

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council of Wombourne

For the year ended 31st December 2024
Charity registration number: 1128061

The Parochial Church Council of Wombourne
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024
Charity registration number (if applicable): 1128061

Objectives and Activities

The trustees of the PCC are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wombourne it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers; and
- Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Wombourne. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

Achievements and Performance

The PCC is committed through its Mission Statement and action planning to maintaining the churches of St Benedict Biscop and the Venerable Bede as places fit for worship and providing outreach to the local community. The health and future growth of the charity relies on supporters and volunteers and their contribution is key to the deliverability of the charity's objectives both now and in the future.

Financial Review

The PCC agreed a budget for 2024 where unrestricted income and expenditure were broadly in balance. It became apparent in early 2024 that financial pressures impacting the budget meant a break even was unlikely with a potential for a significant deficit at the year end. The financial situation improved, however, when the Rector was appointed in an additional capacity as Acting Archdeacon for Walsall on a job share basis with the Rector for St Matthews in Walsall. This resulted in the Diocese reducing the PCC's Common Fund request by £11,044 for the year. Fundraising, fee income, and Bede hire income were also above expectations at the year end. At the end of 2024 actual unrestricted income was £156,220 (£153,183 in 2023) and unrestricted expenditure £147,701 (£157,173 in 2023) leading to an increase in the level of unrestricted resources of £8,519 compared to the previous year. The financial position at

the end of 2024, in respect of unrestricted funds, was therefore above the expectations of the PCC as set out in the original budget.

The level of unrestricted income increased by £3,037 compared to the previous year whilst the level of unrestricted expenditure decreased by £9,472. The reduction in the Common Fund request is a material factor in the reduction in overall expenditure.

Despite the increase in income from the previous year unrestricted income in 2024 was below the budgeted figure but this was more than compensated for by the level of unrestricted expenditure which was well below the budgeted figure. The main areas of concern in relation to income were related to regular giving and the associated gift aid tax credit which together are the largest source of income to the PCC and where levels remain below target. Running costs comprising maintenance, cleaning, the Parish Office, gas and electricity were all below budget. The PCC entered into a new two-year fixed price contract for both gas and electricity, at rates that are less than the previous contract, that expires in August 2026 giving the PCC some protection from market volatility. The PCC continues to pro-actively manage energy usage in both churches. The controlling of expenditure below budgeted figures, where possible, is a necessary mitigation to shortfalls in income.

The overall level of funds held by the PCC increased to £119,444 in 2024, up from £103,283 in 2023. Unrestricted funds increased by £8,519 and restricted funds by £7,642.

The PCC was extremely grateful for a significant restricted donation from a Foundation to support the upkeep of St Benedict's and this is reflected in the increase in restricted funds at year end.

Outstanding works which may require the use of restricted funds, where eligible, include the replacement/provision of new stained glass window guards at St Benedict's, the permanent roof repair to the organ chamber/clergy vestry at St Benedict's, and repairs to the roof above the kitchen at the Bede before subsequent kitchen ceiling replacement and redecoration.

Despite the positive financial outcome for 2024 the next financial year will be challenging with significant falls in fee income, due to very few wedding bookings, and fund raising, where no Flower Festival will be held. The Common Fund request is also expected to return to its full amount. To reflect these challenges and in recognition that regular giving levels have fallen in recent years a Generosity/Stewardship campaign was held, in October, to help in addressing the financial situation in 2025. The PCC is very grateful for the ongoing positive support and commitment of the congregation, new and old, through regular giving and for the response to the campaign and fundraising activities.

The PCC has also seen the use in St Benedict's of QR codes since June and a card reader since early December, to cater for donors who do not readily carry cash or prefer to donate digitally. In 2024, £787 was received by these methods.

Income and expenditure levels need to be monitored and reviewed by the PCC in 2025 and action taken, to ensure that clearly identifiable financial pressures are managed and appropriate actions taken.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance of free reserves (net current assets) which equates to a minimum figure of £25,000. Reserves are held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies and/or other needs for funds. It is PCC policy to invest restricted funding for major appeals in separate bank accounts prescribed for this purpose. This policy was last reviewed and approved by the PCC on the 4 December 2023.

At the end of 2024 free reserves represented by the value of unrestricted net current assets were £40,954 and consequently above the minimum level set in the Policy. This is an increase of £8,519 from the previous year.

The level of reserves rose in 2024 which reversed the trend of the previous two years.

The PCC will need to continue to monitor this Reserves Policy in 2025 to ensure that financial risks are effectively managed.

Safeguarding

The PCC believe they have fulfilled their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Fundraising

The PCC takes its fundraising responsibilities seriously and is very grateful to all donors – whether regular or occasional – for their support of the church and church events. PCC supporters are never taken for granted. The PCC take full responsibility for fundraising and do not use commercial organisations or professional fundraisers. All money raised is either by donations, fundraising events, special appeals or legacies for which the PCC are most grateful.

Volunteers

The PCC is dependent on the significant number of people from the local community involved in church activities. The number of active volunteers and the time that they give to the mission and ministry of the church is a key component of the health and sustainability of the church. The service provided through church volunteering impacts positively on people's relationship to the church and to each other. The PCC greatly values the time and skills generously provided by volunteers in support of the church and the charity's aims and objectives.

Review of the Year

Rev'd Preb Julia Cody writes:

2024 was my first full year of ministry as your Team Rector and it has been a genuine blessing to me and I first want to say a sincere thank you to the entire church family for making me so welcome. It has been great to begin to get to know you individually and as a church community. Back in February I invited people to a Saturday morning, "Telling the Story". This was an opportunity for anyone to share recollections of highs, and lows, from your life as a church community. It was a lovely time together and one way of helping me hear. The morning happened to coincide with the installation of the updated Incumbent's Board, adding my name to a list going back to 1298, telling one part of the story.

In May, Bishop Michael asked me to serve as one of two Acting Archdeacons of Walsall, and wrote to the PCC to thank them for their support for me with this additional role. Later, as a way of showing his appreciation, Bishop Michael visited to preside and preach on a Sunday.

I am extremely grateful to all who have served in myriad ways, often unseen, covering so many elements of our life together. Particular mention must be made for the hard work of both the outgoing and incoming Churchwardens: Hilary Moore & Joan Parker; and Carol Porter & Simon Keeling respectively. I am also very thankful for the ongoing and faithful hard work of the PCC Treasurer, Martin Garrington, and Secretary, Shirley Wall; other members of the Standing Committee; as well as the wider PCC. Additionally I am thankful for the support of

the Ministry Team comprising: Team Vicar, the Rev'd Richard Fisher; Licensed Lay Ministers: William Cole and Laurie Gainer; Children's Worker, Sarah Mullen; and Administrator, Maxine Banner. Thank you also to Rev'ds Sue Watson and Elaine Dejonge.

The PCC have continued to meet throughout the year, overseeing all areas of church life, including the crucial matters of finance, fabric, safeguarding and mission. Thank you to Tess Guest and Susan Epton, our two Safeguarding Officers who ensure we keep up-to-date with training and requirements in this crucial area, as well as DBS checks.

In May, for the first time, the PCC had an 'Away Day', meeting at St Peter's, Kinver for a long morning including worship and exploring what it might be that God is calling us to do, followed by lunch together. The PCC have discussed all matters of our church family life, as well as reports from the Joint Council of our Smestow Vale Team, Trysull Deanery Synod and Churches Together in Wombourne.

Worship continues to lie at the heart of our life together through our regular pattern of services including: two Sunday morning Eucharists; midweek services at St Benedict Biscop and The Bede; morning prayer every day; monthly Evensong and Taizé prayer evenings. I am again extremely grateful for the small army of people who serve in so many ways to support our regular acts of worship. Particular thanks go to the choir, our organists and the bell ringers.

Through the course of the year there have been additional special services at Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas. These have been supplemented with some new additions, as we seek to develop our worship and engage further with our wider community. These included:

- Lent Course, run at two different times, exploring the Bible;
- special Palm Sunday evening service of Compline and the reading of the Passion Gospel;
- Community Songs of Praise to close the Flower Festival;
- Civic Service to mark the beginning of Cllr Dan Kinsey's year chairing South Staffs District Council;
- marking the Season of Creation;
- Harvest Songs of Praise service, with the St Benedict's School Choir, and a guest speaker from Project Gambia who received Christmas shoeboxes donated by members of the congregation, local schools and others;
- Pet Service where we welcomed many from the village, plus lots of dogs, 1 cat, 1 rat, and 2 tortoises!;
- an additional Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on 11th November at 11am;
- the first of three terms of the Living Faith Course (the replacement Bishop's Certificate);
- three advent reflection evenings;
- a Quiet Christmas service for those who find Christmas hard;
- candlelit Beer & Carols at The Old Bush, due to a power-cut!

Our ministry supporting people at key times in their lives has continued, through baptisms, weddings and funerals. I have enjoyed meeting with wedding couples and preparing families of babies, as well as older children and adults for baptism. Bishop Michael took a service of Confirmation at St Benedict's, confirming 7 members of the church family, and baptising two of them. My thanks to Rev'd Sue Watson for leading the Confirmation Preparation course. It has also been a privilege to support families through bereavement, and very sadly, this includes families of much-loved members of our church family who have died this year. The Annual All Souls Day Service continues to be of help to bereaved families.

My thanks to Carol Porter for leading our wonderful Pastoral Team who visit and take Holy Communion to people at home; and lead services at Brunel Court and Maywood House. Towards the end of the year, Carol and I visited Bridge Manor, taking Holy Communion to certain residents, as we began exploring a regular service. The emergency prayer request team was re-started, offering immediate prayer support.

The Social Committee has continued to work hard providing regular Thursday lunches which are extremely popular; as well as a huge amount of work at the Flower Festival with canapés,

lunches and a fund-raising afternoon tea; and other one-off events, including our expanding involvement in the Wombourne Light Switch-On.

One of the many highlights of 2024 was the wonderful Flower Festival. The church looked stunning and all the events of the weekend were incredibly well organised and supported. Huge thanks to Chris Welch and all involved, and for the extremely welcome funds raised. Once again the annual Music Festival was also a great success with a range of musical offerings, including schools concerts, and also contributed greatly to our fund-raising. Thank you to Nigel Welch and the Music Festival Committee.

There were other fund-raising events through the year, including the Advent Fayre, with thanks to Christine Crathorne and all those involved. One of the most significant ways we raise money is through the Grapevine Magazine. Grapevine has been through significant changes this year as we said a huge thank you to Olly Cadman, who stepped down after many years not only editing but doing a vast amount of work on the magazine. There were some challenges as a new editor was sought. Initially Elizabeth Keeling stepped in and produced two wonderful editions, giving it a fresh look whilst keeping the essence of this publication. Due to competing work demands, Elizabeth stepped down and Kate and Simon Keeling are now co-editing with the support of faithful committee members. Thank you to all involved, especially for keeping going through what was a somewhat unsettling time.

As well as raising money, we give it away! Our Cheerful Givers group have prayerfully recommended a mix of charities to support as we continue to give away a percentage of our income. Huge thanks go to Martin Garrington and the finance team, for clear budget setting and financial updates through the year. In a largely cashless society, we have been able to broaden our ability to receive donations first through the use of a QR code and, just before Christmas, with the addition of wifi, a contactless card reader.

At the end of September we ran a Generosity Campaign, seeking to help our church family better to understand our financial situation and invite all, prayerfully, to review their giving. Thank you to those who helped with this campaign. The PCC and I do appreciate that we continue to live in challenging times and so are extremely grateful for those who faithfully continue to give, and to those who have been able to start or increase their giving.

It has been wonderful to become more familiar with the different aspects of Sarah's work with children as she continues to run Little Fish, Sunday Club, Messy Church, the Christian Club at St Benedict's School, workshops through the year, and one-off visits by schools and to different schools. She also leads the wonderful Open the Book Team who now go into 6 schools across the Team. Following my visit to the Headteacher, this year we have also begun a relationship with Cherry Trees School, which Sarah is developing.

In relation to schools, I have really enjoyed my regular Friday mornings leading collective worship at St Benedict's, as well as occasional assemblies at both Blakeley Heath and Westfield Primary Schools. Myself, Chris Welch and Rachel Mountford serve as Governors at St Benedict's and seek to support the school, including through the very successful SIAMS inspection this year.

So many people comment on how welcoming and lovely St Benedict's is, and the many hirers of The Bede appreciate this space too. Maintaining these buildings is no small feat, and I am so grateful to David Crathorne and the members of the Fabric and Health & Safety committee for the never-ending work involved.

I also want to thank Maxine, our Parish Administrator, whose hard work often goes unnoticed, yet underpins most areas of our church life, helping things run smoothly in myriad ways. This includes helping to ensure the wider community knows what's going on through posters, our website, and social media posts, as we seek to reach out with God's love and welcome to all.

It's wonderful to look back and review such a blessed and full year, yet the risk is that I will inevitably have forgotten something and to thank someone, for which I apologise. I am extremely grateful for this amazing year and every single person in our church family. Thank you for being you. May we journey on together and see how God leads us forward.

Risk Management

PCC has a Risk Management Policy which was adopted on 30 October 2017, a Health & Safety Policy that was reviewed and adopted on 24 June 2019 and has Risk Assessments that support its Health & Safety Policy and activities. PCC confirms that the major risks to which it may be exposed as identified by the trustees, have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks. The PCC holds insurance policies in respect of its buildings and contents with Liability Cover for employees, volunteers and visitors. The Insurer is the Ecclesiastical Group.

The Risk Management Policy needs to be reviewed in 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a Body Corporate established by the Church of England (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission. The PCC is governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended that came into effect on 2nd January 1957, and the Church Representation Rules.

The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, 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 PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The PCC met 10 times during the year. Given its responsibilities, the PCC has a number of sub committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These include Standing, Finance, Fabric and Health and Safety, Pastoral, Cheerful Givers, Social, Grapevine and Youth Work. Each reports back to the PCC.

Related Parties

Disclosures related to Trustees and related parties are included in the notes to the financial statements.

Reference and Administrative details

The Church is situated in Church Road, Wombourne WV5 9EZ and is part of the Deanery of Trysull in the Diocese of Lichfield. The correspondence address is - The Parish Office, Hand in Hand, Wombourne Institute, Church Road, Wombourne WV5 9EZ. Registered charity number 1128061. Our website address is: www.stbenedictbiscop.org.uk

Members who have served from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved were:

Ex Officio Members **Team Rector**

The Revd Julia Cody (Chairman) – from September 2023

Reader
Churchwarden
Churchwarden
Churchwarden
Churchwarden
Treasurer/Deanery Synod Rep
Secretary/Deanery Synod Rep
Deanery Synod Reps

Elected Members

Mr Laurie Gainer
Mrs Hilary Moore – to 30 April 2024
Mrs Joan Parker – to 30 April 2024
Dr Simon Keeling – from 1 May 2024
Mrs Carol Porter – from 1 May 2024
Mr Martin Garrington
Mrs Shirley Wall
Mrs Anne Freeman
Mrs Teresa Guest
Dr Nigel Welch
Mrs Susan Epton – to April 2024
Mrs Olwyn Grainger – to April 2024
Mrs Pat Roberts – to April 2024
Mr Jamie Hughes – from May 2024
Mrs Hilary Moore – from May 2024
Mrs Rachel Mountford – from May 2024
Mr Richard Green
Mrs Christine Welch
Mr Roy Wootton
Mr Derek Bryant
Mr David Crathorne
Mr Alan Brain
Mrs Susan Hill
Mrs Laura Parry

Names and addresses of advisers.

Bank

Barclays Bank

**Independent
Examiner**

Collin Dalton FCA of Dalton Pardoe Ltd

Approved by the PCC on 6th March 2025
and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Revd Preb Julia Cody (Rector and Chair)

.....
Shirley Wall (Secretary)

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF WOMBOURNE**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

**DALTON PARDOE LTD
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
794 HIGH STREET
KINGSWINFORD
WEST MIDLANDS
DY6 8BQ**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WOMBOURNE

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Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Wombourne

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 2 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

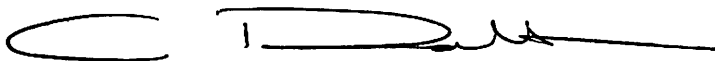
My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act ; or
 - b) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understand of the accounts to be reached.



**Colin Dalton FCA
Dalton Pardoe Ltd
Chartered Accountants
794 High Street
Kingswinford
West Midlands
DY6 8BQ**

24th April 2025

BALANCE SHEET

		Total 2024£)	Total 2023£)
Fixed Assets			
Investment Assets	5(a)	0.00	0.00
Tangible Assets	5(b)	31886.90	33762.60
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	6(a)	90713.02	77355.77
Debtors	6(b)	4637.76	3424.48
Current liabilities			
Liabilities falling due within one year	7	-7793.15	-11259.47
Net Assets		119444.53	103283.38
PCC Funds			
Unrestricted Funds			
General		40953.83	32434.70
Designated		0.00	0.00
Restricted Funds			
Endowment Funds		78490.70	70848.68
Total Funds		119444.53	103283.38

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on the 6th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

..... (Chair)

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted Funds(£)	Designated Funds(£)	Restricted Funds(£)	Endowments Funds(£)	Total Funds 2024(£)	Total Funds 2023(£)
Income and Endowments							<i>*see note 10 for full comparatives</i>
Donations and Legacies	2a	100731.81		15647.61		116379.42	143922.40
Charitable Activities	2b	31708.61		2406.60		34115.21	25067.42
Other Trading Activities	2c	22768.22		0.00		22768.22	19281.76
Investments	2d	102.21		788.70		890.91	612.95
Other Income	2e	909.00		0.00		909.00	8561.10
Total		156219.85		18842.91		175062.76	197445.63
Expenditure							
Raising Funds	3a	1967.64		2600.38		4568.02	1894.00
Charitable Activities	3b	144497.71		8420.47		152918.18	198427.28
Other Expenditure	3c	1235.37		180.04		1415.41	1846.97
Total		147700.72		11200.89		158901.61	202168.25
Net gain/losses on investment		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Net Income/(Expenditure)		8519.13		7642.02		16161.15	-4722.62
Transfer between Funds		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Net Movements in Funds		8519.13		7642.02		16161.15	-4722.62
Total Funds brought forward 1st Jan 2024)		32434.70		70848.68		103283.38	108006.00
Total Funds carried forward 31st Dec 2024)		40953.83		78490.70		119444.53	103283.38

Note 1

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102). Reporting provisions for Larger Charities do not apply as the PCC's gross income does not exceed £500,000. It is for this reason that the PCC has not produced a Cash flow statement. The PCC meets the definition of a public benefit charity under FRS 102. No changes to accounting estimates have occurred or material prior year errors identified in this reporting period. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The Financial Statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Description of Funds

The Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restriction regarding their use and are available for the general purposes of the PCC. The Restricted Funds are those donations and grants received by the PCC that have been restricted for a specific purpose and can only be expended for the purpose they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Income and Endowments

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised in the same year as the giving to which it relates. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. Income is accounted for gross except where impracticable as in certain activities of the social committee.

Expenditure

Costs including the Diocesan Common Fund are accounted for when payable. Expenditure is accounted for gross except where impracticable as in certain activities of the social committee.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts by s.10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011. The Church of the Venerable Bede at Giggerty lane Wombourne is not included as a fixed asset in the accounts as it is vested in the Diocesan Trust as Custodian Trustee and the Rector and Church Wardens act as Administrative/Managing Trustees.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. The Church of the Venerable Bede was removed from faculty jurisdiction on the 5th July 2016.

Fixed Assets within the accounts are normally depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Exceptional items are considered individually. A full years depreciation is charged on any assets purchased during the year, irrespective of date of purchase. Fixed assets which are purchased by direct gift are normally depreciated over one year. Exceptional items are considered individually as in the case of the Electronic organ where depreciation rates and methods are disclosed in note 4(e). Fixed assets with a purchase price of £1000 or less are included as expenditure rather than on the balance sheet.

Heritage Assets

The PCC has a number of heritage assets that have been donated in the past. These include silver artefacts not in use of which one item is significant and has been on display at the Barber Institute, silver artefacts in use and a Vinegar Bible. It is unlikely that the PCC would be given faculty consent to dispose of these items and they are consequently not included in the balance sheet.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC are shown as debtors.

Liabilities

Amounts owing by the PCC for expenditure incurred but not yet paid, are shown as creditors. Where goods or services have been received but not yet invoiced and the exact cost is unknown the outstanding charge is estimated and included as a creditor.

Notes to Financial Statements for Year Ended December 2024

Note 2

Income and Endowments from:

		Unrestricted Funds(£)	Designated Funds(£)	Restricted Funds(£)	Endowment Funds(£)	Total Funds 2024(£)	Total Funds 2023(£)
2							
2a							
Donations and Legacies							
<i>Voluntary Income/Receipts</i>							
Tax efficient planned giving		62542.60		99.00		62641.60	62102.25
Other planned giving		4159.50		0.00		4159.50	4678.00
Collections at services		8108.26		3586.57		11694.83	10195.17
All other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals		7315.21		11035.56		18350.77	43550.01
Gift Aid Recovered		18606.24		289.48		18895.72	18599.92
Legacies received		0.00		0.00		0.00	1000.00
Grants		0.00		637.00		637.00	3797.05
Total		100731.81		15647.61		116379.42	143922.40
2b							
Charitable Activities							
<i>Church Activities</i>							
Statutory/local Fees (retained by PCC)		17533.02		1060.00		18593.02	15242.81
Fundraising Activities		14175.59		1346.60		15522.19	9824.61
Total		31708.61		2406.60		34115.21	25067.42
2c							
Other Trading Activities							
<i>Activities for Generating Funds</i>							
Bede hall hire		12959.70		0.00		12959.70	8970.23
Grapevine parish magazine		9187.04		0.00		9187.04	9705.66
Other - printing, books		621.48		0.00		621.48	605.87
Total		22768.22		0.00		22768.22	19281.76
2d							
Investments							
Bank Interest		102.21		788.70		890.91	612.95
Total		102.21		788.70		890.91	612.95
2e							
Other Income		909.00		0.00		909.00	8561.10
Total		909.00		0.00		909.00	8561.10
Total Income and Endowments		156219.85		18842.91		175062.76	197445.63

Note 3

Expenditure			Unrestricted Funds(£)	Designated Funds(£)	Restricted Funds(£)	Endowment Funds(£)	Total Funds 2024(£)	Total Funds 2023(£)
		3						
Raising Funds		3a						
<i>Costs of Generating Income</i>								
Fundraising costs			1967.64		2600.38		4568.02	1894.00
Total			1967.64		2600.38		4568.02	1894.00
Charitable Activities		3b						
<i>Church Activities</i>								
Mission giving and donations			4825.00		4900.04		9725.04	11425.64
Diocesan Common Fund			55218.97		0.00		55218.97	64962.96
Salaries/Wages			35885.43		123.75		36009.18	38857.76
Clergy and Staff Expenses			1609.52		0.00		1609.52	5169.15
<i>Church Expenses</i>								
Church Expenses (Mission and Evangelism)			1336.29		110.00		1446.29	985.05
Church running expenses			26972.39		1010.98		27983.37	36537.45
Church utility bills			12005.40		400.00		12405.40	10082.93
Cost of trading			5996.71		0.00		5996.71	5716.96
<i>Major Expenditure</i>								
Fabric of St Benedicts/Bede			0.00		0.00		0.00	22153.68
Depreciation			0.00		1875.70		1875.70	1875.70
<i>Governance Costs</i>			648.00		0.00		648.00	660.00
Total			144497.71		8420.47		152918.18	198427.28
Other Expenditure		3c	1235.37		180.04		1415.41	1846.97
Total			1235.37		180.04		1415.41	1846.97
Total Expenditure			147700.72		11200.89		158901.61	202168.25

4(a) Staff Costs

2024(£)	2023(£)
36009.18	38857.76

The PCC had two part time employees undertaking the roles of Childrens Worker and Parish Administrator. Self employed persons including retired clergy and musicians are engaged in occasional Church Services. No employee earned more than £60,000 per annum.

4(b) Trustees and Related Parties

The PCC reimburses Trustees for approved out of pocket expenses where Trustees have purchased supplies and services for the direct use and/or benefit of the charity. Eleven Trustees and/or their close relatives received out of pocket expenses, including the incumbent, totalling £6,920. One Trustee received £345 for being the organist on seven occasions and one Trustee received £510 for fees as Verger. The incumbent received mileage payments in the sum of £335

The total amount of donations made by Trustees and their close relatives without conditions was £25,403 which represented 26% of all voluntary giving to the PCC in the year.

A related party to the Rector officiated at a number of funerals/ashes interments and received £1,635 in fees/expenses and with a further estimated £1,236 owing at year end. No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related party.

4(c) Volunteers

In accordance with the Charities SORP(FRS102) general volunteer time of Trustees and others is not recognised in the accounts but the annual report gives more information about the important contribution volunteers make to the work of the PCC.

4(d) Independent Examination

Governance costs represent the provision made for the fee payable to the Independent Examiner

4(e) Further Information

The PCC purchased a new electronic organ at St Benedicts. Restricted funds in the Pople Trust (Trust in name only) were capitalised and the organ is shown as a tangible fixed asset. In accordance with a Guidance Note on Electronic Organs issued by the Church Buildings Council the average life of an electronic organ is estimated to be twenty years and, therefore, the asset is being fully depreciated on a straight line basis over a twenty year period. The charge in these statements is for the third year.

The level of funds in the Pople Trust must remain at a level that is at least equal to the remaining value of the asset in subsequent financial statements.

5(a) Fixed Assets

At Cost or Valuation
As at 1st Jan 2024
Additions in the Year
Disposal in the Year
Revaluation (if any)
Value at 31st Dec 2024

Freehold Buildings(£)	Church Equipment(£)	Total(£)
	115866.08	115866.08
	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00
0.00	115866.08	115866.08

Accumulated Depreciation
As at 1st Jan 2024
Charge for the Year
Disposals
As at 31st Dec 2024

	82103.48	82103.48
	1875.70	1875.70
	0.00	0.00
0.00	83979.18	83979.18

Net Book Value 31st Dec 2024

0.00	31886.90	31886.90
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5(b) Investments None

6(a) Cash at bank and in hand

Wombourne PCC Current Account
Wombourne PCC Deposit Account
Cash in hand
Flower Account
Grapevine Current Account

2024(£)	2023(£)
13926.61	8204.83
67768.11	58577.20
408.60	439.60
0.00	898.29
8609.70	9235.85
90713.02	77355.77

6(b) Debtors

Prepayments and accrued income
Other debtors

2024(£)	2023(£)
712.51	727.68
3925.25	2696.80
4637.76	3424.48

7 Liabilities

Amounts falling due within one year
Accruals of Utilities
Amounts Received in Advance
Common Fund
Other Creditors

2024(£)	2023(£)
2117.97	4150.00
2239.50	4403.48
0.00	0.00
3435.68	2705.99
7793.15	11259.47

8 Analysis of Net Assets

Fixed Assets
Investment Assets
Current Assets
Current Liabilities

General Unrestricted Funds(£)	Designated Funds(£)	Restricted Funds(£)	Endowment Funds(£)	Total(£) 2024
0.00	0.00	31886.90	0.00	31886.90
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
48746.98	0.00	46603.80	0.00	95350.78
-7793.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	-7793.15
40953.83	0.00	78490.70	0.00	119444.53

9 Funds Reconciliation

Unrestricted Funds
Designated Funds
Restricted Funds
1 In memorium
2 Nurturing nature initiative
3 St Benedicts fabric
4 Bede toilet improvement
5 Childrens worker
6 Bell tower rope replacement
7 Pople Trust incl tangible assets
8 Mission giving
9 Flower Festival
10 Rector/churchwarden
11 Church organ/sound/audio
12 Church bell renewal/maint
13 St Benedicts roof repairs
14 Other
Endowment Funds
Total Funds

Reserves at 1 Jan 2024(£)	Incoming Resources(£)	Resources Expended(£)	Investment Gains/Losses(£)	Reserves at 31 Dec 2024(£)
32434.70	156219.85	-147700.72		40953.83
0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
592.50	0.00	-26.00		566.50
144.03	0.00	0.00		144.03
2015.41	8768.31	-447.60		10336.12
0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
0.00	123.75	-123.75		0.00
220.00	0.00	0.00		220.00
49708.97	342.69	-1875.70		48175.96
45.00	4907.04	-4900.04		52.00
1076.71	2099.50	-2600.38		575.83
14699.09	314.70	-110.00		14903.79
984.00	860.00	0.00		1844.00
660.00	200.00	0.00		860.00
83.53	0.00	0.00		83.53
619.44	1226.92	-1117.42		728.94
0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
103283.38	175062.76	-158901.61	0.00	119444.53

10 **SOFA Comparatives****2023****Incoming Resources**

Donations and Legacies

Charitable Activities

Other Trading Activities

Investments

Other

Unrestricted Funds(£)	Designated Funds(£)	Restricted Funds(£)	Endowments Funds(£)	Total Funds(£)
106375.32		37547.08		143922.4
22634.42		2433.00		25067.4
19281.76		0.00		19281.7
70.55		542.40		612.9
4820.90		3740.20		8561.1
153182.95		44262.68		197445.6

Resources Expended

Raising Funds

Charitable Activities

Other

1894.00		0.00		1894.0
153837.35		44589.93		198427.2
1441.97		405.00		1846.9
157173.32		44994.93		202168.2

Net gain/losses on investment

0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Net Income/Expenditure

-3990.37		-732.25		-4722.6
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Transfer between Funds

0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Net Movements in Funds

-3990.37		-732.25		-4722.6
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**Total Funds brought forward
(1st Jan 2023)**

36425.07	0.00	71580.93	0.00	108006.0
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**Total Funds carried forward
(31st Dec 2023)**

32434.70	0.00	70848.68	0.00	103283.3
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Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Wombourne

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 2 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

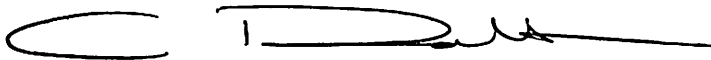
My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act ; or
 - b) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understand of the accounts to be reached.



**Colin Dalton FCA
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Chartered Accountants
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West Midlands
DY6 8BQ**

24th April 2025