



*St John the Evangelist*

*Meads, Eastbourne*

*Accounts and Reports*

*2019*



# St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne

Registered Charity no. 1131574

## AGENDAS

For meetings to be held on  
Tuesday, 13 October 2020, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting (See page 4)
2. Election of Churchwardens

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting (See page 4)
2. Matters arising therefrom
3. Electoral Roll Officer's Report
4. Trustees Annual Report (See page 11)
5. Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2019 and the report of the Independent Examiner (See page 18)
6. Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church (See page 30)
7. Report on the Deanery Synod proceedings (see page 32)
8. Elections and appointments
  - i) Parochial Church Council members
  - ii) Sidesmen and women
  - iii) Independent Examiner/Auditor
9. Reports from Church Organisations & Representatives (See page 33)
10. Vicar's comments:
11. Any other business

Closing Prayers

*(The meetings will follow an informal gathering from 7.00 p.m. when refreshments will be provided.)*

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Vicar the Revd. Giles Carpenter opened the meeting in prayer

Mr Tony Mottram (Churchwarden) was present together with 55 parishioners. Apologies were received from 7 parishioners.

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

It was proposed by Mr Nick Pendry and seconded by Mrs Maggie Gibson that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2018 be taken as read and a true record. This was agreed unanimously. There were no matters arising.

2. Election of Churchwardens

Nominations had been received from Mr Tony Mottram and Ms. Diana Guthrie who had been proposed and seconded as churchwardens for the coming year. There being no other nominations they were duly elected.

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 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 had been displayed in the Church.

Mr David Oakenfold proposed, seconded by Ms Sheila MacNicol and agreed unanimously that these minutes be accepted as correct.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

3. Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Mrs Julia Pinder read the report compiled by the Electoral Roll Officer. On the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019 the electoral roll stood at 217 people of whom 137 (63%) are women, 80 (37 %) are men. 133 (61%) live within the Parish, 84 (39%) live outside the Parish. The electoral roll was accepted on a proposal by Mrs. Sally Scott-Ralphs, seconded by Mr Robert Millett and agreed unanimously.

4. Annual Report of the Trustees and

5. Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2018 and the Report of the Independent Examiner

I want to start this year's report by thanking the whole church family for their incredible support of St John's over the last year both financially and through the generous and devoted giving of their time and talents.

Most of what I'm about to say will relate to the financial results but I first need to draw your attention to the Trustees' Report which starts on page 9. This sets out our aims for 2018, what we intended to do to achieve them and how well we did. I also need to remind you that as a charity we have to show that we are of benefit to the community. It is not a given that a church is a benefit to the community and we need to show that we don't just exist as a private members club, which of course we do not. Whilst we encourage the church family to become involved in our activities and to provide financial support there is no obligation to participate and no subscription fee. Apart from me and in some cases the gift aid secretary no one knows whether you give £5 or £500 – it is strictly confidential and if I blank or ignore you it's not because of what you give; I'm either just being anti-social or more

probably re-running in my mind my last bowls match. The organisations' reports starting on page 32 provide further evidence of our community involvement both as a corporate body and through the activities of our members. 2018 was a busy year on the financial front with a lot of what might be called exceptional items, that is income and expenditure which is over and above what we would normally expect. This makes it even more difficult to read sense into the accounts but I'll try to highlight the key aspects.

The Statement of Financial Activities on page 17 shows that at 31 December last our total funds stood at £282,417, a reduction of just over £23,000 on 2017. Total income increased by some £101,000 but this is wholly due to donations to the anniversary appeal and the grants received and in reality hides a reduction in our day to day income. Planned giving is some 4.5% lower than 2017 whilst overall voluntary giving is down 5.5%. This may in some part be due to the generous support given to the Anniversary appeal.

On the expenditure side the schedule on page 23 shows that the Parish contribution was some £3,300 lower. This is because the church insurance, which used to be paid by the Diocese and then charged back to us through the Parish contribution, is now paid direct to Ecclesiastical by us, which also explains most of the increase in Church running expenses. The acquisition of a curate, if that is the right terminology, means that ministry housing costs have increased but I'm sure we all agree that he's a bargain. Our general fund salary bill was down some £22,000 because for most of the year we were without either a Children & Families leader or a Parish Administrator. Also to better reflect the true costs of running the Parish Hall we charged 20% of the Administrator's salary to the Hall. This, together with some essential maintenance and depreciation on the new hall chairs, meant an increase in Hall costs of some £10,000.

Note 4 on page 23 itemises our charitable giving. We paid an additional £5,515 to charities as a result of special collections, resulting in an overall total of £21,635, which exceeds our aim to give away 10% of voluntary income. Our Parish contribution also includes £3,652 over and above actual parish costs, which goes towards supporting the mission of those churches in our Deanery who struggle to meet their full costs. There is an argument that supporting the mission of fellow churches should be included in our Mission giving instead of parish contribution but this would require a change at Diocesan level.

At the beginning I mentioned that at the end of 2018 our total funds amounted to £282,417, a not insignificant sum but not as comfortable as it sounds. The summary of the various Funds which make up this total is on page 26. Some £78,500 is in endowment and restricted funds – these are not available for general use. £98,000 is set aside for the Tower repairs and Heritage centre. Further sums have been designated for the Parish hall & roof repairs, leaving £20,750 on General Fund & Reserve Fund of £50,000. This £20,750 is in line with PCC policy to keep 3 months of turnover as a contingency but is at the lower end of the comfort level.

Last year I pointed out that we had an underlying revenue deficit of some £20,000 per annum and with the reduction in giving this is now nearer to £25,000. Whilst the re-ordered church space gives more scope for concerts and other fund raising events, stewardship through planned giving is and will continue to be our main income source against which future plans can be made. With the re-ordering and Tower projects in the finishing straight we will in the coming year need to turn our attention to improving stewardship income. We all have our individual financial priorities and pressures which change over time and whilst we as a church cannot take your giving for granted, we remain confident that as we continue to build our numbers and through regular prayer and reflection on our personal giving we will redress the deficit.

Before I take any questions may I offer some personal thanks - to John Driver the Gift Aid secretary, Yvonne for helping count the collections and Brian, Carrie & Diane in the office who have coped admirably with all the changes over the last few months. Last but by no means least my predecessor Michael Ridge, who continues to watch over me and be a source of wisdom & knowledge. Thank you.

Frank Kelley  
Hon. Treasurer

## Questions

Two questions were raised re giving-

Who decides on the amount given to each charity?

What is the criteria for the charities chosen?

Mr Clive Dilloway advised that there is a separate Mission Committee that decides on distribution of funds and assured the meeting that all those supported are supported whole heartedly. There are plans to involve the PCC more with decisions and criteria next year.

Anyone wishing to nominate a charity should notify the PCC who will then advise the Mission Committee.

A question was raised re the Standing and Finance Committee and it was suggested that responsibilities for raising funds and spending funds could be kept separate, with the possibility of a Finance Sub Committee being set up. The Chairman advised that the PCC will take these comments on board and look into this.

The question was raised re staff salaries- are they reflective of the hours worked?

The Vicar advised that salaries are in line with the market and that no one is expected to work more hours than they are paid for, but a certain amount of goodwill exists and the staff team do their best to look after and support each other.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his continued hard work throughout the year.

It was proposed by Mr David Oakenfold, seconded by Mr Clem Jackson that the Trustees Annual Report be taken as read and that the Annual Financial Report be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

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

Mr. Tony Mottram (Churchwarden) referred to the report on page 28 and stated that this year's report mainly falls into two categories, a) The reordering works and b) General Works. He also referred to the Church fabric & inventory that is completed every year and asked if it may be considered to remove the missing Bishop's chair from the inventory as all efforts to find it have been exhausted. This was agreed unanimously.

A question was raised re the silverware and whether it could be displayed? This is presently being looked into by Catherine Butcher.

Mr Robert Millett proposed, seconded by Mr Ian Chisholm that the report be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

Tony Mottram was thanked for all his hard work

### 7. **Report of the Deanery Synod Proceedings**

Mr David Scott-Ralphs referred to page 31 and reported that there had been 3 meetings of the Deanery Synod during the year. St John's representatives were Mr David Scott-Ralphs, Mrs Sally Scott-Ralphs and Mr Ray Hassell as well as Mrs Jill Preece on behalf of the clergy as well as Peter Pickett who has now stepped down.

The report was accepted on a proposal by Mrs Margaret Kowszun, seconded by Miss Sheila O'Hanlon and agreed unanimously.

## 8. **Elections and Appointments**

### i) **Parochial Church Council**

New nominations had been received and seconded for the following people who were all elected unanimously:-

Mr Ian Pinder  
Mr Ian Chisholm  
Mr Clem Jackson

The following members were re-elected on a proposal by Mrs Maggie Gibson, seconded by Mr Malcolm Preece :-

Mr John Caroe  
Mrs Debbie Canning

Mrs Sarah Bull who was retiring was thanked for her services during the year as well as Neil Cumming who stepped down in November 2018.

### ii) **Sidesmen and women**

All sidesmen and women had been contacted and a list of people wishing to serve for the coming year was compiled by the PCC Secretary. The list was accepted by the meeting on a proposal by Mr Tony Mottram, seconded by Mrs Joan Wildman.

The Chairman thanked all those who had served last year.

### iii) **Independent Examiner/Auditor**

The Treasurer said he proposed Mr Michael Neilan who was prepared to continue for the coming year. This was seconded by Mr Tony Mottram. This was agreed unanimously.

## 9. **Reports from Church Organisations and Representatives**

The Chairman said he hoped that everyone would read the reports on the many activities that had taken place in the past year and referred to p32 onwards. He thanked all those who helped with the various groups.

David Oakenfold made a request for more people to join the choir irrespective of ability.

## 10. **Vicar's Comments**

The Vicar began by presenting a montage of photos from the year and made the following comments:-

- When I look at that I'm reminded of the journey we have been on this year...
- ...and it is staggering how much the Lord is doing in and through St John's Church
- At his recent deanery visitation Bishop Martin held a number of listening forums with clergy and lay members of the Eastbourne churches.
- He asked for the one thing that each church had been asked to identify that they would do.
- David Scott-Ralphs gave some excellent feedback for St John's about the creation of Linking Lives and the work that Nick Pendry has spearheaded to increase the numbers of people in our Home Groups.
- When we think about it these are just 2 of the many things that could have been mentioned...

- This is not a totally exhaustive list but since the one thing initiative was launched we have seen:
- *The launch of Open the Book (Sarah Hassell's leadership)*
- *The relaunch of Coffee Pot Plus (Margaret and team thank you!)*
- *The reordering of our worship space (incredible team effort but my particular thanks go to Tony Mottram and to David Scott-Ralphs and Frank Kelley who have done so much on the fundraising front)*
- *The week- long Festival of Remembrance*
- *The repair of our tower and the creation of a permanent exhibition space and the revival of the tower chapel. (my thanks go to Tony Mottram and Vanessa Peters for the vision for the festival and to Catherine Butcher for the work she has done as project manager)*
- *The development of St John's as a venue for SWEP (Tony Mottram and Winter Night\_Shelter team)*
- *The development of Who Let the Dads Out (Ben Sleep)*
- *The growing investment in the place of both the performing and visual Arts at St John's. Thanks to Jane Pendry along with David Oakenfold and Mark Edwards and the work that Pat\_Latham and Phyllis Hall have done with promoting the visual arts.*

During his visit Bishop Martin also hinted at the thrust for the new MAP

What he implied was a focus on more, in fact more specifically on **'Four Mores'**

- More Open
- More Generous
- More Converted to Jesus Christ
- More Engaged - with the poor

I suspect like me your initial reaction may be to say **surely not more!**

Not more things to do, more to prepare, more to plan and more to implement.

But then the invitation we use for communion came back to mind:

*Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him **more**.*

There is a More that is right and healthy....

It is the difference between **doing** more and **being** more...

Our primary call is to "be".

So I'd like us to reflect together this year as a church family and particularly when we gather as a PCC to ask ourselves what MORE might look like in the context of being and not just doing:

### 1. How can we BE MORE OPEN

- And open to what... well most importantly how can we be more open to God and the work of the Holy Spirit.
- That openness in my experience often leads to surprises.
- Are we open to the God of Surprises in this new season?

### 2. How can we BE MORE GENEROUS

- Well I would say we witness so many wonderful acts of generosity in terms of time and talent.
- I could mention so many people but I do want to add a note of deep personal appreciation to Brian Richards.
- As well as serving so faithfully in a ministry role Brian has really kept us going in the office over this last 6 months.
- But my thanks too to the many who give so much time and energy to support ministry here.
- As I mentioned last year, as vicar, I feel immensely privileged to work alongside such a great team of people.
- But going back to GENEROSITY .... Of course there is generosity in financial terms... and we do have to be aware of an immediate and pressing need to close a deficit in our annual budget.
- BUT how too can we continue to grow in generosity towards each other?



- I spent some time with Bishop Richard earlier this week who commended St John's for our ability to hold together such a diverse congregation in a context where many churches sadly climb into their silos and refuse to engage with those who are different.
- One of the possible implications of this ability to be generous towards others may in time enable us to form apostolic partnerships with other churches in the area.
- Again this is something that I want us as a PCC to be engaging with this year.

### **3. What would it look like for us to BE MORE converted to Jesus Christ**

- That is not just making converts because I actually think what we are called by Jesus to do is not to make converts but to make whole life Disciples of Jesus.
- No ...what does it mean for us to be more converted... to give greater and greater control to Jesus in our lives and as a church... after all this is Jesus' church!!

### **4. Lastly what might it look like to BE MORE engaged with the poor?**

- That includes those who are materially poor like Mark and John and Maria (who sleep out in our parks and seafront) that I stop to talk to most days when I'm out walking with the dog.
- But also what does it look like for us to be more engaged with the poor in Spirit in our Parish.
- Those who think they have what they need without realising that their deepest need is to know and be loved by God.
- Our task is to be those whole life disciples who are really taking seriously that ministry of reconciliation that we have been reflecting on over Lent.

## **11 Any Other Business**

David Scott-Ralphs thanked the Vicar and the ministry team for their hard work this year, Brian Richards was given special thanks for his hard work and support and David Oakenfold thanked the retired clergy for their support throughout the year.

The meeting closed by saying The Grace.

# Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

## St John the Evangelist

St John's Church, St John's Road, Eastbourne BN20 7ND

Registered Charity no. 1131574

**For the year ended 31 December 2019**

### CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Trustees annual report	11
Statement of financial activities	19
Balance sheet	20
Notes to the accounts	21
Report of the independent examiner	29

Website: [www.stjm.org.uk](http://www.stjm.org.uk)

Incumbent: The Revd Giles Carpenter

Independent  
examiner:

Mr Michael Neilan

Price & Company, Chartered Accountants

Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd., Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent

# St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne

Registered Charity no. 1131574

## Trustees Annual Report for 2019

### Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Giles Carpenter, in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England;
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical.
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known;
- Providing practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or ability to pay;
- Providing financial support to those in need and to other organisations with similar objectives.

The PCC also has responsibility for the financial affairs of the parish 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 2019 we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church;
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community;
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers;
- Maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish;
- Considering how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish;
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament;
- Offering worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, in small group situations;
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- Providing assistance to the poor and needy of the parish;
- Giving away approximately 10% of voluntary income to missionary organisations and other charitable causes;
- Reaching out to the unchurched through provision of an annual fete, supporting the annual 'Meads Magic' Christmas street event and through a permanent heritage exhibition (see below).
- Completing our plans to re-order the church building to better facilitate a wider variety of services and enable its use for community activities.
- Implementing our planned improvements to the Church Tower to enable the chapel to be open on a daily basis both as a place for quiet prayer, to allow access to the Memorial to those from our Parish who gave their lives in the Great War and the establishment of a heritage exhibition 'Eastbourne through the Wars'.

## What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

### ***Attendance at worship***

The church family welcomes visitors 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.

There are 225 persons on the church electoral roll. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 200 adults and 29 children, but this number increased at festivals with 335 attending on Easter Eve and Easter Day and 405 attending on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

St John's meets to worship both on Sundays and during the week. Members meet regularly to pray for the life of the parish and mission of the church on Monday and Wednesday mornings and at the monthly 'Prayer Plus' gathering. The St John's congregation represents a broad range of traditions and there is an ongoing process to ensure that the services we offer not only meet the needs of the existing congregation but enable us to reach out to the unchurched. A key element of our Mission Action Plan is ***Bridging the Gap*** – reaching the age groups who are missing from St Johns. St John's Junior Church Explorers on Sundays comprise four different age groups alongside the 9.30 a.m. Service – Live Wires Creche (0-3), Pathfinders (4-7), Trailblazers (8-12) and Streetwise (11+) . There is also a Thursday morning Parent and Toddler group and 'Who let the Dad's out' a Saturday morning event for fathers and their children. In addition to the work of the Children & Families Leader at St John's Church of England Primary School two groups of volunteers from St John's Church participate in the school assemblies every two weeks and 'act out' bible stories as part of the Bible Society's 'Open the Book' initiative.

### ***Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers***

We have seen more members of the church family involved in leading and participating in aspects of worship which gives encouragement both to them and the whole congregation. We continue to seek to extend the opportunities for the exercise of ministry and gifts within the life of our community.

There were 10 baptisms during the year including on one occasion in the summer some full immersion sea baptisms.

A key element in the area of nurturing faith and discipleship is home groups which meet regularly on a fortnightly basis. There are 13 groups and 150 people belong including some from other churches/traditions. We continue to see a strong demand for Alpha courses with three courses held during the year with more planned for 2020.

We see the above aspects of church life as part of the Diocesan strategy for reimagining ministry, explained by Bishop Richard at the launch in 2015. This, together with the following, also contributes towards another of our key Mission Action Plan elements – ***Building Belonging*** – making sure that neither newcomers nor long-standing members of the church go un-noticed or unwelcomed; and helping people find their niche in the church family.

We shared food and fellowship together at various times and in various places including Men' Breakfasts at the Holywell Tea Chalet, Lunch Club and Coffee-Pot Plus at the Parish Hall, Cameo, Scrabble and Movement to Music in the Jubilee Hall and Connexions teas at the Vicarage, the latter specifically for those new to the church and/or faith.

### ***Provision of church buildings for people to enjoy***

As mentioned above we celebrated 10 baptisms during the year. There were also 7 funerals/thanksgiving services. Our church continues to be appreciated by our parishioners and many others as a space where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving.

As mentioned below the improvements to the church building to provide more opportunities for it to be used for events other than services are almost complete and we have already seen the benefits of the flexible layout for concerts and school services. The Tower improvements are well advanced and the heritage exhibition 'Eastbourne through the Wars' has been open since the autumn on Saturday afternoons. It is hoped that once all the work is completed the chapel will be open on a daily basis both for private prayer and to provide community access to the 1914-1918 War Memorial.

Six well attended free Organ and Choral concerts were held during the year as well as three Jazz concerts, two of which were in support of other charities. The Jazz concerts in particular highlighted the flexibility of our re-ordered church space as did two sit-down lunches which enabled us to accommodate larger numbers.

The Parish Hall, with its more central location in Meads Street, is an important component in our outreach to the local community – our third Mission Action element, ***Hospitality to the Fringe*** - building stronger relationships with our local community and people on the fringe of the church.

The Parish Hall has been listed by Eastbourne Borough Council as 'an asset of Community value'. As well as generating income through hiring, the Hall is used for community activities led by church members namely, Lunch Club and Coffee-Pot Plus. It is also used by the church to provide refreshments at community street events such as the annual 'Meads Magic' at Christmas.

The Meads Scouts group comprising Beavers, Cubs and Scouts continues to meet weekly over 2 evenings in the Church's Jubilee Hall.

### ***Building for the Future***

The last 3 to 4 years have seen significant changes and improvements to the church buildings and the final element of these plans will be completed in early 2020.

These improvements have addressed some health and safety issues, particularly with regard to fire exits. The replacement of the pews has improved access and choice for those with disabilities and allied to a new ramped access to the Chancel enables them to play a fuller part in services. The flexibility of the chairs allows for different configurations to meet the needs of traditional and contemporary services and also creates a large open space for both church and community use. The audio visual upgrades facilitate the more modern approach required for some services and allow greater use of the church by St John's C of E School. The Tower improvements will facilitate daily access during daylight hours to a quiet space for prayer and contemplation and also the First World War Memorial to the Meads residents who gave their lives. The heritage exhibition which has been opening on Saturday afternoons for several months has been well received and will we hope become a resource for local schools as well as an attraction of interest to the wider community.

It is felt these changes will enable the church to fulfil its mission and we have been blessed with the support received from our congregation both financial and otherwise which together with significant grant aid has enabled us to undertake these works.

### ***Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish***

Pastoral care is headed by Revd Jill Preece and undertakes hospital visits and home communion. We also have teams who, on a monthly basis, visit 4 care homes locally. Communion services are held on occasions for those too frail to attend the church.

We continue to support both financially and with volunteers the Linking Lives Eastbourne charity which was formed in 2016 with the assistance of other local churches to provide a befriending service to the lonely. It is hoped this will extend throughout Eastbourne and is open to all regardless of faith. This charity has its own trustees and is independent of any church.

### ***Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy***

The church family at St John's continues to be a high contributor among the local churches donating to the Eastbourne Foodbank. We were encouraged to see our children's groups play a lead role in presenting the Harvest gifts and the produce was shared between Eastbourne Foodbank and the Matthew 25 Mission. We have been able to support, through the provision of parts of our church building, Eastbourne Borough Council's Severe Weather Emergency Protocols (SWEP) and this has enabled a number of rough sleepers to find shelter when the weather has been most threatening to life.

### ***Other charitable giving***

The income from the Duplex Bequest amounting to £840 is included in the sums given by the PCC. A total of £14000 was given to 15 charities as detailed in note 4 to the accounts. In addition a total of £4681 was raised for 6 charities including British Legion (£534), Linking Lives (£1492), Eastbourne Foodbank (£624) and St. Wilfrid's Hospice (£1320).

The parish magazine is published twice each year and is distributed free to all households in the parish. This helps to maintain links between the church family and those who have not yet felt the need to take part in what we do.

## **Financial Review**

### ***Incoming and outgoing resources***

The total receipts on unrestricted funds were £280955 and are detailed in the Financial Report. Planned giving through envelopes, banker's orders and the Parish Giving Scheme increased by £5268 (4%) whilst overall voluntary income, excluding legacies & appeals, increased by £3637 (2%). A further £65000 was drawn down for the Anniversary Appeal from the grants awarded by Congregation & General, Beatrice Laing Trust, Heritage Lottery and Sussex Historic Churches.

With further expenditure of £172,000 on the Building for the Future projects overall unrestricted funds reduced by some £112,000. Discounting exceptionals there remains an underlying revenue deficit of some £25000 which whilst not an immediate threat we shall need to address as a priority in the coming year or two.

### ***Sharing the ministry costs of the Diocese of Chichester***

The largest expenditure of the PCC was the sum of £75624 paid to the diocese for our share of all churches' Parish Ministry Costs. This amount covers the housing, stipend and pension costs of the clergy and also a standard sum for diocesan central costs, clergy training and a contribution to national church funds.

Currently, the church is meeting 100% of the costs allocated to this church. It is important to note that approximately 80% of the total paid relates directly to the clergy costs of this parish, the remainder being the shared costs of the Christian family throughout the whole Church of England, including assistance towards the upkeep of churches less able to manage than ourselves. Our contribution includes £3741 to assist our fellow local churches.

### ***Staff costs***

The increase over 2018 reflects the full year costs of the Children & Families Worker who joined in June 2018. 2019 saw a number of changes in the Administration function but we now have a settled team of two, working a total of 45 hours per week. The Administration staff costs for 2019 are similar to 2018 but the new arrangements will adversely affect 2020 costs.

### ***Trustee payments and expenses***

The PCC supported the clergy (Vicar & Curate) by paying Council Tax of £6100, water and environmental charges amounting to £1215 for the Vicarage & Curate's house plus other annual costs towards travel, hospitality, telephone, broadband and accommodation amounting to £2264.

Four trustees received refund of expenses totalling £805 in respect of travel, stationery, postage, hospitality and accommodation.

### ***Repairs to the fabric of the church building***

A quinquennial inspection was carried out in September and the report has now been received. Plans to address the issues raised will be developed during the early months of 2020. These are likely to include work to one of the flat roof areas highlighted in the previous quinquennial report and for which £15000 has been set aside in a designated fund. The Stonework repairs to the Tower & West window, also mentioned in the previous report, have been completed as part of our Building for the Future project.

## **Why we hold some money in reserve**

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately three months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. The closing balances of the General and designated Reserve Accounts (total £45184) are below this but the position will be rectified during 2020 from legacy income.

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.

## 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:

### *Ex Officio members*

Incumbent:	The Revd Giles Carpenter	Chairman
Curate :	The Revd Ben Sleep	
Assistant Priest:	The Revd Jill Preece	
Readers:	Mr Jorj Kowszun Mrs Jill Maddock (until March 2019) Mrs Sarah Hassell Mrs Catherine Butcher Mr Nicholas Pendry	
Wardens:	Mr Tony Mottram Ms Vanessa Peters (until April 2019) Miss Diana Guthrie (from April 2019)	
Deputy Warden:	Miss Sheila MacNicol	
Deanery Synod:	Mr David Scott-Ralphs Mrs Sally Scott-Ralphs Mr Raymond Hassell	Vice Chairman

### *Elected Members*

Mrs Debbie Canning	
Mrs Phyllis Hall	
Mr Frank Kelley	Treasurer
Mrs Julia Pinder	Secretary
Mrs Sarah Bull (until April 2019)	
Dr John Caroe	
Mr Ian Pinder (from April 2019)	
Mr Ian Chisholm (from April 2019)	
Mr Clem Jackson (from April 2019)	

### *Co-opted Members*

Mrs Nicola James (from June 2019 to October 2019)
Mr Matt Kuchta (from June 2019)
Mrs Judith Stone (from June 2019)

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.



The PCC operates through two committees to oversee various aspects of the Church's corporate life, which are –

*Standing Committee:*

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact any business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any 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 action to be taken to preserve the funds.

*Parish Hall Committee:*

The committee has responsibility for hiring out the Parish Hall and maintaining the property.

Various 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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Giles Carpenter', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Date...11.02.20.....

# Annual Financial Report

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

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## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, ST JOHN'S ROAD, EASTBOURNE BN20 7ND

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1131574

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**For the year ended 31 December 2019**

### CONTENTS

#### *Page*

Statement of financial activities	19
Balance sheet	20
Notes to the accounts	21
Report of the independent examiner	29

**Annual Financial Report**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 December 2019**

**Including the Income and Expenditure Account**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2019	2018
<b>INCOME from:</b>						
Donations & legacies	2a	257042	-	-	257042	381797
Charitable activities	2b	4006	-	-	4006	5581
Other trading activities	2c	19379	-	-	19379	27261
Investments	2d	528	2591	-	3119	2884
Other receipts		-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>280955</b>	<b>2591</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>283546</b>	<b>417523</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE on:</b>						
Charitable activities	3a	375296	3385	-	378681	412852
Raising funds	3b	281	-	-	281	1849
Other trading activities	3c	17977	-	-	17977	25132
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>393554</b>	<b>3385</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>396939</b>	<b>439833</b>
Net gains(losses) on investments				-		-
<b>NET INCOME or(Net Expenditure)</b>		<b>(112599)</b>	<b>(794)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(113393)</b>	<b>(22310)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds:</b>						
Gross transfers in		27000		-	27000	68100
Gross transfers out		(26500)	(500)	-	(27000)	(68100)
Other recognised gains/(losses):				-		
Revaluation of investment assets				14045	14045	(1143)
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(112099)</b>	<b>(1294)</b>	<b>14045</b>	<b>(99348)</b>	<b>(23453)</b>
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>						
Total funds brought forward		203771	3560	75086	282417	305870
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>91672</b>	<b>2266</b>	<b>89131</b>	<b>183069</b>	<b>282417</b>

**St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne** Registered charity no. 1131574  
**Annual Financial Report**  
**BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2019**

	Note	Total Funds 2019	Total Funds 2018
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	9a	2395	3593
Endowed investments	9b	89131	75086
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>91526</b>	<b>78679</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	11	18546	16756
Short term deposits		71192	69823
Cash at bank and in hand		14058	125067
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>103796</b>	<b>211646</b>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	12253	7908
<b>Net current assets or (liabilities)</b>		<b>183069</b>	<b>203738</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			
Provisions for liabilities			
<b>Total net assets or (liabilities)</b>		<b>183069</b>	<b>282417</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>			
Unrestricted		91672	203771
Restricted		2266	3560
Endowment		89131	75086
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>183069</b>	<b>282417</b>

This Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2019, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Giles Carpenter, PCC Chairman:

  
.....

Date..... 11/2/20 .....

## 1 Accounting policies

### a. Accounting convention

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

### b. 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* - a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; b) 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.

*Endowment funds* - funds the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment.

### c. Income and endowments

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: a - when received, or b - in the case of concerts: for the year in question, 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.

#### All other income

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

## 1 Accounting policies (continued)

### **Gains and losses on investments**

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold

Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation at 31 December.

### **d. Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, payment is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

#### **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**

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for on an annual basis, reflecting the allocation set by our Deanery. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

### **e. Fixed assets**

#### ***Tangible fixed assets***

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

Movable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected but are not included in the financial statements. For other property acquired prior to 1 January 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not stated in the financial statements.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £1000 are written off in the year they were incurred.

#### ***Depreciation***

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful lives. Furniture and equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items with a purchase price of £1000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

#### ***Investments***

Investments are stated at mid- market value at the balance sheet date.

### **f. 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.

## 2 Analysis of income and endowments

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	2019	2018
		£	£	£	£	£
(a)	<b>Donations &amp; legacies</b>					
	Planned giving					
	Gift Aid donations	108881	-	-	108881	109552
	Tax recoverable	31760	-	-	31760	50762
	Other	24806	-	-	24806	18867
	Cash Collections at services	11854	-	-	11854	8253
	Donations, appeals, etc.	12741	-	-	12741	103404
	Grant	65000	-	-	65000	90959
	Legacies	2000	-	-	2000	-
		257042	-	-	257042	381797
(b)	<b>Income from Charitable activities</b>					
	Magazines, books and cards	1667	-	-	1667	1604
	Fees	1323	-	-	1323	2211
	Clubs	1016	-	-	1016	1766
		4006	-	-	4006	5581
(c)	<b>Other trading activities</b>					
	Parish Hall lettings	15059	-	-	15059	19304
	Fund-raising events	4320	-	-	4320	7957
		19379	-	-	19379	27261
(d)	<b>Income from investments</b>					
	Dividends and interest (gross)	528	2591	-	3119	2884
		528	2591	-	3119	2884
	<b>Other receipts</b>					
	<b>TOTAL INCOME &amp; ENDOWMENTS</b>	<b>280955</b>	<b>2591</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>283546</b>	<b>417523</b>

### 3 Analysis of expenditure

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	2019	2018
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>(a) Charitable activities</b>						
Missionary and charitable giving						
Church overseas						
Missionary societies		3000	-	-	3000	4250
Relief and development agencies		2500	200	-	2700	2200
Home mission		7660	640	-	8300	9400
Note 4		13160	840	-	14000	15850
Ministry:						
Parish contribution		75624	-	-	75624	73308
Housing expenses		7316	-	-	7316	7380
Clergy expenses		3499	-	-	3499	2967
Church running expenses		21565	-	-	21565	18466
Church maintenance		13971	-	-	13971	9780
Upkeep of services		14995	150	-	15145	23819
Upkeep of church garden		1187	1971	-	3158	2123
Expenditure on parish magazine, books and cards		1905	-	-	1905	1678
Mission outreach & training		2826	-	-	2826	1284
Salaries		36781	-	-	36781	26368
Children's activities		456	-	-	456	662
Printing, office supplies & telephone		8396	-	-	8396	7517
Other administration costs		11535	424	-	11959	8665
New & replacement furniture and equipment		5180	-	-	5180	1353
Depreciation of furniture and equipment		-	-	-	-	-
Major works		705	-	-	705	190047
Tower & Festival Project		154635	-	-	154635	20025
Governance		1560	-	-	1560	1560
Note 8		375296	3385	-	378681	412852
<b>(b) Raising funds</b>						
Stewardship expenses		281	-	-	281	621
Cost of applying for grants		-	-	-	-	1228
		281	-	-	281	1849
<b>(c) Other trading activities</b>						
Parish Hall running costs		17067	-	-	17067	23784
Cost of events		910	-	-	910	1348
		17977	-	-	17977	25132
<b>TOTAL EXPENDED</b>		<b>393554</b>	<b>3385</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>396939</b>	<b>439833</b>



#### 4 Missionary and Charitable Giving

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2019	Total Funds 2018
<b>Overseas:</b>					
CMS	1000	-	-	1000	900
Revive	1000	-	-	1000	1100
Tearfund	1000	200	-	1200	1200
Open Doors	-	-	-	-	-
Malawi Assoc. Christian Support	-	-	-	-	500
Mission Aviation F'ship	500	-	-	500	500
Mission to Seafarers	300	-	-	300	350
CMCT	1000	-	-	1000	900
Release International	1000	-	-	1000	1000
<i>Other charities</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Overseas total</b>	<b>5800</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6000</b>	<b>6450</b>
<b>Home:</b>					
Linking Lives Eastbourne	1760	240	-	2000	2100
St Wilfrid's Hospice	1000	200	-	1200	1200
Beachy Head Chaplaincy	1000	200	-	1200	1200
CDAFSW	-	-	-	-	750
Eastbourne Winter Night Shelter	900	-	-	900	800
Matthew 25	1200	-	-	1200	1200
Eastbourne Foodbank	1200	-	-	1200	1200
Church Army	-	-	-	-	350
St Luke's Healthcare for Clergy	100	-	-	100	100
PARCHE	200	-	-	200	150
Meads community	-	-	-	-	300
<i>Other charities</i>	-	-	-	-	50
<b>Home total</b>	<b>7360</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8000</b>	<b>9400</b>
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>13160</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14000</b>	<b>15850</b>

#### 5 Staff Costs

Unrestricted Fund	Wages & salaries	Social security costs	Pension contributions	2019 Total	2018 Total
Administration	19339	48	708	20095	20231
Working with Children & Families	17442	73	743	18258	12467
Maintenance of Church and Parish Hall	10768	-	462	11230	11121
<b>Total</b>	<b>47549</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>1913</b>	<b>49583</b>	<b>43819</b>

During the year the PCC employed an average of 3 people in the following posts: an administrator (shared role), a Children's and Families Worker and a cleaner. There are no employees who received total emoluments of more than £60,000.

## 6 Payments to PCC Members

Mrs Catherine Butcher received £18000 in her role as Heritage Project co-ordinator.

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

a) Clergy support (Incumbent & Curate): Council tax £6100, Environmental charges £1215, Travel, hospitality, telephone, stationery, accommodation £2264.

b) 4 members received reimbursement for travel, stationery, postage, hospitality and accommodation totalling £805.

## 7 Transactions with persons related to PCC Members

None

## 8 Governance Costs

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2019	Total Funds 2018
Independent examination	1560	-	-	1560	1560
	1560	-	-	1560	1560

## 9 Fixed assets

### a. Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment £	Furniture £	Total fixed assets £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 January 2019	Nil	4791	4791
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2019	Nil	4791	4791
<b>Charge for impairment</b>			
At 1 January 2019	Nil	(1198)	(1198)
Additions	-	(1198)	(1198)
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2019	Nil	(2396)	(2396)
<b>Net book amounts</b>			
<b>31 December 2019</b>	<b>£Nil</b>	<b>£2395</b>	<b>£2395</b>

### b. Investments

	Endowment Fund £
Market value at 1 January 2019	75086
Profit on revaluation	14045
<b>Market value at 31 December 2019</b>	<b>£89131</b>

## 10 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds 2019 £	Total funds 2018 £
Fixed Assets	2395	-	-	2395	3593
Investment fixed assets	-	-	89131	89131	75086
Current Assets (except cash)	18546	-	-	18546	16756
Cash at bank & on deposit	82984	2266	-	85250	194890
Current Liabilities	-12253	-	-	-12253	-7908
Fund balance	<b>£91672</b>	<b>£2266</b>	<b>£89131</b>	<b>£183069</b>	<b>£282417</b>

## 11 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total funds 2019	Total funds 2018
Income tax recoverable	6500	-	-	6500	9200
Prepayments	4313	-	-	4313	4285
Other debtors	7733	-	-	7733	3271
	<b>18546</b>	-	-	<b>18546</b>	<b>16756</b>

## 12 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total funds 2019	Total funds 2018
Accruals and deferred income	2510	-	-	2510	1960
Creditors for goods & services	9743	-	-	5028	5948
	<b>12253</b>	-	-	<b>12253</b>	<b>7908</b>

## 13 Statement of Funds

*Endowed funds are required by the donors to be invested and the income spent on specific objectives.*

The Garden Maintenance Fund is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares (2961.0 shares), which requires income to be spent on maintenance of the church garden.

The Duplex Bequest is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares (1509.7 shares), which requires the income to be given to charitable causes.

The Flower Fund is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares (179.0 shares), which requires the income to be spent on floral decoration of the church.

The CBF Investment Fund shares were valued at £19.1691 per share at 31 December 2019 (2018: £16.1485 per share).

*Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales. The restricted funds comprise;*

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

### 13 Statement of Funds (continued)

*Unrestricted funds 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 for future repairs to the organ

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

Roof Repair Fund to provide for future repairs to flat roofs as recommended in quinquennial report.

Anniversary Appeal Fund to meet the costs associated with the Re-ordering Project

Tower & Festival Project Fund to monitor income & costs associated with the Remembrance Festival & Heritage Project

#### Summary of all Funds

*Fund income and expenditure and final balances are as follows:*

	Balances b/fwd. 1 Jan 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains & (losses)	Balances c/fwd. 31 Dec 2019
Garden Maintenance	47816			8944	56760
Duplex Bequest	24379			4561	28940
Flower Fund	2891			540	3431
<b>Total of Endowed Funds</b>	<b>75086</b>			<b>14045</b>	<b>89131</b>
Garden Fund	1703	1650	(2032)		1321
Charities Fund	-	841	(840)	-	1
Flower Fund	662	100	(150)	-	612
St John's School Governors	1195	-	(363)	(500)	332
<b>Total of Restricted Funds</b>	<b>3560</b>	<b>2591</b>	<b>(3385)</b>	<b>(500)</b>	<b>2266</b>
General Fund	20750	191646	(204712)	(2500)	5184
<i>Designated Funds</i>					
Parish Hall Fund	16027	15115	(17627)	-	13515
Parish Hall Maintenance	10000	-	-	-	10000
Reserve Fund	50000	-	-	(10000)	40000
Organ Fund	1478	2012	(756)	-	2734
Repair Fund	1350	-	(13970)	13000	380
Roof Repair Fund	15000	-	-	-	15000
Anniversary Appeal Fund	(8932)	19054	(1854)	(3500)	4768
Tower & Festival Project Fund	98098	53128	(154635)	3500	91
<b>Total of Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>203771</b>	<b>280955</b>	<b>(393554)</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>91672</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>282417</b>	<b>283546</b>	<b>(396939)</b>	<b>14045</b>	<b>183069</b>

# Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

## Section A

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of St John Meads on the annual report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 set out on pages X to Y

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner** The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of the annual reports. The PCC members consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. [The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [named body...INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
IN ENGLAND AND WALES.....]] Please delete [bracketed words] if not applicable.

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent examiner's statement** My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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** In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below in Section B \*)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

\* Please delete the words in the (brackets) if they do not apply

**Examiner's signature**

M J Neilan

**Examiner's name** CAPITALS

MICHAEL NEILAN

**Date**

9 April 2020

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body if any**

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

**Examiner's address**

PRICE & COMPANY 30-32 GILDREDGE ROAD EASTBOURNE BN21 4SH



# St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne

Registered Charity no. 1131574

## CHURCHWARDEN MESSAGE

I would like to begin by welcoming Diana Guthrie to the post of Church Warden. It's been a great blessing to have her on the team.

Over the past months I have been challenged to identify by those who do not attend church, "Just what good is the church?" It set me thinking, (which is always dangerous!). Here at St John the Evangelist, to give it its full title, it is easy to fall into thinking that apart from Sundays and a few high days and holidays not much happens in these buildings, but nothing could be further from the truth.

The church which meets in these buildings is responsible for providing a focal point for our community to engage in the major life events - baptisms, marriages and funerals - and state occasions. But it goes much further than this. I have been much struck by this passage from Jeremiah 29 vv 5-7.

***"Build houses and settle down; ..... also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper...."***

This passage is particularly relevant to us, for when I look at just what goes on here I find huge encouragement. Our church provides a safe haven for young people to develop through our scout groups, and a place for the community to find friendship and society through our Scrabble Club, Men's Breakfast, Cameo, Baby and Toddler group, Who Let the Dads Out?, jazz concerts, choirs, organ recitals, gardening team.. not to mention serving 1500 meals a year to the community via the Lunch Club and Coffee Pot +. A newer initiative is the Eastbourne through the Wars heritage exhibition in the church tower which draws in visitors from near and far on Saturday afternoons. The church is used by our state and private schools, and the halls are home to numerous clubs and societies. The church is identified by the Council as an Emergency Day Shelter, and we have been used to provide accommodation for the homeless through the SWEP initiative. But St John's goes deeper than this because church members are an active blessing out in the far wider community. We help provide guidance and support for organisations such as Eastbourne Food Bank, Matthew 25, Beachy Head Chaplaincy, Linking Lives and the Winter Night Shelter to name just a few. I know many of you are actively engaged in charities that seek to meet the needs of our local community and our town, driven by love and compassion for others and in the knowledge that there is a God who loves and cares for us all and asks us to engage with him in demonstrating it to a world gone astray.

So next time you come into the building, you may just take a different view of what good the church is and be encouraged to think of the part you play in this, remembering that God has promised that where the city prospers because of us, so too will we.

*Tony Mottram*

## REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

The churchwardens are required to keep an account/record of all church property and repairs.

### Inventory and Terrier

The annual inventory of Church goods and chattels was carried out in January. Since the reordering in 2018 there have been a substantial changes, particularly in regard to audio-visual equipment.

The church silverware was accounted for by Sheila MacNicol and Dick Thwaites at the beginning of February and found to be in order. A point to note is that a silver eternal light, given in memory of Major Alistair CF Campbell MC, has been taken from the safe and is now hanging in the Tower Chapel. We have still been unable to extract any information from English Heritage about the Bishop's Chair supposedly lent to Battle Abbey in the 1980's.

Also, there is no Terrier record (an account of any Church lands and properties). My understanding is that the Church itself along with 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 it has now passed to the Diocese. If anyone is able to provide more information on any of these matters we would appreciate it in writing.

## **Repair Log**

The log shows that repairs to the cloister lighting and some additional smaller electrical items have been carried out. We would like to thank Dick Thwaites for all the time and energy he puts into helping to maintain the buildings both here in the Church and at the Parish Hall, as well as keeping the log up to date.

## **Quinquennial Inspection 2019**

Every 5 years we are required by the Church of England to commission an inspection of the church fabric and buildings by our inspecting architect, Phil Wynch of CPL Ltd. Polegate, who produces a report indicating the work that needs to be undertaken to keep our buildings in good order. This examination took place in September.

The report asks us to undertake surveys on:

Drainage

External boundary walls

Stonework to the main body of the church not covered by the last reordering in 2018

Electrical systems

Asbestos (updated report).

Main roof

There are a number of smaller tasks which can be undertaken by church members.

The report recommends that we carry out roof repairs to the south side flat roofs this year and make plans to undertake the same work on the north side at a later date.

It suggests the need to make provision under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, which is mandatory, for better access into and within the buildings. This will comprise automatic opening doors to the cloister, automatic opening doors to the area outside the vestry which also provides access to the disabled toilet. We should also consider external sliding doors to the Jubilee Hall/Pauling Room, a theme which is picked up in our mission plan.

These represent the highlights of a very detailed report. The PCC have, following discussion, agreed that we move forward with the last two items, i.e. the flat roof repairs to the south side and the accessibility doors. Several specialist contractors have been approached for quotations.

## **Other building issues**

The flat roof over the fire exit by the Jubilee hall kitchen has been an issue for several years and trying to pinpoint the exact nature of the problem has been difficult. We have been advised that the top coping stones may need to be relayed and we are now waiting on the contractors to carry out the remedial work.

The wall of the first toilet encountered in the Jubilee hall is showing signs of rising damp; this is being investigated as is the roofing over the hallway leading to the Pauling room which is also showing evidence of damp.

One of the aims of the Building for the Future project included the internal redecoration of the church to ceiling height but funding priorities meant we were unable to do this. Additionally the main Portland stone piers need cleaning. If anyone would like to organise or be part of a team to clean these and do any low-level redecoration please let us know.

## **Serving in church**

There has been a real sea-change over the past few years with a growing pressure on us to comply with new and updated regulations covering amongst others Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Food Hygiene, Equality (especially in regard to disability), Mental Health, Insurance and Music and Performance Copyright. The role of the office is pivotal and ever increasing and we, as churchwardens, often wonder where we will find the time to do all that is required of us. The old saying "many hands makes light work" springs to mind and we would encourage you to think carefully about where you might be able to help out, even on a limited basis. We have particular need for audio-visual help if we want to be able to stream services out to those in the congregation who can no longer get to church. This is an exciting opportunity to see church being done in a new and engaging way. Our children's work is blossoming under the leadership of Kim; could you help to register children or run a session? During the services, could you help as a sidesperson ushering people to communion or helping with the collection? If your gifts are of a practical nature, perhaps you could help with maintenance of the building or garden or the arranging of church flowers. If you would like to discuss how you can get involved, then please talk to either of us.

*Tony Mottram and Diana Guthrie*

## **REPORT ON THE DEANERY SYNOD PROCEEDINGS**

### **Eastbourne and district Deanery Synod**

There were three Deanery Synod meetings held during 2019, in March (St Mary's Hampden Park), June (Christ Church Seaside) and October (Holy Trinity). In March the Deanery Synod welcomed the Bishop of Chichester as part of his Deanery Visitation, to reflect on the achievements of the past five years and to look ahead to the next five. It was an opportunity for St John's Synod representatives to highlight achievements in recent years, with the launch of Linking Lives, the growth of Alpha and the progress with home groups. The Bishop set out the diocesan vision for the period 2020-25, as four 'mores' – more open, more converted to Christ, more generous and more engaged. This vision has been very much mirrored in the new five year vision for growth at St John's.

The June Synod meeting saw two presentations, one from Together in Sussex on the topic of mental health, with the aim of appointing a mental health and wellbeing contact in each church. The second was about the YMCA's work in and around Eastbourne, with a focus on the 16-25s.

The October meeting was an opportunity to have a wide ranging discussion about Deanery and Diocesan finances, as a precursor to the requests for the 2020 Parish Share. There was a recognition that the age profile of many congregations made it a challenge for all parishes to be self-sustaining but this is the aim in the coming years.



# St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne

Registered Charity no. 1131574

## REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

### Growing in relationship with God and each other – *building belonging*

#### Prayer Ministry

***Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.***  
***Philippians 4.6***

Paul reminds us with these words that prayer is an essential part of our life with God and together, and that we should be bringing our thanks and our needs before God at every opportunity. We do this in our own prayer times, but there is something powerful about praying with others and being held before God by them, and especially at those times when we carry particular burdens. Prayer ministry offers us the opportunity to come before God and to lay down before Him the things which are on our hearts.

There are always team members on hand during Communion or after the 9.30 service. When you come for prayer you can share as much or as little as you like and you can be assured that whatever you say will be kept in confidence. Those praying will invite Jesus to come, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and will then wait on God, listening for whatever He might want to say into this situation. We pray with confidence that God always answers our prayers, although not always immediately or in the way we might expect! The first result of committing a problem to God is often a sense of peace and an increased awareness of his presence with us.

It is always wonderful when people return to us in the following weeks or months to report the answers that God has provided: healing, resolution of family or work situations or new opportunities opening up. We give thanks for these answers and for the encouragement they bring us all.

Our aim is to meet as a team every few months to pray together and we would welcome new members, particularly those who might be able to offer this ministry at other services so if you would like to be involved please speak to me.

*Jill Preece*

#### Quiet Prayer

*Wednesday's 9.30 – 10.00a.m. Gregory Chapel*

Quiet Prayer – it may seem a contradiction in terms but for many decades now this prayer time has been a significant part of the spiritual life of St John's. It has given opportunity to bring before the Lord in the quietness matters on our hearts and minds to do with the world, the church and people we know. The last five minutes are devoted particularly to prayers for the parish of St John's.

May I encourage you to participate in this regular prayer time in the coming year.

## **Pastoral care**

The period of lockdown has dramatically demonstrated our need for interaction with one another, and many of us have experienced for the first time the social isolation that some live with on a day to day basis.

Our pastoral team work to support and when possible visit those who face such isolation, and those with a particular need, both long and short term. We recognise and appreciate that this care often happens in a natural way within the church, however the aim of having a team is to provide a structure that ensures no-one is missed out, and to ensure that we offer a safe and supportive framework for both those visited and those who visit. As a part of this all the team have safeguarding checks and undertake safeguarding training, and we plan to undertake further training in other aspects of offering good pastoral care.

The opportunities for pastoral care within the church will never diminish. Over the past year this care has continued to support many in our church family and we are immensely grateful to those who offer this care.

If you or someone you know would appreciate the support of the team, or if you would like to join the team, please speak to me or to Nick Pendry.

*Jill Preece*

## **Worship Team/Church Music**

Report to come

## **Home Group/Alpha Groups**

First, a huge thank you to Rowena and Keith Adams for their brilliant, caring, hospitable leading and hosting of their Home Group since 2011.

If you talk to members of a Home Group or an Alpha Group you will hear that they value their group highly for the support/fellowship they receive, for the spiritual growth that results and for the fun.

There are currently 13 groups with around 160 members. This is close to three quarters of the church attendance.

Recent comments about Home Groups and Alpha Groups include:

"I have moved on in my faith and I'm learning more about what it means to be a disciple."

"A precious thing about my Home Group is that we all look out for each other especially when people are finding things tough. It becomes like a second family"

"Because it's a small group you feel comfortable about speaking up about things you don't understand or don't agree with. Whatever you say is treated with respect and is confidential to the group"

"I look forward to it – it's become an important part of my life."

"There are lots of groups which each have their own flavour so you can find the one that best suits you."

"We have refreshments and a lot of fun nattering as well as discussing a topic or a Bible passage."

"You don't need to know the Bible well to be in a Home Group and no-one is going to embarrass you."

"You can be any age to join a HG, nobody's too young or too old. There are people in their 20s and people in their 80s and 90s."

If you'd like to discuss the possibility of joining a group please contact Nick Pendry on 01323 737593 or [nick.pendry60@gmail.com](mailto:nick.pendry60@gmail.com)

*Nick Pendry*

## Hospitality

Hospitality, 'the friendly and generous reception and welcome of guests, visitors or strangers' is a definition I came across recently that resonated with all that which we are aiming to provide at St John's.

In the last year we demonstrated Hospitality by engaging in many events:

- ✓ Hosting a Diocesan Priesting at which, along with other clergy, our own Curate, Rev Ben Sleep was priested. The service was followed by a church family BBQ in the Vicarage garden.
- ✓ Deanery Confirmation in July when three churches came together at St John's for a Confirmation with Bishop Richard .
- ✓ In June we welcomed our local community (and provided delicious afternoon teas and cakes as well as the ever popular BBQ) at the St John's Church Fete.
- ✓ September was a busy month when we hosted the 20 year celebration of storytelling in schools through the 'Open the Book' initiative. We were joined by 30 children from St John's School – plenty of cake was needed on that occasion!  
At the end of the month we celebrated God's provision to us with a Harvest Lunch, attended by around 100 people. It was our first ever meal together in the main church space and was felt to be a special event.
- ✓ Two weeks later we did it all again as we welcomed back the previous incumbent at St John's, the Rev Canon Alyson Lamb. After speaking at the morning services she enjoyed being reunited with old friends as well as getting to know some new faces over lunch.
- ✓ The annual Carol Service in December attracted over 200 people many of whom enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies.

Throughout the year we have hosted Saturday morning music concerts, Jazz Concerts, Eastbourne through the Wars events and the St Wilfrid's Lights of Love service. In addition there has been Sunday morning refreshments, Messy Christmas/Lent/Easter/Pentecost events and the Advent and Epiphany Meditations.

In conclusion then, 2019 was a BUSY year and it is expected that 2020 will probably be no different. St John's is blessed with a fantastic team of 25+ people who help me in this task, week by week and month by month. If anyone has a passion for helping in the church's ministry of Hospitality and would like to join the team please contact me (and I promise you will not have to sign up to more than you want to!).

I would like to record my thanks to Sally White who has become not just a wonderful co-worker but also a true confidante and friend.

*Janet Jackson*

## Connexions

Five or six times a year we hold a "Connexions" tea-party at the Vicar's house for people who are new to the church. The purpose of Connexions is to provide new members with an insight into the nature and character of the Church. They meet a range of people involved in the life of St John's and Giles gives a brief overview of our current Mission Action Plan. More than anything else, it is an opportunity to meet and talk with each other and with key members of St John's. I would like to thank Giles and Rachel for opening up their home and for their generosity and hospitality in welcoming new members.

## Church Flowers

Following Jean Tucker's illness and sad passing the remaining flower-arrangers have continued to decorate the church at festivals and to provide altar flowers from time to time, and we thank them for that. We have recently re-grouped and acquired additional members to the team, although more would always be welcome. Our aim is to have flowers in church each week, other than during Lent, in addition to the usual larger displays at festival times. If professional flower arrangements are brought in then we need to know this so that we do not duplicate and also so that we can organise people to keep them watered and remove them when appropriate. Funds are not in great supply and flowers are increasingly expensive so donations are always welcome.

*Jennifer Walker*

## REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES (continued)

### Reaching out to the community around us – *hospitality to the fringe*

#### Outreach to those in Care Homes, including PARCHE (Pastoral Action in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly)

In the most recent period our physical presence in care homes has inevitably been curtailed by the isolation measures introduced to deal with Covid 19. However we remain in contact with them to reassure of our continuing care and prayer for both residents and staff and to find out any specific prayer requests.

We have 8 care or nursing homes in the parish. Sarah Hassell leads a team visiting Elstree to hold a service of communion or songs of praise each month, while Derek Mouland leads a team under the PARCHE umbrella visiting Camelot and Meads House. Other homes also have PARCHE teams from other churches visiting them.

We also have retirement housing units in the parish and a new initiative towards the end of 2019 has been the Homeglade House Fellowship, which meets on the first Thursday of each month and which is open to all, not only residents of Homeglade House. This time of worship and fellowship has been warmly welcomed by those who have attended. We are very grateful for the support of Tony, Homeglade's manager, who has now retired and look forward to a continuing relationship with Lauren his successor.

St John's is one of the churches in Eastbourne that leads Sunday afternoon services at the DGH. The service is broadcast on the hospital radio so those who attend are joined by those on the wards. The service begins at 5.00 pm and lasts 30 minutes. Again if you would like to join in you would be very welcome. Please speak to Derek Mouland for more information.

If you would like to join us at Homeglade, or to join one of the PARCHE teams, you would be very welcome. Please contact me for more information.

*Jill Preece*

#### CAMEO

We commenced our year with Jill Maddock and her fascinating story about her 4 Eskimo friends. An amazing lady and her work with the Eskimo people. We miss seeing her around. This year our annual film was "Mrs Brown" which was enjoyed by all and such an interesting story of Queen Victoria starring Judi Dench. A great part of education and history of our country.

Each year we support a Charity and Lynette Feist visited us from Release International, which was our chosen charity and we had a wonderful afternoon learning about this amazing work throughout the world for persecuted Christians. How we need to keep remembering them in our prayers.

Gillian Rogers told us about her teaching experience in Malaysia & Thailand which was most interesting and to hear the antics she used to get up to with her 'girls'!

Lucy Sleep joined us one afternoon and told us how from a "Vicar's daughter she became a Curate's wife". It is wonderful how our Lord leads each one of us in different ways. Another member of our congregation, Dame Commander Elaine Montgomerie told us how she became a member of "The Order of St. Michael of the Wing". A very talented lady in our midst.

Dorothy Forsyth a retired social worker told us the amazing story of "The Foundling Hospital, London" and how they set up a home for children.

"We had the pleasure of another visit from Fiona Castle who encouraged us to live simply, declutter our heart and home. How we all need to work on this subject!!" Everyone enjoyed her talk and company once again." We had an afternoon when we shared different experiences of our lives "the highs and the lows".

We ended the year with a musical afternoon from Ruth playing on her Harp and her husband Robin on his Q Chord followed by Rowena sharing her testimony.

*"I really enjoy CAMEO – so pleased to meet up with ladies from across the whole spectrum of church services in an easy relaxed atmosphere. Each month we have something different – never gets boring".*

All ladies are very welcome to join us. *Rowena, Pauline, Brenda, Patricia & Barbara the CAMEO Team.* (Toni Lawrence on Sabbatical).

## **Eastbourne Through the Wars**

Funding from church members, Trusts and the Heritage Lottery Fund have made it possible to restore the exterior of the Tower. Internal renovations mean that the damp is now kept at bay with low-level heating; radiant heaters also enable visitors to use the space whatever the weather.

After many years of being locked behind closed doors, the War Memorial to the 69 local men who died in Meads in World War One is now on view. Also, a silver perpetual memorial lamp, bequeathed by a mother in memory of her son who died in World War Two, is now lit and displayed for the first time. CCTV cameras on both floors of the Tower mean we can offer access to the Tower chapel on weekdays as a prayer space, and on Saturdays, when the heritage museum is open each week, staffed by volunteers and attracting a regular stream of local visitors as well as tourists.

As well as an interactive touchscreen map showing where the 69 men from Meads lived, there are five specially-made films about Eastbourne in the two World Wars, with contributions from local people. Display cabinets show artefacts on loan from the Royal Sussex Regiment's archives and, on the first floor, there are further Royal Sussex Regiment artefacts, replica First and Second World War uniforms and newspapers from the era. Child-sized uniforms are also available for children to try on, together with two types of gas mask. Photographs and newspaper cuttings show St John's Church in the aftermath of the bombing raid which destroyed all but the church tower.

A TV screen on the first floor allows visitors to watch all five films on a loop, while visitors on the ground floor can use the interactive map or choose to watch any of the films.

A rota of 17 volunteers open the exhibition each Saturday afternoon. Each week there are 5-12 visitors. A class from St John's School visited the exhibition during the year and the teacher wrote: 'Many thanks for organising the trip for Y6 last week - they had a fantastic time and I'm so pleased I was able to bring them to see the museum. I would definitely be keen to make this a regular feature as it ties in so perfectly with our WWII topic.'

We hope that schools will visit regularly.

The next phase of the project is to establish a Heritage Project committee of volunteers, reporting to the PCC. They will continue to run the exhibition and make plans to refresh the displays. Further funding will be sought to make more films and local schools will be invited to visit the exhibition.

*Catherine Butcher*

## **Eastbourne Foodbank**

Howard Wardle the CEO of the Eastbourne Foodbank gave this talk to a charity day organised on behalf of the Foodbank last October.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you something of the latest work of Eastbourne Foodbank.

Since I started foodbank in June 2011 we have seen some incredible things take place over the past 8 years – some terribly shocking and many demonstrating amazing generosity and human kindness.

I often think if I knew then what I know now, would I have started this project.

Who'd have thought we would be looking back on huge numbers like this:

Currently 1,500 people a month are receiving food in Eastbourne  
730,000 meals distributed to 49,000 adults & 24,000 children  
548 tonnes of food donated  
160 volunteers  
235 referral agencies  
2,500 advocacy appointments giving welfare benefit advice

And now this year, 7 satellite foodbanks across the town and a 4,500 sq.ft. warehouse on an industrial estate.

Last year we have helped 12,500 people with food and seen an increase of 25% on 2017. Things are not getting any easier for many people in Eastbourne or across the UK.

We regularly hear horrific stories of families with absolutely no money waiting for UC to come through. It's very hard to listen to a Dad saying he had no money. Nothing in his pocket, at home or in the bank. When his two children came home from school, if we didn't help – he'd have nothing to give them. He told me 'It's so hard – I can't buy a paper, catch the bus, have a cup of tea or buy sweets for the kids'. I've 4 more weeks to wait for my UC to come through.

The lady who had escaped domestic violence with her two small children. Her partner had the money so she had nothing. She was staying in B&B accommodation with no heat & no light. She said it's now home to eat this cold & go to bed to keep warm. We were able to help her by putting some money on the fuel cards.

We have a small fuel bank with a balance of £200. We use this to help extreme cases.

Many people come to us for help with extremely sad stories of a choice between heating or food. Luxuries are non-existent and the basic things of life are a struggle to afford.

We provide sanitary products to junior & secondary schools. Schools report young girls are coming into school without these products or skipping school because of embarrassment.

Via our Best Start project we provide a Moses basket filled with essential new baby items via DGH midwives, Homeworks and family key workers. Over 200 of these have been given out. We also have children's clothes, cleaning products & pots, pans & crockery.

We help several other charities in the town with food and essentials – YMCA, Matthew 25, Mencap & occasionally some of the homeless charities.

The top reason currently why people are coming to foodbank is low income. There is too much month & too little income. Many people are reporting that they are only working 16 hours on minimum wage with no opportunity to increase hours. Also a large number are on zero hour contracts – this takes them off the unemployment stats but leaves them with no money.

Our advocacy team are amazing and work very hard to help clients sort out their benefit or employment issues and get to a place where they don't need foodbank support.

In February this year we opened an FCA approved debt centre known as 'Money Life' so we can help clients with debt issues. Debt is currently the second most common reason that people come to foodbank.

Our clients come from all walks of life : many working families – many of limited hours contracts or minimum wage, people working in schools & hospitals, unemployed, long term sickness.

One of the biggest disgraces is that Government stats tell us 31% of children in Eastbourne currently live in poverty. Three of our electoral wards are in the top 20% of the most deprived wards in Sussex. (Devonshire, Hampden Park & Langney). Foodbanks shouldn't exist in our country. It is a total disgrace that austerity has caused untold hardship, poverty and mental health issues in so many people. Next Friday, in conjunction with Eastbourne BC, Eastbourne Chamber of Commerce, Rotary AM, People Matter & Brighton University, we are launching Eastbourne Poverty Commission looking into 9 areas of poverty in our town : Health poverty, Food poverty, Transport poverty, Financial poverty, Housing Poverty, Digital Poverty, Work poverty, Fuel poverty & Literacy poverty.

To see the situation change in our town we need businesses, charities & other organisations to work together to see things change.

On behalf of the Eastbourne Foodbank I would like to extend my thanks to the congregation of St John's for the support offered so generously, in the donation of food, money and most importantly prayer.

*Dennis Thompson*

*Trustee of the Eastbourne Foodbank*

## **HARMONIA Ladies Choir**

*Harmonia Ladies Choir* resumed rehearsals in September 2019, following a well-deserved break after the successful Spring Serenade concert held in April. This event not only featured a wide-ranging repertoire of music sung by the choir, including Caccini's beautiful 'Alleluia' and Rutter's 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You', spirituals, Taizé songs and a couple of our favourite African songs, but also featured solo items by invited musicians. We were joined for the concert not only by our own Lucy Sleep singing a solo, and by Brian Steer who accompanied the choir and also played some organ solos, but also by George Oakenfold who sang and played the French horn, and by opera singer Deborah Aloba, who treated us to some gorgeous arias by Handel, Berlioz and Saint-Saëns.

This autumn, numbers in the choir have grown to about thirty singers, and we have branched out into singing at events in the local community, such as the Harbour Crafters' Christmas Market in December. The main focus of rehearsals was preparation for the St John's Carol Service, where the choir sang a range of carols traditional and new, including 'Carol of the Bells', Rutter's 'Angels' Song', 'Silent Night' and a carol written by Jane called 'Just a Tale'. We were also joined by tenors and basses to make *Harmonia Plus* for the 'Coventry Carol' and Lin Marsh's 'So Many Stars'.

We were very pleased to be invited to Chaseley to sing at their Carol Service in December and will be joining them once more for their Easter Service in April. *Harmonia* also sang at the Ash Wednesday Service again this year, and will be singing at the Maundy Thursday Service in April. Involvement in worship at St John's is an important part of our choir calendar, and we look forward to building on this close relationship as the choir develops.

We are currently rehearsing for our Spring Concert 2020, with Catherine Cowan accompanying us on the piano (as she did at the Carol Service). Catherine will also be performing some flute and piano duets with her sister Lisa Marie Baker. The choir will also be performing at the Church Fête in June.

I am hugely grateful to the choir members for their enthusiastic support for the choir at our weekly rehearsals and at our singing engagements, and also to Hazel Delamere and Sue Lockhart for their excellent support with the organisation of the choir, particularly with the finances (Hazel), and with publicity and marketing (Sue). Thank you to St John's for support with additional admin facilities and for heating the church for our rehearsals. The choir looks forward to continuing to grow and bring the joy of singing to everyone at St John's and in Meads.

*Jane Pendry*

## **St John's Scrabble Club**

My thanks to everyone who has come and supported the Scrabble Club throughout 2019. We meet twice a month on the second Monday and last Wednesday of each month. We cater for beginners as well as experienced players, sometimes we get twenty or more and sometimes less, the club is open to both Ladies and Gentlemen. Refreshments are served in the afternoon with my team assistant Jennifer and Myself. You don't have to attend our church to get involved, it is open to people outside the parish. It's our way of reaching out to everyone.

*Pam Lade*

## **Men's Breakfasts**

The MB continues to be well supported by those loyal to the breakfasts since its inception some 8 years ago by Vic Lawrence and I pleased to also say we have a good number of new faces who now join the breakfast and not all from the St John's congregation. On average we have around 25 meeting to listen to a reading, opening prayer, followed by a Thought for the Day from our speaker of the day, which is followed by Grace and a hearty cooked breakfast.

It was decided at the end of 2019, all breakfasts for 2020 would be held on the second Saturday of the month to give continuity through the year. Finding 12 speakers from the congregation was becoming more difficult and I decided to break with tradition and introduce guest speakers to the breakfast and for 2020 the split is 5 St John's and 7 external.

One of the great things I enjoy along with the fellowship is the not knowing what is coming, nobody knows what the talk will be until the moment the speaker opens his mouth and starts and boy we have had some good speakers. The speakers have been of quality and time and time again I receive positive comments how much people enjoy the breakfast, I feel I must create an exception and single out one speaker Derek Kemp who gave the most wonderful moving testimony, it certainly had people looking for their napkins and it's also delight to say Derek has become a regular attendee of the breakfasts. To all who have spoken thank you and for those to come, we look forward to your Thought for the Day.

*Dennis Thompson*

## **Parish Hall**

The hall has continued to be a very popular venue providing a variety of activities for the local community. In addition to the regular hirers it is the venue for many children's parties.

Rosie Whittaker our cleaner/caretaker has continued to look after the flower beds and garden area of the Parish Hall. We have some new shrubs and flowers which have improved the look of the garden area.

Thanks to Rosie, as usual, for the work she does at the Hall. She's continued to care for the Hall and has also helped set up for the Lunch Club each month.

Our Parish Hall is most definitely a much loved and well used facility which continues to be greatly appreciated throughout the Meads community.

## **Church Garden**

The church gardens provide a beautiful tranquil space which is enjoyed by church goers, Meads residents and tourists venturing up the hill from the promenade. The ashes of loved ones are scattered in the memorial garden and flowers or crosses are placed there on Remembrance Sunday and other anniversaries. The gardens provide an important part of church life and are kept looking lovely by a group of hard working volunteers.

Although we are still quite a small band and could always do with some additional help this year we have held a number of working parties to prune the shrubs, tidy up and have a laugh and a chat at the same time.

*Karen Fletcher-Wright*



## **Lunch Club**

The Lunch Club continues to be a popular monthly event at the Parish Hall. We cater for approximately 30 customers each month and they really enjoy and appreciate the food and company. We have a lot of regulars but also have seen some new faces recently which is always lovely.

An enormous thank you goes to every single person on both lunch teams, who work so hard to ensure everyone is fed and happy, especially the team leaders Ken and Pam Mayhew and Sam Williams and Pat Smith. Thanks also to Rosie, as she sets up for the Lunch Club each month.

We look forward to welcoming more people over the coming months.

## **Children and Families**

### **JUNIOR CHURCH**

This year saw the revisioning of the children's ministry at Church. The team changed a little with some long serving team members stepping down and new members joining. Team members met termly to pray and plan for the term ahead as well as to support each other and develop as a team.

The format of Junior church remains the same, with children meeting together separately to have a joint time of worship and prayer and then split into two different age appropriate discipleship groups to explore each session topic in an age appropriate way. They then join into the main service during the peace to either partake in communion with their families or share in a 'Take Away' (What we've been thinking about at church/what God has shown us) time along with the adults. We have set up a safe space in the Baptistry for families with children aged 3 or younger. Adults can participate in the service via screen and sounds system whilst their little ones play with the toys and books set out. They are also invited back into the service for communion and take away.

Junior church continued for the most part to follow the same theme as main church to create a space for families to engage at home together on what has been learnt / thought about in church on a Sunday morning. We did however do a separate set of sessions on the Armour of God and had great fun learning an action song together, which a member of the congregation had written, to teach the church at the end of the set.

**MESSY CHURCH** - We had three very successful messy church sessions – Easter, Lent and Christmas. We held the Easter one in the church hall as a test run, but with overwhelming numbers (80+) attending we held the next two in the church itself. Families who do not normally attend church came as well as regular church families. It was great to see some of our Baby and Toddler group families attend.

**HOLIDAY CLUB** – St. John's ran two holiday clubs this year – a three day Easter holiday club looking at John 3:16 and a 5 day summer holiday club with a 'Prehistoric' - Bedrock Boogie theme which came from The Message version of Psalm 18:1-3 which says "I love you, Lord – you make me strong. You are bedrock under my feet. My saviour - you are worthy of my praise!" Both holiday clubs were well attended, and we had a great team of adults and teenagers. It is often tricky to measure the success of these activities, but you know you are doing something right when a little one doesn't want to go home at the end of the day, or wakes up on the morning after the week has finished and demands to be taken to holiday club or wants to return after only previously wanting to come for one day.

**BABY AND TODDLER GROUP**- Thursday mornings have become very busy at St. John's baby and toddler group. The group has a very safe and nurturing feel with a great small team of volunteers serving and developing relationships with all the families who attend. We have done messy play, sensory play, a bit of educational play and lots of noisy play. The little ones love the variety of toys and simple activities set out. The highlight of the morning for the children is always the snack time followed by 'bubbles' and singing. Relationships between parents is growing steadily stronger and it is great to see some quieter more reserved mums becoming good friends with others.

## **School Links**

Kim continues to spend two days a week in the school supporting staff, children and families through different means. A vital part of being the link between church and school is to enforce the Christian distinctiveness which is fundamental to the ethos and vision of St. John's Church of England Primary School. This is achieved through daily collective worship presented by visiting clergy or other members of the community, a weekly adult prayer group open to staff, parents, governors and church members wanting to pray for the school, a large children's prayer group who meet twice a week to pray for each other and their school, services at Church, family communion once a term in school, prayer station sessions and monthly Pastoral Care sessions which the whole school participates in.

Open the Book continues to play an important role in collective worship and the children thoroughly enjoy each story shared. A separate report follows.

## **Open the Book**

What a difference a few weeks makes!

This time last year we were bringing a storytelling into St. John's School six times a term. Now, of course, with the Coronavirus, the school is closed and social isolation means that we can't meet to rehearse or to put on a production.

However, the good news is that we can still produce a storytelling for the benefit of the church family, using Zoom, and this will become reality at Pentecost on 31st May during the Sunday morning service The Open the Book team will be bringing: The Helper Arrives, telling of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples at Pentecost, with costumes, props and sound effects.

It has been very good to have Garry Norwood joining us for a time, and we look forward to welcoming Derek Moulard, once the country is back to some kind of normality.

Over the last few months some of our Open the Book team have forged a link with South Downs Special School in another part of Eastbourne. Having attended one of their rip roaring assemblies, we visited the school on 2nd March when we brought them: The Boy in the Temple, where Jesus's parents look for him among the crowds after the Passover festival. The boy playing Jesus is of course to be found at the Temple, off to the side of the stage. As his parents called his name and searched for him, some bright sparks at the back of the audience had spotted Jesus and kept calling out "There he is! Look over there!" It made for a hilarious performance rounded off with a song that everyone joined in with. We look forward so much to going back to South Downs School before too long.

Looking to the future, we hope to expand our ministry within schools. We would like to increase our involvement with special schools, and possibly with another primary school. Much depends on the capacity we have in terms of time and team members. Above all, at the current time of social restriction due to the coronavirus, we need to be adaptable and inventive.

*Sarah Hassell*