

HASTINGS OLD TOWN PARISH

One Modern Parish, Two Medieval Churches



Reports for Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023

TRUSTEES REPORT 2023

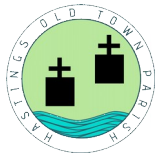
AIMS AND PURPOSES

The primary aim of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Clement and All Saints Hastings is the promotion of the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent or Priest-in-Charge in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the two parish church buildings, St Clement's and All Saints', as well as All Saints' Church Hall.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to maintaining a faithful, worshipping community at the heart of Hastings' Old Town, particularly by:



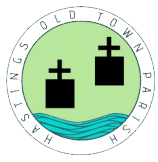
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- Nourishing the faith of Christians in prayer, in the sacraments and in the preaching of the Gospel, so that they are better equipped to live lives of transformative witness;
- Warmly welcoming all to a wide range of services and events, and supporting those who want to grow in faith, especially those seeking baptism and confirmation;
- Providing pastoral care to people in our community, including taking Holy Communion to those unable to attend church, and ministering to the dying and the bereaved;
- Supporting All Saints Church of England Junior Academy, and continuing to build links with other schools in the parish;
- Celebrating significant events in our local community, sharing our Christian faith and promoting the church community as a place of welcome for all;
- Encouraging visitors to enjoy the spiritual and architectural heritage of our churches, and providing for their ongoing use by maintaining them as places of worship.

In the furtherance of these objectives, the PCC entered 2023 with the objective of appointing a half-time Priest-in-Charge as a successor to the Reverend Paul Hunt, who retired in September 2022. At the beginning of the year, the role had been advertised for a second time as a shared role to include half-time chaplaincy at Ark Alexandra Academy.



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When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

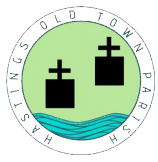
The Parish of St Clement and All Saints Hastings is an ecclesiastical parish in the Deanery of Hastings, in the Archdeaconry of Hastings, in the Diocese of Chichester.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules. It includes the following *ex officio* members: the Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge, any reader licensed to officiate in the parish, the churchwardens*, and any members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synod on the electoral roll of the parish. In addition, there are 12 elected members of the PCC. (* St Clement's and All Saints' are both designated parish churches. There are 4 churchwardens in the parish).

The role of Priest-in-Charge was vacant until 11 September 2023, when the Reverend Mathew Phipps was licensed by the Rt. Revd. Dr. Martin Warner, Lord Bishop of Chichester, at All Saints' Church.

Those whose names are on the Electoral Roll are warmly encouraged to prayerfully consider standing for election to the PCC, and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible. The full PCC met 4 times in 2023.



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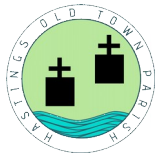
ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our Parish Context

Together, All Saints' and St Clement's are now the two churches of the Old Town Parish. The historic centre of Hastings is a lively and quirky place which is home to the UK's largest land-launched fishing fleet, arcades and a funfair, the East Hill Cliff Lift (the UK's steepest funicular railway), the Hastings Contemporary gallery, and a wide variety of unusual shops, pubs, bars and restaurants. There are a little over 3,500 people resident in the parish, most in the Clive Vale area which sits in the valley between East Hill and West Hill. During the summer, the area attracts tens of thousands from inland to its beaches and other tourist attractions, and there is an exciting annual calendar of community events with wide appeal, including: Hastings Jack-in-the-Green Festival, Old Town Week, Pirate Day, Hastings Week and the Hastings Bonfire.

Though colourful, and popular with visitors, Hastings suffers from high levels of deprivation. The ecclesiastical parish is the 1,951st most-deprived ecclesiastical parish out of 12,239 in England (top 15%). The area served by the church includes LSOAs in the top 10% of those most deprived by crime and living environment, and in the top 20% for income deprivation affecting children. The risk of social exclusion is most evident in the incidence of high levels of unemployment, mental health issues and homelessness.

Worship and Mission



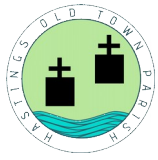
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There are two regular Sunday morning services of Holy Communion (a traditional Book of Common Prayer service at 8am, and a sung Eucharist using Common Worship at 10am). There is also a monthly “1stSunday@6” evening service, which varies from reflective Taize prayer and worship, to Songs of Praise or Choral Evensong. Attendance at these services has continued throughout the year, with around 60 people attending one of the two morning services each week, while the monthly 1stSunday@6 service has drawn regular worshippers as well as others who do not attend morning services. Major Christian festivals and special services attract significant numbers, with around 145 (mostly families with young children) at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, and 120 at Midnight Mass. Celebrating these events with the participation of so many members of our wider community is a significant factor in the achievement of our objectives.

It is a testimony to the commitment of many members of the church community that attendance has remained at this level through a vacancy of 12 months, and that so many of the church’s special services and events were celebrated with enthusiasm. This included not only the major Christian festivals, but especially the annual Good Friday Procession of Witness, the Morris Dancers’ Festival Eucharist, the Community Service attended by representatives of local charities and services, and the Blessing of the Sea held on the Stade with the involvement of the RNLI and fishing community. These special services illustrate the achievement of our objective to place the church’s worshiping life at the heart of our community and provide wide public benefit.



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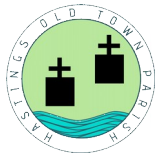


Over the last year, monthly “Night Church” programme the parish offer a warm space and hot food and drink for visitors, including homeless people and those attracted to the Old Town by its nightlife. More recently the move has shifted towards providing lunches for visitors and older people who appreciate a place to meet others, and cream teas for tourists exploring the area. This hospitality has worked together with the already valuable ministry of making St Clement’s open almost every Saturday through the year, with visitors drawn especially to craft fairs and the “Rossettis in Love” exhibition which, opened in March 2022, is based on the Pre-Raphaelite artist and poet, Dante Gabriel Rossetti. The church tower bells and handbells groups usually practice on Saturday mornings and lunchtimes, providing an additional attraction and new experience for visitors. Although there is a lot to see and enjoy when the churches are open, it is the constant experience of our volunteers that many people come to pray, to light a candle, or simply to imbibe the spiritual atmosphere of a place that has been prayed in for centuries. Late night opening in the original “Night Church” format continues on special occasions, including for the Hastings Bonfire.

Both St Clement’s and All Saints’ are sought after as places to get married or for the baptism of infants, often because of the longstanding family connection that many Hastings residents have with the Old Town.

There is a Food Bank collection point at St Clement’s and donations are passed on regularly throughout the year.

Children, young people and adult discipleship



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The Junior Choir, which has been running for nearly 3 years, admits children from 8 to 16 years of age and, through a mid-week rehearsal and Sunday morning service, enables them to work through the Royal School of Church Music's "Voice for Life" programme. This is supported by the Batley-Hibbert Music Fund, administered by the Magdalen and Lasher Charity. There are currently 5-6 young people between the ages of 10 and 15 in the Junior Choir.

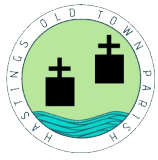
In addition, there are 3 younger members of our serving team. Through the Junior Choir and serving team, children and young people are able to learn and take a full part in the church's worship. The whole worshipping community is enriched by serving God together across generations.

The Hastings Deanery confirmation service was hosted at All Saints' in June 2023, presided at by the Rt. Revd. Will Hazlewood, Bishop of Lewes. 5 young people and 2 adults from the parish were confirmed, an amazing landmark for the parish and an indicator of its achievement in sharing faith and discipling believers.

Ecumenical Relationships

The church community enjoys a warm relationship with our near neighbour's, the (Roman Catholic) Parish of St Mary Star-of-the-Sea. Our Taize worship services have appealed to Christians of other traditions, and the Good Friday Procession of Witness is organised with wide Christian participation, especially from member of St Mary's.

Communication and administration



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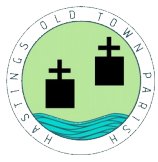


Parish News is one of the most visible elements of the church's engagement with the wider community. There are 10 issues a year (double issues over Christmas and in the summer), and these are delivered to every home and business in the parish by a team of volunteers. A pastoral letter, service and event times, articles of local and educational interest, and advertisements from local businesses all feature. Income from advertising defrays the costs of printing, with the balance being provided by the PCC with support from the Magdalen and Lasher Charity.

The parish website has cemented its place as a source of information for visitors, as well as an up-to-date online calendar which is accessible to all. PCC members and others contributed feedback to a minor update in the Autumn of 2023, which saw greater priority given to the much-used calendar, simplified the menus, and introduced updated logo and text. The website still contains convenient links to the parish Facebook page and to an online donation portal.

The online mailing tool continues to attract new subscribers at a gradual rate, with numbers around 100. Pews News, Parish News and the weekly Sunday sermon are all made available to subscribers. The Facebook page has around 50 subscribers, and publishes sermons, notices about services and events, and seasonal online campaigns like the Church of England's Lent and Advent reflections.

The parish office is staffed on Wednesday mornings, dealing with enquiries and correspondence, and producing Pews News and other printed material for services. The office relies upon a mobile internet connection which is not always stable and this is something we want to improve in the future.



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Schools

Although hindered by a 12 month vacancy, links with All Saints' CE Junior Academy have remained strong. A "link worker" from the church visits as often as weekly and supports those involved in leading school worship, as well as with English and mathematics. The school also has a PCC-nominated governor. Since the pandemic in 2020, the school has returned to making increased use of All Saints' Church for nativity/carol services and the school leaver service. The church prays for staff and pupils, prompted by a weekly note in Pew News.

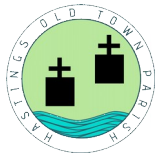
A carol service for Buckswood School was hosted in December. Local schools are welcomed to use the churches as educational resources, and an annual visit was paid by students from Torfield School.

Pastoral Care for people living in the Parish

Pastoral visits, which may include Holy Communion, are made to sick parishioners. A weekly prayer list is maintained and included in Sunday services in Church and on the Pew Sheet. Regular visits are made to the two residential care homes in the parish, Old Hastings House (fortnightly) and The Laurels (monthly), and Holy Communion is distributed by lay ministers authorised to do so. The Honorary Assistant Priest in the parish, Brother Aelred Partridge, is also Honorary Chaplain to Old Hastings House.

St. Clement and All Saints Church Buildings

We have charge of two beautiful medieval churches and a church hall. The PCC is committed to the faithful stewardship



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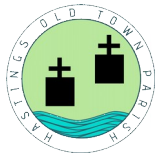
of this heritage, and to keeping these buildings well-used and well-maintained.

The Quinquennial Inspection of St Clement's Church was undertaken in June 2023. Work to the south porch roof at All Saints (which had been recommended in the QI undertaken in 2022) became urgent in September 2023 when stone tiles began to slide from the roof. Emergency interim repairs were undertaken immediately, and the PCC stepped-up its fundraising for this project in anticipation of being able to progress this work in 2024. By the end of 2023, over £10,000 had been raised, and additional funding pledged by the Two Towers Trust and the Hastings Winkle Club. We remain indebted to the local community for continuing to contribute with a generosity that reflects the iconic significance of these historic buildings for the local area.

Severe storms in the late autumn also caused damage to the tower roof at All Saints, and repairs have been completed with the assistance of our insurers. The weathervane, which was damaged in these storms, has been removed for restoration at a later date.

We are grateful to local builder, David Cheal, for offering his substantial experience and providing prompt assistance when issues arise.

All Saints' Church Hall is usually rented out to various local groups. All Saints' Upper Hall is used for community rental, the Hall is fully accessible for the disabled and has been decorated, insulated and gas heating installed, a commercial dishwasher and a small fridge have also been installed.



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The Lower Hall is let as studio accommodation, with the adjacent garage also let to raise income.

THANKS

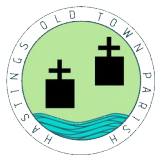
The PCC extends its thanks to all who bear responsibility for the Church's work in this Parish, both employed and volunteer, too numerous to mention by name in this report. However, special thanks are due to the churchwardens for their weekly commitment to the practicalities of church community life. During the vacancy, the church's life was nurtured by a constant flow of visiting clergy, to whom we are also immensely grateful.

Thank you also to all who have worked so tirelessly for the church, serving on committees, leading our house-groups, children's work, running and taking part in services, social events, fundraising, flower arranging, brass cleaning, making marmalade and ensuring that the life of the church and its service to the community has continued throughout 2023.

Statement of Responsibilities of the PCC

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and 4 members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and 12 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

The full PCC met 4 times in 2023.



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Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

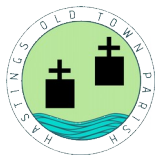
The PCC has adopted a Risk Register and this is reviewed each year.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, which is also applicable to Parochial Church Councils, requires the members of the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the PCC's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the members of the PCC are required to:

- a) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- c) State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- d) Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the PCC will continue in operation.

This report was approved by the members of the Parochial Church Council and signed on their behalf.

Chair to the PCC



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ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

This will be a verbal report at the meeting with formal figures to follow due to issues with auditing.

SAFEGUARDING

During 2024, three referrals were made.

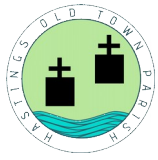
Our Policies, Protocols and Guidance were increased, with the addition of:

- A Lone Working Policy
- A Safeguarding Protocol for Visiting Groups (e.g. Bell Ringers)
- Guidelines for Reporting Abuse (focused on children and adults)
- A Safeguarding Complaints Protocol
- Guidance on Social Media and Young People (to support the parish's existing E-Safety Policy)
- A Safeguarding Risk Assessment for Confirmation Classes

SAFER RECRUITMENT

A key element in Safer Recruitment is the creation of Job (remunerated posts) and Role (volunteer roles) Descriptions. These establish the purpose, requirements and responsibilities of each role, and serve to indicate and justify the level of Disclosure and Barring Service check needed and the safeguarding and role-related training to be undertaken.

In 2024, a draft Job Description and Person Specification were created for the post of Director of Music in consultation with the outgoing postholder, and a further eighteen draft Role Descriptions.



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In support of the recruitment process, the following were added:

- Employee/Volunteer Induction Checklist
- Interview Assessment Framework
- Personnel File Checklist

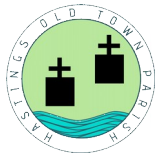
JUNIOR CHOIR

On Easter Day, 2023, the five members of the Junior Choir said a sad farewell to Malcolm Lock, the Director of Music who had auditioned them and started them on their RSCM Voice for Life journey. At the beginning of June, along with the members of the Senior Choir, they were able to express their thanks to him with a meal at the Lamb Inn at Hooe.

Although a successor to Malcolm was not found during the remainder of the year, the members of the Junior Choir remained committed and enthusiastic. Towards the end of October they were joined by another chorister, who proved to be equally committed and enthusiastic.

Most of the choristers made steady progress towards their 'Light Blue' level award and, at the beginning of Advent, their ability and growing confidence was demonstrated when two of them sang solos in the Matin Responsary.

The continuation of the Junior Choir would not have been possible without the wonderful support of the parents; and particular thanks are due to Mr Gamble, who has attended most of the rehearsals in this period to be present as a second adult, or has arranged for another member of his family to be there when he was unable to do so himself.



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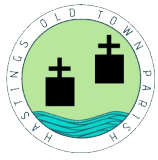


CHURCH ACTIVITIES

BUILDINGS REPORT

April 2024 St Clements The quinquennial inspection of St Clements was carried out in June last year. The inspecting architect, Mark Anderson, gave the following overall assessment - "The church building is generally well cared for and in good condition following the recent repair and restoration projects. There are, however, some maintenance and repair works that require attention". Some of these works have been carried out, including electrical items and general maintenance of gully and gutters etc. We intend to ask Mark Anderson to prepare an updated schedule of works that are considered essential, and works we can prepare for, for both churches. New smoke and heat detectors have been installed and we have now achieved a "satisfactory" rating on our Electrical Inspection Condition Report, following the planned programme of improvements instigated by Gareth.

All Saints The quinquennial inspection carried out in 2022 highlighted the poor condition of the gutters to both sides of the South Porch. Following closer inspection by Mark Anderson, it became apparent that the timber fixings securing the Horsham stone tiles to the roof beams were failing. Mark recommended complete removal and refixing of the Horsham stone on new timber battens using stainless steel fixings. Shortly afterwards, a small area of stone fell to the ground. Swift action was taken to erect scaffolding to support the remaining roof and protect passers by. To enable continued use of the south porch entrance, a temporary protective structure has been put in place internally. We have appointed Clarke Roofing to carry to this work, as well as the



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replacement lead work required to the knave roof. We hope to commence work in September, however, we are waiting for Clarke Roofing to confirm this. During November's high winds, the weather vane became partially dislodged from its mounting and pierced the bell tower roof, causing damage to the tiles and felt and allowing access to rain. David Cheale carried out speedy repairs to the roof and removed the weather vane for inspection. This was covered by our insurers. Advice is being taken on the condition of the weathervane, prior to repair or replacement. EICR rated "satisfactory" Health and Safety Health and Safety and Fire Risk Assessments of both churches and the church hall have been completed recently by H & S Officer Keith Leech. Areas requiring improvement are being reviewed and any necessary works will be undertaken in due course. Church Hall No major issues to report. Fire Safety Assessment, EICR, Health & Safety inspection and Emergency Plan, all up to date.

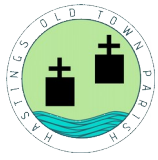
CHURCH WARDENS REPORT

A busy year as always

We continued to be in the interregnum and not knowing if or when a new priest would arrive. During these months we were very grateful to our retired clergy friends who took all our services and we are very grateful to them. The services were able to continue as usual.

We were happy to welcome Bishop Will of Lewis in June 2023 to Baptise 1 adult and to Confirm 7 adults and children from the congregation, also 3 adults from Christ Church Ore.

In September there was another Episcopal visitation from The Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner to License the new Priest in Charge Fr Mat Phipps. Together with his wife Ellie, who is an ordained priest and their two sons. This was a most



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joyous occasion, with many members of the congregation and other friends & clergy.

The church is still without an Organist and Director of Music. We have greatly appreciated the locum organists who have been very willing and happy to accompany the services.

The church buildings particularly All Saints have been a major problem and still are. Much damage being done to the Lady Chapel roof and south porch, including the weather vane being blown down. [I might add that a lot of this happened after Fr Mat's first or second service for us!!!!]

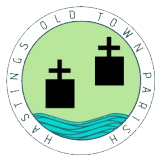
A major fund raising project was commenced to wards the repairs,

Buildings Report ----- Sadly Gareth Bendon the Buildings Officer had to step down due to ill health and we thank him greatly for all his hard work & effort he especially put into the refurbishment of St Clement Church. Ian Gallagher has now taken this office over and is now the Buildings Officer.

PARISH LIBRARY

The main bulk of the books which make up the Parish Library are to be found in All Saints Church whilst a few are located in St Clements. The library itself contains a large number of items related to such relevant themes as: Theology, Church History, Biography, Ethics and Mysticism. There is also a large biography section devoted to a number of prominent religious figures. Although largely Christian in nature there is also a small section devoted to other world faiths, including copies of The Koran, studies of Judaism, works by The Dalai Lama and Hindu texts.

Historically the library has been used as a basis for study by interested members of the congregation and, occasionally,



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reviews have been printed in the Parish News. As there is no longer a fund available to purchase new material many items have been kindly donated and some are on long term loan.

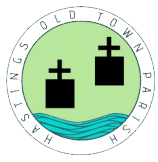
The existence and future of the library has always been hotly debated. At present it remains as a substantial but underused resource. It is our hope that all those who wish to investigate this rich and varied collection will continue to utilise it.

HOUSE GROUPS

House groups were able to meet for Lent and Advent, following the regular pre Covid pattern. The Wednesday morning group met for further days for Bible study.

The Lent course was based on the booklet written by Lavinia Byrne and Jane McBride, inspired by the 2021 Steven Spielberg film of West Side Story. This is a love story, an updated version of the Romeo and Juliet story told by Shakespeare. Leonard Bernstein composed the music and Stephen Sondheim wrote the lyrics. First produced on Broadway in 1957, this award winning stage musical became a ground breaking film in 1962. The Spielberg version is yet a further update of this well known story of a divided community, of fear, love, betrayal, violence, death and reconciliation. The course used film clips, discussion points, questions, Bible readings and poetry asking us to explore the place that god has prepared for us and the difference that can make in our lives.

Advent used the Sheffield Diocese course "Travelling Light". What could we learn from the Bible's travellers? Mary and Joseph, an army of angels, a group of shepherds, wise men from the east, even a strange light in the sky. In the gospel accounts, they all converge on Bethlehem. Why this small, nondescript town rather than the great capital city of



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Jerusalem? The God who surprises and subverts our expectations is at work! We found that we had unexpected ideas, thoughts and emotions even in this so well known story, told through the bible readings.

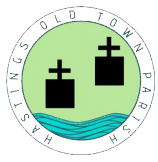
Yes we all enjoy the friendship, the time to talk and really get to know each other but the real strength of a house group is this finding something new and unexpected in well known stories and themes, a new way to think about and share our faith. All are welcome; you do not have to be a regular member of our congregation or commit to every session, come and try a group in 2024.

Thank you to all who host and lead the meetings. We had 26 regular participants in 2023.

SATURDAYS AT ST CLEMENT'S

St. Clement's Church is easily accessible from the High Street and has a flexible space including the coffee area and small kitchen. We try to keep the church open during the late morning and early afternoon on most Saturdays in the year, welcoming all to visit the building, offering space for prayer and contemplation, shelter from the rain and a cool shady seat in the summer! The opening times often coincide with Handbell or "Big Bell" practice.

We use this time to provide refreshments, for donation only, and we encourage all to use this as a regular meeting place. The menu changes with the seasons, soups, ploughman's lunch, strawberry cream teas, always including coffee, tea and cake! In 2023 we raised £2,500 for church funds. The first Saturday in the month, is the Two Towers Trust day, providing the refreshments and a table sale or craft fair on summer Saturdays. The Two Towers Trust raise money for the maintenance of the two church buildings.



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November saw the Christmas Fair which raised just over £1,500. Thank you to all who helped with the Fair, and all who came and supported the event with their purchases!

A very big thank you to the Saturday teams of Church sitters, helpers and of course our customers, but the biggest “Thank You” must go to the Saturday kitchen team, Rosemary Pronger, Sue Phillips and our newest member Ian Gallagher (who has learnt the kitchen choreography!)

BELLRINGERS REPORT

Saturday practices have continued on a regular basis during the year thanks to support from other local ringers. Because of a shortage of our own ringer's, there are only three of us, regular service ringing hasn't happened but we have managed to get ringers for some special services.

Once again, we opened All Saints Tower to visitors during Old Town Week and this event was again very popular with members of the public.

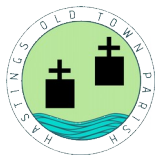
We also rang for the HBBS procession as well as joining in behind our banner and collecting money for the Two Towers Trust.

I have had offers of help with teaching and am looking into the necessary safeguarding measures required as well as the Dioecian courses I have already completed. I have produced a risk assessment for both towers too.

I look forward to 2024 in the hope of recruiting new ringers and getting back to service ringing.

TWO TOWERS HANDBELLS REPORT

We have had a good year and have finally started to perform concerts in local residential care homes again.



HASTINGS OLD TOWN PARISH

One Modern Parish, Two Medieval Churches



We have continued to practice in St Clements on Saturdays and regularly have an audience.

We were invited to perform at The Reflection and were once again special guests at the Soundwaves Christmas Concert in December at All Saints.

Many thanks to Ken, our musical director, for all his hard work and to the rest of the group for their commitment to practicing on a regular basis. Looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

HOME COMMUNION SERVICES REPORT

Holy Communion via the Reserved Sacrament continues to be taken to OHH fortnightly. The service is from The Book of Common Prayer. Attendances have increased this past year and there are now between 8-10 residents who regularly join us .

The Laurels have a monthly service as above and there are usually about 5-6 who regularly attend.

Both these residences appreciate the services given and look forward to it.

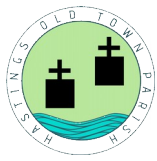
Home Communion services are taken when requested, with a shortened service used.

PARISH-SCHOOL (ALL SAINTS CE JUNIOR ACADEMY) LINK

There are three aspects to this role.

- In-class support
- Collaborating with Mrs Martin in supporting the pupil Worship Group with the planning and delivery of student-led school worship.
- Encouraging the participation of the school in church.

In-class support



HASTINGS OLD TOWN PARISH

One Modern Parish, Two Medieval Churches



In the period from January to July, the first half of the morning continued to be spent supporting in Mrs Hinxman's Year 4 English lesson and the second half in assisting in Mrs Bolt's Year 3 Maths lesson.

Following the departure of Mrs Hinxman at the end of the summer term, this support has been focused on Mrs Martin's Year 3 class.

Worship Group

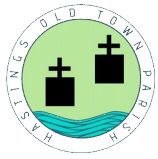
The Worship Group has continued to thrive and, over the course of 2024 numbered between twelve and twenty pupils. In June, they led School Worship on the theme of Resilience and, in October, on Generosity.

Participation of the School in Church

This was not possible this year because, for much of the year, the Church was without a priest-in-charge, and planning for the participation of the school in church during the academic year happens in a meeting at which the Head Teacher, the Incumbent and the Parish-School Link Worker are present.

SERVERS REPORT

The serving team has grown and now includes the welcome addition of Zac, who had experience from his previous parish, so needed little in the way of training. We now have three young people on the team, Clem, Zac and Esmeralda. Jaqui, Paul and Keith also continue to act as servers. The enthusiasm of the team is clear, and often in the vestry there are discussions about who will need to sit out that week and be disappointed. It would be fair to say that all of us feel honoured to be serving at the altar and really enjoy what we do. Rarely do we see less than a full team of four servers, and



HASTINGS OLD TOWN PARISH

One Modern Parish, Two Medieval Churches



on feast days we provide additional people for the thurible and boat. We are expecting to train a new young person in June, bringing us to seven, which is a good position to be in, but will also mean more disappointment for all of us who will have to sit out more often.



Annual Financial Report

of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

St Clements with All Saints Hastings

St Clement's Church, Swan Terrace, Hastings, TN34 3HT

Registered Charity no. 1139491

For the year ended 31st December 2023

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Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments

The financial effect of our activities during the year can be summarised as follows

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted Fund/s</i>	<i>Endowed Fund/s</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Designated Funds</i>			<i>All Funds 2023</i>	<i>All Funds 2022</i>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	40,036	621	14,284	-	54,941	157,084	
Charitable activities	5,937	-	-	-	5,937	20,587	
Trading activities	28,554	5,764	213	-	34,531	22,352	
Investments	9,601	-	-	-	9,601	9,988	
Other receipts	-	-	44	-	44	36,803	
	84,128	6,385	14,541	-	105,054	246,814	
Receipts from Sale of investments	10,000				10,000		
Total received	94,128	6,385	14,541	-	115,054	246,814	
Expenditure on:							
Cost of raising funds	3,644	5,659	-	-	9,303	7,724	
Charitable costs	91,412	814	1,864	-	94,090	89,527	
Trading costs	9,602	-	839	-	10,441	9,408	
Major Repairs	-	-	5,361	-	5,361	166,215	
Other payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	104,658	6,473	8,064		119,195	272,874	
Payments for purchase of investments	1,166				1,166	1,580	
Total paid	105,824	6,473	8,064	-	120,361	274,454	
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>							
Net income or (net expenditure)	(11,696)	(88)	6,477	-	(5,307)	(27,640)	
Transfers between funds	11,519	(5,042)	(6477)	-	-	-	
Net movement in funds	(177)	(5,130)	-	-	(5,307)	(27,640)	
Bank accounts at 1 January	5,195	5,130	-	-	10,325	37,965	
Bank accounts at 31 December	5,018	-	-	-	5,018	10,325	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Our financial position at the year-end was

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Endowed</i>	Total	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	General	Designated					
	Fund	Funds	Fund/s	Fund/s	2023	2022	
Assets:							
Bank Current & Deposit Account	5,018	-	-	-	5,018	10,325	
Total Bank and Deposit Accounts	5,018	-	-	-	5,018	10,325	
Prepayments & Accrued Income							
Gift Aid recoverable	-	-	-	-	-	3,030	
Other Debtors	-	-	-	-	-	1,469	
Debtors	-	-	-	-	-	4,499	
CCLA investment fund	280,868	14,944	12,446	-	308,258	291,508	
All Saints organ fund	-	12,886	-	-	12,886	10,322	
Diocese-held fund	-	-	-	46,848	46,848	42,849	
Investment assets at market value 31/12/23	280,868	27,830	12,446	46,848	357,992	344,679	
Investment assets at cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Fixed Assets for Church use	300,403	-	-	-	300,403	300,403	6
Total assets	586,289	27,830	12,446	46,848	673,413	659,906	
Liabilities:							
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year					-	(6,444)	
Total liabilities					-	(6,444)	

Notes

6. No Account taken of Increase/decrease value of fixed Assets

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2023, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Mat Phipps, PCC Chairman:

.....

Date

Notes to the Financial Report

Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total All Funds 2023	Total All Funds 2022	Notes
	General Fund	Designated Funds					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	19,193	-	-	-	19,193	18,844	
Planned giving (no tax refunds)	876	-	-	-	876	1,141	
One-off and adhoc donations	7,387	68	-	-	7,455	8,417	
Special appeals	3,093	553	11,004	-	14,650	6,536	1
Gift Aid recovered	7,467	-	-	-	7,467	11,527	
Legacies	0	-	-	-	-	-	
Misc donations	2,020	-	3,280	-	5,300	110,619	2
Donations and legacies	40,036	621	14,284	-	54,941	157,084	
Fees for weddings & funerals	5,937	-	-	-	5,937	5,116	
Total charitable activities	5,937	-	-	-	5,937	5,116	
Proceeds of events with trading/sales	1,525	-	-	-	1,525	2,479	
Concert income	-	5,764	-	-	5,764	5,843	
Night church	-	-	213	-	213	957	
Hire of churches	990	-	-	-	990	1,754	
Other Fundraising	4,093	-	-	-	4,093	4,438	
Total trading activities	6,608	5,764	213	-	12,585	15,471	
Income from church hall	18,317	-	-	-	18,317	16,854	
Income from Parish News	3,629	-	-	-	3,629	5,498	
Total other trading activities	21,946	-	-	-	21,946	22,352	
Bank interest	46	-	-	-	46	69	
CBF investment fund dividends	9,555	-	-	-	9,555	9,919	
Total investments	9,601	-	-	-	9,601	9,988	
VAT Refunds	-	-	-	-	-	35,245	
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-	1,025	
Other Receipts	-	-	44	-	44	533	
Total received on all funds	84,128	6,385	14,541	-	105,054	246,814	

Notes:

1. The restricted figure was funds donated for the appeal for the repair of damage to the All Saints porch roof.
2. We are grateful for the Two Towers Trust donations of £3,280 towards the All Saints porch temporary repairs.

Notes to the Financial Report

Analysis of total paid

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total All Funds 2023	Total All Funds 2022	Notes
	General Fund	Designated Funds					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Weddings & funerals	3,644	-	-	-	3,644	2,253	
Fundraising expenses	-	-	-	-	-	135	
Concerts & AS organ maintenance	-	5,659	-	-	5,659	5,336	
Cost of raising funds	3,644	5,659	-	-	9,303	7,724	
Charitable grants and donations	-	814	-	-	814	577	
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	30,000	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	9,830	-	-	-	9,830	16,875	
Clergy and other people's expenses	196	-	-	-	196	497	
Insurance	9,647	-	-	-	9,647	8,209	
Utilities	26,262	-	-	-	26,262	9,623	3
Administration	1,661	-	-	-	1,661	3,734	
Children's Choir	-	-	1,864	-	1,864	2,674	
Night church	-	-	-	-	-	97	
Bells Fund	-	-	-	-	-	150	
Other regular church running costs	3,495	-	-	-	3,495	2,522	
Accounting and Examiner's fees	1,800	-	-	-	1,800	1,800	
Rossetti Exhibition	-	-	-	-	-	266	
Church maintenance	8,521	-	-	-	8,521	12,503	
Charitable costs	91,412	814	1,864	-	94,090	89,527	
Hall – insurance	1,124	-	-	-	1,124	993	
Hall maintenance	-	-	839	-	839	870	
Hall – utilities	1,951	-	-	-	1,951	1,156	
Parish News costs	6,527	-	-	-	6,527	6,389	
Trading costs	9,602	-	839	-	10,441	9,408	
Major repairs	-	-	5,361	-	5,361	166,215	4
Total paid on all funds	104,658	6,473	8,064	-	119,195	272,874	

Notes

3. The PCC arranged a change of provider for gas and electricity from October 2023 in order to try to mitigate the massive increase in costs.

4. All Saints porch roof costs to end 2023.

Notes to the Financial Report

Payments to PCC employees:

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Wages, salaries and honoraria	9,830	<i>16,875</i>
Employer National Insurance	-	-
Employer pension contributions	-	-
	9,830	<i>16,875</i>

Our organist and choirmaster, Malcolm Lock, resigned after Easter.

We continue to pay a cleaner for churches and hall, and for a parish administrator.

Amounts paid and employees' circumstances mean that no NI payments are required, or pension contributions

Notes to the Financial Report

Statement of Funds

	Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
All Saints churchyard	265	-	-	-	265
St Clements churchyard	1,387	-	-	-	1,387
Diocese-held funds	41,197	-	-	3,999	45,196
Total of all endowed funds	42,849	-	-	3,999	46,848
Night church	1,209	213	-	-	1,422
Jenga	24	44	-	-	68
All Saints Porch Roof	-	11,004	(2,081)	-	8,923
Children's choir	3,897	-	(1,864)	-	2,033
Donations Two Towers Trust	-	3,280	(3,280)	-	-
Total of all Restricted Funds	5,130	14,541	(7,225)	-	12,446
All Saints organ inv. fund	10,322	-	-	2,564	12,886
All Saints organ	1,904	5,764	(5,659)	(1,166)	843
All Saints Hall	14,156	-	(839)	-	13,317
St Clements bells	716	68	-	-	784
Designated collections	(68)	553	(814)	329	-
Total of all designated funds	27,030	6,385	(7,312)	1,727	27,830
General fund (bank & investments)	278,050	84,128	(104,658)	28,366	285,886
Assets held	300,403	-	-	-	300,403
Total of all unrestricted funds	605,483	90,513	(111,970)	30,093	614,119
Total funds	653,462	105,054	(119,195)	34,092	673,413

5

5. We remain grateful for the Battley Hibbert Trust funding provided for the junior choir: £2,033 remains.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of All Saints with St Clement, Hastings for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of All Saints with St Clement, Hastings, on the annual report for the year ended 31st December 2023 set out on pages 2 to 7.

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.

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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Examiner's signature

Examiner's name CAPITAL

Date

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

if any

Examiner's address

Mrs LAURA DAWSON

17th May 2024

Hastings Voluntary Action, Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN

Annual Financial Report

of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

St Clements with All Saints Hastings

St Clement's Church, Swan Terrace, Hastings, TN34 3HT

Registered Charity no. 1139491

For the year ended 31st December 2023

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Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments

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	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	40,036	621	14,284	-	54,941	157,084	
Charitable activities	5,937	-	-	-	5,937	20,587	
Trading activities	28,554	5,764	213	-	34,531	22,352	
Investments	9,601	-	-	-	9,601	9,988	
Other receipts	-	-	44	-	44	36,803	
	84,128	6,385	14,541	-	105,054	246,814	
Receipts from Sale of investments	10,000				10,000		
Total received	94,128	6,385	14,541	-	115,054	246,814	
Expenditure on:							
Cost of raising funds	3,644	5,659	-	-	9,303	7,724	
Charitable costs	91,412	814	1,864	-	94,090	89,527	
Trading costs	9,602	-	839	-	10,441	9,408	
Major Repairs	-	-	5,361	-	5,361	166,215	
Other payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	104,658	6,473	8,064		119,195	272,874	
Payments for purchase of investments	1,166				1,166	1,580	
Total paid	105,824	6,473	8,064	-	120,361	274,454	
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Net income or (net expenditure)	(11,696)	(88)	6,477	-	(5,307)	(27,640)	
Transfers between funds	11,519	(5,042)	(6477)	-	-	-	
Net movement in funds	(177)	(5,130)	-	-	(5,307)	(27,640)	
Bank accounts at 1 January	5,195	5,130	-	-	10,325	37,965	
Bank accounts at 31 December	5,018	-	-	-	5,018	10,325	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Our financial position at the year-end was

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Endowed</i>	Total	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	General	Designated					
	Fund	Funds	Fund/s	Fund/s	2023	2022	
Assets:							
Bank Current & Deposit Account	5,018	-	-	-	5,018	10,325	
Total Bank and Deposit Accounts	5,018	-	-	-	5,018	10,325	
Prepayments & Accrued Income							
Gift Aid recoverable	-	-	-	-	-	3,030	
Other Debtors	-	-	-	-	-	1,469	
Debtors	-	-	-	-	-	4,499	
CCLA investment fund	280,868	14,944	12,446	-	308,258	291,508	
All Saints organ fund	-	12,886	-	-	12,886	10,322	
Diocese-held fund	-	-	-	46,848	46,848	42,849	
Investment assets at market value 31/12/23	280,868	27,830	12,446	46,848	357,992	344,679	
Investment assets at cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Fixed Assets for Church use	300,403	-	-	-	300,403	300,403	6
Total assets	586,289	27,830	12,446	46,848	673,413	659,906	
Liabilities:							
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year					-	(6,444)	
Total liabilities					-	(6,444)	

Notes

6. No Account taken of Increase/decrease value of fixed Assets

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2023, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Mat Phipps, PCC Chairman:

.....

Date

Notes to the Financial Report

Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total All Funds 2023	Total All Funds 2022	Notes
	General Fund	Designated Funds					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	19,193	-	-	-	19,193	18,844	
Planned giving (no tax refunds)	876	-	-	-	876	1,141	
One-off and adhoc donations	7,387	68	-	-	7,455	8,417	
Special appeals	3,093	553	11,004	-	14,650	6,536	1
Gift Aid recovered	7,467	-	-	-	7,467	11,527	
Legacies	0	-	-	-	-	-	
Misc donations	2,020	-	3,280	-	5,300	110,619	2
Donations and legacies	40,036	621	14,284	-	54,941	157,084	
Fees for weddings & funerals	5,937	-	-	-	5,937	5,116	
Total charitable activities	5,937	-	-	-	5,937	5,116	
Proceeds of events with trading/sales	1,525	-	-	-	1,525	2,479	
Concert income	-	5,764	-	-	5,764	5,843	
Night church	-	-	213	-	213	957	
Hire of churches	990	-	-	-	990	1,754	
Other Fundraising	4,093	-	-	-	4,093	4,438	
Total trading activities	6,608	5,764	213	-	12,585	15,471	
Income from church hall	18,317	-	-	-	18,317	16,854	
Income from Parish News	3,629	-	-	-	3,629	5,498	
Total other trading activities	21,946	-	-	-	21,946	22,352	
Bank interest	46	-	-	-	46	69	
CBF investment fund dividends	9,555	-	-	-	9,555	9,919	
Total investments	9,601	-	-	-	9,601	9,988	
VAT Refunds	-	-	-	-	-	35,245	
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-	1,025	
Other Receipts	-	-	44	-	44	533	
Total received on all funds	84,128	6,385	14,541	-	105,054	246,814	

Notes:

1. The restricted figure was funds donated for the appeal for the repair of damage to the All Saints porch roof.
2. We are grateful for the Two Towers Trust donations of £3,280 towards the All Saints porch temporary repairs.

Notes to the Financial Report

Analysis of total paid

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total All Funds 2023	Total All Funds 2022	Notes
	General Fund	Designated Funds					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Weddings & funerals	3,644	-	-	-	3,644	2,253	
Fundraising expenses	-	-	-	-	-	135	
Concerts & AS organ maintenance	-	5,659	-	-	5,659	5,336	
Cost of raising funds	3,644	5,659	-	-	9,303	7,724	
Charitable grants and donations	-	814	-	-	814	577	
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	30,000	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	9,830	-	-	-	9,830	16,875	
Clergy and other people's expenses	196	-	-	-	196	497	
Insurance	9,647	-	-	-	9,647	8,209	
Utilities	26,262	-	-	-	26,262	9,623	3
Administration	1,661	-	-	-	1,661	3,734	
Children's Choir	-	-	1,864	-	1,864	2,674	
Night church	-	-	-	-	-	97	
Bells Fund	-	-	-	-	-	150	
Other regular church running costs	3,495	-	-	-	3,495	2,522	
Accounting and Examiner's fees	1,800	-	-	-	1,800	1,800	
Rossetti Exhibition	-	-	-	-	-	266	
Church maintenance	8,521	-	-	-	8,521	12,503	
Charitable costs	91,412	814	1,864	-	94,090	89,527	
Hall – insurance	1,124	-	-	-	1,124	993	
Hall maintenance	-	-	839	-	839	870	
Hall – utilities	1,951	-	-	-	1,951	1,156	
Parish News costs	6,527	-	-	-	6,527	6,389	
Trading costs	9,602	-	839	-	10,441	9,408	
Major repairs	-	-	5,361	-	5,361	166,215	4
Total paid on all funds	104,658	6,473	8,064	-	119,195	272,874	

Notes

3. The PCC arranged a change of provider for gas and electricity from October 2023 in order to try to mitigate the massive increase in costs.

4. All Saints porch roof costs to end 2023.

Notes to the Financial Report

Payments to PCC employees:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages, salaries and honoraria	9,830	16,875
Employer National Insurance	-	-
Employer pension contributions	-	-
	9,830	16,875

Our organist and choirmaster, Malcolm Lock, resigned after Easter.

We continue to pay a cleaner for churches and hall, and for a parish administrator.

Amounts paid and employees' circumstances mean that no NI payments are required, or pension contributions

Notes to the Financial Report

Statement of Funds

	Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
All Saints churchyard	265	-	-	-	265
St Clements churchyard	1,387	-	-	-	1,387
Diocese-held funds	41,197	-	-	3,999	45,196
Total of all endowed funds	42,849	-	-	3,999	46,848
Night church	1,209	213	-	-	1,422
Jenga	24	44	-	-	68
All Saints Porch Roof	-	11,004	(2,081)	-	8,923
Children's choir	3,897	-	(1,864)	-	2,033
Donations Two Towers Trust	-	3,280	(3,280)	-	-
Total of all Restricted Funds	5,130	14,541	(7,225)	-	12,446
All Saints organ inv. fund	10,322	-	-	2,564	12,886
All Saints organ	1,904	5,764	(5,659)	(1,166)	843
All Saints Hall	14,156	-	(839)	-	13,317
St Clements bells	716	68	-	-	784
Designated collections	(68)	553	(814)	329	-
Total of all designated funds	27,030	6,385	(7,312)	1,727	27,830
General fund (bank & investments)	278,050	84,128	(104,658)	28,366	285,886
Assets held	300,403	-	-	-	300,403
Total of all unrestricted funds	605,483	90,513	(111,970)	30,093	614,119
Total funds	653,462	105,054	(119,195)	34,092	673,413

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5. We remain grateful for the Battley Hibbert Trust funding provided for the junior choir: £2,033 remains.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of All Saints with St Clement, Hastings for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of All Saints with St Clement, Hastings, on the annual report for the year ended 31st December 2023 set out on pages 2 to 7.

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.

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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Examiner's signature

Examiner's name CAPITAL

Date

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

if any

Examiner's address

Mrs LAURA DAWSON

17th May 2024

Hastings Voluntary Action, Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN