

# **Accounts**

**for the Parochial Church Council of**

**St Mary's Church, Ticehurst**

**for the year ended**

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**St Mary's Ticehurst**  
**UK Balance Sheet - Standard**  
As of 31 December 2023

	Accrual Accounting 31 Dec 21	Accrual Accounting 31 Dec 22	Accrual Accounting 31 Dec 23	Notes
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Other Current Assets				
Gift Aid due	9,482.88	8,051.74	6,366.98	due on 2023 donations
Prepayments	12,331.17	924.49	968.70	Council Tax - last 3 months
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>21,814.05</b>	<b>8,976.23</b>	<b>7,365.68</b>	
<b>Funds</b>				
Dora Luckin (Investment)	454,099.65	214,657.07	234,852.79	
Fabric Fund (Investment)	5,138.17	4,533.32	4,959.83	
Music Fund (Deposit)	1,853.12	1,877.49	1,937.67	
Rule (Investment)	4,393.19	3,874.27	4,235.20	
	<b>485,084.13</b>	<b>224,942.15</b>	<b>245,985.49</b>	
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>				
Current Account	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Business Reserve	53,084.58	413,237.90	324,789.09	Collection and Numbered Envelopes Christmas week, not yet cleared in bank
Cash	654.16	0.00	514.35	
Petty Cash (V/cange)	49.39	49.39	0.00	
	<b>54,288.13</b>	<b>413,787.29</b>	<b>325,873.44</b>	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>542,186.31</b>	<b>647,705.67</b>	<b>579,224.61</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable	721.00	493.58	1,950.97	Various December-dated invoices paid January 24
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>				
Accruals	4,415.67	3,497.31	3,214.16	2023-related costs, paid out in 2024: stallion fees due to Diocese £3116, B&K Electrical 158.16
St Aug - funeral fee holding	398.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>4,813.67</b>	<b>3,497.31</b>	<b>3,214.16</b>	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>5,534.67</b>	<b>3,990.89</b>	<b>5,235.13</b>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>536,651.64</b>	<b>643,714.78</b>	<b>573,989.48</b>	
<b>Represented by:-</b>				
Reserves				
Opening Funds	253,937.06	536,651.64	643,714.78	
Net increase in Asset Value	282,714.58	107,063.14	-69,725.30	
<b>Closing funds</b>	<b>536,651.64</b>	<b>643,714.78</b>	<b>573,989.48</b>	



# St Mary's Ticehurst Profit Loss

January 2022 through December 2023

Ordinary Income/Expense	Actual Accounting		Increase/ Decrease	Notes
	Jan - Dec 22	Jan - Dec 23		
Income				
Activities for Generating Funds				
Gift Aid	1,949.89	2,284.90	335.01	includes file & Christmas Fair
Giving	8,210.23	6,506.99	-1,703.24	H
Income from Church Activities	34,542.43	38,708.77	4,166.34	
Interest on Bank Accts & Trusts	208.00	454.00	246.00	field rental, two of St Mary's Room
Other Income	841.98	4,648.32	3,806.34	
Legacy	16,637.87	13,555.13	-3,082.74	includes £3317 wedding/funerals, Vicar's leaving collection (£940 was received from St Augustine's but has been deducted from the appropriate costs under Expense)
Total Income	207,888.00	0.00	-207,888.00	an increase of £4k if Legacy not included
Expense	270,278.40	66,158.11	-204,120.29	
Advertising & Promotion	482.00	625.97	143.97	
Bookkeeping Services	1,729.25	2,520.78	791.53	includes work to move to new software
Books & Music	105.46	532.36	426.90	
Charitable Grants & Donations	3,850.04	2,776.72	-1,073.32	
Church Building				
Churchyard Maintenance	1,825.57	2,626.00	800.43	
Cleaning	261.87	797.49	535.62	
Eco Church costs	311.20	0.00	-311.20	costs no longer defined separately
Repairs and Maintenance	11,022.30	47,782.77	36,760.47	including stonework repairs
Utilities	4,267.16	8,294.09	4,026.93	
Total Church Building	17,688.10	59,500.35	41,812.25	
Clergy & Other People's Expenses				
Beltrifing Services	0.00	300.00	300.00	
Choir Charges	150.00	600.00	450.00	
Occasional Clerical Duty	418.50	532.70	114.20	
Organist Expenses	2,880.00	3,519.95	639.95	
Parish Administrator	0.00	939.45	939.45	
Training	45.98	0.00	-45.98	
Vergering	325.00	330.00	5.00	
Total Clergy & Other People's Expenses	3,819.48	6,222.10	2,402.62	
Conferences & Meetings	210.38	51.90	-158.48	
Cost of Raising Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Dues & Subscriptions	40.00	220.00	180.00	
Equipment				
Equipment Rental		24.00	24.00	
Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	615.57	2,101.13	1,485.56	



# St Mary's Ticehurst Profit Loss

January 2022 through December 2023

Expensed Equipment	30,670.02	5,432.97	-25,237.05	
Fire Equipment & Service	279.12	95.76	-183.36	
Organ Tuning & Maintenance	258.00	264.00	6.00	
Piano Tuning	0.00	40.00	40.00	
<b>Total Equipment</b>	<b>31,822.71</b>	<b>7,957.86</b>	<b>-23,864.85</b>	
Events	105.72	200.00	94.28	Bumblebees talk
Funeral Costs		250.00	250.00	
Furniture & Fixtures	1,225.50	0.00	-1,225.50	wooden benches
Gifts	333.46	2,091.92	1,758.46	includes £2k for Ashley & Penny, covered by specific donations
Insurance Expense	4,307.96	4,734.76	426.80	
Management & Administration		400.25	400.25	Giving Station
Bank Service Charges	355.90	498.26	142.36	now charging for current account
Consumables	179.43	99.06	-80.37	
DBS Checks etc	44.00	36.00	-8.00	
IT & Internet Expenses	721.38	839.11	117.73	software licences, internet connection
Licences	328.39	374.41	46.02	music
Other Office Expense		45.00	45.00	streeking
Postage and Delivery	15.86	14.40	-1.46	
Printing	0.00	30.00	30.00	
Stationery	161.54	163.09	1.55	
Stationery (Printed)	176.75	146.69	-30.06	
Telephone	0.00	179.96	179.96	
Website Maintenance	233.84	36.00	-197.84	
<b>Total Management &amp; Administration</b>	<b>2,217.09</b>	<b>2,862.23</b>	<b>645.14</b>	
Other Fees to Diocese				
Occasional Services	3,056.00	3,004.00	-52.00	
<b>Total Other Fees to Diocese</b>	<b>3,056.00</b>	<b>3,004.00</b>	<b>-52.00</b>	
Parish Contribution	55,500.00	65,000.00	9,500.00	
<b>Regular Church Costs</b>				
Candles	146.04	99.50	-46.54	
Communion Supplies	7.99	53.04	45.05	
Flowers	1,367.19	781.08	-586.11	2022 included flower festival
<b>Total Regular Church Costs</b>	<b>1,521.22</b>	<b>933.62</b>	<b>-587.60</b>	
Rent & Rates	3,293.02	2,873.26	-419.76	Reduction as Vicarage vacated
<b>Service Expenses General</b>				
Children's Supplies	119.98	26.85	-93.13	
Decorations (Christmas etc)	137.97	0.00	-137.97	
Service Expenses	45.66	120.55	74.89	
<b>Total Service Expenses General</b>	<b>303.61</b>	<b>147.40</b>	<b>-156.21</b>	
<b>Vicar's Expenses</b>	<b>1,210.19</b>	<b>1,031.65</b>	<b>-178.54</b>	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>132,821.19</b>	<b>163,536.88</b>	<b>30,715.69</b>	



**St Mary's Ticehurst  
Profit Loss**

**January 2022 through December 2023**

Net Ordinary Income	137,457.21	-97,378.77	-234,835.98
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Increase/Decrease in Investments	-41,166.35	20,983.16	62,149.51
Dividend	10,772.28	6,670.31	-4,101.97
Total Other Income	-30,394.07	27,653.47	58,047.54
Net Other Income/Expense	-30,394.07	27,653.47	58,047.54
Increase/Loss for the Year	107,063.14	-69,725.30	-176,788.44



# Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's Church, Ticehurst for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023

## Section A

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of St Mary, Ticehurst, on the annual report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of the annual reports. The PCC members 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:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
2. 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
3. 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 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

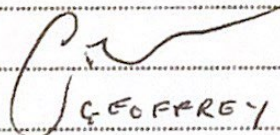
have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, 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*

### Examiner's signature

Examiner's name CAPITALS

  
GEOFFREY BARRATT

### Date

21 April 2024

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body if any

F.C.M.A. (Retired)

Examiner's address

Franklin,  
Church Street  
Ticehurst  
TN 5 7AE



**St Mary's Church Ticehurst**  
**Trustees Annual Report 2023**

**1. Our aims and purposes as a charity**

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the Reverend Ashley Evans (Incumbent) until his retirement on 29 October 2023 in:-

- promotion of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.
- promoting in the parish the mission of the church, pastoral, social, ecumenical, environmental and evangelistic.
- practical support and care for all people in the parish irrespective of age, need and ability to pay.
- providing financial support to those in need and to other organisations with similar objectives.

**2. What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives**

We planned to do the following:

**To enable as many people as possible become part of our parish community:-**

- teaching, baptism and nurturing new and existing believers
- keeping the church open during the daytime for the community to visit, use for prayer and meditation

**To offer services of worship to God:-**

- maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish
- considering how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish
- putting faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament
- being as receptive as possible to those wanting baptism, weddings and funerals at St. Mary's.

**To promote the Gospel and pray that the unchurched may find the fullness of life in Jesus Christ:-**

- assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of and trust in Jesus
- holding courses to advance discipleship, theological understanding and education.
- establishing small groups at which we learn about the Bible and faith with study worship prayer and fellowship.
- witnessing the good news of Jesus Christ by pursuing the mission of God in its different forms

**To engage in Evangelism and Outreach to the parish**

- reaching out to those who do not come to church at events such as coffee mornings, The Coronation of King Charles III, a lunch to celebrate the Harvest and a Christmas Fayre.



**St Mary's Church Ticehurst**  
**Trustees Annual Report 2023**

- promoting Harvest Festival, providing refreshments and distributing food gifts to the local food bank.
- encouraging care for the environment, God's creation through our Eco Church status and initiatives
- reaching out to the community by advertising seasonal events and celebrations
- seeking to grow our church aimed especially at the younger generation and developing our links( "Open the Book" assemblies and worship) with our village C of E primary school.

**We provide a special building and churchyard for people to enjoy:-**

- enabling an appreciation of church building in the history and archaeology of the area by being open from 8am until 4pm for everyone to use.

**We provide tangible pastoral and financial support to the poor and needy:-**

- providing pastoral care for people whether part of St. Mary's Church or not
- providing financial assistance to those in need in the parish
- spending the income of our parish trusts according to the objects established by their donors.

**We consider the needs of people served by other charities and overseas:-**

- giving grants to wider Christian charities
- giving grants to missionary organisations that show God's love in the poorest nations.

When planning our activities for the year the PCC and our incumbent have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

**3. What we achieved and how the activities of the church affected the beneficiaries lives**

**Attendance at worship**

The church welcomes visitors from the parish as well as those coming from outside and we feel that this and attendance at worship ( including regular online services) was a major demonstration of our activities providing spiritual and pastoral support to the community.

The average regular weekly attendance counted for the diocese records during October 2023 was 58 adults and 2 children.. The congregation in church Easter was marginally greater than last year. A service of Remembrance held around the War Memorial in the



**St Mary's Church Ticehurst**  
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village was well attended as was the service in church that followed. The services over Christmas were all well attended.

**Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers**

- a small weekly group meet for study fellowship and prayer.
- church led assemblies at the village school following 'Open the Book', (a national Bible stories drama scheme run by the Bible Society) continue to be very popular with the children and the teaching staff.
- A weekly play group for toddlers and their parent/carer was launched during the year and had proved to be a popular addition to our activities.

**Evangelism and outreach**

Our Vicar continued to write to parishioners with weekly notices and a monthly letter as well as posting on Facebook regularly and contributing to the very popular monthly village magazine. These communications have all been continued by the churchwarden since the retirement of the vicar in October.

We were able to plan for the Great Big Green Week activities which were taking place from 10 to 18 June in communities around the UK to celebrate what we are doing to help nature and take action on climate change. Communities and business groups helped us to celebrate the week which included a Coffee and Conversation morning, a well attended successful visit from our MP, a very popular Swap Shop and other well attended events throughout the week. Our organised talk on bumble bees attracted over 70 attendees. We held a Pet Service in church on 3 September with a great variety of friendly pets joining in with a good size congregation..

The weekly Warm Welcome morning, open to all, which we started in 2022, serving cake tea and coffee with no expected charge continues to be very successful and attracting up to 45 attendees from the village and surrounding areas on Friday mornings.

**Provision of the church building and churchyard for people to enjoy.**

Our church continues to be appreciated by our parishioners and many others as a space where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving.

During 2023 we celebrated the baptism of 7 infants and 2 adults, there were 5 weddings, we held 3 funeral services and there were 4 interment of ashes (mostly in our Garden of Remembrance ).

The church is open for visitors daily from 8am until 4pm

The churchyard has been enjoyed by many. It is a well kept place and volunteers have adopted trees keeping brambles, ivy and weeds at bay The grass in one area of the closed



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churchyard( i.e no burials there now) is controlled by a flock of sheep and the rest of the grass area is mowed by the district council . We employ a gardener who cares for the new burial ground and the Garden of Remembrance.

We had formed an Eco Church Working Group to pursue the scheme run by A Rocha UK, a Christian charity with a remit to mobilise Christians and Churches to care for the environment. We have involved people from the village in our project to care for 'God's Acre' and have installed bat boxes, bird boxes and a bug hotel as well as a hedgehog home and an owl box in the churchyard. In addition we have pledged to move towards carbon net zero and working towards the Eco Church Awards we were delighted to be awarded the Gold Award in January. It was the first in our Diocese, the 16th in the C of E and the 24th in England and Wales combined.

For the Coronation of King Charles III on 6 May a number of people from the village joined us to watch the service in our church, relayed on our big screen, from Westminster Abbey followed by a light lunch. The following day, Coronation Sunday, the choir sang a special anthem at our Songs of Praise Service, Make a Joyful Noise, composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber. We then held a large party in the churchyard for congregation and those living around the church also joined us.

We are pleased the weekly over 80's singing group in the church has continued and in addition a group of men have now formed a singing group which meets fortnightly to practice in our church room.

**Music** is an important communal part of our worship and our choir robe for most services. We invited choirs from all the other churches in our Deanery to come and sing at a special Service of Evensong in our church in June which was well attended and a joyful event.

A service of carols and readings during Advent was attended by 130 people.

**Spatial reordering of the church building and future projects.**

One project that still needs to be considered is the very old heating system ( the pipework) so that we can extend a warm welcome to visitors in a warmer church.

**Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish**

The Vicar has made hospital visits and home visits during the year and a regular visit to the local Care Home with a short Holy Communion service. Telephone calls to parishioners have also been a comfort to many. This aspect of our ministry is much appreciated and has been continued since the retirement of the vicar.

**Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy**

The Church has supported Family Support Work Charity set up originally by our Diocese and during the year we collect groceries, toiletries and clothing items for this charity.



## **St Mary's Church Ticehurst Trustees Annual Report 2023**

The PCC also made donations to Family Support Work, The Bible Society, The Church Mission Society, A Rocha UK and The Beatrice Drewe Trust

### **Mission Action Plan**

All the above were considered by our PCC in our meetings.

### **Financial review**

Incoming and outgoing resources

The total receipts were £66,158.11 and are detailed in the Financial Report.

### **Reserves Policy**

Why we hold some money in reserve.

We are very pleased to have the money we have in reserve for the following reasons:-

1. Major building works following our last Quinquennial inspection.
2. Heating System review.
3. Reaching carbon net zero by 2030 as General Synod's decision in 2022.
4. Improvements such as replacement of all worship material following the accession of King Charles III.
5. Two major bequests we received two years ago were unrestricted.

All of these items contribute to benefit the public.

### **Management of Risk**

The PCC has the ongoing task of reviewing major risks which impact on the work of the church. PAT testing is done yearly and Fire extinguishers are also checked each year.

Lightning protection and electrical testing is undertaken regularly.

**The PCC consider the principal risks and uncertainties are:-**

- the requirement to find volunteers with the appropriate skills, time and commitment to support the daily running of the church
- Health and Safety Risk of trips in some areas of the uneven churchyard due to ant hills, and broken monuments. Whilst this area is fenced off and sheep graze in it, there are monuments which people visit but because permission is needed for access we are able to caution these visitors before access is given

### **As for the Future**

Open the Book - it is clear again just how much this appreciated by the school and by the children.



**St Mary's Church Ticehurst**  
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Our Vicar retired in October and we are currently advertising for an incumbent. The day to day running of the church continues with help from occasional clergy for special life services and other weekly services. We continue to pray that the right person sees our advertisement and is inspired to apply.

**Sharing the Ministry costs of the Diocese of Chichester**

The largest expenditure of the PCC was the sum of £65,000 paid to the diocese for our share of all churches' Parish Ministry Costs. This amount goes towards housing, stipend and pension costs of the clergy and a standard sum for diocesan central costs, clergy training and a contribution to general church funds.

**Staff costs**

The PCC paid for Book-keeping services, occasional Clerical duty following the retirement of the incumbent and the expenses of an organist. Details are provided in the accounts.

**Office costs.**

These were just day to day running costs this year amounting to £2862.23.

**Trustee payments and expenses .**

The PCC also supported the Vicarage by paying Council Tax, water charges, a share of the telephone bill and travelling expenses.

**Repairs to the fabric of the church building.**

Further items detailed for attention on the last Quinquennial Inspection were undertaken and considerable repairs were done to the churchyard wall and to the exterior of the church including pointing replacement, decoration of the porch, repairs to the west door and also plastering and decoration to several areas within the church.



**St Mary's Church Ticehurst**  
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**The Structure, governance and management of the charity**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary the Virgin Ticehurst has been entered onto the Register of Charities, registered number 1180171. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Council(Powers) Measure 1956. During the year, 2023, the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

**Ex officio members**

Incumbent and Chairman	The Reverend Ashley Evans (until October 2023)
Reader	Mrs Penny Evans (until October 2023)
Warden	Mrs Judith Whiteman

**Elected Members**

Mrs Marian Cook	Secretary
Mr Peter Reeves	
Mrs Marianne Barratt	
Mrs Sheila Minet	
Mrs Angela Howitt	
Mrs Jacky Ward	
Mrs Frances Harris	
Miss Rosemary Hunneybell	

**Deanery Synod Representatives**

Miss Rosemary Hunneybell
Mrs Sheila Mackenzie
Mrs Penny Evans

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of several ex officio members, (the incumbent, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church, the church wardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balanced of skills where possible.

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Judith Whiteman, Churchwarden and PCC Chairman

Signature.....*Judith Whiteman*.....Date.....*21st May 2024*.....