

SEVERN WYE MINISTRY AREA

England & Wales - Charity number 1203570

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2023-06-15

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Peveril
Chapel Close
Pwllmeyric
Chepstow
Gwent
NP16 6HW

Phone 07754306229

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Website severnwyema.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PROMOTION OF THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH, PASTORAL, EVANGELISTIC, SOCIAL AND ECUMENICAL, IN THE PARISH.

Activities: The Severn Wye Ministry Area is an Anglican parish in the Church in Wales Diocese of Monmouth. We provide church and other services in our buildings and community activities in our church halls. We provide pastoral care to the communities which we serve and proclaim the Gospel of Christ.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Monmouthshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£250,050	£280,307	-	-
2023-12-31	£230,095	£267,104	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Zoe Louise Pimentel	Chair	2024-05-07
Anne Forbes Octon		2022-11-30
CATHERINE ANNE HIGGS		2023-04-27
Catherine Timothy		2022-11-30
Cynthia Nellie Ann Matthews		2022-11-30
David Robert George Carne		2023-07-03
Hilary Claire Hillier		2022-11-30
KEVIN DOUGLAS HIGGS		2022-11-30
Lynne Margaret Brierley		2022-11-30
Michael John Gollop		2022-11-30
Peter Blakeborough Kenington		2022-11-30
Rev Barnabas Pimentel		2024-05-07
Rev Philip Roger Averay		2022-11-30
Rosalind Louise Downs		2022-11-30
Verena Evans		2022-11-30
Wendy Margaret Montague		2022-11-30

SEVERN WYE MINISTRY AREA

England & Wales - Charity number 1203570

Accounts

The Church in Wales
Diocese of Monmouth

The Severn Wye Ministry Area
Annual Report
Year Ending 31st December
2024



The Severn Wye
Ministry Area

Charity number: 1203570

The Ministry Area Council of the Severn Wye Ministry Area

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2024

Structure and Governance

The Severn Wye Ministry Area is a grouping of twelve Churches in the Diocese of Monmouth in the Anglican province of the Church in Wales. The Ministry Area was formally inaugurated in November 2022. The following church communities are part of the Ministry Area: -

St Andoenus, Mounton
St Arvan, St Arvans
St Christopher, Chepstow
St Deiniol, Itton
Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg
St James, Devauden
St Mary, Penterry
St Mary's Priory, Chepstow
St Peter, Newchurch
St Peter, St Pierre
St Tewdric, Mathern
St Thomas a Becket, Shirenewton

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales holds the land and property of the Church in Wales, they are an exempt Charity set up under Section 13(2) of the Welsh Churches Act 1914. They act on behalf of the province in paying the stipends of the full-time clergy and administering the Church in Wales's scheme of gift aid. The Ministry Area Council acts as Parochial Church Council and Charity Trustees for the entire Ministry Area. It is not a corporate body, and its composition, procedure and powers are regulated by the Constitution of the Church in Wales. Trustees are elected annually and as far as possible are formed as one representative from each church, as well as the lay co-chair, treasurer, secretary and Ministry Area Wardens. The trustees met 4 times during 2024.

The charity was formally registered on 15 June 2023.

Prior to this, none of the individual churches were registered as charities in their own right, coming under the umbrella of the Church in Wales.

The Trustees

The trustees who served the Charity during the calendar year 2024 were:

Rev Barnabas Pimentel (Ministry Area co-leader from 7 May 2024)
Rev Zoe Louise Pimentel (Ministry Area co-leader from 7 May 2024)
Rev Philip Roger Averay (Ministry Area Leader from 22 November 2023 – 6 May 2024)
Rev Michael John Gollop
David Robert George Carne (Warden)
Rosalind Louise Downs (Warden)
Hilary Claire Hillier (Lay Co-chair)
Kevin Douglas Higgs (Treasurer)
Verena Evans
Catherine Anne Higgs
Lynne Margaret Brierley
Peter Blakeborough Kenington
Cynthia Nellie Anne Matthews
Wendy Margaret Montague
Anne Forbes Octon
Catherine Timothy
Mathew Geoffrey Brown (resigned 12 February 2024)

Principle Address

Peveril
Chapel Close
Pwllmeyric
Chepstow
NP16 6HW

Independent Examiner

Hannah Simpson FCCA
HLS Accounting
59 Llwyn Y Pia Road
Lisvane
Cardiff
CF14 0SX

Objectives and Activities

Objectives and aims

The charitable object of Severn Wye Ministry Area is the promotion of the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Our top priorities for 2024 were:

Prayer – covering the Ministry Area, its people and its activities with prayer

Positivity – planning and looking forward to the future in a spirit of optimism

Growth – growing our communities and congregations, as well as growing our own individual faith and discipleship

Activities

The regular activities of the Ministry Area include:

- Conducting regular Christian worship including the Holy Eucharist, marriages, funerals and baptisms;
- The provision and maintenance of the fabric of each of the twelve churches, churchyards and associated buildings;
- The maintenance of Christian burial places;
- Promoting the study of Christian teaching, practices and Scripture;
- The provision of means and encouragement to promote fellowship within the membership of the Churches and the wider community;
- Pastoral care: providing counselling, and visiting the sick, dying, bereaved, lonely and vulnerable.

Following the retirement of Rev Julian White at the end of 2023, the recruitment process resulted in the appointment of husband and wife team Reverends Zoe and Barnabus (Barney) Pimentel. They took over as joint Ministry Area Leaders from Philip Averay, who was pleased to return to his former ministry as team vicar. They were also jointly appointed as Leaders of the new Saints Chepstow initiative.

Prayer

A quote attributed to Saint Augustine reads “Pray as if everything depends on God; work as if everything depends on you.” If we are to see positive outcomes then prayer and action go hand in hand. There has been a focus on our prayer life in 2024.

- The MA prayer group meets weekly visiting a different church each week, covering the whole MA in prayer, praying for the sick and the bereaved, and for growth and for God’s abundance, praying for the clergy, praying for the new Saints Chepstow project, praying for our buildings. Our personal prayers have also been for all these things. Everything that is going on in the MA has been covered in prayer.
- We held sessions on contemplative Prayer during Lent and Advent and there are weekly lunch time meditations at the Priory.
- We also held a monthly Taize contemplative prayer and music service

Positivity

There were many positives in 2024:

- A full clergy compliment in place.
- The launch of Saints Chepstow in September – with the appointment of a full-time children & families pioneer in addition to the Joint Leaders. This initiative is fully funded by the Representative Body of the Church in Wales for 5 years and the Chepstow Saints is one of two “pioneering” initiatives in the Diocese intended to establish a new worshipping community with new ways of reaching out and worship. We are aiming to try out new ideas, to see what works and to bring knowledge of the Gospel and Christian life to the younger generation
- One person exploring ordination
- Formation of a finance group that is sharing ideas, and looking at ways to make sure we are stewarding our finances the best we can
- Buildings - St Pierre completed some repairs to the wall memorials that were dangerous
- Devauden has had a lot of work done, porch is finished and new door in place
- Mathern tower repairs, enough grants were secured in 2024, and work is currently underway

- The transformation of the Priory Hall into a community gym, which is offering something to the community as well as an income stream for the church
- 3 contactless payment machines (paid for through grants) that helped our finances over the busy Christmas period, and have resulted in a steady ongoing income stream, particularly in the Priory
- Open churches week - 3 of our Churches were involved, in drawing the community into our churches through a series of events
- The Warm Space in St Christophers has continued throughout the year and is an important contribution to many isolated and vulnerable people. We are also very grateful to Lidl supermarket for donating bakery goods each week
- The St Arvans tea and chat social club is continuing to flourish and support particularly the elderly in the village
- The many social and fundraising events across our churches are too numerous to name, but they help to keep our churches used by the wider community and support us financially.

It's so easy to only focus on the negatives that we sometimes miss all the positive things that are happening, let's continue to develop a culture of positivity

Growth

The third focus was Growth. We want to grow numerically and financially but also, we want to grow our faith deeper, we want to grow the gifts God has given us and we want to grow in confidence in sharing our faith with others.

- We had 3 sessions on stewardship delivered by the diocese towards the end of 2024 which generated some ideas across the churches that will show fruit in the future.
- We had growth in regular giving - our accounts show £8k extra in regular giving compared to 2023, and £10k extra in loose plate collections compared to 2023, this is so encouraging.
- Attendance - Attendance (including festivals) was up 15% compared to 2023, and regular Sunday attendance up around 9%. More people worship and more regularly worship across our MA.
- 5 people were baptised and confirmed by the Bishop in September as well as a number of infant baptisms, including one at Kilgwrrwg which hadn't had a baptism for many decades
- A Commissioned worship leader course started in September. 12 people came - some topping up their training and 4 new people starting. We also have a commissioned Pastoral

Assistant - and we will be looking to run a further training course on that in 2025. This is not just growth in the number of people who can lead services, but this growth is personal growth in the gifts of God's people.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard for public benefit. The object for which the charity is established is the promotion of the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The achievements of the Charity in meeting these objectives for 2023 have been summarised in this report.

21/10/2025

Approved by order of the board of trustees onand signed on its behalf by:

Pimentel

[Pimentel \(Oct 21, 2025 15:04:08 GMT+1\)](#)

.....

Barney Pimentel - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Severn Wye Ministry Area

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Severn Wye Ministry Area

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the 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 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 respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the 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.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the accounts (financial statements) in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has since been withdrawn.

We understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have no other 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.

Hannah Simpson

Hannah Simpson FCCA
HLS Accounting Limited
59 Llwyn Y Pia Road
Cardiff
CF14 0SX

28/10/2025

Date:

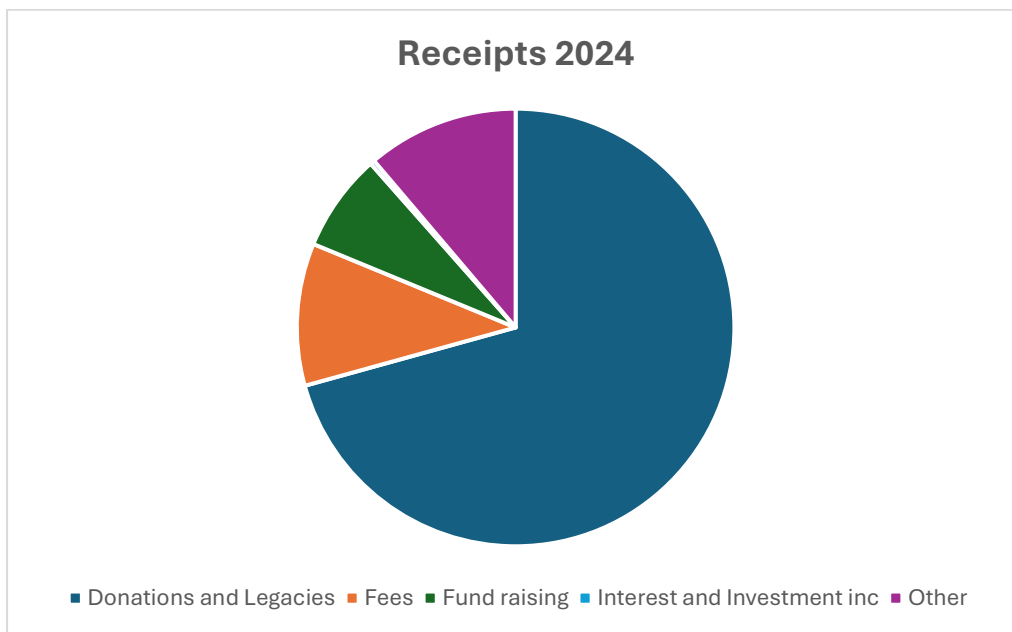
Financial Review

Receipts and Payments

Total receipts in 2024 were £250,050.20, an increase of 8.7% over 2023.

The main components of this were:

	2024 £	(2023) £
Donations and Legacies	176,796.66	(137,288.30)
Fees for funerals, weddings, baptisms etc	26,322.00	(25,476.00)
Fund raising	18,100.69	(18,702.56)
Interest and investment income	817.57	(24,007.15)
Other	28,013.28	(24,575.88)
Total	250,050.20	(230,049.89)



The largest single component of income was from donations. Of the £176,796.66, just over £61,000 was planned giving, which was an increase of 17% compared with 2023. £17,900 was tax recovered through Gift Aid.

Weekly Loose plate offerings were £26,438.93. This was also a significant increase on 2023. These increases in giving by our congregations were largely a result of an information campaign around the churches, to make people more aware of the cost of our continuing ministry and the importance of a regular commitment – basically it costs us around £20 per person per week to pay for our priests.

A further £800 was collected during baptisms, weddings and funerals.

One off Donations were £20,300.

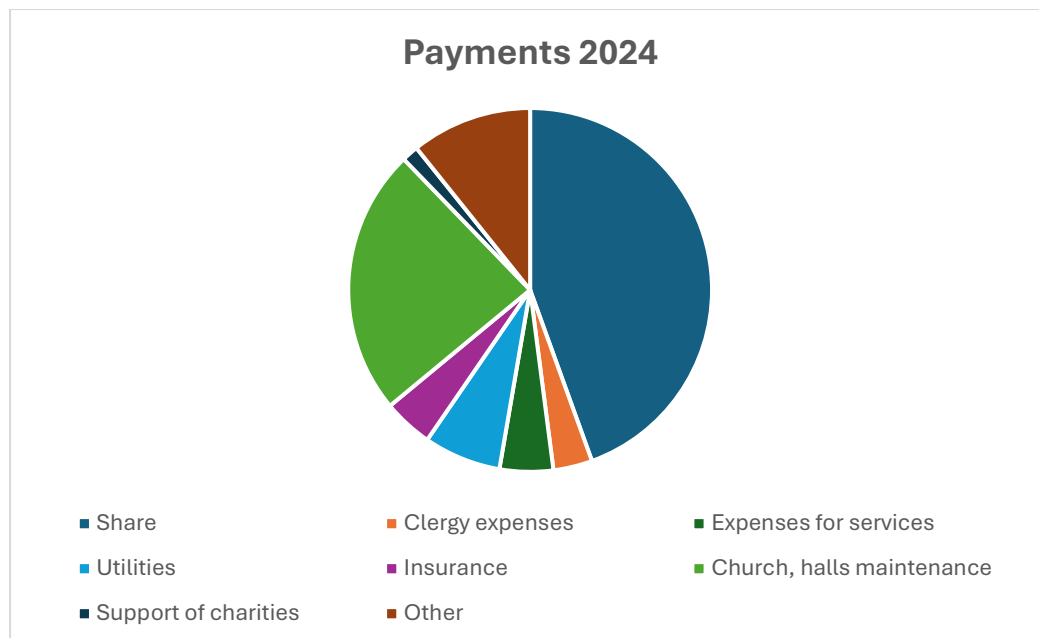
Contactless donations were £2,075, higher than the £1,253 in 2023, but we think there is still scope for increasing the amount in future.

Income from investments is very low, and is largely due to the fact that each individual church account hold its own reserves which are generally quite small and earn very little interest. Moving forward we intend to consolidate these accounts so that a higher return can be achieved.

Total payments in 2024 were £280,307.32

The main components of this were:

	2024 £	(2023) £
Diocesan share	124,679.46	(146,791.88)
Clergy and vicarage expenses	9,723.61	(12,634.32)
Expenses for worship services	13,344.35	(13,402.39)
Utilities	19,257.19	(23,173.49)
Insurance	12,403.02	(13,086.30)
Church, halls and churchyard maintenance	63,493.42	(27,246.20)
Support for other charities	4,140.30	(6,833.64)
Other	30,130.76	(23,935.56)
Total	280,307.32	(266,993.52)



The largest single component, accounting for just under 45% of total expenditure, is the Diocesan share. This is largely to pay the costs of our 3 stipendiary priests and

is set by the Diocese. The MA share for 2024 was fully paid but some payments slipped into the following financial year. The share due amounted to £132,082.

Insurance is through Ecclesiastical Insurance – this is negotiated through the Church in Wales.

The accounts show an overall operating deficit of £30,257.12 for 2024 – a slight improvement on 2023.

The main loss was made by St Mary's Priory Church: an operating loss of £27,561.63

Several other churches also had small deficits.

Balance sheet

Total assets at the end of 2024 were £608,606.51. This was a slight decrease on 2023, (£611,873.61).

A significant proportion of our reserves are held in restricted (£214,000) and designated (£64,000) funds which reduces our flexibility.

Accounting system and independent examination

The MA accounts are prepared using the MyFundAccounting software to the Church in Wales recommended format. Figures are provided by each church into the central software which allows the trustees to monitor our overall situation. Reports can be run for each individual church as well as the consolidated accounts.

An independent examination has been carried out by Hannah Simpson FCCA of HLS Accounting Limited for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Future prospects

Whilst our reserves remain healthy, the Ministry Area trustees recognise the urgent need to bring our churches into a more sustainable financial situation moving forward, especially given the ongoing costs of maintenance and repair of so many ancient buildings. Our campaign to raise awareness of the costs of running our churches has had some success which we expect will continue in 2025, and we want to extend this further in the local communities. The whole Ministry Area needs average weekly contributions amounting to over £20 per person per week to be financially viable. Regrettably we still fall short of this target despite improvement.

We hope to encourage greater donations through contactless payment, especially in our churches with larger footfall and at weddings and funerals and special services.

Our primary objective, of course, is to spread the Gospel of Christ, and we hope that in our missional and outreach work we will be drawing new people to the Church, which will increase our income too.

We have also established a Financial subgroup to look at ways of reducing expenditure and increasing our income. The long term letting of the Cavill Hall is will bring in increased revenue and reduce maintenance costs. However, the Diocesan Share payment is expected to increase by around 5% per year.

Property

Mathern have succeeded in securing the donations and grants necessary to fund the work on the tower.

Work on the first phase of repairs at Devauden has also been successfully completed. The work is being supported by grants from CADW, the Representative Body of the Church in Wales and Monmouth Diocese, Headley Trust, Welsh Church Act Funds, Benefact Trust and the Oakdale Trust.

There remains a catalogue of outstanding works which need to be done to the basic fabric of several churches.

St Arvans estimate around £30,000 to sort out a recurring damp problem;

Shirenewton need to undertake repairs to their Church Rooms, estimated at approximately £20,000;

St Pierre have damage to the churchyard wall, which overall could cost up to £40,000 to rectify;

St Mary's Chepstow requires major works on the tower, drains and stonework. There is also an urgent need for improvements to allow more flexible use of the building – including the installation of a kitchen and toilets. The most urgent repairs and the improvements are likely to cost around £1m and professional advice is being sought on project management and fund raising. , The Friends of Chepstow Priory organisation is also supporting these projects.









The Severn Wye Ministry Area - Charity Accounts 31.12.24 - corrected spelling

Final Audit Report

2025-10-28

Created:	2025-10-21
By:	Hannah Simpson (hannah@hlsaccounting.co.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAeMAjqVWE6581phV2bilpKSCUh76N4RIA

"The Severn Wye Ministry Area - Charity Accounts 31.12.24 - corrected spelling" History

-  Document created by Hannah Simpson (hannah@hlsaccounting.co.uk)
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-  Document e-signed by Hannah Simpson (hannah@hlsaccounting.co.uk)
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SEVERN WYE MINISTRY AREA

England & Wales - Charity number 1203570

Accounts

The Church in Wales
Diocese of Monmouth

The Severn Wye Ministry Area
Annual Report
Year Ending 31st December
2023



The Severn Wye
Ministry Area

Charity number: 1203570

The Ministry Area Council of the Severn Wye Ministry Area

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2023

Structure and Governance

The Severn Wye Ministry Area is a grouping of twelve Churches in the Diocese of Monmouth in the Anglican province of the Church in Wales. The Ministry Area was formally inaugurated in November 2022. The following church communities are part of the Ministry Area: -

St Andoenus, Mounton
St Arvan, St Arvans
St Christopher, Chepstow
St Deiniol, Itton
Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg
St James, Devauden
St Mary, Penterry
St Mary's Priory, Chepstow
St Peter, Newchurch
St Peter, St Pierre
St Tewdric, Mathern
St Thomas a Becket, Shirenewton

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales holds the land and property of the Church in Wales, they are an exempt Charity set up under Section 13(2) of the Welsh Churches Act 1914. They act on behalf of the province in paying the stipends of the full-time clergy and administering the Church in Wales's scheme of gift aid. The Ministry Area Council acts as Parochial Church Council and Charity Trustees for the entire Ministry Area. It is not a body corporate, and its composition, procedure and powers are regulated by the Constitution of the Church in Wales. Trustees are elected annually and as far as possible are formed as one representative from each church; the trustees met 5 times during 2023.

2023 was a transitional period as the new Ministry Area was formed and the church began the process of gaining charitable status as 'The Severn Wye Ministry Area.' The charity was formally registered on 15 June 2023. Prior to this, none of the individual churches were registered as charities in their own right, coming under the umbrella of the Church in Wales.

The Trustees

The trustees who served the Charity during the period from the Annual General Meeting in November 2022 until the end of the calendar year 2023 were as follows:-

Rev Philip Roger Averay (Ministry Area Leader)

Rev Michael John Gollop

David Robert George Carne (Warden)

Rosalind Louise Downs (Warden)

Hilary Claire Hillier (Lay Co-chair)

Kevin Douglas Higgs (Treasurer)

Verena Evans

Catherine Anne Higgs

Lynne Margaret Brierley

Peter Blakeborough Kenington

Cynthia Nellie Anne Matthews

Wendy Margaret Montague

Anne Forbes Octon

Catherine Timothy

Matthew Geoffrey Brown

Retired: Rev Julian Edward Llewellyn White (retired 05/11/2023)

Registered address: Peveril, Chapel Close, Pwllmeyric, Chepstow NP16 6HW

Auditor

Raymond J Lewin FCA

R J Lewin Company Limited

17 Wyelands View

Chepstow

NP16 6HN

Objectives and Activities

Objectives and aims

The charitable object of Severn Wye Ministry Area is the promotion of the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Our two top priorities for the first year were:

Cohesion/Working Together - encouraging the church communities to work together, engaging the sceptics, building trust. Generating enthusiasm and energy
Outreach /Going for Growth – engaging with more people, particularly those in younger age groups through a range of new initiatives

Activities

During 2023 the 12 Churches came together and formed 'The Severn Wye Ministry Area'. The 12 individual Churches still exist with their own identities and historic character but are now on a journey to see how best to work together to better promote the whole mission of the Church. The regular activities of the ministry include:

- Conducting regular Christian worship including the Holy Eucharist, marriages, funerals and baptisms;
- The provision and maintenance of the fabric of each of the twelve churches, churchyards and associated buildings;
- The maintenance of Christian burial places;
- Promoting the study of Christian teaching, practices and Scripture;
- The provision of means and encouragement to promote fellowship within the membership of the Churches and the wider community;
- Pastoral care: providing counselling, and visiting the sick, dying, bereaved, lonely and vulnerable.

The Churches have continued to establish working procedures and are getting to know one another. Our financial systems were established, with use of the common account software required by the Church in Wales. Clergy rotas became established, and also use of the Common Lectionary for worship. The three year cycle of readings is enriching – as well as making it much easier for our Clergy who can take up to three services on a Sunday. Most of our churches offer worship services every week, and Chepstow Priory and St Arvans also hold weekday Eucharists. A Ministry Area wide prayer group has been established and met in

every church during the year. We also have a Ministry Area wide bible study group based at Shirenewton.

The Rev Julian Edward Llewellyn White retired in November after more than 20 years of faithful ministry in this area, marking the end of an era. He will be sadly missed and the whole Ministry Area wishes him well in his retirement.

The LyCiG (“Leading Your Church into Growth”) conference in October was attended by the Ministry Area Leader and the Lay Co-chair. It was inspiring and spurred us on to develop priorities and an action plan to help grow our churches – already being put in place, with new café services monthly in Shirenewton, and a new Family friendly communion service in Devauden.

A ‘warm space’ was started in Autumn 2022 and runs during the day on Monday and Tuesday at St Christopher's. It offers a safe, warm place to come and socialise and get some food which is very kindly given free by Lidl supermarket, which operates next door to the Church. It regularly attracts between 20 and 30 people although on occasions it has seen a footfall of over 40. The guests age ranges are from toddlers accompanied by their parents, through to children brought in on their way home from school, up to and including folk who are in their mid 90's. Some are simply lonely others have mild dementia or depression. The warm space project is overseen by Rev John Waters and run by a dedicated team of volunteers. Prior to Christmas 2023, attendees asked for and enjoyed two carol-singing services.

St Arvans started a monthly “Tea and Chat” social club run by the church for village residents, catering for around 17-25 people each month. Most of the attendees are elderly and isolated but it also attracts a couple of children, and people who are new to the village. The project is run by volunteers from the church.

The Ministry area was awarded funding from the Representative Body for the creation of a new Hub Church intended to reach out to children, young people and families. We would like to particularly thank Archdeacon Stella Bailey and Dicesan team for their work in developing the bids and getting the funding from the RB. This will mean that in 2024 we will be funded for two full time staff – a ‘Mission Hub leader’ and a ‘Pioneer Children and Families Worker’ plus a part-time administrative worker for five years. This promises to be an exciting time for the Ministry area going forward. Recruitment of staff commences in January 2024, with the expectation of starting work in the Autumn.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard for public benefit. The object for which the

charity is established is the promotion of the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The achievements of the Charity in meeting these objectives for 2023 have been summarised in this report.

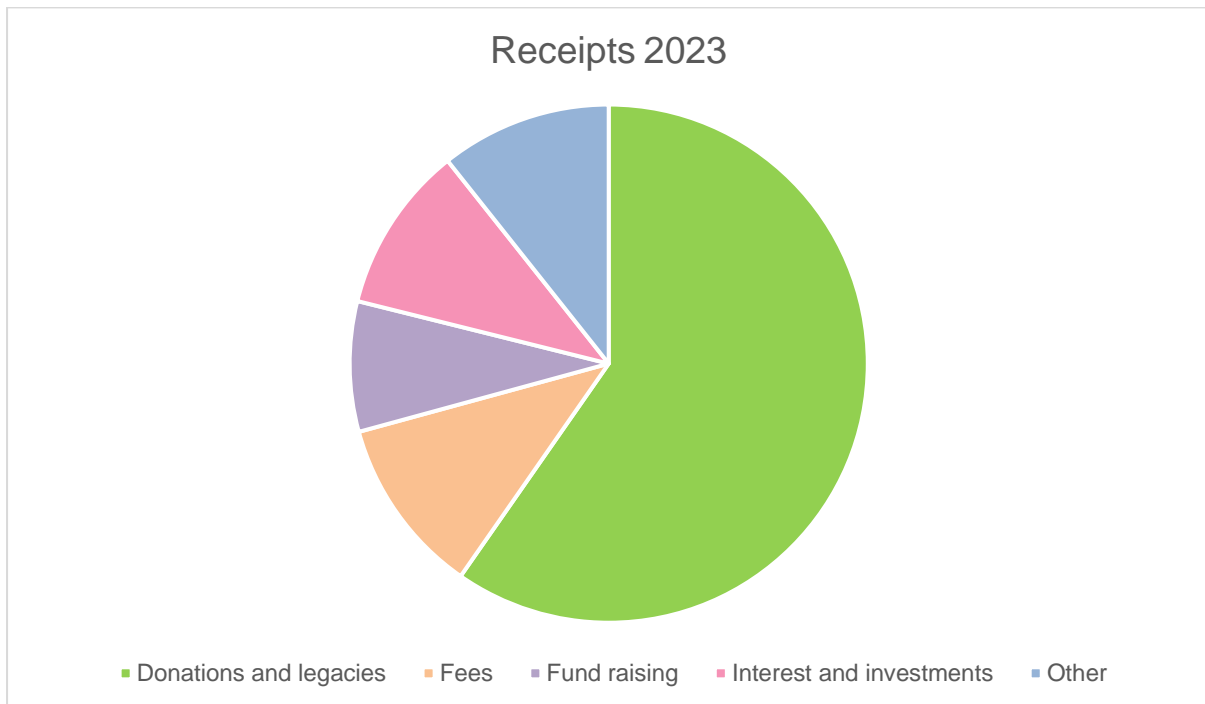
Financial Review

Receipts and Payments

Total **receipts** in 2023 were £230,094.89.

The main components of this were:

Donations and Legacies	137,333.30
Fees for funerals, weddings, baptisms etc	25,476.00
Fund raising	18,702.56
Interest and investment income	24,007.15
Other	24,575.88



The largest single component of income was from donations. Of the £137,333.30, just over £52,000 was planned giving, and £16,100 was tax recovered through Gift Aid. The Church in Wales Gift Aid scheme continues to pay recovered Tax to the Churches, and is the most efficient way for people to contribute with regular giving and making the life of Treasurers so much easier.

Weekly Loose plate offerings were £16,490.51. A further £1,606.01 was collected during baptisms, weddings and funerals.

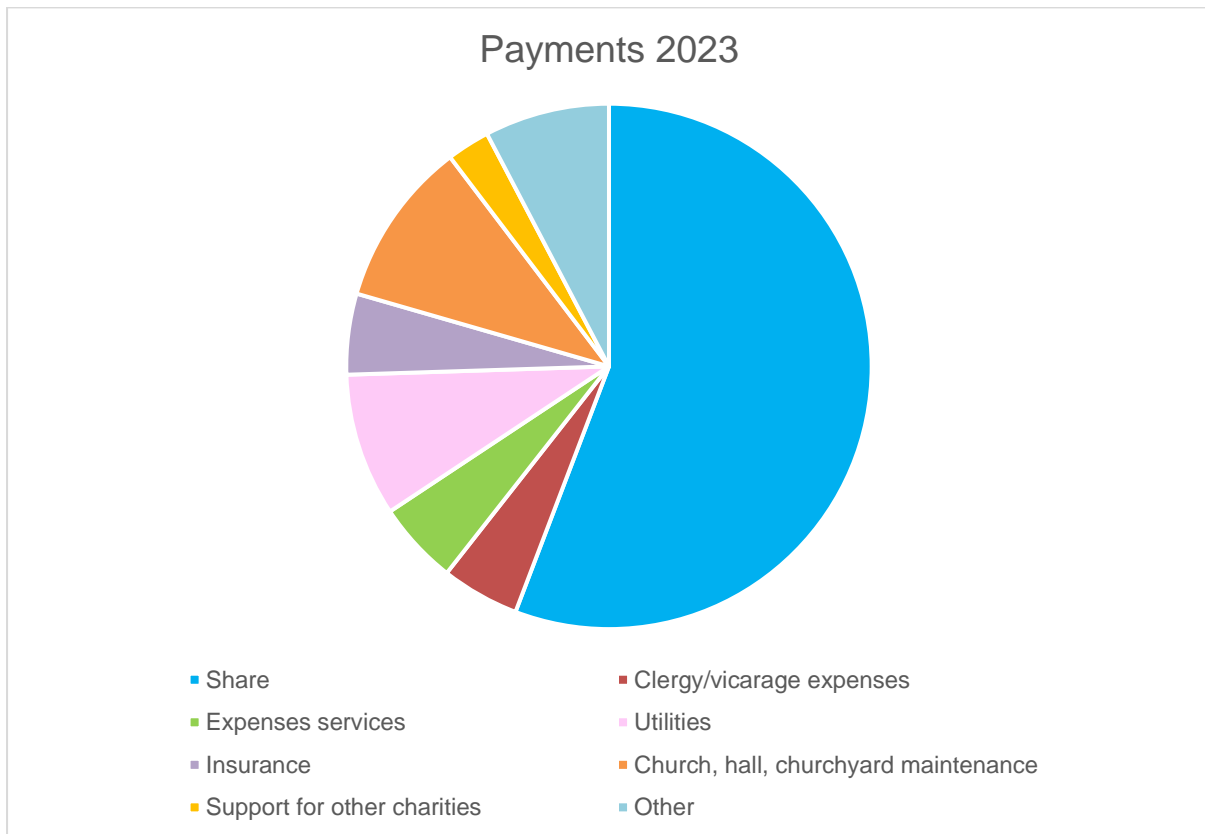
One off Donations were £29,645.08.

So far, contactless donations remain small, only £1253.10 in 2023, but this is an area we will be trying to increase in the future.

Total **payments** in 2023 were £267,103.78

The main components of this were:

Diocesan share	£146,791.88
Clergy and vicarage expenses	£12,634.32
Expenses for services	£13,402.39
Utilities	£23,173.49
Insurance	£13,086.30
Church, halls and churchyard maintenance	£26,821.77
Support for other charities	£6,964.67
Other	£20,228.96



The largest single component, accounting for over 55% of total expenditure, is the Diocesan share. This is largely to pay the costs of our 3 stipendiary priests and is set by the Diocese. The MA share for 2023 was fully paid. This amounted to £146,791.88, which includes some payments for the previous year, but it does cover the full share for 2023 of £126,745.00. A 5% discount (£6,337.24) is paid if we meet the deadlines for each of the four quarterly payments. This was passed back to each church on a proportionate rate.

Insurance is through Ecclesiastical Insurance – this is negotiated through the Church in Wales.

The accounts show an overall **operating deficit of £49,433** for 2023.

The main losses have been made by St Mary's Priory and St Tewdric's Churches:

St Mary's Priory had an operating loss of **£36,735.62**

St Tewdric had an operating loss of **£4,639.57**

Several other churches also made smaller losses.

Balance sheet

Total assets at the end of 2023 were £611,808.35. This was a slight increase on 2022, but that is due to the inclusion of some historic investments and bequests which have been added to our accounts for the first time this year.

A significant proportion of our reserves are held in restricted (£205,000) and designated (£63,000) funds which reduces our flexibility.

Accounting system and auditing

The MA accounts are prepared using the MyFundAccounting software to the Church in Wales recommended format. Figures are provided by each church into the central software which allows the trustees to monitor our overall situation. Reports can be run for each individual church as well as the consolidated accounts.

The accounts for 2023 have been audited by R J Lewin F C A.

Future prospects

Whilst our reserves currently are healthy, the Ministry Area trustees recognise the urgent need to bring our churches into a more sustainable financial situation moving forward. There are a number of elements to our strategy. We will be holding a campaign to raise awareness of the costs of running our churches with both our own existing congregations and in the local communities. The whole Ministry Area needs average weekly contributions amounting to over £20 per person per week to be financially viable. This does not cover giving to missions and charities. Regrettably we fall short of this target despite improvement.

We hope to encourage greater donations through contactless payment, especially in our churches with larger footfall and at weddings and funerals and special services.

Our primary objective, of course, is to spread the Gospel of Christ, and we hope that in our missional and outreach work we will be drawing new people to the Church, which will increase our income too.

We have also established a Financial subgroup to look at ways of reducing expenditure and increasing our income. The long term letting of the Cavill Hall is also expected to bring in increased revenue. However, because of new arrangements for assessing the Diocesan Share payment, introduced in 2022, the share is expected to increase by around 5% per year.

Property

There is a growing catalogue of outstanding works which need to be done to the basic fabric of several churches. A number of churches have significant spending plans to meet the work required by the Quinquennial Inspections;

St Arvans estimate around £30,000 to sort out a recurring damp problem;

Shirenewton need to undertake repairs to their Church Rooms, approximated at around £20,000;

Mathern are using some of their reserves for the tower work, which will be in the region of £100,000 overall;

Devauden are in the process of works totalling £60,000, to repair the roof and deal with the damp problem. The work is being supported by grants from CADW, the Representative Body of the Church in Wales and Monmouth Diocese, Headley Trust, Welsh Church Act Funds, Benefact Trust and the Oakdale Trust.

St Mary's Chepstow requires major works on the tower, drains and stonework, although it is being supported by Friends of Chepstow Priory with these projects.

Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Fixed assets		
6431: Mathern Church Bequest Account - CCLA	36,412.80	44,464.16
6432: Mathern CIF - Brigdr Vaughan-Hughes legacy	6,621.01	-
6433: Mathern CIF - Anonymous Gift	42,521.18	-
6434: Mathern CIF - Chancel Repair Fund	4,158.11	-
6431: Chepstow Charifund Equities Investment - M&G	26,250.00	26,956.04
6432: Chepstow Charibond Fixed Interest - M&G	17,257.29	17,635.03
6433: Chepstow Chancel Repair - RBCiW CIF	33,992.85	30,859.81
6434: Chepstow Sale of St Christopher's House - RBCiW	93,465.23	89,391.90
Total Fixed assets	260,678.47	209,306.94
Current assets		
6501: Vicar & Churchwarden Newchurch - Barclays	7,602.03	9,624.29
6501: Mathern Church Current Account - Barclays	8,788.87	11,357.91
6505: Mathern Church Business Reserve Account - Santander	-	(11.75)
6502: Mathern PCC Churchyard Account - Barclays	26,785.21	25,314.40
6501: Mounton Current Account - Barclays	11,570.44	14,968.99
6505: Mounton Monmouthshire Building Society	(223.61)	(223.61)
6590: Cash in hand	35.57	55.00
6501: St Pierre Current Account - Lloyds	4,544.00	8,746.73
6505: St Pierre NS & I Account	18,978.00	18,978.00
6590: St Pierre Petty Cash	1.00	1.00
6501: Shirenewton PCC Current Account - HSBC	53,002.72	35,379.72
6502: Shirenewton 200 Club Account - HSBC	5,496.31	5,031.35
6503: Shirenewton Charity Committee Account - HSBC	-	15,534.49
6504: Shirenewton Extension Account - HSBC	24,082.58	25,643.14
6506: Chepstow PCC Savings Account - Barclays	6,811.91	6,747.67
6503: Chepstow Bell Ringers Account - Barclays	-	50.00
6505: Chepstow Bell Ringers Savings Account - Barclays	143.10	0.02
6504: Chepstow Bell Augmentation - Barclays	12,470.47	12,290.96
6501: Chepstow PCC General Account - Barclays	82,733.95	119,806.40
6533: Investments property	10.00	10.00
6502: Chepstow St Christopher's Building - Barclays	1,160.22	1,149.27
6501: St Avans PC Maintenance Account - Natwest	(943.31)	12,394.82
6502: Treasurers Account St Avans Church - Lloyds	9,381.93	24,942.39
6505: St Avans Parochial Council Deposit Account - Natwest	53,619.98	23,931.06
6523: Other debtors	2,235.39	8,759.04
6501: Current Account	17,706.24	12,200.93
6505: Deposit Account	5,501.24	5,498.18
6501: Itton Parish Church - Barclays Current Account	7,881.07	5,015.50
Total Current assets	359,375.31	403,195.90
Liabilities		
6602: Other liabilities	8,245.43	14,536.89
Total Liabilities	8,245.43	14,536.89
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	611,808.35	597,965.95

Reserves

Excess/(deficit) to date	(37,008.89)	(32,248.75)
Z01: Starting balances	597,965.95	635,869.80
Z02: Gains/(losses) on investment assets	50,851.29	(5,655.10)
Z03: Gains/(losses) on reval of fixed assets	-	-
Total Reserves	611,808.35	597,965.95

Represented by Funds

General (Unrestricted)	343,458.37	357,786.48
Designated	63,353.93	49,954.45
Restricted	204,996.05	190,225.02
Endowment	-	-
Total	611,808.35	597,965.95

Analysis of Receipts and Payments
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Total Last year
Receipts					
Donations and legacies					
0101 - Standing Order Planned Giving	30,057.88	-	634.00	30,691.88	27,219.31
0102 - Occasional Giving via Bank	320.00	-	-	320.00	1,300.98
0110 - Gift Aid Envelopes - Occasional	4,974.50	-	-	4,974.50	10,210.98
0111 - Gift Direct	18,271.73	-	100.00	18,371.73	18,954.00
0112 - Other planned giving	443.19	-	-	443.19	549.26
0113 - Weekly envelope planned giving	2,892.00	-	-	2,892.00	2,173.50
0201 - Loose plate offering	16,490.51	-	-	16,490.51	22,432.80
0202 - Offerings - Weddings	100.00	-	-	100.00	560.00
0203 - Offerings - Baptisms	100.00	-	-	100.00	55.00
0204 - Offerings - Funerals	1,406.01	-	-	1,406.01	2,179.87
0302 - Wall safe / box donations	2,211.61	-	-	2,211.61	1,826.47
0303 - One off Gift Aid donations	600.00	-	-	600.00	50.00
0304 - Gifts of quoted securities	25.00	-	-	25.00	-
0305 - Donations appeals etc	14,780.37	10,000.00	800.00	25,580.37	12,785.04
0306 - Contactless Donations	1,253.10	-	-	1,253.10	1,936.03
0402 - Other collections/mission appeals	1,864.50	-	-	1,864.50	3,202.09
0501 - Recovered HMRC Gift Aid receipts	11,816.40	-	-	11,816.40	10,513.24
0502 - Recovered HMRC GASDS receipts	689.90	-	-	689.90	367.81
0503 - Recovered Gift Direct Gift Aid	3,597.84	-	-	3,597.84	4,151.38
0601 - Legacies	5,455.48	-	-	5,455.48	2,823.61
0701 - Recurring grants	-	-	-	-	888.21
0702 - Non-recurring one-off grants	6,200.00	2,249.28	-	8,449.28	14,030.00
Donations and legacies Totals	123,550.02	12,249.28	1,534.00	137,333.30	138,209.58
Income from charitable activities (St Peter Newchurch, St Tewdric Mathern, St Andoenus Mounton, St Peter St Pierre, St Thomas a Becket Shirenewton, St Mary Chepstow, St Christopher Bulwark, St Arvan St Arvans, St Mary Penterry, St James Devauden, St Deiniol Itton, Holy Cross Kilgwrrwg, Ministry Area)					
0902 - Wedding fee	4,515.00	-	-	4,515.00	9,605.00
0903 - Blessing fee	413.00	-	-	413.00	-
0904 - Publication of Banns	-	-	-	-	120.00
0905 - Funeral fee	16,141.00	-	1,904.00	18,045.00	17,815.00
0906 - Burial fee	-	-	940.00	940.00	330.00
0907 - Memorial fee	705.00	-	858.00	1,563.00	88.00
Income from charitable activities Totals	21,774.00	-	3,702.00	25,476.00	27,958.00
Other trading activities (St Peter Newchurch, St Tewdric Mathern, St Andoenus Mounton, St Peter St Pierre, St Thomas a Becket Shirenewton, St Mary Chepstow, St Christopher Bulwark, St Arvan St Arvans, St Mary Penterry, St James Devauden, St Deiniol Itton, Holy Cross Kilgwrrwg, Ministry Area)					
0801 - Fund raising	18,702.56	-	-	18,702.56	22,090.98
0802 - Other funds generated	805.16	-	-	805.16	2,891.64
0803 - Hall Rental Income	2,157.50	77.50	-	2,235.00	2,719.50
0804 - Magazine/other publication sales	11,383.00	-	-	11,383.00	9,985.55
0805 - Sundry income	155.00	-	-	155.00	700.51
0806 - Printing Income	-	-	-	-	56.50

	Total				
	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Last year
0807 - Church Building Rental	1,080.50	-	-	1,080.50	2,852.50
0808 - MA/Parish share rebate	8,737.22	-	-	8,737.22	8,097.60
Other trading activities Totals	43,020.94	77.50	-	43,098.44	49,394.78
Investments (St Peter Newchurch, St Tewdric Mathern, St Andoenus Mouton, St Peter St Pierre, St Thomas a Becket Shirenewton, St Mary Chepstow, St Christopher Bulwark, St Arvan St Arvans, St Mary Penterry, St James Devauden, St Deiniol Itton, Holy Cross Kilgwrrwg, Ministry Area)					
1001 - Dividends/investment income	14,096.96	3,289.21	5,447.92	22,834.09	2,161.84
1020 - Bank and building society interest	755.11	32.23	385.72	1,173.06	404.53
Investments Totals	14,852.07	3,321.44	5,833.64	24,007.15	2,566.37
Other income (St Peter Newchurch, St Tewdric Mathern, St Andoenus Mouton, St Peter St Pierre, St Thomas a Becket Shirenewton, St Mary Chepstow, St Christopher Bulwark, St Arvan St Arvans, St Mary Penterry, St James Devauden, St Deiniol Itton, Holy Cross Kilgwrrwg, Ministry Area)					
1103 - Sales of fixed assets	180.00	-	-	180.00	-
Other income Totals	180.00	-	-	180.00	-
Receipts Grand Totals	203,377.03	15,648.22	11,069.64	230,094.89	218,128.73
Payments					
Raising funds					
3101 - Fees paid to fund raisers	25.00	-	-	25.00	-
3103 - Costs of generating resources - giving	97.81	-	-	97.81	-
3104 - Costs of fund raising	5,891.08	-	-	5,891.08	4,741.86
Raising funds Totals	6,013.89	-	-	6,013.89	4,741.86
Expenditure on charitable activities (St Peter Newchurch, St Tewdric Mathern, St Andoenus Mouton, St Peter St Pierre, St Thomas a Becket Shirenewton, St Mary Chepstow, St Christopher Bulwark, St Arvan St Arvans, St Mary Penterry, St James Devauden, St Deiniol Itton, Holy Cross Kilgwrrwg, Ministry Area)					
2001 - Diocesan share	146,791.88	-	-	146,791.88	128,131.18
2101 - Clergy expenses	6,618.85	-	-	6,618.85	8,908.36
2102 - Clergy expenses - mileage	1,520.65	-	-	1,520.65	892.35
2103 - Clergy expenses - printing/postage/stationery	201.29	-	-	201.29	456.40
2145 - Parsonage - water	861.74	-	-	861.74	568.38
2146 - Parsonage - gas	736.48	-	-	736.48	-
2147 - Parsonage - electricity	711.39	-	-	711.39	370.02
2148 - Parsonage - Oil/wood/LPG/other	225.80	-	-	225.80	170.08
2149 - Parsonage - other expenses	-	-	-	-	496.53
2150 - Clergy - telephone/mobile/internet	1,673.33	-	-	1,673.33	89.76
2201 - Assistant clergy fees/expenses	84.79	-	-	84.79	-
2211 - Readers expenses - printing/postage/stationery	-	-	-	-	54.00
2221 - Curate expenses - printing/postage/stationery	-	-	-	-	520.79
2340 - Maintenance of services	3,320.57	-	-	3,320.57	2,095.16
2341 - Costs of vergers, organists and choir	5,395.00	-	-	5,395.00	5,620.00
2342 - Music & performance expenses	2,750.00	-	-	2,750.00	3,501.89
2343 - Music Instrument Tuning/Maintenance	1,276.92	-	-	1,276.92	605.76
2344 - Costs of digital services (streaming, subscriptions)	659.90	-	-	659.90	725.19
2345 - Costs of Copyright License	-	-	-	-	180.00
2401 - Costs of meetings	-	-	-	-	0.09
2402 - Bank and Credit Card Charges	242.65	35.00	-	277.65	300.35
2403 - Cost of printing, post and stationery	1,650.67	-	-	1,650.67	1,047.12

				Total	
	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Last year
2405 - Office and general expenditure	79.00	-	-	79.00	558.11
2409 - Professional Fees	-	1,494.28	-	1,494.28	-
2410 - IE/Audit and accountancy fees	150.00	-	-	150.00	-
2413 - Trustee expenses	289.25	-	-	289.25	-
2415 - Gifts to individuals	539.48	-	-	539.48	1,097.25
2424 - Admin/Staff Equipment	50.40	-	-	50.40	-
2450 - MALMA central costs	11.00	-	-	11.00	-
2501 - Church operating costs - insurance	12,113.14	-	-	12,113.14	8,967.13
2502 - Church operating costs - electricity	11,040.73	-	-	11,040.73	8,817.17
2503 - Church operating costs - gas	7,581.93	-	-	7,581.93	7,158.30
2504 - Church operating costs - water	1,011.02	-	-	1,011.02	270.81
2505 - Church operating costs - other	867.25	-	-	867.25	674.87
2506 - Church operating costs - oil/LPG	914.85	-	-	914.85	1,701.08
2508 - Church repairs and maintenance	9,978.98	-	255.00	10,233.98	19,686.46
2509 - Church Cleaning	2,139.72	-	-	2,139.72	1,802.29
2510 - Church operating costs - tel/mob/internet	64.00	-	-	64.00	200.27
2511 - Church operating costs - fire equipment, roof alarm, CCTV service	763.24	-	-	763.24	742.85
2601 - Churchyard management costs	1,250.00	-	610.00	1,860.00	4,205.00
2603 - Church hall operating costs - electric	1,757.71	-	-	1,757.71	1,526.11
2605 - Church hall operating costs - insurance	605.70	367.46	-	973.16	1,146.94
2606 - Church hall costs - repairs/maintenance	285.00	-	2,325.28	2,610.28	45.00
2609 - Church hall - equipment repair & renewal	27.99	-	-	27.99	-
2611 - Church hall operating costs - cleaning	144.71	-	-	144.71	-
2613 - Other property - insurance	-	-	-	-	47.35
2619 - Other property - compliance costs	-	-	-	-	440.00
2641 - Churchyard grass cutting	6,614.00	-	2,340.00	8,954.00	5,211.00
2642 - Churchyard structural repairs	700.00	-	-	700.00	1,960.00
2643 - Churchyard memorial costs	75.00	-	-	75.00	-
2701 - Major building repairs and renovations	2,360.52	-	-	2,360.52	8,233.54
2804 - Cost of church publications	9,137.70	-	-	9,137.70	6,854.66
2806 - Other costs of parish mission work	1,390.00	-	-	1,390.00	210.00
2807 - Cost of maintaining websites and social media platforms	165.00	-	-	165.00	372.00
2902 - Support of church charities & projects	(131.03)	-	-	(131.03)	1,738.46
2903 - Support of UK charities	5,303.17	-	-	5,303.17	2,077.87
2904 - Support of international mission & projects	1,309.50	352.00	-	1,661.50	5,157.69
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	253,310.87	2,248.74	5,530.28	261,089.89	245,635.62
Payments Grand Totals	259,324.76	2,248.74	5,530.28	267,103.78	250,377.48

Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	135,799.30	1,534.00	137,333.30	138,209.58
Income from charitable activities	21,774.00	3,702.00	25,476.00	27,958.00
Other trading activities	43,098.44	-	43,098.44	49,394.78
Investments	18,173.51	5,833.64	24,007.15	2,566.37
Other income	180.00	-	180.00	-
Total income	219,025.25	11,069.64	230,094.89	218,128.73
Expenditure on:				
Expenditure on charitable activities	255,559.61	5,530.28	261,089.89	245,635.62
Raising funds	6,013.89	-	6,013.89	4,741.86
Total expenditure	261,573.50	5,530.28	267,103.78	250,377.48
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(42,548.25)	5,539.36	(37,008.89)	(32,248.75)
Transfers:				
Gross transfers between funds - in	236.00	62.50	298.50	17,572.92
Gross transfers between funds - out	(62.50)	(236.00)	(298.50)	(17,572.92)
Other recognised gains / losses				
Gains/losses on investment assets	41,446.12	9,405.17	50,851.29	(5,655.10)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(928.63)	14,771.03	13,842.40	(37,903.85)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	407,740.93	190,225.02	597,965.95	635,869.80
Total funds carried forward	406,812.30	204,996.05	611,808.35	597,965.95