

Charity Registration No. 1131574

**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
MEADS, EASTBOURNE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

AGENDAS

For the meetings to be held on
Wednesday 30 April 2025, commencing at 7.30pm

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

- 1 Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting (see page 2)
- 2 Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- 1 Minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting (see page 2 - 9)
- 2 Matter arising therefrom
- 3 Electoral Roll Officer's Report
- 4 Trustee's Annual Report (See pages 12 - 19)
- 5 Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31
December 2024 and the report of the Independent
Examiner (See pages 10 - 37)
- 6 Churchwardens Report on the Fabric, Goods and
Ornaments of the Church (See page 38)
- 7 Report on the Deanery Synod proceedings
- 8 Elections and appointments
 - i) Parochial Church Council members
 - ii) Independent Examiner
- 9 Reports from Church Organisations and Representatives (see pages 39- 47)
- 10 Interregnum
- 11 Any other business

Closing Prayers

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD ON 01 MAY 2024

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Vicar the Revd Giles Carpenter as Chair of the meeting, opened the meeting in prayer

Mr Ray Hassell and Mrs Maggie Gibson (Churchwardens) were present together with 50 Parishioners.

Apologies were received from 4 parishioners

1 Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

It was proposed by Mrs Catherine Butcher and seconded by Mr Ray Hassell that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May 2023 be taken as read and a true record. This was agreed unanimously. There were no matters arising.

2 Election of Churchwardens

Mrs Maggie Gibson and Mr Ray Hassell both stepped down from the role of Churchwarden. They were thanked for their support and were each presented with a gift. Maggie thanked everyone and said it had been a joy and a privilege to serve St John's, Ray echoed Maggie's comments and thanked the congregation for their support.

Maggie's husband George Gibson and Ray's wife Sarah Hassell were also thanked by the Vicar for their support.

Nominations had been received from Mr David Scott-Ralphs and Mr Tony Mottram who had been proposed and seconded as churchwardens for the coming year. There being no other nominations, they were duly elected.

The Vicar advised that as part of our 'Vision for Growth', we continue to develop ministry teams with identified leaders and others providing support. With this in mind, Paul Burley, Ian Murray and Sarah Peat have been appointed as deputy wardens to assist the churchwardens.

The Vicar thanked them all for agreeing to take on this important support role

The Chairman then closed the Annual Parish Meeting

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Chair for this meeting was taken by Mr David Scott-Ralphs

1 Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May 2023 had been displayed in the Church and online.

Following a proposal from Mrs Judy Stone, seconded by Mr Ray Hassell and agreed unanimously the minutes were accepted as correct.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD ON 01 MAY 2024

2 Matters Arising

Mr David Scott-Ralphs gave the following update on the Parish Hall.

The Meads Eastbourne Community Centre (MECC) was set up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (independent charity) in January 2024, with a view to taking over the running and maintenance of the hall during 2024.

All of the discussions with the MCA, prior to setting up MECC, have been on the basis of a long lease. However, MECC have asked us to gift them the freehold. We have sought legal advice and have reached an impasse at the moment as the 1912 agreement gifting the hall to St John's created an ecclesiastical trust, which prevents us from just handing over the freehold.

Discussions are ongoing, and we remain hopeful that we will be able to resolve the issue. The MECC have been successful in applying for a £450,000 grant from the Department for Levelling Up and Communities towards refurbishment of the hall and need to raise £100,000 in match funding. To date they have raised £66,000 and if anyone is interested in further information on the fundraising, the information is available on the Meads Community Centre website.

There were no questions raised.

3 Electoral Roll Officer's Report

The Electoral Roll Officer Mrs Eunice Glover informed the meeting that on 13th April 2024 there were 226 people on St John's Church Electoral Roll, of whom:

150 (66%) are women
76 (34%) are men
129 (57%) live in the Parish
97 (43%) live outside of the Parish

Changes since April 2023 (when the last APCM took place):

23 people have been removed from the Roll through moving away or attending an alternative place of worship.

6 have been removed from the Roll as they have died.

30 new people have been added.

Mrs Eunice Glover was thanked for her support.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD ON 01 MAY 2024 (continued)

4 **Annual Report of the Trustees**

5 **Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 and the Report of the Independent Examiner**

Treasurer's Report

Good evening and welcome to a whistle stop overview of the church accounts.

Hopefully everyone has had access to the APCM pack, which incorporates the financial accounts. I thought I would give a brief run through of the accounts, without going into too much detail.

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) summarises the financial events during the year. There is a more detailed breakdown shown in notes 2 and 3 on pages 28 to 30

The Restricted Funds column is currently dominated by the Access Project donations and grants and as there have been no major costs on that project yet, the funds show a profit of £30,901 for the year.

The Endowment Funds only show the movement in the three investment funds we hold. Thankfully this year the investment values have increased and therefore this fund shows a profit of £9,039 for the year.

The main income and costs are reflected in the Unrestricted Funds. Total income received which was not attached to any specific purpose was £242,864, which is an increase of £20,374 from 2022. The increase is mainly due to the increase in planned giving, so thank you everyone for your financial support.

As the church has looked to grow, we have had to increase our spending in certain areas as well as being affected by the increase in costs of utilities. This has resulted in the church spending £26,845 more than in 2022.

We did pay just under £10,000 from Unrestricted Funds to St Michael & All Angels at the end of the partnership. The Parish Share which we pay to the Diocese increased by just under £2,000 and repairs to the church increased by just under £4,000.

The costs to run the Parish Hall increased by just under £10,000 although this was offset by the increase in rental income of £10,000.

Overall, this has seen the church spend more than it received by £20,154.

This has seen the Unrestricted Fund balance reduce from £170,069 to £149,915.

As the demands on church finances increase, it was agreed that from 2024 onwards a detailed budget for the year would be put in place. This will help monitor the movement in income and costs and enable the PCC to be proactive in ensuring that the church continues to grow within its financial constraints.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who provided the reports you see in the pack on pages 39 to 50. I think these do help to paint the picture of life in and around the church in the year.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD ON 01 MAY 2024 (continued)

5 Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 and the Report of the Independent Examiner (continued)

Treasurer's Report (continued)

If anyone has any questions relating to the figures I will be happy to try and answer them.

Ian Pinder
Hon. Treasurer

Following the report, there was one question raised regarding the Endowment Funds.

These funds are monies left in wills to be used for a specific purpose. We presently earn interest and dividends from these Endowment Funds and we are only allowed to use the income rather than the capital. We are currently looking at ways of releasing some of these funds with the help of the Diocesan solicitors.

It was proposed by Mr Frank Kelley, seconded by Ms Diana Guthrie that the Trustees Annual Report to be taken as read and the Annual Financial Report be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

The Chairman gave his thanks to the Treasurer for his work during the year.

6 Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

The Chairman referred to the report on page 39.

The Chairman advised that in respect of the Access Project we are waiting for delivery of the acoustic panels and are hoping that work will start week commencing 17th June. It will take approximately 6 weeks for the works to be completed and during this time there will be scaffolding in place, but the church will remain in use.

Following the report, there were no questions raised.

Mrs Margaret Kowszun proposed, seconded by Mrs Sarah Hassell that the report be accepted, this was agreed unanimously.

7 Report of the Deanery Synod Proceedings

Background

Chichester Diocese comprises 478 churches in 361 parishes which are grouped into 21 geographically based, rural deaneries. Each rural deanery is in turn part of an archdeaconry. Eastbourne Deanery is part of the Hastings Archdeaconry – there are 20 parishes in our Deanery, which extends from East Dean with Friston to Polegate and Westham.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD ON 01 MAY 2024 (continued)

7 Report of the Deanery Synod Proceedings (continued)

A Deanery Synod consists of a house of clergy and a house of laity. Every parish elected new lay representatives to the deanery synod at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in 2023. St John's PCC elected David Scott-Ralphs, Sally Scott-Ralphs, Gilli Howarth and Catherine Butcher to Deanery Synod. Because of the numbers on our electoral roll in 2022, we are entitled to have five lay members on our Deanery Synod. As Catherine is a member of General Synod and can attend Deanery Synod in that capacity, we have two places available on the Deanery Synod. Membership of a Deanery Synod is required to vote for members of General Synod.

We meet in a different church for each of our three meetings each year and the incumbent tells us a little about the parish and its ministry. This past year we have met in St Wilfrid's, Willingdon; St Elisabeths, Old Town; St Mary's, Willingdon and then here at St John's for the first meeting of 2024.

Our Vicar, Revd. Giles Carpenter became Rural Dean in February 2023 with Revd. Adam Ransom from St Mary's, Hampden Park, acting as Assistant Rural Dean. The other officers elected this year includes David Scott-Ralphs as Lay Chairman.

As well as hearing regular reports from the Treasurer, the Secretary, General Synod, Diocesan Synod and the Rural Dean, we hear from guest speakers.

This past year we heard a report from Ven. Edward Dowler, Archdeacon of Hastings, about the diocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan. Rev Simon Hobbs, Bishops' Chaplain for Retired Ministry, talked about support for retired clergy. Gerry Howitt reported on the work of the Beachy Head Chaplaincy. Revd. Rob Dillingham, Deputy Head of the Department of Apostolic Life in the diocese, talked about the Church Commissioners' Strategic Development Fund, which aims to target funding towards reaching children, young people and families.

Revd Keir Shreeves, the Diocesan Discernment Officer and Revd Tim Mills, Vocations Adviser, talked about the diocese's discernment process and break out groups discussed fostering vocations in our parishes.

We also heard that the living at St Michael and All Angels had been restored – a result, in part, of the partnership we have had with the parish.

In a new initiative 'Sharing Good Practice from around the Deanery' we heard from Sally Scott-Ralphs on Bereavement Ministry and Pastoral Care. Another welcome new initiative was a day of refreshment and retreat for churchwardens and parish treasurers held at

The Deanery can also present the Diocesan Synod with a Motion from a PCC. In 2023 Revd. Chris Spinks from St John's Polegate PCC asked about changes to the retirement regulations for Readers, who must now retire from active ministry when they reach the age of eighty. Bishop Will responded at the Diocesan Synod to say he was unwilling to make any changes to what is planned.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD ON 01 MAY 2024 (continued)

7 **Report of the Deanery Synod Proceedings (continued)**

The General Synod reports have mainly focused on the debates around Living in Love and Faith – blessings for same sex couples, and the ongoing issues relating to Safeguarding.

Catherine Butcher

8 **Elections and Appointments**

i) **Parochial Church Council**

Mrs Sarah Hammond who was stepping down was thanked for her services on the PCC and goes with our blessings and good wishes.

There were no re-elections

New nominations were received from the following people who were all elected unanimously:

Mr Ian Murray

Mrs Sarah Peat

ii) **Independent Examiner/Auditor**

Mr Frank Kelley proposed Mr Nathan Coker who was prepared to continue for the coming year, seconded by Mr Robert Scott-Biggs, this was agreed unanimously.

9 **Reports from Church Organisations and Representatives**

The Chairman referred to pages 40-50 and hoped that everyone would read the reports on the activities that had taken place in the past year. He thanked the writers and contributors of the reports.

He advised that new volunteers would be welcomed for all ministry areas and encouraged people to get in touch if they are interested in helping,

The Chairman thanked all those who helped with the various groups.

10 **Vicar's Comments**

(A video presentation capturing the events of 2023 was shown).

I was delighted to see so much joy in the good work being done at St John's.

I'd like to give you a clearer picture of what's been happening and what's coming up in 2024.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD ON 01 MAY 2024 (continued)

10 Vicar's Comments (continued)

I will explain more about Lead Academy shortly but want to let you know that one of the areas that we are focusing on, is the clear purpose and values of the church and the reason we exist.

We have recently tweaked the words we use to describe our purpose and these are:-

Loving God –**UP**

Building His church -**IN**

Serving others -**OUT**

We also have a threefold Vision for Growth:

More channels opened to bless our community

Development of ministry - enabling people to grow their lay ministry with Kim Leach, David Scott-Ralphs, Paul Burley Mandy Callf and Amanda Newton all attending Chichester recently to be licensed in Authorised Lay Ministry. We originally set ourselves a target of 5 in 5 years - we have achieved this in 1 year!

There is a real sense of raising up ministry from within at St John's.

Ways of seeking to bless our community - More invited to communion.

Many of our congregation volunteer to work with other organisations too such as Beachy Head Chaplaincy Trust and Linking Lives, we have also given support to St Michael and All Angels and have seen them thrive, becoming more independent and acknowledging the support we have given them. We have in the past been involved in the annual bandstand event -unfortunately we will not be taking part this year as it has been arranged on Pentecost Sunday, but hope to be back next year. The Ukrainian hub and the bereavement café are well attended, and I want to thank Sarah Aldred and Maggie Gibson for their support of the Ukrainian hub and Sally Scott-Ralphs with the bereavement café and journey work. If you're new to St John's and would like to volunteer to help these groups please let me know.

Growing smaller as we grow larger.

Our attendance has increased by 30+ people compared to last year. Our focus is to develop a culture of invitation and I want everyone to feel able to explore faith and experience the power of prayer. I'd like to just mention Julian who I noticed recently offered to personally help a newcomer to explore faith. We had 2 Alpha courses last year and have a new Alpha course starting in June led by David and Sally Scott-Ralphs. We have welcomed 13 new people who have attended the Connexions event, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the part they play in welcoming everyone.

More unity as we grow in diversity.

I would like to make sure that worship is available to everyone and remove any barriers. The access works are due to start shortly and I look forward to seeing the results. We will continue to live stream the services and I would like to give thanks to the AV team for their hard work. I should also like to thank the ministry team - George and Joan Fisher, June, the children and youth team Kim, Ben and James and the worship band.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD ON 01 MAY 2024 (continued)

10 Vicar's Comments (continued)

So, what does the year ahead look like?

Lead Academy

St John's has joined the Lead Academy and we are a team of 6 that are paired with 2 other similar sized churches to us. We are meeting up twice a year over two years to reflect on what God is calling us to do as a church and we work with a consultant who is a retired minister. At the moment we are looking at sharpening our values and our culture to have greater connectivity to God, one another and our community.

We have gone 5G!

Gathering around the cross that shapes us into a caring compassionate community online and in person.

Greeting everyone with the love of the Father who longs to be reunited with us wherever we are and wherever we've been.

Growing our love of God through the word of prayer and openness to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Giving in response to our generous God who calls us to be channels of his blessing.

Going in the power of the Holy Spirit to be and make disciples of Jesus.

These values will be on display in church and on our website in the future.

Structured for growth.

When Rachael and I moved here in 2014 we planted a clematis, it did not thrive until we added some trellis and now it is abundant. My point is that we all need structure for growth, at St John's we have developed a ministry map showing key areas of ministry and support teams involved. I want to take this opportunity to highlight Coffee Pot + and my thanks go to Margaret Kowszun for her support in the past and to Sarah Hassell and Amanda Newton for taking over from Margaret. Also thank you to the pastoral team lead by Sally Scott-Ralphs. I recently met up with a group of ministers at our 'Minister's munch' and after speaking with them, I praise God for the support that I have here at St John's, and I want everyone to feel as supported when they volunteer to help here.

There were no questions raised.

11 **Any Other Business**

The Chairman thanked the Vicar and the ministry team for their hard work in continuing to guide us so well.

The meeting was closed in prayer by the Vicar.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Incumbent	The Revd Giles Carpenter
Charity Number	1131574
Principal Address	St John the Evangelist Church St Johns Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN20 7ND
Website	www.stjm.org.uk
Independent Examiner	Mr Nathan Coker Price & Company 30-32 Gildredge Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 4SH
Bank	CAF Bank Ltd Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
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ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Objectives and activities

Our aims and purposes as a charity

St John's Purpose Statement is **Loving God, Building His Church, Serving Others.**

During 2024 we did an exercise with our congregation on our Values and we have developed our '5G' Values Statement:

- Greeting everyone with the love of our Father who longs to be reunited with us whoever we are and wherever we've been
- Gathering around the cross that shapes us into a caring, compassionate community online and in person
- Growing in our love for God through Word, prayer and openness to the work of the Holy Spirit
- Giving in response to a generous God who calls us to be channels of His blessing
- Going in the power of the Holy Spirit to be and make disciples of Jesus.

The PCC has responsibility for the financial affairs of the Church and for the repair and maintenance of the Church fabric and the Parish Hall.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, our incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's Guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

For 2024 we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- ◆ Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and through our online services;
- ◆ Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers;
- ◆ Making our church buildings welcoming for people to enjoy;
- ◆ Offering prayer and pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- ◆ Providing a range of outreach ministries for the community;
- ◆ Providing financial and other support to our mission partners and to others in need;

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

What we achieved in 2024

Attendance at worship

We continue to thank God for the numbers attending church on Sundays and at other midweek services and for the strong presence of the Holy Spirit in our weekly worship.

St John's weekly Sunday services are at 8am (BCP) and 10am (Contemporary Worship), with an average combined congregation of 131. These services are also live streamed and can be viewed on catch up, with c.100 weekly views both in the UK and overseas. There is holy communion given at every BCP service and twice a month at the contemporary service. We have continued to see growth in the numbers of people attending Midweek Communion at 11am on a Wednesday, also using the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), with an average congregation of 41 in 2024. This midweek service has sung worship with traditional hymns. Sung Evensong takes place once a month with the participation of St John's choir. Additionally, there is online morning prayer each day from Monday to Friday and Prayer Focus once a month on Saturday mornings for breakfast and prayer focussed on church activities. The variety of services offered meets a wide range of spiritual need and tradition.

During 2024 we welcomed c.30 new regular worshippers from within the Meads parish and also further afield, but a similar number left or died. The number of people on the Electoral Roll grew from 214 to 226. There will be a full review of the Electoral Roll in 2025.

The church family welcomes all visitors both from within as well as outside the parish boundary. Visitors attend by personal choice and it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities. What has been particularly encouraging has been to see the growth in diversity in our church family, with a wide range of nationalities represented - South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Ukraine, USA, France, Germany, Netherlands, Iran and more.

Liturgy remains an important part of all St John's services, while the Contemporary Worship service also allows time for silence and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. A key element of this service is sung worship ably led by church members with voice and instruments under the leadership of Clem Jackson. Our thanks go to all involved in the worship band.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

In 2024 we continued to nurture new Christians and also to enable people to go deeper in their faith. The second part of St John's Vision for Growth 2020-2025 is 'more invited into communion'. We want to build upon the foundation of welcome by encouraging a culture of invitation for everyone to experience intimacy with God through our worship and witness.

St John's Life Groups meet regularly on a weekly or fortnightly basis, usually in someone's home. These groups offer different aspects of Bible study and enable people to come together in a safe space to explore their faith. There are 10 Life Groups in existence currently with 110 members. There is an online group for those who find it difficult to travel and a WhatsApp group allowing members to share reflections on the daily Lectio 365 programme.

Over the years St John's has had a number of people going forward to do the Authorised Lay Ministry course with Chichester Diocese, to equip them to better serve the parish. In addition to a core learning programme which encourages people to explore further their faith and their gifts, there is a range of elective modules offered such as preaching, pastoral care and mission-building. The graduates of this annual programme are a blessing to St John's and to Meads parish for their commitment and service. During 2024 six people were licensed as ALMs.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers (continued)

St John's is also a training parish and over recent years has supported a number of Ordinands as they go through their training for priesthood. In 2024 we were joined by Carly Taylor, who is in the final year of her training and is due to take up a curacy in mid-2025. Carly has been fully immersed in the life of St John's and it has been wonderful to see her grow in confidence in her ministry.

We are fortunate to be a church for a good number of retired clergy, who add a rich variety to biblical teaching and ministry. We give our thanks to them for their support of our Incumbent and two more were going through the Permission to Officiate process at year end.

Building our engagement with children and young people is a key element of our Vision for Growth. Alongside our contemporary service on Sundays we have a creche for babies and toddlers, Junior Church Explorers for ages 4-10 and the Lodgers for those aged 10+. It has been wonderful to see the way in which our young people have also engaged in the main service. There was great involvement by young families in Messy Church events throughout the year and also our summer programme, 'Thrilling Thursdays'. Our Children and Families Leader Kim Leach has been sharing her time between the church and St John's CofE Primary School for over six years. Due to changes at the school and some financial constraints, this agreement came to an end in 2024, although Kim continues to support assemblies on a weekly basis.

St John's continued to fund a part-time Youth Leader role in 2024 and one new development was a monthly Mentoring and Discipleship programme for our young people, helping them to explore their faith in a safe setting.

Provision of church buildings for people to enjoy

It has been encouraging to see our church buildings used for a variety of activities across the whole week, fulfilling our vision of St John's being both a place of worship and a hub for our community. There is regular weekly use of the church and Jubilee Hall for our Meads Munchkins toddler group, Movement to Music and Chair-based Exercise, Ukraine Hub, Bereavement Cafe, Cubs and Scouts, Pilates and other activities. The church and Jubilee Hall became even busier over the autumn as groups which regularly hire the Parish Hall moved across temporarily during the refurbishment of the Hall.

After 18 months of planning and fundraising, we were able to complete works to improve access at St John's. This consisted of new acoustic panelling throughout the Nave and around the worship band area, along with new automated doors for the front entrance and some of the internal doors. It has made a significant difference to everyone in terms of improved sound quality and to those with mobility issues in getting into and around the church. We are grateful to the following trusts for their support for this project: Benefact Trust, the National Lottery Awards for All scheme, Garfield Weston Foundation, Congregational & General Trust, Beatrice Laing Trust, the Rotherwick Foundation, Ian Askew Charitable Trust and the Spiller Trust.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Provision of church buildings for people to enjoy (continued)

In September 2024 we were finally able to sign a 99-year lease for St John's Parish Hall with the Meads (Eastbourne) Community Centre (MECC) charity. This was the conclusion of over 18 months of negotiations to secure the future of the Hall, which was in need of major repair work. The Hall has been little used by St John's itself for many years and the PCC came to the view that it would be better for a new body to take over the running and maintenance of the Hall, in return for a long lease at a peppercorn rent. The MECC was successful in securing a major grant from the Community Ownership Fund and refurbishment work, including the replacement of the roof, began in October. The renamed Meads Hall is due to reopen at the beginning of March 2025. We are delighted that a solution has been found that enables the local community to continue to benefit from the Hall's facilities, which will be much improved following refurbishment.

Provision of pastoral support for people living in the parish

Pastoral support is provided by a team of volunteers under clergy supervision to those in the parish who are lonely, bereaved or dealing with other difficult issues. The team offers one to one support including communion in people's homes and meets regularly to pray for those in need.

Once a month on a Tuesday afternoon, St John's Bereavement Cafe takes place, offering people who are bereaved the chance to come together in fellowship. This has been very well attended in 2024, including a steady stream of people referred from the local hospice. Alongside the cafe, the church ran three Bereavement Journey programmes in 2024, which offers a series of films and discussions over seven weeks on the subject of grief and loss. The feedback from these programmes has been consistently excellent and those attending have formed their own friendship groups which have continued to meet after the programme has finished. The Bereavement Journey uses materials provided by the charity At A Loss and this charity also has an accreditation programme for bereavement-friendly churches, which St John's has succeeded in meeting.

Providing a range of outreach ministries for the parish

In addition to the pastoral and bereavement ministry already mentioned, St John's is active as a Church Trustee for Linking Lives Eastbourne, which matches up people living on their own with volunteer befrienders. The Ukraine Hub, held in the Jubilee Hall each Tuesday, provides a welcoming space for those from Ukraine living in Eastbourne while the conflict continues. There is a range of activities and advice surgeries on offer, alongside a shared meal.

St John's continues to run Coffee Pot+, meeting each Friday. This offers a social outlet, lunch and a range of activities for people living on their own. There is regular attendance by over 40 people and it is a highly valued ministry. Coffee Pot+ relocated to the church temporarily from the Parish Hall while this has undergone renovation but will return there in March 2025.

Members of St John's congregation are active in a range of local charities including Beachy Head Chaplaincy, Eastbourne Foodbank, Matthew 25 Mission, Peru People and St Wilfrid's Hospice.

Provision of financial and other support to mission partners and others in need

St John's continues to support financially and in other ways local and overseas mission partners. These charities have the opportunity to share with the congregation about their activities and the links continue to build. A total of £13,520 (2023: £14,000) was given to 9 charities as detailed in Note 4 to the accounts. Additionally, retiring collections are taken after services for other selected causes.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Financial Review

Incoming and outgoing resources

The total receipts on unrestricted funds were £236,902 (2023: £242,864) and are detailed in the Financial Report. Restricted income of £80,097 (2023: £34,291) took total incoming resources to £316,999 (2023: £277,155).

The hire of the Parish Hall and Jubilee Hall, reduced from £22,708 in 2023 to £20,057 in 2024.

The main expenditure items were the Church Access Project and legal fees for the Parish Hall and the redesignation of the Endowment Funds. Parish Share, wages and church and parish hall running costs.

Overall there was a deficit of £120,464 (2023: surplus £19,786). The surplus in 2023 was due to the donations and grants received for the Access Project.

Sharing the ministry costs of the Diocese of Chichester

The largest expenditure of the PCC was the sum of £81,444 (2023: £78,792) paid to the diocese for our share of all churches' Parish Ministry Costs and church insurance incurred by the diocese. This amount covers the housing, stipend and pension costs of the clergy and also a sum for diocesan training and other support costs. Currently, St John's is meeting 100% of the costs allocated to it.

Repairs to the fabric of the church building

During 2024, the church upgraded the accoustics and access into and within the church. Other minor repair works were also carried out and the church underwent a Quinquennial Inspection with a new Inspecting Architect, Cerowski Architects, which has highlighted work that will be required over the next 5-year period.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to three months' unrestricted expenditure against unforeseen situations.

It is PCC policy to invest temporarily surplus general funds with the CBF Church of England deposit fund, returning proportionately these funds to our current account, as they are needed to pay day to day bills.

Endowment Funds

St John's has for many years maintained three Endowment Funds established following previous bequests. During the year an application was made to the Charity Commission to convert these into Restricted Investment Funds, so as to allow some use of the capital as well as the income if required. There are no immediate plans to expend the capital but the funds have now been renamed in these accounts.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

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 Parochial Church Council:

Charity Number	1131574		
Incumbent	The Revd Giles Carpenter	(Chairman)	
Readers	Mr Jorj Kowsun Mrs Sarah Hassell Mrs Catherine Butcher		
Wardens	Mr David Scott-Ralphs Mr Tony Motram Mr R Hassell Mrs M Gibson	Appointed Appointed Resigned Resigned	01 May 2024 01 May 2024 01 May 2024 01 May 2024
Deanery Synod:	Mr David Scott-Ralphs Mrs Sally Scott-Ralphs Mrs Catherine Butcher Ms Gilli Howarth	(Vice Chairman) Resigned	 27 November 2024
Elected Members	Mr Paul Burley Dr John Caroe Mr Derek Glover Mrs Eunice Glover Mrs Sarah Hammond Mr Clem Jackson Mrs Janet Jackson Mr Ian Murray Mrs Sarah Peat Mr Ian Pinder Mrs Julia Pinder Mr Robert Scott-Biggs Mrs Judith Stone	 Resigned Appointed Appointed (Treasurer) (Secretary) 	 24 June 2024 01 May 2024 01 May 2024

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and up to 15 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.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CHARITY

A sub-committee of the PCC is the **Standing Committee**, which is required by law.

This committee has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to direction given by the full PCC.

The Standing Committee also undertakes the function of a Finance Committee by monitoring the Church's finances and proposing actions to be taken to preserve the funds.

Various ministry teams exist, comprising members of the PCC and others, to further the work of the Church and report their efforts and proposals to the PCC where decisions are taken. We are grateful to all who volunteer their time to these ministries and to the small staff team.

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Mr David Scott-Ralphs PCC Vice-Chairman.



Date: 25 February 2025

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Accepted Accountancy Practice).

The Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period.

In preparing those accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE PCC OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 21 to 36.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Chartered Institute of England and Wales.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided for in Section 145(3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Nathan Coker FCCA

Dated:

Price & Company
30-32 Gildredge Road
Eastbourne
BN21 4SH

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Restricted Investments £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes					
<u>Incoming Resources from generated funds</u>						
Donations and Legacies		183,463	77,630	-	261,093	217,690
Incoming resources from charitable activities or grants		3,871	-	-	3,871	7,254
Other trading activities		30,307	240	-	30,547	31,165
Investment income		4,058	1,914	-	5,972	4,870
Other incoming resources		15,203	313	-	15,516	16,176
Total incoming resources	2	236,902	80,097	-	316,999	277,155
<u>Resources Expended</u>						
Church activities	3	235,323	150,585	-	385,908	231,452
Cost of generating voluntary income		49	-	-	49	-
Other trading activities		40,453	-	-	40,453	33,156
Governance costs	3	13,459	-	-	13,459	1,800
Total Resources expended		289,284	150,585	-	439,869	266,408
Net incoming resources before transfers		(52,382)	(70,488)	-	(122,870)	10,747
Gross transfers between funds		(41,378)	41,378	-	-	-
Net incoming Resources before other recognised gains and losses		(93,760)	(29,110)	-	(122,870)	10,747
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets		-	-	2,406	2,406	9,039
Net Movement in Funds		(93,760)	(29,110)	2,406	(120,464)	19,786
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		149,915	39,293	105,108	294,316	274,530
Fund balances at 31 December 2024		56,155	10,183	107,514	173,852	294,316

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities

The notes on pages 23 to 36 form part of this account

A detailed breakdown of the comparative figures per Fund is shown on page 37

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6	3,406		3,633	
Restricted investments		107,514		105,108	
		<u>110,920</u>		<u>108,741</u>	
Current assets					
Debtors	7	17,349		20,349	
Short term deposits		21,399		57,558	
Cash at bank and in hand		42,815		135,758	
		<u>81,563</u>		<u>213,665</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(18,631)</u>		<u>(28,090)</u>	
Net current assets		<u>62,932</u>		<u>185,575</u>	
Total assets less current liabilities		<u><u>173,852</u></u>		<u><u>294,316</u></u>	
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds	9	56,155		149,915	
Restricted funds	9	10,183		39,293	
Restricted Investment funds	9	107,514		105,108	
		<u><u>173,852</u></u>		<u><u>294,316</u></u>	

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 25 February 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:-



David Scott-Ralphs

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Charity information

The charity was established under the Parochial Church Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules and is a charity registered in England and Wales (charity number 1131574).

1.1 Accounting convention

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice, applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (effective 1 January 2019), the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations. The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

To ensure that the accounts show a true and fair view, the trustees have not complied fully with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 as these refer specifically to the previous 2005 SORP and have not been updated to reflect the changes in legislation to the FRS102 SORP.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the PCC have reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the PCC continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds Income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in terms of the trust or bequest;

Donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Funds accounting (continued)

Restricted investments Previously endowment funds, following agreement from the Charity Commission, these investments have been redesignated as restricted investments and total funds can only be used on the sepecific object they were given.

1.4 Incoming resources

All income and endowments, which are accounted for without deduction for any costs of receivability, are recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received.

Gift aid recovered is recognised when the income to which it is attached is received.

Grants and legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the funding is received by the PCC.

Charitable activities

Statutory fees for weddings and funerals are recognised when the events have occurred. Fees received in advance of the event are recognised as deferred income until the event occurs. The statutory proportion of fees held as agent for and due to the Diocese of Chichester, are not recognised as income and are included in creditors until paid.

Other trading activities

Where income is receivable in return for selling goods or providing services, income is recognised either when received or in the case of concerts, for the year it occurs irrespective of date of receipt. Advance bookings are included in creditors until the concert has taken place.

Sales of magazines and study notes are recognised when received.

Investment income

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Other income

All other income is recognised in accordance with the above overall policy.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or, when awarded, where the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

This includes those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not stated in the financial statements. Individual items that cost less than £1,000 are written off in expenditure when incurred.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Office equipment	-	25% straight line basis
Fixtures & fittings	-	20% reducing balance basis

The gains and losses arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

Investments

Investments are stated at mid-market value at the Balance Sheet date.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Leasing commitments

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are recognised as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

1.1 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

In the year ended 31 December 2024 the Trustees consider that there were no critical accounting estimates arising that require disclosure.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2 Incoming resources

	Year to 31 December 2024			
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Donations and legacies				
Planned giving				
Gift Aid donations	73,346		-	73,346
Tax recoverable	33,151	6,250	-	39,401
Other	70,950	1,030	-	71,980
Cash collections at services	6,016		-	6,016
Donations, appeals, etc	-	70,350	-	70,350
Legacies	-	-	-	-
	<u>183,463</u>	<u>77,630</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>261,093</u>
Incoming resources from charitable activities or grants				
Magazines, books and cards	2,200	-	-	2,200
Grants	-	-	-	-
Fees	1,047	-	-	1,047
Children's activities	624	-	-	624
	<u>3,871</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,871</u>
Other trading activities				
Parish Hall lettings	20,057	240	-	20,297
Coffeepot+	6,969	-	-	6,969
Fund raising events	3,281	-	-	3,281
	<u>30,307</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,547</u>
Investment income				
Dividends and interest (gross)	4,058	1,914	-	5,972
	<u>4,058</u>	<u>1,914</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,972</u>
Other incoming resources				
Other income	15,203	313	-	15,516
	<u>15,203</u>	<u>313</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,516</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>236,902</u>	<u>80,097</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>316,999</u>

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2 Incoming resources (continued)

	Year to 31 December 2023			
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Donations and legacies				
Planned giving				
Gift Aid donations	86,904	330	-	87,234
Tax recoverable	29,545	2,150	-	31,695
Other	56,233	34	-	56,267
Cash collections at services	3,887		-	3,887
Donations, appeals, etc	8,745	27,810	-	36,555
Legacies	2,052	-	-	2,052
	<u>187,366</u>	<u>30,324</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>217,690</u>
Incoming resources from charitable activities or grants				
Magazines, books and cards	1,500	-	-	1,500
Grants	-	2,808	-	2,808
Fees	2,294	-	-	2,294
Children's activities	652	-	-	652
	<u>4,446</u>	<u>2,808</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,254</u>
Other trading activities				
Parish Hall lettings	22,708	-	-	22,708
Coffeepot+	6,275	-	-	6,275
Fund raising events	2,182	-	-	2,182
	<u>31,165</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,165</u>
Investment income				
Dividends and interest (gross)	3,711	1,159	-	4,870
	<u>3,711</u>	<u>1,159</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,870</u>
Other incoming resources				
Other income	16,176	-	-	16,176
	<u>16,176</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,176</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>242,864</u>	<u>34,291</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>277,155</u>

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3 Total resources expended

Year to 31 December 2024				
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Charitable activities				
Missionary and charitable giving				
<u>Church overseas</u>				
Missionary societies	3,000	-	-	3,000
Relief and development agencies	2,000	-	-	2,000
<u>Home missions</u>	8,000	520	-	8,520
Note 4	13,000	520	-	13,520
Ministry:				
Parish contribution	81,444	-	-	81,444
Housing expenses	4,178	-	-	4,178
Clergy expenses	1,346	-	-	1,346
Church running expenses	20,451	-	-	20,451
Church maintenance	11,104	-	-	11,104
Upkeep of services	6,401	401	-	6,802
Upkeep of church garden	2,660	1,234	-	3,894
Expenditure on parish magazine, books and cards	2,612	-	-	2,612
Mission outreach and training	268	-	-	268
Salaries	75,444	-	-	75,444
Children's & Youth activities	2,950	-	-	2,950
Training courses	2,110	-	-	2,110
Printing, office supplies and telephone	5,922	-	-	5,922
Other administration costs	4,643	50	-	4,693
Major works	780	147,317	-	148,097
Ukraine Hub	-	1,063	-	1,063
Church tower costs	10	-	-	10
Total charitable activities	235,323	150,585	-	385,908
Cost of generating voluntary income				
Stewardship expenses	49	-	-	49
	49	-	-	49
Other trading activities				
Parish Hall running costs	34,651	-	-	34,651
Coffeepot+	4,843	-	-	4,843
Cost of events	959	-	-	959
	40,453	-	-	40,453
Governance costs				
Legal & Professional fees	11,679	-	-	11,679
Independent Examination fee	1,780	-	-	1,780
	13,459	-	-	13,459
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	289,284	150,585	-	439,869

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3 Total resources expended

	Year to 31 December 2023			
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Charitable activities				
Missionary and charitable giving				
<u>Church overseas</u>				
Missionary societies	1,703	697	-	2,400
Relief and development agencies	3,000	-	-	3,000
<u>Home missions</u>	8,600	-	-	8,600
Note 4	13,303	697	-	14,000
Ministry:				
Parish contribution	78,792	-	-	78,792
Housing expenses	6,022	-	-	6,022
Clergy expenses	1,352	-	-	1,352
Church running expenses	20,457	-	-	20,457
Church maintenance	6,469	-	-	6,469
Upkeep of services	4,717	904	-	5,621
Upkeep of church garden	1,004	1,145	-	2,149
Expenditure on parish magazine, books and cards	2,180	-	-	2,180
Mission outreach and training	467	382	-	849
Salaries	67,720	-	-	67,720
Children's & Youth activities	1,723	-	-	1,723
Training courses	3,234	-	-	3,234
Printing, office supplies and telephone	5,471	-	-	5,471
Other administration costs	3,453	-	-	3,453
Major works	1,802	-	-	1,802
Ukraine Hub	-	158	-	158
St Michael & All Angels Support	9,213	787	-	10,000
Total charitable activities	227,379	4,073	-	231,452
Cost of generating voluntary income				
Stewardship expenses	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities				
Parish Hall running costs	27,236	-	-	27,236
Coffeepot+	4,408	-	-	4,408
Cost of events	1,512	-	-	1,512
	33,156	-	-	33,156
Governance costs				
Independent Examination fee	1,800	-	-	1,800
	1,800	-	-	1,800
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	262,335	4,073	-	266,408

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4 Missionary and charitable giving

Year to 31 December 2024				
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Restricted Investments £	Total £
Overseas				
Revive	1,000	-	-	1,000
CMCT	2,000	-	-	2,000
Release International	1,000	-	-	1,000
Peru People	1,000	-	-	1,000
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Home				
Linking Lives Eastbourne	2,000	-	-	2,000
Beachy Head Chaplaincy	2,000	-	-	2,000
Matthew 25	1,000	-	-	1,000
Eastbourne Foodbank	1,000	-	-	1,000
Diocesan Missionary Fund	2,000	-	-	2,000
Parish Hardship Fund	-	520	-	520
	<u>8,000</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,520</u>
Total Giving	<u>13,000</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,520</u>

Year to 31 December 2023				
Overseas				
CMS	-	600	-	600
Revive	503	97	-	600
Tearfund	1,200	-	-	1,200
CMCT	1,200	-	-	1,200
Release International	1,200	-	-	1,200
Peru People	600	-	-	600
	<u>4,703</u>	<u>697</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,400</u>
Home				
Linking Lives Eastbourne	2,500	-	-	2,500
St Wilfrids Hospice	1,000	-	-	1,000
Beachy Head Chaplaincy	1,500	-	-	1,500
Matthew 25	1,500	-	-	1,500
Eastbourne Foodbank	1,500	-	-	1,500
Sanctuary	600	-	-	600
Parish Hardship Fund	-	-	-	-
	<u>8,600</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,600</u>
Total Giving	<u>13,303</u>	<u>697</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,000</u>

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

5 Staff costs

Unrestricted Fund	Wages & salaries	Social security costs	Pension contributions	Total 2024	Total 2023
Administration	31,274	2,663	1,420	35,357	36,064
Family, Children and Youth Workers	36,543	2,476	1,828	40,847	32,942
Maintenance of Church & Parish Hall	11,901	19	331	12,251	13,546
	<u>79,718</u>	<u>5,158</u>	<u>3,579</u>	<u>88,455</u>	<u>82,552</u>

An employers allowance of £4,899 was deducted from payments to HMRC.

During the year the PCC employed an average of 7 people in the following posts: Church and Parish Hall administrators; a Children and Families worker, Youth workers, a cleaner and a caretaker.

There are no employees who received total emoluments of more than £60,000.

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment £	Furniture £	Total £
Cost			
At 01 January 2024	1,850	8,739	10,589
Additions	1,000	-	1,000
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	2,850	8,739	11,589
Depreciation			
At 01 January 2024	1,436	5,520	6,956
Charge for the year	582	645	1,227
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	2,018	6,165	8,183
Net book value			
At 31 December 2024	832	2,574	3,406
At 31 December 2023	414	3,219	3,633

Investments

	Endowment Fund	
	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Market value at 1 January 2024	105,108	96,069
Gains/(losses) in year	2,406	9,039
Market value at 31 December 2024	<u>107,514</u>	<u>105,108</u>

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

7 Debtors

	Unrestricted Fund	
	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	7,399	8,371
Prepayments	1,613	2,109
Other debtors	8,337	9,869
	<u>17,349</u>	<u>20,349</u>

8 Creditors

	Unrestricted Fund	
	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	8,773	20,557
Other taxation and social security	2,923	1,398
Creditors for goods and services	6,935	6,135
	<u>18,631</u>	<u>28,090</u>

9 Movement in funds

	Movement in Funds				
	Balance at 01 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Garden Maintenance	66,934	1,532	-	-	68,466
Duplex Bequest	34,127	781	-	-	34,908
Flower Fund	4,047	93	-	-	4,140
Total Restricted Investments	105,108	2,406	-	-	107,514
Garden Fund	-	1,858	(1,234)	-	624
Charities Fund	26	-	-	-	26
Children & Young People	-	1,000	(35)	-	965
Church Access Project	29,364	76,630	(147,333)	41,339	-
Flower - Floral Decoration	168	194	(401)	39	-
St John's School Governors	244	-	-	-	244
Parish Hardship Fund	5,767	240	(520)	-	5,487
Displaced People	741	-	-	-	741
Ukraine Families	332	155	-	-	487
Ukraine Hub	2,651	20	(1,062)	-	1,609
Partnership Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	39,293	80,097	(150,585)	41,378	10,183
General Fund	(25,250)	216,357	(249,095)	(28,926)	(86,914)
<i>Designated Funds</i>					
Bereavement Journey	-	199	(118)	-	81
Parish Hall Fund	(11,524)	20,115	(38,861)	30,270	-
Parish Hall Maintenance	1,383	-	-	(1,383)	-
Reserve Fund	40,000	-	-	-	40,000
Organ Fund	11,204	-	(1,200)	-	10,004
Tower & Festival Project	-	231.00	(10)	-	221
Legacy Reserve	134,102	-	-	(41,339)	92,763
Total Unrestricted Funds	149,915	236,902	(289,284)	(41,378)	56,155
Total Funds	294,316	319,405	(439,869)	-	173,852

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

10 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 December 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Restricted Investments £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	3,406	-	-	3,406
Investment fixed assets	-	-	107,514	107,514
Current assets (excl bank)	17,349	-	-	17,349
Cash at bank and on deposit	54,031	10,183	-	64,214
Current liabilities	(18,631)	-	-	(18,631)
	<u>56,155</u>	<u>10,183</u>	<u>107,514</u>	<u>173,852</u>

Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Restricted Investments £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	3,633	-	-	3,633
Investment fixed assets	-	-	105,108	105,108
Current assets (excl bank)	18,925	-	-	18,925
Cash at bank and on deposit	149,313	44,003	-	193,316
Current liabilities	(21,956)	(4,710)	-	(26,666)
	<u>149,915</u>	<u>39,293</u>	<u>105,108</u>	<u>294,316</u>

11 Statement of Funds

Restricted investments

The capital and income is required to be spent on specific objectives.

The Garden Maintenance Fund is a restricted investment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares (2,961 shares), which requires income to be spent on maintenance of the church garden.

The Duplex Bequest is a restricted investment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares (1,509.70 shares), which requires income to be given to charitable causes.

The Flower Fund is a restricted investment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares (179 shares), which requires income to be spent on floral decoration of the church.

The CBF Investment Fund shares were valued at £23.1227 per share at 31 December 2024 (2023: £22.6053 per share).

Restricted Funds

These are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales

The Garden Fund which holds income for the upkeep of the church garden.

The Flower Fund which holds income to provide for the floral decoration of the church.

The Charities Fund which holds income from the Duplex Bequest pending payment to charities.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

11 Statement of Funds (continued)

Restricted Funds (continued)

The Church Access Project Fund is the money raised through donations and grants to finance the building work to improve access in the church.

St John School Governor's Fund which holds monies allocated by the PCC to meet costs incurred by governors in carrying out their roles.

The Parish Hardship Fund which holds income to provide financial support to individuals or families within the Parish.

The Legacy Repairs Fund which holds legacy income for the repair of the church and connected property.

The Displaced People Fund which holds income to provide financial support to families living in Eastbourne who have been displaced from their homes by war or other life threatening circumstances.

The Ukraine Families Fund holds monies for use in supporting Ukrainian families living in Eastbourne.

The Ukraine Hub is grant money received to support the Hub in its activities with Ukraine families.

Unrestricted Funds

These are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides.

The PCC has designated certain funds for administrative purposes and to set aside monies for future anticipated expenditure. The designated funds comprise:-

Parish Hall Fund to provide for the running costs and upkeep of the Parish Hall.

Parish Hall Maintenance Fund to provide for maintaining the fabric of the Parish Hall.

Reserve Fund to provide funds as a contingency and for the further development of the church.

Organ Fund to provide future repairs to the organ.

Repair Fund to provide for repairs and decoration of the church and replacement of equipment.

Bereavement Journey to reinvest in the Bereavement Journey.

Tower & Festival Project to provide funds to support the running of the Tower Project.

Legacy Reserve to ring fence any funds received from legacies to be allocated to specific projects.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12 Payments to PCC Members

Other payments were made to PCC members in reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC:

- Clergy support (Incumbent): Council Tax: £3,405 (2023: £3,828), Environmental charges: £551 (2023: £608), Travel, hospitality, telephone, stationery, accommodation: £1,568 (2023: £1,586)
- No members received reimbursement for travel, stationery, postage, hospitality and accommodation totalling £Nil (2023: £Nil)

13 Related party transactions

There were no transactions with any other related parties other than those already disclosed. (2023: None)

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Restricted Investments £	Total 2023 £
	Notes				
<u>Incoming Resources from generated funds</u>					
Donations and Legacies		187,366	30,324	-	217,690
Incoming resources from charitable activities or grants		4,446	2,808	-	7,254
Other trading activities		31,165	-	-	31,165
Investment income		3,711	1,159	-	4,870
Other incoming resources		16,176	-	-	16,176
Total incoming resources	2	242,864	34,291	-	277,155
<u>Resources Expended</u>					
Church activities	3	227,379	4,073	-	231,452
Cost of generating voluntary income		-	-	-	-
Other trading activities		33,156	-	-	33,156
Governance costs	3	1,800	-	-	1,800
Total Resources expended		262,335	4,073	-	266,408
Net incoming resources before transfers		(19,471)	30,218	-	10,747
Gross transfers between funds		(683)	683	-	-
Net incoming Resources before other recognised gains and losses		(20,154)	30,901	-	10,747
Gains on investment assets		-	-	9,039	9,039
Net Movement in Funds		(20,154)	30,901	9,039	19,786
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		170,069	8,392	96,069	274,530
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		149,915	39,293	105,108	294,316

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

CHURCHWARDEN MESSAGE & REPORT

As we draft this message, the abundance of spring flowers on display everywhere you look reminds us of the change of seasons. So it is with St John's, as we prepare for a new season with a new incumbent, following the news at the turn of the year that Revd Giles Carpenter would be taking up a central role in Chichester Diocese. We have been hugely blessed by the 11 years of service that Giles and his wife Rachel have given to St John's and we wish them well in their next chapter.

As your churchwardens, we embrace willingly and with humility the role of steering St John's through an interregnum and we are working closely with our Patron and the Diocese to put in place a good process to find a new vicar. Our ambition is to find someone who will maintain the essential ethos of St John's while challenging us in new directions.

In the meantime, we are truly fortunate and grateful to have a wonderful team of preachers and leaders to sustain our regular service pattern, as well as to perform other occasional offices. We also have many others across our church family who are serving faithfully in so many different ways. Thank you to all of them.

There is much to celebrate about the year just ended. We continued to see new people arriving to make St John's their spiritual home and this led to some growth in our overall church numbers. Six people were licensed for Authorised Lay Ministry in areas such as mission, preaching and worship and liturgy. We increased the number of 'messy' events for children and these were well attended, alongside our 'Thrilling Thursdays' summer programme. We also put on for the first time two 'Holiday at Home' events for members of our church family, with entertainment from our resident band Crushed Velvet. These were hugely popular and we will run them again in 2025.

Last year also saw progress on some significant buildings-related matters. First of all, we improved the accessibility of the church building, with new acoustic panels fitted throughout the nave and the automation of entrance and internal doors. Also, following 18 months of negotiations, we were able to agree a 99-year lease for the Parish Hall with a new community charity, Meads (Eastbourne) Community Centre. This is at a peppercorn rent in exchange for the MECC fully refurbishing and maintaining the Hall, as well as running it for the benefit of our community. At the time of writing, this has been successfully achieved and the renamed Meads Hall formally inaugurated.

We continue to seek to serve God faithfully in this sunny corner of the south coast and we pray for His continued blessing on St John's as we prepare to welcome a new vicar.

Tony Mottram and David Scott-Ralphs

INVENTORY AND TERRIER

The annual inventory of Church goods and chattels will be carried out in April.

There is no Terrier (an account of Church lands and properties), but our understanding is that the Church itself, the Jubilee Hall complex and the Parish Hall are the main components of the land property element of the Terrier. St John's School was originally owned by St John's Church, but was passed to the Diocese.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Prayer Ministry

There is an opportunity for people to receive prayer from our trained team, during Communion and after the services. We now have two couples on duty each Sunday. We have seen an increased number of people coming forward for prayer, particularly if the person leading the service flags it up. The team have been very blessed by seeing the response of the people who have been prayed for, the lifting of burdens and the reassurance of God's love for them. We also have a team at the once a month mid week Communion Healing Service. We have yet to see the blind receive sight or the lame walk but we are praying that we will.

Judith Stone

Prayer Focus

Prayer Focus meets on the third Saturday in the month excepting August and December. We have a team of 5 people organising this, and we get together in the week leading up to the Saturday to plan the morning. Prayer Focus starts at 8.30am, have a light breakfast and then pray. We pray for the different ministries in the church, and there is often a chance for key people in those ministries to be anointed. We finish at 10.00am.

The prayer is part petition and part listening to God and seeking his response. During the vacancy we will be including a time of prayer for the church, the recruitment process, the relationship between the PCC representatives, the Patrons and the Diocese, and we will be praying for God to choose the right person to be chosen. It is a time for good fellowship and good prayer, please join us.

Judith Stone on behalf of the Prayer Focus Team

Prayer Warriors

There are a group of church members who are willing to respond to prayer requests. We can and do pray for emergency situations and for on going conditions. If you wish to have prayer for yourself, or for a friend or family member please contact myself, Judy Stone or Sally Scott-Ralphs. You can contact us by email. If you are requesting prayer for someone else, please ask them first. It is a small group of people praying, and everything is confidential.

Judith Stone

Prayer Triplets

Prayer Triplets are an excellent way to share personal prayer concerns, but also wider needs and upcoming events with a couple of trusted, praying friends. It is undoubtedly a strength to pray in threes. Confidentiality is paramount.

One of the advantages of praying in this way is the flexibility each triplet has to decide where and when to meet, and how frequently.

There are currently some fifteen triplets operating, although of its very nature there are comings and goings, and there is always potential for new triplets to form.

Sarah Hassell & George Fisher

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Pastoral Ministry

The Pastoral team have had a busy year. The team visit people in their homes or in their care homes or in hospital, to pray with them and often to offer Holy Communion. The Pastoral team have offered respite sitting to enable the main carer to go out and have a break. We have organised the delivery of meals for those in need for example the newly bereaved, or for people out of hospital, for a set amount of time.

The Pastoral team have many gifts but the most valuable is the ability to listen and to pray with the person. The team deliver their ministry on a relationship model and are allocated to pray for and come alongside a named person. There is a Pastoral list and people can come on and off the list as needed. Rev. George Fisher oversees the list and meets regularly with the 'manager' of the pastoral list. The pastoral team work closely with the Prayer warrior team requesting (with the persons permission) focussed prayer. We are very blessed having so much to offer from St. Johns, Coffee pot plus, Craft group, etc. to those who feel isolated, and of course the church services.

We have new people joining the team and George and Joan Fisher have kindly agreed to deliver some training on Home Communion and Pastoral Care which is very exciting.

Safeguarding is another element of the pastoral support. The team are all up to date on their safeguarding training and remain fully aware of the potential of there being a safeguarding issue with any of the people who we visit at home, or in a care home or hospital.

We have a group WhatsApp so can communicate with each other promptly over any issues or when we plan to give home communion to people so there is no problem of double booking.

Sally Scott-Ralphs

Bereavement Report

I will start with a case study.

A woman, who I will call Sarah, and her daughter attended The Lights of Love service at St. Johns. Sarah's husband of 67yrs had died recently. When Sarah and her daughter came through to the Jubilee Hall for a cup of tea after the service they sat with a member of the bereavement team. The volunteer suggested Sarah may benefit from attending the Bereavement café held at St. John's. It was suggested that Sarah may find comfort from the support and compassion from others who have been bereaved as they share their stories and feelings with each other and with the volunteers from the bereavement team.

Sarah attended the café, and became a regular attendee. She welcomed being able to talk about her late husband and shared happy memories of holidays they had had together.

The bereavement team were planning to hold a Bereavement journey course and invited Sarah to attend. The course is six sessions with an optional seventh based on Faith Questions. Sarah was very interested in attending and completed the registration form. Sarah participated in all the discussions, and shared with the group how lonely life was now she was living on her own. She often sat at their kitchen table eating her supper in tears. The group all responded with how they manage the lonely evenings which each person found helpful and Sarah felt supported.

Sally Scott-Ralphs

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Bereavement Café

The Bereavement café continues to flourish with new guests and regular guests, averaging 12-16, each meeting. St Wilfrids Hospice often signposts people who are bereaved to the café so many who attend have no connection with the church. The café opened an extra session just before Christmas as this can be a very difficult time for the bereaved, and opened the café for New Year to support everyone.

We open on the last Tuesday of each month from 2.30-4pm. The bereavement team are steadfast with their kindness and listen respectfully to the individuals story. Most have completed the Bereavement Journey course as part of the training. We meet to pray before the café opens and have a debrief and prayer after the café closes.

We hope to move to the back of church after Easter, there would be more space and the content of conversations should be easier to hear. The café is often filled with laughter as well as tears. A few guests have started to attend church which is wonderful and a real blessing.

Bereavement Journey

The Bereavement Journey Course is a course designed by the Ataloss charity and St. John's is registered with them. This year we have held three courses, and have piloted a different time of day for one, twice a week for another and one with a weekly attendance.

We were trying to make it accessible for people who still go out to work by running one in the evening, one twice a week to encourage good attendance at each session, and a course weekly.

The course at the moment has eight guests, and the average is between 4-8. The course is facilitated by two volunteers and we have a psychotherapist who can if needed offer advice to the facilitators. The course is held in someone's home.

We are aiming for St. John's, to be awarded by Ataloss, a Bereavement friendly church and we will be meeting together in early May to examine and improve the twelve point charter which will demonstrate that St. John's and other churches have reached the standard for being a Bereavement Friendly church. The course is six sessions with an optional seventh session based on Faith questions. We have found that most people with faith or no faith attend this session.

Sally Scott-Ralphs (Pastoral Support Lead)

Life Groups

The Life Groups continue to be an integral part of the life of St John's, providing fellowship, prayer support, pastoral care and bible teaching for those who belong. At the moment we have 10 active groups not counting Morning Prayer and the Lectio365 group. In all there are just over 100 members involved in them. There are four daytime groups and six evening groups, one of which is online using Zoom. The groups each have a leader and they are supported by the coordinators Janet Jackson, Joan Fisher and George Fisher. We held a training meeting in November where we shared ideas and experience of the different resources that are available.

If you do not already belong to a Life Group and would like to try one before committing to one, then please speak to one of us. Also, if you feel you would like to move from the group you currently attend, that is perfectly OK and one of us can help you decide what might be next for you'

George & Joan Fisher & Janet Jackson

Alpha

The Alpha course offers an opportunity to consider who Jesus is and why he is worth following. In 2024 we offered an evening course to start in the autumn, but there was not sufficient take-up. Instead Adrian and Catherine offered a daytime course for three parents, one of whom was considering baptism. Kim kindly provided child care as needed. We decided that in 2025 we would adopt a different approach to help people exploring faith; the Hot Potato evenings, started in February 2025, aim to provide a forum to discuss some of the difficult questions people ask about faith. For those wanting to explore further, Alpha or a similar explorers course will be offered.

Catherine Butcher

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Coffepot+

Coffee Pot Plus is going well.

The former Parish Hall in Meads Street, now Meads Hall, has recently emerged from extensive renovations, which began towards the end of September 2024 and lasted until the beginning of March 2025. Bookings could be made from 1st March, and Coffee Pot Plus relocated there with effect from 7th March. In the meantime Coffee Pot took place on Friday mornings in the Jubilee Hall at St. John's Church. Numbers held up well, but everyone was glad to move back into Meads Hall, where there is a lot more space, a re-ordered kitchen, new Toilet facilities, Disabled parking and a new disabled access.

An Open Day was held at Meads Hall on 22nd March when large numbers from the public were able to see the newly re-ordered Hall and its facilities, whilst browsing among the well decorated tables advertising the various activities on offer at the Hall.

The Coffee Pot team has expanded and no fewer than eight potential team members have come forward to help with one of the regular Coffee Pot activities: Hospitality, manning the Front Desk, Cooking and assisting the cook, making Teas and Coffees, Setting Up and Setting Down, Jigsaws and the all-important listening and chatting with those who come.

Coffee Pot broadly follows the school term, so we are now on our Easter break, returning on Friday 27th April. We will also break for seven weeks in the summer, but on two of those Fridays: 1st and 22nd August, there will be a Holiday at Home to which many of the Coffee Pot regulars are likely to come.

So, all in all, we are very grateful for what has been achieved over the past year, and we look forward with anticipation to a bright future.

Sarah Hassell and the Team

Fellowship Lunches

Continuing on from last year, this is a church social activity to embrace Fellowship within the broader Church Family with the intention that members get to know each other better leading to greater integration. It promotes inclusivity and general well-being. Everyone is encouraged to take part, whether long-time attendees of St. John's or newer members.

The format of the event is Sunday Lunch in various Church Family homes with other Church Family Members attending as guests. There are different hosts and guests on each occasion which means that the dynamics are always different and create an interest. Hosts do not necessarily host every time – sometimes they are guests, too!

We still have a regular core of hosts, and a regular core of guests. Everyone seems to enjoy the occasions. Last year I reported that we were experiencing some resistance from potential guests not to attend "because they could not reciprocate the hospitality" despite the very clear message put out that this is not necessary or the point. In response to that feedback we have changed the format inasmuch that the hosts now only provide the main course. The guests are asked to bring along desserts and cheese, so that everyone feels that they have contributed something to the lunch.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Fellowship Lunches (continued)

There has been some success with that and the number of new guests starting to take part has increased, but I feel that there is still some way to go and there is more work to do to encourage others to join in.

Usually, the lunch takes place on the 2nd Sunday of the month, so long as it does not clash with another church calendar or national event.

Finally, a big 'Thank You' to all the hosts for opening-up your homes to us all. Without you, these events wouldn't happen at all.

Graeme Wallis

Fellowship Lunch Co-ordinator

St John's Worship Team

The last year has seen continued development in the musical worship life of St John's. We continue to welcome new members into the worship team serving the 10.00am community and I am extremely grateful to the rest of the team for their support.

New worship leaders have been developing their skills and we continue to be blessed by our talented instrumentalists who have greatly enhanced our musical worship. My personal thanks also to Mandy who, as well as playing almost every other week, continues to be a great help to me administratively and organisationally.

Aside from Sunday morning, the midweek Communion and Evensong congregations continue to benefit from regular musical support with hymns a regular feature of our Wednesday communion. Thank you to our organists who support both services and Christopher, who continues to provide a further variety of music at communion services on a regular basis, both midweek and Sunday. The choir are also a blessing to our evensong worship. Thank you to all of those involved.

The AV team is a key part of our worship ministry at all our services, providing sterling support not only to the in-house production but also, and critically importantly, to the streaming and recording of services. Many people, who could not otherwise be part of our worship, benefit from their skills, knowledge and expertise. They are a very small team and it has been encouraging to see the team growing recently particularly the younger members who have recently joined the team. Grateful thanks also to Bruce whose expertise in sound engineering makes such a difference

As ever, it is a privilege to be involved in the musical worship ministry; it is a real team effort so thank you to all involved and to everyone for your support. And if you are hiding your musical and/or technical talent under a bush why not have a chat with me and see how you might get involved.

Clem Jackson

Church Magazine

Two magazines were published and distributed to every home in the parish – one in Spring and one in the Winter. The print and design of the 2500 copies was almost completely paid for by local advertising, for which we are grateful. Written with the non-churchgoer in mind, they were well received and introduced people to the life of the church.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Junior Church and Youth (Lodgers)

Junior church has fluctuated over the year as a few new families have joined, but a few have left. We have 20 children aged 4 to 10 on the register with a weekly attendance of at least 12. Our team has dwindled a little, so we have not been able to have a split time with KS1 and KS2 children as we had hoped to do.

The number of youth attending has also dropped – a main factor being sport and other outside activities on a Sunday. We have also had the older youth choosing to remain in the service where they have begun serving in different key areas e.g. Welcoming, Coffee and AV.

We continue to use 'Raise Up Faith's' One Story curriculum but focused on the 'Year 1' sessions this year.

Once a month the children and youth have started in the main service for an 'all-age' slot with many of them getting involved in leading parts of it. The children love meeting together especially when we worship and sing. We have had a few all-age services which included Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christmas. The children joined the youth to produce a filmed and live Nativity Service which was a highlight of the year.

Messy Church

Messy church continues to be popular with an average attendance of around 80. This year we ran Messy Lent, Messy Easter, Messy Pentecost, Messy Christmas including a Messy Light Party an alternative to Halloween. We changed the format slightly with an emphasis on welcoming parents with a warm drink and getting families participate in a focused activity which we then used for our worship time together – guests have shared how they like the new way we are doing it.

Meads Munchkins Baby and Toddler Group

Attendance at Munchkins continues to ebb and flow in relation to the school year. Numbers dropped in September when some children left to start school or nursery full time. As the year ended the numbers had started to grow again with quite a few mum's with babies attending. We continue to have a very good reputation for being very friendly and inviting. The team remains the same with the addition of an existing mum coming on board as she has grown in faith and become more involved in other church activities too.

Thrilling Thursdays

After the success of last year's Thrilling Thursday programme which ran over four weeks in August instead of a full week holiday club, we decided to continue this year. This year's theme was 'Sport's Academy' which tied into the Olympics. We had a total of 60 children aged 4-10 years old attending over the four Thursdays. With the help of outside visitors and an incredible church volunteer team the children who attended had an awesome time exploring and discovering faith through Bible stories, songs, games, crafts and sporty workshops!

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

School Links

Due to circumstances beyond our control, our contract St. John's Meads C of E Primary school was cancelled in July so Kim, the school link worker is no longer going into school twice a week. We continue to support the school as much as we can through once a week assemblies and services at Church.

Services this year included an Easter service, Harvest Service where we collected food for the Eastbourne Foodbank and a Christmas Carol service which were well attended by parents. Open the Book continues to play an important role in collective worship once a term. See separate report for details.

Kim Leach

Open the Book

This past year we have been able to take Open the Book performances twice a term into two local Primary Schools, St. John's Church of England Primary School and Bede's Junior School.

In each case there has been a good contact with the staff, and we have been encouraged to know that the message of the Bible stories we bring has been reinforced by the teachers, often at the close of the performances and within the children's R E lessons.

The pupils have been a great audience. We always try to involve the audience and usually some of the children will help to act out the stories.

Recently we have welcomed two new team members: Kim Leach and Christine Cunliffe.

Sarah Hassell

The Church Garden

We have had another good year in the garden and I am sure you'll agree that it is looking particularly good at the moment. We are currently planning the Easter Garden and thinking of ways we can help people who use the memorial garden to remember their loved ones. I spent some money on summer flowering bulbs this year and so I am hoping the squirrels don't make a meal of them. We still have a core group of three or four team members but would always like some more. If you would like to help just come along on a Friday morning from 10-12 or give me a ring 07779793096. It's a very sociable time whilst we work and chat.

Karen Fletcher-Wright
Gardening Team Leader

Movement to Music

This takes place on Tuesday mornings.

The class is lots of fun, exercise, laughter & feeling no age at all! One hour a week.

Gloria Green

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

St. John's and St. Michael's Photo Group (STJSM Photos)

STJSM (St. John's and St. Michael's Photogroup) has continued to meet during this last year. We enjoy meeting together to share our love of photography. Through this we share great fellowship and see the amazing beauty of God's creation in new ways. We meet every five or six weeks, normally on Tuesday afternoons. We have twelve active members and others who come occasionally, and we keep them informed of meetings.

Ove the last year we have had a photoshoot at the following places: Ashburnham, Linda and John Caroe's garden, Firle, Gildredge Park, Birling Gap (for the view and the wild ponies). When we gather to look at photos in the alternating meeting we view 3 from the photoshoot, 3 from a chosen topic (such as Hands, Starting with 'D', White, Round. Leaves) and one other favourite on any topic.

We have great fun and enjoy a good laugh together as we go out on location and then view each other's photos. We are always open to new members and if you are interested contact George Fisher. (revgeorgefisher@gmail.com 07579 058653)

George Fisher

Meads Magic

The Meads community comes together for Meads Magic on a Friday afternoon/ evening each November. Local businesses sponsor festive lights in Meads Street; stall holders sell Christmas gifts and festive food and, until the Parish Hall was handed over to the new community charity, St John's was one of the event sponsors and opened the hall to provide refreshments and toilet facilities. As the hall was closed for refurbishment in December 2024, St John's took a stall, rather than providing sponsorship. Kim recruited volunteers to help children with craft activities and give away fliers advertising St John's Christmas events. In particular, we advertised the Breakfast with Santa event, which was a precursor to the Kitchen Table Project started in January 2025. The weather was dry and lots of people stopped to chat, with a few talking about faith lost – and faith found.

Catherine Butcher

Eastbourne Through the Wars Exhibition

The exhibition in the church tower attracted a regular stream of visitors when it was open 2-4pm on Saturday afternoons between Easter and Remembrance Sunday. The team of 13 volunteers took turns in twos and threes to open the exhibition to show visitors the films and the exhibits. All reported how interested visitors were in the lives of the 69 local men named on our war memorial.

The opening times were publicised each week on a dozen different Facebook pages such as 'What's On In Eastbourne' and 'Eastbourne Local History Society'. We wrote to local schools inviting them to visit; Ratton replied saying they would pass the information to pupils, but no school took up the offer of a class visit. As in 2023, Eastbourne Gardens Care Home brought residents to visit one afternoon, hosted by Frank and Patricia Kelley with Sue Chisholm. The Royal Sussex Regiment, who loan most of the items on display, visited for an annual inspection of their artifacts. Some generous donations were made by visitors and passed to the Treasurer.

Catherine Butcher

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Ukrainian Hub

The Hub continues to thrive which is a sadness and a joy. The sadness is the continuing need for this mission, as the war still rages – the joy is in the relationships we have formed and the ongoing support we are able to provide. With the grant from the 3VA, we now offer an hour of Art Therapy as well as the group English lesson, cookery session with the children and adults, needlecraft and creative art. We are indebted to our volunteers who enhance our Tuesdays with homemade cakes and a light supper, serve and clear up the kitchen and join in the activities. Special thanks go to Sarah Peat who oversees the hospitality and volunteer rota. Donations of clothes, sewing machines, bicycles and household goods have been welcomed and eagerly received.

At Christmas, we celebrated with a festive supper, Christmas carols in both Ukraine and English and a heartfelt tribute to all at St John's from Irena – one of our first attendees to the Hub, 3 years ago.

In the words of our Art Therapist, Iryna Melnyk – “During these times of war, many of us have been separated from our families and you have brought us closer together, each of us dealing with the trauma in our own way. Your support means so much to us and we deeply appreciate your kindness”.

We plan to run the Hub as long as there is a need. The current situation allows an extension to the 3 year 'permission to stay in the UK' for an extra 18 months, to September 2026. By God's grace, the Hub will continue to serve the needs of our Ukrainian friends.

Maggie Gibson