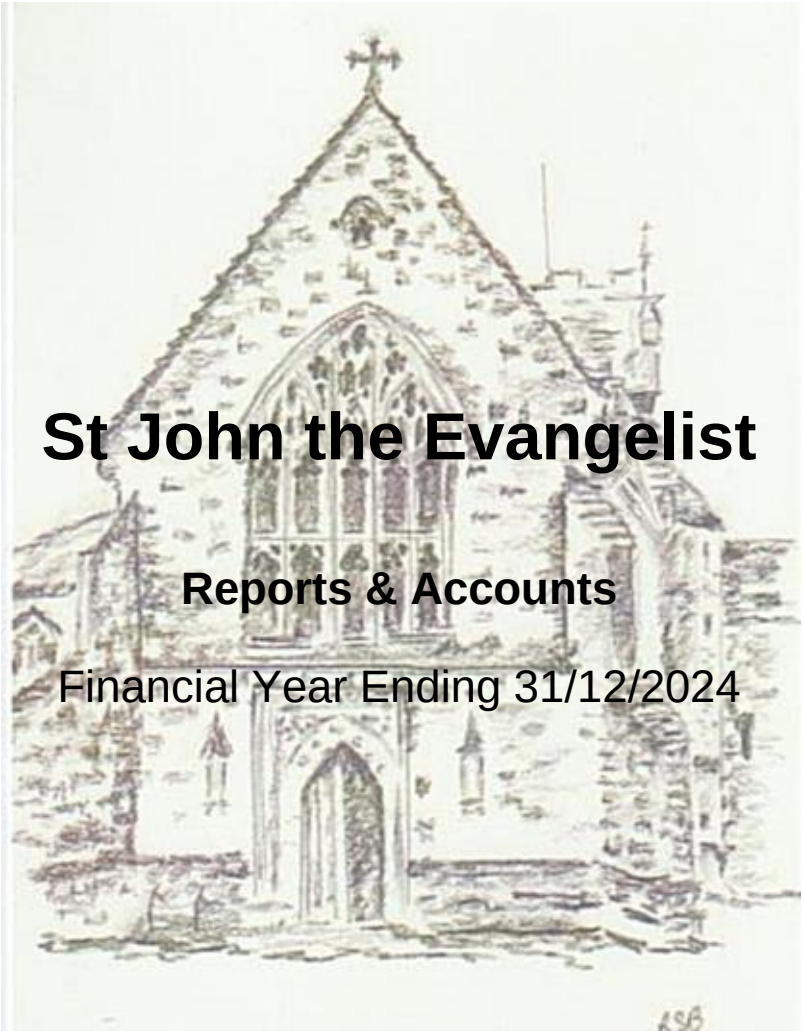

St John the Evangelist

Reports & Accounts

Financial Year Ending 31/12/2024

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Legal & Administrative Details

Charity Name:	St John the Evangelist
Charity Number:	601196
Charity Address:	Benefice Office Church House Bathwell Lane Milborne Port Sherborne Dorset DT9 5AN
Trustees:	Anne Salkeld (Appointed 23/11/2024) Anthony Higgins (Appointed 01/04/2024) David Johnstone Graham Sharpless Harold Clarke Linda Mumford Louisa Hughes Mary Clothier (Appointed 01/04/2024) Nicola Edwards Paul Springett (Appointed 01/04/2024) Richard Redman Susan Wales (Appointed 13/04/2024) Trevor John
Independent Examiner:	Alison Cooper Charltons Accountancy The Offices, Middle Farm Charlton Horethorne, Sherborne, Dorset

Trustees Report

Objects of the charity

We are responsible for the upkeep of St John's Church, St John's Cottage, Church House and Milborne Wick Mission Church. The responsibility for the day to day running of Church House has been delegated to the Church House Management Committee. The Receipts and Payment accounts for Church House are not incorporated into this report and have been separately independently examined and are reported to the Charity Commissioners under Charity Number 1060785.

St. John's cottage is no longer occupied by our Vergers who have moved into alternative accommodation. It is now rented out to private tenants via a management company.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and vision, the charity\s main activities and achievements were as follows:

St John the Evangelist Milborne Port with Milborne Wick Mission Church are part of a benefice including St Peter's, Goathill and St Peter and St Paul, Charlton Horethorne with St Mary Magdalene, Stowell.

Our vision for the Benefice is that we are united: -• in bringing the light of Christ to our communities• in reaching out to those who feel excluded• in caring for the lonely and distressed• in encouraging those of all ages who want to grow in their faith.

We do all this, safe in the knowledge that the love of God surrounds us all. The Christian community here in Milborne Port and Milborne Wick is dedicated to worshipping God and responding to God's story by serving our communities. In practical terms this means paying our share of costs to the diocese, supporting charitable work, maintaining the upkeep of our buildings and using all of our resources to support the local community.

In 2024 our congregation continued to pull together and to be both cohesive and inclusive. We hope that visitors and new members always receive a warm welcome. Numbers attending our services have stayed at pre-pandemic levels and in some cases have grown which is very much against the national trend.

Please see the accompanying booklets for additional information on the activities of the sub-committees of the PCC and our various groups with all they have achieved this year.

Worship and Prayer: The church of St John the Evangelist in Milborne Port is the largest in a Benefice of five churches in three parishes.

Our average weekly attendance is around 65 at the Sunday 10:30 service for communion services, with fewer attending Matins. Wednesday mid-week communion has an average attendance of 8.

Our outdoor Easter Garden provided a focus for a very well attended children's activity and Easter Saturday also saw a very successful outdoor service at Milborne Wick. Easter services were well attended and after Easter daily Morning Prayer restarted.

Our Harvest Service and Open Day in the early Autumn were very successful and as always our Remembrance Service was well attended and appreciated by the village community. The All Souls' Service provided much needed support to recently bereaved families.

Over Christmas we were able to provide our special “longest night service” for those who have been recently bereaved (attended by 27 people). The usual Christmas services including a Carol Service and Christmas Day service 10:30 both had attendances of over 100. The Crib Service was especially popular this year being attended by over 30 children and 70 adults.

Home communions continued to be provided throughout the year by a member of the retired clergy. Monthly communion services are also provided at the Gainsborough Retirement home in the parish.

Festival Attendance: Easter Sunday 105; Harvest 70; Remembrance Sunday 124;Christmas Services 110 ; Carol Service 111; Crib Service 101

Occasional Offices during the year: Weddings 4, Baptisms 14, Funerals: held in church 3, held solely at crematorium 5

The Mission Church at Milborne: Wick Festival Attendance: Harvest 21

Community Outreach and Pastoral Care: A children’s trail and activity was held on Easter Saturday in partnership with 'The Spirit of Milborne Port' and a Crib Service on Christmas Eve. The magazine continues to be published monthly and has been an excellent resource for the community to gather and distribute information. A successful fete was held in July including a summer raffle. The village Christmas Tree Festival was held in the church during the second week of Advent and involved some 30 village businesses, clubs and organisations.

Links with the local primary schools have continued. Visits by the "Open the book' team are much appreciated by both schools. Members of the church community continue to serve on the governing board of Charlton Horethorne school.

Please see the accompanying booklet for all the charities we have supported this year.

Our church continues to be faithfully cared for by our Vergers, Ronnie and June Goodman. We are most thankful for their dedication.

Following last year’s Fabric Report to the APCM, the Churchwardens spent time examining the Quinquennial Report (dated May 2023, received Spring 2024), with a view to begin to carry out the recommendations contained therein. All members of the PCC were sent copies so that they are aware of the extent of the work needed on the fabric of the building.

The gift of an Aumbry, in memory of his late mother, was made by Mr Harold Clarke. This was made by David Gay, and installed in the niche in the Gethsemane Chapel. It is now used regularly.

Various gutters, gully pots and downpipes were cleared in May by Mark and Ross Andrews. All debris was removed to the compost heap.

Daniel Kempf, Stonemason, who has previously carried out works on the church building, was furnished with a digital copy of the Quinquennial Report for his information. It is likely that stonework repairs will begin sometime in 2025, subject to any other building work.

Dan Humphries, (Stained Glass) visited in June 2024 to survey all the windows, with particular emphasis on the work needed as highlighted in the Quinquennial report. He provided a thorough

and detailed quote, received in November, which included work he observed should ideally be completed to ensure the windows remain in good order. This also includes giving the glass a thorough clean. The cost to the church is substantial and, at the time of writing, no decision has been made as to the way forward.

West Country Tiling carried out repair work on the nave and tower roofs as per the Quinquennial report in October. However, during periods of heavy rain (the frequency of which has increased over recent years) and particularly when the wind is blowing from certain quarters, the leaks remain – particularly where the nave roof abuts the tower in the SW corner. The roofers observed that the lead on the tower roof was beginning to fail. Toby Pitt (West Country Tiling) also highlighted evidence on the north aisle roof that the underlying structure was also beginning to fail and that major work will need to be carried out. There is also a drainpipe that has fractured, possibly contributing to the leaks in the north aisle, which can only be effectively fixed by the removal of the stone tiles in its vicinity. The parlous state of the roof as highlighted by Mr Pitt was noted by the independent observation of a frequent visitor to the parish, who is presently in charge of places of worship for Historic England.

Dan Wills, Bath and Wells Net Zero Enabler, met with the Churchwardens in the autumn to discuss various options to improve the heating system. The existing gas boiler, whilst presently working, is in its final years of useful life. With the CofE working towards net zero, and the options open to the PCC for providing an efficient and effective heating system for the church, some further research and advice will need to be sought.

Mark Lidster, buildings advisor to the diocese has been contacted, asking if he could meet to discuss the way forward, following the above. He is presently snowed under with work, but his office has at least acknowledged our request to meet, so we are on the waiting list.

Thanks to Tony Thorp who continues to ensure that the sound system is fit for purpose, and the microphones remain operational.

Robert Hall has repaired the lantern belonging to the lamp-post that is situated on the west lawn. He reinstalled it ready for the Christmas period, and it will remain a decorative feature of the churchyard, rather than a functioning light.

St John's Cottage is receiving income from regular tenants, and is managed by Dorset Lettings. The arrangement continues to work well.

Routine maintenance has continued as usual with the servicing of the roof alarm, boiler and fire extinguishers. The boiler's ignition circuit board had to be replaced in November, following its annual service and its failure to work after the summer. Michael Farley visited earlier in the year and carried out work on the organ's blower as it was not functioning properly. We are still awaiting him to visit to tune and clean the instrument. The constant cold temperature in the building means that, ideally, this job should be done during warmer periods.

The churchyard continues to be ably maintained by "The Grasshoppers". The growing season for 2024 was again very different compared with the previous two years, and the "no mow/minimum mow" experiment produced different results. It has been wonderful to see the appearance of orchids on the west lawn, a flower species that has only become apparent since the lighter-touch mowing regime was adopted. This will continue throughout 2025, and it is hoped that the number of invertebrates will continue to flourish, providing a food source for the bats and swifts that proliferate the churchyard.

In planning the activities, the trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial Review

Treasurer's Report 2024

It is difficult to draw a year-on-year comparison as 2023 accounts were partly done by Robert Hall and partly by myself and categories and entries to various funds may not followed on as before. But I can assure you that all monies are accounted for and to double check on this, I, after the 2024 APCM took myself off to Flourish House to have Mathew Pinnock, head of finance at the Diocese to go over the books. I can report that all is well and he was highly satisfied, So, in a nutshell, donations in total have seen a fall of some £3000, whilst fundraising income has increased by £3000 and the fees for weddings and funerals have provided a healthy contribution. On the flip side, expenditure has risen sharply with parish share up by £4500, donations to charity up £1000, Insurance up £600, music costs up £1000. St Johns expenditure which includes the LED lighting up £1230. Also, the trial of a warm church was rewarded by a happy congregation but an untenable gas bill. The trial will not be repeated, so let's pray for a mild winter. The 73.3% contribution to the Benefice Expenses for the year amounts to £7066.01 for St Johns an increase of some £3000. This due to a whole year's employment and ancillary costs for Helen, printing of the service booklets, lease payments for the new photocopier, new computer for the administrator and setting up of the 'gifted' laptop for the new secretary, Felicity. All these expenses you will surely agree to be very worthwhile. Looking forward, we have agreed to pay the new requested benefice share of £65,141 in full this time with St John's share being £48,813. It will be very tight and as I have said to the diocese 'you can only squeeze so much juice out of an orange'. This whole benefice share is intended to increase to £82,391 within 5 years which is totally unrealistic. Watch this space. To end…..well done to everyone who works so hard for St John's , another very respectable year and from an occasional worshipper here, you provide a very welcoming and happy place. So, praying going forward for more fundraising and donations would be a wonderful outcome. Paul

Funds in Deficit

None

Reserves Policy

The charity aims to hold a minimum of £40,000 as unrestricted cash, so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £68,910

Signature

This report was approved by the trustees, and is signed on their behalf by:

Name

Signature

Date:

Independent Examiners Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John the Evangelist ('the charity') for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity’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 2011 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 accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. 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.

Independent Examiner’s Details

Name: Alison Cooper

Address: Charltons Accountancy
The Offices, Middle Farm
Charlton Horethorne
Sherborne
Dorset

Name

Signature

Date

Receipts & Payments Statement

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Receipts				
Donations & Legacies				
Donations	51,440	322	51,762	57,478
Gift Aid	10,293	297	10,590	8,618
Grants	217	0	217	500
Charitable Activities				
Event Income	8,054	5,230	13,284	15,311
Investments				
Bank Interest	359	7	366	905
Trading Activities				
Rental Income	8,096	0	8,096	5,624
Sales	653	0	653	153
Other				
Loans Received	0	0	0	0
Other Income	12,114	4,219	16,333	7,385
Sale of Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0
Sale of Investments	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	91,226	10,075	101,301	95,974
Payments				
Charitable Activities				
Activities	45,994	1,836	47,830	43,658
Admin	673	1,988	2,661	2,054
Advertising	0	0	0	0
Bank Charges	36	0	36	125
Event Costs	1,765	1,550	3,315	4,793
Gifts Given	4,462	2,845	7,306	7,158
Other Expenditure	2,188	2,417	4,605	1,101
Premises	12,806	1,879	14,686	9,713
Staff Costs	12,608	6,131	18,739	16,101
Governance Costs				
Governance Costs	1,167	463	1,630	0
Other				
Fixed Asset Purchases	0	0	0	0
Loans Repaid	0	0	0	0
Money Invested	0	0	0	0
Total payments	81,699	19,109	100,808	84,702
Net Receipts / Payments (before transfers)	9,526	-9,034	492	11,272
Fund Transfers In	0	7,066	7,066	19,084
Fund Transfers Out	7,066	0	7,066	19,084
Net Movement of Cash Funds	2,460	-1,968	492	11,272
Total Cash Funds Brought Forward	134,865	75,903	210,768	199,496
Total Cash Funds Carried Forward	137,325	73,935	211,260	210,768

Represented By				
General (Unrestricted)	68,910	0	68,910	66,450
Benefice expense fund (Restricted)	0	6,289	6,289	5,286
Fees Fund (Restricted)	0	4,444	4,444	5,072
Charity and Mission (Restricted)	0	1,151	1,151	1,199
Restoration Fund (Restricted)	0	59,279	59,279	61,522
Flower Fund (Restricted)	0	361	361	602
Bell Tower (Restricted)	0	1,989	1,989	1,801
Legacies (Restricted)	0	354	354	354
Special Gifts (Designated)	8,242	0	8,242	8,242
Bequests (Designated)	60,173	0	60,173	60,173
BC19B (Restricted)	0	68	68	68
St John's Cottage (Unrestricted)	0	0	0	0

Asset & Liability Statement

Cash Assets

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
General (Unrestricted)	68910	0	68910	66450
Benefice expense fund (Restricted)	0	6289	6289	5286
Fees Fund (Restricted)	0	4444	4444	5072
Charity and Mission (Restricted)	0	1151	1151	1199
Restoration Fund (Restricted)	0	59279	59279	61522
Flower Fund (Restricted)	0	361	361	602
Bell Tower (Restricted)	0	1989	1989	1801
Legacies (Restricted)	0	354	354	354
Special Gifts (Designated)	8242	0	8242	8242
Bequests (Designated)	60173	0	60173	60173
BC19B (Restricted)	0	68	68	68
St John's Cottage (Unrestricted)	0	0	0	0

Other Monetary Assets

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Gift Aid		477	196	673	0
Stock		0	0	0	0
Other		0	0	0	0

Investment Assets

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Property		0	0	0	0
Investment Accounts	CBF Church of England Investment Fund	45494	0	45494	0
Other	St John's Church Cottage Investment COIF Fund	10099	0	10099	0

Fixed Assets

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Land & Buildings	St John's Cottage & Church House	1134814	0	1134814	0
Music & PA Equipment		450	0	450	0
Computers & IT	New computer, screen laptop	1200	0	1200	0
Furniture		500	0	500	0
Motor Vehicles		0	0	0	0

Liabilities

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Loans Outstanding		0	0	0	0
Pension Payment Owed		0	0	0	0

HMRC Payments Owed		0	0	0	0
Independent Examination Fee Due		100	0	100	0
Other	E- Bound AVX Limited	478	0	478	0

Signature

These accounts have been approved by the trustees, and are signed on their behalf by:

Name

Signature

Date

Notes to the Accounts

Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

Transactions to Related Parties

There were no transactions related parties during the accounting period.

Movement of Funds

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Closing Balance
General (Unrestricted)	66,450	91,226	81,699	-7,066	68,910
Benefice expense fund (Restricted)	5,286	3,561	9,623	7,066	6,289
Fees Fund (Restricted)	5,072	3,907	4,535	0	4,444
Charity and Mission (Restricted)	1,199	2,112	2,160	0	1,151
Restoration Fund (Restricted)	61,522	1	2,244	0	59,279
Flower Fund (Restricted)	602	286	527	0	361
Bell Tower (Restricted)	1,801	209	20	0	1,989
Legacies (Restricted)	354	0	0	0	354
Special Gifts (Designated)	8,242	0	0	0	8,242
Bequests (Designated)	60,173	0	0	0	60,173
BC19B (Restricted)	68	0	0	0	68
St John's Cottage (Unrestricted)	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	210,768	101,301	100,808	0	211,260