

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
SOUTHBOURNE WITH WEST THORNEY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1130876



Introduction.

This report fulfils our responsibility as a charity to report on our activities and finances. It is an important document to highlight how we satisfy our charitable status, positively impact our beneficiaries' lives, and appropriately use our resources.

It includes an examined copy of our annual accounts, and hard copies are available in church or electronically on our website.

This is also an opportunity to look back over the last year with thanks, and to look forward with hope and expectation for all that is in store in the years ahead. I hope you enjoy it.

Rev. Tom Robson, on behalf of the PCC.

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www.stjohnssouthbourne.com

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AIMS, PLANS & OBJECTIVES

Incumbent:
The Revd Tom Robson
The Vicarage,
271 Main Road,
Southbourne, PO10 8JE

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Independent examiner:
Mr E Thompson

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CHARITY GOVERNANCE

Bankers:
Lloyds Bank
Havant Branch,
4 West St,
Havant,
PO9 1PE

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Our aims and purposes as a charity.

The PCC has the responsibility, along with Rev'd Tom Robson, of:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and, ecumenical.
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need.
- Providing financial support to those in need and to other organisations with similar objectives.

The council 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.

How we planned to achieve our charitable objectives.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. For 2023 we planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Providing **accessible worship**, to enable as many people as possible to participate.
- Providing **Christian teaching** to all age groups through Sunday services and mid-week small group activities.
- Developing our **Families and Youth Ministry** within the Parish.
- Provision of **pastoral care** for people living in the parish.
- **Giving** to Christian mission organisations.
- Positively **engaging with our community** through our coffee shop, Love Southbourne, clubs, groups and local events.
- **Maintaining the church and grounds** as a focus of village life.

What we achieved in 2023.

(detailed reports follow in the 'Impact' section)

Attendance at worship

The church welcomes members and visitors from the locality and those visiting the area. We firmly believe that the provision of services of worship is a major public benefit of our activities. During 2023, we had an average congregation of 59 at our 10am service and 73 at our weekly (term-time) 4pm all-age service. We also reintroduced a midweek Communion service with an average congregation of 13, and a monthly reflective evening Communion service with an average congregation of 22.

In addition, we provided seasonal services throughout the church calendar, including Taize worship, reflective services, and a mix of opportunities to share the gospel at Christmas and Easter.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

Across the parish we had 7 baptisms, 2 dedications and 2 confirmations. We have 12 homegroups and Bible study groups, which meet regularly to share and encourage people in their faith.

We offered a number of seasonal and one-off opportunities for people to grow in faith, including an Advent course and joint services with other local churches. Many prayer groups continue to meet throughout the week, in-person and online.

Families and Youth

Our ministry among families and youth continues to flourish, with increasing attendance at our afternoon Sunday service, with groups for toddlers and teenagers. Our fortnightly 'Friday Fellowship' continued to welcome families from across our parish and our toddler group, and links with local schools were strengthened. A full report of the impact of this follows later.

Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral team coordinates home and hospital visits as well as home communions and support to those going through difficult times. We jointly lead two regular services in two local care homes with other local churches. These services are an important benefit for those who are too frail to attend on Sundays.

Mission and Charitable Giving

The gifts from our Harvest Festival were distributed to the Food Bank; the church supports the Food Bank as a point of collection for food donations and also as an emergency distribution point for food parcels. During Advent we raised over £1,000 to provide Christmas gifts to local families going through hard times.

Our parish policy is to give a proportion of our income to Christian charities and missions, locally and globally. In 2023 we supported a wide range of organisations including: 2serve, Emmanuel International, The Mande family, Education West Africa, Concordis, Callum and Rianne Adams, Japan Christian Link, B.E.A.T.S., SIM Malawi, Christian Aid, Tearfund, and Family Support Work.

We also held collections to support the work of the British Legion, Children's Society, and Stone Pillow.



Eric & Rachel Mande

"We loved our time in the UK and having the opportunity of seeing so many of you."

The Mandes visited us in August to update us on their work with Restore Ministries, Uganda.

Engaging with our local community

St. John's Church is committed to our local community, our neighbours, schools, families and friends. Located in the centre of the village of Southbourne we are ideally placed to use our buildings and grounds to engage with the local community. Our regular activities include toddlers, children and youth groups; book, craft and film clubs and events for seniors. We hosted a significant Remembrance Day service for the local community and now regularly host a veterans breakfast for the large contingent of ex-forces personnel who live locally.

(Please see the Group Reports section for more details on how this impacted beneficiaries' lives in 2023.)

Celebrating harvest together in Church



Provision of our buildings and grounds for people to enjoy

St John's Church is available for prayer and reflection whenever the centre is open, in 2023 that meant Tuesday to Thursday mornings. St Nicholas, Thorney Island is open all year round; and many people take up this opportunity, as seen in our visitor books.

Our outside space has also been available for Church and community events, including Remembrance Day and a Christian Aid garden party, as well as being utilised by our children's groups. We're grateful to all those who work hard to maintain it.

St John's welcomed Little Stars Nursery, Southbourne Infant and Junior Schools to the church for Harvest and Christmas in 2023. Thorney Island School has also made several visits to St Nicholas.

Impact on Beneficiaries' lives & Group Reports.

Audio Visual Team



This report covers the dedicated work of those individuals who operate the sound desk, the video and other such work to make the techie equipment work, for our two main Sunday services and occasional weddings and funerals. On behalf of the Church we are truly thankful. We are now fully established in our elevated outpost. In the last year we have seen the installation of the new video monitors, which together with a set of 'style guidelines' have improved the clarity of the song lyrics and presentations, even when we are blessed with bright sunshine. Our team is quite small, and would welcome any 'new blood', to ease the rota. *Martin Fair.*

Book Club



We currently have 16 active members of the group and continue to meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 3pm and 7.30pm. We originally divided into 2 groups because of numbers, but it also allows people to choose the time which suits them best, as both groups read the same titles. We have continued to read a wide variety of books chosen by the members which reflect our differing tastes in literature. There is space in both groups to accommodate new members, so do join us and get reading. *Jenny Bond.*

Centre Kitchen



The Kitchen has been used for various events this year. These include the new monthly Lunch Club, a large Wedding, Friday Fellowship, Funeral Wakes and Sunday coffee. Thank you to all the helpers for giving their time to support these, and many other, events. More people have had kitchen training to help with these occasions. We bought some additional equipment and a new microwave was donated during the year. Visitors from other churches continue to remind us of how blessed we are to have such a well-equipped and well-used kitchen. *Barbara Wilson*

Coffee Connect



We have been very encouraged this year to see more of our regular visitors returning to Coffee Connect, after having to close during the covid epidemic. We have also had new people joining us. We are open from 9am to 12noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Tom is usually available on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 10am and 12 noon to chat with anyone who would find that helpful



We held a MacMillan Coffee morning and raised nearly £400, and a joint fund raising event with Upbeat Southbourne Community Choir which raised nearly £200. You are all welcome to join us to meet up and enjoy a coffee and homemade cake with friends. Thank you to all the Coffee Connect volunteers who are so dedicated to serving our community this way. *Barbara Wilson and Julie Collins*

Craft Club

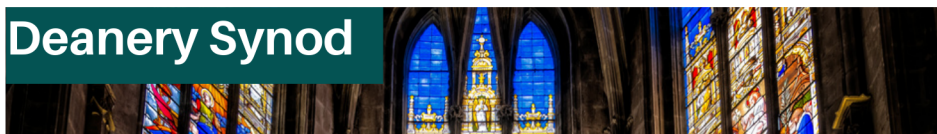


Following on from our Covid shutdown and loss of several members, we have now restructured in the hope that we meet the needs of our members and reduce the stress on the Team. So far we have been very pleased with the new system. We have about twenty-five regular members.



We meet on the second Thursday afternoon of each month, in the coffee lounge, each bringing our own project. Most bring embroidery, knitting, or anything which does not need too much equipment, and we have a social afternoon with plenty of chat and tea. On fourth Wednesdays, upstairs in the Centre, we have more time and more space and the emphasis is on producing items for others rather than for ourselves. We tend to alternate between machine sewing and paper crafting and are always interested to hear of charities asking for items to be made. *Janice Collett*

Deanery Synod



Synod met on four occasions, each of which at least some of our representatives attended. Opportunities were taken to welcome into the Deanery the Parish of Fishbourne and Apuldram, their vicar Revd Jessica Reid as Rural Dean, and Revd Tom Robson to Southbourne with West Thorney. Also Bishop Ruth who attended the September meeting. During the year, the Deanery Action Plan was submitted in shortened form - though the approval process was so extended that it had become dated. Though there had been several attempts to provide 'Warm Spaces' during the winter, there had only been a low uptake. The Deanery Prayer Group, initiated by St John's, has continued to meet peripatetically on the first Tuesday of each month.

The Deanery had managed to meet its pledged financial contributions to the Diocese in 2023 - for 2024 an increase of 3.4% is anticipated as Diocesan reserves will be drawn on. Several Parishes, having themselves already drawn on reserves, anticipate being unable to maintain even the present level of contributions. There have been discussions about the future of financially unviable Parishes and these have been passed back to the Diocese.

Following debate, Deanery declared support for a private motion to be presented to General Synod declaring 'that bullying is unacceptable behaviour within the Church of God whether by Clergy or laity'. The intention being to restore a balance of responsibility. Deanery Synod noted that General Synod had agreed that a stand-alone service of blessing for same sex partnerships should be available on trial until 2025. However, at that point there was no approved liturgy, nor was there advice for those who felt unable to offer such blessings. Safeguarding issues are always on the agenda and attention has been drawn to Training Modules required for those with safeguarding responsibilities. *Tim Marsden*

Environmental Group

The Eco group has focused on the garden, making it more bee-friendly by planting wild flowers and taking part in No-Mow May. Our thanks to the dedicated team of mowers who mowed appropriate paths round the church, and to the people who turn the waste into such good compost. In the kitchen and centre we have moved away from single use items and minimised food waste. We thank everyone who has joined with these initiatives as they wouldn't otherwise be successful. *Sarah MacLennan*

Fabric (Warden's Report)

In 2023 we have improved the safety and security of our buildings with the installation of a new security and alarm system. In the church, using a generous donation, we installed new digital screens which have improved the clarity of slides and videos used in worship. We are grateful to the volunteers who help keep our church building and grounds safe and in good condition. Looking forward, we are awaiting a quinquennial inspection in 2024, we are raising funds to refurbish our organ and are developing plans to use our church centre more effectively. *Gill Prosser*

Film Club

The Film Club continued to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm during 2023, showing a range of films. There is no charge but donations are often made, and there's a break for tea and cake.

Homegroups

A new homegroup was started in the Autumn of 2023 in one of the new housing areas in the parish, bringing the number of groups to 8. This group meets on term time Thursday evenings and has 7 members. Last year it was noticed that most groups met on a Monday and precluded those for whom that day was not convenient. One Monday evening group has since changed to a Wednesday evening. This means that we have groups meeting on each day except Friday. Two meet in the morning, one in the afternoon and five in the evening with approximately 51 members.

The Wednesday morning Bible study continues in the lounge in the Centre and also a small nurture group meet in the prayer room at the same time. Many of the groups are at near capacity as most meet in members' homes, but they are places where we can grow spiritually together and give each other encouragement and support. I would ask for ongoing prayers for the groups meeting and also that there would be a desire for others to join so that new groups would be needed in the coming year. *Carol Jones*

Love Southbourne



Love Southbourne last year had three main events. We distributed Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday at different points around Southbourne. These were received really well and people felt blessed by receiving them. The other two events were doing a BBQ for the Village Fete at the Recreation ground and taking a Christmas Trailer to Priors Orchard estate and up round the Alfrey Road houses. We sang Christmas Carols, gave out mince pies, the St. John's magazine and chocolates, which went down very well especially with the children! They were well attended and good conversations were had. *Susie Bartlett*



Lunch Club



It has been very encouraging since starting the Lunch Club last September, to see the lounge full of people enjoying each other's company and a meal together on a monthly basis. We normally meet on a Monday once a month at 12 noon and the meal is followed by a short talk or activity. In December we had Christmas dinner followed by carols. We would love to see new people joining us but as places go very quickly please have a word with Julie Collins or Barbara Wilson if you would like to come. A big thank you to all the team who support this event and make it run so smoothly. *Barbara and Julie.*

Men's 5-a-side Football



We set this up in Spring 2023 as a step towards introducing more people to faith in Jesus, by introducing the idea to Dads at the local school. Football seemed a great way to meet guys that wouldn't encounter faith or the Church in any other way. One year on, a game runs every week with a nucleus of thirteen guys who regularly play. Out of these, four come to our 4pm service. So far, the friendships created here have been developed by organising two social meet ups. *Richard Carter*

Mission



In the last year we saw the rebranding of the mission team to be the 'Global Mission Team', to ensure the local mission was afforded its own emphasis. This also saw some new keen members of the church join us. We now comprise of Roger Adams, Jenny Bond, Paula Errock, Julie Fair, Sue Fallon and Sarah Maclennan. Again, we strongly supported our 'home grown' mission partners, and granted the following financial support:

2 Serve Trust	£ 500	Emmanuel International	£ 1,500
BEATS	£ 1,000	Frontiers (Michael Marsden)	£ 500
Callum & Rianne Adams	£ 1,500	Japan Christian Link	£ 500
Chichester Family Support	£ 500	SIM - Steven and Jo Wheatley	£ 1,000
Concordis (Peter Marsden)	£ 500	YWAM - Rachel and Eric	£ 1,500
Education West Africa	£ 1,000	TOTAL	£ 10,000

As a result of the encouragement of our new members, and the support of Tom, we have now reintroduced the 'Mission of the month' with an emphasis of providing some news and mission visitors to the congregations at 10AM and 4PM. Also, we have improved the Mission Board in the centre and brought the webpages up to date. *Martin Fair*

Pastoral



The Pastoral Team has had new members join us and the team have been busy supporting members of St. John's. If you are in need of our help, please do contact us. *Susie Bartlett*

Safeguarding Report

Last year ended in the completion of all the DBSs being transferred from 5yrs to a 3yrs status with most people registering for update service. This was achieved well in advance of the diocese deadline January 2024. The diocese was informed and replied: - "Many thanks for letting us know, and well done! As you say this has clearly been a very big task but it's great that you've got it done. Excellent work!"

Safeguarding training is running smoothly with volunteers updating training as and when needed. Thank you to everyone for your co-operation and willingness. This makes our church a much safer place for all. All volunteers and staff members have gone through safer recruitment, the necessary training and induction into the role. Safeguarding continues to be a standard item on every agenda of the PCC meetings as all PCC members are responsible for safeguarding. All safeguarding concerns raised were responded to and dealt with appropriately. However, we need to maintain our vigilance to ensure protection and well-being of everyone in our parish. *Christine Liddle.*

Social Team

Social Team has had two big events in the past year. These were the Bishop Ruth Ladies evening and the Harvest Lunch and were both attended by about 90 people. We have also been helping out at other events like Christian Aid and the Christmas Celebrations. We have 11 people on our team and we always enjoy putting on these events but would always welcome new members! I would like to thank all those on team and those who are not on team but do help with the clearing up afterwards. *Susie Bartlett*



St Nicholas Church



We entered 2023 with a not so new Padre, Rev'd Nick Todd, who had been with us some 13 years before. From his time in the Gulf with U.S. Padres, he brought a personal approach to the sharing of communion which has continued to inform our practice over the year.

We celebrated Mothering Sunday distributing posies as in pre-pandemic years. We added a Sea Sunday service in July, which our congregation enthusiastically supported with readings of shipwrecks, sea-shanties and a collection for Mission to Seafarers (£125). We repeated our Harvest Festival theme in collecting for Chichester Food Bank (£90). Our year was punctuated by occasional services returning to normal frequency with 3 baptisms, 2 funerals and 2 committals during 2023. This creates opportunities to preach and demonstrate our Christian values. Our congregation numbers remained strong (by our measure). Folk from St John's who had made the journey down to join us during its closure continued to appreciate our fellowship.

Padre Nick retired from the Army in July that year, so we invited Rev'd Barbara Stanton along for parish communions through bloc leave before Padre Mike Jenkinson joined us in September. Our congregation were heartened to see more of Rev'd Tom as he got to know where we were and how we did things. I am pleased to report that the St Nicholas 2021 Quinquennial Report repairs got underway in October. Our repairs were concluded by December at £11,628 and the sluice gates' repair by the week before Christmas, enabling our Crib Carol service to go ahead as planned. *Andy Walkley*



St Nicholas Church Crib Service

Walking Group

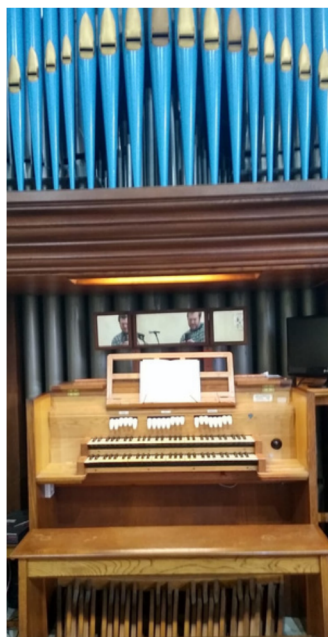


The intrepid walkers have continued to go out despite the weather, which this winter has made our favourite paths so muddy. We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the country, and 6-10 of us walk mostly on the South Downs or around the Harbour, with lively conversation, views, wildflowers, a bit of exercise and cake! Last summer we enjoyed walks at Levin Down, West Dean Woods, Compton, Buriton and Chidham amongst others. *Please contact Sarah Maclennan if you're interested in joining us.*

Worship



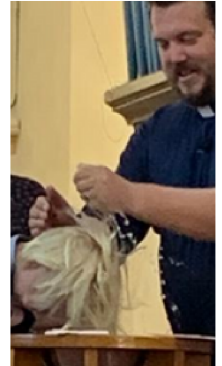
During the year we were pleased to welcome additional singers into the 10am singing group. This enabled us to bring a greater variety of music to the morning services, e.g. during Communion, and also sing 4-part harmonies most weeks. In addition to the morning services, we also sang a number of Taize services throughout the year, and this more reflective style of music has resonated with the congregation, who have been appreciative of the atmosphere created by this form of worship. In September 2023 the PCC agreed a fundraising campaign to raise £23,000 to overhaul the organ and bring it up to modern standards. This campaign is now in progress, and we are optimistic that the renovation can be carried out during 2024. *Mike Prosser*



Worship at the 4pm service continues to be led by a mixture of groups, including families and a growing number of young people serving through singing and playing. It was also lovely to have music groups representing both services at some of our joint services in 2023, including Easter and Harvest.

4 O'Clock Service

As we look back on the last twelve months there are lots of reasons to rejoice and be thankful to God over the 4pm service. On a personal note, it has been brilliant that we now share the vision of the 4pm service with Tom Robson and Peter & Rosemary Cunliffe. This has meant that this responsibility is now shared within a team. Thank you to everyone who serves to enable the 4pm service to happen and function well. Thank you all so much. Below are some of the highlights of 2023: Nick being confirmed on June 21st at Chichester Cathedral and two of his children being Baptised on September 3rd.



The easiest way to show that we are still experiencing growth within the 4pm service is a graph of the children & young people signed in, that we generate at each service. You will notice that the number of children & young people attending has steadily increased.



4YG

4YG stands for 4pm Youth Group. 4YG is a discipleship youth group within the 4pm service. Up until recently 4YG had been led by Rachel & Dylan but with the arrival of their first baby it is now being led by Tina, Sue, Karen, Stuart, Mark, Michelle and Richard. An intentional change to 4YG is that the group theme now mirrors the 4pm service. This is so that families have heard the same message, albeit in an age specific way, and so can talk about it together at home.

“4YG is a great place to discuss questions & to learn about God. I like the games we play together & the snacks.”

Martha aged 13.

“4YG is good because we leave the main church service & play fun games. I’ve made new friends & the food at the café is really nice.”

Sonny aged 11.

St John’s Tots

The latest addition to the 4pm service has been 4pm Tots. 4pm Tots is a group for pre-school to Reception aged children and is held within the 4pm service. This group delights our hearts for a number of reasons: (1): Because it demonstrates our love and commitment to the spiritual and social development of pre-school children. (2): The Team consists of parents within the 4pm service. We are so delighted to have Lucie, Lauren & Sophie on Team. (3): We are so grateful to Susanna Shaw for taking the lead & organisation of 4pm Tots. Not only is Susanna a Team member but she liaises with the team, making sure they are all informed, equipped and happy to facilitate their session. Thank you all so much. To the right is a photo of one of the Tots crafts:



Friday Fellowship

Friday Fellowship is a provision for all the family! The aim of Friday Fellowship is to deepen the relationships between the families who attend the 4pm service as well as being a 'stepping stone' from groups like Thursday Tots into the wider life of the church. We regularly see between 40 - 50 people attend on a bi-weekly rotation.

A fairly recent addition to Friday Fellowship has been the inclusion of focus groups for all age groups. These include:

(1): Pre-school to School year 3

(2): School year 4 - 6

(3): Secondary school provision called the LOFT.

We are very grateful to the Team that enables Friday Fellowship to happen.

"Friday Fellowship is amazing. We have special groups for different ages to learn about God & at the end have a yummy dinner."

Mollie aged 10.

"I enjoy the loft because I get to spend time with my friends & learn more about God."

Autumn-Rae aged 12.

Below are some photos of Friday Fellowship children making Mother's Day Posies for the services on Mothering Sunday 2024.



High Tide

High Tide is an Ecumenical, monthly youth worship event for churches in and around Portsmouth. The first time we went as a youth group was in February 2023 and we took two young people. A year on, High Tide has become a staple part of St. John's youth where we take anything from three to seven young people each month. Another massive thank you to Karen who accompanies me to High Tide.



"I love High Tide because I get to meet new people my own age and we play fun games. The best thing is the time we get to worship God all together. It makes me feel more connected to God which makes me feel at peace."

Lilly aged 13.

Schools Work

We've really built on the already established schools work in 2023. We are now having monthly assemblies at Southbourne Infant school, Southbourne Junior School & Thorney Island Primary school. On top of this Kim, Richard & Tom support RE lessons in the schools and Southbourne Junior school visited the Harvest exhibition in October. Both Southbourne Infants and Southbourne Juniors had their harvest festival at St. John's in September. Richard is now turning his attention to the Bourne Community College. Please pray that we will be able to create a positive relationship between the school and the church.

May Camp

I feel like MayCamp 23 went slightly under the radar. It was so exciting to be able to take four young people to MayCamp for the first time last year. MayCamp is a diocese wide annual youth event which takes place over the last bank holiday weekend in May.

We were able to go in 2023 because Richard & Kim created a MayCamp collaboration between Immanuel Church in Chichester, St Paul's Church in Chichester, St Nicholas & St Mary's Church in Lavant and St. John's. This meant that we had an excellent number of young people and a great team grafted together from these churches. It was so much fun! The young people had a blast and from Richard & Kim's perspective it was great to share the responsibility of the event with other youth workers and volunteers.

We are looking forward to taking six young people from St. John's this year.

Summer Camps

2023 was the summer of camping for St. John's! As well as MayCamp Richard & Kim were so pleased that so many people from St. John's went to New Wine in the Summer. Thank you so much to Tom for sending us on our way by praying for us. We all had a fantastic time albeit a bit squashed. This year, New Wine is going back to its roots for one mega week only at Shepton Mallet. Why not find that tent, dust it off, pack a sleeping bag and join us!

Men's Social

Richard has continued to organise men's socials under the umbrella of MensNet. Richard is really happy to report that he is now sharing the organisation of MensNet with Roger Adams and Martin Fair, which is brilliant.

Richard & Kim Carter

More details of our Youth, Children and Families ministries are on the St. John's Website.

Structure, governance and management of the charity.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent: The Revd Thomas Robson (From February 2023)

Wardens: Mr Tim Marsden (Until April 2023)

Mrs Gillian Prosser

Mrs Gillian Cruickshank (From April 2023)

Elected Members

Mrs Jane Inglis

Mrs Christine Liddle

Mrs Sarah Maclennan Secretary

Mrs Julie Fair

Mrs Kim Carter

Mr Richard Carter

Mr Ian Maclennan Treasurer

Mrs Sue McNeill

Mrs Kylee Pearce

Mrs Michelle O'Mahony (From April 2023)

Deanery Synod

Mrs Carol Jones

Mr Tim Marsden

Mrs Anne Poulter

Mrs Barbara Wilson

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members, the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and up to 12 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by The Revd. Thomas Robson, PCC Chairman

15th April 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

The trustees present their financial report for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Total income for 2023 declined further to £183k, reflecting sharply lower grants received during the year. Although donations rose slightly to £154k, this was mainly due to a large donation which was received towards the end of the year in connection with the upgrade of the audio visual equipment in the church building.

Total expenditure continued to increase in comparison to 2022 to £221k, reflecting spending on mission giving as well as the upgraded audio visual equipment, in particular some large, easily seen new screens.

The resulting deficit increased very substantially to £38k which is unsustainable, given available reserves. As noted last year, the expected increases in cost of living and higher costs which the PCC has incurred have put downward pressure on income and upward pressure of expenditure. The short term outlook continues to be challenging, although the PCC is working on fundraising (including encouraging the use of a recently purchased pay station) and grant applications to improve the situation.

Unrestricted funds registered a significant deficit (£23k) as did restricted funds (£15k).

The PCC has established a budget which anticipates a modest deficit for 2024, with plans to reduce spending on building repairs and maintenance, while maintaining spending in the areas of Families & Youth, as well as local and overseas mission. This should allow us to focus resources on the PCC's core objectives.

We are most grateful to the many church members who give sacrificially to meet the costs incurred by the PCC, the bulk of which are making Parish Share contributions to the Diocese (to meet ministry costs, salaries, housing, etc.), and to pay staff salaries.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Reserves

The trustees have a policy to hold cash reserves of at least £25,000 to cover liquidity needs.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and of its income and expenditure for the year. The trustees are required to:

- 1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently*
- 2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent*
- 3. State whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.*
- 4. Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.*

We are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the PCC's financial position and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21st March 2024 and signed on its behalf by Rev. Thomas I. Robson, Chairman.



Rev. Thomas I. Robson, Chairman

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 on pages 23 to 30 which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on page 26.

Respective Responsibilities of Directors/Trustees and Examiner

The trustees of the charity are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that the audit requirements under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 do not apply but that an independent examination is needed. I have been appointed to conduct an Independent Examination required by section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and to report in accordance with the regulations made under section 145 of that Act. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts, without performing an audit, and to report to the trustees.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

1. *examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;*
2. *follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011; and*
3. *state whether particular matters have come to my attention.*

Basis of Examiner's Statement

This report is in respect of an examination carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, and in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 a review of the accounts and making such enquiries as are necessary for the purpose of this report. 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

Based on my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011, or that the accounts presented do not accord with those records, or comply with the accounting requirements of 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.

No matter has come to my notice in connection with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts.

PCC of Southbourne with West Thorney
Registered Charity Number: 1130876

Statement of Financial Activities

		Year ended 31st December 2023	
	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
Income from:			
Donations		£ 122,280	£ 31,619
Grants	2	£ 0	£ 10,160
Other activities	3	£ 10,352	£ 0
Investments	4	£ 3,988	£ 3,110
Other income	5	£ 1,425	£ 0
Total income		£ 138,045	£ 44,889
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	6	£ 161,059	£ 59,756
Total expenditure		£ 161,059	£ 59,756
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		£ (23,014)	£ (14,867)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		£ 113,532	£ 55,154
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		£ 90,518	£ 40,287

The notes on pages 26 to 30 form part of these accounts.

Year ended 31st December 2022

Total Funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds
£ 153,899	£ 136,138	£ 11,825	£ 147,963
£ 10,160	£ 0	£ 38,615	£ 38,615
£ 10,352	£ 4,924	£ 3,518	£ 8,442
£ 7,098	£ 1,262	£ 33	£ 1,295
£ 1,425	£ 9,498	£ 0	£ 9,498
£ 182,934	£ 151,822	£ 53,991	£ 205,813
£ 220,815	£ 150,748	£ 59,869	£ 210,617
£ 220,815	£ 150,748	£ 59,869	£ 210,617
£ (37,881)	£ 1,074	£ (5,878)	£ (4,804)
£ 168,686	£ 112,458	£ 61,032	£ 173,490
£ 130,805	£ 113,532	£ 55,154	£ 168,686

PCC of Southbourne with West Thorney
Registered Charity Number: 1130876

Balance Sheet
At 31st December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31/12/2023 Total Funds	31/12/2022 Total Funds
FIXED ASSETS	7	0	26,645	26,645	23,653
		<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 26,645</u>	<u>£ 26,645</u>	<u>£ 23,653</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	£ 15,050	£ 0	£ 15,050	£ 8,290
Cash at bank		£ 78,802	£ 13,642	£ 92,444	£ 137,782
Total current assets		<u>£ 93,852</u>	<u>£ 13,642</u>	<u>£ 107,494</u>	<u>£ 146,072</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	£ 3,334	£ 0	£ 3,334	£ 1,039
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>£ 90,518</u>	<u>£ 13,642</u>	<u>£ 104,160</u>	<u>£ 145,033</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>£ 90,518</u>	<u>£ 40,287</u>	<u>£ 130,805</u>	<u>£ 168,686</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds				£ 90,518	£ 113,532
Restricted funds	10			<u>£ 40,287</u>	<u>£ 55,154</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>£ 130,805</u>	<u>£ 168,686</u>

In accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner whose report forms part of this document.

The financial statements on pages 23 to 24 and the notes on pages 26 to 30 were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21st March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev. T.I. Robson

Chairman

Mr. I.C. Maclennan

Treasurer

Mrs. G. Prosser

Churchwarden

PCC of Southbourne with West Thorney

Registered Charity Number: 1130876

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value. The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 as far as currently applicable, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 (SORP 2019 (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. Under FRS 102, the PCC falls within the definition of a public benefit charity.

1.2 Income

Donations and planned giving are recognised when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when income is receivable, provided that income tax is reasonably certain to be recovered. Grants are recognised when the conditions for receipt have been met. Investment income is accounted for in the period in which it is earned and when the amount can be measured reliably. Other income is accounted for on a receipts basis.

1.3 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to that expenditure. Accordingly, accruals, creditors and provisions are recognised where the PCC has a present obligation and where the future out flow of funds is probable. Grants and donations for the financial year are accounted for when a decision has been taken to support a particular ministry. The PCC provides a contributory defined contributions pension scheme for its employees, in line with current legislation.

1.4 Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restriction on their use. Restricted funds are funds which have been donated for specific purposes. The purpose and use of the restricted funds are set out in Note 10 below.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the financial statements in accordance with section 10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on assets held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated and beneficed buildings and movable church assets, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off when incurred. Other tangible fixed assets have been written off, in view of their low value.

1.6 Current assets

Debtors represent amounts due to the PCC and prepayments. They are recognised at either the settlement or prepaid amount. Cash at bank comprises bank current accounts and cash-equivalent bank deposits.

1.7 Taxation

The PCC, as a registered charity, is generally not liable to taxation on its surplus or capital gains.

1.8 Cash flow statement

The PCC has taken advantage of the exemption provided by the FRS 102 SORP and has not prepared a Cash Flow Statement for the year.

1.9 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the PCC members have a reasonable expectation that the PCC has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the next twelve months. For this reason the PCC has continued to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

2. Grants

The following grants were received during the year. All are restricted to the use indicated.

Grantor	Amount (£)	Restricted to
Joseph Rank Trust	10,000	Families & Youth
Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance	160	Youth Support
Total	10,160	

3. Other activities

Income from other activities was mainly fees charged for weddings and funerals held at our churches, hire charges from other users of our premises and income from certain social events.

4. Investments

Investment income arose from interest paid on deposit balances, mainly by CCLA.

5. Other income

Other income includes insurance claims totalling £263 paid by the PCC's insurance company.

6. Expenditure on charitable activities

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Diocesan Parish Share	78,795	0	78,795	76,967	0	76,967
Salaries, NICs, pensions	20,014	19,233	39,247	13,167	22,381	35,548
Maintenance & repairs	24,134	22,976	47,110	30,687	24,350	55,037
Church running costs	6,884	8,560	15,444	8,035	2,073	10,108
Local Mission	10,743	0	10,743	8,401	90	8,491
Office & general administration	5,923	0	5,923	5,612	2,000	7,612
Family & Youth work	0	6,450	6,450	0	4,678	4,678
Clergy and other expenses	1,943	0	1,943	4,439	0	4,439
Investment losses unrealised	0	0	0	0	2,372	2,372
Specific gifts - restricted	0	2,537	2,537	0	1,925	1,925
Coffee Connect expenses	944	0	944	1,465	0	1,465
Other expense	11,679	0	11,679	1,975	0	1,975
Total	161,059	59,756	220,815	150,748	59,869	210,617

The PCC employs four staff. No member of staff received more than £60,000 in total salary and benefits.

7. Fixed assets

Fixed assets consist of 446.22 accumulation shares in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. These make up the bulk of the Timothy Fund, which is a restricted fund of the PCC which exists to encourage cross cultural evangelism by church members.

8. Debtors

	2023	2022
Gift Aid receivable from HMRC	£ 14,061	£ 7,540
Outstanding collections and income	£ 989	£ 703
Other	£ 0	£ 47
Total	£ 15,050	£ 8,290

9. Creditors

	2023	2022
Chichester DBF	£ 2,657	£ 0
Charitable gifts outstanding	£ 0	£ 873
Expenses	£ 332	£ 123
Other	£ 345	£ 43
Total	£ 3,334	£ 1,039

10. Restricted funds

The following table lists all of the PCC's restricted funds, along with income and expenditure during the year.

	Balance b/f	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/f
Timothy Fund	£ 26,231	£ 3,110	£ 0	£ 29,341
St Nicholas Repair & Renovation	£ 12,126	£ 518	£ 11,844	£ 800
Family & Children's Worker Fund	£ 10,703	£ 14,980	£ 25,683	£ 0
Mark's Bench Fund	£ 1,092	£ 0	£ 0	£ 1,092
Lift Replacement Fund	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0
Energy Fund	£ 5,002	£ 5,289	£ 8,561	£ 1,730
Other Restricted	£ 0	£ 20,992	£ 13,668	£ 7,324
Total Restricted	£ 55,154	£ 44,889	£ 59,756	£ 40,287

11. Trustees' remuneration and benefits

No trustee was remunerated for being a trustee. Expenses incurred in the normal course of the PCC's activities were reimbursed, in particular where a trustee purchased items to be used at church activities and events.
