

The Parochial Church Council of
Seer Green and Jordans

Trustees Report and Accounts
For the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Charity Number 1175583

Holy Trinity Seer Green and Jordans: Annual Report of the Trustees 2023

Charity Number: 1175583

Our Vision

Our vision at Holy Trinity is to live and share Christ's love.

1. Trustees annual report for 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is managed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The governing document is The Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules that came into force on 2 January 1957. Lay members of the PCC are proposed and seconded by members of Holy Trinity's Electoral Roll. The vicar is also a member of the PCC. In 2023, three new members were appointed to the PCC and three members left, one of the new ones due to ill health. There were 10 to 13 members of the PCC in 2023.

There were 6 meetings of the PCC in 2023, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held on 14 May 2023, after the 10am Sunday service with the members of the church. The minutes of the meetings are published on our website to share information with our church community.

Objectives and Activities

The year began with a broken heating system and a very cold church. Once it was clear there was no quick fix, we moved our 8am service into the vestry and our 10am service to the Scout Hut. Our 10am congregation seemed to handle – possibly even enjoy! – the simpler, brighter space, and the ability to position chairs in a more communal layout. By Easter Sunday, the weather allowed us to return to the main church, to a pretty-much packed Easter Day celebration. Prior to that, we had a lovely Maundy Thursday meal together in The Three Horseshoes; a rich joint service with the Baptist Church on Good Friday; and a fabulous Saturday Easter Egg Hunt which seemed to draw out the entire village! We have also been enjoying a rich, creative prayer station for the Easter season, centred around the Fruit of the Spirit; thanks so much to Sarah Allen for initiating that. As warmer weather continues to inch its way to us, we're enjoying being able to meet once again back in the centre of the village.

We had seven baptisms in 2023, and a number more are on the way. These generally happen at 12pm, though the 10am service will start to feature more in that regard. Thank God for the opportunity this presents to invite young families in the village into a fuller expression of the Christian faith.

The failure of the heating system kickstarted a significant storyline of the year. Amid the challenges, a question emerged: while we're doing the deep-dive required to replace the heating, what else might we do? A number of people seized the opportunity to express ideas and longings they have for the space. 'Vicaring 101' says, 'Don't attempt a major renovation in your first year in post (obviously)', but the heating had other ideas and it has been hugely exciting to see what is starting to come together.

Various needs in the community were (re-)articulated in this process: the need for alternative layouts and formats for church services which connect with under-represented demographics; the lack of spaces in the village where people can come together in ways that don't suit the pubs (especially families with littlees); the lack of provision for youth; the need to improve our step-free accessibility and increase our fire limit (which currently prevents us from hosting the whole school). As a result, a vision is coming together to draw the community through the doors of the church; to create a space which responds to their felt and unfelt needs, and which is able to host them in a greater variety of ways.

While much of the above remains aspirational, and will continue to involve consultation with the congregation, diocese, and various experts, we have taken the first steps of applying for faculties to remove the pulpit and chancel rail, remove a few pews, and make the remaining pews more moveable. A big thank you to the working group which is pushing forward with this project: Tom Allen, Janna Holder, Peter Vinall and Jane Spoerry.

Moving into the summer, we had a lovely tea party in the vicarage garden in June. (I say 'tea', though we did 'dilute' our tea a little). It was a great warm-up to our August Sunday afternoon tea parties at the church, which enabled us to connect with a large number of villagers. Thanks to all of you who provided cakes etc, and especially to Katharine Parker for organising them.

In the autumn, we started our monthly afternoon service for young families, "Families @3.30," and we've been having a steady stream of 15-20 people most times. This has joined a wider pattern of children and family events across the month, shared between Holy Trinity and Seer Green Baptist Church, with whom we continue to enjoy a rich partnership in all aspects of Kingdom ministry in our villages. This pattern includes Toddlers in the Woods, and we again recognise the huge amount of work Ali Cork puts into enabling that to happen each week.

We also saw one candidate from the church go forward for confirmation at a service in St Giles with Bishop Alan, who very sadly passed away unexpectedly in February 2024.

In November, the newly built Grandstand quickly came into its own. It has been home to Whisky Wednesdays – an initiative to gather younger men in the village, round fire and single malts, where they can chat at a deeper level than is natural in the pub. It has taken on a life of its own, with different people initiating added extras such as curry, whisky tasting, and (as the evenings start to allow), BBQ and croquet! We don't seek after faith conversations (remember, no preachers allowed), but people bring up issues around faith very naturally, at which point we gently embrace the opportunity within the authenticity that lies at the core.

Also in November, the Grandstand became home to the new youth group, and we are hugely appreciative of Sarah Allen who has grabbed this vision and run with it. Within weeks of starting to gather the six teens with whom we had connections, the group started to grow through nothing we did. The Spirit does seem to be especially at work among teenagers.

In December, Jane Spoerry stood down after many years as our church administrator (having also been warden for a long time!). Words cannot express our appreciation for all that she has brought over the years, and we're delighted that she remains part of the church community, filling gaps as she sees them in the way only she can!

Christmas was full of opportunities among the community, as it always is. There was a notable increase in attendance from the previous year, though I suspect that was mainly down to the heating working! Again, huge thanks to Tom Allen who navigated the technical and diocesan challenges of making that happen.

Financial Review

During 2023 our new branch of Lloyds Bank in Hazlemere was closed. Our account was moved to the High Wycombe branch but our sort code and account number has remained the same. This is the second change in two years as the Beaconsfield branch closed in 2022. Going to High Wycombe each week, in terms of travel, parking etc. was not sustainable. We now use the very helpful branch of the Post Office in Chalfont St Giles to pay in cash and cheques.

Making payments and transfers via online banking has made the process quicker and easier as we are now only reliant on the postal system for the very few cheque payments we make.

The volume of online payments received for the Parish Magazine subscriptions has grown over the last few years, so from the end of 2024 they will be paid into a

separate bank account which the two subscription coordinators can have direct sight of. This should make the subscription collection easier to track

GENERAL FUNDS

Receipts.

Planned giving to General Funds has decreased from £39459 in 2022 to £38913 in 2023. No new donors have joined any of the schemes set up to facilitate planned giving. There was a small increase due to those donors to the Parish Giving Scheme who have linked their giving to the rate of inflation, but sadly we have lost some regular givers during 2023 so the net effect is a small decrease.

Our general collections have remained at the pre pandemic levels of 2019. More people are using the contactless device allocated to us by the Diocese as part of their Digital Giving Rollout.

We received a full year of rental payments for use of the Parish Church Hall which makes a significant contribution to our overall running costs.

Payments

Payments to charities never exactly mirror donations received due to timing differences in paying over sums to the charities and reclaiming Gift Aid on donations.

Our Diocesan Quota (Parish Share) has been paid in full at the House for Duty level in 2023.

Other payments were largely in line with our budgeted projection. We are still benefiting from the 3year fixed term contract agreed with our energy suppliers in December 2021.

Outcomes

At the end of 2023 we recorded a surplus of receipts over payment of £409. This was as a result of careful management of our expenditure. For further details of income, expenditure, assets and liabilities please see the attached accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Building (Friends of Holy Trinity)

In accordance with our published accounting policies, we were able to use this fund for all payments in respect of repairs and maintenance on the church buildings and churchyard. We have incurred significant costs on churchyard maintenance and work needed on the churchyard trees. We also constructed an outdoor building in

the vicarage garden. These projects were funded by some generous donations and the income generated by the afternoon teas in the churchyard during the summer months. The Buildings Fund is now significantly depleted and it is unlikely that the fund will be able to cover all the maintenance costs in 2024 so these costs will have to be met by general funds.

The Trustees Report was approved by the Trustees on 3 May 2024 and signed by the chair of the meeting, Reverend Jeremy Carr



3 MAY 2024

2. Charity Information

Trustees:

Reverend Jeremy Carr (Vicar)

Audrey Hardy (Treasurer)

Janna Holder (Children and Families Minister)

Olwyn Davision-Oakley (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Linda West (Licensed Lay Minister)

Janine Dunnell (Churchwarden)

Tom Allen (From May 2023)

Anthony Bargioni (From May 2023)

Janice Barrett

Nora Bennett (Left July 2023)

Susan Puttergill

Rene Shurtenberger (From March to May 2023)

Mark Webb (Left May 2023)

Registered Address:

Holy Trinity Church

Orchard Road

Seer Green

Bucks

HP9 2YA

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank

P.O. Box 1000

Andover

BX1 1LT

CCLA

One Angel Lane

London

EC4R 3AB

Contact Details:

Web: holytrinitysgj.org

Email: holytrinitysgj@gmail.com



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
The Parochial Church Council of Seer Green and Jordans

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2023
**Charity no
(if any)** 1175583

Set out on pages

8 to 11

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

**Responsibilities and
basis of 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 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

I have no concerns and 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.

Signed: 

Date: 04/05/2024

Name: David Jordan

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

FCCA

Address:

Dell Lees
Seer Green
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SEER GREEN AND JORDANS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
RECEIPTS				
<u>Incoming resources from donors</u>				
Planned giving	38183	730	38913	39459
Collections and other giving	4438		4438	4408
Tax recovered	9979	1034	11013	10187
	<u>52600</u>	<u>1764</u>	<u>54364</u>	<u>54054</u>
<u>Other voluntary incoming resources</u>				
Legacies & donations	1805	3270	5075	4323
Donations to charities	4458	1008	5466	5548
Fund raising events	18	777	795	736
Grants				1625
	<u>6281</u>	<u>5055</u>	<u>11336</u>	<u>12232</u>
<u>Income from charitable and ancillary trading</u>				
Sale of magazine and advertising	5660		5660	6045
Contribution for use of Church Hall	15815		15815	14615
Fees	863		863	1258
	<u>22338</u>		<u>22338</u>	<u>21918</u>
<u>Income from investments</u>				
Bank Interest	607	37	644	251
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>81826</u>	<u>6856</u>	<u>88682</u>	<u>88455</u>
PAYMENTS				
<u>Charities and mission agencies</u>				
	4818	1080	5898	6392
<u>Activities directly related to the work of the church</u>				
Diocesan quota	41742		41742	42302
Salaries,wages and honorarium	14544		14544	11939
Clergy expenses	820		820	77
Cost of services	2392		2392	2773
Church running expenses	5581	6291	11872	8561
Production of magazine	6422		6422	6270
Church hall running costs	2675		2675	2171
Recruitment and Licensing costs				1720
Cost of AV and wifi	1675		1675	1525
	<u>75851</u>	<u>6291</u>	<u>82142</u>	<u>77338</u>
<u>Bank Charges</u>	233		233	340
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>80902</u>	<u>7371</u>	<u>88273</u>	<u>84070</u>
Excess/(Deficit)of Receipts over Payments	924	(515)	409	4385
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January	24371	1908	26279	21894
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December	<u>25295</u>	<u>1393</u>	<u>26688</u>	<u>26279</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SEER GREEN AND JORDANS

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	General Fund	Choir Fund	Churchyard Fund	Building Fund	Kisizi Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
<u>Monetary Assets</u>							
Bank current account	4576	787				5363	5046
Bank deposit account	20719			460	146	21325	21232
Total Cash	25295	787		460	146	26688	26278
<u>Debtors and Prepayments</u>							
Income Tax Claim	758			16	13	787	870
Due for wedding fees							732
Total Debtors & Prepayments	758			16	13	787	1602
<u>Liabilities and Accruals</u>							
Pre-paid magazine income	1920					1920	1325
Due to ODBF fees	1920					1920	218
Total Liabilities						1920	1543
<u>Net Assets</u>	24133	787		476	159	25555	26337

Signed on behalf of the PCC



Rev Jeremy Carr

3/5/2024

Signed on behalf of the PCC



Mrs Audrey Hardy (Treasurer)

3/5/2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SEER GREEN AND JORDANS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The Buildings Fund (Friends of Holy Trinity) is a restricted Fund to be used for the general upkeep, maintenance and improvement of the church buildings. Consequently, all payments in respect of repairs, maintenance, additions and enhancements of the church buildings are, from 2018 onwards, settled from this fund.

The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	Balances b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Balance c/fwd
Buildings Fund	875	5738	6291	138	460
Churchyard Fund	133	5		(138)	
Kisizi Fund	112	1114	1080		146
Choir Fund	787				787
Total	1907	6857	7371		1393

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal
- Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1000

Closing bank balances as shown in the receipts and payments account.

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Any loans or overdrafts advanced to the PCC
- Any arrears of Diocesan Quota or Parish Share

- Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31 December 2023.

Payments to Trustees

No payments were made to trustees (members of the PCC) during the year for their work as trustees.

During the year, payments totalling £8740 (2022-£10675) were made to Janna Holder a trustee which included materials supplied in connection with her work as Children and Families Minister at Holy Trinity.

During the year, payments totalling £2294 were made to Jeremy Carr a trustee for extra ministry hours worked.