

ANNUAL REVIEW 2023



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHILCOMPTON

THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHILCOMPTON CHARITY NO 1178808

Contacts

Parish Office

01761 502068 office@stvigorstjohn.church

St John's Church, Coach Lane, Chilcompton, Radstock BA3 4HP

Facebook: StJohnTheBaptistChurchChilcompton

Sermons available on the church website: www.stvigorstjohn.church

Rector

Revd. Esther Smith

01761 233401 rector@stvigorstjohn.church

Contents

Rector's Report	3
Curate's Report	5
Music and Worship	6
Thursday Morning Communion	6
Discipleship	6
Contemplative Prayer	7
Messy Church	7
Tea & Toast	9
School Report	9
Mission	10
Lunch Club	10
Root Connections Cookery Club	10
The Wednesday Mens' Club	12
Safeguarding	12
Fabric Report	12
Churchwardens' Report	13
PCC Report	13
Sidespersons Report	14
Deanery Synod	14
Bellringers	15
Electoral Roll Report	16
Treasurer's Report	16

With grateful thanks to Chris and Tina Collins for the photos of Messy Church and to Rachel Grant for the photos of the Root Connections Cookery Club

Rector's Report

'Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith.' Hebrews 12: 2



The New Life Project

As I read through the annual report this afternoon, I am struck by what a busy year 2023 was and how many different activities we continue to engage in. I am delighted that in spite of considerable challenges, we continue to operate a theology of generous hospitality as we greet significant numbers of people weekly in Jesus' name. In addition to our services of worship it is a joy to see young

families encountering Jesus through the ministry of Messy Church and the Teddy Bear's Picnic; for our doors to be open to the local community, building relationship in Jesus' name through Monday Tea, Tea & Toast and Lunch Club, and to see the huge success of Cookery Club, two Quiz Nights for fundraising and the Christmas Craft Evening. God has been good to us this year and we have much to be grateful for.

In positive changes, the chancel floor has been beautifully polished up, and after much delay, the new sound system has been fitted and is working well. I am told that even those with imperfect hearing find it a great improvement and operationally it is very easy to get to grips with. If you feel inclined to receive some training you might like to join the small group of volunteers who take turns to help monitor it on a Sunday. (If your Rector can be taught to manage it single handed in an emergency, then it can't be that hard!) Stage 2 of this project is only waiting for a Faculty to be granted and then we hope for a similar improvement in the visuals. Please hold this in your prayers. Thank you to the small army of people who have worked so very hard to maintain and even improve our premises. The way we keep God's house speaks to all of the honour in which we hold Him, and I am so grateful of your support in this practical sphere.

In a year of change for the nation, we saw the pomp and ceremony of the coronation of our new King, Charles III. Closer to home, April saw a wonderful service of celebration bringing to a close 800 years of worship and ministry at St Vigor's Church in Stratton on the Fosse. It was with heavy hearts that we closed the doors for the final time but I am happy to say this brave decision has breathed new life into the community enjoyed by the congregation at the early service at St John's (9am) where we celebrate Holy Communion in traditional language every week. If you like the idea of a quiet and more reflective start to Sunday, why not come along and join us? Services for the wider community are also thriving: School Services have had standing room only for parents and the Carol Service was a delight with every seat taken. God is at work!

It has been a year with an unusually high number of funerals in our Benefice with a significant number of dear friends being called home to glory. In addition to services for the wider community we have bid farewell to Brian White, Alan Denham, Dick and Sylvia Burge, Lyn Jansen, Audrey Strawbridge, Rob Beck and Arthur Moon. They will be greatly missed.

The staff team has worked hard this year with Steve taking an extended placement in America before coming back to complete his final year of training. He and Jenn have enriched our church family life so much over the last 3 years and we must now support them by praying for God to reveal the right next step for their next appointment at some point later in 2024. Ali Mayes joined us in October as Part-time Administrative Assistant and has begun to grapple with the surprising amount of paperwork involved in running a church family. We thank Ali for her hard work and also those who have given financially to make this crucial role possible this year. After a couple of years as our Parish Nurse, Sarah Crosse decided at the end of the year, to step back from the role. I am sure you will join me in thanking her for the hours of care she has shown around the parish in Jesus' name.

As 2023 drew to a close we became aware of the significant financial challenges that face us in 2024. In addition to this, so much of our worship and ministry depends on our buildings and they are showing their age. The financial situation, as you will read, is very challenging and yet I believe we have cause for hope. The verse which we committed to memory in 2023 holds true. We see God at work in so many ways and He has a plan. Our key verse for 2024 encourages us that God says:

'See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.' Isaiah 43: 19

Let us with thankful hearts continue to look to God alone for His answers to our problems and be grateful for the New Life he has promised us. Thank you for your continued commitment to prayer

for our future and practical support in so many ways, not least giving sacrificially in terms of both time and money to the life of our church family.

May I commend the attached reports to you with many thanks for the part each of you plays in our wonderful church family.

Every blessing,

Revd. Esther Smith
Rector

Curate's Report

2023 has been in my view something of a year of mixed emotions in the benefice, the final service at St Vigor's church was a really poignant moment, a deep sadness, but also a moment of being able to reflect on the goodness of God and the ministry that had happened in that place. I found it amazing to see how many people travelled from afar to come to the final service and celebrate how special St Vigor's had been to them in their faith journey.

Whilst there has been the sadness in the drawing to an end of one ministry, I have also rejoiced and given thanks for the new things that God has been doing in our benefice. We have seen 40+ people engage with the church through Monday night tea who had no engagement with the Church prior to 2023 and this has increased as we have gone into 2024.

I have been really encouraged to continue to see that the relationship with the school is flourishing and that the children and staff love coming to the Church for their services at Harvest, Christmas, and Easter, but they have also really enjoyed using the premises for school lessons as well. People ended up having to return home at Christmas because there was just no space to even get into the building for the school Christmas service!

It has been really encouraging to see how Tea and Toast has continued to go from strength to strength and that not only are relationships being made between volunteers and children and their parents but there are some really exciting conversations going on both during sessions and behind the scenes which show that people really are seeking relationship with something far greater than what the world can offer and this has continued as older children have left, we have seen an influx of new children and new relationships go deeper.

From a personal perspective, 2023 was the year that I finished my curacy and have had to learn a lot of new skills especially around buildings. Me and Jenny have very much valued everyone's prayers throughout our ministry here as we have started out and we know those prayers will carry on, especially as we discern what the future holds.

My prayer for us as a Church this year, is that all of us whether we are weekly attenders, monthly attenders or people who just come to church sporadically, my prayer is that each of us would be able to see that God is doing something new and exciting in this benefice and the best is yet to come.

Revd. Stephen D Miles

Music and Worship

Music Group: By summer 2023 those able to commit to regular attendance at practices and on a Sunday had diminished for various individual reasons. Therefore, it was sadly decided the Group was no longer viable to lead at services on a regular basis. However, a few of us continue to meet to enjoy singing some worship music; usually on the last Friday of each month at 12.15-1.30pm in the Church Hall. Please feel free to join us, either as a one-off or more regularly; but check the date / time with Linda as this could alter.

Worship Group: Roberta Adams and I (Linda Van Peborgh) continue to prepare suggestions for hymns and songs to the Leadership Team, based on the Scripture Readings / Themes of the Services.

Linda Van Peborgh

Thursday Mornings Communion and Coffee

A shortened form of Holy Communion taken from the Book of Common Prayer is celebrated on a Thursday morning in Church at 11am. From January 2024 the service is being held in the hall for the time being. A time to pause in our busy lives to be in God's presence and reflect on the gospel for the day. The service is followed by tea and coffee and time to socialise.

Margaret Holcombe

Discipleship

Our home groups have continued meeting faithfully throughout the year and I would as ever like to thank all those who make this possible, either by offering their homes for groups to meet in or by being prepared to lead the group. Most meetings are now in person except where members are less able to get out when Zoom still plays its part.

Judy Churley who both hosted and led a home group for a number of years has now moved up to London following the death of her husband Vic and the members of that group have joined others. This has led to a couple of groups being very full and I would be delighted to talk to anyone who feels called to lead a group so we can offer people a wider choice. We have had new people who have joined the church joining a home group and that is a real joy. As I have said before, the groups are clearly valued and provide a key resource not just in discipleship but also in pastoral care as relationships build between the members. I believe the home groups are the heart of the church where God can speak to us and where we can be encouraged, supported and inspired.

For the Lent Course in 2023 we based our studies on The Return of Mary Poppins, using Lucy Berry's book "Where the Lost Things Go", starting with a fish and chip supper to watch the film and then meeting weekly on a Wednesday evening in the Church Hall. The questions were as ever thought provoking and it was good to mix with people from other home groups and get new perspectives on our shared faith.

Having followed the Lectionary readings up until Pentecost we then spent some time looking at the minor prophets through the summer term. The series was entitled Hope in Dark Times and reminded us that God is always at work even when things seem to be running out of control. Over

the school summer holidays we looked at the “I Am...” sayings of Jesus before spending some time focussing on the Book of Psalms. We then again followed the Lectionary readings and our usual pattern for looking at the application of God’s word to our lives helped by questions provided by the preacher.

I would encourage all those who do not currently belong to a home group to consider joining one. You would be very welcome and you can always come on a trial basis to see if you like it.

Kristin Marshall

Contemplative Prayer

I continue to circulate a monthly resource by email to around 15 church members and 15 others who live further afield, for their own times of silent contemplation. Do let me know if you would like to be added to that circulation. For those who live nearer we meet on the 4th Tues of each month at 2.30-4pm in the Church Hall.

Please feel free to join us, either as a one-off or more regularly; but check the date / time with Linda as this could alter.

Linda Van Peborgh

Messy Church

Messy Church continued to meet monthly throughout the year. Each session was full of fun and laughter and the feedback was positive. We had a very encouraging year in terms of growth, with 55 families on our register. Last year we saw 59 different children attend from 34 different families. We are now seeing some families becoming more integrated into church life. With some attending on Sunday mornings and others involved in the Monday evening Tea at St John’s.

Our theme for 2023 was “The I am statements” of Jesus. We also explored the Easter story and Advent.

We need a large team, of 20 plus people each month, for Messy church to happen. Last year we had 27 different volunteers, 23 helping out on Sunday afternoons and others helping with cutting out and admin tasks at home. All being passionate about Messy Church and keen to support in any way they can. The team consists mainly of members of the church congregation and some parents and grandparents of the children attending. Illness and absence impacted on us several times in 2023 so prayers are needed for new team members.

In the summer we joined with Tea and Toast and had a picnic with games and fun afternoon. The windy weather meant the church was transformed and a bouncy castle took over the chancel. A good time was had by all.



In December Caroline Emery and Val Austin enabled us to host a ladies Christmas craft evening with mince pies and Christmas music for the mums and the ladies on the team. This was a huge success with numbers having to be capped at 40 in order for us to cope! Many thanks to Caroline, Val and the kitchen team for this.



Instead of the usual nativity, we organised the Christmas Eve Crib Service. This was the first time Messy Church had held an event on Christmas Eve. It was disappointing in terms of the numbers of Messy church families attending and proved difficult for some team members to attend. However, it was good to see some families from the community that we had never met before, coming along and joining in.

Tina Collins



Tea & Toast

Our Thursday Morning Toddler Group continues to thrive, commonly welcoming 15-20 children and their parents and carers weekly in term time making the hall buzz with chatter and laughter. A small but dedicated team of helpers make sure there is a constant supply of toast and jam with tea or coffee for the grown-ups to keep everyone happy whilst they play and chat. Through this simple format, a strong and happy community has built up amongst these families who feel at home and often bring along new friends to join us. It is a privilege to be able to share their journey, to pray for the concerns of everyday life with the parents and carers and occasionally to welcome them also to Messy Church or Sunday Worship and

Baptism. The Teddy Bear's Picnic in July offered a wonderful opportunity for all young families associated with our church to gather and join in the fun, and the Crib Service allowed us to act out together the Christmas Story on Christmas Eve. Thank you to all those who go to such lengths to show such hospitality to the young families of our community in Jesus' name.

Esther Smith

School Report

"That they may have life, life in all its fullness" John 10:10

St Vigor and St John Church School has continued to provide an enriching learning environment, still focussing on the four key principles of

- Being adventurous
- Being unique
- Being connected
- Being ethical

The school, in combination with The Mill Nursery, provides an integrated setting providing for children from 6 months to 11 years old. The church is represented on the Local Governing Body (LGB) by Esther Smith, Stephen Miles, Tom Mayes and Dan Owen with the LGB being chaired by Zac Cambourne.

Since the successful OFSTED inspection in October 2022, the school continues to pursue an ambitious curriculum and is seen as a leading example within the Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust (MAT). As a result of this, Chris Chorley was asked to take on the role of Executive Headteacher of both St Vigor and St John and St Aldhelm's schools as St Aldhelm's joins the Bath & Well MAT

from the start of 2024. Leah Sheppard will take on the role of Head of School at St Vigor and St John and will continue to work closely with Chris in their new roles.

Chris, Leah, the leadership team, teachers and support staff continue to show exceptional commitment to providing as rich a learning environment as possible. We give thanks for their energy and enthusiasm as they continue to work tirelessly and we pray for the continued health and development of the pupils.

Tom Mayes

Mission

Leprosy Mission: The Annual Diary, Quarterly Prayer Updates and New Day Magazines continue to be available at the back of the church. Whilst I am still in email contact with TLM and the local Rep (currently Gabby North) there has been no other TLM-focussed activity. I know individuals support various world-wide Missions, but any regular St John's church-wide Mission-focus (prayer and deputation visits etc.) has been lacking in recent years.

Linda Van Peborgh

Lunch Club

Lunch Club continues to meet on the third Thursday of the month (except for August). The meal through the Autumn, Winter and Spring months is soup and a roll with cake or a pudding followed by tea or coffee. During the Summer months we have quiche and salad and a ploughmans lunch.

In December we had our usual Christmas meal of turkey with all the trimmings and a glass of wine or fruit juice followed by Christmas pudding and minced pies all topped with cream. We are very grateful to Mitchards butchers who cook the turkey crowns for us. We would also like to thank Hannah and David Smith for doing the clearing up in the kitchen after the meal. A group of children from St Vigor and St Johns School entertained us after the meal with Christmas songs which was enjoyed by all.

Grateful thanks to the loyal people who each month help at Lunch Club. For further information please contact me, details are posted on the church website.

Margaret Holcombe

Root Connections Cookery Club

Roots Cookery Club welcomes cooks from their 30s to their 80s on the 4th Monday of the month to develop vegetable-based recipes and to enjoy lunch together. The club has now trialled over 50 different recipes which are currently being prepared as recipe cards to sit alongside the Root Connections veg boxes.



Root Connections is in the parish in Stratton on the Fosse and alongside the Dairy House homeless hostel aims to be part of the solution to ending rural homelessness in Somerset and is a mission partner of the church.

Cooks come from a wide geographical area. For some this is additional to other volunteer activities they do with Root Connections; for others this is their main connection with the project.

In addition to the recipe cards, we have prepared cakes and savoury refreshments for the Easter and Christmas markets which have happened at Root Connections and for the 2 open days. All have brought in positive comments and financial support to Root Connections. Everyone joins in and chops, cooks and helps tidy away whilst chatting and getting to know people from all walks of life. Everyone is valued for the part they play in making the club go so well. With such a wide age range we can find jobs for everyone but take into account any physical limitations.



I enjoy cookery club because it's a very different way of cooking to me. I enjoy the company being on my own and meeting other ladies and getting new ideas. It's never too late to change.

It's a friendly group of people with interesting ideas and fresh ideas about how to cook vegetables.

There is something good about preparing a meal together and then sharing it whilst chatting and getting to know new people.

I have found friendship and laughter and somewhere to look forward to going to each month.

I enjoy making and tasting new recipes (which I can use with the veg from the Roots veg box). I enjoy meeting new people (as I am new to the village) I like hearing their comments.

Rachel Grant

The Wednesday Men's Group

The Group, a small number of retired men, join together on most Wednesday mornings at St John's to undertake small repair or general maintenance jobs. This we do in order to offer something back during our retirement and to keep the Church and Hall looking and being cared for.

We have a break for coffee, which may be short or more likely a longish one because then we have our conversations on topics many and various. A little more work is done before returning to the bosom of our families at around 12.00 - 12.30.

One of our highlights is when Steve, our Curate and honorary member of the Group makes bacon or sausage baps for us.

We are a very informal Group with no particular structure and welcome any who feels he would like to join for the fun, the banter and a certain amount of DIY work!

Q - How many Wednesday Men does it take to change a light bulb?

A - Depends if breakfast is on offer or not!

Fred Corp

Safeguarding

There have been no reports or incidents that have required further investigation during the past year. All DBS checks are up to date and will last for three years. The Diocese is now using another company call Thirty-One Eight to administer DBS checks and this can give the applicant to the opportunity to submit their ID documents digitally which is probably more convenient for those who can do this. The new system also speeds up the application. Training continues for all new volunteers.

Sunday 29th November was National Safeguarding Sunday and a short overview of safeguarding was given in the 'Learning Together' section of the usual 10.30am service.

Connie Moore
Safeguarding Officer

Churchwardens' Report

With thanks to the 'Wardens' Team' (Fred Corp, Rachel Grant, Margaret Holcombe, David Jones and Tony Pook), who have supported Tom Mayes and me in making the everyday running of church activities possible. We meet by Zoom for a short catch-up and check-in every 2-3 months. Please chat to any of us if you'd like to consider joining this team effort.

A special thanks must be recorded to the Men's Group, who come regularly on a Wed morning to attend to pressing maintenance and other jobs. Also, thanks to those who prepare rotas for both church and hall activities and to those who serve us all on those rotas; with thanks again to the 'Sides Persons' who readily volunteered for 'extra duties' over the busy 2023 Christmas Weekend. We couldn't do it without all of you!

There have been some taxing problems in 2023; replacing damaged roof tiles and applying 'Smart Water' to the church, flooding in the church and boiler room (mainly due to a rise in the water-table, so not easily resolved), 'Zoom-meeting' with Ecclesiastical Insurers to make sure we have fulfilled their stringent criteria, various annual safety checks and completing the 'Statistics for Mission' documents required by the Diocese.

However, as you are aware our full attention in 2024, is to make the Church Hall roof and guttering weather-proof and sourcing a cost-effective and flexible heating system for both the Church and the Hall. Please pray for Fred Corp and the 'Task Force' as they seek solutions, submit Grant Applications and obtain DAC Faculty approval for these vital and major church property upgrades.

This leaves outstanding the matters of disabled access to the church from the car park and repair to the North boundary wall, which sadly will almost certainly have to wait for yet another year.

Linda Van Peborgh
Churchwarden

PCC Report

The PCC met five times during the year and the decisions were conveyed to the Congregation via PCC Jottings, available on the website.

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April, Fred Corp and Leisa Thorne were re-elected as Laity Reps. Leisa Thorne was re-elected as Deanery Synod Rep and Tom Mayes and Linda Van Peborgh were re-elected as Churchwardens. The PCC is made up as follows:

St John's PCC	Term of Office
Ex officio	
Rector - Esther Smith	
Curate - Steve Miles	
Churchwardens - 2 wardens, elected annually, 6 years max.	

Tom Mayes	2018-2024
Linda Van Peborgh	2022-2028
Laity Reps - 6 reps, 3 year term, a third retire each year	
Tony Pook – resigned November 2023	2021-Nov 2023
Chris Collins	2021-2024
Leisa Thorne	2023-2026
Fred Corp	2023-2026
Tina Collins	2022-2025
David Aldridge	2022-2025
Deanery Synod Reps - 2 reps elected for 3 year term	
Leisa Thorne	2023-2026
Tony Chivers	2022-2026

Lesley Close
PCC Secretary

Sidespersons

We are grateful to a small group of people willing to welcome people to Church on a Sunday morning. If anyone would like to join this rota please speak to me.

The current Sidespeople are :-

- Elaine & Fred Corp
- Judy & David Jones
- Gill & Mike Bushill
- Robin Singh
- Connie Moore & Det Saunders
- Margaret & Geoff Holcombe

Geoff Holcombe

Deanery Synod

During 2023 the Midsomer Norton Deanery Synod met on three occasions at St. John's Midsomer Norton, Peasedown St John, and Chilcompton. The meetings commence with a time of worship and prayer followed by a "what's going on " report by one of the member churches.

MSN Deanery Deployment Plan 2023-2028

As required by the Diocese a review of clergy posts in the MSN Deanery was undertaken. Using data from the 2011 Census, Number of Churches, Population Estimates and Membership numbers as of

2022, it was shown that the numbers of clergy be reduced by one half post in the next five years. Consequently, following the retirement of present incumbent of East Mendip Trinity, a new benefice of Chilcompton with East Mendip Trinity will be formed. To assist a "House for Duty" post will be located Coleford Rectory.

Somervally Food Bank

Now in its 10 th year the Food Bank has seen a huge increase in the number of vouchers, consequently more food is required. They have introduced a Fuelbank Foundation providing fuel vouchers and a Community Wellbeing Hub. They have also been nominated Charity of the Year by Thatcher and Hallam which will provide some of the extra funds needed.

Bishops Autum Visit

The Bishop visited the Deanery in November 2023. All clergy and Church Wardens were invited to attend.

Ministry to Children

Rev Steve Miles shared some of his experiences of encouraging churches to work together to support the youth in Yeovil and challenged synod to think of ways to reach out to our young people. To assist in this each parish was asked to list all their youth activities.

Working Together

The aim is to assist each other by sharing resources and our experiences and providing help where possible. An example is helping Kilmersdon with their treasurer's task.

Possible Linking MSN and Frome Deaneries

Ongoing discussions are taking place to explore the potential of joining the MSN and Frome Deaneries together.

Finance

The treasurer reported that the current deanery funds stood at around £6,000.

Bellringers

Ringling at Chilcompton continues in a regular pattern over the past year with ringling for Sunday services and practices on a Monday night as well as regular quarter peal and peal attempts. Members of the band also assist with service ringling at St John the Baptist Midsomer Norton and with training learners there.

Chilcompton again entered a team in the 2023 National 12-Bell Striking Competition, travelling to Cheltenham to take part in an eliminator. Although not progressing to the final, the team produced a very creditable performance. A team was also entered into the South West 12-Bell competition held in Trowbridge.

The 2024 final of the National 12-Bell Striking Competition will be held at Chilcompton in June. Organisation is ongoing for this significant event, with hundreds of visitors from around the country

expected. As the time of the competition comes closer, please look out for requests for volunteers to assist.

In December, we were deeply saddened by the death of Robert Beck. As ringer, groundskeeper and valued member of our church family Rob is greatly missed by all.

Bellringing is a very social affair, once learned it is an opening to bell towers wherever you go. Bellringers are always happy to welcome visitors to their church and often enjoy a social time afterwards. Here at Chilcompton we regularly welcome visiting groups and run training sessions for ringers at all stages in the learning process.

There is no age limit to learning and we would welcome anyone interested in taking up this hobby. We do lose a lot of local ringers to universities etc. so we are always looking to augment our numbers. Just come along on any Monday at 7pm and have a go – there is obviously no obligation but you might find you enjoy it. Just ring Adrian Beck on 01761 41590 if you would like more information.

We give thanks for the regular prayers in support of the band, their continued commitment, and particularly to Adrian Beck, for ensuring that the bells of Chilcompton continue to sound.

Tom Mayes

Electoral Roll Report

Following the closure of St Vigor's Church, Stratton-on-the Fosse during 2023, we have recruited a number of additional Electoral Roll members. We currently have 84 members on roll, 56 female and 28 male. During the past twelve months we have bid farewell to Audrey Strawbridge, Lyn Jansen, Brian White and Rob Beck who have passed from this world to the next, but we continue to sign new members which has kept our overall numbers in good stead.

It is never too late to add your name to the Electoral Roll and Forms are readily available from the Church Wardens or myself should you wish to take this next step. Once registered you are eligible to vote at the Annual Church Meeting and/or stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

Richard Moon
Electoral Roll Officer 07831 522100

Treasurer's Report year ended 31st December 2023

During the year the balance on the unrestricted (day to day running) account has dropped from £2,496 to -£235, despite a transfer from reserves of £7,710 due to a deficit of £10,441. This was principally due to:

1. Utility costs increased by £9,151 to £14,044
2. Planned Giving has continued to fall, and has reduced by £2,785 to £39,958
3. Gift Aid recovered has fallen by £533 to £10,858 and will fall again because of the reduction in Planned Giving and Cash collections.

As flagged up last year, these levels of losses cannot be sustained. We have used up more than 56% of our reserves and without significant changes we will run out of money in 2024.

In 2024 the Parish Share will increase by 10% TO £51,507. This is based upon our church membership being 55 regular worshippers. This equates to £18.00 per person per week (£78 per month) or £36.00 per week for a couple (£156 per month).

In addition to the Parish Share must be added the utility costs, insurance, and the running costs to provide the various activities and outreach that happen week in week out. In 2023 this totalled a further £29,908

For the church to continue as it is, it is vital that all of us look to our own financial commitments, the above figures are an average, some can afford more and others less, but this gives a ball park figure for the scale of the challenge.

During the year a start was made on the upgrade to the audio video systems in the church. The sound system was upgraded at the end of the year, and the visuals will be upgraded once the faculty is finally approved.

The PCC made charitable donation during the year to support our various charitable partners of £1,277 reducing the designated account to £236. In addition, specific collections/events raised a further £539 for charity. Unfortunately, we are again unable to top up the designated funds from our general fund.

Reserves

The balance carried forward at the 31st December on unrestricted funds totalled £5,621 of which £236 has been designated for Mission & Charitable purposes.

The restricted funds total £13,195 of which the Fabric account stands at £10,622

Chris Collins
Treasurer, PCC of Chilcompton with Downside

Independent Examiner's Certificate for the PCC Accounts

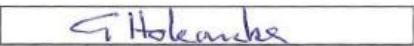
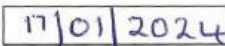
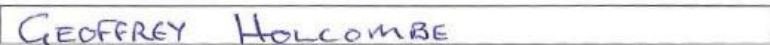
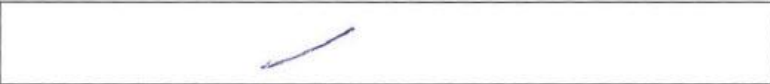
Report to the trustees of: **Chilcompton with Downside Parochial Church Council**

On accounts for the year ended: 31st December 2023

Charity Number (if applicable): SI 1996 No. 180

Set out on pages	1 to 4
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to: • examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, • to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and • to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination was carried out in accordance with 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	In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, • accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or • the accounts do not accord with the accounting records I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:		Date:	
Name:			
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):			
Address:			
			
			

PCC Chilcompton with Downside

Receipts and Payments Accounts for period 1st January to 31st December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Charity/Mission Fund ^(a)	Restricted Fund ^(b)	Total 1/1 - 31/12 2023	Total 1/1 - 31/12 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Voluntary Receipts						
Planned Giving		39,958	-	6,325	46,283	44,418
Collection at Services		2,694	-	419	3,113	3,030
All other giving		1,933	-	911	2,844	12,092
Gift Aid Recovered		10,858	-	2,873	13,731	14,374
Legacies Received		-	-	500	500	-
Grants		500	-	-	500	2,609
		55,943	-	11,028	66,971	76,523
Activities for generating funds		1,382	-	119	1,501	-
Investment Income		461	-	-	461	95
Church Activities	1	6,253	-	-	6,253	5,257
Other Income		2,113	-	-	2,113	1,127
Total Receipts		66,152	-	11,147	77,299	83,002
Payments						
Cost of generating funds		-	-	-	-	-
Church Activities						
Parish Share		46,685	-	-	46,685	45,769
Clergy and staff expenses		3,081	-	-	3,081	4,017
Salaries and wages		-	-	715	715	-
Mission and charitable giving	2	-	1,277	539	1,816	5,200
Church Expenses						
Church utility bills	3	14,044	-	-	14,044	4,893
Church running expenses	4	10,037	-	2,448	12,485	12,425
Mission and evangelism costs	5	2,746	-	-	2,746	1,614
		76,593	1,277	3,702	81,572	73,918
Major Repairs to the church		-	-	12,300	12,300	2,402
Major Repairs to the hall		-	-	-	-	1,610
Total payments		76,593	1,277	16,002	93,872	77,930
Excess of receipts over payments		-10,441	-1,277	-4,855	-16,573	5,072
Transfer between funds		7,710	-	-	7,710	-
Cash at bank at 1st January		2,496	1,513	18,050	22,059	16,987
Cash at bank at 31st December		-235	236	13,195	13,196	22,059

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Charity/Mission Fund ^(a)	Restricted Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
1 Church Activities					
Church Hall	1,215	-	-	1,215	1,175
Fees for weddings and funerals	5,038	-	-	5,038	4,082
	<u>6,253</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,253</u>	<u>5,257</u>
Payments					
2 Mission and charitable giving					
Christian Aid	-	-	-	-	1,000
CMS	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
Tearfund	-	-	119	119	1,073
Root Connections/Dairy House	-	-	135	135	1,000
MSN Food Bank	-	-	-	-	-
The Leprosy Mission	-	-	-	-	1,000
Bibles for school	-	202	-	202	395
Crisis	-	-	285	285	-
Barnabos Fund	-	-	-	-	-
DEC Ukraine	-	-	-	-	657
Other	-	75	-	75	75
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,277</u>	<u>539</u>	<u>1,816</u>	<u>5,200</u>
3 Church utility bills					
Electricity	9,412	-	-	9,412	3,632
Gas	4,492	-	-	4,492	1,051
Water	140	-	-	140	210
	<u>14,044</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,044</u>	<u>4,893</u>
4 Church running expenses					
Insurance	2,337	-	-	2,337	2,038
Maintenance	1,901	-	2,123	4,024	1,894
Photocopier & Printing Costs	1,527	-	-	1,527	797
Software, website & Copyright licence	1,001	-	-	1,001	652
Youth church	571	-	-	571	236
Churchyard	1,155	-	325	1,480	6,020
Other expenses	1,545	-	-	1,545	788
	<u>10,037</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,448</u>	<u>12,485</u>	<u>12,425</u>
5 Mission and evangelism costs					
Messy Church	584	-	-	584	494
Parish Nurse	595	-	-	595	595
Other	1,567	-	-	1,567	525
	<u>2,746</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,746</u>	<u>1,614</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Charity/Mission Fund ^(a)	Restricted Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds						
Bank Current Account		-235	236	13,195	13,196	22,059
Reserves Deposit Fund		6,000			6,000	13,710
Other Monetary Assets						
PCC Fees to be received						
Other Monetary Liabilities						
B&WDBofF - Statutory Fee to pay		-380			-380	-1,300
Non PCC fees to pay		0			0	-60
		<u>5,385</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>13,195</u>	<u>18,816</u>	<u>34,409</u>

Notes

- The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.
- The movements in designated and restricted fund during the year were:

	Bal. B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	C/fwd
Restricted				
Fabric (Friends)	18,037	7,008	14,423	10,622
Barnabas Fund	568	100	-	668
Root House	-	135	135	-
Crisis	-	284	285	-
Tearfund	-	119	119	-
CMS	35	-	-	35
Administrator	-	3,500	715	2,785
Downside churchyard	- 590	-	325	-915
	<u>18,050</u>	<u>11,146</u>	<u>16,002</u>	<u>13,195</u>
Designated				
^(a) Charitable Giving	<u>1,513</u>		<u>1,277</u>	<u>236</u>

- ^(a) Designated fund represents sums set aside from Voluntary Receipts for charitable purposes.