

St Andrew's Church, Hurstbourne Priors

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council**

for the year ended 31st December 2023

Incumbent

The Revd David Roche

Bank

National Westminster Bank
Andover Branch
Bridge Street
Andover
SP10 1BD

Independent examiner

Mr Michael Stanes
The Old Laundry
Hurstbourne Park
Whitchurch
RG28 7RW

2023 Report and Accounts

for the Parochial Church Council of St Andrew's Church Hurstbourne Priors

Aims and purposes

Hurstbourne Priors' Parochial Church Council (PCC), working with the incumbent The Revd David Roche and Assistant Priest The Revd Russell Smart has the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church and the associated churchyard of St Andrew's.

Objectives and Activities

The Mission Plan of the PCC is to seek to serve the religious, spiritual and pastoral needs of the entire Parish of Hurstbourne Priors, administering to the needs of all worshippers including families and children, offering Occasional Offices, outreach services and going out into the Community to reach out to those at the fringes of the Church. It works constructively with the other Parishes in the Bright Waters Benefice to share good practice and to support one another in their mission.

Achievements and Performance

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at St Andrews and with the Incumbent offers a range of services designed to appeal to both established and traditional churchgoers of all ages and those at the fringes of religion. We have worked hard to build communications with as many villagers as possible to let them know what is going on and that they are welcome at any church event.

Working in conjunction with local parents, activities for children at Sunday School are offered once a month and are increasingly popular with 21 (16) children attending in December at the Carol Service. A variety of Lay Led Services are held once a month which are generally well received.

A very successful Fundraising evening of St Andrews Reels was held in September and grateful thanks are extended to Charles and Joanna Ekins for hosting this event. A Harvest supper was held in October in aid of the Mityana Projects Trust in Uganda kindly hosted by Ann and Crispin Orr.

The PCC commissioned new St Andrews mugs and tea towels and Christmas cards with pictures of St Andrews to raise the profile of St Andrews and raise modest funds.

Individuals from St Andrews have sponsored the training of a Lay Reader in Mityana for 2 years.

The PCC hosted a joint PCC gathering for all the Benefice in June 2023.

Worship and Prayer

In 2023, the pattern of regular worship continued to include traditional services such as Holy Communion and Benefice Evensong, more modern services such as Morning Praise and outreach services such as Songs of Praise Services with a band of local musicians, the Annual Pets Service, the Carol Service and an Outdoor Carols and Nativity at the Pavilion. We had an organist at most clergy led services. The Benefice zoom service continues on line for those unable to come into church.

In the autumn seven Hurstbourne Priors Residents joined the excellent Benefice Alpha course. There is also a lunchtime House group which meets weekly.

Fifty new Common Praise hymn books were purchased to provide a wider choice of contemporary and traditional hymns for services.

The Church Electoral Roll remains at 37 residents and 5 non-residents. The average Sunday attendance was 20 increasing from 15 in 2022. In 2023 there were: 3 (5) baptisms, 3 (1) marriages, 1 Blessing of a wedding, 3 (3) funerals and one Burial of Ashes at St Andrew's. Figures for 2022 are shown in brackets.

Incumbency

The Revd David Roche is the vicar of the Benefice of Bright Waters consisting of nine churches. The Revd Russell Smart took office as Assistant Priest in March 2023. They are assisted by a team of self-supporting clergy and Lay Readers.

Deanery Synod

The PCC has one representative on the Whitchurch Deanery Synod in addition to the Incumbent. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. In 2023, meetings have informed the attendees about life at Winchester Cathedral through the eyes of the Dean, The Very Revd Catherine Ogle, an update about the review of requesting CMF and the work in Mityana led by Revd Canon Dodie Marsden.

The Church and Churchyard

The church was open to visitors between April and October and throughout the year on a Sunday. We have involved Parishioners in the maintenance of the church and churchyard creating community activities in the form of the Annual Clean-up and a Raking Party. With this and an excellent regular Contractor, the churchyard is looking neat.

Edward Bays Ltd maintain the heating system and Edward Dove has completed repairs to the organ to reduce the risk of keys sticking and Watkins & Watson repaired the Organ Blower. Gas and Electricity provision were moved to Total Energies through Parish Buying to reduce costs. The Lighting in the chancel has been altered to a lower wattage to save energy.

The ancient Yew Tree in the churchyard was trimmed with the approval of the various authorities concerned.

The PCC gratefully accepted a gift of land to extend the churchyard. They also plan to create a wildflower meadow in part of the churchyard where there are few graves in 2024.

Pastoral Care

During 2023, pastoral visits were carried out by members of the clergy and the laity.

The churchwardens and sidesmen and women offer refreshments after every service to provide a time at which parishioners, visitors and indeed those from around the Benefice can be welcomed to chat and support one another.

Mission and Evangelism

Our regular emails keep many of the village for whom we have contact details informed of church activities. Details of services are also put in Hill & Valley, a free magazine which is distributed to the whole village and indeed to three other villages in the Benefice.

As mentioned above, we try to offer a wide variety of services to cater both for regular attendees and reach out to those on the fringes of the church.

Financial Review

The total receipts on ordinary unrestricted funds were £32,350 of which £13,129 were from church fundraising activities including the very successful May Fair and St Andrew's Reels. Restricted donations of £1,165 were also received along with fundraising for the restricted funds of £543. Further details can be found in the Financial Statements attached to this report.

£31,226 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St Andrew's Church in 2023. This includes the contribution of £15,947 to the Diocesan Common Mission Fund, which provides the stipends, housing and training for the clergy. The sum that the churches give is shared between the churches according to a formula that is based mainly on a head count of the congregations and the affluence rating of the community. Payment of the full amount of the Common Mission Fund was completed by year end.

We continue to benefit from the Parish Giving Scheme where Gift Aid donations are managed through the Diocese of Gloucester. The number of planned givers through the Parish Giving Scheme is 16.

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £1,124 for unrestricted funds and a deficit of £2,652 for restricted funds. Adding the bank balance brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balance carried forward on 31 December 2023 was £10,923 on unrestricted funds and £17,107 on restricted funds.

Reserves Policy

An updated Reserves Policy was adopted by the PCC in 2018. The policy states that the PCC will endeavour to maintain a minimum balance in the general account of sufficient funds to cover three months' contribution to the Common Mission Fund. Annual surpluses of unrestricted funds will be held in the existing current account.

Volunteers

We are fortunate to have had more and more help from volunteers who support the activities of the church in a wide variety of ways. This includes the PCC members, a great team of sidesmen and women, the wonderful flower arrangers, planning and producing service sheets and taking services, running Sunday school, opening and closing the church in the summer months, participating in the Spring clean-up of the Church and Churchyard, fund-raising and providing generous funding and preparing the church for services.

Sadly, the number of regular bell ringers in the village has dwindled to the point where we are now unable to ring our wonderful peal of bells without assistance from other villages.

The PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who reliably carry out these duties.

Inventory of Contents of the church

The contents of the church remain as listed in the comprehensive Record produced by the Arts Society Church Recorders in 2020. There have been no additions or losses this year.

Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues to report during the year. Members of the PCC have nearly all completed the necessary safeguarding training and we continue to monitor our compliance with this requirement.

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment for the church was carried out and its recommendations have been implemented. The risk assessment is reviewed annually.

Structure, Governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Andrew's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, two churchwardens, and 6 members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services and are baptised 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 six times during the year.

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law and is composed of the Vicar, two Churchwardens, the Secretary and the Treasurer. Due to the weight of responsibility on the Incumbent, with nine churches to administer, the Standing Committee did not meet in 2023. However, the two Churchwardens (one of whom is the Secretary) closely briefed by the Treasurer met six times a year to plan PCC meetings and other church activities and events in place of the Standing Committee.

Administrative Information

St Andrew's Church is situated in the middle of Hurstbourne Priors, surrounded by farm land with an avenue leading to it from the road through Hurstbourne Priors. For the purpose of finding it by Sat Nav enter: St Andrew's Church, Hurstbourne Priors, Whitchurch, Hampshire, RG28 7SB.

It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. In July 2022, the parishes of St Andrew's, Longparish, St Mary Bourne and Woodcott joined with the parishes of Whitchurch, Tufton, Litchfield and Barton Stacey to form the Bright Waters Benefice. The correspondence address for Hurstbourne Priors PCC is: The Old Parsonage, Hurstbourne Priors, Whitchurch, Hampshire, RG28 7SB.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

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

Ex officio members: Incumbent: Rev David Roche

Churchwardens: Mrs Fenella Williams, Mrs Ann Orr, Deanery Synod Representative and Secretary.

Elected members: Mr Edward Beasley, Mr Ian Bradley, Mr Charles Ekins, Mrs Jane Lavers, Mrs Julia Mattison (Treasurer), Mrs Denise Bradley (elected March 2023) and Mr Simon Mattison (resigned March 2023).

Approved by the PCC on 11 March 2024

and signed by *Rev David Roche*

Hurstbourne Priors PCC
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	<i>Notes</i>	Unrestricted fund	Unrestricted designated fund	Restricted fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts:						
Planned giving		8,835	-	-	8,835	7,035
Collections at services		2,467	-	-	2,467	2,862
Donations		2,095	-	1,165	3,260	5,470
Gift Aid recovered		3,311	-	2,027	5,338	1,759
Total voluntary receipts		16,708	-	3,192	19,900	17,126
Activities for generating funds						
Fundraising	<i>3a</i>	13,129	-	543	13,672	12,335
Church Activities	<i>3b</i>	2,013	-	215	2,228	1,804
Grants		500	-	-	500	-
Total Receipts		32,350	-	3,950	36,300	31,265
PAYMENTS						
Church Activities:						
Common Mission Fund		15,947	-	-	15,947	15,566
Clergy and Staffing costs	<i>3c</i>	2,472	-	-	2,472	2,287
Church running expenses	<i>3d</i>	9,920	-	-	9,920	8,329
Mission giving and donations		667	-	-	667	370
Maintenance and repair of fabric	<i>3e</i>	-	-	5,963	5,963	357
Fundraising costs		2,220	-	615	2,835	412
Bank charges		-	-	24	24	-
Total Payments		31,226	-	6,602	37,828	27,321
Excess of Receipts over payments		1,124	-	(2,652)	(1,528)	3,944
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan		9,799	-	19,759	29,558	25,614
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec		10,923	-	17,107	28,030	29,558

Hurstbourne Priors PCC
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Notes	Unrestricted fund	Unrestricted designated fund	Restricted fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
Cash Funds					
Bank Accounts	10,923	-	17,107	28,030	29,558
Other monetary assets					
Income tax recoverable	366	-	-	366	2,487

The movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

Restricted	Bal B/Fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal C/Fwd
Fabric Fund	16,303	3,440	(5,284)	-	14,459
Organ Fund	893	130	(1,023)	-	-
Roof Fund	1,295	-	-	-	1,295
Bell Fund	1,268	380	(295)	-	1,353
	19,759	3,950	(6,602)	-	17,107

Notes:

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
- 2.a. The Fabric Fund represents accumulated donations and appeals for fabric maintenance, which can only be spent for that purpose.
- 2.b. The Organ Fund represents funds raised for the repair and maintenance of the organ, which can only be spent for that purpose.
- 2.c. The Roof Fund represents grants and donations for roof repairs which can only be spent for that purpose.
- 2.d. The Bell Fund represents accumulated funds raised for the repair and maintenance of the bells, which can only be spent for that purpose.

Hurstbourne Priors PCC
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

3. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted fund	Unrestricted designated fund	Restricted fund	Total 2023	<i>Total 2022</i>
RECEIPTS					
a. Fundraising					
May Fair	7,584	-	-	7,584	8,300
Annual dinner	4,014	-	426	4,440	3,127
Concerts and events	504	-	-	504	908
Sale of miscellaneous items	1,027	-	117	1,144	-
	13,129	-	543	13,672	12,335
b. Church activities					
Bellringers	-	-	215	215	186
Fees for weddings and funerals	2,013	-	-	2,013	1,618
	2,013	-	215	2,228	1,804
PAYMENTS					
c. Clergy and staffing costs					
Benefice expenses	1,086	-	-	1,086	280
Costs of services	1,386	-	-	1,386	2,007
	2,472	-	-	2,472	2,287
d. Church running expenses					
Church building running expenses	4,875	-	-	4,875	4,629
Church repairs and maintenance	5,045	-	-	5,045	3,700
	9,920	-	-	9,920	8,329
e. Maintenance and repair of fabric					
Chancel ceiling repairs	-	-	1,289	1,289	95
Drainage and chimney repairs	-	-	2,893	2,893	-
Organ repairs	-	-	1,236	1,236	262
Bell maintenance	-	-	295	295	-
Other	-	-	250	250	-
	-	-	5,963	5,963	357