

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ROSS-ON-WYE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1163776

Reports and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES For the year ending 31 December 2023

Aim and purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) had the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, The Reverend Sean Semple, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC also had the responsibility for the maintenance and development of the church building and St Mary's Church Hall.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to fulfilling the discerned vision of inspiring faith, hope, and love inclusively and intergenerationally in Ross-on-Wye. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and Scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable parishioners to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- · Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church of St Mary's and St Mary's Church Hall. We continue to carry out some of our work on-line, enabling us to reach people well beyond the parish of Ross-on-Wye.

Achievements and performance

The PCC has considered the need to extend the range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. The Thursday morning Eucharist plays an important role but our main efforts have been towards encouraging more young people to become part of the community at St Mary's.

All are welcome to attend our regular services and the PCC is grateful to the Clergy Team for their work in the services that are offered and for the additional opportunities that are offered by way of Lent and Advent courses. The two regular Bible Study groups now meet in homes, an online prayer group meets regularly and the online daily morning prayer continues.

The Rector is an NHS Chaplain responsible for Ross Community Hospital and he is on continuous call in this role as well as being responsible for weekly ward rounds. This responsibility has been shared with volunteers, namely former curate Rev Tiffany Jackson, and more recently Dr Derek Glover.

The Rector is also Chaplain to the Royal British Legion in Ross and Districts.

Toast and Toddle, LEAF and Messy Church have continued to meet in person and work with schools has now fully recovered from the restriction of lockdown. The weekly youth choir continues to thrive attracting singers from Year 2 right through to Year 9. It often takes part in the monthly Messy Church worship and during the year increased its involvement in the Parish Eucharist from once to twice a

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month. LEAF was discontinued during the year but plans for a new youth group (Grow) were well advanced to meet once a month on a Sunday following the eucharist. The emphasis is on discovering faith for those interested rather than a general youth group.

Our ministry to retirement and nursing homes has grown to cover 5 sites, and a ministry to people with dementia has been established. St Mary's is both a Dementia Friendly and a Bereavement Friendly Church and has a monthly Bereavement Group known as "Just B" which has also experienced growth in attendance during the year.

A fortnightly Craft Group provides a craft-focused time of fellowship.

The church electoral roll is renewed every six years and the last one was in 2019. There are currently 132 parishioners on the roll, a large proportion of whom are resident within the parish. Four names were removed through death during the year.

There is a rota of volunteers to visit all who are sick or unable to get out for any other reason and to keep them in touch with church life. Telephone contact has been maintained by members of the Ministry Team and volunteers with older and vulnerable parishioners. Seven members of the congregation have been licenced as Lay Pastoral Visitors, Lay Worship Leaders or Lay Missioners.

Accreditations

St Mary's church is a Fairtrade Church, a Bereavement Friendly Church, an Inclusive Church, an Eco Church (Arocha silver award) and a Dementia Friendly Church.

Church building improvements

A new sound system and hearing loop was installed in 2023. Following a trial with additional speakers, the PCC has agreed to improve the facility further. A large screen and projector have been installed. The screen is hidden behind the chancel arch and drops down for use while the powerful projector has been mounted on the back wall of the church adjacent to the choir vestry. These have been used for illustrated talks as well as during services, particularly in the sermons.

The LED lighting installed some years ago has been failing at an alarming rate and the decision was taken to replace all the high level units in one go, rather than hiring expensive access gear a couple of times each year to replace the latest failed units. The overall lighting in the church is now much more effective and fingers are crossed that we won't be doing this again in another ten years.

New heating controls have enabled the church to be heated more efficiently.

St Mary's Hall

The hall continues to be in regular use with paid bookings. It is managed by the St Mary's Church Hall Committee on behalf of the PCC. Two tenants have continued to occupy much of the first floor, with one room being retained for church use.

A Community Larder (Food Bank) and drop in café (known as "Tea and Toast") is operated from St Mary's Hall in collaboration with Churches Together in Ross and District.

Deanery Synod

Four members sat on the Deanery Synod up to May 2023 after which three continued. The Deanery Synod provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church.

Grant making policy

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The PCC have a policy of making donations of 5% of the income from other unrestricted giving including Gift Aid receipts under a pattern of regular giving or otherwise. The donations are made in support of both UK and overseas charities under the recommendation of either members of the PCC or the congregation of the church rather than in response to any applications made to the PCC.

Ecumenical relationships

The church is a member of Churches Together in Ross-on-Wye.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who give their time in whatever way towards the work of our church.

Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £182,476 of which £75,586 was unrestricted planned voluntary donations, and a further £24991 was from income tax recovery on Gift Aid. Our membership of the Parish Giving Scheme continues to help with the collection of tax repayments and remains a valuable aid to the management of regular giving. Electronic giving via the card readers in church continues to increase.

During the year no legacies were received and a grant of £2432 previously received from Herefordshire Council was returned when the project to which it related was cancelled.

Following approval of The PCC, a number of smaller legacies were sold, and the funds transferred to the churchyard fund, to which the interest was previously paid. Also, control of the Hannah Purchas for the Poor Fund, which had previously operated as a separate charity, was transferred to the PCC.

The freehold house at 3 Redwood Close, Ross-on-Wye is now let following the departure of Rev'd Tiffany Jackson.

Our regular fundraising activities have continued to be successful, including the Christmas Tree Festival, which raised £5,472 and generated a great deal of goodwill in the community. The 100 Club remains a successful source of income.

Net movement of unrestricted funds was a surplus of £13,295 and there was an increase in designated funds of £944 and of restricted funds of £7,050.

Investment Funds

The value of investments as at 31 December 2023 were:

Colwell Churchyard Bequest Fund £3,096.93

Hannah Purchas Bequest Fund £25,137.09

Hannah Purchas for the Poor Fund £6707.21

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) at a level which ensures the continued operation of the church and building. In time we anticipate that a necessary reserve of approximately six months unrestricted payments will need to be maintained. This would be equivalent to £85,000. It would be held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies and the PCC will decide the position taking into account the annual deficit with which we may be faced.

It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and the remainder in the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund. The investments are shown as valued as at 31 December 2023 and during the year the value has increased by £2,742. The investment policy of the PCC has remained unchanged during the year.

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Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent (our Rector), Licensed Clergy, including House for Duty Priests when in post, Churchwardens, the Readers and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met seven times during the year (Including one extraordinary meeting) with a very good average level of attendance.

Administrative information

St. Mary's Church is situated off the High Street between Church Street and St Mary's Street in Ross-on-Wye, postcode HR9 5HD. It is part of the Diocese of Hereford within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is The Benefice Office, The Rectory, Church Street, Ross-on-Wye HR9 5HN.

Registered charity number 1163776.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Rector and Chair

The Revd Sean Semple

Licensed Clergy

The Revd Tiffany Jackson (until October 2023)

The Revd Prebendary Caroline Pascoe

Readers

Canon Freda Davies

Churchwardens

Dr John Setchfield (until 16th May 2023)

Mr Bryan Jones

Mr Mark Sanderson (from 16th May 2023)

Vice Chair

Mr Peter Reynolds

Treasurer

Mr Roy Milnes

Deanery Synod Representatives

Mr Mark Sanderson Mr Gerald Altree

Mrs Rachel Lewis

Mr Paul Eward (until 16th May 2023)

Elected members

Dr Janet Cooper

Mr Paul Cummings

Mr Philip Dazeley (from 16th May 2023) Mr Michael Donovan (from 16th May 2023) Mr Paul Eward (from 16th May 2023)

Mr Julian Hallett Mrs Melanie Mellor Mrs Anne Morris

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Mr Peter Reynolds Mrs Rosie Winyard

Secretary

Mrs Rachel Lewis

Bankers:

National Westminster Bank, 12 Broad Street, Hereford, HR4 9AH The Co-operative Bank, P.O. Box 250, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6WT

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The PCC is responsible for all parish finance, its management and control, including the appointment of a Treasurer. While it may delegate some of its duties this does not remove its legal responsibilities.

Charity law requires the PCC as Trustees of the Church to prepare an annual report and financial statements for each financial year. The PCC is also required to ensure that these are subjected to an annual independent examination or audit and to present these to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

In preparing these financial statements, the PCC are required to:

- · Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the PCC will continue in operation.

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

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on and signed on its behalf by

2023

Chair

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Parochial Church Council of the Ecumenical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Ross-on-Wye

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Church's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Church'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 Commissioners (under section 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 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 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

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.
- or 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 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.

David J Bennett, B.A., A.C.A.

Chartered Accountant

1 Parsons Croft Hilderslev

Ross-on-Wye

19' Marl 2024 Date:

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds		Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds	0	0	0	0	0
Voluntary income	£124,789	£10,042	0	£134,831	£149,373
Activities for generating funds	£38,972	0	0	£38,972	£36,102
Investment income	£4,521	£3,550	0	£8,071	£3,232
Incoming resources from charitable activities	£12,779	0	0	£12,779	£12,491
Other incoming resources	£4,033	£1,628	£6,237	£11,898	£34,929
Total income	£185,094	£15,221	£6,237	£206,551	£236,127
Resources used Cost of generating funds	£3,668	0	0	£3.668	£8,148
Cost of generating voluntary income		0	0	23,000	
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	. 0	0	0	0	0
Investment management costs	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable activities	£169,657	£5,701	0	£175,358	£178,935
Governance costs	0	0	0	0	0
Other resources used	0	0	0	0	£2,152
Total expenditure	£173,324	£5,701	0	£179,025	£189,235
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	£11,769	£9,520	£6,237	£27,525	£46,892
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	£51,526	£19,417	0	£70,943 £	£181,698
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£49,056)	(£21,886)	0	(£70,943) (£181,698)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	£2,945	0	0	£2,945	(£3,482)

Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds	£17,184	£7,050	£6,237	£30,471	£43,410
Total funds brought forward	£182,541	£102,115	0	£284,656	£241,246
Total funds carried forward	£199,726	£109,165	£6,237	£315,127	£284,656

Balance Sheet (Summary)

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Fixed assets		
	0	0
Current assets		
Debtors	£1,583	£1,768
Investments	£34,941	£28,515
Cash At Bank And In Hand	£279,279	£254,705
	£315,803	£284,989
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	£676	£333
	£676	£333
Net current assets less current liabilities	£315,127	£284,656
Total assets less current liabilities	£315,127	£284,656
Liabilities		
	0	0
Total net assets less liabilities	£315,127	£284,656
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General Funds	£168,521	£152,281

Designated			
Designated - Fabric Fund Designated		£31,204	£30,260
Restricted			
Restricted - Bequests Fund		£31,669	£31,573
Restricted - Choir Scholarship Fund		£1,571	£1,523
Restricted - Christian Education Fund		£2,279	£476
Restricted - Churchyard Fund		£5,280	£8,357
Restricted - Fabric Fund		£45,549	£38,919
Restricted - Garden of Remembrance		£13,710	£13,484
Restricted - Hannah Purchas For The Poor		£1,744	0
Restricted - Jessie Cater Legacy		£440	£430
Restricted - Life Link Chaplain		£286	0
Restricted - Organ Fund		£194	£188
Restricted - PA System		£1,602	0
Restricted - Platinum Jubilee Fund		0	£38
Restricted - Property Maintenance		£658	£638
Restricted - Ross CDT		0	£2,432
Restricted - Spire Restoration		£4,185	£4,058
Endowment			
Endowment - Hannah Purchas For The Poor		£6,237	0
	Fund Totals	£315,127	£284,656

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)

		Balance	Previous balance
Cash At Bank And In Hand			
A01: Nat West current account			
General fund	Unrestricted	£1,218	£7,248
Agency collection	Restricted	£1,215	£660
		£2,433	£7,907
A02: Co-op current account			
Platinum Jubilee Fund	Restricted	0	£38
Ross CDT	Restricted	0	£2,432

General fund	Unrestricted	£19,922	£15,472
Agency collection	Restricted	(£212)	0
		£19,710	£17,942
A03: CCLA General Reserve			
Choir Scholarship Fund	Restricted	£1,571	£1,523
Fabric Fund Designated	Designated	£31,204	£30,260
Garden of Remembrance	Restricted	£13,710	£13,484
Hannah Purchas For The Poor	Restricted	£1,744	0
Life Link Chaplain	Restricted	£286	0
PA System	Restricted	£1,602	0
General fund	Unrestricted	£130,984	£117,286
Fabric Fund	Restricted	£45,549	£38,919
Property Maintenance	Restricted	£658	£638
Bequests Fund	Restricted	£3,154	£3,058
Organ Fund	Restricted	£194	£188
Jessie Cater Legacy	Restricted	£440	0
Spire Restoration	Restricted	£4,185	£4,058
Christian Education Fund	Restricted	£2,279	£663
Churchyard Fund	Restricted	£8,036	£8,357
		£245,594	£218,433
A07: CCLA Organ Fund			
General fund	Unrestricted	£0	£0
Organ Fund	Restricted	(£0)	(£0)
		0	0
A09: Petty Cash			
General fund	Unrestricted	£13	£197
Christian Education Fund	Restricted	0	(£187)
		£13	£10
A10: Ross Team Fees float			
General fund	Unrestricted	£3,146	£3,146
		£3,146	£3,146
A11: St Mary's Church Hall Committee			
General fund	Unrestricted	£8,384	£7,267
		£8,384	£7,267

	Cash	At Bank And In Hand	£279,279	£254,705
Debtors				
Z05: Accounts Receivable				
General fund	Unrestricted		£1,910	£1,665
Jessie Cater Legacy	Restricted		0	£430
Agency collection	Restricted		(£327)	(£327)
			£1,583	£1,768
		Debtors	£1,583	£1,768
Investments				
A12: H E Purchas Bequest				
General fund	Unrestricted		£2,179	0
Bequests Fund	Restricted		£22,958	£22,958
			£25,137	£22,958
A13: Endowment Funds				
General fund	Unrestricted		£296	0
Bequests Fund	Restricted		£5,557	£5,557
Churchyard Fund	Restricted		(£2,756)	0
			£3,097	£5,557
A15: Hannah Purchas for the Poor				
Hannah Purchas For The Poor	Endowment		£6,237	0
General fund	Unrestricted		£471	0
			£6,707	0
		Investments	£34,941	£28,515
Agency Accounts				
6699: Agency collections				
Agency collection	Restricted		£676	£333
		-	£676	£333
		Agency Accounts	£676	£333
		Grand Total	£315,127	£284,656

Analysis of income and expenditure

Unrestricte	d Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year

Total

INCOMING RESOURCES

Incoming resources Grand totals =	£182,476	£2,618	£15,221	£6,237	206,551	E236,127
Other incoming resources Totals	£4,033	0	£1,628	£6,237	£11,898	£34,929
1903 - Brampton Abbotts Share of expenses	£689	0	0	0	£689	£750
1902 - Walford Share of expenses	£3,344	0	0	0	£3,344	£3,641
0502 - Legacies	0	0	£1,628	£6,237	£7,865	£30,538
Other incoming resources						
activities Totals	£12,779	0	0	0	£12,779	£12,491
Incoming resources from charitable		0	0	0	£10,839	£11,081
1901 - Fees	£10,839	0	0	0	£1,940	£1,410
1801 - Use of Church	£1,940	0	0			1
Incoming resources from charitable a	ectivities		•		~ ,	2100,101
Incoming resources from generated funds Totals	£165,664	£2,618	£13,592	0	£181,874	£188.707
1701 - Dividends & Interest inc Tax Recoverable	£3,757	£764	£3,550	0	£8,071	£3,232
1651 - St Mary's Hall Income	£14,082	0	0	0	£14,082	£13,954
1501 - Coffee Morning	£2,238	0	0	0	£2,238	£1,871
1201 - Lent Lunch	£378	0	0	0	£378	£307
1101 - 100 Club	£3,441	0	0	0	£3,441	£2,732
0901 - Sunday Morning Coffee	£1,891	0	0	0		
0855 - Flower Festival	0	0	0	0		
0751 - Christmas Tree Festival	£5,472	0	0	0		•
0701 - Fund raising	£11,470	0	0	0		
0501 - Grants	(£1,798)	£1,854	£1,600	0		
0401 - Donations, Appeals, etc	£4,366	0	£8,442	0	,	,
0301 - Collections safe in Church	£9,959	0	0	0		
0201 - Collections (open plate)	£9,832	0	0	0		
0102 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	£24,991	0	0	C	,,	
0101 - Gift Aid	£75,586	0	0	,	075 500	
Incoming resources from generated	funds					

RESOURCES USED

Cost of generating funds

	Charitable activities Totals	£157,983	£11,674	£5,701	0	£175,358	£178,935
8201	- Forwarded Collections	£344	0	0	0	£344	£245
7901 -	- Telephone	£801	0	0	0	£801	£1,146
7801 -	- Waste Collection & Disposal	0	0	£1,141	0	£1,141	£637
7701 -	- Upkeep of Churchyard	0	0	£3,170	0	£3,170	£1,199
7501 -	- Admin Salaries	£15,486	0	0	0	£15,486	£14,544
7305 -	- IT fees and services	£288	0	0	0	£288	£839
7301 -	- Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0	£598
6501 -	- Church Hall	£12,965	0	0	0	£12,965	£9,955
6251 -	- Churches Together subscription	0	0	0	0	0	£35
6201 -	Christian Giving	£4,500	0	0	0	£4,500	£8,881
6151 -	Bell Maintenance	£32	0	0	0	£32	£32
6101 -	Organ Maintenance	£1,317	0	0	0	£1,317	£4,763
6051 - repairs	Boiler service contract and	£396	0	0	0	£396	0
6001 -	Building Repairs	£4,406	£11,674	0	0	£16,079	£19,646
5951 -	Education and Discipleship	0	0	0	0	0	£395
5931 -	Toast & Toddle	0	0	£279	0	£279	£144
5921 -	Messy Church	0	0	£299	0	£299	£224
5911 -	LEAF	0	0	£616	0	£616	£321
5901 -	Sundries	£7,086	0	£189	0	£7,276	£6,088
5701 -	Organists & Choir	£7,492	0	0	0	£7,492	£6,498
	Upkeep of Services	£2,698	0	0	0	£2,698	£1,750
5501 -	Water	£139	0	£7	0	£146	£149
5401 -	Insurance	£9,354	0	0	0	£9,354	£8,152
	Cleaning	£1,447	0	0	0	£1,447	£926
	Heat & Light	£12,530	0	0	0	£12,530	£12,194
	Clergy & Benefice Expenses	£8,302	0	0	0	£8,302	£8,890
	Diocesan Common Share	£68,400	0	0	0	£68,400	£70,686
	able activities						
	ost of generating funds Totals	£3,668	0	0	0	£3,668	£8,148
	Fund Raising 100 Club	£1,300	0	0	0	£1,300	£1,130
	Fund Raising Sundries	£400	0	0	0	£400	£4,503
	Fund Raising Materials	£948	0	0	0	£948	£1,925
6701 -	Fund Raising Fees	£1,020	0	0	0	£1,020	£590

Other resources used

6013 - Reordering work Phase 3	0	0	0	0	0	£2,152
Other resources used Totals	0	0	0	0	0	£2,152
Resources used Grand totals	£161,651	£11,674	£5,701	0 £179,025 £189,		189,235