

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH HASTINGS AND ST ANDREWS

Reports & Accounts

Financial Year Ending 31/12/2024

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Legal & Administrative Details

Charity Name: THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH HASTINGS AND ST ANDREWS

Charity Number: 1210772

Charity Address: Laton Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 2ES

Trustees:

- Alan Burke
- Christine Oades
- Christine Smith (Appointed 12/05/2024)
- Corinna Irvine (Appointed 12/05/2024)
- Isabelle Norton
- Jane Seaton (Resigned 09/09/2024)
- Jean Wilson
- Margaret Wisden (Church Warden)
- Miriam Addley
- Peter Edgesmith
- Rosemary Murrills (Priest-in-Charge)
- Stephen Harvey (Church Warden)

Independent Examiner: Mr C Addison BSc ACA
7 Friars Way, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 2AZ

Trustees Report

Objects of the charity

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the main decision maker of the parish. Its powers and duties are defined by legislation and can principally be found in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

The PCC, in partnership with the Priest in Charge (see below), is responsible for the mission of the Church and a wide range of matters affecting the parish, including compliance with health and safety, equality and disability legislation and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. As trustees, the members of the PCC are responsible for the stewardship of funds and for the appropriate accounting and reporting of the parish finances.

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of the following ex-officio members: The Priest in Charge, the Churchwardens and members of the Deanery Synod, with up to 10 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). The number on the PCC and Deanery Synod is related to the number on the Church Electoral Roll.

Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skill and experience if possible.

Regular mailings from the Diocese keep officers up to date with changes in church regulations and financial procedures and these are reported to the PCC as appropriate.

There are two sub-committees which report to the PCC, being responsible for some specific areas of the church's activities.

Standing Committee – the only committee required by law and with the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to directions and review by the full PCC.

Fabric Committee – oversees the stewardship of the Church and Hall buildings and the grounds.

Objectives and Activities

The primary objective of Blacklands Church PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of consulting and co-operating with the Priest in Charge and other ministers in promoting the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic and ecumenical.

Administrative information

Christ Church, Blacklands & St Andrews, Hastings (Blacklands Church) is part of the Diocese of Chichester and the Deanery of Hastings, within the Province of Canterbury of the Church of England.. The parish is a charity which is exempted from registering with the Charity Commissioners within the meaning of the Charities Act 1993. However, in November 2024 the PCC decided to register with the Charity Commissioners, ahead of a change in the law which will make this compulsory from March 2031.

Electoral Roll

There were 81 people on the roll as at the most recent APCM in 2024.

A full revision has to be undertaken every six years and the next one is due in 2025.

Management of risks and their mitigation

The PCC has an ongoing task of reviewing the major risks which impact on the work of the church in the parish.

The PCC consider that the principal risks and uncertainties are:

- The lack of a long term plan to provide ordained ministry in the parish
- Health and safety within the church building and halls
- The need to fund unexpected costs associated with the listed buildings
- An unexpected fall in income, particularly given the dependence of the church on a limited number of major regular donors and hall hirers
- The requirement to find volunteers with the appropriate skills, time and commitment to support the ministry of the congregation
- Reliance upon the Diocese to continue to provide financial support whilst we work towards paying our full Parish Share for clergy ministry

The PCC seeks to manage these risks and uncertainties by

- Seeking a conversation with the Deanery and Diocese about the future of the parish
- Identifying outreach opportunities to grow the active participation of our neighbours in the life of the church
- maintaining the Church and Hall to an adequate standard, with major work being scheduled as funds permit, in line with the Quinquennial review
- monitoring and developing the Church's Stewardship programme to emphasise God's generosity to the congregation and encourage the congregation to respond to that generosity in their giving through time, talents and money, as they are able
- growing income from letting the hall
- budgeting to increase the proportion paid of the expected parish share

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC has appointed Isabelle Norton as Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Officer.

There were no incidents recorded in the safeguarding report.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as stated in the Report of the Priest in Charge.

Report of the Priest in Charge for 2024

The pattern of weekly services during 2024 was: Monday Morning Prayer at 9 a.m, Wednesday Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. followed by said Holy Communion at 9:45, and a Sunday sung Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m. We kept the pattern of having a slightly lower-key "All Age" Communion service on the first Sunday of each month, using a simpler liturgy. Although lacking the regular presence of many children in our congregation, it seems the youngster within each of us came to the fore on those days – taking part in activities such as drawing portraits of each other as saints, writing names for prayer on origami boats and fishes, and singing Happy Birthday with gusto for those celebrating their special day that month.

Additional services were held as appropriate throughout the year, including Compline each evening during Holy Week, a sunrise Easter Morning service, a Pet blessing service in the church grounds in August, All Souls in November, and a Christingle service in December, plus the usual extra Christmas services which attracted many local residents who do not routinely come to church. In September we hosted the Hastings Deanery Confirmation, during which 11 people were confirmed by the Bishop of Lewes, including four from our own parish.

Our Pastoral ALM David Jones as usual maintained his very comprehensive prayer list for those in need of such, both within our parish and in the wider community, also leading his fortnightly prayer group in church.

Our Lent Course was based on the life of Stephen Hawking, each session being preceded by a light lunch. Other Bible Study groups met during the year.

In October we held a "Vision Evening", discussing the way forward for our parish and its ministry, facilitated by Rev Carol Morrison.

Our close connection with the local Mountside Care Home continued – a small group from that home attending our Wednesday morning Communion when practicable for them, and our Eucharistic Ministers faithfully taking the Reserved Sacrament to them once a month. Rev Rosemary also presided at Communion services there for Shrove Tuesday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, and Christmas, which were usually attended by 20-30 residents and staff.

Social activities included the annual summer BBQ, a classical guitar concert by Kianush Robeson, a Harvest Supper, and a Quiz Night. The annual Christmas Fayre was held in December.

PCC met on alternate months throughout the year.

Connections with both local primary schools increased this year, in the form of pupils visiting and exploring the church as a significant building within their community, and Rev Rosemary engaging with them at school as part of their RE syllabus. Both schools also came to our church for their Christmas Carol Concerts in December.

During this year we sadly lost former Churchwarden Brian Zeng-Daw, former Treasurer Noel Schofield, and Fr Paul Le Sueur, a former Rector of Blacklands.

In the Autumn, Readers Charmaine and Derek Hill started taking an active role in our services, by preaching, and also arranging and leading an All Age service. It is hoped that their involvement might continue into 2025.

On the maintenance front, the big project of the year was the replacement of the Church Hall roof, thanks to a generous grant from Biffa Award. Many thanks are due to Alan Burke and the Fabcom team for their commitment during this sometimes challenging project.

During 2024, fundraising activities were held for the following external charities:

- May 12th, Cake sale for Christian Aid: £65
- Aug 4th Pet blessing service cookie sale for RSPCA: £65
- Sept 14th Ride and Stride for E. Sussex Historic Churches Trust: £2246
- Sep 29th Macmillan Coffee morning: £227
- Dec 8th Christingle for The Children's Society: £93

As well as the Churchwardens and PCC, there are so many people who have quietly and faithfully carried out various essential background tasks, in, around, and for the good of, Blacklands Church and hall – too many to name here individually. But rest assured everybody's contributions have been noticed and very much appreciated.

Rev Rosemary has since reluctantly announced that she will be standing down as Priest-in Charge at Easter 2025, due to a combination of personal and domestic issues, but has enjoyed the experience and privilege of ministering, albeit as a "part-timer", to the Blacklands Church family and parish, and wishes God's blessing upon all.

In planning the activities, the trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial Review

Our unrestricted cash balances at the end of 2024 totalled £16,283 (2023 £ 38,679).

The decrease is due mainly to the following:

- A continuing small operating deficit, with giving and sundry income failing to cover our routine outgoings.
- A new roof for the church hall, including internal upgrades to the insulation and lighting. The cost was partly met by grants and donations, but approximately £20,000 was funded from the church's general reserves.
- Discharge of all outstanding loans, including a new loan from the Diocese to help with cash flow around the hall roof. This was repaid in full on completion of the project.

Significant repairs identified in the most recent Quinquennial Inspection have not yet been addressed. The timing of works will depend on availability of funding and people to plan and oversee the projects. £11,613 in the restricted Fabric Fund is largely directed towards these repairs.

Increasing energy prices continue to be a serious challenge, but the church is now a member of the Church of England 'Energy Basket' which aims to manage energy costs by using the purchasing power of multiple local churches.

Funds in Deficit

None of the church's funds were in deficit at any time during the year. ((2023, none)

Reserves Policy

The PCC's policy is to hold sufficient reserves to cover 3 month's expenditure in addition to any anticipated deficits, and to cover foreseeable short term repair and maintenance costs of the Church and Halls.

In view of the amount of necessary work identified in the recent Quinquennial Inspection, which hasn't yet been quantified, it's very likely that the PCC's reserves are now below the level required by the policy. The extent of this problem will depend on our success in raising grant funding for essential repairs.

Cash not immediately required is deposited with the CBF Church of England deposit fund.

Signature

This report was approved by the trustees, and is signed on their behalf by:

Rev. Rosemary Murrills

10 March 2025

Independent Examiners Report DRAFT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH HASTINGS AND ST ANDREWS ('the charity') for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. 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.

Mr C Addison BSc ACA

8 March 2025

Receipts & Payments Statement

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Prior Year
Receipts					
Donations & Legacies					
Donations and legacies	32,574	92,533	0	125,107	29,403
Charitable Activities					
Wedding and funeral fees	-484	0	0	-484	1,565
Investments					
Bank Interest	1,759	0	0	1,759	1,255
Rental from phone mast	6,700	0	0	6,700	7,200
Trading Activities					
Church hall hiring fees	14,704	0	0	14,704	12,563
Magazine advertisement fees	545	0	0	545	4350
Other					
Loan receipts	25,000	0	0	25,000	0
Other receipts	80	1,113	0	1,193	4,023
Total receipts	80,879	93,646	0	174,525	,56,433
Payments					
Charitable Activities					
Charitable activities	56,192	103,325	0	159,517	56,093
Raising Funds					
Cost of raising funds	11	0	0	11	4
Governance Costs					
Governance costs	247	0	0	247	216
Other					
Loan repayments	26,000	0	0	26,000	4,000
Disbursement of third party funds	0	733	0	733	802
Total payments	82,450	104,058	0	186,508	61,114
Net Receipts / Payments (before transfers)	-1,572	-10,411	0	-11,983	-4,671
Fund Transfers In	0	21,325	0	21,325	0
Fund Transfers Out	20,825	500	0	21,325	0
Net Movement of Cash Funds	-22,396	10,413	0	-11,983	-4,671
Total Cash Funds Brought Forward	38,680	2,996	0	41,676	46,347
Total Cash Funds Carried Forward	16,283	13,410	0	29,693	41,676
Represented By					
General (Unrestricted)	16,283	0	0	16,283	38,680
Hall Improvements Fund (Restricted)	0	555	0	555	835
Poppins (Restricted)	0	1,109	0	1,109	1,229
Afternoon Fellowship (Restricted)	0	13	0	13	13
Belfry (Restricted)	0	69	0	69	269
Benevolent Fund (Restricted)	0	50	0	50	50
Fabric Fund (Restricted)	0	11,613	0	11,613	600
Total Funds	16,283	13,410	0	29,693	41,676

Asset & Liability Statement

Cash Assets

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Prior Year
General (Unrestricted)	16283	0	0	16283	38,680
Hall Improvements Fund (Restricted)	0	555	0	555	835
Poppins (Restricted)	0	1109	0	1109	1,229
Charity Collections Fund (Restricted)	0	0	0	0	0
Music System Fund (Restricted)	0	0	0	0	0
Afternoon Fellowship (Restricted)	0	13	0	13	13
Belfry (Restricted)	0	69	0	69	269
Benevolent Fund (Restricted)	0	50	0	50	50
Fabric Fund (Restricted)	0	11613	0	11613	600

Other Monetary Assets

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Prior Year
Gift Aid		743	33	0	776	812
Other		12	1662	0	1674	349

Investment Assets

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Prior Year
Deposit Accounts	26000	0	0	26000	26000

Liabilities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Prior Year
Loans Outstanding	0	0	0	0	1000
HMRC Payments Owed	514	0	0	514	514
Independent Examination Fee Due	432	0	0	432	432
Other	1527	3239	0	3644	3528

Signature

These accounts have been approved by the trustees, and are signed on their behalf by:

Rev. Rosemary Murrills

10 March 2025

Notes to the Accounts

Accounting Policies

- The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and current Church Accounting Regulations, using the receipts and payments basis.
- The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, which require a faculty for disposal.
- Gift Aid recoverable is based on donations received up to the year end since the last claim was submitted.
- Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides.

Transactions to Related Parties

The church wardens and incumbent of Blacklands Church are ex officio trustees of a charitable trust fund. Because the fund and Christ Church Blacklands and St Andrews PCC have trustees in common, they may satisfy the definition of 'related parties'.

There were no transactions between the PCC and the fund during 2024 (2023 £nil).

Movement of Funds

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Closing Balance
General (Unrestricted)	38,680	80,879	82,450	-20,825	16,283
Hall Improvements Fund (Restricted)	835	79,020	100,625	21,325	555
Poppins (Restricted)	1,229	806	426	-500	1,109
Charity Collections Fund (Restricted)	0	307	307	0	0
Music System Fund (Restricted)	0	2,500	2,500	0	0
Afternoon Fellowship (Restricted)	13	0	0	0	13
Belfry (Restricted)	269	0	200	0	69
Benevolent Fund (Restricted)	50	0	0	0	50
Fabric Fund (Restricted)	600	11,013	0	0	11,613
TOTAL	41,676	174,525	186,508	0	11,613

Church Groups

The PCC holds funds for two church groups where it has been found impractical for the groups to operate their own bank accounts. The PCC is not responsible for the transactions and assets of these groups and merely reports the balances which it holds on their behalf as restricted funds. The balances are also included in the list of liabilities of those funds.

Payments to PCC employees

Salaries of £4,302 were paid to employees (2023 £4,214). No employer National Insurance or pension contributions were paid in 2024 (2023 £nil).

In addition, occasional casual payments were made.

Payments to PCC members

In line with Church of England practice, the PCC is responsible for meeting the council tax, water rates and environmental charges for all houses occupied by parish stipendiary staff. It also reimburses their working expenses. The cost to the PCC this year was £1823 (2023 £603.)

No payments of expenses were made to other PCC members (2023 £nil). For administrative convenience, some purchases on behalf of the PCC are made by PCC members. These are reimbursed in full and are not considered to be 'expenses' for reporting purposes.