that any significant work can be undertaken to completely renew the church roof in 2024.

The PCC decided to utilise the roof designated fund for remedial works to repair leaks, damp and water ingress and therefore have started a process to carry out major reinstatement. In 2024, the hall roof will need to be replaced.

At 31 December 2023 the funds retained were as follows:-

- Roof restricted £27,700
- Roof designated £16,212
- Church redevelopment-designated £4,251
- Interest on designated funds £1,273

#### ***Other restricted funds***

- Solar panels £10,000
- Pan Bailey legacy £22,569
- Specific purpose fund £4,030
- Share revaluation fund £4,124
- Dividends and interest fund £3,912

The Charity's reserves at 31 December 2023 totalled £195,178 (2021 £186,291) and are made up as follows: -

- Restricted funds of £72,374 (2022 £67,392)
- Designated funds of £21,736 (2022 £21,912)
- Unrestricted funds of £45,780 (2022 £35,594)
- Preschool designated funds of £55,288 (2022 £61,393)

The reserves are shown in more detail in these accounts.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### St John's Preschool



### St John's Preschool, West Worthing

Ofsted registration number: URN EY402776

### Key Extracts from the Governors' Report for the period 1 January – 31 December 2023

Summary of the purposes of the Preschool as set out in its governing document.  
(SORP Ref: Para 1.17)

St John's Preschool is a not-for-profit early years setting registered with Ofsted that is part of the work and ministry of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John the Divine, West Worthing. The purpose of the Preschool is outlined in its constitution document:

#### Aim

To provide the community with a valuable, high profile service by means of a Christian Preschool'.

#### Objectives

- 1 'To provide a first-class programme of preschool education, including spiritual development.'
- 2 'To provide a Christian environment in which children are encouraged to develop physical, intellectual, language, emotional and social skills, in work, play and social situations.'
- 3 'To develop links between the children, parents, carers and staff associated with the Preschool and St John's Church.'
- 4 'To operate in a Christian environment without discrimination concerning the child's religion, racial origin, cultural and linguistic background or special needs.'
- 5 'To function in accordance with standards approved by appropriate governmental bodies eg. Ofsted.'



## TRUSTEES' REPORT

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts  
(SORP Ref: Para 1.17 and 1.19)

The Preschool operates in St John's Church Hall on Monday – Friday (Term time only) 8.30 am – 2.30 pm as a pack-away early years setting. It provides early years education through learning activities and play for children 2-4 years old.

The Preschool follows the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework from the Department for Education. This specifies requirements for learning and development, for safeguarding children and for promoting their welfare.

The Preschool supports children in their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The curriculum delivered is designed to meet the individual needs of all children, with specific additional support given to SEND or disadvantaged children. Every child in the Preschool has key worker on the staff.

Regular assemblies and special events are held in church for the children, to which families and members of the congregation are often invited.

Statement confirming whether the Governors have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit  
(SORP Ref: Para 1.18)

The Preschool's constitution reflects the 'benefit' and 'public' aspects of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, notwithstanding that it is not a separately registered Charity.

Contribution made by volunteers  
(SORP Ref: Para 1.38)

All the Governors are volunteers; one governor was employed by the Preschool as the Bursar for part of the year but in 2023 a new part time bursar was employed.

Summary of the main achievements of the Preschool, identifying the difference the Preschool's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole  
(SORP Ref: Para 1.20)

The Preschool is a happy, friendly, family environment where children, parents and staff all work together. The children learn through fun and play; these experiences give them a secure foundation for their future education and development, by building up their confidence and instilling in them an excitement for learning.

It also introduces the children to bible stories and to church; before the Covid pandemic, there were monthly assemblies in church led by one of the parish clergy. Although not as frequent the assemblies are returning, usually once a half term.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

Many parents return with siblings, demonstrating how happy they are with what the Preschool provides for their children.

At the end of the year in December 2023, there were 15 children on roll – 5 x 2 year olds and 10 x 3 year olds. This compares to 23 children on roll in December 2022.

### Review of the Preschool's financial position at the end of 2023 (SORP Ref: Para 1.21)

The Preschool's financial position at 31 December 2023 has become much more vulnerable over the last year with an operating deficit of £6,105. This has been caused by a fall in the number of children on roll; this is something which affected other early years settings in the local area (2022 surplus of £706).

The Governors are aware that the majority of the Preschool's income is public funding which has been provided for the purpose of educational provision.

### Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held (SORP Ref: Para 1.22)

The Governors have designated specific funds as reserves to ensure they manage the financial risks effectively and the Preschool remains financially viable in the medium and long term.

The Governors also want to ensure there are always sufficient funds available to enable them:

- to meet their statutory responsibilities as employers,
- to provide a high quality of educational provision for the children,
- to create a safe environment for adults and children in the Preschool,
- to ensure the Preschool benefits the life of the parish and the local community.

### Explanation of any uncertainties about the Preschool continuing as a going concern (SORP Ref: Para 1.23)

The Governors recognise that the numbers of children on the roll fluctuate for several reasons: the variation in the birth rate and the impact of other early year's provision being the main ones.

As the Preschool's income is linked directly to the numbers on roll, the Governors have agreed to hold designated funds as reserves, to manage the financial uncertainties caused by the fluctuation of numbers on roll in the short, medium and long term.

### The Preschool's principal sources of funds (SORP Ref: Para 1.47)

There are two principal sources of funding:

1. West Sussex County Council – government funding for all children eligible for free childcare.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

2. Fees – paid by parents for children who are not eligible for government funded free childcare, or who wish to pay for more hours at the Preschool if their children are only entitled to 15 hours a week of government funding.

### A description of the principal risks facing the Preschool (SORP Ref: Para 1.46)

The Preschool's funding is based on the numbers of children on its roll. It is always very difficult to predict the numbers on roll on a year-to-year basis and they fluctuate considerably over the short, medium and long term.

### Type of governing document (SORP Ref: Para 1.25)

The constitution document for St John's Preschool was approved by the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St John the Divine, West Worthing at its meeting on 14 July 2009. It was revised and updated by the Parochial Church Council on 25 September 2023.

### Governor selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions (SORP Ref: Para 1.25)

- The Incumbent of the Parish is an ex-officio foundation governor.
- Four foundation governors are appointed by the Parochial Church Council for a term of office of three years, which is renewable\*.
- One parent governor is elected by parents.
- One staff governor is nominated by staff or the governors.
- Up to 2 co-opted members appointed by the governing body

The Governors approved a new policy for the induction of governors in 2023. This policy will be reviewed every three years.

The Preschool relates to:

- The Parochial Church Council- Regular reports are given at PCC meetings and annual accounts are provided. A report is written for the APCM.
- Other Local Early Years Settings-There has sometimes been liaison with other local early years settings.
- Early Years Alliance-An annual membership fee provides access to the EYA website, advice and information.
- West Sussex County Council-Advice and support are received from the Early Years Team.
- Ofsted-An annual registration fee is paid to Ofsted; the Preschool has an Ofsted Designated Person who is responsible for ensuring that all the requirements of the Ofsted registration are met.

**Sally Thompson**  
**Chair of Governors**

**Independent Examiner's Report  
to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of  
St John the Divine, West Worthing**

**Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and the Independent Examiner**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) as amended by the Charities Act 2022 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act)
2. To follow the procedures laid down under the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act); and
3. To state whether any particular matters have come to my attention.

***Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report***

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

***Independent Examiner's statement***

The accounts for the year to 31 December 2023 comply with the requirement to produce consolidated accounts and include the Designated Funds of the Preschool.

I conclude as the Independent Examiner that the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 accord with the accounting records. The accounts therefore comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011 as amended by the Charities Act 2022 and provide a proper understanding of the accounts of the Charity.

Please ensure that the St John the Divine Financial Statements are filed with the Charity Commission.

Name: Garry Lock

Date: 12 May 2024



Relevant professional qualification: ACA, Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales Address: 21 Apsley Way, Durrington, West Sussex, BN13 3RE.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)**  
**FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted funds	Total All funds 2022	Year to 31-Dec-22
INCOMING RESOURCES	General	Designated	Designated Pre school			
<b>St John The Divine, income</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving	20,757				20,757	20,062
Other gift aided donations	13,515				13,515	13,047
Other donations	1,795				1,795	3,907
Gift aid recovered	3,380				3,380	3,590
<b>Donations and legacies total</b>	<b>39,447</b>				<b>39,447</b>	<b>40,606</b>
<b>Pre school income</b>						
Fees for the year			84,167		84,167	76,765
Other income for the year			873		873	1,129
Other income-interest			380		380	64
			<b>85,420</b>		<b>85,420</b>	<b>77,958</b>
<b>St John The Divine, income</b>						
Weddings, funerals and other income	1,610				1,610	586
<b>Charitable activities total</b>	<b>1,610</b>				<b>1,610</b>	<b>586</b>
<b>St John The Divine, income</b>						
Fundraising and social events	2,193				2,193	2,063
Insurance claim	0				0	555
Parish magazine sales	177				177	91
Hall and church hire	13,562				13,562	12,279
Hall and church hire-pre school	(6,825)				(6,825)	(6,330)
St Andrew's contributions	1,797				1,797	3,644
100 Club	345				345	313
Flower fund	0				0	200
Polling	700				700	1,250
Sundry income including energy grant	967				967	1,218
Photocopying	60				60	
Magazine advertisement fees	528				528	566
Catering	100				100	
Bookstall sales	0				0	15
<b>Other Fundraising activities total</b>	<b>13,604</b>				<b>13,604</b>	<b>15,864</b>
Bank and CBF deposit interest	1,302	1,006		1,921	4,229	1,048
CBF investment fund dividend				741	741	
<b>Investment income</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>1,006</b>		<b>2,662</b>	<b>4,970</b>	<b>1,785</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME RESOURCES</b>	<b>55,963</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>85,420</b>	<b>2,662</b>	<b>145,051</b>	<b>134,799</b>

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)**  
**FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total All funds 2023</b>	<b>Year to 31-Dec-22</b>
	<b>General</b>	<b>Designated</b>	<b>Designated Preschool</b>			
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable donations	174				174	0
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	30,000				30,000	30,000
Clergy property costs and clergy expenses	4,741				4,741	6,045
Weddings, funerals and baptisms etc	300				300	
PCC governance costs	271				271	300
Other charitable costs	513				513	393
<b>Total direct costs of charitable activities</b>	<b>35,999</b>				<b>35,999</b>	<b>36,738</b>
<b>Preschool expenditure</b>						
Year to 31 December 2023			91,525		91,525	77,252
Pre school payments to St John's			(6,825)		(6,825)	(8,330)
			<b>84,700</b>		<b>84,700</b>	<b>68,922</b>
Flowers for church	61			52	113	339
Church insurance	2,376				2,376	2,095
Accountancy and Xero licence	413				413	435
Hall, water, gas, and electricity	3,325				3,325	2,621
Church water, gas, electricity and refuse	2,285				2,285	2,605
Hall cleaning and wages	3,150				3,150	2,498
Hall maintenance and repairs	927				927	1,451
Hall insurance	1,788				1,788	1,580
Insurance claims and property costs	0	1,182			1,182	370
Telephone and Internet	820				820	821
Bank charges	84				84	90
Parish office copier rental	(1,928)				(1,928)	406
Other regular church running costs	913				913	1,158
Printing and photocopying	543				543	595
Church maintenance and repairs	1,082				1,082	1,392
Walsingham	105				105	130
Depreciation	620				620	
<b>Total indirect costs of charitable activities</b>	<b>16,564</b>	<b>1,182</b>		<b>52</b>	<b>17,798</b>	<b>18,586</b>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>52,563</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>84,700</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>138,497</b>	<b>124,246</b>

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)**  
**FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds	Total All funds 2023	Year to 31-Dec-22
	General	Designated	Designated Preschool			
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>MOVEMENT IN TOTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR</b>						
<b>Net income/expenditure for the year</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>(176)</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>2,610</b>	<b>6,554</b>	<b>10,553</b>
Revaluation of shares				2,333	2,333	(3,308)
Preschool hall hire	6,825		(6,825)			
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 1 JANUARY 2023</b>	<b>35,594</b>	<b>21,912</b>	<b>61,393</b>	<b>67,392</b>	<b>186,291</b>	<b>179,046</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023</b>	<b>45,819</b>	<b>21,736</b>	<b>55,288</b>	<b>72,335</b>	<b>195,178</b>	<b>186,291</b>

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET  
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Unrestricted Designated			Restricted funds	Total All funds 2023	Total All funds 2022
	General	Designated	Pre School			
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>2,480</b>				<b>2,480</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
CAF Bank current account	8,929				8,929	11,002
Bank current account-pre school			29,857		29,857	36,819
Bank deposit account-pre school			40,053		40,053	40,092
CBF Deposit fund	34,049	22,614		43,203	99,866	87,081
Cash in hand					0	12
<b>Cash at bank</b>	<b>42,978</b>	<b>22,614</b>	<b>69,910</b>	<b>43,203</b>	<b>178,705</b>	<b>175,006</b>
<b>Investments</b>						
1200CBF Investment fund shares				27,126	27,126	24,794
<b>Investment assets at market value</b>				<b>27,126</b>	<b>27,126</b>	<b>24,794</b>
<b>Share valuation at 31 Dec 2023</b>						
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>45,458</b>	<b>22,614</b>	<b>69,910</b>	<b>70,329</b>	<b>208,311</b>	<b>199,800</b>
<b>DEBTORS</b>						
Preschool					0	156
HMRC	1,606				1,606	1,480
Hall rent	504				504	562
Christmas fair	0				0	756
Christmas service donations	1,050				1,050	365
100 Club	0				0	313
Interest	388	304		579	1,271	113
St Andrews	330				330	0
Flower fund	189				189	0
Sundry debtors	252				252	0
Advertising	160				160	82
	<b>4,479</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>3,905</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>						
WSCC			(12,306)		(12,306)	(12,773)
Prepaid fees and deposits			(360)		(360)	(1,143)
Employees			(1,956)		(1,956)	(1,560)
HMRC						(69)
Gas and electricity	(563)				(563)	(1,538)
Bank charges	(18)				(18)	0
Donation from church collection						(21)
Funeral fee	(217)				(217)	
Diocese	(2,500)				(2,500)	
Trade suppliers	(575)				(575)	(100)
Petty cash expenses						(248)
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>(3,873)</b>		<b>(14,622)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(18,495)</b>	<b>(17,414)</b>
<b>Transfers</b>	<b>(245)</b>	<b>(1,182)</b>		<b>1,427</b>		
<b>NET ASSETS after debtors/(creditors)</b>	<b>45,819</b>	<b>21,736</b>	<b>55,288</b>	<b>72,335</b>	<b>195,178</b>	<b>186,291</b>



**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET  
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	General £	Designated £	Designated Pre School £	Restricted £	Total All funds 2023 £	Total All funds 2022 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
<b><u>CHARITY FUNDS</u></b>						
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>45,819</u>				<u>45,819</u>	<u>35,594</u>
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS-St John's</b>						
Roof		16,212				
Church development fund		4,251				
Interest		<u>1,273</u>				
		<u>21,736</u>			<u>21,736</u>	<u>21,912</u>
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS-Preschool</b>			<u>55,288</u>		<u>55,288</u>	<u>61,393</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
Roof				27,700		27,700
Special purpose fund (redesignated)				4,030		4,030
Interest				2,434		513
Dividends				1,478		737
Share revaluation				4,124		1,791
Solar panels				10,000		10,000
Pam Bailey fund				<u>22,569</u>		<u>22,569</u>
				<u>72,335</u>	<u>72,335</u>	<u>67,392</u>
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>	<u>45,819</u>	<u>21,736</u>	<u>55,288</u>	<u>72,335</u>	<u>195,178</u>	<u>186,291</u>

**ST JOHN THE DIVINE BALANCE SHEET  
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted Funds	Total All funds 2023	Total All funds 2022
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
	<b>2,480</b>			<b>2,480</b>	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
CAF Bank current account	8,929			8,929	11,002
CBF Deposit fund	34,049	22,614	43,203	99,866	87,080
Cash in hand			0	0	0
	<b>42,978</b>	<b>22,614</b>	<b>43,203</b>	<b>108,795</b>	<b>98,083</b>
<b>Investments</b>					
1200CBF Investment fund shares			27,126	27,126	24,794
<b>Investment assets at market value</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,126</b>	<b>27,126</b>	<b>24,794</b>
<b>Share valuation at 31 Dec 2023 of £27,126</b>					
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>45,458</b>	<b>22,614</b>	<b>70,329</b>	<b>138,401</b>	<b>122,877</b>
<b>DEBTORS</b>					
HMRC	1,606			1,606	1,480
Hall rent	504			504	562
Christmas fair	0			0	756
Christmas service donations	1,050			1,050	365
100 Club	0			0	313
Prepayments	252			252	113
St Andrews	330			330	0
Interest	388	304	579	388	0
Flower account	189			189	0
Advertising	160			160	160
	<b>4,479</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>3,749</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Gas and electricity	(563)			(1,538)	(1,538)
Funeral fee	(217)			(217)	0
Donation from church collection	0				(21)
Trade suppliers	(575)			(575)	(100)
HMRC	0				(69)
Diocese	(2,500)			(2,500)	
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>(3,873)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(3,873)</b>	<b>(1,728)</b>
<b>Transfers</b>	<b>(245)</b>	<b>(1,182)</b>	<b>1,427</b>		
<b>NET ASSETS after debtors/(creditors)</b>	<b>45,819</b>	<b>21,736</b>	<b>72,335</b>	<b>139,890</b>	<b>124,898</b>
<b>CHARITY FUNDS</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>			<b>72,335</b>	<b>72,335</b>	<b>67,392</b>
<b>Designated funds</b>		<b>21,736</b>		<b>21,736</b>	<b>21,912</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>45,819</b>			<b>45,819</b>	<b>35,594</b>
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>				<b>139,890</b>	<b>124,898</b>

## Charity reserves fund (adjusted for transactions received and paid in year to 31 December 2023)

## Fund income &amp; expenditure

Fund name	Balances b/f 1 Jan 2023	Income	Expenditure	Adjustments	Balances c/f 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£		£
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Special purpose fund	890	0	0	3,140	4,030
Restricted purposes (see below)	35,761	0	(52)	(3,140)	32,569
Roof	27,700	0	0	0	27,700
Interest received	513	1,921			2,434
Dividend income	737	741			1,478
Revaluation of shares	1,791			2,333	4,124
<b>Total of all restricted funds</b>	<b>67,392</b>	<b>2,662</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>2,333</b>	<b>72,335</b>
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Roof-designated fund	17,394	0	(1,182)	0	16,212
Church redevelopment-designated fund	4,251	0	0	0	4,251
Interest	267	1,006			267
<b>Total of all designated funds</b>	<b>21,912</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>(1,182)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,736</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>35,594</b>	<b>62,788</b>	<b>(52,563)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,819</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>124,859</b>	<b>66,456</b>	<b>(53,797)</b>	<b>2,333</b>	<b>139,890</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>B/f</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Redesignation</b>	<b>C/f</b>
Childrens corner	79			(79)	0
Crib service collection	183			(183)	0
Flowers	52		(52)	0	0
Jean Godden legacy	933			(933)	0
Junior church	451			(451)	0
St Luke's collection	41			(41)	0
Pam Bailey legacy	22,569				22,569
Requiem altar carpet	150			(150)	0
Solar panels	10,000				10,000
Sunday school books	76			(76)	0
War memorial	112			(112)	0
Andrew Wood	715			(715)	0
Altar cloths	400			(400)	0
	35,761		(52)	(3,140)	32,569
Restricted roof fund	27,700				27,700
Special purpose fund				4,030	4,030
Social fund	890			(890)	
	<b>64,351</b>		<b>(52)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>64,299</b>
Revaluation of shares	1,791			2,333	4,124
Interest	513	1,921			2,434
Dividends	737	741			1,478
	<b>3,041</b>	<b>2,662</b>		<b>2,333</b>	<b>8,036</b>
	<b>67,392</b>	<b>2,662</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>2,333</b>	<b>72,335</b>

**ST JOHN' S STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total All funds 2023	Total All funds 2022
	General	Designated			
Income	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	39,447			39,447	40,606
Charitable activities	1,610			1,610	586
Other trading activities	17,587			17,587	22,194
Investments	1,302	1,006	2,662	4,970	1,785
Other receipts	2,842			2,842	
<b>Total received</b>	<b>62,788</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>2,662</b>	<b>66,456</b>	<b>65,171</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Charitable direct costs	(41,354)	(1,182)	(52)	(42,588)	(36,738)
Charity indirect costs	(11,209)			(11,209)	(18,586)
<b>Total paid out</b>	<b>(55,324)</b>	<b>(1,182)</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>(53,797)</b>	<b>(55,324)</b>
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>10,225</b>	<b>(176)</b>	<b>2,610</b>	<b>12,659</b>	<b>9,847</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	10,225	(176)	2,610	12,659	9,847
Adjustment-investment to transfer					
Revaluation of shares (see notes)		-	2,333	2,333	(3,308)
Cash & investments on 1st January 2023	35,594	21,912	67,392	124,898	118,359
<b>Cash and investments on 31st December 2023</b>	<b>45,819</b>	<b>21,736</b>	<b>72,355</b>	<b>139,890</b>	<b>124,898</b>

**ST JOHN'S CHARITY INCOME FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total All funds 2023	Total All funds 2022
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
<b>St John The Divine, income</b>	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving	20,757			20,757	20,062
Other gift aided donations	13,515			13,515	13,047
Other donations	1,795			1,795	3,907
Gift aid recovered	3,380			3,380	3,590
<b>Donations and legacies total</b>	<b>39,447</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>39,447</b>	<b>40,606</b>
<b>St John The Divine, income</b>					
Weddings, funerals and other income	<b>1,610</b>			<b>1,610</b>	<b>586</b>
<b>St John The Divine, income</b>					
Fundraising and social events	2,193			2,193	2,063
Insurance claim	0			0	555
Parish magazine sales	177			177	91
Hall and church hire	13,562			13,562	12,279
St Andrew's contributions	1,797			1,797	3,644
100 Club	345			345	313
Flower fund	0			0	200
Catering	100			100	0
Photocopying	60			60	0
Polling	700			700	1,250
Sundry income including energy grant	967			967	1,218
Magazine advertisement fees	528			528	566
Bookstall sales	0			0	15
<b>Other activities total</b>	<b>20,429</b>			<b>20,429</b>	<b>22,194</b>
Bank and CBF deposit interest	1,302	1,006	1,921	4,229	1,048
CBF investment fund dividend			741	741	737
<b>Investment income</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>2,662</b>	<b>4,970</b>	<b>1,785</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME RESOURCES</b>	<b>62,788</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>2,662</b>	<b>66,456</b>	<b>65,171</b>

## ST JOHN'S CHARITY EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total All funds 2023	Total All funds 2022
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable donations	174			174	0
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	30,000			30,000	30,000
Clergy property costs and expenses	4,741			4,741	6,045
Costs of weddings, funerals and baptisms	300			300	0
PCC governance costs	271			271	300
Other charitable costs	513			513	393
<b>Total direct costs</b>	<b>35,999</b>			<b>35,999</b>	<b>36,738</b>
Flowers costs	61		52	113	339
Accountancy and Xero licences	413			413	435
Church water, gas and electricity	2,285			2,285	2,605
Church insurance	2,376			2,376	2,095
Telephone and internet	820			820	821
Church maintenance and repairs	1,082			1,082	1,392
Other regular church running costs	913			913	1,158
Printing and photocopying	543			543	595
Hall, water, gas and electricity	3,325			3,325	2,621
Hall cleaning and wages	3,150			3,150	2,498
Hall maintenance and repairs	927			927	1,451
Insurance claims		1,182		1,182	370
Hall insurance	1,788			1,788	1,580
Parish office copier rental	(1,928)			(1,928)	406
Bank charges	84			84	90
Walsingham	105			105	130
Depreciation	620			620	0
<b>Total indirect costs</b>	<b>16,564</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>17,798</b>	<b>18,586</b>
<b>Total paid out on all funds</b>	<b>52,563</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53,797</b>	<b>55,324</b>

## ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	<b>Total (3 terms) £</b>	<b>3 terms to 31-Dec-22 £</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Fees	84,167	76,765
Fundraising	861	286
Bank interest	380	64
T Shirt income	12	12
Grant	0	665
Sundry	0	166
	<b>85,420</b>	<b>77,958</b>
<b>Less Expenditure</b>		
Curriculum costs	(3,551)	(2,595)
Salaries	(74,189)	(63,549)
Premises costs	(223)	(2,147)
Hall hire	(6,825)	(6,330)
Administration costs	(2,280)	(427)
Professional fees	(384)	0
Service costs	(3,341)	(2,204)
Fund raising costs	(732)	0
	<b>(91,525)</b>	<b>(77,252)</b>
<b>Excess of (expenditure) over income</b>	<b>(6,105)</b>	<b>706</b>

## ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023	31-Dec-22	
	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
<b>Bank accounts</b>		
Bank account	29,857	36,819
Cash in hand	0	12
Deposit Account	40,053	40,092
	<b>69,910</b>	<b>76,923</b>
<b>DEBTORS</b>		
Outstanding fees	0	156
<b>Total debtors</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>69,910</b>	<b>77,079</b>
<b>LESS LIABILITIES</b>		
WSCC prepayment	(12,306)	(12,773)
Prepaid fees and deposits	(360)	(1,143)
Petty cash expenses	0	(210)
Employment costs	(1,956)	(1,560)
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>(14,622)</b>	<b>(15,686)</b>
<b>Net assets at 31st December 2023</b>	<b>55,288</b>	<b>61,393</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>		
Reserves b/f	61,393	60,687
(Deficit) for the year (Surplus in 2022)	(6,105)	706
Reserves c/f	<b>55,288</b>	<b>61,393</b>



## Notes to the accounts

1. St John The Divine has been registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission since 6 June 2018 and since that date has submitted its own accounts. Prior to that date, St John's Parochial Church Council ("the PCC") was a Charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. In order to provide a better understanding of the Charity's funds within the accounts, it was necessary in the year to review certain historical transactions. The outcome of the review has identified the source of certain of the Charity's funds and the specific bequests from the donors. These accounts properly reflect the Restricted Funds and Unrestricted Funds (which includes Unrestricted Designated Funds).
2. The financial statements of the Charity have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 as amended by the Charities Act 2022 and current church accounting regulations.
3. The consolidated accounts separately identify the hall hire which is a cost to the Preschool and its corresponding income to St John The Divine but these transactions are still included in their respective accounts.
4. The consolidated accounts show the Preschool results as Designated Funds in accordance with the aim of the Preschool to provide the community with a valuable, high profile service by means of a Christian preschool.
5. St Andrew the Apostle church reimburses 50% of the clergy property costs.
6. The share investment has increased in value as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 by £2,333 to £27,126 (2022 decrease by £3,308 to £24,794). The value of the shares is not realised until the shares are sold.
7. Clergy and other allowances and expenses:-

This expenditure includes Council tax on both the vicarage and the curate's house (to 31 August 2023), plus water charges and Clergy expenses but has been reduced by the contributions made by St Andrew the Apostle Church.

8. Regular church running costs:-

This expenditure includes sacristy costs including candles, oil for candles and also the costs of the organist.

9. Other charitable costs

This expenditure includes:

- Drinks licence
- Website maintenance
- CCLI licence – copyright payment for music in church.
- Forward in faith
- Office telephone and broadband
- Payment for safeguarding

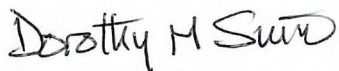
## Notes to the accounts

10. The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Balance sheet:

- a. Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, which require a faculty for disposal.
- b. The church building on the corner of Elm Grove and Ripley Road, Worthing and the separate church hall building, situated within the church grounds in Ripley Road are excluded from the accounts  
by c. 10(2) of the Charities act 2011.

**Trustees' annual report and financial statements presented at the Annual Parochial Church Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

**Signed as approved**



**Vice Chairman of the PCC**

## Reports from groups and committees

### WARDENS REPORT

#### **a. Fabric**

On 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 the UK was hit by a storm that left many areas flooded. St John's unfortunately did not escape water damage. Tiles blown off the roof dropped into the valley between the roofs on the north side of the church. This led to a blockage where the water drain runs through the tower and out onto a flat roof above the high altar. The gutters and drainpipe on the flat roof were silted up and could not clear the water fast enough. The outcome was a buildup of water where it enters the tower which overflowed into the church.

Inside the church the water poured from the ceiling into the vestry soaking the severs robes hanging on the wall directly below and flooding the floor. (Our thanks go to Sandy for laundering them back into good working order). The water also poured through the electric main switches which caused concern for safety and ruined the ceiling light in this area. The Sacristy was soaked both from the outside where the water ran under the door and inside through the walls near the door. Inside the church the water ran down the east wall surrounding the doorway to the electric switches from the church. Water in this area damaged the carpet as far as the Requiem altar and most of the space behind it.

An insurance claim was submitted followed by a visit from a loss adjuster on 13 October 2023, who organised drying equipment and a roof inspection. The drying equipment ran 24/7 from this time right up to and beyond the end of December 2023 at a considerable cost for the electric supply. The roof inspection took place on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Roof repairs started with clearing the silted gutters and down pipes on 9 November, followed by installing a new hod as well as waterproofing the masonry where water constantly runs down the lightening conductor. This was completed on 15 December 2023.

The task of repairing the church after this storm damage will continue in 2024.

Several chairs have needed attention as they have developed loose joints. These have now been repaired. Please let someone know if you find a chair with a problem.

#### **b. Attendance**

Regular worshippers on a Sunday including 8am Mass, 10am Parish Mass and 6pm Evening Prayer and Benediction, amount on average to 50 - 60 members attending.

#### **c. Bible Study Group**

A weekly bible study started in Lent and has continued ever since. 10 people on average attend the bible study, forming a solid core for growing in faith worship and knowledge. Our thanks go to Father Tim for setting this group up and leading it so faithfully.

#### **d. Social & Fundraising**

We started the year with a Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper which was well supported.

In May 2023 we had a Tea party and games in the hall to celebrate the coronation of King Charles.

The Summer Fair was well supported and raised a good amount of cash for parish funds.

A Harvest Supper and Beetle Drive was held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## **Reports from groups and committees**

Father Tim was heroic in cooking 4 options for the main course, it was appreciated very much with a delicious trifle made by Lyn Gough to finish the meal. It was a great evening enjoyed by all as well as raising funds for the church.

A Christmas market was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023. St Andrews and the Preschool joined us with stalls of their own. Independent stall holders paid a hire fee of £15 per table. Also present were WADARS Animal Rescue charity. The morning went by in a relaxed and happy way, bringing in the local community and providing simple lunches of great value. The children enjoyed a visit to Santa, a games area and things of interest from the stalls. All in all, a happy event, and a profit for church funds.

Vanessa's departure could have left much to aspire to regarding social fundraising events, but we have great people here willing to use their gifts to carry on this much appreciated, well attended, social fundraising events.

There is wonderful team spirit in the congregation which is to be celebrated and added to. A small committee has been formed to organise events as well as a great gang of helpers who turn up faithfully to assist in any way they can.

**Dorothy Smith**

## **SIDESPERSIONS**

Our gratitude goes to the faithful team of sidepersons who turn up week after week to greet and help all who come through our doors. This is an incredibly important role to give a positive and warm welcome to our worship and they do a great job.

## **SERVING TEAM**

At St. John's we are so fortunate to have a small but totally dedicated team of Servers. The level of serving has remained consistently high throughout the year and our team of servers have assisted the clergy for big occasions, major feast days, Holy Week liturgies, funerals, Requiem Masses and Sunday by Sunday. We all owe our Serving and Sacristy Teams a huge debt of thanks for serving at the Altar and preparing behind the scenes for the wide range of services and liturgical events, without fuss and in such a dignified and fitting manner. Everything in the serving and sacristy is done to a very high standard.

St. John's also hosted the Worthing branch of the Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary on two occasions in 2023.

If anyone would like to join the Serving Team, please have a word with our head server, Mike Chatfield after Mass on Sunday mornings.

**Fr. Tim**

## **ST. JOHN'S 100 CLUB**

A total of 60 tickets were sold in 2023, up 3 from 2022.

Each month there are 5 prizes of £5, and at Christmas two additional prizes of £50 and £25.

At the end of this year, we gave £345 to Church funds.

The 100 Club has been running since 2012 when we had 63 participants. This is slowing reducing year by year. In the last eleven years, we have given St John's a total of £3,877.

## **Reports from groups and committees**

Thank you for your continued support. If you would like to purchase a number, please contact me.

**Lyn Gough** Tel: 07880 796619

### **CHURCH FLOWERS - 2023**

Donations have been generously given to commemorate an annual occasion, such as wedding anniversaries or remembering a loved one, or marking a special event.

At the start of the year, we had £51 left in the fund from 2022. Personal donations in the year totalled £985, £250 came from Church funds, and the cost of flowers was £848. There was a surplus of £189 remaining for use in 2024.

I am always looking for volunteers, either to arrange flowers or to help in the preparation and clearing up. Easter and Christmas are particularly busy, so please me know if you can help.

There is a list in the Church which you can complete with the details that you want placed by your flowers. A pedestal will cost from £25, but any donation is welcome. At least two weeks' notice, with your donation, would be appreciated.

Please see me or phone me on 07880 796619

**Lyn Gough**

### **PARISH OFFICE REPORT - 2023**

The Parish Office continues to be open on Thursday mornings 10am – 12 noon.

We print the pew sheet weekly with the Sunday readings on the reverse. Brian Hatton produces the parish magazine monthly and Sheila Hillary and I help by collating and stapling it.

During the year we were pleased to have a colour printer installed and I was very grateful to the PCC for agreeing to a complete refurbishment of the office laptop which has given it (and me) a new lease of life.

The Parish Office also provides a venue for meetings, and we can offer small quantities of personal photocopying and laminating.

We welcome enquiries for baptism, weddings, and any other general church enquiries.

**Lois Watson**

### **ST JOHN'S HALL REPORT – 2023**

Last year the hall was busy with birthday parties and social events. Preschool continues to be popular with local families. We lost one of our regular groups, but their spot was quickly filled by a martial arts group who meet every Wednesday for 2 hours. A local foster agency have been hiring the hall for social events for children in foster care. I am told they have been very successful. A new cleaner joined us in November 2023, and he is proving to be very reliable and is doing an excellent job in both the hall and the church. Maintenance and repairs have been regularly carried out, but there is still a list of jobs to be done. The hall now has good Wi-Fi connection and many thanks to Martyn our Churchwarden for all his hard work installing the Wi-Fi. If anyone is interested in hiring the hall, please contact me.

**Caroline Burke**

## **Reports from groups and committees**

### **ST JOHN'S WEBSITE**    [www.stjohnwestworthing.org.uk](http://www.stjohnwestworthing.org.uk)

I am sorry that I am really a web minder rather than a web master owing to the constraints on my time. However, I have been able to update the website weekly with the pew sheet and the liturgy of the day and monthly with the parish magazine. When possible, I have publicised upcoming events; in this connection, it would be most helpful if people organising events could send me flyers or at least details if they want them put on the website's home page.

**Will Oakeshott**    [webmaster@stjohnwestworthing.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@stjohnwestworthing.org.uk)

### **ST JOHN'S PRESCHOOL**

Our preschool is not only a financial support for our church – it's a link to our local community and beyond, providing work for the local residents and creating strong community ties when we visit care homes and local organisations.

We have a very dedicated manager in Jude. She has high values and works very hard to continue to build a secure, modern and vibrant place for our young children. Jude's enthusiasm shines through in everything she does, and our church hall is a testament to this. Our parents have just given some outstanding testimonials, acknowledging how amazing all our staff are. These can be viewed on our website.

Preschool children attend church on a regular basis to gain an understanding of our Christian ethos. Numbers of children attending can drop from time to time but all staff are working hard to improve, sustain and improve these. As a result, numbers are gradually improving.

We are very proud to stand out amongst other settings as a family, caring and very happy bubble. Each child counts alongside their parents /carers, as individuals and as part of our family.

**Sally Thompson**  
Chair of Governors.

## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2023**

In our parish, the safeguarding of everyone, and especially of children and vulnerable adults, is at the heart of everything we do in our life and worship together. Abuse and mistreatment can take many forms and we are fully committed to following up any safeguarding concerns appropriately, in line with parish, diocesan and national church policies.

The parish has continued to receive support in 2023 from those with a range of expertise in the Diocesan Safeguarding Team based at Church House in Hove. The importance of safeguarding in our parish was demonstrated by having reports at every PCC meeting in 2023. The contact details for the Parish Safeguarding Officer are also easily accessible in a prominent position on the front page of the parish website.

Throughout the year, a number of DBS disclosure checks were carried out for people in leadership roles at St John the Divine, and for governors and staff at St John's Preschool. All members of the PCC have had a DBS disclosure check. In line with Diocesan policy, all DBS disclosure checks will be renewed every three years.

**Martin Lloyd**- Parish Safeguarding Officer



## Reports from groups and committees

### DEANERY REPORT 2023

In 2023, the Worthing Deanery Synod met three times:

7 March 2023 at All Saints' Church, Findon Valley

14 June 2023 at St Peter's Church, Sompting

19 October 2023 at St Stephen's Church, East Worthing

At its meeting in March 2023, the synod had two very good presentations; one from Revd Earl Collins - Church House, Hove about 'The Year of the Old Testament' and another presentation from the Turning Tides team about their work with the homeless in Worthing.

At its meeting in June 2023, Deacon Rachel spoke to the synod about the work of the hospital chaplaincy team. There were also some interesting contributions from other members of her team. Deacon Rachel explained about the work of the chaplaincy team to support both patients and staff.

At its meeting in October 2023, there was a presentation to the synod about 'Open the Book'. This is a team of trained volunteers who go into schools to tell bible stories to children in an imaginative and engaging way.

In September 2023, there were two important changes in the deanery. Revd Helena Buque stepped down as the rural dean and was replaced by Revd Felix Smith. We are grateful to Helena for all the work she has done to support the mission of the deanery.

Also in September 2023, Heather Crookes started as our paid Deanery Development Officer. Heather already works as the administrator for the Lancing parishes. She will be employed in this new role in the deanery for 3 hours a week over the next three years. She will particularly focus on improving communication between churches in the deanery and on supporting the rural dean in his work.

#### Key roles in the Deanery Synod in 2023:

Rural Dean:

Revd Helena Buque – Vicar of St John the Baptist, Findon, St Mary the Virgin, Clapham and St John the Divine, Patching (until September 2023).

Revd Felix Smith – Vicar of South Lancing and Sompting, and Lancing with Coombes (from September 2023).

Lay Chair:

Martin Lloyd – St John the Divine, West Worthing.

Treasurer:

Liz Farrow - St Mary's, Broadwater.

Secretary:

Yvonne Austin - St Symphorian's, Durrington (until October 2023).

Deanery Development Officer:

Heather Crookes – Lancing Parishes (from September 2023).

**Martin Lloyd**

## **Reports from groups and committees**