

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

The Parochial Church Council of the parish of
Portslade and Mile Oak

for the year ended 31 December 2023

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Parish of Portslade & Mile Oak

Vicar: The Revd. David Swyer, The Vicarage, South Street, Portslade BN41 2LE

Independent Examiner: Mrs Joanne Golds

Bankers: Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling Kent ME19
4TA

Parochial Church Council of Portslade & Mile Oak

Trustees Annual Report for 2023

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity, but is excepted from registering with the Charity Commission within the meaning of the section 30 of the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex officio members:

Priest in charge/Vicar:	The Rev David SWYER Chairman
Wardens:	Mrs Gillian WILKS Miss Lisa HUGHES Ms Ann BEARD Mr Alan LANGRIDGE

Elected members:

Mr Roger REEVE
Mrs Marian BURKE
Mr Ken RIST
Mr Brian TAYLOR
Mrs Sarah PECK
Mr Terry BOXALL

Deanery Synod:

Jimmy HUTCHIN
Hazel HOLDING
Christine REEVE

Treasurer	Alan LANGRIDGE
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Secretary:	Ann BEARD
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Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the clergy, the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods) and 9 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.

Aim and Purposes

The primary objective of the PCC of Portslade and Mile Oak 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 co-operating with the vicar, the Rev'd David Swyer, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

- To enable and prosper the worship of Almighty God in Portslade & Mile Oak.
- To seek to foster an environment where disciples can grow and flourish.
- To increase the membership of the Church.
- To co-operate with our ecumenical partners wherever possible.
- To serve our community in particular through the administration of the occasional offices of baptism, marriage and funeral rites; pastoral care and evangelisation.
- To promote fellowship, friendship and community through an active programme of social activities.
- To become a welcoming, outward-looking, thankful community that creates a safe space in which to explore God, Christian spirituality and worship; to relate our lives as disciples to this faith and to celebrate God's great gifts to us.
- To care for the buildings of which we are temporary custodians; to maintain the fabric and to make sure they are best suited to serving the mission of God in this parish.
- To ensure that, in line with "charities for the advancement of religion" we have due regard to our public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which guidance is relevant.
- Our regular worship and study gives high priority to prayer, the scriptures, administration of the sacraments and the challenge of the Gospel to walk the Way of Christ.
- Services seek to be inclusive and accessible to all; the church buildings are open during the day for casual visitors and pilgrims. Our church halls are normally used extensively by the community for a wide range of activities from The British Cactus & Succulent Society and Keyboard Lessons, to Pre-school Nursery and Brownies, Yoga, Alcoholics Anonymous, Dog Obedience and various other groups.
- During 2023 the parish conducted 2 weddings, 11 baptisms, and 11 funerals. Our links with local schools, especially St Nicolas Church of England Primary School, have continued to be strong.
- Our social programme has included celebrations, meals, activities. There was also the annual parish retreat to Walsingham.

Achievements and performance

Church attendance

At the start of 2023 the Electoral Roll stood at 64, 6 of whom are non-residential (9.38%). The Electoral roll at the end of 2023 stood at 81; 10 of whom are non residential (12.35%) an overall gain of 17.

The average weekly attendance combining both parish churches, counted in October, was about 78 adults and 2 children.

Review of the year

Safeguarding

The parish is working to full compliance with SQP and fully complies with Diocesan instructions and orders and with the Church of England House of Bishop's guidelines on safeguarding. Our parish policy and safeguarding information is prominently displayed on the home page of the Parish website (www.portslade-mileoak.org.uk) and on the church noticeboards.

The full **PCC** met 7 times during the year. Committees met between meetings and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary. The standing committee had various meetings.

The **fabric** of the buildings continued to occupy much time, energy and money.

We were unable to pay our full PMC in 2023 (11400). This is a 5.6% increase on the previous year.

Social and Fund Raising

In 2023 we held various fundraising and social events: Spring Fayre, Summer Fayre, Harvest Supper, Christmas Fayre (£1395.31), Christmas Carols on the Green (over 450 people attended). Total fundraising in the parish came to £4602.06

Our parish remains part of the Hove **Deanery Synod**.

Financial Review

Looking forwards, the key issue is still that our income is insufficient to pay the full Parish Ministry Contribution, and that situation cannot continue indefinitely. This Parish Ministry Contribution is the largest regular expense for the PCC. The amount covers the housing, stipend and pension costs of our Vicar and also a standard sum for diocesan central costs, clergy training and a contribution to national church funds.

One of our long term goals is to move towards paying our full responsibility. We are very grateful to the Deanery Group for Allocating Grants for their support for the outstanding amount.

In our current financial state our charitable giving is funded by collections, special events and the Parish Giving Scheme.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy:

- to maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately two months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations.
- to spend restricted and endowment funds in line with their terms and conditions
- to invest fund balances with the CBF Church of England deposit fund. (Currently such funds are restricted or endowment funds only)

The PCC recognises with gratitude and appreciation those groups and individuals who make their service of God and of His Church clear by their generous giving of their time, money and effort. Much of the work of this parish is undertaken by a generation who are entering their senior years. Failing health and vigour are reducing energies which could be relied upon in the past.

In order for the Church to thrive and grow we need to engage in evangelism, mission and faith sharing to encourage growth in numbers as well as growth in faith, love and service.

This is the challenge we face if we are to have a future worshipping and serving in Portslade and Mile Oak.

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by the Revd David Swyer, PCC Chairman

.....David Swyer Date: 9th May 2024