



ST BART'S
BRIGHTON

ST PAUL'S
BRIGHTON



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S AND ST PAUL'S, BRIGHTON

PARISH PROFILE 2024

DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER

www.stbartholomewsbrighton.org.uk

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**THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING
WHETHER GOD IS CALLING YOU
TO SERVE HIM HERE.**

WHO WE ARE

We are two parishes in the centre of Brighton, looking to be formed into a united benefice, that seek to know, love and follow Jesus Christ. All we seek to be and do flows from our encounter with Christ in the celebration of the Mass.

WE EAT THE BODY OF CHRIST TO BE THE BODY OF CHRIST.

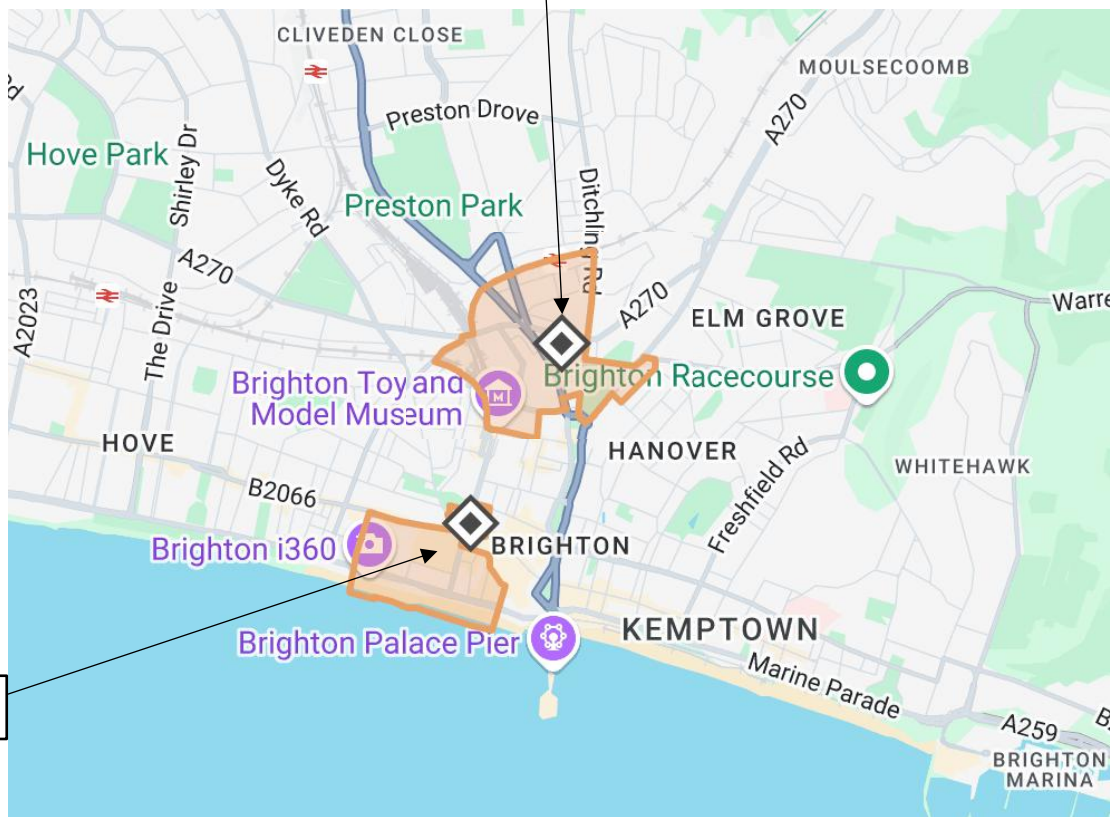


Our parishes confidently proclaim the fullness of the faith as the Church of England has received it. Led by our new priest, we seek to share our firm hope for all that God is doing and will do amongst us.

Each parish has passed the Resolution under the House of Bishop's Declaration and is affiliated to The Society under the patronage of St Wilfrid and St Hilda.

WHERE WE ARE

St Bartholomew's



St Paul's

Our two parishes are located in the heart of **Brighton**, a city with a vibrant cultural scene, which is a popular tourist destination throughout the year. The city's main railway station is located in the parish of St Bart's, with a plethora of shops, cafes and restaurants found within both parishes. Given this context, the residential population of each parish is relatively low. Particularly in relation to St Paul's, which is located just behind the seafront in the centre of the city, many worshippers travel to Mass principally by bus.

Known as "London-by-the-Sea", Brighton attracts a significant number of visitors each year, especially from the capital and the Home Counties, not least because train services are so frequent from Brighton to both London Victoria and London St Pancras International. Gatwick Airport is served by these lines, so Brighton also attracts a considerable number of international visitors. On Sunday, both parishes usually have at least several overseas tourists attending Mass.

OUR HISTORY

To understand Anglo-Catholicism in Brighton, you cannot escape the name 'Wagner' (pronounced with the 'W', unlike the German composer, who shares this surname). **The Reverend Henry Michell Wagner** (on the left) was the Vicar of Brighton between 1824 and 1870. His son, **Fr Arthur Douglas Wagner** (on the right), also served in Brighton for a considerable length of time,



first as a curate, then from 1873 as the Vicar until his death in 1902.



St Paul's was in fact built by Fr Henry Michell Wagner for his son. St Bart's was one

of several churches founded in Brighton by Fr Arthur Douglas Wagner.

The opening of these churches, unashamedly Catholic in architecture, tradition and style, was not without controversy. Fr Arthur Douglas Wagner was attacked and shot at, not least in the early-to-mid 1860s when he refused to divulge what had been said to him in the confessional by someone on trial for murder (an incident called the '**Constance Kent affair**'). Such an uncompromising defence of the fullness of the faith as received by the Church of England has continued to be at the centre of our identity at both St Bart's and St Paul's as well as at our sister 'Wagner' churches.

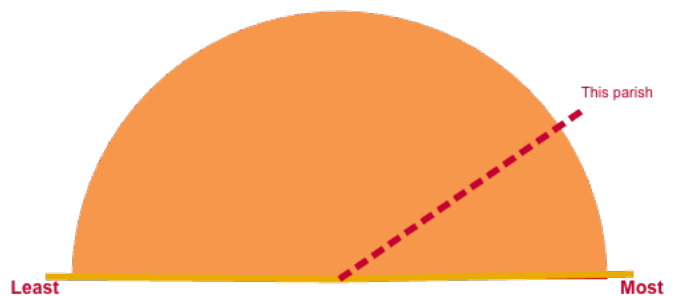
THE PARISH OF ST BART'S

St Bart's parish was originally one of mid-Victorian terraced housing and industrial works by the railway. In the past two decades, there has been a significant amount of new building, mainly apartments (both social and private housing) and recently several blocks of student accommodation. There are a few office blocks and a Further Education college, in addition to some small businesses. London Road is a busy area of shops and cafes; the church sees a significant footfall from people travelling down from the railway station to this area. Trafalgar Street, which is the southern boundary of the parish, is notable for its pubs. The parish has a high proportion of young, single people and low numbers of children and pensioners.



Historically, the parish housed workers connected to the railways, and was associated with higher deprivation levels. According to the Church Urban Fund, today the parish is ranked 2,363 out of 12,239 in total, with 1 being the most deprived parish (see right).

Population: 6622



THE CHURCH BUILDING

St Bart's is a **Grade I listed** building, which does not fail to amaze. As one of our church watchers will gladly say, 'wow' is often someone's first word when entering the building. The building was designed by Edmund Scott for **Fr Arthur Douglas Wagner**. Consecrated in **1874**, St Bart's is said to have been built to the dimensions of **Noah's Ark**, hence its affectionate name of 'the Ark'. Arguably, it is the height of the building that is most impressive (**44m** to the top of the gilt cross). The interior of the church does not disappoint either. The nave is a vast, undivided space with stunning Byzantine and Italianate decorations and glittering mosaics on the liturgical east wall designed by **F. Hamilton Jackson**, a follower of the Arts and Crafts Movement.



The church's unforgettable **baldacchino** as well as **pulpit** and **font** were installed a few decades after her consecration, designed by **Henry Wilson** and installed in 1899-1900.



LIFE AT ST BART'S

Our sacramental life

The Mass is the source and summit of the Church's life and of our life at St Bart's. The **Sunday Mass**, celebrated at 10.30am, is the foundation of our week, enriched by beautiful vestments and high-quality music. Indeed, St Bart's has a long and venerable history of excellence in choral music. Since the pandemic, we have been blessed under our Director of



Music, who is Head of Keyboard at Brighton College, with the highest quality of cantors, all of whom are professional opera singers (many of whom perform at Glyndebourne). On high and holy days, we are treated to a quartet or octet, sometimes accompanied by an orchestra. On average, we have 50-60 adults at Mass on Sundays, with several children present. (The Electoral Roll currently stands at 55). The Mass is celebrated daily across our parish and that of St Paul's. At St Bart's, the Mass is currently celebrated at 9.30am on Mondays, 6.00pm on Tuesdays and 12 noon on Thursdays. All of the Masses are well-attended, especially the Tuesday Mass, which often attracts 15-20 worshippers. The Mass is celebrated according to the rite of the Universal Church.

The **Holy Rosary** is prayed once a month, with **Stations of the Cross** prayed once a week in Lent. **Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament** are offered on Corpus Christi Sunday and Christ the King and sometimes at other times in the year.

Ten or so times a year, we gather with brothers and sisters in the **Brighton and Hove Wagner Group** (St Bart's, St Paul's, St Martin's, St Michael's and St Barnabas', Hove) for Solemn Mass on some of the principal feast days.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is offered before and after any Mass, with set times advertised in the seasons of Advent and Lent.



Occasional offices, regrettably, number only a handful each year, largely because the parish has a relatively low number of souls living within the bounds.



That being said, each year the parish prepares a number of adults for baptism and confirmation (in 2023 we prepared eleven candidates).

Christian formation

Study courses are offered every **Advent** and **Lent**, attracting a good number of people. At other times of the year, courses have been run to help increase knowledge as well as love of God. There is a strong appetite among many in the worshipping community for growth in the faith.

The parish is enormously blessed by the presence and engagement of a number of **young adults**, people aged in their twenties, thirties and early forties. Many of these serve at the Mass and, more generally, play an active part in the life of the parish. A **reading group** for these Christians has been run over the last couple of years to provide a forum for theological discussion and debate.

Each year a number of worshippers from St Bart's join with brothers and sisters from across the Wagner Group on pilgrimage to **the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham**.

Use of the building

Whilst we are deeply committed to maintaining the integrity of our building as a house of God, we seek to ensure that it is not closed off from the world. We are blessed to have a committed team of **church watchers**, who generously give of their time to enable our church to be open for at least several hours most days. Visitor numbers are significant, sometimes reaching over 150 on a busy Saturday in the summer, testifying to the draw of our building on so many, least of all on those who would not enter it for worship.

Our building is used through the year by a number of hirers, ranging from those who organise craft markets and fashion workshops to organ recitals and concerts.

Finances

We are acutely aware that whilst our current financial position is not precarious, there is an urgent need to increase income, in order to sustain our life in the years ahead. A Stewardship Campaign, which was held in late 2022, resulted in annual giving rising by almost £11,000, 50% more than the target we had set and an increase of more than 50% in total annual planned giving. We anticipate a small deficit this year of around £6,000-£7,000, a position that we know cannot continue in perpetuity, given our restricted funds are by their nature not infinite and legacies, several of which we are blessed to have received in recent years, are not regular sources of income. In addition to increasing income, we also recognise that reducing expenditure where possible is a necessity. Utility costs are considerable for St Bart's, something that we hope will be addressed, at least in part, through our work as a Net Zero Demonstrator Church (see more details below).

We are fortunate to employ a **Parish Administrator** for twelve hours a week. They assist greatly in the administration of the parish, especially with regards to booking enquires and the maintenance of the fabric of the building.

Below are details from the Accounts presented to the APCM in 2024:

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total Funds	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
Note		£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources						
Donations and legacies	2a	66,094.11	1,079.92	-	67,174.03	84,591.95
Charitable activities	2b	656.00	-	-	656.00	902.00
Other trading activities	2c	49,753.97	-	-	49,753.97	27,774.13
Investments	2d	15,247.09	10,737.15	-	25,984.24	17,541.20
Other receipts	2e	-	5,491.00	-	5,491.00	10,575.00
Total incoming resources		131,751.17	17,308.07	-	149,059.24	141,384.28
Resources expended						
Cost of raising funds	3a	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of charitable activities	3b	147,059.93	30,102.94	-	177,162.87	153,538.37
Cost of other trading activities	3c	589.30	-	-	589.30	2,755.83
Total resources expended		147,649.23	30,102.94	-	177,752.17	156,294.20
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		(15,898.06)	(12,794.87)	-	(28,692.93)	(14,909.92)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
on investment assets		-	7,175.41	5,209.38	12,384.79	(35,790.30)
Net movement in funds		(15,898.06)	(5,619.46)	5,209.38	(16,308.14)	(50,700.22)
Total funds brought forward						
at 1 January 2023		226,471.49	267,939.08	172,974.51	667,385.08	718,085.30
Total funds carried forward						
at 31 December 2023		210,573.43	262,319.62	178,183.89	651,076.94	667,385.08

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	6	10,346.08	-
Investments	7	355,061.99	342,677.20
Total fixed assets		365,408.07	342,677.20
Current assets			
Stock		-	-
Debtors	9	29,310.79	5,560.43
Moneys on loan		-	-
Short term deposits		240,994.08	284,372.91
Cash at bank and in hand		17,422.97	37,307.62
		287,727.84	327,240.96
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(2,058.97)	2,533.08
Net current assets		285,668.87	324,707.88
Total assets less current liabilities		651,076.94	667,385.08
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	10	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		651,076.94	667,385.08
Funds	8		
Endowment funds	11	178,183.89	172,974.51
Restricted funds	11	262,319.62	267,939.08
Unrestricted funds	11	210,573.43	226,471.49
		651,076.94	667,385.08

Incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	2022 £
Planned giving (excl tax refunds)	23,490.48	-	-	23,490.48	17,743.00
Planned giving (no tax refunds)	1,045.00	-	-	1,045.00	-
Loose cash collections	6,410.83	-	-	6,410.83	5,720.26
Other donations / boxes	15,160.54	921.13	-	16,081.67	29,734.77
Gift Aid recovered	9,099.60	158.79	-	9,258.39	9,957.95
Legacies	-	-	-	-	20,000.00
Grants	10,887.66	-	-	10,887.66	1,435.97
2a Donations and legacies	66,094.11	1,079.92	-	67,174.03	84,591.95
Fees for weddings & funerals	656.00	-	-	656.00	902.00
2b Charitable activities	656.00	-	-	656.00	902.00
Coffee and refreshments	80.33	-	-	80.33	70.86
Raffles	57.00	-	-	57.00	-
Church lettings	16,333.37	-	-	16,333.37	22,278.27
Insurance claims	33,283.27	-	-	33,283.27	5,425.00
2c Other trading activities	49,753.97	-	-	49,753.97	27,774.13
Investment dividends	5,733.79	8,303.96	-	14,037.75	13,869.45
Bank & COIF deposit interest	9,513.30	2,433.19	-	11,946.49	3,671.75
2d Investments	15,247.09	10,737.15	-	25,984.24	17,541.20
Other receipts	-	5,491.00	-	5,491.00	10,575.00
2e Other receipts	-	5,491.00	-	5,491.00	10,575.00
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	131,751.17	17,308.07	-	149,059.24	141,384.28

Resources expended

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	2022 £
Stewardship costs	-	-	-	-	-
3a Cost of raising funds	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable grants and donations	612.15	1,064.75	-	1,676.90	7,442.94
Diocesan parish contribution	39,400.00	-	-	39,400.00	43,973.00
Salaries and honoraria	6,666.62	18,186.29	-	24,852.91	22,184.91
Parochial ministry costs	2,114.40	-	-	2,114.40	3,172.27
Vicarage council tax and water	3,658.26	-	-	3,658.26	3,699.05
Water, Gas, Electricity	13,602.59	-	-	13,602.59	13,659.89
Printing and photocopying	2,605.19	-	-	2,605.19	2,567.26
Other regular church running costs	14,214.27	-	-	14,214.27	5,653.46
Church maintenance	52,768.85	190.00	-	52,958.85	31,025.31
Upkeep of services	3,140.58	10,661.90	-	13,802.48	12,888.72
Examiner's fee	1,380.00	-	-	1,380.00	1,068.00
Church insurance	6,647.99	-	-	6,647.99	6,043.59
Bank charges	151.75	-	-	151.75	159.97
Depreciation	97.28	-	-	97.28	-
3b Cost of charitable activities	147,059.93	30,102.94	-	177,162.87	153,538.37
Concert costs	589.30	-	-	589.30	2,755.83
3c Cost of other trading activities	589.30	-	-	589.30	2,755.83
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	147,649.23	30,102.94	-	177,752.17	156,294.20

	Bal b/fwd 1 Jan 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Bal c/fwd 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Fund					
General fund	226,471.49	131,751.17	(147,649.23)	-	210,573.43
	<u>226,471.49</u>	<u>131,751.17</u>	<u>(147,649.23)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>210,573.43</u>
Restricted Fund					
Flowers Fund	196.08	234.92	(431.00)	-	-
Christmas Gifts income	11,047.21	528.93	-	-	11,576.14
Neville Trust income	9,580.50	589.48	(654.75)	-	9,515.23
Kelly Charity income	243.86	27.25	-	-	271.11
Lady Chapel Fund (Income)	5,731.57	357.15	-	-	6,088.72
Lady Chapel Fund (Capital)	11,942.29	-	-	1,123.57	13,065.86
Trumpets & Drums (Capital)	16,827.68	-	-	1,583.21	18,410.89
Trumpets & Drums (Income)	1,284.83	503.26	(375.00)	-	1,413.09
Lace Albs	2,000.00	-	(2,000.00)	-	-
The Patterson Fund	201,978.20	8,731.08	(20,651.19)	4,468.63	194,526.72
Organ Fund	6,936.28	-	(190.00)	-	6,746.28
Walsingham Pilgrimage	(320.00)	5,491.00	(5,391.00)	-	(220.00)
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	490.58	845.00	(410.00)	-	925.58
	<u>267,939.08</u>	<u>17,308.07</u>	<u>(30,102.94)</u>	<u>7,175.41</u>	<u>262,319.62</u>
Endowment Fund					
Shaw Bequest	131,779.05	-	-	1,491.06	133,270.11
Pegram Legacy	2,935.31	-	-	163.79	3,099.10
Christmas Gifts Fund	17,686.16	-	-	1,663.98	19,350.14
Neville Trust for the Poor	19,665.24	-	-	1,807.05	21,472.29
Kelly Charity	908.75	-	-	83.50	992.25
	<u>172,974.51</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,209.38</u>	<u>178,183.89</u>
Total funds	<u>667,385.08</u>	<u>149,059.24</u>	<u>(177,752.17)</u>	<u>12,384.79</u>	<u>651,076.94</u>

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Development of our worshipping life

Together with our sister parish of St Paul's, we seek to draw more people into the life of the Church. We are open to the offering of worship at new times, especially on a Saturday and/or Sunday evening, potentially with a particular appeal to **young people**, many of whom live in our parish, given the college and university sites.



Deepening of our Christian formation

Grounded on the celebration of the Mass, we look to our new priest to lead us in deepening our ongoing formation as disciples of Jesus Christ. We are open to additional devotions, Holy Hours, teaching courses and more to help us grow as Christians and, in particular, in our confidence in proclaiming the Good News.

Renewal of our building

This is a primary focus. In light of the **feasibility study** commissioned by the PCC, the Churches Conservation Trust highlighted to us a number of areas and options for the upgrading of facilities like toilet provision, fire escapes, welcome



areas, signage and storage spaces. This is designed to secure the long-term viability of St Bart's by enabling greater use of our building by charities, community groups and

commercial enterprises as well as by our worshipping community. Our aspiration is for St Bart's to continue to be a vibrant place of Christian witness and worship and, in addition, become a hub of artistic, cultural and musical excellence. All of this would be



entirely in line with the vision of our founder, Fr Arthur Douglas Wagner, who was a notable patron of the arts, as witnessed by our unique church, with part of his vision being to use the arts to stimulate the imagination.



Options to completely renovate **the north end** of the site (the area behind the high altar that presently comprises the sacristy, some offices and a rarely-used parish room) include the installation of a number of residential pods/units that could be rented out (potentially in collaboration with a local housing charity), thereby bringing a significant income stream to the church. The PCC has so far agreed to continue exploration of development at the north end.

Alongside this, St Bart's is currently in the exciting and innovative process of being a **Net Zero Demonstrator Church**, and so is playing a leading part in the national Church's desire for



**Net Zero
Carbon
2030**

all churches to have reached carbon net zero by 2030. With funding from the national Church, St Bart's can both improve our heating system in an environmentally-friendly way and reduce expenditure on what is a costly endeavour to heat a building as large as St Bart's.

All of this potential renewal of the building must be done together with the day-to-day demands of keeping a building as large (and tall) as St Bart's in safe working order. We have sought to action the most urgent items identified by our most recent Quinquennial Inspection (2021), such as the replacing of loose and degraded tiles on the floor and the removal of foliage from the liturgical south and west walls, in addition to work like the upgrading of our sound system that has proven to be very beneficial. Given the size, especially the height, of our building, often the problem is not necessarily the cost of repair but the cost of access to the areas concerned.

We are also keen to see our church **open for longer** in the week, so that more people have the opportunity to visit and behold the beauty and majesty of our building. Forging links with community groups, especially those related to tourism and the history of Brighton, could bear fruit and help to provide the manpower needed to have the church open for longer than at present.

Work with children, families and young people

As we think about worship that could be tailored to these groups, we are aware of the imperative to consider our mission in this respect. This is especially pertinent in the light of the closure of our church school, which will sadly take effect in December 2024. Work with children, families and young people is a significant area of focus on our parish's current Mission Action Plan and one that we wish to prioritise in the years ahead.

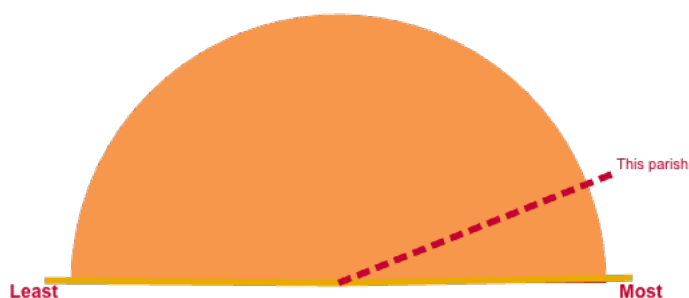
THE PARISH OF ST PAUL'S

As has already been said, the parish of St Paul's is relatively small, both in terms of territory and population. The flow of people through the parish, however, is significant. A large number of visitors stay in the hotels located within the parish and many people pass the church each year to get from the city's main railway station to the beach.

As a result of the church's location, most worshippers live outside of the bounds of the parish; many live elsewhere in Brighton as well as in Hove, with some travelling in from further afield. Given the journeys involved for many in the worshipping community, commitment to St Paul's is strong, with many speaking of the powerful sense of a 'church family' here.



Population: 2422

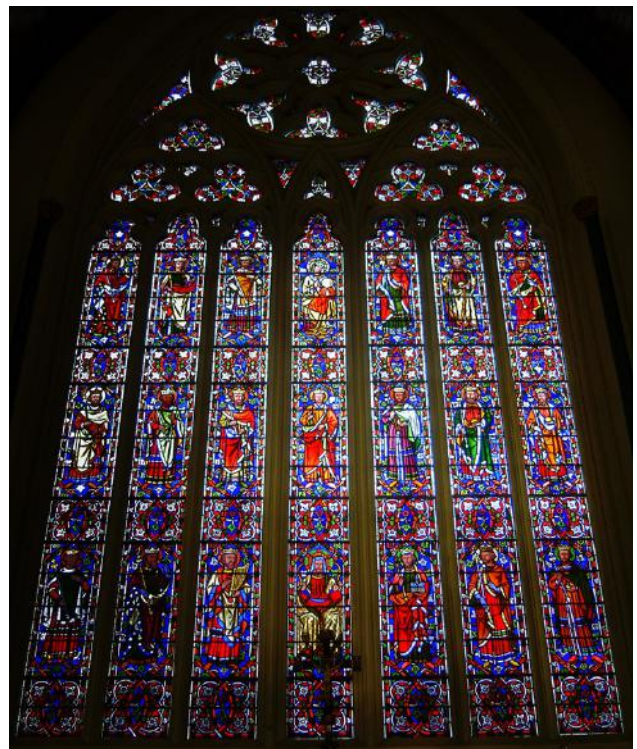


St Paul's has a very small residential population, given its proximity to the seafront and the prevalence of leisure and retail amenities within the parish. The parish is ranked 1,471 out of 12,239 parishes in total for deprivation (see left).

THE CHURCH BUILDING



St Paul's is a beautiful and important example of the **Gothic revival** in art and architecture of the mid-nineteenth century. Our church is unique in the Church of England for having a complete set of stained-glass windows by the legendary **A. W. N. Pugin**, foremost among them being the church's stunning east window.



St Paul's is a **Grade II*** listed building. The architect was Richard Cromwell Carpenter. The building was opened in 1848 and consecrated in 1849. Alterations made in 1861 include the construction of a **narthex** at the western end, additions to the rood screen between the chancel and the nave, and a reredos designed by Edward Burne-Jones. A covered way (**'the cloister'**) leading to the west end was originally constructed by Gothic revivalist George Frederick Bodley and then remodelled by John Leopold Denman in 1937. In 1873 Fr Arthur Douglas Wagner spent more than £4,100 on a tower and bells for the church, which had lacked either a tower or a spire until that time. The church was reordered to include a nave altar in 1978. The pulpit and lectern swapped positions and the shrine of Our Lady was relocated.

LIFE AT ST PAUL'S

Our sacramental life

The Mass is at the centre of our life at St Paul's. The **Sunday Mass**, celebrated at 11.00am, is the bedrock of our week, enriched by beautiful vestments and high-quality music, led by our organist and voluntary choir. On average, we have 45-55 adults at Mass on Sundays. (The Electoral Roll



currently stands at 70). The Mass is celebrated daily across our parish and that of St Bart's. At St Paul's, the Mass is currently celebrated at 11.30am on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Like those at St Bart's, the weekday Masses are well-attended, especially the Wednesday Mass, which can often attract 20 worshippers. The Mass is celebrated according to the rite of the Universal Church.

Stations of the Cross are prayed once a week in Lent. **Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament** are offered on Corpus Christi Sunday and Christ the King and sometimes at other times in the year, including in recent years once a week during the season of **Advent**.

Ten or so times a year, we gather with brothers and sisters in the **Brighton and Hove Wagner Group** (St Bart's, St Paul's, St Martin's, St Michael's and St Barnabas', Hove) for Solemn Mass on some of the principal feast days. A number of regular worshippers at St Paul's show particular commitment to attending these Masses, helping to express our identity as Anglo-Catholics across the city.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is offered before and after any Mass, with set times advertised in the seasons of Advent and Lent.

The frequency of the **occasional offices** is, sadly, few and far between, not least because, even more so than with St Bart's, the number of souls living within the bounds of the parish is so low.

Christian formation

Study courses are offered every **Advent** and **Lent**, attracting a good number of people. Many in our worshipping community would appreciate further opportunities for growth in the faith.

Each year a number of worshippers from St Paul's join with brothers and sisters from across the Wagner Group on pilgrimage to **the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham**.

Use of the building

It is fair to say that the building is not as fully utilised as it can and should be. Whilst we host rehearsals for BREMF (Brighton Early Music Festival) and a few other events through the year, we are committed to maximising the hire of our building, not only from a financial perspective but also to enable more people to appreciate the beauty of St Paul's.

We have recently relaunched the effort of having the church open for several hours every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. We would very much like to offer people more opportunities to visit our church, a true place of tranquillity amidst the hustle and bustle of our part of the city.

Like our brothers and sisters at St Bart's, we seek to be people of generosity, particularly towards those in need, and so, in addition to collections through the year for our food bank and other charities, we have held very worthwhile events like a **Macmillan Coffee Afternoon** each September.



Given our location at the heart of Brighton's 'party' scene, our building is used every Friday and Saturday night by **Safe Space**, who, with **Street Pastors**, seek to help any in need in place of the already-stretched emergency services. This partnership is one we deeply value and would like to deepen going forward.

The **Wagner Hall**, which is located a stone's throw from the church building, offers the potential for greater community engagement and involvement.

School

St Paul's is blessed to have a Church of England primary school, although the school is actually located within the parish of St Nicholas', Brighton. Our clergy share the leadership of collective worship, including School Masses, with those at St Nick's and also St Michael's.

St Paul's has representation on the school's Governing Body and opportunities are very much there for our new priest to be engaged fully in the life of the school, including as an ex officio governor.



Finances

Our financial position is, and has been for a number of years, challenging. St Paul's continues to spend more than we receive. This year, we anticipate a deficit of around £13,000, only down a little from the £16,000 deficit made in 2023. We are not without hope, however. A Stewardship Campaign, which was held earlier in 2024, resulted in annual giving rising by almost £8,000, demonstrating the willingness of our community to be generous and respond to the real need to increase income. With continued commitment from individuals and greater income from hires, we hope, with our new priest's leadership, to put St Paul's on a more sustainable financial footing. We are aware that maintaining the fabric of our building, in particular the tower, is demanding and will require significant expenditure. It is imperative, then, that we do all we can to raise money and keep as tight a hold over outgoings as possible.

We have a **Friends of St Paul's** working under the auspices of the PCC that organises a number of events each year that both raise money for the church and engender a sense of fellowship outside of our liturgical life. Such events have included in recent years an annual dinner in church, a quiz night, talks, lectures and musical recitals.

Like our sister parish, we are fortunate to employ a **Parish Administrator** for ten hours a week. They assist greatly in the administration of the parish, especially with regards to booking enquires and the maintenance of the fabric of the building.

Below are details from the Accounts presented to the APCM in 2024:

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PAUL, BRIGHTON

**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	3a	38,160	4,487	-	42,647	31,910
Other trading activities	3b	9,216	-	-	9,216	11,888
Investments	3c	2,153	2	-	2,155	1,756
Other income	3d	122	-	-	122	23
Total received		49,651	4,489	-	54,140	45,577
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	4a	2,418	2,134	-	4,552	2,998
Charitable activities	4b	63,368	2,941	-	66,309	38,139
Other expenditure	4c	198.00	-	-	198.00	178
Total paid		65,984	5,075	-	71,059	41,315
Net income/(net expenditure)		(16,333)	(586)	-	(16,919)	4,262
Transfers between funds					-	-
Net movement in funds		(16,333)	(586)	-	(16,919)	4,262
Bank and deposit accounts at 1 January 2023		(10,388)	183,692	-	173,304	169,042
Bank and deposit accounts at 31 December 2023		(26,721)	183,106	-	156,385	173,304

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PAUL, BRIGHTON

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £
Monetary assets						
Bank current account		(26,721)	97,221		70,500	87,887
CBF deposit accounts			6,741		6,741	6,825
Shawbrook deposit account			79,144		79,144	78,592
	R&P	<u>(26,721)</u>	<u>183,106</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>156,385</u>	<u>173,304</u>
Debtors						
HMRC - Gift Aid recoverable	5	1,478	429		1,907	812
Other debtors		387			387	178
		<u>1,865</u>	<u>429</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,294</u>	<u>990</u>
Investment assets at market value						
1,708 CBF Investment Fund shares	6			38,610	38,610	35,290
564 CBF Fixed Interest Fund shares	7			816	816	773
7,040.65 JP Morgan UK Equity Inc Fund B shares		3,389			3,389	3,040
		<u>3,389</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,426</u>	<u>42,815</u>	<u>39,103</u>
Investment assets at cost						
Liverpool Corporation 3½% Irredeemable Stock		998			998	998
		<u>998</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>998</u>	<u>998</u>
Total assets		<u>(20,469)</u>	<u>183,535</u>	<u>39,426</u>	<u>202,492</u>	<u>214,395</u>
Liabilities						
Utility bills		1,779			1,779	3,182
Other suppliers		376			376	341
Total liabilities		<u>2,155</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,155</u>	<u>3,523</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC which require a faculty for disposal.

3 Analysis of total received

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £
3a Income from donations and legacies						
Planned giving		15,206			15,206	13,891
Collections at services		4,020			4,020	3,586
Gift Aid tax received		4,004			4,004	3,553
Gift Days		2,259			2,259	1,470
Sundry donations and appeals		12,671	4,487		17,158	9,410
		<u>38,160</u>	<u>4,487</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,647</u>	<u>31,910</u>
3b Income from other trading activities						
Church centre receipts for external hire		3,461			3,461	2,747
Candles		959			959	1,092
Events		3,665			3,665	6,645
Fees		556			556	206
Bookstall		575			575	1,198
		<u>9,216</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,216</u>	<u>11,888</u>
3c Income from investments						
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund & Dividends		1,280	2		1,282	1,160
Other interest & dividends		873			873	596
		<u>2,153</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,155</u>	<u>1,756</u>
3d Other receipts						
Other income		122			122	23
		<u>122</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>23</u>
Total received		<u>49,651</u>	<u>4,489</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,140</u>	<u>45,577</u>

4 Analysis of total paid

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £
4a Expenditure on raising funds						
Events		2,207			2,207	2,158
Bookstall		211			211	380
Friends of St Paul			2,134		2,134	460
		<u>2,418</u>	<u>2,134</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,552</u>	<u>2,998</u>
4b Expenditure on charitable activities						
Candles		1,486			1,486	294
Missionary and charitable giving		4			4	-
Parish share to Diocese of Chichester	8	10,870			10,870	10,350
Other clergy costs		5,854			5,854	2,994
Church insurance		8,340			8,340	-
Church running expenses		22,660			22,660	10,017
Church maintenance		8,396	2,509		10,905	2,586
Major project					-	8,516
Upkeep of services		2,439			2,439	690
Flowers			432		432	550
Printing, stationery and administration		3,184			3,184	1,999
Independent examiner's fee		135			135	143
		<u>63,368</u>	<u>2,941</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,309</u>	<u>38,139</u>
4c Other expenditure		198			198	178
Total paid		<u>65,984</u>	<u>5,075</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,059</u>	<u>41,315</u>

5 Gift Aid is recoverable on donations received up to the year end.

6 This investment arose from the Sale of Russell Place. The income is credited to the Diocesan stipends fund to assist with the payment of the incumbent's stipend.

7 The Thomson Trust is a permanent endowment whose origin and purpose is unknown.

8 The Parish share is a payment towards Clergy (stipend, housing, training) costs plus other diocesan and national church costs. This payment represents 27.6% of the full diocesan parish ministry costs.

9 Analysis of restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income either from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; or from donations and grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

	Bal b/fwd 1 Jan 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Bal c/fwd 31 Dec 2023 £
Audrey Patterson Memorial	166,626		854		165,772
Director of music	25				25
Fabric	135				135
Flower	2,253	1,052	432		2,873
Friends of St Paul	5,077	3,435	3,789		4,723
Organ	8,027	2			8,029
Vestment	1,549				1,549
Total monetary assets of restricted funds	<u>183,692</u>	<u>4,489</u>	<u>5,075</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>183,106</u>

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Development of our life of worship and of our Christian formation

As with our sister parish of St Bart's, we look to our new priest to lead us in the development and deepening of our life of prayer and worship. This may include the addition of new devotions and liturgies to our weekly schedule, perhaps over the weekend, in order to draw more people into the life of the Church. Courses and opportunities to deepen our faith and encourage us to be confident disciples of Christ would be very welcome.



Renewal and renovation of our building

As at St Bart's, this is a key focus. For us at St Paul's, though, there is the immediate requirement that our building needs to be made secure in the here and now, especially our **tower**. Work has begun on the removal of pigeon guano from the upper levels of the tower, which will make possible a thorough inspection of the structure. This was identified in our most recent Quinquennial Inspection (2023) as an issue of the greatest urgency. We have also sought to action other pressing items mentioned by our architect, such as repairs to various gutters and parts of our roof, together with work like the upgrading of our sound system and improvements to signage that have proven to be very beneficial. Our QI states that 'Putting the pigeons to one side, the main concern with this church remains the exterior. The main roof slopes are in generally good order, benefitting from the reslating in the 1960s, and the problem roofs remain the slated slopes and associated lead gutters to the west end of the cloister, and the

slated slopes to the ancillary spaces north of the north rooms. Other roofs need attention – mainly to the lead guttering around – but the need is less. The church walls are on the whole robustly constructed, but there are problems with the flint facing and with the stonework. Fortunately, there are few areas where at present the damage is structural or will let in the weather. The boiler installation has been replaced. Some of the electrical installation has been upgraded, some parts are old and require improvement, particularly the lighting, which would also reduce the energy usage. While desirable, this remains of lesser importance to the external and tower repairs. The interior of the church is in generally good order.’

We are also aware that to make our building a more attractive venue for recitals, concerts and other events, our existing welcome, kitchen and toilet facilities should be upgraded, something our architect described in the most recent QI as desirable. We would look to our new priest to lead us in imagining how the current narthex, Fishermen’s Vestry and kitchen area could be enhanced.

Deepening of our life of fellowship

We are blessed at St Paul’s to hold a number of parish lunches through the year, together with events organised by our Friends group. However, we are aware that many of these require a few committed people to expend significant energy and time. We would, therefore, work enthusiastically with our new priest to deepen the fellowship that we already enjoy as a church family by hosting a wider range of events than at present that draw into our building people who are not (yet, anyway) part of our worshipping community.

Greater engagement with local businesses

Our parish has, as has been noted, a low residential population, but we do have many businesses, especially in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors. We would very much like our church to be engaged with as many of these businesses as possible, perhaps through an annual Christmas Tree Festival or through publicity about our services featuring in hotel lobby rooms and the like. As part

of our building of relationships with local businesses (as well as our desire to increase use of our building), we are conscious that our church's website needs to be significantly updated and refreshed.

Strengthened links with our church school

Whilst we acknowledge that our school is not located within our parish and that two other churches share in its life, we believe that strengthened links between St Paul's Church and St Paul's School are very much possible and would enrich our life as a parish. In addition to encouraging our new priest to involve himself with the worship offered at the school and its governance, as his predecessors have done, we would support him in forging new opportunities for children to visit our building and for our church to be more visible in the life of the school.

OUR NEW PRIEST



As we pray for a new priest to lead us in **our life of worship**, from which flows our work of mission and evangelism, we offer him our wholehearted determination to more fully know, love and follow Jesus Christ. Notwithstanding the challenges we face, we look to the future with confidence, trusting that the faithful work of our forebears will continue to enthuse and inspire us.

Above all, we look to our new priest to be someone who shares this confidence in the work of God, most assuredly in **the celebration of the seven sacraments**. From the beginnings of our parishes, the prayerful and reverential celebration of **the Mass**, in accordance with the customs and ritual of the Universal Church, has been at the centre of all things. From our encounter with Christ at the altar comes the grace to live and serve as his disciples.

In our new priest, then, we look for someone who, through his **sacramental ministry, preaching, teaching and pastoral care of us**, will build us up to more fully be the Body of Christ in those places where we live and work.

As we seek to be who Christ calls us to be, we pray for a priest who will **work collaboratively** across and within our parishes. We look for a priest who will lead us in strengthening the bonds that already unite us, whilst also exploring new ways of fostering links across the parishes.

We rejoice in the many gifts present in our worshipping communities and so we pray for a priest who will **encourage and nurture these gifts** to be more fully used in confident and joyful proclamation of the Gospel.

AND FROM US?

- We at St Bart's and St Paul's will pray for our new priest.
- We will appreciate and respect the sacramental ministry he will exercise, knowing that through it we are built up as members of the Body of Christ.
- We will show love to those who are loved by our priest, knowing that to serve us, it is important he is cared for and supported.
- We will work collaboratively with our priest, together with our churchwardens, officers and all who volunteer in our churches.
- We will encourage and support him to play a full and active part in the life of our Deanery and Diocese as well as in endeavours that help to further the Catholic faith more widely.
- We will work proactively to assist him in the ministry of God in our parishes by the generous use of our time, talents and money.
- We will encourage him to exercise care of self, to take time for personal reflection and development and to engage in studies that help him grow in faith.

THE VICARAGE

At present, the incumbent of our two parishes lives in 9 Russell Place, a building joined internally to St Paul's. The walk to St Bart's through the city centre is only fifteen minutes or so. The Clergy House is a six-bedroom property, with scope for some of it to be used as a self-contained one-bedroom flat.

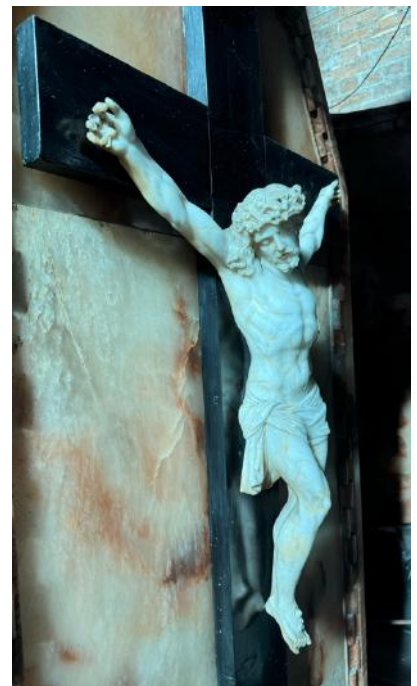
It is important to say that there is the possibility that our new priest may live in another property in the city. Whilst our former incumbent enjoyed living in this property, the Diocese and our two parishes recognise that its location in the heart of the city may present challenges or be undesirable for our new priest.



FROM THE CRIB



TO THE CROSS



TO THE RESURRECTION LIFE



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