

Charities Act 2011 and Regulations made thereunder

ANNUAL REPORT for the period of 12 months ending 31 December 2023
of the Charity entitled –

THE CHURCH FUND (Registered No 247465) more commonly known as THE CHURCH FUND TRUST
(ST MARY'S, WALTON-ON-THAMES)

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS: Mr AK Zwart, Secretary to the Trustees, 100 Cottimore Avenue, Walton-on-Thames
KT12 2AF

GOVERNING DOCUMENT: The Church Fund was established by a Trust Scheme dated 7 May 1964, as
amended by further Trust Schemes dated 11 May 1965, 7 February 1973, 23 August 2006 and 1 February
2008.

TRUSTEES

1. The Trust Scheme provided for the appointment of six Trustees; two ex-officio, two co-opted (serving for periods of five years) and two nominated (serving for periods of four years). Retiring Trustees are eligible for re-appointment for a further period subject to their retaining the qualifications laid down in the Trust Scheme.

The ex-officio Trustees are the two Church Wardens of the Church of St Mary, Walton-on-Thames who are appointed each year at the Vestry meeting of Walton-on-Thames Parish. The nominated Trustees are appointed by Walton-on-Thames PCC.

2. During the twelve months under review, the Trustees were: -

Mr D Henderson	(Ex-officio)	Appointed April 2019
Mr M Felstead	(Co-opted)	Appointed October 2019
Mr A Berkinshaw-Smith	(PCC-nominated)	Appointed October 2020
Mrs J Gorrie	(PCC-nominated)	Appointed July 2021
Mr N Stapleton	(Co-opted)	Resigned June 2023
Mr S Hay	(Ex-officio)	Resigned April 2023

David Henderson served as elected Chairman throughout 2023.

OFFICERS

3. The Secretary to the Trustees:
Mr AK Zwart (Appointed September 2019)
4. The "Independent Examiner" of the Trust Fund Report and Accounts for 2023 is
Ms Frances Wilde, Warner Wilde, 4 Marigold Drive, Bisley, Surrey, GU24 9SF.

AIMS

The Church Fund Trust was established in 1964 following the sale, for local authority housing and educational purposes, of an area of glebe land at Vicarage Fields, Walton-on-Thames, which had for many years been held by the Parish. The net proceeds of the sale were invested in consultation with and on the advice of the Charity Commission and those investments, which are reviewed on a regular basis and revised as and when felt desirable, are the source of the income of the Trust Fund.

The Trust Fund operates only within the Ecclesiastical Parish of Walton-on-Thames and exists solely to provide financial support for that Parish.

In practice the only body or persons who may legitimately call upon the Trust for assistance are the Parochial Church Council of St Mary with St John who approach the Trustees as necessary for advances from Trust Funds to meet expenditure arising on items which fall within the Trust Scheme.

In February 2008 the Charity Commission agreed to include the Church of St John and also agreed to a broadening of the objectives. Clause 22 of the Trust Scheme of 7 May 1964 was deleted and was replaced with the following.

22. Application of Income

- (1) The Trustees shall apply the clear yearly income of the Charity for the following purposes and in the following order of priority.
- (2) The Trustees shall apply a sufficient part of the said clear yearly income in or towards defraying the cost of the upkeep, repair and insurance of the Parish Church of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Walton-on-Thames and the goods and ornaments thereof.
- (3) The Trustees shall apply the residue of the said clear yearly income in or towards defraying the cost of maintaining and improving the said parish church and the churchyard thereof.
- (4) If and in so far as the said clear yearly income is not required for application in manner aforesaid the Trustees may apply the same for the following purposes and in the following order of priority:
 - (i) in or towards defraying the cost of the upkeep, repair and insurance of the Church of St John, Cottimore, in the said ecclesiastical parish and the goods and ornament thereof.
 - (ii) In or towards defraying the cost of maintaining and improving the Church of St John, Cottimore, in the said ecclesiastical parish and the churchyard thereof.
- (5) If and in so far as the said clear yearly income is not required for application in manner aforesaid the Trustees may apply the same in furtherance of the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the said ecclesiastical parish.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trust provides finance to the ecclesiastical Parish of Walton-on-Thames to maintain the fabric, fittings and running costs of its two churches and for the maintenance of the churchyards. This allows the PCC to ensure that the churches are available for regular public worship which is open to all and the provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.

VULNERABLE BENEFICIARIES

The Charity does not deal directly with people, only with the Parochial Church Council of Walton-on-Thames, so it does not have a need for a specific policy for vulnerable beneficiaries. However, the Trustees note that the PCC have policies and procedures in place to safeguard the needs of any vulnerable people with whom they may come into contact as part of the running of the parish.

ORGANISATION

The Trustees routinely meet on a quarterly basis during the months of January, April, July and October. Other meetings may be held for reasons of urgency.

The Trust does not own or occupy any land or buildings. The Trust is connected to but totally separate from the Parochial Church Council for St Mary with St John, Walton-on-Thames registered charity number 1128597 as referred to above. The Secretary to the Trustees works from their own home address.

The Trust does not employ any staff. The Secretary to the Trustees is a volunteer. There are no other volunteers and it is not anticipated that there will be any in the foreseeable future.

INVESTMENT POLICY

The Trustees have agreed an investment policy statement with Brewin Dolphin, the investment managers. This dates from October 2020 and has been reviewed; no changes were made. The document covers investment objectives, risk, time horizon, liquidity requirements, ethical investment policy and administrative provisions.

The Trustees seek to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk. The investment objective for the consolidated portfolio is to maintain and grow the value of the capital over the long term (+10 years) and in excess of inflation while generating an increasing level of income. This objective will be measured against CPI + 3.5%.

The Trustees adopt a total return approach to investment, generating the investment return from income and capital gains or losses. It is expected that if in any one year the total return is insufficient to meet the budgeted grant making expenditure, in the long term the real value of the Trust will still be maintained in accordance with the investment objective above.

Brewin Dolphin manage the assets on a discretionary basis in line with this policy and provide custody of the assets. Managers are required to produce a valuation and performance report quarterly. The Trustees have nominated a list of authorised signatories, two of which are required to sign instructions to the investment manager.

The Trustees meet with representatives of Brewin Dolphin in April and October when the latter present the investment report. The Trustees have access to an online Portal which provides extensive details of values, performance and predicted dividend receipts.

THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW

During the year 2023 income totalled £65,059 (2022: £64,759).

Requests made by the PCC to the Trustees during 2023 in respect of the running expenses of St Mary's and St John's Churches, totalled £46,710 (2022: £40,431). During 2022, the CFT made an advance to the PCC of £15,000 to aid with the cash flow of a building project at St John's Church. This amount was refunded in full during 2023.

Major works were £Nil (2021: £Nil). Administration costs were £1,696 (2022: £1,674).

The value of the investment assets held at 31 December 2023 was £2,316,760 (£2,217,336 at 31 December 2022). At the time of signing this Annual Report, the forecast for receivable dividends per annum is £63,231.

SERIOUS INCIDENTS

There were no serious incidents to report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the Trust is exposed and have reviewed those risks and established systems and procedures to manage those risks. At the same time the Trustees reviewed the financial controls and consider these controls to be sufficient to manage the risks identified.

The economic recovery remains under pressure from ongoing geo-political factors and inflation. The Trustees' view is that these trends will not jeopardise meeting the anticipated requests by the PCC in 2024.

FUTURE COMMITMENTS


Apart from the normal running costs of the two Churches the only known commitments are as follows:

In November 2023 a quinquennial inspection of St Mary's church was undertaken. It is anticipated that the schedule of running repairs and maintenance, arising from the report, will be phased over the following five years and the Trustees await notification from the PCC as to when the call for funding will fall and how much it will be. Indications are that there will be no unexpected major calls to come.

RESERVES

The Trustees have reviewed the need for holding funds as "reserves". Under guidance from the Charity Commission the Trustees have set aside a permanent endowment held separately. All the funds are invested by professional advisers Brewin Dolphin Limited, 12 Smithfield Street, London EC1A 9LA. Underused income in one year is held temporarily for expenditure in excess of income in later years. The Trust Deed contains a special provision for meeting extraordinary costs on application from the Parochial Church Council and a decision of the Trustees.

Signed:


CHAIRMAN

Date: 23rd APRIL 2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Church Fund

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2023

Charity no
(if any)

247465

Set out on pages

1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

I have no concerns and 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:

FJ Wilde

Date:

25/04/2024

Name:

FJ Wilde

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

FCCA DChA

Address:

4 Marigold Drive

Bisley

Surrey

GU24 9SF



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

THE CHURCH FUND

No (if any)
247465

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2023		31/12/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Dividends from investments	64,865	-	-	64,865	64,885
Bank interest	194	-	-	194	74
Transferred from Property Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Transferred to/from Capital Account	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	65,059	-	-	65,059	64,759
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Advance to St Mary's & St John's - repaid	15,000	-	-	15,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	15,000	-	-	15,000	-
Total receipts	80,059	-	-	80,059	64,759
A3 Payments					
Grants paid	46,710	-	-	46,710	40,431
St Mary's & St John's in total	-	-	-	-	-
Advance to St Mary's & St John's	-	-	-	-	15,000
Management costs	1,696	-	-	1,696	1,674
	-	-	-	-	-
Share Purchases (net)	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	48,406	-	-	48,406	57,105
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Transferred to Capital reserves	4,864	-	-	4,864	14,685
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	4,864	-	-	4,864	14,685
Total payments	53,269	-	-	53,269	71,790
Net of receipts/(payments)	26,790	-	-	26,790	7,031
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	88,699	-	-	88,699	95,730
Cash funds this year end	115,488	-	-	115,488	88,699

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Bank Current Account	115,488	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	115,488	-	-

check

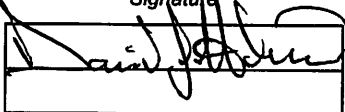
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	BD CHUR0252	Endowment	-	113,898
	Dealing, deposit and cash accounts	Endowment	-	13,113
	BD CHUR0251	Unrestricted	-	2,127,767
	Dealing, deposit and cash accounts	Unrestricted	-	61,992
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Independent Examiners Fee	Unrestricted	636	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	DAVID J HENDERSON	23/4/24