

East Vale Ministry Area

Registered Charity 1200840

Examined Accounts and Annual Report 31 December 2023



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TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Our Mission Statement

We are eight churches, united in serving the communities of the East Vale sharing our faith in the love of Jesus. The link to the website is <https://eastvalechurches.org.uk>

Missional Aims of our Ministry Area 2

To develop a worship pattern which incorporates the needs of our communities, building on our successful online worship and Morning Prayer.

To expand the outreach and engagement with our schools in the Ministry Area and the young people in our communities.

To build on excellent ecumenical links across the Ministry Area.

To recognise and address the needs of our rural communities, especially in respect of loneliness and isolation across all age groups.

To encourage and further develop our lay leadership, particularly in the strategic leadership team in the Ministry Area.

Introduction

This document has been written in consultation with the following churches:-

St Bride – St Brides Super Ely

St Cadoc – Pendoylan

St Dunwyd – Welsh St Donats

St Mary – Bonvilston

St Nicholas – St Nicholas

St Peter – Peterston-Super- Ely

St Cadoc – Llancarfan

St Illtyd – Llantrithyd

Each of these churches has produced its own Annual Report to present to its own congregation at the Annual Congregational Meetings.

The EVMA is also responsible for the churchyard at St George's, the church itself having closed a few years ago. The clergy endeavour to maintain close links with the community of St George's and a group sang carols around the village at Christmas.

2023 East Vale Ministry Area Leadership Team (MAC) / Trustees

Canon Martyn Davies, EVMA Leader; *Rev Michael John*, Part time Priest; *Rev. Kevin Barry*, self-supporting, part time Priest (retired Dec 2023); *Rev. Peter Watson* (from June 2023); *Rev. Amanda Thomas*, self-supporting Assistant Curate; *Paul Fisher* (Church Warden – Rector's appointment) and then *Alex Rees* from the autumn; *Delyth Hurley* (Church Warden – People's appointment); *Judith Roberts* (Secretary); *Anna Cory* (Treasurer); *Lynne Mordecai*; *Nigel Jones* (resigned during the year); *Katherine Kemp*; *Jane Warner*; *Alan Meredith*; *Gethin Rowlands*.

Each Church's MAC representatives are elected at the respective Congregational Meetings. The People's Warden is proposed and elected at the Annual Vestry as are the officers.

(names in italics are members of the Ministry Area Senior Leadership Team)

The MAC meets regularly approximately quarterly with a meeting of the MALT in between. Meetings of the Church Committees are received by the MAC and any issues concerning the EVMA as a body are discussed.

Outreach

A newsletter is prepared weekly with the times of all church services with the allocated officiating priest and includes links to the website and the live-streamed services from St. Peter's. It also includes details of forthcoming events in the various churches and communities, sometimes photographs of interest, contact details for the clergy and safeguarding officer, etc. This is circulated to the church coordinators who then distribute it by e-mail to their congregation and other interested parties or by hard copies to those who are not on e-mail. The newsletter is also uploaded to the website along with the clergy rota.

Many of our church porches act as depots for items donated to the Food Bank by the congregation as well as members of the local communities. The results of the regular collections and the items urgently required are made known via social media. This is perceived by many to be a "Church-led" initiative which improves the visibility and standing of the church in the local community.

Other charities have also benefitted from local church initiatives such as Lent Lunches, coffee mornings, gift days etc.

The Sunday Service at St Peter's is live-streamed and can be accessed by anyone with the link on the newsletter. Weddings, funeral and baptisms can also be live streamed on request. We have ascertained that a great many people access the church service by this means every week. The link to access it is <https://ipcamlive.com/stpeterspeterstonsely>

Church Services

Our return to 'face to face' Church services following the pandemic has seen a slight decrease in attendance. Each Church normally has a Eucharist Service every Sunday (St Mary's, Bonvilston has a family Service on the first Sunday of the month and Holy Eucharist on the third Sunday). St Peter's, Peterston-super-Ely has introduced an evening or afternoon (in winter months) choral service, usually on the last Sunday of the month where one in three services is Choral Evensong.

A mid-week Holy Eucharist is held every Wednesday at noon in St Peter's with an average attendance of 8.

In Lent there is an additional noon Eucharist at Llancarfan.

On the fifth Sunday of the month there is just one service in the EVMA at 10.30, with each church hosting the service in turn. This service is popular and usually attended by around 35 people.

The Clergy

We are grateful for the support, both in practical and pastoral terms, of our excellent clergy team. Father Kevin retired in December 2023. Rev. Amanda, our self-supporting Assistant Curate was ordained priest in June. At the same time, we were joined by Father Peter Watson, part time. We are also fortunate to have been allocated Rachel Petley for the duration of her three-year training as an Ordinand.

Children's Ministry

The clergy are regularly involved in school worship sessions with our Church in Wales primary schools (St Nicholas, Pendoylan and Peterston-super-Ely). "Open the Book" has been introduced in all three schools on a regular basis involving the dramatization of Bible stories, with a Team including clergy and lay people. There is also a family worship service based in Pendoylan school on the second Sunday of the month, which is well attended. Father Michael introduced "Life Path" in Llancafarn in June, involving year 5 children from all our church schools in exploring the lives of monks. This will be repeated in 2024.

However, it has been difficult to engage families in the regular worship and life of the church outside the school day. Certain special services, such as the Pet Blessing Service at St Peter's and Crib services, are well attended but have not resulted in any firm commitment by families to regular worship.

In July, Rachel organised a "Walkin' Talkin' Natter Hatter" afternoon in Peterston, which was attended by Bishop Mary and many local families during which the Community Orchard was blessed and an afternoon tea was enjoyed by all. In September, a second Family Eco event took place at St Illtyd's Church, Llantrithyd, which attracted a number of families. The environment is a subject close to the heart of many school children and, with the opportunity to take part in various craft activities, seed planting, etc. as well as a general tidy-up of the churchyard, it was an excellent opportunity to encourage "caring for God's creation".

It is hoped to continue these events, moving around different churches in the EVMA, varying the themes and formats so as to engage with as many families as possible.

The Electoral Roll

The total number on the Electoral Roll for the EVMA is 163 with the numbers for each church as follows:

St Dunwyd, WSD	15
St Cadoc's, Llancafarn	30
St Illtyd's, Llantrithyd	11
St Bride's	14
St Cadoc's Pendoylan	15
St Nicholas	17
St Mary's Bonvilston	10
St Peter's, Peterston-super-Ely	51

Church Buildings and Faculties granted

St Illtyd's, Llantrithyd has applied for and been granted faculties for weather-proofing the tower and replacing some slate louvres. Other faculty requests are pending.

Most churches are expecting their (delayed) Quinquennial Inspection during 2024.

Finances

The consolidated accounts for 2023 show total unrestricted income of £139,037 and costs of £144,641. This meant that at the end of the year there was an unrestricted deficit of £5,604. There was a variation across the churches with both St Peters and St Marys showing a surplus for the year but all other churches recording a deficit.

It is good to see significant levels of planned giving across the churches and the resulting Gift Aid tax rebates.

Our biggest cost was the Fairer Share payment to the diocese towards the cost of our clergy of £70,326 which is 49% of our total expenditure from unrestricted funds. The other most significant costs were electricity of £12,904, church maintenance and repairs of £10,996 and church insurance of £6,993.

At the end of the year the total unrestricted reserves were £290,302 which is a healthy position. However, again the position varies across the churches with some having quite low levels of restricted reserves. It is also important to remember that we all have old buildings which require periodic costly maintenance which could quickly deplete those reserves.

Approved by order of the board of Trustees on 22 July 2024 and signed and its behalf by:

Anna Cory (Treasurer)



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF EAST VALE MINISTRY AREA 2023

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of East Vale Ministry Area

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of East Vale Ministry Area ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

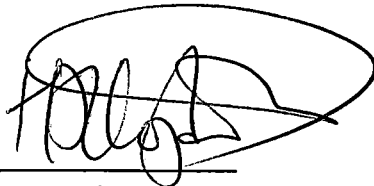
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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 in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
2. the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
3. the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Henry Lloyd Davies

Bevan Buckland LLP
Ground Floor Cardigan House
Castle Court
Swansea Enterprise Park
Swansea
SA7 9LA

Date: 22/4/2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Total Funds £
Receipts:						
Donations and legacies	94,789.02	-	9,932.93	-	104,721.95	85,592.54
Receipts from charitable activities	11,250.00	-	1,084.00	-	12,334.00	7,432.00
Other trading activities	26,143.80	-	58.32	-	26,202.12	24,318.68
Investments	6,854.33	-	1,622.78	-	8,477.11	2,246.86
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	139,037.15	-	12,698.03	-	151,735.18	119,590.08
Payments:						
Raising funds	2,861.44	-	-	-	2,861.44	1,488.00
Payments on charitable activities	141,779.75	-	14,105.40	-	155,885.15	134,742.86
Other payments	-	-	-	-	-	14,661.22
Total payments	144,641.19	-	14,105.40	-	158,746.59	150,892.08
Net receipts / (payments) resources before transfer	(5,604.04)	-	(1,407.37)	-	(7,011.41)	(31,302.00)
Transfers:						
Gross transfers between funds - in	23,810.67	5,851.00	59,549.21	-	89,210.88	74,326.25
Gross transfers between funds – out	(24,340.07)	(5,685.00)	(59,185.81)	-	(89,210.88)	(74,326.25)
Other recognised gains / losses:						
Gains/losses on investment assets	1,467.79	-	1,500.39	-	2,968.18	(5,720.26)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(4,665.65)	166.00	456.42	-	(4,043.23)	(37,022.26)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	294,385.41	416.34	231,222.06	-	526,023.81	563,046.07
Total funds carried forward	289,719.76	582.34	231,678.48	-	521,980.58	526,023.81

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	At 31/12/2023 £	At 31/12/2022 £
Current assets						
Debtors	-	-	19.57	-	19.57	118.67
Investments	27,780.15	-	77,148.98	-	104,929.13	53,664.77
Cash at Bank and in Hand	261,939.61	582.34	154,509.93	-	417,031.88	472,240.37
	289,719.76	582.34	231,678.48	-	521,980.58	526,023.81
Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total assets less liabilities	289,719.76	582.34	231,678.48	-	521,980.58	526,023.81
Represented by:						
<u>Unrestricted</u>						
General Fund	289,719.76	-	-	-	289,719.76	294,385.41
<u>Designated</u>						
Bonvilston 100 Club	-	477.00	-	-	477.00	495.00
Bonvilston Tower	-	-	-	-	-	(184.00)
St Georges Churchyards	-	105.34	-	-	105.34	105.34
<u>Restricted</u>						
Bonvilston Chancel Repair	-	-	1,460.25	-	1,460.25	1,278.00
Bonvilston Churchyard	-	-	164.00	-	164.00	164.00
Bonvilston Special	-	-	5,099.20	-	5,099.20	4,877.42
Bonvilston Tower	-	-	21,304.79	-	21,304.79	20,228.79
Children's Fund	-	-	566.90	-	566.90	-
Diocesan Grant	-	-	1,761.16	-	1,761.16	1,761.16
Incumbent's Fund	-	-	1,108.10	-	1,108.10	3,996.50
PSE Organ Fund	-	-	2,939.68	-	2,939.68	2,939.68
Pendoylan Bells	-	-	15,861.51	-	15,861.51	15,034.59
Pendoylan Chancel Repair	-	-	8,728.92	-	8,728.92	7,928.74
Restoration Project	-	-	43,634.44	-	43,634.44	43,634.44
Simon Gibson Trust	-	-	33,370.77	-	33,370.77	28,370.77
St Brides Churchyard	-	-	(1,626.00)	-	(1,626.00)	(2,079.00)
St Nicholas Appeal	-	-	74,410.48	-	74,410.48	78,969.85
St Nicholas Churchyard	-	-	1,854.54	-	1,854.54	1,454.54
St Georges Churchyards	-	-	941.40	-	941.40	1,475.40
WSD Chancel Repair Fund	-	-	2,770.05	-	2,770.05	4,753.40
WSD Churchyard	-	-	17,328.29	-	17,328.29	16,433.78
Funds Total	289,719.76	582.34	231,678.48	-	521,980.58	526,023.81