

1. Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating 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 to 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, concerts, a lunch to celebrate the Harvest and a Christmas Fair.

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 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 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 2024 was 58 adults and 2 children.. The congregation in church at Easter was marginally greater than last year, 146. The Bishop of Chichester officiated at our service of Remembrance held around the War Memorial in the village and the service in church that followed. Both were very well attended. The services over Christmas were all well attended with 405 worshippers.

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 has proved to be a popular addition to our activities.

Evangelism and outreach

In the absence of an incumbent our churchwarden continued to write to parishioners with weekly notices and a monthly letter. Events and service details are posted on social media regularly and the church continues to contribute to the very popular monthly village magazine. These communications have all been continued since the retirement of the vicar in October 2023.

Trustees Annual Report 2024

We were able to plan for the Great Big Green Week activities which were taking place from 8 to 16 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 very popular Swap Shop and other well attended events throughout the week. We held a Pet Service in church on 6 October 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 attracts 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 2024 we celebrated the baptism of 6 infants, 4 services of Holy Matrimony and we held 5 funeral services. There were 8 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 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.

We are pleased to welcome a group of men who have 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. A service of carols and readings during Advent was attended by over 100 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 Churchwarden has made home visits during the year and 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.

St Mary the Virgin Ticehurst Trustees Annual Report 2024

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.

The PCC also made donations to Family Support Work, The Church Mission Society, and Le Chie Africa .

Mission Action Plan

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

Financial review

Incoming and outgoing resources

The total receipts were £70,968.15 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:-

Major building works following our last Quinquennial inspection.

Heating System review.

Reaching carbon net zero by 2030 as General Synod's decision in 2022.

Improvements such as replacement of all worship material following the accession of King Charles III.

Two major bequests we received three 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 is appreciated by the school and by the children.

Our Vicar retired in October 2023 and the post of an incumbent was advertised during the year. This post had not been filled at the end of 2024. 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 £2244.74..

Trustee payments and expenses .

The PCC also supported the Vicarage and whilst council tax is not payable on an empty Clergy House there were still costs of telephone, and utilities.

Repairs to the fabric of the church building.

There was ingress of water from the roof which was repaired and repair to a small part of a stained glass window.

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, 2024, the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex officio members

Incumbent and Chairman

vacancy

Warden and acting Chairman

Mrs Judith Whiteman

Elected Members

Mrs Marian Cook

Secretary

Mr Peter Reeves

Mrs Marianne Barratt

Mrs Sheila Minet

Mrs Angela Howitt

Mrs Jacky Ward

Mr Peter Johnson

Mrs Andrea Pilcher

Mrs Susan Wyatt

Mrs Jane Pentecost Wild

Deanery Synod Representatives

Miss Rosemary Hunneybell

Mrs Sheila Mackenzie

Mrs Sheila Minet

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 3 June 2025.....

Accounts
for the Parochial Church Council of
St Mary's Church, Ticehurst
for the year ended
31st December 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's Church, Ticehurst for the Year Ended 31st December, 2024

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems for example:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with s132 of the Charities' Act 2011 and those accounts do not comply with the requirements of the 2008 Regulations setting out the form and content of charity accounts;
- any material expenditure or action which appears not to be in accordance with the trusts of the charity;
- any failure to be provided with information and explanations by any past or present trustee, officer or employee; and
- any material inconsistency between the accounts and the trustees' annual report.

Give here brief details of any
items that the examiner
wishes to disclose

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St Mary's Ticehurst
Profit Loss
January 2023 through December 2024

| Ordinary Income/Expense | Jan - Dec 23 | Jan - Dec 24 | Increase/ Decrease | Notes |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Income | | | | |
| Activities for Generating Funds | | | | |
| Gift Aid | 2,284.90 | 4,905.70 | 2,620.80 | Includes Tongswood concert, GBGW & Christmas Fair |
| Giving | 6,506.99 | 6,700.70 | 193.71 | H |
| Income from Church Activities | 38,708.77 | 40,942.91 | 2,234.14 | |
| Interest on Bank Accts & Trusts | 454.00 | 1,439.00 | 985.00 | field rental, hire of St Mary's Room |
| Other Income | 4,648.32 | 4,484.04 | -164.28 | |
| Legacy | 13,555.13 | 12,495.80 | -1,059.33 | Includes £11,719 weddings/funerals and £564 insurance claim |
| Total Income | 66,158.11 | 70,968.15 | 4,810.04 | |
| Expense | | | | |
| Advertising & Promotion | 625.97 | 742.00 | 116.03 | |
| Bookkeeping Services | 2,520.78 | 2,078.48 | -442.30 | |
| Books & Music | 532.36 | 190.44 | -341.92 | |
| Charitable Grants & Donations | 2,776.72 | 2,785.43 | 8.71 | |
| Church Building | | | 0.00 | |
| Churchyard Maintenance | 2,626.00 | 2,920.46 | 294.46 | |
| Cleaning | 797.49 | 1,217.99 | 420.50 | |
| Repairs and Maintenance | 47,782.77 | 20,521.90 | -27,260.87 | 2024 includes roof and stonework repairs |
| Utilities | 8,294.09 | 6,663.63 | -1,630.46 | |
| Total Church Building | 59,500.35 | 31,323.98 | -28,176.37 | |
| Clergy & Other People's Expenses | | | | |
| Bellringing Services | 300.00 | 480.00 | 180.00 | |
| Choir Charges | 600.00 | 1,200.00 | 600.00 | |
| Occasional Clerical Duty | 532.70 | 594.90 | 62.20 | |
| Organist Expenses | 3,519.95 | 3,681.91 | 161.96 | |
| Parish Administrator | 939.45 | 0.00 | -939.45 | |
| Recruitment Costs | 0.00 | 845.28 | 845.28 | |
| Vergering | 330.00 | 360.00 | 30.00 | |
| Total Clergy & Other People's Expenses | 6,222.10 | 7,162.09 | 939.99 | |
| Conferences & Meetings | 51.90 | 0.00 | -51.90 | |
| Cost of Raising Funds | 0.00 | 336.60 | 336.60 | |
| Dues & Subscriptions | 220.00 | 193.00 | -27.00 | |
| Equipment | | | 0.00 | |
| Equipment Rental | 24.00 | | -24.00 | |
| Equipment Repairs & Maintenance | 2,101.13 | 1,603.23 | -497.90 | |
| Expensed Equipment | 5,432.97 | 107.15 | -5,325.82 | |

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St Mary's Ticehurst


Profit Loss

January 2023 through December 2024

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fire Equipment & Service | 95.76 | | -95.76 | |
| Organ Tuning & Maintenance | 264.00 | 278.00 | 14.00 | |
| Piano Tuning | 40.00 | 40.00 | 0.00 | |
| Total Equipment | 7,957.88 | 2,028.38 | -5,929.48 | |
| Events | 200.00 | 0.00 | -200.00 | Bumblebees talk |
| Funeral Costs | 250.00 | 600.00 | 350.00 | |
| Gifts | 2,091.92 | 116.89 | -1,975.03 | |
| Insurance Expense | 4,734.76 | 4,853.30 | 118.54 | |
| Management & Administration | 400.25 | 50.00 | -350.25 | |
| Bank Service Charges | 498.28 | -541.54 | -1,039.80 | bank fees refunded |
| Consumables | 99.06 | 212.26 | 113.20 | |
| DBS Checks etc | 36.00 | 22.00 | -14.00 | |
| IT & Internet Expenses | 839.11 | 885.33 | 46.22 | |
| Licences | 374.41 | 476.44 | 102.03 | |
| Other Office Expense | 45.00 | 0.00 | -45.00 | |
| Postage and Delivery | 14.40 | 15.35 | 0.95 | |
| Printing | 30.00 | 0.00 | -30.00 | |
| Stationery | 163.09 | 29.13 | -133.96 | |
| Stationery (Printed) | 146.69 | 153.26 | 6.57 | |
| Telephone | 179.96 | 636.99 | 457.03 | previously shared cost with Vicar |
| Website Maintenance | 36.00 | 305.52 | 269.52 | |
| Total Management & Administration | 2,862.23 | 2,244.74 | -617.49 | |
| Other Fees to Diocese | | | | |
| Occasional Services | 3,004.00 | 1,625.00 | -1,379.00 | |
| Total Other Fees to Diocese | 3,004.00 | 1,625.00 | -1,379.00 | |
| Parish Contribution | 65,000.00 | 65,000.00 | 0.00 | |
| Regular Church Costs | | | | |
| Candles | 99.50 | 153.48 | 53.98 | |
| Communion Supplies | 53.04 | 100.94 | 47.90 | |
| Flowers | 781.08 | 701.69 | -79.39 | |
| Total Regular Church Costs | 933.62 | 956.11 | 22.49 | |
| Rent & Rates | 2,873.26 | -195.30 | -3,068.56 | Council Tax partly refunded |
| Service Expenses General | | | 0.00 | |
| Children's Supplies | 26.85 | 108.74 | 81.89 | |
| Decorations (Christmas etc) | 0.00 | 19.18 | 19.18 | |
| Service Expenses | 120.55 | | -120.55 | |
| Total Service Expenses General | 147.40 | 127.92 | -19.48 | |
| Vicar's Expenses | 1,031.65 | 965.64 | -66.01 | |
| Total Expense | 163,536.88 | 123,134.70 | -40,402.18 | |

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January 2023 through December 2024

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St Mary's Ticehurst
UK Balance Sheet - Standard
As of 31 December 2024

| | 31 Dec 22 | 31 Dec 23 | 31 Dec 24 | Notes |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| ASSETS | | | | |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Other Current Assets | | | | |
| GIR Aid due | 8,051.74 | 6,398.98 | 6,614.68 | due on 2024 donations |
| Prepayments | 924.49 | 968.70 | 0.00 | currently not paying council tax on empty Vicarage |
| Total Other Current Assets | 8,976.23 | 7,365.68 | 6,614.68 | |
| Funds | | | | |
| Dora Luckin (Investment) | 214,657.07 | 234,852.78 | 240,228.20 | A |
| Fabric Fund (Investment) | 4,533.32 | 4,959.83 | 5,073.35 | B |
| Music Fund (Deposit) | 1,877.49 | 1,937.67 | 2,040.51 | C |
| Rule (Investment) | 3,874.27 | 4,235.20 | 4,332.85 | D |
| | 224,942.15 | 245,985.49 | 251,674.91 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | | | |
| Current Account | 500.00 | 500.00 | 525.00 | E |
| Business Reserve | 413,237.90 | 324,799.09 | 278,367.35 | F |
| Cash | 0.00 | 674.35 | 0.00 | |
| Petty Cash (Vicarage) | 49.39 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| | 413,787.29 | 325,873.44 | 278,892.35 | In 2023 Christmas collection not banked until Jan25 |
| Total Current Assets | 647,705.67 | 579,224.61 | 537,181.94 | |
| Current Liabilities | | | | |
| Accounts Payable | 493.58 | 1,960.97 | 77.10 | G |
| Other Current Liabilities | | | | |
| Accruals | 3,497.31 | 3,274.16 | 2,921.00 | |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | 3,497.31 | 3,274.16 | 2,921.00 | |
| Total Current Liabilities | 3,990.89 | 5,235.13 | 2,998.10 | |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | 643,714.78 | 573,989.48 | 534,183.84 | |
| Represented by:- | | | | |
| Reserves | | | | |
| Opening Funds | 536,651.64 | 643,714.78 | 573,989.48 | |
| Net Increase in Asset Value | 107,063.14 | -69,725.30 | -39,805.64 | |
| Closing funds | 643,714.78 | 573,989.48 | 534,183.84 | |

2024-related costs, paid out in 2025: statutory fees due to Diocese £2487.
Christingle collection £434 pd to Children Society Jan25