



**St Paul's Church, Yelverton
Parochial Church Council**

Yelverton Devon PL20 6AB

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for

The Year Ended 31st December 2023

Rector: The Rev Andrew Thomas

Bankers:

HSBC Bank Launceston Cornwall

Lloyds Bank Royal Parade Plymouth

Independent Examiner:

Col Gordon Mills

1 Downlea, Tavistock

Web site: www.westdartmoorchurch

The Parochial Church Council is an Excepted Charity

ST PAUL'S CHURCH YELVERTON

Receipts & Payments Account for year to 31 December 2023

		2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Donations and Legacies					
	Regular Giving				
	Tax efficient Planned Giving				
	Parish Giving Scheme	16,657		15,557	
	Envelopes and Bank SOs	3,363		3,737	
	Collections at Services	2,290		2,189	
	Gift Aid tax recovered				
	Parish Giving Scheme	4,164		3,889	
	Other	2,028		2,290	
			28,502		27,662
	Other Voluntary Receipts				
	Grants	0		540	
	Legacies	0		4,165	
	Donations	3,421		3,789	
			3,421		8,494
Income from Church Activities					
	Church Hire	668			
	Cream Teas	1,833		1,218	
	Fees	1,349		1,030	
			3,850		2,248
Receipts from Investments					
	Interest	875		389	
			875		389
Other Receipts					
	Insurance Refund	5,655			
	Miscellaneous	20		1,526	
			5,675		1,526
Total Receipts			42,323		40,319

PAYMENTS

Church Activities

Diocesan Parish Share	22,336	23,430
Mission Community Share	1,786	1,485
Upkeep of Services	100	123
Church Utility Costs	2,116	1,526

Church Running Costs	7,432	6,214
Church Maintenance	9,479	3,792
New Building Work	0	0
Mission Giving	112	775
	<u>43,361</u>	<u>37,345</u>
Total Payments	<u><u>43,361</u></u>	<u><u>37,345</u></u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-1,038	2,974
Transfer to General Reserve	<u><u>-1,038</u></u>	<u><u>2,974</u></u>

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YELVERTON

Statement of Assets & Liabilities at 31 December 2023

ASSETS	2023			2022		
	Market Val.	Cost		Market Val.	Cost	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Investments						
Equities Investment Fund for Charities	82,491	11,592		79,601	11,592	
CBF Investment Fund Shares	70,450	14,543	26,135	62,761	14,543	26,135
Current Assets						
Cash at Bank		16,504			21,191	
Cash in Hand		158			15	
Fixed term deposit		31,108			31,108	
Notice Account		10,291	58,061		6,785	59,099
Fixed Assets						
St Paul's Church Hall			NIL			Nil
Total Assets			84,196			85,234
REPRESENTED BY						
GENERAL RESERVE ACCOUNT						
Balance at 1 January		83,475			80,501	
Transfer from Receipts & Payments account		(1,038)			2,974	
Balance at 31 December			82,437			83,475
TOWER FUND ACCOUNT						
Balance at 1 January		1,759			1,759	
Surplus/(Deficit) on Tower Fund account		0			0	
Balance at 31 December			1,759			1,759
Total Balance Sheet Value			84,196			85,234

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH HALL YELVERTON

Receipts & Payments Account for year to 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
INCOME		
Lettings	9,731	7,080
Electricity Meters	1,288	867
TOTAL RECEIPTS	11,019	7,947
EXPENDITURE		
Heating & Lighting	2,079	1,305
Repairs & Renewals	911	1,210
Insurance	1,602	1,530
Cleaning	1,115	1,073
Miscellaneous Expenses	72	82
TOTAL PAYMENTS	5,779	5,200
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	5,240	2,747

Statement of Assets & Liabilities at 31 December 2023

	2,023	2,022
	£	£
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	14,954	9,714
Total Assets	14,954	9,714
REPRESENTED BY:		
Accumulation of Funds		
Balance at 1 January	9,714	6,967
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	5,240	2,747
Total Balance Sheet Value	14,954	9,714

St Paul's Church Yelverton

Notes to the 2023 Accounts and Financial Statements

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. There are no remaining liabilities arising from the work programme on rendering the Tower. The balance of the Tower Fund will be retained for maintenance of the Tower.
3. The Church Hall is included as a fixed asset. The cost has been written down to nil consistent with an asset which has no market value.
4. Accounts have been prepared separately for the Church and the Church Hall, but it should be noted that the combined totals of receipts and payments amounted to £53,342 and £49,140 respectively.
5. The combined total of balance sheet reserves at 31st December 2023 for the Church and the Church Hall amounted to £99,150
6. Moveable church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are recognised but not included and valued in the statement of assets.

Approved by the PCC on the 23rd January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Kathy Howard (Churchwarden)

.....

Brian Medhurst (Treasurer)

**Independent Examiner’s Report to the members of the Parochial Church Council
(‘The Trustees’) of St Paul’s Church Yelverton**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Paul’s Church, Yelverton (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (‘the Act’).

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust’s accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner’s Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:

.....

Col Gordon Mills
1 Downlea, Tavistock

Date:

The Parochial Church Council of St Paul's, Yelverton

Annual Report

for the year ended 31st December 2023

Aim and Purpose

St Paul's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent in promoting throughout the West Dartmoor Benefice the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. In addition to maintaining the Church itself, which is a Grade II Listed Building, the PCC is also responsible for maintaining the Church Hall next door.

Objectives and Activities

In partnership with our 5 fellow-Parishes within the West Dartmoor Mission Community:

- To build up our worshipping congregation
- To support both individuals and families
- To engage in mission and outreach work
- To maintain and enhance the fabric of church and church hall

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

We record warm thanks to Andrew our Rector and also to the rest of our Ministerial Team – Rev Dr Philippa Bellows, Rev Mike Fairall, Rev Miranda Donne, Rev Denis Robinson plus our Curate-in-training Scott Angel, as also to our Readers Martin Jury and Anne de Looy – for their continuing spiritual leadership.

Our normal monthly pattern of Sunday worship settled as wk1: 0915 Family Worship / Service of the Word (attendance c25); wk2 0915 Eucharist Order 2 (att.c30); wk3 1800 Eucharist Order 1 (att.c12); wk4 0915 Eucharist Order 1 (att.c30); (wk5 MC Eucharist).

On Wednesdays there was regularly an 11am Order 2 Eucharist (att.c10).

Because of MC diary congestion our annual Service of 9 Lessons and Carols was held mid-week and nonetheless attracted 84 attendees. A compensatory innovation this year was a MC Epiphany Carol Service held at 6pm on the first Sunday of January 2024 – attracting 42 attendees. But the season's highlight was the Crib Service held on Christmas Eve afternoon: "Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson investigate a mysterious birth" led by Corinne Shutt and family – 112 adults attended plus uncountable numbers of youngsters, with a real baby in the crib and a joyous atmosphere throughout. As an outreach occasion it could not have been bettered.

During Advent the Wednesday Eucharist was followed by a course focussed on R.S.Thomas' poetry using Carys Walsh "Frequencies of God" (att.c9).

This year's Lent course was led by Anne de Looy, based on the feature film "The Way", with

'Pilgrimage' as its theme (att.7-12). One or two had themselves done the Camino pilgrimage, one or two others hoped to do it. Those who had no such plans were encouraged to undertake a private Lent Pilgrimage within the Mission Community, walking meditatively between as many of our 6 churches as possible. Maps and walk-descriptions were devised to assist this. We thank Anne and the MC Eco Group for developing this initiative.

We extend warm thanks as ever to Sheila Stacey and Alison Kennerley for providing refreshments after Sunday services – they add enormously to the sense of fellowship and welcome.

Particular thanks go also to Martin Jury and the WT for leading our monthly Family Worship. Likewise to Belinda Gardiner – our Readers & Welcomers rota manager and also MC website manager.

Entries in the Visitors Book regularly compliment the floral displays – our warmest thanks go to Vivienne Thompson and her team for providing these.

We also record thanks to our music-makers, primarily Pauline Hamilton-Leggett, but also to David Paddon and Anne Medhurst.

During the year we had 1 funeral, 1 ashes service, 1 memorial service, 1 wedding, and 2 baptisms.

At present there are 37 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, all living within the West Dartmoor Mission Community boundaries.

Deanery Synod

St Paul's continued to be represented at the Deanery Synod by Belinda Gardiner – of which she is now Hon.Secretary. We thank Berwyn Turley-Rogers for his years of service.

Church Fabric

The sagging South wall gutter on the vestry extension was expertly repaired.

A PIR light was installed outside the SW entrance door.

Both of the floodlights facing the porch were repaired, together with the connection used for our Wayside Crib outside the entrance gates.

Church Hall

No significant repairs were required during 2023.

Starting after the summer break we welcomed a new thrice-weekly hirer: Dance classes.

Our regular hirers continued: Legs, Tums & Bums; Pilates; Zumba; Craft Group; Poppins; Lunch Club; Yelverton Bridge Club; Rainbows & Brownies; Badminton; monthly Yelverton Café Cinema.

Mission and Evangelism

"Poppins" – the weekly mother-and-toddler group in St Paul's church hall initiated by the WDMC – re-started after the summer and proved to be as great a success as pre-pandemic. Thanks to them we had a real live baby for the Crib Service.

The 'Open The Book' team (now including 3 St Paul's members) was glad to respond to a request from Horrbridge County School to put on occasional performances. These were in addition to the regular programme at our CoE schools in Meavy and Walkhampton.

The Wayside Crib outside our entrance during the Christmas period attracts much passing interest: we thank the Scouts for renovating it and for supervising its erection annually.

Other Activities

The church hosted two well-attended concerts by the Devon County Youth Brass Band and by Levowan XII (vocal).

There was also a meditative Organ music day organised by Scott Angell at which six different organists performed.

The collection box for Tavistock Foodbank continues – with thanks to Chris & Jackie Philpott for managing it.

We thank John Gozzard for rationalising the 3 sets of records relating to persons who have died: the Ashes Book, the Remembrance Binder and the Commemoration Book. The latter has been brought up to date with as much detail as was available, and a spreadsheet now exists containing all the information from those three sources. Questions remain to be resolved as to who (e.g former Churchwardens, Benefactors) should be added to the Commemoration Book.

Maintaining our lovely church gardens comes at a cost, and this year we had to fell two of our ash trees with the die-back infection, to protect both parishioners and the general public.

Financial Review

Financially the year was unexceptional, with a small deficit of £1,038.

Regular giving was little changed, but another excellent contribution from Sheila Stacey's very popular Cream Teas and the income from a successful Brass Band concert in the church made a welcome boost to our income.

Fuel costs rose markedly from mid-year and will continue into coming years. However, the main cost rise was due to various maintenance activities. The repair to damp in the organ was substantially covered under our insurance, but in addition church gutter repairs and an emergency call out when a horse chestnut tree fell out into the public car park were material additions to our costs. The current repairs on the organ, will of course impact 2024 accounts.

Following the fall in church attendance over recent years, our Common Fund contribution to the Diocese fell back by roughly £1,000. However, this is a temporary benefit which will not continue.

The Church Hall continues to be well used, despite the structural problems. In 2023 a surplus in excess of £5,000 was produced despite the surging electricity costs. We are able to pass a large share of these to our users, through metering but there remains a big hit on overall hall costs.

Now the public car park potholes have been repaired life will be considerably easier for our hall users as well as our church parishioners, who had been struggling.

Overall a good year, but we face an uncertain future with reliance on an ageing set of parishioners. A problem in common with most of the Church of England.

BM

15th January 2024

Reserves Policy

The PCC has reserves to ensure as far as possible the ability to meet major renewal and repair costs that will arise from time to time to maintain the church in good order.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent (Chair, ex officio), Licensed Clergy, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC.

The Church is situated at Yelverton, PL20 6AB and is part of the Deanery of Tavistock, in the Diocese of Exeter. The correspondence address is The Parish Office, St Paul's Church, Yelverton, PL20 6AB. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and a Charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who served during the year were:

The Incumbent (ex officio)	Rev. Andrew Thomas	
Reader	Martin Jury	
Churchwardens	Kathy Howard	Secretary
	Richard Byrn	Acting Chair
Deanery Synod Reps	Belinda Gardiner	
	Berwyn Turley-Rogers (resigned mid-year)	
Elected:	Brian Medhurst	Treasurer
	Anne-Marie Critchley	
	John Gozzard	
