

ALL SAINTS CHURCH HARTFORD

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

ALL SAINTS CHURCH HARTFORD
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of All Saints Church Hartford

I have examined the Report and Financial Statements of the PCC set out on pages 3 to 8, in accordance with the instructions which have been given to me without carrying out a full audit.

The Independent Examination has been carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

In my opinion the report and Financial Statements which have been prepared by the Treasurer on behalf of the PCC, in so far as those records concern the running of the PCC, is a fair summary of the accounting records for the year ended 31 December 2023 and is sufficiently supported by accounts, receipts and records.

Signature:
February 2024

Date: 10th

D Ebdale
Independent Examiner
Clock Tower Cottage,
The Green,
Houghton,
Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire PE28 2AX

These accounts were approved by the Parochial Church Council at the meeting on 20th March 2024.

Signed for and on the behalf of the PCC:

Rev Geoff Boucher

Rector

Mr Paul Fearon

Churchwarden and Treasurer

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Receipts and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023					
Receipts			Expenditure		
	2023	2022		2023	2022
Planned Giving	4,197.84	4,929.81	Cost of Generating Funds	722.55	643.63
Parish Giving Scheme	13,444.61	13,189.81	Mission Giving & Charitable Donations	4,110.00	4,030.01
Cash Collections	2,371.26	2,026.43	Ministry Share	29,753.04	28,592.03
Donations	2,414.07	2,480.00	Organist Fees & PCC Expenses	1,765.00	1,780.00
Gift Aid	5,861.56	5,633.67	Expenses for clergy & pastoral staff	1,996.03	498.14
Legacies	4,000.00	0.00	Mission & Evangelism costs	0.00	0.00
VAT reclaimed	810.31	0.00	Equipment	4,236.58	5,434.69
Fund Raising (gross amount)	9,835.91	5,966.77	Regular Expenses	3,345.41	3,571.12
Income from property & Interest	0.00	0.00	Utilities	7,852.39	2,551.31
Statutory fees retained by PCC	2,344.00	3,146.00	Insurance Premiums	2,525.97	2,370.14
Church Room Lettings	8,863.98	7,158.94	Repairs & Maintenance	5,753.48	1,559.23
Other Income	511.00	941.00	Contra Out	2,374.00	2,365.44
Contra In	2,574.00	2,697.00	Parochial Fees	2,229.00	3,704.00
Parochial Fees	2,199.00	4,172.00	LLM & SSM Fees	220.00	100.00
LLM & Visiting Clergy	220.00	100.00	Transfers to IAS Account	0.00	250.00
Transfers from IAS Account	7,316.51	3,288.58	Grazing Land	0.00	960.00
Total Income	66,964.05	55,730.01	Total Expenditure	66,883.45	58,409.74
			Total Income	66,964.05	55,730.01
			Surplus / Deficit	80.60	-2,679.73
Transferred from Reserves	0.00	0.00	Transferred to Reserves	0.00	65,000.00

Statement of Bank Funds for the year ended 31st December 2023				
		£'s		
	RESTRICTED 2023	UNRESTRICTED 2023	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
LLOYDS GENERAL FUND	0.00	4,815.91	4,815.91	4,233.32
LLOYDS IAS GENERAL FUND	0.00	3,194.91	3,194.91	10,967.33
CBF INVESTMENT FUND	65,617.70	46,923.61	112,541.31	100,096.66
TOTAL	65,617.70	54,934.43	120,552.13	115,297.31

SUMMARY

The annual accounts are prepared on a receipts and expenditure basis. The total income for the year ended 31st December 2023 was £66,964 and total expenditure was £66,883 resulting in a surplus of £80 for the year.

Total funds held in the four bank accounts were £120,552 at the 31st December 2023, an increase of £5,255 compared with the 31st December 2022.

The global financial situation continues to be unstable. This is principally caused by the war between Israel and Gaza compounded by the continuing war in Ukraine. It is having a significant impact on commodity prices, inflation, and the cost of living. Our church is certainly not immune from this.

Whilst the church does have strong financial reserves 95% of our financial reserves are held in either Restricted or Designated Funds and can only be used for specific purposes.

INCOME

Our income comes from four main sources:

- Direct Giving
- Church Room Lettings
- Fundraising
- Parochial Fees (PCC)

Direct Giving – this includes the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), planned giving, collections, donations, and tax refunds from Gift Aid and the Small Donations Scheme. Direct Giving was £28,289 in 2023 compared with £28,259 in 2022. Although the size of our congregation has grown there has been no commensurate increase in Direct Giving which is most likely as a result of the cost of living crisis.

Church Room Lettings – the income from Lettings was £8,863 in 2023 compared with £7,158 in 2022. The White Swan Academy is the main hirer of the Church Room and accounts for over 75% of our income from Church Room Lettings.

Fundraising – the gross income received in 2023 was £9,835 compared with £5,966 in 2022. Clifford Owen's Cycle ride LEJOG raised a significant total of £3,616. However, adjusting for LEJOG our fundraising was £6,219 just slightly higher than in 2022. The cost of generating these funds was £722 leaving net income from fundraising of £9,113.

Parochial Fees (PCC) – the income in 2023 was £2,344 and comes from Weddings, Funerals and the Interment of Ashes and is the part retained by the PCC. This is a

decrease of £802 compared with 2022. In 2023 there were two weddings, eight funerals in church and four funerals at the crematorium. There were four Interment of Ashes. There has been a significant decrease in the income received from Parochial Fees during the last five years when it was around £5,000 per year.

Transfers from the IAS Account – £7,316 was transferred from the IAS Account including £814 for the floodlights, £757 for the four Gopak tables and storage trolley, £1,829 for the notice board, £1,677 for the repairs in the Belfry, £239 for the altar linen and £2,000 for cash flow purposes in quarter one.

Other Income – £810 was received as a VAT Refund from two claims made under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. £4,000 was received from two legacies received during the year, £1,000 from the late Pauline Bath and £3,000 from the late Joan Walton.

EXPENDITURE

Our expenditure is reported under seven main captions:

- Ministry Share
- Parochial Fees (Diocese)
- Mission and Charitable Giving
- Utilities
- Repairs and Maintenance
- Equipment and Furnishings
- Insurance

Ministry Share - all parishes in the diocese contribute towards the Ministry Share which is used to cover the cost of Clergy Stipends. Our contribution in 2023 was £29,753 and was paid in full. All other Diocesan costs are covered by income received from the Diocesan Investment Fund.

Parochial Fees (Diocese) – £2,229 of Statutory Fees was paid to the Diocese for the Weddings, Funerals and Interment of Ashes conducted in 2023.

Mission and Charitable Giving – In 2023 we gave £4,110 with donations to the following organisations: Acorn Christian Healing Foundation, Children's Society, Faith in Business, Fusion, Godmanchester Food Bank (in addition to gifts of tins and packets of food), Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Chaplaincy, Huntingdon Area Money Advice, Mid Cambs Women's Refuge, Royal British Legion, Salvation Army for Kings Ripton Court, Star School, Kigali in Rwanda, and Winter Comfort.

Utilities – the cost for utilities totalled £7,852 in 2023 compared with £2,551 in 2022. The charge by utility was £5,809 for gas, £1,680 for electricity and £363 for water.

There was a significant increase in our energy bill for gas and electricity in 2023. We have a contract with Total Energies using the Energy Basket negotiated for the Church of England through the Parish Buying Organisation which provides green energy at competitive prices. We are expecting a decrease in 2024 of around 30% for gas and electricity but this will still be more than double the amount we paid for energy in 2022.

Repairs and Maintenance – £5,753 was spent on repairs and maintenance. The repairs were for filling the holes in the stained glass windows, a new thermostat, the PA system, repairs in the belfry identified in the 2022 Quinquennial Report and the major leak in the Vestry Roof.

Equipment and Furnishings - £4,236 includes £996 for new tables from Gopak, £814 for the new floodlights, £239 for the new altar linen, £359 for the new COSSH Cabinet and £1,828 for the new notice board.

Insurance - our insurance cover is provided by Ecclesiastical Insurance and the premium paid in 2023 was £2,525. A three-year agreement with Ecclesiastical Insurance was renewed in 2021 using the Parish Plus Scheme and is next due for renewal in June 2024. The PCC reviews the level of cover it holds annually.

Recognition – We owe a sincere ‘*thank you*’ to everyone who gives regularly to the Church. In doing so we must never forget the people who give freely of their time, talent, and energy some of whom provide goods to support the church which has an additional benefit in helping us to reduce our expenditure. ***Thank you.***

BANK FUNDS AND OTHER ASSETS

Bank Funds

The PCC holds four bank accounts: a Current Account and Instant Access Savings (IAS) Account with Lloyds Bank and two Investment Accounts with the CCLA.

At the 31stDecember 2023 there was £4,815 in our Lloyds Bank Current Account and £3,194 in the Instant Access Savings Account (IAS).

We hold 2,066.81 shares in The CBF Church of England Investment Fund as Income Shares and at the 31stDecember 2023 the value of this investment was £46,923 compared with £41,803 at the 31stDecember 2022. During the year we received income of £941 which was reinvested. £19,820 from the Chancel Designated Fund is held in this account as well as £16,607 from the Church Enhancement Designated Fund.

We also hold 1,098.87 shares in The CBF Church of England Investment Fund as Accumulation Shares and at the 31stDecember 2023 the value of this investment was £65,617 compared with £58,292 at the 31stDecember 2022. A sum of £60,000 was

invested in November 2022 as a Restricted Fund and held as a permanent endowment in accordance with terms of the Grazing Land Enclosure Award in 1772. The funds held in this Restricted Fund are for the benefit of the parishioners of All Saints Church Hartford for the upkeep and maintenance of the church.

The CBF Church of England Investment Fund was set up in 1958 and its aim is to provide a long-term total return comprising growth in capital and distributions. In the five years to September 2023 the CBF Church of England Investment Fund has grown by an average of 7.04% annually. It should be noted that the value of investments may fluctuate up or down in the short term.

The total funds held in all our bank accounts at the 31stDecember 2023 was £120,552 compared with £115,297 at the 31stDecember 2022, an increase of £5,255.

Other Assets

Silver belonging to All Saints Church Hartford is on loan to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and is valued at £9,050. This valuation was agreed with the Registration and Loans Department to enable them to apply for a Government Indemnity Insurance on our behalf. The renewal date is in 2025 when a new valuation will be obtained.

GOING FORWARD

Managing our Finances

The PCC have agreed four principles for managing our finances:

- To balance income and expenditure and when possible, generate a small annual surplus
- To maintain funds in the current account at a level sufficient to manage normal day to day activities
- To have available funds equivalent of six months of annual expenditure
- To hold reserves including the Restricted Fund and Designated Fund(s) in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund

2024 Budget

The PCC has approved the budget for 2024 showing a deficit of £3,655.

We will continue to face ongoing financial challenges in 2024 as we are not immune from the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. Whilst the rate of inflation is falling, nonetheless the inflationary increases of the last eighteen months are now embedded

into prices. The cost of energy will be around 30% lower in 2024, however it will still be double what it was in 2022.

People have less disposable income, and this is reflected in the fact that our Direct Income is static despite the increase in the size of the regular congregation.

Our overall financial goal for 2024 is to achieve a balanced outcome for the year to avoid any deficit and the PCC needs to examine ways by which can be achieved.

CONCLUSION

The surplus of £80 is against a budgeted deficit of £5,641 for 2023. This improvement has come from two sources of income – Fundraising is £3,350 above budget due to LEJOG and the receipt of the two legacies totalling £4,000. However, the full benefit of this is offset by an increase in the cost of gas and electricity being £1,770 over budget.

At the end of 2023 we had funds in our bank accounts of £120,552 including available funds in our reserves of £23,919 which is slightly less than our goal of holding reserves equivalent to six months of annual expenditure.

There has been some recovery in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund during the last few weeks of 2023. Our investment held has increased by £12,445 during the year.

To balance the books, we are increasingly dependent upon the income from Church Room Letting, Fundraising and Parochial Fees which is 32% of our total income with the balance coming from Direct Giving. 95% of our financial reserves are held in either Restricted or Designated Funds and can only be used for specific purposes.

We have a dichotomy whereby we have strong financial reserves whilst at the same time we have real financial challenges on a day-to-day basis and the latter are set to increase as we move from a short-term to a mid-term view.

Overall, we have a great deal to be thankful for and we aim to continue to manage our finances prudently.

Paul Fearon
Treasurer
January 2024