

**The Parochial Church Council of
The Parish of St Neots with Eynesbury
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Registered Charity Number: 1195248



INFORMATION PAGE

Correspondence address

The Parish Office
29, Church Street
St Neots
Cambridgeshire
PE19 2BU

Rector

Revd Paul Hutchinson
The Rectory
29 Church Street
St Neots
Cambridgeshire
PE19 2BU

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
41 High Street
St Neots
Cambridgeshire
PE19 1AS

The CBF Church of England Funds,
Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street,
London, EC4V 4ET

Independent Examiner

Kathryn Pickering BSc FCA

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 December 2023

Administrative Information

The Parish of St Neots with Eynesbury, part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England, was formed on 1st March 2020 by a Pastoral Scheme dated 11th February 2020 ('the Scheme'). It comprises the entirety of the former ecclesiastical parishes of St Neots (a charity formerly registered with the Charity Commission under number 1132445) and Eynesbury (an excepted charity). It has two parish churches: St Neots Parish Church (St. Mary's) is located in Church Street, and St Mary's Eynesbury is located in Berkley Street. Both historic churchyards have long been closed to new burials (apart from interment of cremated remains in designated areas), and the primary responsibility for their maintenance rests with St Neots Town Council.

The correspondence address is The Parish Office, 29 Church Street, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 2BU. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the new parish was registered with the Charity Commission in 2021 under number 1195248.

PCC members who have served during the period are as follows:

Incumbent (Rector):	Revd Paul Hutchinson (ex officio)
Loves Farm Community Chaplain:	Revd Helene Tame (ex officio, term ending 27th February 2024)
Curates:	Revd William Lyon Tupman (ex officio)
Churchwardens:	
Appointed Annually	Mr Tony Hopwood Mrs Christine Miles Mrs Jacquelyn Isaac Vacancy
Representatives on the Deanery Synod (term expiry 2026):	Mrs Catherina Griffiths (PCC Secretary) Mr Tony Hopwood Mr David Wells

Elected Members (with current term expiry date):

Mrs Lynn Burnell (2024)	Mr Stephen Gill (2025)
Mrs Judith McAteer (2024)	Mr Godfrey Wilson (2025)
Mr David Read (2024)	Mr Philip Barrett (2026)
Mrs Angela Robertson (2024)	Mrs Valerie Freeman (2026)
Ms Tara Skey (2024)	Mrs Christian Laughton (2026)
Dr Gabriel Amable (2025)	Mrs Carol Way (2026)
Mrs Helen Bloxham (2025)	Mr Peter Raggatt (2026)
Mr Andrew Isaac (2025)	

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a body corporate under the PCC Powers Measure 1956. The appointment of PCC members is set out in the Churchwardens Measure 2001 and the Church Representation Rules 2022. All church attenders are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC has the responsibility, with the Rector (its Chair), of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibility for the St Neots Parish Church Rooms. When planning the activities for the year, the Rector and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Risk Management

PCC members, as trustees, acknowledge their duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity and its users are exposed, and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Maintenance, Health and Safety, Fire Risk, anti-theft measures and financial controls have continued. Tony Hopwood has continued as Treasurer. Increasingly the Parish receives money by online means (including the Parish Giving Scheme). The PCC is assisted by a Stewardship Recorder/Gift Aid Officer who managed the collection and banking of St Neots cash. Church room rentals are controlled and collected by the Parish Office (run by the Operations Manager - from 2024 the Parish Administrator). Bookkeeping and accounts are maintained by the PCC Treasurer in consultation with an external accountant. Cheques require two authorised signatories and online transactions two authorisations.

Disability Access

Level access into both churches is available via the North doors, hearing loop systems are in regular use; large print hymnbooks, service booklets and notice sheets are available; there are toilets suitable for disabled people in St Neots Church Rooms (the one in Eynesbury Church is unsuitable for wheelchair users).

Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

The PCC is committed to safeguarding all those who attend worship and the other activities that the parish offers. It takes due regard of the House of Bishops' guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults, through the documents 'Promoting a Safer Church', 'The Parish Safeguarding Handbook', and ongoing Safeguarding Practice Guidance. Having adopted the recommended parish policy on inception in 2020, the PCC has reaffirmed the policy each year. The PCC also adopted a policy for the recruitment of ex-offenders in 2021. The PCC seeks to create a culture where everyone is included, respected, listened to, and taken seriously; and the PCC accepts the prime duty of care for children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is a standing item at every PCC meeting; reports are received in person from the Safeguarding Officer at approximately half-yearly intervals; and there are regular reviews of the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard (now in 2024 the Parish Hub). Mrs Ann Barnsley has been Parish Safeguarding Officer since 2022. No reports have been received in the year of any incidents of concern.

Personnel

As part of the Diocese of Ely's Changing Market Towns initiative, a full-time Operations Manager (a pre-existing member of the PCC) was appointed in 2020, and continued in post to the end of 2023, when she became a part-time Parish Administrator (funded by the Parish). A full-time Youth Missioner, appointed in 2021 (working both on parish matters and as part of Love's Farm Church) entered maternity leave in late 2022 and has not returned – her resignation taking effect at the end of 2023. It did not prove possible to appoint a third Changing Market Towns worker, and we terminated our involvement with the initiative at the end of 2023. The PCC created the new Parish-funded role of Children's Schools' and Families' Minister in February 2023: the post-holder has a Diocesan permission to officiate but is not a member of the PCC. Another PCC member is paid for some hours' cleaning work each week in connection with the Church Rooms. The organist (not a PCC member) receives an honorarium.

In the autumn, Fr Will Lyon Tupman broadened his curacy experience with parish and chaplaincy placements elsewhere, and at the end of the year began an extended placement in South Cambridgeshire which will effectively conclude his time here. At the beginning of 2024, the Revd Helene Tame also stepped back from her role as Community Chaplain and leader of Loves Farm Church. Conversations continue about the parish's future relationship with Loves Farm Church.

Electoral Roll

At the 2023 Annual Meeting the Electoral Roll contained 237 names

(The same as 2022, after additions and removals)

PCC Meetings

Not including the meeting to appoint officers that immediately followed the 2023 Annual Meetings, the PCC met in person on eight occasions. In addition to standing items, major topics under discussion have included the relationship with Changing Market Towns, events to welcome visitors and civic representatives to both churches, issues with the fabric and finances of both churches, developments in the use of the Church Rooms, regular reports from the Operations Manager and about our children's activities and church schools, the future of the parish magazine, and receiving reports from Deanery and Diocesan Synods (including about the Diocesan-led Deanery Planning process that continues). The Rector and the PCC Secretary are both members of the Ely Diocesan Synod, as well as St Neots Deanery.

Significant Activities: Worship, study, prayer, mission, evangelism, ecumenism.

The worship of the early part of the year was shaped by an injury which put our long-serving organist, Lloyd Barnett, out of action for two and half months. The parish is grateful to Stuart McCarthy for providing around half of the necessary cover: the other half was provided by the Rector (when other clergy were available to preside), and he also led the choir. Lloyd's return at Easter was warmly welcomed!

The new normal pattern of services continued to bed in: three Sunday morning eucharists; three weekday eucharists; a renewed weekly Play Church under the oversight of the Revd Margaret Marshall as our Children's Schools' and Families' Minister; Little Saints (moving from twice monthly to weekly during the year – with particular thanks to the commitment of its leaders); monthly Sunday Teatime Praise (also much renewed, and gaining new members); Saturday informal eucharist (connected with Saturday Social in the Church Rooms – which specially though not exclusively serves those who live alone); weekday evening healing eucharists; occasional Mothers' Union special services; and (in most months) an evening Choral Service, as well as seasonal Messy Church. Regular services continued at Old Vicarage, Poppyfields, and Old Market Court (as well as with church members at Cavendish Court and other home communions). Average attendance on a Usual Sunday in 2023 has been 88 adults and 4 children (2022: 89/7).

Beyond the normal annual round of special services – Holy Week, All Souls, Remembrance (a full church at St Neots), Advent and Christmas – there have been special services again this year: for the eve of the King's Coronation; a RSCM local area event; a choir workshop with Philip Stopford; joint evensongs at St John's Hills Road, at St Leonards on Sea, here, and at Coventry Cathedral. In addition to an organ recital series in the summer at St Neots (the Eynesbury pipe organ remains out of action), and a round of concerts through the year organised by the parish and by the Friends, we also hosted Cantores Minores – the choir of boys and young men from Helsinki Cathedral on a tour of England, Scotland and Ireland. We also held three book launch events in conjunction with Waterstones St Neots branch and will hold more in 2024.

St Neots bells are rung most Fridays and Sundays, as well as for occasional special events, peals and quarter-peals, and their sound (alongside the clock) is a much-appreciated feature of community life. Eynesbury's bells – though an even more historic asset of the town – are rung much less frequently, due to a shortage of ringers: the occasions on which they were heard did include ringing for the coronation (as at St Neots).

Eynesbury Church has held occasional coffee mornings and a summer Strawberry tea; St Neots church remains open daily for prayer and visitors, and has again held two successful tower and church open days (with hundreds of visitors at each) on the weekends of the Coronation and St Neot's Day. We remain grateful for the co-operative spirit in which relations with the Town Council are conducted: we appreciate their care on the maintenance of the two churchyards, and we look forward to seeing the costly but necessary work carried out on St Neots churchyard wall in the near future.

Churches Together in St Neots, and the ministers of St Neots churches, met occasionally, and an ecumenical act of worship took place on the Market Square on Good Friday.

St Neots Church Rooms continue to be available for many town organisations, as well as parish social events: we look forward to planned building works when funds are available. We continue to use Eynesbury Room for a variety of small church meetings (including cross-parish groups) and other lettings.

We were pleased to have Izzy Doran as the editor of the Messenger magazine up to the September issue. She laid down the post when she moved away, and the Rector has produced an intermittent interim stopgap to honour the subscriptions given in 2023 (the last of those issues remains to be produced at the time of writing). Mothers' Union members continue to contribute to social action projects, and other church members were involved in the work of the churches through the Food Bank, Community Debt Advice, Thursday Food (now meeting at Berkley Street Methodist Church), and a range of other Churches Together voluntary activities, in addition to the many ways that members kept in touch with each other and with neighbours in need.

Ministers continue to conduct funerals both in the churches and at local crematoria and cemeteries: the aggregate of all types of service of 22 in 2023 is well down on the 2022 figure (34) and the 2012-2016 average of 40. Other occasional offices were also still reduced on pre-lockdown figures: 18 baptisms and 4 weddings were lower than 2022 (23/9), and even lower than the averages of 40:10 in 2016-8 and 51:16 in 2012-5. As a traditional form of outreach, this continuing trend is of concern – but we will continue to work at it.

Relationships with local schools continue to have ups and downs, though the Revd Margaret Marshall has been of substantial assistance in this area. Our clergy are in our both our church schools in some way every week, Eynesbury School have adopted a pattern of three visits to church for worship each term, School Eucharists have been twice termly at St Mary's, and school curriculum visits to church have again drawn in both Priory Schools and Roundhouse/Wintringham (helped by the Revd Helene Tame). It was good to see a return of other schools and nurseries in the run-up to Christmas. The Rector and other Church members continue to play a major role in the governance of both our church schools.

Our thanks go to all the clergy who have exercised ministry here during the year – not only those mentioned above, but also Revds Robert Sibson, Melvyn Barnsley, Roger Henthorne, and Ken Anderson – and to our continuing Authorised Lay Minister Catherina Griffiths and retired Deaconess Mavis Hinde. Other lay members of the Church have committed many hours to the work described above, to prayer and study, and to other social events and activities; and they too are thanked: a church community flourishes through the activity and shared responsibility of its laity.

Stewardship and Finance

This is the account for the year ended 31st December 2023. During this year we have continued to use the Xero accounts system, with banking through Barclays.

Stewardship and the Parish Giving Scheme have been maintained during the year: PGS and Open Plate donations are down, while Stewardship donations have increased – so there has been reduction in total income from these sources compared to 2022, and the PCC recognises the need to improve income generation during 2024. Church Room income has grown in 2023; we hope it grows further in 2024.

The PCC has incurred expenditure of £171,542 (2022: £129,965) in supporting the objectives of the PCC, including from capital funds held from previous years towards some of those purposes (making the technical deficit a more even out-turn when seen in wider context). The largest elements of this are the payment of £59,687 in respect of Ministry Share, £17,422 for buttress repairs, and £8,096 on the creation of the emergency exits for the Church Rooms. The parish has also incurred increased staff costs because of the new post of Children's Schools and Families Minister, and it will have additional expense in 2024 for the Parish Administrator.

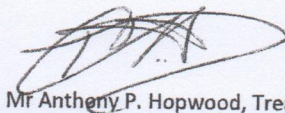
The PCC has reserves which are held on deposit in the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and the CBF Church of England Investment Fund, together with some reserves held in the Barclays accounts.

It is the PCC's policy to maintain reserves so that it can meet immediate expenditure and to pay for future major expenditure including that arising from future quinquennial reviews to maintain the churches, work on the church bells and other improvements to the church.

A. Paul Hutchinson.

Rev'd A. Paul Hutchinson
Rector and Chair of the PCC

6.4.2024



Mr Anthony P. Hopwood, Treasurer

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PCC

The Charities Act 2011 requires the members of the PCC to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the PCC for that period.

In preparing those accounts, the members of the PCC are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the PCC will continue as a going concern

The members of the PCC are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the PCC and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the PCC and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST
NEOTS WITH EYNESBURY**

I report on the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Neots with Eynesbury ("the charity") for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under sections 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner. 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 the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently 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.

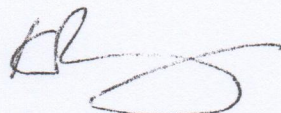
Independent examiner's statement – no matters of concern identified

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I confirm that there are no matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Kathryn Pickering

Relevant professional qualifications or membership : ICAEW member 9271272

Address: 18 Lannesbury Crescent, St Neots, PE19 6AF

Date: 6.4.2024

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 23**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2023	FUNDS 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income	2a	90,406	8,752		99,158	152,660
Activities for generating funds	2b	11,036	-		11,036	7,470
Income from investments	2c	8,242	281		8,523	4,016
Income from church activities	2d	18,932	919		19,851	24,855
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		128,616	9,952	-	138,568	189,001
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church activities	3a	135,208	19,681		154,889	122,989
Governance costs	3b	7,715			7,715	6,976
Staff Costs	4	6,519	2,419		8,938	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		149,442	22,100	-	171,542	129,965
NET INCOMING/EXPENDED RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		(20,826)	(12,148)	-	(32,974)	59,036
Gains/losses on investment assets unrealised	5b	2,843	2,516		5,359	(7,519)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(17,983)	(9,632)	-	(27,615)	51,517
Transfer between funds	6	0	0	-	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS AFTER TRANSFERS		(17,983)	(9,632)	-	(27,615)	51,517
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2023		180,273	252,346	-	432,620	381,102
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 December 2023		162,291	242,714	-	405,005	432,619

The ensuing notes form part of these accounts

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 23

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	5a	-	-
Investment assets	5b	62,593	56,696
		62,593	56,696
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	8	7,539	13,705
Short term deposits		182,072	176,322
Cash at bank and in hand		164,742	197,372
		354,353	387,399
LIABILITIES: FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	9	11,941	11,476
NET CURRENT ASSETS		342,412	375,923
NET ASSETS		405,005	432,619
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	7	162,291	180,273
Restricted	7	242,714	252,346
Endowment	7	-	-
		405,005	432,619

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted and are called designated funds

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under gift aid is recognised when received.

Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received or accrued within one month of receipt. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable, and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Funds raised by the fete, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are recognised on revaluation of investments at the end of each accounting year.

Resources expended

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan common fund or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31st December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property.

All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at their market value at 31 December 23

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents, or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2023	2022
a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving					
Stewardship	11,411			11,411	10,894
Parish Giving	54,914			54,914	58,162
Income tax recoverable	14,310			14,310	15,547
Open plate collections at services	3,840			3,840	7,275
Sundry donations	5,931	8,752		14,683	60,782
	90,406	8,752	-	99,158	152,660
b) Activities for generating funds					
Church Hall letting Income (note 10)					
	11,036			11,036	7,470
	11,036	-	-	11,036	7,470
c) Income from investments					
Dividends & Interest receivable	8,242	281		8,523	4,016
	8,242	281	-	8,523	4,016
d) Income from church activities					
Service Fees	11,067			11,067	15,732
Flower Fund (incl the Festival)				-	-
Sundry other income	70			70	-
General Fundraising Events	7,229			7,229	4,667
50/50 Club		390		390	1,365
Magazine Sales	566			566	793
Tower and Bells		419		419	537
Bells - E		110		110	1,148
Church Choir				-	613
	18,932	919	-	19,851	24,855
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	128,616	9,952	-	138,568	189,001

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
					2023	2022
a) Church activities						
Charitable giving						
General charities	note 14	6,901			6,901	7,700
Ministry Share		59,687			59,687	57,379
Church Hall Lettings (note 11)		3,300			3,300	3,000
Vicar's Expenses		343			343	349
Fundraising Costs		3,194	630		3,824	1,941
Staff costs		470			470	817
Light and Heat		13,253			13,253	4,789
Insurances		11,041			11,041	10,378
Security Costs		1,279			1,279	1,558
Church Repairs & Maintenance		15,531			15,531	6,641
Church Rooms maintenance		7,447	649		8,096	3,945
Tower & Bell expenditure			396		396	2,292
Organists fees		3,000			3,000	3,000
Flowers		135	240		375	266
Children & Youth Ministry			344		344	1,769
Cost of Magazine		1,028			1,028	885
Accountancy Services		1,003			1,003	942
Subscriptions		1,344			1,344	1,168
Service & church expenses		6,253			6,253	14,170
Major repairs	note 12		17,422		17,422	-
		135,208	19,681	-	154,889	122,989
b) Governance costs						
Administration						
Parish office costs	note 11	7,715			7,715	6,976
		7,715	-	-	7,715	6,976
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		142,923	19,681	-	162,604	129,965

4. STAFF COSTS

		2023	2022
		£	£
Wages and salaries:			
Total gross cost		6,519	2,419
		8,938	-

5. FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

5(a) The freehold land and buildings comprising the Church Rooms contribute to the income of the PCC but are not considered to be an asset of the PCC and have not therefore been capitalised.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

5(b) Investments	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
Market value at 1st January 2023	34,544	22,152	56,696
Purchases at cost	539		539
Revaluation gain/loss	2,843	2,516	5,359
Market value at 31 December 2023	37,926	24,668	62,593

Holdings at 31 December 23

Breakdown of Investments:

Fisher Fund	650 shares	£14,694
Hawkey Fund	485 shares	£10,964
Lincoln Fund	159 shares	£3,594
Total	1294 shares	£29,251
REAM	887 shares	£20,058
WRAY	588 shares	£13,284
Total	1444 shares	£33,342

Many years ago (before 1985), three former members of the congregation, messrs. Fisher, Hawkey and Lincoln, left legacies in their wills to create a Fabric Fund to be used for repair and maintenance of the church building. The terms of the trusts were that the PCC cannot spend the capital but can spend the income from the capital. The investment of these funds is in a CBF unit trust fund from which there is a variable dividend per share. The dividends are added to the Restoration Fund's income and used for various works of restoration of the building. Expenditure on maintenance projects has been made through the General Fund rather than cashing in the above investments and this is reflected in the allocation between restricted and unrestricted funds.

6. FUNDS

The opening balances of these funds represent the value of the funds as at 31st December 2022

The movements on the funds are:

	Opening Balances at 1 January 23	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers / Revaluations	Balances Carried Forward
Restricted funds:					
50/50 Club	1,282	390	(630)	(1,043)	-
Bible Fund	59				59
Flower Fund	107	200	(240)		67
Little Giants Fund	153				153
Bell Fund - E	1,148	110	(2)		1,256
Organ Fund - E	29				29
Restoration Fund - E	52,567	373		1,043	53,983
Church Rooms Fund	649		(649)		-
Church Wall Repair Fund	19,682				19,682
General Fund (robes)	500				500
NEWTON & HATLEY	2,763		(2,763)		-
Refreshment Station	9,600				9,600
Refreshment Station (Craft)	7,186				7,186
Restoration Fund	147,303	192	(17,422)	2,516	132,589
Tower and Bells	4,318	602	(394)		4,526
WRAY	5,000				5,000
Charities Fund		8,085			8,085
	252,346	9,952	(22,100)	2,516	242,714
Unrestricted funds (including designated):					
Budget Fund (E)	4,990				4,990
Burrows Legacy D	18,376		(4,351)		14,025
Choir Fund D	1,443				1,443
Church Rooms Fund D	29,861	11,301	(12,092)		29,070
General Fund	89,535	116,778	(132,999)		73,314
Messenger Fund D	14				14
REAM	17,819	539		1,700	20,057
Social Fund	6,095				6,095
WRAY	12,141			1,143	13,284
	180,273	128,618	(149,442)	2,843	162,291
	432,619	138,570	(171,542)	5,359	405,005

The Restoration Funds are monies held as restricted funds only for use in respect of repairs to the fabric of the Church. St Neots fund includes the Knight Legacy of £124,960 and Eynesbury fund includes the Young Legacy of £50,000

The Tower and Bells Fund is for monies donated to provide funding for the rehangng of the bells of the church and to carry out all the necessary work to make this possible

The Church Rooms Fund is money accumulated from the renting out and running of the church rooms. Note that the majority of the monies that are accumulated are **unrestricted funds**. However, there is a balance of £649 that is restricted for use only as improvements to the Church Rooms. This has arisen from specific fundraising over the years less any money spent on improvements.

The Organ Fund is made up of occasional donations specifically for the organ (for example by visitors who ask to play it) or by donations to the organ fund at organ concerts and this money is used for occasional repairs or tuning.

The WRAY Fund relates to a legacy that expires on 24th August 2067. £5,000 (the original capital) has to remain as restricted but income is available for general PCC use.

The Newton and Hatley Fund relates to donations received from a separate trust of that name whose trustees are the Vicar and Churchwardens. The donations are shown as restricted funds because they are given to the PCC solely for the purpose of Christian education.

The Refreshment Station Fund is money designated from unrestricted funds for the specific purpose of a refreshment station.

The REAM Fund relates to a legacy that expired on 22nd ^{Sept} ~~Dec~~ember 2013. The Trustees are the Vicar and Churchwardens and they have formally agreed to add these monies to general PCC reserves.

The Craft Group Fund is money accumulated from activities carried out on behalf of the Church by the craft group. This fund has now been allocated to the provision of a Refreshment Station.

The Messenger fund is money from the sale of the Messenger less money spent on producing it. The funds in the main bank account have now been transferred to the general fund.

The Choir Fund is money held by the choir for choir social trips etc.

The Social Fund relates to monies collected for teas and coffees sold after Church.

The 50/50 Club has ceased and all remaining funds transferred to the Restoration Fund

The Flower Fund consists of donations from the congregation specifically for flowers for the church

The Bible Fund consists of donations from the congregation specifically for the purchase of Bibles for church school leavers.

Little Giants consists of money put aside for pre-school youth activities.

The Burrows Legacy is a recent gift designated for good use around the church.

7. BREAKDOWN OF NET ASSETS BY FUND:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	2023	2022
Investment fixed assets	37,926	24,668		62,593	49,698
Current assets	136,307	218,047		354,353	403,635
Current liabilities	(11,941)			(11,941)	(11,476)
	162,291	242,714	-	405,005	441,856

8. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
Prepayments and accrued income	5,365	5,142
Tax recoverable from Gift Aid	2,174	8,563
	7,539	13,705

9. LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
Accruals	11,941	11,476
	11,941	11,476

10. CHURCH ROOM LETTINGS

	2023	2022
Rental income	11,036	7,470
	11,036	7,470

11. PARISH OFFICE AND CHURCH ROOMS EXPENSES

	2023	2022
Cleaning	3,329	3,029
Water rates	1,047	714
Printing, postage and stationery	3,951	3,650
Telephone and internet	2,104	1,707
Bank charges	534	572
Salaries attributed to parish office, property and governance	0	0
General office costs	50	304
	11,015	9,976
Allocated:		
Church Hall Lettings	3,300	3,000
Governance costs	7,715	6,976

12. MAJOR REPAIRS

Repairs were made to the Buttress and downpipe at St Neots church by Strickland at a cost of £17,422

The Emergency Exit in the Church Rooms was widened and renewed at a cost of £8,096

13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The PCC entered into an arrangement for the supply of cleaning services with a PCC member. During the financial year a total of £2,311 was paid for those services. There are no outstanding balances with this related party.

The PCC has entered into no other material transactions, contracts or other arrangements (including grants) with any related party. Certain transactions, including donations of any money or in kind, from PCC members or those closely connected to them, are unlikely to influence the separate independent interests of the PCC and therefore need not be disclosed.

14. CHARITABLE GIVING AND SPECIAL EFFORTS

	2023	2022
General Funds:		
Loves Farm Community Debt Advice	200	300
St Neots Womens' Refuge	500	500
Embrace the Middle East	500	500
Actios	500	500
Feed the Minds	300	300
The Mission to Seafarers	300	350
USPG	300	300
Leprosy Mission	500	500
Bible Society	300	300
Church Army	500	800
Crosslinks John Lobei	500	500
The Children's Society	350	300
CMS	1,000	1250
Parish Youth Provision	200	300
Ripple Effect	300	300
Mission Aviation Fellowship	300	300
Salvation Army		200
Cancer Research		200
St Neots Food Bank	350	
Earthquake appeal (donations collected)	1	
Total Charitable Payments	6,901	7,700