



The Parish of St John the Baptist, Meshaw, Devon

Address for correspondence:
Beech Tree House, Meshaw, South Molton EX36 4NE

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements**

of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended
31st December 2024

Rector:
The Reverend Tony Rockey
Vicar:
The Reverend Adrian Wells

Bankers:
NatWest Bank, Barnstaple

Independent Examiner:
Mrs Paula Townsend MBE,
Waterside Cottage, West Worlington, Crediton EX17 4TT

Our ministry team web site is www.littledartchurches.org.uk

The Parochial Church Council is a registered charity 1208284

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Meshaw

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024

Aim and Purpose

St John the Baptist's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, The Reverend Adrian Wells, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The Church is a Grade II Listed Building.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church, and to become part of our parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family, through:

- Worship and prayer: learning about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of the Church.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer at least two Sunday services each month that are both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

At present there are 12 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 3 of whom live outside the parish. The average Sunday attendance on the Sunday service was about 8. As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life.

Deanery Synod

A member of the PCC sits on the South Molton Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with a link with the Churches around us, and also with the Diocese as a whole. It also receives reports from the General Synod.

Church Fabric

The church requires more attention as detailed in the Quinquennial Report carried out by John Alexander in June 2020. Much of these works have been undertaken during the year by a professional firm.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Being a very small community giving is not always straightforward. Our monthly magazine, 'The Newsletter' has a print run of some 300 copies, and gives details of what is coming up and reports on previous activities.

Other Activities

Activities are necessarily limited by the size of the parish.

Mr Jeff Souch, has also taken on the role of project manager of Meshaw Together. This is project of making the church a usable space for community activity and worship. Discussions have taken place with Members of the PCC and the Diocesan Advisory Council. A formal faculty application has been approved. A specification has been drawn up and quotes received. Grant making bodies will be approached to support this project. The reordering works commenced on 1 December 2023 and was completed in July 2024.

We enjoyed fund raising community events - a harvest supper and fete, which were well supported.

Financial Review

Total receipts in the unrestricted General Fund were £6,490 and payments from this fund totalled £7,491 giving a deficit of £1,001. The contribution to the Diocesan 'Common Fund' - which pays the stipends and housing costs of the clergy, amounted to £2,383.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has resolved to maintain, if possible, a balance on our General (unrestricted) Fund, which equates to at least three month's unrestricted payments (say £2,170) to cover emergencies. Obviously our current balance of £5,241 more than covers this target. It is our policy to invest any surplus funds with the CBF Church of England Deposit (CCLA) Fund.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). We do not have a Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR), however, and members of the PCC have been encouraged to undertake basic safeguarding training. The Parish Dashboard is being reviewed and actioned.

Volunteers

The members of the PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who work hard to support the church and the community. Our thanks also go to our Churchwarden, Mrs Joy Cottey, Ms Erica Reynolds for Charing Meshaw Together and Mr Jeff Souch as the project manager and grant fund raiser.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met five times during the year, with an average level of attendance of 90%.

Administrative Information

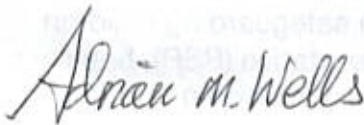
The Church are situated in centre of Meshaw, EX36 4NE and is part of the Deanery of South Molton, within the archdeaconry of Barnstaple, in the Diocese of Exeter. The correspondence address is Mr Jeff Souch, Bournehead, Meshaw, South Molton EX36 4NJ.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and a registered Charity with the Charity Commission number 1208284.

PCC members who have served from the 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved were:

Ex Officio - The Team Vicar	The Reverend Adrian Wells	Chairman & Secretary until June 2024
Churchwardens	Mrs Joy Cottey	Parish Safeguarding Representative until APCM 2024
Deanery Synod Representative	Mr Jeff Souch	Secretary from June 2024
Elected Members	Mrs Kathleen Cole Mrs Lorna Nott Mrs Erica Reynolds	Until APCM 2024 Treasurer From APCM 2024

Approved by the PCC on 20th February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Rev'd Adrian Wells (Chairman)



.....
Mrs Lorna Nott (Treasurer)



Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of The Church of John the Baptist, Meshaw Parochial Church Council

On accounts for the year ended	31 st December 2024	Charity no (if any)	1208284
--------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------	---------

Set out on pages 6, 7 and 8

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Date: 10/03/ 2025

Name: Mrs Paula Townsend MBE

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address: Waterside Cottage, West Worlington, CREDITON EX17 4TT

Receipts and Payments Account

	Note	Unrestricted General Fund	Designed Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Receipts						
Voluntary receipts						
Regular Giving	A	1,306	0	0	1,306	2,107
Other Voluntary Receipts	B	3,037	3,487	87,219	93,743	95,860
Activities for generating funds	C	1,417	6,089	0	7,506	5,950
Income from Investments	D	156	0	0	156	2,177
Income from church activities	E	574	0	0	574	834
Other Receipts	F	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts		6,490	9,576	87,219	103,285	106,928
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	G	252	2,802	0	3,054	1,888
Church Activities	H	7,239	4,027	160,205	171,471	22,017
Other Costs	I	0	0	1	1	1
Total Payments		7,491	6,829	160,206	174,526	23,906
Excess of receipts over payments		(1,001)	2,747	(72,987)	(71,241)	83,022
Transfers						
Transfer between funds		0	3,473	(3,473)	0	0
Excess or receipts and payments after transfers		(1,001)	(726)	(69,514)	(71,241)	83,022
Net movement in funds		(1,001)	(726)	(69,514)	(71,241)	83,022
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds at 1st January 2024		6,242	4,291	78,086	88,619	5,596
Total funds at 31st December 2024		5,241	3,565	8,572	17,378	88,618

	Unrestricted General Fund	Designed Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Note A: Regular Giving					
Tax efficient planned giving	96			96	
Other planned giving				0	750
Collections at Services	1,210			1,210	1,059
Other recurring donations				0	
Gift Aid etc. recovered				0	298
	1,306	0	0	1,306	2,107
Note B: Other Voluntary receipts					
Grants	2,750	3,487	87,219	93,456	95,430
Legacies				0	
Non-recurring donations/appeals	287			287	430
	3,037	3,487	87,219	93,743	95,860
Note C: Activities for generating funds					
Gross income - fund raising activities	1,317	6,089		7,406	5,950
Adverts - Church magazine				0	
Sale of fixtures	100			100	
	1,417	6,089	0	7,506	5,950
Note D: Income from investments					
Dividends and interest received	156			156	167
Rent received				0	2,010
	156	0	0	156	2,177
Note E: Income from church activities					
Statutory fees - weddings, funerals etc	214			214	636
Gross income - church magazine				0	168
Gross income - church lettings	360			360	30
Gross income - bookstall				0	
	574	0	0	574	834
Note F: Other receipts					
Loan from the Diocese				0	
Sale of investments				0	
	0	0	0	0	0
Note G: Cost of generating funds					
Cost of fete	252	2,802		3,054	1,888
	252	2,802	0	3,054	1,888
Note H: Church activities					
Mission giving and donations				0	0
Parish Share	2,383			2,383	2,513
Salary cost - administrator, organists, choir etc				0	
Clergy and staff expenses	312			312	714
Church expenses - mission and evangelism				0	
Church running expenses	4,120			4,120	1,884
Examination of Annual Accounts				0	
Church utility costs	424			424	16
Expenses on parish magazine				0	296
Major repairs to church building		4,027	160,205	164,232	16,594
Major repairs to church hall				0	
New building work to church hall				0	
	7,239	4,027	160,205	171,471	22,017
Note I: Other costs					
Loan-repayment Other			1	1	1
Purchase of investment				0	
	0	0	1	1	1

Note K: All investments are re-valued each year, with the latest valuation being 31st December 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2024

		Unrestricted General Fund	Designed Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Investments						
CCLA (Investment Fund)	K				0	
CCLA (Property Fund)	K				0	
M&G (Charifund)	K				0	
		0	0	0	0	0
Monetary Assets						
Bank current A/cs		1,355	3,565	8,572	13,492	84,883
CBF Deposit fund		3,886			3,886	3,736
		5,241	3,565	8,572	17,378	88,619
Other monetary assets						
Gift Aid Claim for previous year					0	
Grant claim due from local trust					0	
		0	0	0	0	0
Assets retained for church use						
Church Hall					0	
(Basis of this figure)						
Nominal value		0	0	0	0	0
Liabilities						
Outstanding payments					0	
Loan from the Diocese					0	
Other					0	
		0	0	0	0	0

The **designated** fund relates to funds raised by Meshaw Together to assist the PCC with general running costs and the reordering project.

The **restricted** fund relates to grants received gratefully for the reordering project.

NOTES:

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: movable church furnishings held by the Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

Approved by the PCC on the 20th February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Adrian M. Wells

The Reverend Adrian Wells (Chair)

L. Nott

Mrs Lorna Nott (Treasurer)