

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. EDMUND, ALLESTREE

England & Wales · Charity number 1128942

Details

Other names ST. EDMUND'S PCC, ALLESTREE

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-04-01

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address St Edmund's Church
St Edmund's Close
Allestree
Derby
--
DE22 2DZ

Phone 01332 551404

Email steds.stmatts@outlook.com

Website stedsandstmatts.co.uk

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of "co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical".

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Derby City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£143,780	£141,299	-	-
2024-12-31	£131,777	£136,362	-	-
2023-12-31	£156,186	£149,178	-	-
2022-12-31	£152,271	£140,445	-	-
2021-12-31	£196,529	£187,234	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANN MILLER		2024-04-28
CHRISTOPHER DAVID JACK		2020-10-11
Diana Sandra Mellor		2026-04-19
Elizabeth Anne Mary Jack		2020-10-11
Louise Felicity Margaret Whittaker		2017-04-23
MARK ASHLEY HALLIWELL		
Madeleine Riou Fullerton		2024-04-28
Matthew John Cooper		2018-04-22
Paul Andrew Smith		2022-05-08
Peter John Aspinall		2025-04-06
RICHARD JAMES FLATMAN		
Rev Rachael Brooks		2024-04-28
Rev Sarah Watson		2025-07-18

Accounts

The Parish of St Edmund, Allestree



St Edmund's Church Allestree, Derby. From a pen and ink drawing by Frank Tissington

Trustees' Report for 2025

Election of Churchwardens

and

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026

Sunday 19th April 2026

After the 10am service in the Church

Contents

	Page
Agenda	3
Minutes of Churchwardens' Meeting 2025	4
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025	5
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council	8
Treasurer's Report for the year 2025	10
Independent Examiner's Report	15
PCC Committee and Other Group/Activity Reports	16
Safeguarding Report	21
Churchwardens' Report	23
Parish Priest Report	24

Agenda

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Churchwardens' Meeting 2025 (see page 4)
4. Election of Churchwardens

Followed by:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2025 APCM (see page 5)
3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
4. Election of Laity Representatives and DS Reps
5. Annual Report of the PCC (see page 8)
7. Financial Report (see page 10)
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. Presentation of other Reports (see page 16)
10. Churchwardens' Report (see page 23)
11. Parish Priest Report (see page 24)
12. Opportunity for questions

Minutes of the Annual Churchwardens' Meeting

6th April 2025

Present: the Revd Rachael Brooks, Chair.

Parishioners: 31

1. Welcome

Revd Rachael Brooks welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with prayer, giving thanks for the witness of this church.

2. Apologies

Richard Wood, Ann Miller, Dennis & Maureen Caughey, David Redfern, Madeleine Fullerton, Louise Whittaker, Dave & Claire Pegg, Colin & Margaret Pearson, Chris Bainbridge, the Revd John Rice.

3. Minutes of the Churchwardens' Meeting on 28th April 2024

The minutes were read and accepted as a true record (proposed Kate Smith, seconded Michèle Aspinall). A copy was signed by the chair.

4. Election of Churchwardens

Paul Smith and Ann Miller had both stated they were willing to stand for a further year.

Both nominations were made on the correct form, duly completed with details of proposers and seconders.

There being no other nominations, no vote was held and Paul & Ann were elected.

5. Other

Revd Rachael warmly thanked Paul and Ann for their work as wardens and for their support.

Jane Burton pointed out that the meeting pack should be labelled "2025" not "2024".

This concluded the Churchwardens' meeting.

Paul Smith

Acting PCC Secretary

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

6th April 2025

Present: The Revd Rachael Brooks (chair) and 31 parishioners.

1. Apologies

Richard Wood, Ann Miller, Dennis & Maureen Caughey, David Redfern, Madeleine Fullerton, Louise Whittaker, Dave & Claire Pegg, Colin & Margaret Pearson, Chris Bainbridge, the Revd John Rice.

2. Minutes of 2024 APCM

The minutes were reviewed and accepted as a true and fair record: proposed Chris Jack, seconded Jill Potts. Copy signed by the chair.

3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

Matt Cooper reported that the roll now has 72 (2024: 111) names in total. The ratio of in parish: out of parish was 39:33. He pointed out that the roll had been completely revised and that some of the significant fall in numbers was due to people no longer able to come to church because of age or infirmity. The last complete revision was in 2019 (pre-COVID) and COVID must also be seen as a key factor within the decline noted.

Revd Rachael thanked Matt for updating the roll.

4. Election of Lay PCC Members

Richard Wood, Thelma Thompson stood down at this meeting; David Halliwell had stood down in the course of the year.

John Aspinall had put himself forward for PCC membership and had been nominated/seconded by Elizabeth Jack and Mary Pollett respectively. There being no other nominees, he was duly elected. Revd Rachael welcomed him to the PCC.

PCC membership for 2025/2026 will therefore be:

Associate Minister	the Revd Rachael Brooks (ex officio)
Churchwardens	Paul Smith (ex officio) Ann Miller (ex officio)
Parish Safeguarding Officers	Louise Whittaker Madeleine Fullerton
Treasurer	Chris Jack
Secretary	Vacant

Other Lay representatives

Geoff Bailey
Matthew Cooper
Richard Flatman
Elizabeth Jack
John Aspinall

Deanery Synod Representatives

Mark Halliwell (ex officio)

David Redfern (ex officio)

Retiring members at APCM 2026

Geoff Bailey, Chris Jack, Elizabeth Jack, Louise Whittaker.

5. Annual Report of the PCC

The report is contained within the APCM booklet; it was not discussed in detail.

Michèle Aspinall noted that “recent events” were no longer included as a standard PCC agenda item. Paul Smith explained that this was to keep the meetings as short as possible. He agreed with Michèle that it was important to review events and take account of “lessons learned”.

Mark Halliwell pointed out that Richard Wood had been a Deanery Synod member. He would check whether we were still entitled to three Deanery Synod Reps and if so, whether an election should now be held to appoint a replacement for Richard.

6. Financial Report

The full report is contained within the APCM booklet.

Chris Jack commented that in 2024, income minus expenditure showed a loss for the year of £4,585. However, our investments had performed well and had grown by £16,475. He explained that £90,000 was held in restricted funds meaning it could only be used for a specified purpose, typically the maintenance/repair of the church fabric. This was important as consideration was now being given to replacing the heating systems both in the church and the hall. The work in church could be covered from restricted funds but that in the hall could not be.

In closing, he thanked the finance committee (Richard Flatman, Mark Halliwell, Robert Carnell and Paul Smith) for their support.

Rachael thanked Chris for all his hard work in preparing the accounts and continuing to provide leadership on financial matters. He then took questions.

Andrew Brooks asked about the policy on giving to **external charities**. Chris explained that each year the PCC set aside an amount to be donated to good causes nominated by the congregation. In addition, collections were made on behalf of e.g. the Children’s Society and Christian Aid. Jane Burton queried how charities were selected. Mark stated that in recent years, it has been possible to make all the requested donations from within the budget the PCC had agreed. Generally, though, the PCC aimed to strike a balance between local, national and international good causes.

Steve Burton asked about the difference between *charity* and *mission* giving. Chris clarified that the former was donations to charities, the latter was money donated to support children’s work/outreach e.g. by St Nick’s, which we co-funded.

7. Appointment of Auditor/Independent Financial Examiner

Peter Hilton was willing to act as the independent financial examiner again next year. His appointment was proposed by Chris Jack and seconded by Richard Flatman. Chris commented that Peter was able to give advice as well as find errors; he greatly appreciated Peter's oversight of the accounts. A formal vote of thanks to Peter was unanimously agreed.

8. Presentation of Committee Reports

Committee reports are printed in full in the APCM booklet. Extra comments are recorded below.

Parish Magazine: Revd Rachael gave a special thank you to Fiona Fraser for her work to publish the magazine regularly. All our thoughts were with Fiona following the recent death of her mother, Joane, also a much-loved member of the congregation.

Hall report: Revd Rachael pointed out that some hall uses were incompatible with the covenant to use the hall for "ecclesiastical purposes". Existing bookings would be honoured but the policy on hall letting would be reviewed. Reiki and yoga were two specifics discussed. Revd Rachael to discuss further with Caroline, and Paul Smith to add to next PCC agenda. Feedback welcome from congregation members.

Tony Delaney: Chris Jack proposed a special vote of thanks to Tony for his work as caretaker and suggested he be offered a gift by way of appreciation. He also confirmed that pay/benefits for the PCC's two employees, Caroline Audley and Tony Delaney, had recently been reviewed and significantly increased.

Groundforce: In relation to the report from Jane and Steve Burton, Revd Rachael commented that St Matthew's had recently won a silver Eco award. The work of the Groundforce volunteers to actively create wildlife habitat in the churchyard could be used as evidence should St Edmund's opt to apply for a similar award. She thanked the volunteers for their stewardship of this church land. Paul Smith added that it was a significant green asset (which could never be used for housing or other building) lying within just one mile of the city centre, and also containing what was generally agreed to be the oldest tree in Derby.

Allestree Churches Together (ACT): Revd Rachael clarified that ACT is in the process of being dismantled as a formally constituted body. Michèle Aspinall mentioned the support the parish had given in the past to Lent Lunches and Holidays at Home. She offered help with these going forward. She also pointed out a couple of typos in the reports (now corrected!).

Safeguarding: Revd Rachael underlined the need to continue to take this seriously and highlighted that safeguarding controls are very active at local level, notwithstanding the publicity given to failings at national level.

She updated attendees on proposed changes to the administration of DBS checks. There was a new external provider, and the plan was for less involvement by the Diocese. However, this would be mirrored by more work at parish level, which parish safeguarding officers (PSOs) might not be willing or able to undertake. Discussions were ongoing. She asked all to pray that the right solution be found.

Mark Halliwell reported back on the General Synod decision that the Church of England should implement independent scrutiny of safeguarding, to be executed over the next 3-5 years. Widespread shame was felt over past failures.

9. Churchwarden's Report

The report was printed in full in the APCM booklet. Paul Smith commented on some highlights of 2024, both in terms of services/events and work done to maintain the church and hall. He underlined that it was easy to take for granted our electrical services, plumbing etc, but these required regular maintenance and attention to ensure they worked whenever needed. He thanked all those who contributed to this.

10. Associate Minister's Report

This was printed in full in the APCM booklet. Revd Rachael mentioned her comment "I'm very glad to report that one of our congregations has joined the youthwork team running an after-school club at St Nick's for pupils at Woodlands School", making clear that she had meant "a member of our congregation has joined..."

Paul Smith thanked Revd Rachael for her ministry, and especially for respecting our traditions while developing new forms of outreach to our local community.

Looking forward, Revd Rachael mentioned plans to make the church welcome area more attractive and to allow more space. She also explained the prayer initiative which starts in May, and which will see every street in our area prayed for in a systematic way over the next four years. She reminded everyone that we are called to pray for those around us.

Andrew Brooks updated parishioners on the after-school youth work at St Nick's. Sessions were held every Tuesday in term time with the young people coming mainly from Woodlands and St Benedict's. The aim was to befriend people and provide an opportunity to talk to an adult outside the immediate family. It was church with a small "c"! Further volunteers would be most welcome to join the team.

Revd Rachael also mentioned that she had launched Messy Church. The pilot had been very well supported, and the next one will be run in the summer. There will be All Age family services at both churches. The home groups are now up and running. She urged everyone to continue to pray for the new ventures' success.

The annual meeting closed with prayer.

Paul Smith

Acting PCC Secretary

PCC REPORT 2025

In 2025, the full PCC met every other month (January, March, May, July, September and November) with each meeting being preceded by a Standing Committee meeting. The normal agenda is:

- Open with prayer
- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising
- Reports on Safeguarding, Finance, Fabric and from the clergy
- Other business items
- Looking forward/back
- Any other business (AOB)

- Date of next meeting
- A short reflection on how the meeting has furthered God's work
- Close in prayer

Papers for consideration at each meeting are circulated on the Friday before the Tuesday on which the meeting takes places. This is to give members the weekend, plus a couple of days, to read and prepare for the meeting, and in particular for any decisions that need to be made.

In 2025, PCC members were as follows: (Standing committee members shown in **bold**.)

Revd Rachael Brooks (chair), **Paul Smith** (warden and acting secretary), **Ann Miller** (warden), **Chris Jack** (treasurer), Elizabeth Jack, Louise Whittaker (Parish Safeguarding Officer), **Matt Cooper**, Geoff Bailey, Richard Wood (Deanery Synod rep), David Redfern (Deanery Synod rep), Thelma Thompson, Madeleine Fullerton (Safeguarding), Mark Halliwell (Deanery Synod rep), John Aspinall and **Richard Flatman**. The Revd Sarah Watson is also a member and trustee but, with many other responsibilities, does not normally attend our meetings.

Richard Wood and Thelma Thompson stood down in the course of the year for personal reasons. John Aspinall joined the PCC with effect from the 2025 APCM.

PCC members are the trustees of the registered charity. As such they share responsibility for all aspects of its finances, management and operation.

The PCC has what are effectively sub-committees which focus on particular aspects of church life. The main ones are finance, fabric and events. In addition, the PCC has set up project groups to look at church heating and potential vestry refurbishment (to include installation of a wheel-chair accessible toilet).

Some of the key issues which came before the PCC in the course of 2025 were:

- Launching a new website (joint with our sister church of St Matthew's).
- Working towards installing Wi-Fi in the church.
- Deciding on the church's annual parish share and setting a budget for supporting selected charities.
- Staying up-to-date with all safeguarding requirements, especially those relating to recruitment and training.
- Deciding whether a heat pump or a gas boiler would best meet the need to heat the hall.
- The maintenance of church and hall buildings.
- Supporting the community prayer initiative covering the four parishes of St Edmund's, St Matthew's, St Nicholas and St Paul, Quarndon.
- Working with Derby City Council regarding memorial safety and tree safety in the churchyard.
- Launching Messy Church and regular All Age Worship.
- Approving Paul Smith's training towards appointment as a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) and allocating a modest budget towards his costs (books, materials etc).
- Reviewing the pay of our two employees.
- Clarifying that we will not take hall bookings from any group, and for any event, which we view as contrary to our Christian beliefs and values
- Setting a clear rule about photography in church (*"With the exception of weddings, it is our policy that no filming or other photography should take place during church services. The service leader will invite people to take photos at the end."*)

- Making a formal report to the Information Commissioner following a major data breach associated with contractors used by the Diocese for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks (this involved the personal data of two members of our church family).

Projects to maintain/improve the two church buildings included:

- Moving Primrose's shed to the hall car park.
- Using workers from the Department of Justice Community Payback scheme to redecorate the hall.
- Gaining funding towards the cost of renewing the noticeboards around the churchyard and in the hall area
- Installing a new boiler in the hall, replacing two existing boilers which had come to the end of their working life.
- Renewing the vinyl floor in the church toilet.
- Setting up the periodic monitoring of the hall car park retaining wall by external engineers.
- Putting new furniture and toys in the tower area, to make church more welcoming to young families with children.
- Appointing architects Smith & Roper to manage the considerable amount of lime mortar repointing work recommended by their 2024 Quinquennial Inspection report.
- Installing a new noticeboard on the inside western wall of the church tower.

In closing, may I offer thanks to all PCC members for their active support of, and commitment to, our mission of bringing the good news of Christ to our community.

Paul Smith, **Warden and acting PCC Secretary**

2025 Accounts and Treasurer's Report for 2026 APCM

As before the accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis. The accounts and the examination certificate from Peter Hilton are attached.

Receipts and Payments

The comments below are intended to summarise and explain some of the numbers in the accounts.

Summary

The Receipts and Payments summary show that in 2025 we had a cash surplus of £2,482.

The value of our investments fell by almost £10,000.

Giving

Our giving increased by £1,394 compared with 2024. This represents a 2% increase, mostly provided by new donors. Clearly this does not match the effects of inflation.

Legacies

We were very grateful to receive substantial legacies in 2025, without which our end of year balance would have been a loss of around £18,000.

Fund Raising

Our income from fund raising has increased substantially. These result from social events, book sales and donations made for refreshments served in the hall after morning services. Often the organisers will ask for the proceeds to go to specific purposes so, for example, refreshment money was used towards the cost of the new hall boiler.

Bank Interest

About one third of our interest comes from the Churchwardens' Endowment fund and is therefore Restricted to expenditure on church fabric.

Other income

This is mainly recovery of office costs, including a proportion of Caroline's pay, from St Matthew's. As we now have an incumbent, we are no longer able to claim costs of visiting clergy from the diocese.

Cost of Trading

Overall, the hall income from the hall roughly equalled the outgoings. The latter included the cost of a new gas boiler replacing two aged units. This will reduce our gas costs in the future as the new boiler is more efficient.

A new smart meter was installed at the end of April. Since then, our bills for electricity have dropped to about one tenth of the amount we paid prior to the new meter. The issue was raised with the supplier in September and each subsequent month until January 2026 when they conceded they ought to examine the meter. At time of writing, we are still awaiting an appointment for a technician to do this.

Outward giving

We were able to maintain our level of outward giving, both that made from PCC funds and donations to specific charities given at services, at just below last year's totals. The details are as follows:

Christian Aid	£ 405
Children's Society	£ 262
Derby City Mission	£ 600
Railway Mission	£ 550
Malawi Students	£ 605
Acorns Children's Hospice	£ 600
MIND	£ 550
Derby Hope Centre	£ 550
WaterAid	£ 550
TOTAL	£ 4,672

Common Fund - Parish Share

As in previous years we were able to meet the request from the diocese in full. Across the diocese as a whole, payments into the fund fell short of the 2025 requests by about 30%.

Church Running expenses

These increased due to a number of maintenance tasks including work on the flat roofs and electrical repairs. The initial costs of the quinquennial recommendation are also included. The biggest single item was the commissioning and installation of new noticeboards around the churchyard for which we received a small grant contribution.

Church Utilities

The cost of heating and lighting the church fell quite significantly thanks to the reduced tariff negotiated in mid-2024 and to a 20% lower consumption.

Assets

As in previous years, the market value of the hall had been frozen at £114,000, as the use of the building and the land is limited due to the terms of the endowment under which it was given to the parish. The insurance value is over one million pounds and is index linked.

Looking forward

The PCC is considering a number of capital projects in the church including a complete renovation of the heating system and the installation of a disabled toilet. The costs of these are not yet known, but they will have a significant effect on our capital holdings and will need to be carefully budgeted.

A small group continues to meet monthly to design a new heating system for church. Our current view is that a hybrid system employing radiant heaters and heat pumps might be the best solution. We have commissioned a preliminary design study to see if this is feasible.

A similar group meets to discuss the installation of a disabled toilet in part of the choir vestry, again with a view to producing a preliminary design which can be used to obtain quotations etc.

At present we do not have an indication whether either or both of these projects is affordable. Whilst we do have capital resources, these expenses will reduce the amount we receive in interest from our deposit accounts. This will further worsen our balance of income and expenses which, without legacies, would have been more than £18,000 in 2025. Our giving to the church has not matched inflation for a number of years and we need to encourage members of the congregation to review their donations. The capital projects will, we hope, provide an incentive.

Our Parish Share request has risen substantially in 2026. The calculation is based on a congregation of 50 people each week and that each contributes £13.85 per week into the fund.

Thanks

I would like to record my thanks to members of the Finance Committee, who do a lot of the work of administering our finances. Special thanks to Mark Halliwell, who looks after many aspects of the treasurer's job list for me. Without the help of him and the whole team the Treasurer's job would be almost impossible.

I would also like to acknowledge the help of our examiner Peter Hilton, who not only checks the annual accounts but also provides expert advice when needed throughout the year, without any charge. Peter has agreed to continue as our examiner in 2026.

St Edmund's, Allestree 2025 Accounts

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Totals 2025	Totals 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
1 & 2 Planned Giving	35,422			35,422	35,863
3 Collections at services	5,032			5,032	4,283
Other voluntary giving and					
4 donations	9,299			9,299	7,766
6 Tax recovered	10,103			10,103	10,549
Total from donors	59,856	0	0	59,856	58,461
7 Legacies	21,000			21,000	
8 Grants	0		997	997	812
9 Fund raising	1,273		1,595	2,868	683
10 Bank Interest	6,967		4,814	11,781	12,881
11 Service Fees	6,900			6,900	10,054
12 Trading Income: Hall	25,014			25,014	26,026
12 Trading Income: Magazine	1,637			1,637	1,563
13 Other income	8,881			8,881	10,716
13c Agency income	4,846			4,846	10,581
				0	
Total Other income	76,518	0	7,406	83,924	73,316
TOTAL RECEIPTS	136,374	0	7,406	143,780	131,777
PAYMENTS					
17 Fund raising	366			366	225
18 Outward giving	667	4,005		4,672	4,933
19 Common Fund - Parish	44,796			44,796	43,496
20 Salaries and Honoraria	29,584		1,295	30,879	29,094
21 Clergy expenses	999			999	2,509
22 Mission giving	0			0	880
Church Running					
23 Expenditure	18,321		6,403	24,724	16,741
24 Church utilities	4,818			4,818	8,586
25 Cost of Trading	18,156		6,061	24,217	20,244
26 Governance	362			362	458
99 Other costs	522			522	759
Agency Payments	4,944			4,944	8,437
TOTAL PAYMENTS	123,535	4,005	13,759	141,299	136,362
Excess of Receipts over Payments	12,839	-4,005	-6,353	2,481	-4,585
OPENING CASH BALANCES	122,426	0	111,051	233,477	238,062
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	-4,005	4,005			
CLOSING CASH BALANCES	131,260	0	104,698	235,958	233,477

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Totals 2025	Totals 2024
	£	£	£		£
CASH FUNDS					
Cash and cheques on hand	0			0	
CAF current	2,945			2,945	6,408
CAF deposit	27,324		104,698	132,022	130,450
CCLA deposit	100,991			100,991	96,619
TOTAL	131,260	0	104,698	235,958	233,477
INVESTMENT FUNDS VALUATION					
CCLA CBF account				256,361	259,389
CCLA CBF account (Endowment from Churchwarden's Land charity)				166,320	173,246
CHURCH HALL				114,000	114,000
CREDITORS Agency					2,144

fid V2

Chris Jack - **Treasurer**

ST EDMUND'S CHURCH ALLESTREE PCC

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF
ST EDMUND'S CHURCH ALLESTREE

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2025, which comprise the Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2016. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the members of the PCC those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Act, to follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145 of the Act and Church Guidance, 2016 edition and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

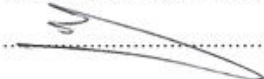
Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

Name P B Hilton FCA
.....
Address 5 Wharfedale Close, Allestree, Derby
.....
Date 23/2/26
.....
Signed 
.....

PCC Committee and other Group/Activity Reports

Children's Work – Please see Rev. Rachael Brooks report.

Church Magazine – Fiona Fraser (Manager of the process), Chris Willis (distribution & proof reading) & Claire Pegg (proof reading)

The Parish Magazine continues to be produced throughout the year, there being 11 publications in a 12-month period, with a double issue for December/January. The number of copies printed by John E Wright in Derby is 170, a slight reduction on previous years because demand has fallen slightly. Of these, 108 are hand delivered to subscribers by a team of 14 devoted helpers, 11 are posted, 20 placed for sale at CTD News at Blenheim Parade, 5 at the Pharmacy there, and 1 free copy goes to the Community Library at Park Farm Centre. The remaining copies are placed in the Church. The price of the magazine is £1 per copy, but the people who have their copy delivered pay £10 for the year provided they pay in advance. The magazine 'year' runs from the 1st July - the 31st June in any one year, so requests for annual subscriptions usually appear in the May and June issues - with reminders later as needed.

Many thanks are due to Fiona, who does the lion's share of the work needed to produce the Magazine.

Church Hall Report – Caroline Audley

St Edmund's Preschool continue to use the hall Monday-Friday during term time and School's Out hire the hall during most holidays, mainly the longer ones at Easter and over the summer. We also welcome Ballet on a Monday (term time) as well The Tuneless Choir. Studio 86 (a dance class, term time) and Derventio choir hire the hall on a Tuesday. Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are in on a Wednesday (term time). Studio 86 also hire the hall on a Thursday (term time). Fridays tend to be free. Ann Miller's choirs hire the hall regularly, but this tends to be at the weekend when we also have parties. We are grateful to them all for this invaluable income.

Regular church bookings are Luncheon Club on a Tuesday every other week and Baby & Toddler Group on a Thursday although with the start of Nature Tots (normally the 2nd Thursday of the month) the group meets in Allestree Park rather than the hall. Thank you to St Edmund's Pre-school for reducing their number to allow Luncheon Club & the Baby & Toddler Group to run.

Thank you as also to Tony for helping with many aspects of the hall from moving chairs and tables, cleaning the windows and dusting the high corners to sweeping the outside play area for the pre-school. We are incredibly grateful.

Baby & Toddler Group – Caroline Audley

The group continues to meet on a Thursday during term time from 10-11.30am. We have a number of regulars but often have new faces too. I don't ask people to book as this can be stressful for parents and plans also change so some weeks are quieter than others, but some weeks are very busy. I welcome childminders who tend to bring multiple children. I don't think it's right to exclude them like some groups do.

The group offers fruit and biscuits, squash, tea and coffee. This is kindly donated from Morrison's in Belper and their Community Champion Lucy.

Thank you as ever to Tony for helping week after week to get all of the toys in and out of the cupboard, as well as moving the tables and chairs, I couldn't do it without him. I definitely notice when he's on holiday! Huge thanks also to Michèle who does a wonderful job helping to make teas and coffees, wash up at the end (so there is now nothing for me to take home) and chatting to the parents and grandparents, making them feel welcome.

Nature Tots – Caroline Audley

This group started in September 2025 and runs once a month, normally on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 10-11.30am. This group replaces the normal Baby & Toddler Group in St Edmund's Church Hall. It's essentially a pre-school playgroup with a difference, connecting children with nature; encouraging them to learn, play and have fun outdoors. We meet in Allestree Park, not too far from the main carpark off the A6.

It's run in partnership with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust who gave us over £1,000 to buy items/toys and facilitated 2 days training for myself and Rev. Rachael Brooks. They also funded 2 days of outdoor specific First Aid Training for myself, Rev. Rachael, Andrew Brooks and Michele Aspinall. Rev. Rachael, Andrew, Michele and Alwyn Young (Rainbows and Brownies leader) help every month at Nature Tots, from Andrew loading up his car with toys, Michele and Alwyn making teas and coffees and Rachael reading the story. I am incredibly grateful to them all for their help.

Andy and sometimes Matt from Wildlife Trust come to help put up our parachute canopy and direct people from the main carpark. They have put in a planning application for a permanent outdoor classroom and pond dipping pond not far from where we currently meet, similar to the one at Carsington Reservoir. This application also includes storage which we don't currently have.

A number of the regular attendees of the Baby and Toddler Group come but we've also seen some new faces.

Flower Group - Michèle Aspinall

In normal circumstances, the church flower group ensures that fresh flowers are always on display for services apart from Lent and Advent. A special effort is made for festivals such as Easter and Christmas. Appropriate flowers and colours are also in place for Remembrance Sunday, Whitsun etc. We always try to follow the wishes of families for funeral flowers and also provide arrangements to celebrate anniversaries or memorials.

Some of our funding comes from wedding flowers, when we make a small profit whilst still providing flowers at a more competitive price than most florists. Unfortunately, in 2025 there were no weddings celebrated in the church. For the second year running, this had a serious impact on our funds. Nonetheless, thanks to a generous legacy, the congregation's response to appeals and the skills of the group, the floral arrangements at Easter, Harvest and Christmas continue to impress. Mothering Sunday flowers are also provided from this funding.

In September, as part of our work in the community, Baby and Toddler Group provided the inspiration for our 'Bill and Ben' display for Allestree Scarecrow Festival. Many thanks to Caroline for taking a creative and practical lead!

The church flower group gladly welcomes new recruits. Many of our team are also members of Allestree Flower Group. No special skills are required as full training is offered by our expert, talented team.

Volunteers to help with all aspects of church flower arranging are most welcome. We see working with flowers as an enjoyable, sociable and creative way of serving the church and helping to make it a welcoming and comforting place at the heart of our community.

Choir - Elizabeth Jack

The choir continues to sing regularly at 2 morning and 2 Evensongs a month plus several joint services with St. Matthew's choir. Evensong congregation numbers are increasing, and people are most appreciative of our efforts. An afternoon Epiphany celebration was led by the choir with enthusiastic audience participation. The men of the choir plus friends sang Compline on three Friday evenings during Lent – a calm, peaceful way to end the week.

We sang at a RSCM Diocesan Festival Evensong at Derby Cathedral along with 120 others, expertly conducted, as ever, by Alex Binns. We've forgiven him for announcing St. Edmund's as being in Darley Abbey!

The Advent Procession with both choirs was at St. Edmund's this year with a high standard of singing. Our traditional carol service with an augmented choir took place the Sunday before Christmas to a packed church.

It was Mary Pollett's turn to celebrate 50 years of singing with St. Edmund's choir in November. A loyal member of the choir and a true friend to us all, we surprised her with a certificate and flowers, and her family arranged post-service refreshments.

I am, as ever, indebted to my wonderful group of singers and thank them most sincerely for their loyalty and hard work. As a small choir of 7 regular singers, there are inevitably Sundays when too many of us are unavailable to make the choir viable. We hope you will forgive us and appreciate us when we are there!

Thanks too to David Redfern for his regular, week in, week out organ playing, to Tom Corfield and Andy Storer for their choral Evensong accompaniments and to the extra singers who help us out from time to time.

Bookworms - Cyra Buxton, Jane Burton and Anne Madge

Bookworms have continued to meet on the second Monday of each month throughout the year in St Edmund's choir vestry. Membership from both St Edmund's and St Matthew's parishes has remained fairly constant, though we have had one new member join the group and unfortunately one long-standing member has had to opt out.

The books selected by the group are listed both on the church website and in the parish magazines. These cover a variety of titles of different genres, geographical and historical settings and publication dates and they have continued to provoke wide-ranging and thought-provoking discussion both within group meetings and in a wider social context.

Events Committee – Elizabeth Jack

The committee consisting of Michele Aspinall, Mary Pollett, Gill Flatman and Diane Bakhda were joined this year by Ann Miller whose contributions have been invaluable. As stated in last year's report, our aim was to broaden the scope of events, and we certainly achieved this in 2025!

The pancake evening was a great success with the raffle, organised by Mary Pollett, raising a great deal of money. We reinstated a plant sale, held in the choir vestry which proved very successful and the few plants left over were snapped up at coffee after the 10 am service the next day. The Harvest lunch was well received but, again, numbers were disappointing. Having put out a questionnaire as to what people want, results remained inconclusive.

Now that the shed is in the church hall car park, this makes it easier to transfer books, so we have revived this popular event. Many thanks to Diane for all her hard work both behind the scenes and on the day.

Our two other big events were an Afternoon with Miss Austen to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. Tea and scones were on offer, (served on china of course) and we were treated to musical treats - songs from Victoria Wilde and trios by Haydn played by Jane Johnston, Gareth Stevens and myself plus readings from Diane Bakhda. In November Michele and John Aspinall organised a most successful Germanic Christmas evening with slides, talks and, of course, food and drink.

Food Bank – Paul Smith

In 2025 we continued to support the Hope Centre food bank in Curzon St, Derby. Each month, on the first Sunday, we receive generous donations of groceries from church members and other supporters. These are combined with similar goods from our sister church of St Matthew's, Darley Abbey. A volunteer then loads these into their car (often with help from our caretaker, Tony Delaney) and drives them to Curzon St. Here, volunteers are almost always available to assist with unloading. We are always thanked most warmly for our contributions, which typically number 20-30 bags of groceries and toiletries per month. These are sorted at the Centre to create 3-day emergency parcels for those in need.

I'd like to thank all the volunteers who take care of these deliveries, with a different person helping each month. New volunteers are always welcome (contact me to discuss further). Just a reminder of the goods we collect.:

- Tins (meat, vegetables, rice pudding, fruit, beans, spaghetti)
- Dry goods such as rice and pasta
- Pasta sauce jars
- Biscuits and breakfast cereals
- Toiletries — shampoo, shower gel, toothbrushes, deodorants (men's & women's) are also much appreciated, as are period supplies such as tampons and pads

(All food should be within its use-by or best-before date and preferably still have a long shelf-life.)

Lastly, can I point out that variety is not essential as the exact food pack contents are organized by the Centre. So, it's fine to just donate multiple tins of beans or some other item as suits you best. Thanks again for supporting this very worthy local project which really makes a difference to people in our city.

Luncheon Club – Anne Madge

We have had a successful year with a lovely team of volunteers to enable the club to continue to run smoothly.

Unfortunately, Derby City Council withdrew the community bus this year with very little notice and although we used Erewash Community Transport for a short time and they were very good, it proved too expensive, so in spite of a lot of research, we are no longer able to offer transport to the members who need it. It is a shame because these are often the people who are more isolated.

Guests now come by taxi, if they share a lift, it remains affordable and we have managed to keep our numbers and maintain our bargain price of £5 for a 3-course meal. We also offer 2 free meals a year, one near our birthday and one at Christmas, and have managed to keep a healthy bank balance.

We were honoured to host a visit from the Bishop last summer and thank Rachael for inviting her and coming too.

Environmental Health have visited us recently and awarded us the top rating of 5 stars.

Thank you for all the support, from the volunteers who help on the day and the ladies on the pudding rota. You all provide valuable contributions, and I know our guests really appreciate all your time and effort.

We do have some capacity at present, if you know anyone who would like to join us as a guest, they would be very welcome. I can be contacted on 07971 680377.

Allestree Churches Together (ACT) – Rev'd Rachael Brooks

ACT as a formally continued body has been dissolved. However, Holiday At Home happened successfully in summer 2025.

Handbell Group – Gill Flatman

A happy year, practising weekly in the choir vestry! After our extended Christmas break, we resumed weekly practices at the beginning of February. During our Easter break the bells were taken to the Bell Foundry in Loughborough and were given a clean bill of health - no expenses incurred this year! Our Spring lunch at the Red Cow and regular Saturday coffee mornings at Hudson's are now permanent fixtures.

Prior to Christmas we were pleased once again to support Blood Bikes at Park Farm. As Park Farm Management are now charging, we are unlikely to be playing at Park Farm again. The year ended when we played before the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. We have enjoyed ringing under Bryan Clarke's leadership and some of us extend our time together afterwards, in The Red Cow.

Groundforce – Steve & Jane Burton

The St Edmund's Groundforce team has continued to meet on Saturday mornings once a month to maintain both the churchyard and church hall grounds. It consists of a loyal team of about 10 members from both within St Edmund's congregation and the wider community.

Dead flowers have been regularly cleared from graves and lots of dead leaves cleared to keep graves exposed. The flower border adjacent to the church entrance has been tended, and the curtilage of the church building has been kept clear of vegetation. Debris from trees resulting from storm damage has been cleared and either been disposed of or added to the habitat piles at the bottom of the churchyard. Leylandii branches overhanging graves at the eastern boundary have been cut back.

Some of the areas most badly damaged by badgers have been re-sown with grass seed. Trail camera evidence (provided by The Mid Derbyshire Badger Group) established that badgers had been entering the churchyard via the gateway to Church Walk. This gate has now been repaired so it can be closed at night to discourage them. There have been no recent signs of activity, but it might be a different story once the new cubs have been born.

In the church hall grounds, we have continued to tidy the borders and to coppice the hazel between the car park and the road. Some of this coppiced hazel has been used to create a dead hedge to reinforce the boundary with Church Walk at the northeast end of the churchyard where the iron railings are broken or missing.

Our aim is to strike a satisfactory balance between facilitating access to and caring for the gravestones and providing valuable habitat for wildlife. In June when we walked round the churchyard with a couple of officers from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, they seemed to be very happy with what we were doing to encourage wildlife but also gave us a few suggestions for a few further things we could do and also gave some advice on suitable wildflowers to sow or plant.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Groundforce team for their willingness to turn out in all sorts of weather and the valuable contribution they make to keeping the church grounds in good order.

Safeguarding - Louise Whittaker & Madeleine Fullerton (PSO's for St Edmund's Church, Allestree)

As the Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO's) for Saint Edmund's Church, Madeleine Fullerton and Louise Whittaker are continuing to comply with our duties in relation to safeguarding as set down by the Church of England. We remain dedicated to maintaining 'Best Practice' in parish safeguarding. Although there is often something that will crop up for us to sort and keep on top of and in spite of a significant amount of change in the Church's approach to safeguarding, we are confident that everything is up to date or in the process of becoming so.

This year our DBS Service provider was changed, and we have successfully started working with them in order to provide several volunteers with DBS Certificates required for their new roles as either leaders or children's workers for our recently reinstated All Age Services and our Messy Church gatherings.

All of St. Edmund's lead role holders have up to date DBS certification in place and the online Updating Service that everyone has now subscribed to has continued to ensure that many of our DBS certificates have been renewed once again with relative ease.

We continue to ensure that the relevant groups who provide services to the parish receive up to date safeguarding training and all training for role holders within Saint Edmund's Church is currently up to date.

We continue to fulfil all of the requirements of the 'Parish Safeguarding Dashboard' (the online tool to manage safeguarding requirements). The Church of England is strengthening its safeguarding practices and policies, and the Dashboard is gradually being updated so that we can be fully compliant with National Standards of Safeguarding. Our safeguarding training results and DBS Certification information are now all found on and are part of the secure online Parish Safeguarding Hub.

As PSO's we very much appreciate that despite the concerns of many within our congregation regarding safeguarding in the wider church, the majority of our volunteers understand that we must continue nevertheless to show ourselves to be open to all scrutiny and checks. The safety, trust and support of all of our church members and of the wider community wishing to belong to official groups within our churches is of paramount importance to us.

As a result of what has been recently brought to light within the Church of England, further changes and extra support in parish safeguarding through cross-learning and sharing best practice is expected to continue to be gradually introduced and we are now working more closely with our sister churches.

The Diocese of Derby has been involved in additional training opportunities within the Church of England and this year we have had access to training modules which were offered as support for PSOs in their parish roles. Madeleine and Louise have each taken advantage of one of these models to help us in our safeguarding awareness concerning potential change and future help to improve Safeguarding competency within St. Edmund's church.

Since the last Annual Safeguarding report, one potential safeguarding issue arose within our parish which was swiftly brought to a satisfactory conclusion with the help of the Derby diocese.

On 22nd August our former DBS Service provider, APCS, reported that a significant data breach had taken place which also affected many churches across the country. At St. Edmund's church, two individuals had their data compromised. They were notified straight away and helped to take the actions required to minimise the impact. As a result, our Churchwarden Paul agreed to write an article for the Parish Magazine about guarding against fraud and breaches of data which are becoming ever greater causes for concern for each one of us, not only in our church but also in our home lives.

We remain standing by to support any members of our parish and would just like to reiterate that if anybody has any safeguarding concerns at all, then please do not hesitate to contact us. Our details are on the back page of the Parish Magazine and on the posters on the church noticeboards and if you would like to find out more about safeguarding in the Diocese then you can go online to safeguarding@derby.anglican.org.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with Rachael and Sarah on our Safeguarding responsibilities in the months ahead and we will continue to report back to the PCC at each meeting.

We have many reasons to be thankful and feel inspired. Highlights of our year, and points worth reflection include:

- Paul Smith's decision to train as a Licensed Lay Minister. Initial steps of his training began in the Autumn
- Superb music and floral decorations throughout the year, enhancing all our services and celebrations.
- All Age Worship and Messy Church becoming regular features, encouraging families with young children to explore our church life.
- An increase in the number of retired clergy attached to St Edmund's - both new and returning faces.
- Baptism services - a chance to celebrate with families.
- Special services - all remarkable in their different ways - including Good Friday and Easter, through to All Souls', Remembrance Day, Advent and Christingle. The Christmas Celebrations ranged from the 'purrfect' (!) Carols in the Churchyard - washed down with delicious mulled wine - to the moving Midnight Communion. We rounded off the year with a joint service, welcoming our friends from our other three churches.
- Special events and concerts in both the Hall and the Church, many supporting various charities, some supporting church funds, and all on offer to our local community at no or low cost.
- Bishop's Badge awards to Anne Cogley, Chris Willis, Jane Burton and Steve Burton to mark and give thanks for their long and special service to St Edmund's.
- A 'Thank You' party in August in the vicarage garden for volunteers of St Edmund's and St Matthew's.
- Our thriving groups - not only for young children, but also Bookworms and Handbells.
- The success of Homegroups in conjunction with St Matthew's
- An increasing feeling of closeness, cooperation and mutual care across our four churches as we meet more often together, sharing ideas and problems.
- Our flourishing 'Parish Mag' under the leadership of Fiona Fraser assisted by Chris Willis, Claire Pegg and the distribution team.
- The valuable work of our Administrator Caroline Audley and our Caretaker Tony Delaney.

Fabric:

Huge thanks go to all those who have given so much time and expertise to work towards these projects.

Completed

- Primrose's shed moved to a much more user-friendly position close to the hall; and a very successful book sale followed!
- Hall boiler replaced
- Hall redecorated
- New notice board under the tower for children's All Age Worship work

Almost there

- Wi-Fi in church
- New outside noticeboards

Ongoing

- Church heating and lighting. The heating group meets regularly - looking into replacing the system, and meanwhile evaluating and measuring the old one.
- Groundforce - this wonderful group continues to maintain churchyard and gardens with great effect. The success of this group leads us to look to setting up a parallel Building force early in 2026 to spread the workload of buildings maintenance beyond the usual handful of volunteers.
- All the scheduled safety and insurance-related checks (e.g. PAT testing, gas safety checks, fire equipment servicing etc.) were carried out on time. Regular inspections were carried out to ensure that all gutters, downpipes and gullies were clear so as to prevent water ingress into the building. Endless numbers of running repairs were also covered by volunteers.
- Recommendations from the 2024 Quinquennial Report are being addressed. One of these - a long outstanding matter - is the provision of an accessible toilet and baby change facility for the church building. At the end of 2025 we began to look seriously into this, by means of re-arranging the vestry. Accordingly, a vestry group was set up in December.

Parish Priest's Report – Rev'd Rachael Brooks

2025 saw me finally complete my 'firsts'. The final one was taking our Christmas Day service, a good one to finish on. It's one of my favourite services as we welcome Jesus and remind ourselves what Christmas is actually all about.

A first that will hopefully become a regular fixture was an open garden at the vicarage in August, when I was able to welcome and thank everyone who makes all the services and activities at St Matthew's and St Edmund's happen. There are so many who contribute to the life and maintenance of the church and parish, mostly in the background. It was wonderful to be able to honour their outworking of their discipleship.

We welcomed Colette Desborough in 2025, initially as she discerned whether ordination was for her and then as an ordinand as she began her training in September. She spends a day in Sheffield in college classes, two days at home studying, and three days with us applying what she's learning and growing her leadership skills. Colette is based with Sarah at St Nick's in the week and with me for our Sunday services, so she gets a broad experience.

We said hello and goodbye to Rev'd Cathie Watson who was based primarily with Sarah to complete her final months of curacy. We also welcomed two retired clergy who have been granted Permission to Officiate: Rev'd Adrian Thorp in April, who is taking our fourth Sunday Holy Communion services, and Rev'd Phyllis Bainbridge in July, who is taking services across our group of four churches. Another retired priest, Rev'd David Anderson, and I developed a working agreement but his Permission to Officiate hadn't come through by the end of the year.

It was sad to say goodbye to two women who have contributed enormously to the life of the church: Joane Fraser and Marion Carnell; may they and the other precious loved ones who died in 2025 rest in peace and rise in glory.

We launched a new website in September 2025, changing the name so it is easier to find if people put our church's name into a search engine and making it as easy and appealing to navigate as possible. My thanks to Andrew Brooks for making this happen in consultation with Caroline.

December saw the beginning of a trial to see if shifting the Wednesday 10am Holy communion service to 10.30am would make it more accessible to some of our older congregants. This will be reviewed in March 2026.

2025 was a year of beginning to put our PCC priorities, developed in 2024, into action.

1. Less formality in worship to make church more accessible to new members.

Our cross-benefice team put on three Messy Church services:

- Messy Mother's Day in St Edmund's Church Hall
- Messy goes Wild in the summer holiday in Darley Park
- Messy Advent, again in St Edmund's Church Hall

The first and last were very well attended by a mix of baptism, wedding, school and congregation families. We had a smaller number in the park but have learned lessons and have a clearer idea of how we can change things for 2026.

In May we began our regular pattern of All Age Services which broadens the mix of service styles we offer across our benefice. The cross-benefice team meet to plan together; we then deliver the service twice, on the 4th Sunday of the month at St Matthew's and then the 1st Sunday of the month at St Edmund's.

Our overall theme is to tell God's story of salvation; the story the Bible tells us from its beginnings in the Garden of Eden right through to the garden in the book of Revelation. We're doing this through looking at the different people in those stories. We started with Adam and Eve in June and got to Esau and Jacob in November before taking a break to be seasonal and tell the story of Mary and Elizabeth and their miraculous pregnancies. Each story has thrown up quite challenging themes because their lives were messy, just as our lives can be today.

Our aim is to be truly All Age, so that there is something for everyone in each service. So, we have action songs AND hymns. We have games or challenges AND intercessions. We have dramatized Bible stories AND a short homily. We don't expect that everyone will like everything, but I have been so blessed to see that so many regular congregants have supported these services so that those young families who have come have had a church family welcome. And that so many of you have found you've enjoyed aspects of these services too. It's also been a joy to discover hidden talents as several people have joined in with dramatized readings and preparation of materials.

Overall, we have approximately 20 children across both churches who have come along during the year. There are a couple of families at both churches who only go to that church, and the rest of the families go to either depending on which Sunday they can attend. Some come to most of the services, others come more sporadically. But they're coming!

Flourish, the Church of England pilot programme to test the hypothesis that if we give our children more responsibility for planning and delivering faith activity, they're more likely to stick with their faith in Jesus into adulthood, began with Walter Evans School in January. We had two large well-attended events whose format was akin to Messy Church, but the following events were cancelled for various reasons out of our control. This meant that we had to resign from the pilot, but it has been a valuable learning opportunity, and the enthusiasm of the children was wonderful to see. I hope to build on what we've learned in 2026.

2. Pastoral outreach to Allestree families, starting with contacts from occasional offices.

There were fewer baptisms in 2025 than 2024, but contacts were made. They and existing contacts were strengthened through our baby and toddler group. We were also able to invite those families to our Nature Tots session in Allestree Park which began in September. This new venture is a joint one with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, who paid for Caroline's and my training, gave us a grant to share with our preschool to pay for equipment for our sessions and are paying for us and for Andrew Brooks and Michèle Aspinall to do the Outdoor First Aid course. It's wonderful to see young children engaging with the natural world, we want to see their spirituality grow as they experience the awe and wonder of the world God created for us.

There have been a number of funerals through the year. The joint parishes All Souls' service and refreshments afterwards were well attended again.

We also saw a few weddings and a wedding blessing, all people with some family link to the church. Connections go deep here.

3. Growing our own faith and discipleship through study and prayer.

Lent saw a further three home groups set up, in addition to the one that had started in 2024, though one of them only met a few times. The three remaining used the Church of England 'Living Hope' Lent materials. At the end of Lent one group stopped, due to various regular commitments while the other two continued: one weekly, the other monthly. Both are fulfilling their purpose which is a joy to see. Please get in touch if you'd like to grow in your faith alongside others.

I have also been encouraging daily prayer through books or apps. The Church of England app, Everyday Faith, is short and thought-provoking, but there are others to try such as Pray as you go, Lectio 365 and Common Worship Daily Prayer. Try one for a week, if it doesn't quite fit then try another. Regular Bible reading and prayer are key to building our relationship with God.

The four parishes

Our most exciting venture as a group has been the launch of our Prayer Initiative, which was set up for us by Godfrey and Margaret Smallman who felt God was inviting them to support prayer for every area of our city a few years ago. Having worked with one group of four parishes nearby they invited us to take part in what is a two-year project. Sarah and I have been very heartened by the way our churches have grasped this opportunity to work together and bless our parishes by systematically praying for every household on every road in turn. Make sure you keep up to date by getting the new prayer calendars as they come out.

We have continued our pattern as a group of four churches for worship together on 5th Sundays and special seasonal services, apart from Mothering Sunday. So many of you have taken the opportunity of worshipping together in a different building, thank you.

In November the four PCCs met together to explore ideas for working more closely together whether in mission or governance. There was a strong desire to work together, sharing the load rather than reinventing the wheel and a real heart for mutual encouragement and support.

We again produced joint publicity for our summer offerings for families and our Advent and Christmas services. It was good to see people from different parishes making the most of these opportunities whether at the St Nick's family fun day or one or other of the various crib services.

Uniformed groups

Our Rainbows and Brownies joined us for Carols in the Churchyard and prepared our Christingle kits and led prayers in the service. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm. Several families came to our crib services, one of whom decided they were going to come to our All-Age services too. It was so good to have the next thing to invite them to. We hope to resume links with our Beavers groups in 2026.

Local schools

Portway Infants came for a session learning about what happens in church in July. We looked at the different things around the church and what they were for and what they told us about what Christians believe. It was a delight to welcome some of these children to our Christmas services too.

Thank you

It has been a joy to serve with my wonderful wardens from both churches in our benefice. In 2025 we began meeting together regularly and this has been so encouraging, to all of us as we've benefitted from one another's wisdom as we lead our churches.

Paul is not standing for election this coming year, he has served his time and needs to focus on his Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) training. I am so pleased for him, and for us, that God has placed this calling on him - but it's a wrench because he has been such a support as I took up the mantle as your parish priest. I am heartened and grateful, however, that Ann has agreed to serve another year as warden. Please continue to pray for them as they continue to serve us.

So many of you contribute towards making 'church' in all its facets happen, in different ways that may only be noticed if you don't do them. Thank you for your faithful quiet service. As last year, there are several

groups/ people I must thank in particular for sharing with me my primary task of leading worship and cure of souls:

- My fellow service leaders, including the All-Age team, the choir and our organist for their roles in leading worship with me.
- the pastoral care team who share my pastoral responsibilities and do so much behind the scenes to support vulnerable members of our congregation.
- The various members of PCC, who take the lead on finance, the building, safeguarding, Deanery Synod and other organisational stuff, using the gifts God has given you to serve us here.
- Without Caroline putting her skills at our disposal, the admin work behind the scenes through 2025 would have defeated me. She is a joy to work with.

And finally, in true BAFTAs style, I am so thankful for Andrew, who is my constant support.

Accounts

The Parish of St Edmund, Allestree



St Edmund's Church Allestree, Derby. From a pen and ink drawing by Frank Tissington

2024 Trustees' Report and Accounts and Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025

Sunday 6th April 2025

After the 10am service in the Church

Contents

	Page
Agenda	3
Minutes of Churchwardens' Meeting 2024	4
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024	5
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council	8
Treasurer's Report for the year 2024	10
Independent Examiner's Report	15
PCC Committee and Other Group/Activity Reports	16
Safeguarding Report	20
Churchwardens' Report	21
Parish Priest Report	23

Agenda

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Churchwardens' Meeting 2024 (see page 4)
4. Election of Churchwardens

Followed by:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2024 APCM (see page 5)
3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
4. Election of Laity Representatives
5. Annual Report of the PCC (see page 8)
7. Financial Report (see page 10)
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. Presentation of other Reports (see page 16)
10. Churchwardens' Report (see page 21)
11. Parish Priest Report (see page 23)
12. Opportunity for questions

THE PARISH OF ST. EDMUND ALLESTREE
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH WARDENS' MEETING

28th April 2024

Present: the Revd Rachael Brooks, Chair.

Parishioners: 40

1. Welcome

Revd Rachael Brooks welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies

Steve and Jane Burton, Margaret Western, Margaret Pearson, Michèle and John Aspinall.

3. Minutes of the Churchwardens' Meeting on 23rd April 2023

The minutes were read and accepted as a true record (proposed Kate Smith).

4. Election of Churchwardens

Paul Smith was willing to stand for a further year. He was nominated by Kate Smith and seconded by Geoff Bailey.

Ann Miller was also willing to stand as a warden. She was proposed by Paul Smith and again seconded by Geoff Bailey.

Both nominations were made on the correct , duly completed.

There being no other nominations, no vote was held, and Paul & Ann were elected.

5. Land Charity Accounts

Accounts had been prepared and included in the meeting pack. Chris Jack explained that expenditure was nil while income was included in the main church accounts rather than here. We had however been advised that accounts were needed as the charity still existed. Moreover, the land owned needed to be shown as an asset until such time an ownership was transferred to the PCC (work ongoing and held up by delays at the Land Registry). Chris and Paul thanked Richard Flatman for compiling and presenting these accounts.

This concluded the Churchwardens' meeting.

Acting PCC Secretary - Paul Smith

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

28th April 2024

1. Apologies

Steve and Jane Burton, Margaret Western, Margaret Pearson, Michèle and John Aspinall.

2. Minutes of 2023 APCM

The minutes were reviewed. Steve Burton had requested the following amendment: delete "Steve Burton asked about the £3,500 donation to St Nicholas to supports their work with young people and why St Edmund's hasn't seen any young people" and replace with his actual words: "Steve Burton queried the donation of £3,500 to St Nicholas Allestree to support their work with young people. He asked on what basis it was given and how this benefits St Edmund's, and moves us forward in encouraging and engaging with young people in our church and parish". Subject to this change, last year's minutes were accepted as a true and fair record: proposed Kate Smith, seconded Richard Wood.

3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

Matt Cooper reported that the roll has 111 (2023: 124) names in total. Interestingly, more now lived outside rather than in the parish: 40 in and 71 outside.

We remembered with love and affection Ken Eunson who passed away during the year.

Rachael thanked Matt for updating the roll.

4. Election of Lay PCC Members

Paul explained that there was no election for deanery synod members as this was on a three-year cycle and was done last year.

As for lay members, Michèle Aspinall and Madeleine Fullerton had stood down in the course of the year for personal reasons; Madeleine had expressed interest in rejoining. Thelma Thompson, who had acted as PCC secretary, wished to stand down from that role but would like to remain a PCC member. Richard Flatman and Matt Cooper had both come to the end of their terms but also wished to remain on the PCC.

As Madeleine, Thelma, Richard and Matt had all been duly proposed and seconded, they were elected as lay representatives.

PCC membership for 2024/2025 will therefore be:

Associate Minister	the Revd Rachael Brooks (ex officio)
Churchwardens	Paul Smith (ex officio)
	Ann Miller (ex officio)
Parish Safeguarding Officers	Louise Whittaker
	Madeleine Fullerton
Treasurer	Chris Jack
Secretary	Vacant

Other Lay representatives

Geoff Bailey

Matthew Cooper

Richard Flatman
David Halliwell
Elizabeth Jack

Deanery Synod Representatives

Mark Halliwell (ex officio)
David Redfern (ex officio)
Richard Wood (ex officio)

Retiring members at APCM 2025

None

Retiring members at APCM 2026

Geoff Bailey, David Halliwell, Christopher Jack, Elizabeth Jack, Louise Whittaker.

5. Annual Report of the PCC

The report is contained within the 2024 APCM booklet.

Mark Halliwell commented that it was a good report and commended it to the meeting (seconded, Matt Cooper).

6. Financial Report

The full report is contained within the 2024 APCM booklet.

Chris Jack commented that the accounts showed a surplus for the 2023 calendar year. He warned that this was only the case because of legacies. Planned giving had reduced, costs increased and day-to-day, we spent more than we received.

The hall operated at a profit.

Our main cost was the Parish Share which had been paid in full (many churches did not do this). The amount requested for 2024 was considerably less, a most welcome reduction.

Monies received from the Churchwardens' charities had been reclassified as endowment funds. This meant the income could be used but not the capital, in line with the manner in which those now defunct charities had been set up.

Pay/benefits for the PCC's two employees, Caroline Audley and Tony Delaney, had been reviewed and increased.

In closing, he thanked the finance committee (Richard Flatman, Mark Halliwell and Paul Smith) for their support.

Mark Halliwell pointed out that the donation to Malawi seemed larger than those made to other PCC charities. This was because the amount stated included donations both from the PCC and from a parishioner.

Rachael thanked Chris for all his hard work in preparing the accounts and providing leadership on financial matters.

7. Appointment of Auditor/Independent Financial Examiner

Peter Hilton was willing to act as the independent financial examiner again next year. His appointment was proposed by Chris Jack and seconded by Geoff Bailey.

8. Presentation of Committee Reports

Committee reports are printed in full in the APCM booklet. Extra comments are recorded below.

Children's Work – thanks to all those who have contributed to making the church more welcoming to children and young people.

Baby and Toddler – thanks to Michèle Aspinall, Anne Cogley and Caroline Audley for their contribution here. Anna Oldknow is now also supporting this work, funded by the PCC.

Flower Group – Rachael thanked Rosemary Yates on behalf of the whole team of arrangers for all they did to make the church look beautiful, particularly on special occasions such as the Coronation, Remembrance, Christmas and Easter. Rosemary responded that new members would be very welcome to join the group.

Bookworms – Cyra is running this since the Barham's moved to Hexham. She underlined that it was a team effort, also that it was open to anyone in the parish.

Events Committee – Elizabeth reported that the group had met recently and many great ideas for events had been tabled.

Food Bank – Paul reminded everyone how much this was needed and appreciated. More volunteers are needed to take the food collection to the Hope Centre in Derby on a monthly basis. Thanks to everyone who supports this.

Luncheon Club – Rachael thanked Anne Madge, and all involved in providing the regular lunches which are greatly appreciated by those who attend.

Handbell Group – Gill Flatman gave an update. Paul Smith thanked the group for supporting Derbyshire Blood Bikes at what has become a regular Christmas event at Park Farm. Contributions to the Blood Bikes were definitely enhanced by the group's playing.

Groundforce – Steve and Jane Burton had sent their apologies, but Rachael made a point of thanking them and the whole team for their regular work to keep the churchyard looking neat and tidy.

Safeguarding – Louise noted the support provided by the Diocese and urged anyone with any query or concern to speak to Madeleine or herself. Rachael thanked them for all they do to help us stay fully compliant. Mark Halliwell underlined the role of the Deanery Synod in this and other issues. It was a two-way forum in which we could learn from sister churches and also contribute ideas and solutions, as we had done with concerns about elderly congregation members being at risk from cybercrime and other scams. He also felt it was good that a synod report was a standing item on our PCC agenda.

9. Churchwarden's Report

The report was printed in full in the APCM booklet. Paul commented particularly on the support we had received to keep going during the vacancy, which had involved many both internally and externally. He celebrated some particular great moments, including the Bishop's Badge service at the cathedral and also the series of special events and services over Christmas which had seen record numbers attend our church.

He also referred to the large amount of maintenance work done to keep both the church and hall operational. He reported on repairs to the tower clock and the work led by Geoff Bailey to improve the hall's heat insulation. He closed by thanking Kate Smith for her constant support.

10. Associate Minister's Report

This was printed in full in the APCM booklet. Rachael explained that her placement last year had helped greatly in moving into her new role and she thanked everyone for the warm welcome extended to her and Andrew. She especially praised the contribution made by the Revd John Rice. He had given her great support and had been

instrumental in making church visits attractive to groups such as the Allestree Beavers. John was given a round of applause. She also thanked our organist David Redfern for his regular playing and flexibility.

There were several baptisms scheduled for the next few months. These would as far as possible be held within the context of regular morning worship and would be a great opportunity to extend a welcome to young families who do not currently attend. Alex Greig suggested cake with coffee in the hall would be a great way to build on the welcome in church.

Rachael also mentioned that there would be more cross-parish working in the future, for example the Ascension Service at St Matthew's would be promoted in all four churches.

Questions

Elizabeth Jack pointed out that the vicarage was now occupied again and queried if we could still use Primrose's shed for books and food bank items. Paul confirmed he had raised this with both the Diocesan property team and new occupant (Revd Adele Barker); we could continue to use the shed until further notice.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Acting PCC Secretary - Paul Smith

Presentation of the Electoral Roll

Election of PCC Lay Members

PCC Report for Jan 2024 – Dec 2024 – Paul Smith (Church warden & Acting PCC Secretary)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for co-operating with the incumbent to promote the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

Members are Trustees of the church's affairs, buildings and resources. Some are ex officio (clergy, readers, wardens and deanery synod reps), the rest are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC can also co-opt up to two members.

PCC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024 was:

Clergy – the Revd Rachael Brooks

Churchwardens - Paul Smith and Ann Miller

Parish Safeguarding Officers - Louise Whittaker and Madeleine Fullerton

Treasurer - Chris Jack

Secretary (Acting) - Paul Smith

Readers – none (following retirement of Deborah Simpson)

ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE PCC

Thelma Thompson

Geoff Bailey

Matthew Cooper

Richard Flatman

Madeleine Fullerton

David Halliwell

Chris Jack

Elizabeth Jack

Louise Whittaker

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

Mark Halliwell

David Redfern

Richard Wood

Retiring members at APCM 2025:

David Halliwell, Thelma Thompson and Richard Wood

Retiring members at APCM 2026:

Geoff Bailey, Christopher Jack, Elizabeth Jack, Louise Whittaker.

PCC meetings take place every other month, preceded, the previous week, by meetings of the Standing Committee (SC). The SC sets the agenda for the main PCC meeting and also makes decisions on its behalf where necessary (e.g. issues too urgent to wait for the next meeting). The PCC has a number of sub-committees, notably finance, fabric, events and worship.

All meetings open and close with prayer and are minuted. A typical agenda is:

Apologies for absence

1. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising (where not otherwise covered by the agenda)
2. Safeguarding
3. Treasurer's report, including year-to-date financial position
4. Wardens' report, including worship/church life, fabric and hall
5. Clergy report
6. Looking forward (upcoming events)
7. Deanery synod report (if synod has met since previous meeting)
8. Any other business
9. What have we done to further God's Kingdom (review of what the meeting has achieved)

Issues the PCC has focused on this year include:

- * Developing our programme of **worship and special events** so that we retain existing congregation members while strengthening our outreach to the local community, and especially its children, young people and families.
- * Keeping **safeguarding** policies up-to-date, and making sure people are properly trained (and, where required, DBS-checked) and that information (e.g. on reporting a concern) is readily available both in and outside the church and hall. Organisations that can help, and their contact numbers, are now mentioned in every issue of the parish magazine.
- * Maintaining the **church fabric, as well as the churchyard and the hall**, to the highest possible standard. In November 2024, we had the five-yearly (“Quinquennial”) church inspection by our architects, Smith & Roper.
- * Pursuing projects to **save energy and reduce costs**, notably consideration of new heating systems for the church and the hall.
- * Ensuring the church operates on a **sound financial footing**, with all assets under the Treasurer’s overview.
- * Ensuring that our **employees** have up-to-date terms and conditions and are properly remunerated.

PCC members also took part in a series of special meetings to define the direction of our church, focusing on developing our outreach to families in our area while continuing to meet the needs of our existing congregation.

My thanks to all current and past members, without whose help the PCC could not be effective. Special thanks to Ann Miller, who joined me as warden following the 2024 APCM, the Revd Rachael Brooks, who has unstintingly encouraged her wardens, and to Geoff Bailey, who has been a constant support in the management/maintenance of our church and hall buildings.

Accounts for 2024 and Treasurers Report for 2025 APCM – Chris Jack (Treasurer)

As before the accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, and I am grateful to Peter Hilton, who has examined them. The accounts and Peter’s examination certificate are attached.

Receipts and Payments

The comments below are intended to summarise and explain some of the numbers in the accounts.

Summary

The Receipts and Payments summary show that in 2024 we had a cash shortfall of £4, 585.

Our investments appreciated in 2024 by a total of £16,475.

Giving

Overall, our giving to the church rose by about £4,000, including tax recovered from Gift Aid. This included a small increase in planned, regular giving. We received no legacies in 2024.

Bank Interest

About one third of our interest comes from the Churchwarden’s Endowment fund and is therefore Restricted to expenditure on church fabric.

Other income

This is mainly recovery of office costs, including a proportion of Caroline's pay, from St Matthew's. As we now have an incumbent, we are no longer able to claim costs of visiting clergy from the diocese.

Sawrey Hill Field

Registration of the field has finally been accepted by the Land Registry. Now this has been set up we need to engage with the diocesan registrar on the future legal ownership of the land. The annual rent income from the field (£700) is included in Other Income.

Church Utility costs

The contract for energy supplies to the church expired mid-year we were able to negotiate significantly lower costs. This resulted in a £2,000 reduction in these costs over the year even though the reduced rates were only applicable for 6 months. The new contract is also classified as 'green' in that electricity is from renewable sources.

Cost of Trading

Cost of trading, which includes most costs not directly associated with church activities, fell in 2024 as there was no major maintenance work in the hall, and fuel prices were reduced as mentioned above. As a result, the hall made an operating profit of about £10,000. To reflect this, we were able to lower our hourly hire rate to the pre-school group.

Outward giving

We were able to maintain our level of outward giving both that made from PCC funds and donations to specific charities given at services, totalling almost £5,000. The details are as follows:

Age UK	£450
Zane (Zimbabwe Emergency)	£450
RNLI	£581
Padley Centre	£500
Embrace the Middle East	£500
Malawi Student	£455
Christian Aid	£620
Children's Society	£225
Foursquare: Hope Centre	£500
Railway Mission	£450
Tynedale Hospice	£182
Cardiac Arrest in the Young	£20

Common Fund

The Common Fund request was reduced by over £10,000 compared to 2023, reflecting reduced attendance and electoral roll numbers. However, it still remains our largest annual cost. We continue to pay the full amount requested by the diocese, which many parishes do not, and the PCC has agreed that we should continue to do so in 2025.

Salaries and Honoraria

Payments to Caroline and Tony constitute our second highest and fastest growing expense but I think we all agree that we could not operate without them. When Caroline helps with the toddler group, that portion of her pay comes from a legacy.

Agency receipts and payments

These arise whenever we accept money on behalf of someone else. Most commonly this is when we are paid for occasional offices (weddings and funerals), and this includes moneys we must pass on to the diocese and to other people who are involved: verger, organist, visiting priest etc. This will always appear as a group of creditors as we pass on these payments in arrears.

Church Hall valuation

As in previous years the valuation of the hall has been held constant because of the covenant which restricts the use of the land to 'ecclesiastical purposes'. However, the hall is insured for well over £1 million.

Looking forward

As stated above we made a cash loss of about £4,500 last year. This compared with a surplus of £7,000 in 2023, but that included a sizeable legacy without which the 2023 would have had a deficit of £27,000, so aside from the legacy there was a considerable improvement in our cash flow, for reasons discussed above. The church remains in a very healthy financial position, with nearly £13,000 per annum coming from bank interest. This figure is important because if we choose to spend some of our capital, we will clearly lose some of this income.

It is worth noting that over half of our cash balance is in Restricted Funds, i.e. they have been given to the church with limitations on how we can spend it, and of these about 80% (some £90,000) are restricted to the maintenance and improvement of St Edmund's church fabric.

The PCC is considering several improvements to the church and hall, the most significant of which are changes to our heating systems, as the boilers in both buildings reach the end of their working lives. From a financial perspective it is important that these changes substantially reduce the running costs, although environmental and other factors need to be considered. We are not allowed to install new fossil fuel-based heating systems in the church.

Currently we can claim back VAT for church repairs under the government Listed Places of Worship (LPW) scheme. The Scheme is run by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and is funded until 31 March 2026, but there is some information that it may not be extended beyond that date.

The PCC has agreed that we continue to make donations from our funds to external charities of £4,000 in 2025, excluding collections taken for specific charities taken at services.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee meets irregularly and usually by Zoom. We find that most of our business can be conducted by email or in person at church. I am very grateful for the support from each of them, without which the treasurer's job would be much harder or impossible.

St Edmund's, Allestree 2024 Accounts

St Edmunds, Allestree 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
	£	£	£	£	
RECEIPTS					
1 & 2 Planned Giving	35,863			35,863	34,082
3 Collections at services	4,283			4,283	5,159
4 Other voluntary giving and donations	7,766			7,766	6,497
6 Tax recovered	10,549			10,549	8,494
Total from donors	58,461	0	0	58,461	54,232
7 Legacies	0				34,395
8 Grants	812			812	
9 Fund raising	260		423	683	582
10 Bank Interest	8,179		4,702	12,881	9,841
11 Service Fees	10,054			10,054	6,152
12 Trading Income: Hall	26,026			26,026	25,424
12 Trading Income: Magazine and book sales	1,563			1,563	1,691
13 Other income	10,716			10,716	17,156
13c Agency income	10,581			10,581	6,713
Total Other income	68,191	0	5,125	73,316	101,954
TOTAL RECEIPTS	126,652	0	5,125	131,777	156,186
PAYMENTS					
17 Fund raising	225			225	
18 Outward giving	1,128	3,805		4,933	4,539
19 Common Fund - Parish	43,496			43,496	54,527
20 Salaries and Honoraria	27,956		1,138	29,094	26,245
21 Clergy expenses	2,509			2,509	4,968
22 Mission giving	880			880	-
23 Church Running Expenditure	12,241		4,500	16,741	13,893
24 Church utilities	8,586			8,586	10,524
25 Cost of Trading	19,655		589	20,244	27,297
26 Governance	458			458	361
99 Other costs	759			759	1,545
Agency Payments	8,437			8,437	5,279
TOTAL PAYMENTS	126,330	3,805	6,227	136,362	149,178
Excess of Receipts over Payments	322	-3,805	-1,102	-4,585	7,008
OPENING CASH BALANCES	125,904	5	112,153	238,062	231,054
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	-3,800	3,800			
CLOSING CASH BALANCES	122,426	0	111,051	233,477	238,062

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
CASH FUNDS					
Cash and cheques on hand	0				1,233
CAF current	6,408	0		6,408	7,914
CAF deposit	19,399		111,051	130,450	137,166
CCLA deposit	96,619			96,619	91,749
TOTAL	122,426	0	111,051	233,477	238,062
INVESTMENT FUNDS VALUATION					
CCLA CBF account				259,389	246,790
CCLA CBF account (Endowment from Churchwarden's Land charity)				173,246	169,370
CHURCH HALL				114,000	114,000
CREDITORS					
Agency				2,144	1,434

ST EDMUND'S CHURCH ALLESTREE PCC

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF
ST EDMUND'S CHURCH ALLESTREE**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024, which comprise the Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2016. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the members of the PCC those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Act, to follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145 of the Act and Church Guidance, 2016 edition and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

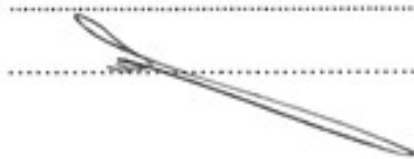
- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been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

Name P B Hilton FCA

Address 5 Wharfedale Close, Allestree, Derby

Date 9/2/25

Signed



PCC Committee and other Group/Activity Reports

Children's Work – Please see Rev. Rachael Brooks report.

Church Magazine – Fiona Fraser, Chris Willis & Claire Pegg

Fiona Fraser (all the work). Chris Willis (distribution and proof reading), Claire Pegg (proof reading).

The Parish Magazine continues to be produced throughout the year, there being 11 publications in a 12-month period with a double issue for December/January. The number of copies printed by John E Wright in Derby is 180 at the moment, a slight reduction on previous years because demand has fallen slightly. Of these, 112 are hand delivered by a team of 14 devoted helpers, 12 are posted, 20 placed for sale at CTD News at Blenheim Parade, 5 at the Pharmacy and 1 free copy goes to the Library at Park Farm Centre. The remainder are placed in the Church. The price for the magazine is £1 per copy, but the people who have their copy delivered pay £10 for the year, provided they pay in advance. The magazine 'year' runs from 1st July to 31st June in any one year, so requests for annual payments usually appear in the May and June issues – with reminders later as needed.

Many thanks are due to Fiona, who does the lion's share of the work needed to produce the magazine.

Church Hall Report – Caroline Audley

St Edmund's Preschool continue to use the hall Monday-Friday during term time and School's Out hire the hall during most holidays. We also welcome Ballet on a Monday (term time) as well The Tuneless Choir. Studio 86 (a dance class, term time) and Derventio choir hire the hall on a Tuesday. Brownies and Guides are in on a Wednesday (term time). On a Thursday we currently have a Reki class who have been using the Conference Room. Fridays tend to be free. Ann Miller's choirs hire the hall fairly regularly, but this tends to be at the weekend when we also have parties. We are grateful to them all for this invaluable income.

Thank you as always to Tony for helping with many aspects of the hall from moving chairs and tables, cleaning the windows and dusting the high corners to sweeping the outside play area for the pre-school. We are very grateful.

Baby & Toddler Group – Caroline Audley

The group continues to meet on a Thursday during term time from 10-11.30am. We have a number of regulars but often have new faces too. I don't ask people to book as this can be stressful for parents and plans also change so some weeks are quieter than others, but some weeks are very busy. I welcome childminders who tend to bring multiple children. I don't think it's right to exclude them like some groups do.

The group offers fruit and biscuits, squash, tea and coffee. This is kindly donated from Morrison's in Belper and their Community Champion.

Thank you as ever to Tony for helping week after week to get all of the toys in and out of the cupboard, as well as moving the tables and chairs, I couldn't do it without him. I definitely notice when he's on holiday! Huge thanks also to Michèle who does a wonderful job helping to make teas and coffees, wash up at the end so there is now nothing for me to take home and chatting to the Mums and Grans, making them feel welcome.

Flower Group - Michèle Aspinall

In normal circumstances, the church flower group ensures that fresh flowers are always on display for services apart from Lent and Advent. A special effort is made for festivals such as Easter and Christmas. Appropriate flowers and colours are also in place for Remembrance Sunday, Whitsun etc. We always try to follow the wishes of families for funeral flowers and also provide arrangements to celebrate anniversaries or memorials.

Some of our funding comes from wedding flowers, when we make a small profit whilst still providing flowers at a more competitive price than some florists. Unfortunately, 2024 saw a marked drop in the number of weddings celebrated in the church. This had a significant impact on our funds. Nonetheless, thanks to generous donations from individuals, the congregation's response to appeals and the skills of the group, the floral arrangements at Easter, Harvest and Christmas continue to impress. Mothering Sunday flowers are also provided from this funding.

In September, as part of our work in the community, Baby and Toddler Group, Preschool, Brownies, Guides and Rainbows helped us to create displays for Allestree Scarecrow Festival.

The church flower group gladly welcomes new recruits. Many of our team are also members of Allestree Flower Group. No flower arranging skills are required as full training is offered by our expert, talented team. Volunteers to clear flowers and help with "normal" weeks are particularly welcome. We see flower arranging as a pleasant, social and creative way of serving the church and helping to make it a welcoming and comforting place at the heart of our community.

Choir - Elizabeth Jack

The choir continues to sing regularly at 2 morning and 2 Evensongs a month plus several joint services with St. Matthew's choir and their new leader, Tim Capes. In addition, we organised an afternoon Epiphany celebration and led the hymn singing at Rachael and Sarah's licensing service. We were honoured to sing at Chris and Charlie Pegg's wedding – mother of the bridegroom joined the choir to sing anthems and descants! We sang at a RSCM Diocesan Festival Evensong at Chesterfield Parish Church, along with over 100 others, ably conducted by Alex Binns from Derby Cathedral.

Chris and I celebrated 50 years of singing with St. Edmund's choir in September with a wonderful Evensong involving a large choir of friends who have sung and continue to sing with us. We were delighted to welcome Hugh Morris, Director of the RSCM who not only joined us for the presentation of a certificate but played the organ as well.

We sang at a moving afternoon All Souls service at the beginning of November followed by the annual Remembrance Sunday service the following week. The Advent Procession with both choirs were at Darley Abbey and the successful traditional carol service with an augmented choir took place the Sunday before Christmas.

I am, as ever, indebted to my wonderful group of singers and thank them most sincerely for their total commitment. Thanks too to David Redfern for his regular, week in, week out organ playing, to Tom Corfield for his choral Evensong accompaniments and to the small band of extra singers who help us out from time to time.

Bookworms - Cyra Buxton, Jane Burton and Anne Madge

Bookworms has continued to meet monthly throughout the year in St Edmund's choir vestry and currently has 9 members, from both St Edmund's and St Matthew's parishes.

The new method of selecting the books to read introduced last year, whereby each member takes it in turn to put forward a book title for discussion, has proved to be very popular. It has provided a wide variety of titles, in different genres, and historical and geographical settings, ranging from those remembered from more youthful days up to very recent publications.

Members continue to enjoy both being introduced to new authors and/or titles, and the opportunity to share their life and literary experiences with fellow booklovers.

Events Committee – Elizabeth Jack

We met several times over the course of 2024 and, in addition to organising refreshments for many services, we have been planning an exciting range of events for the future as we feel we are not just providers of tea and coffee but aim to continue raising funds for the church with our ideas.

The pancake evening was a great success with the raffle, organised by Mary Pollett, raising a great deal of money. The pie and chips Harvest Supper was well received but with small numbers and we shall be consulting with people to ask their preferences for future suppers.

I am indebted to the committee of Michele Aspinall, Mary Pollett, Gill Flatman and Diane Bakhda who are wonderful to work with and full of bright ideas and enthusiasm. Long may they continue!

Food Bank – Paul Smith

As in previous years, we have **supported the Hope Centre (Curzon Street)** with monthly donations of groceries and toiletries. These are collected just after the first Sunday of the month (food bank Sunday) and are then taken to Curzon Street by one of our team of volunteers. Special thanks to the Revd John Rice, Chris & Elizabeth Jack, and Chris Willis for doing this on a regular basis.

In 2024, John stood down from his role, so one or even more replacement volunteers would now be most welcome. As with any other enterprise, the work is less if shared and we could really do with a couple **more people** to help with this most valuable work. The more names we have on the rota, the less often your turn comes round! You don't need a large car and help with loading/unloading can be readily arranged. Please speak to me if you would like to join our team.

It continues to be shameful that, in our wealthy city of Derby, **so many need to use, and indeed rely on, food banks**. I greatly value this work which directly involves our church in helping the needy right on our doorstep. Thanks again to all volunteers, and to you who regularly donate substantial quantities of groceries and toiletries.

We have **discontinued the use of Primrose's Shed** as a depot for contributions, so please do bring them to church on, or within a day or so of, our food bank Sundays, always the first Sunday of the month. Don't forget to let me know if **you could help** with these deliveries, which are so much appreciated by the Hope Centre managers – and the people of Derby.

Luncheon Club – Anne Madge

We have had another successful year with a great team of volunteers to enable the club to continue to run smoothly.

This year, we have managed to keep our prices at a manageable level of £5 for a 3-course meal as well as £5 for a place on the community bus, despite rising prices. We have maintained a positive bank balance which includes a small staff fund donated by our members. We have earmarked £600 to pay for 2 free meals this year, one for our birthday in May and the other for Christmas.

We were last visited by Environmental Health in November 2023 and were again awarded the top rating of 5 stars.

Thank you to all our volunteers, the staff who help on the day and the ladies on the pudding rota. You all have a very important contribution to make for this to continue to be a happy place for isolated people to meet, socialise and share a meal together.

We currently have 34 members on our books with a very limited spare capacity on the bus. If you know anyone who would like to join us, please let us know.

Allestree Churches Together (ACT) – Rev'd Rachael Brooks

ACT as a formally continued body has been dissolved. However, Holiday At Home happened successfully in summer 2024.

Handbell Group – Gill Flatman

We have had a successful and enjoyable year, practising in the choir vestry, under the leadership of Bryan Clarke. During the year, two of our members were hospitalised and Margaret Clarke is no longer able to join us for our weekly practices. However, I am delighted to report that Janice Johnson, our former leader, has returned to the group as a ringing member.

Prior to Christmas '24 we rang our Christmas Carols at Park Farm in support of Blood Bikes. We look forward to welcoming you again this year on Saturday 13th December. Please come and support us and of course, Blood Bikes! At the invitation of Derby Music Club, we played at St John's Church, Bridge St and finally in our own Church prior to The Nine Lessons and Carols.

Socially, we meet regularly at Hudson's Garden Centre for coffee on a Saturday morning. We have just enjoyed our Spring Lunch at the Red Cow, where a number of members continue to socialise after our Monday evening practices.

This year we had an extended winter break and returned to enjoy lighter evenings.

Groundforce – Steve & Jane Burton

The St Edmund's Groundforce team continues to meet once a month to maintain both the churchyard and church hall grounds. It consists of a loyal team of about 10 members from both within St Edmund's congregation and the wider community.

Over the past year due to the various storms, we have suffered damage to several more trees in the churchyard which, although Derby City Council has made the trees safe, has necessitated clearing a considerable amount of fallen timber from the graveyard.

There has been further work trying to repair the worst of the damage badgers have done foraging for food and we have been gently trying to discourage them from further activity. Unfortunately, they are continuing to dig up turf in multiple locations within the churchyard.

We have ensured that the flower border adjacent to the church entrance is cared for, and weeds growing immediately adjacent to the curtilage of the church building have been removed. Ivy which was beginning to inundate some gravestones and trees has been cut back, and the hedge adjacent to the Red Cow's outside seating area has been supplemented with holly and hawthorn saplings to reinforce the boundary.

At the bottom of the churchyard the three new woodpiles which we created last year have been added to and they continue to provide a habitat for small mammals and insects. Access to graves in this area generally has been improved by removing both some of the overhanging branches from the large leylandii hedge, and also large quantities of fallen leaves which were completely covering the graves.

Apart from this, dead flowers have been regularly cleared from graves, and dead leaves cleared to keep graves exposed thereby enabling the grass to grow and the spring bulbs to thrive and be visible.

In the church hall grounds, we have continued to tidy the borders, planted out some shrubs and groundcover plants in the border opposite Playgroup's outdoor area to help to re-dress some of the damage caused by the replacement of the fence. We have also coppiced some of the hazel between the car park and the road, allowing more natural light to come in and reduce the stress on the boundary wall.

A current long-term project is to ensure that gravestones in the churchyard which have become obscured by vegetation are uncovered. We have made a start this year by clearing the brambles, self-seeded holly, ash saplings and scrub from the graves closest to the southern boundary wall.

There is always a conflict between facilitating access to and caring for the gravestones, and removing the brambles, nettles and holly, etc which provide a valuable food source for wildlife. So, as some sort of mitigation, we have sown a wild meadow seed mix in the cleared areas surrounding some of these gravestones and wait to see how successful this will be.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Groundforce team for their willingness to turn out in all sorts of weather and the valuable contribution they make to keeping the church grounds in good order.

Safeguarding - Louise Whittaker & Madeleine Fullerton (PSO's for St Edmund's Church, Allestree)

As the Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) for Saint Edmund's Church, Madeleine Fullerton and Louise Whittaker are continuing to comply with our duties in relation to Safeguarding as set down in the House of Bishops Safeguarding policy 'Promoting a Safer Church'. We remain dedicated to maintaining 'Best Practice' in parish safeguarding. Although there is often something that will crop up for us to sort and keep on top of, we are confident that everything is up to date or in the process of becoming so. This year we have updated all of the individual role descriptions and risk assessments for the specific groups within our parish and made them consistent with the latest Diocesan recommended format. We updated our Recruitment of ex-offenders' policy in accordance with the Diocesan template received from Church House and the Safeguarding Code of Conduct, forwarded to us by the Diocese has also been given to and signed by all individuals who hold a volunteer or paid role at Saint Edmund's Church. We continue to fulfil all of the requirements of the Annual Safeguarding Audit (the 'Dashboard') and following our involvement in the

successful trialling of the second Dashboard Hub (as mentioned in last year's report), all our safeguarding training results are now part of this online Hub.

In our specific roles as PSO's we continue to ensure that the relevant groups who provide services to the parish receive up to date safeguarding training. All training for role holders within Saint Edmund's Church is currently almost up to date and there are only a couple of volunteers, including a new vergers who have completed the Basic safeguarding training course, but still have the Foundation course before them.

All of St. Edmund's role holders have up to date DBS certification in place and the online Updating Service that everyone has now subscribed to has continued to ensure that many of our DBS certificates have been renewed with relative ease over the last few months.

As PSO's we very much appreciate that despite the concerns of many within our congregation regarding safeguarding in the wider church, most of our volunteers understand that we must continue nevertheless to show ourselves to be open to all scrutiny and checks. The safety, trust and support of all our church members and of the wider community wishing to belong to official groups within our churches is of paramount importance to us.

In the light of what has been brought to light within the Church of England in autumn 2024, it looks like there will be future changes and extra support in parish safeguarding that will be gradually introduced.

The Church of England is strengthening its safeguarding practices and policies which will include both a more regional approach to allow for cross-learning and sharing best practice as well as providing more support to us PSOs at a local level.

Since the last Annual Safeguarding report, no Safeguarding issues have arisen in our parish.

As we conclude this report, we would like to remind everyone that the parish magazine now provides contact numbers and website details for individuals to refer to in varying cases of concern and also for those who are interested, a copy of the Parish Safeguarding handbook 'Promoting a Safer Church' brings into one place the key safeguarding responsibilities for parishes. It is available online in its most up to date format and can be found by going to www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding for everyone to access.

As the Parish Safeguarding Officers, we are keen to support the members of our parish and would just like to reiterate that if anybody has any safeguarding concerns then please do not hesitate to contact us. Our details are on the back page of the parish magazine and on the posters on the church noticeboards.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with Rachael and Sarah on our Safeguarding responsibilities in the months ahead and we will continue to report back to the PCC at each meeting.

Churchwardens' Report – Paul Smith & Ann Miller

Cause to Celebrate

We continue to have much to celebrate and be grateful for. Highlights of 2024 include:

- The appointment and licensing of the Revds Sarah and Rachael to our church and our three sister parishes.
- The award of the Bishop's Badge to Gill & Richard Flatman, and to Richard Wood, at a special service in the Cathedral in September, recognising their long service and commitment to St Edmund's.

- The monthly churchyard working parties involving our Groundforce volunteers. We regularly receive favourable comments from friends and neighbours on how neat and well-kept this area is.
- Work to make the tower area more attractive to visiting children. This has involved the placing of a storage cupboard to keep toys and other children's materials tidy. This was gifted in memory of Janet Hogben, a fitting legacy to a former Sunday School teacher.
- The full immersion baptism of Jason Carnell on 30 June.
- A most-moving Remembrance Service, led by the Revd Rachael Brooks and attended by our City Councillors and HM Deputy Lord Lieutenant, as well as by our friends from the Royal British Legion. With some careful planning and a bit of fine tuning on the day, we hit the hour of eleven on the nail, just as the clock struck. We also heard the Last Post and Reveille played with panache and confidence. Other special services included our Harvest celebration and All Souls' commemoration.
- A wonderful series of services through Advent and Christmas, which saw record numbers attend church and also allowed significant donations to the Children's Society and to Christian Aid. Huge thanks to all involved, and especially to those who participated in the two very well-attended crib services on Christmas Eve.

Choir and organist

We are blessed to have a small but talented choir able to sing a large repertoire of church music. Many thanks to our singers for their commitment and devotion, and especially to Elizabeth Jack for all she does to plan the music and lead the choir. We are also very fortunate in our regular organist, David Redfern, who is able to play such a wide range of music and who is always so friendly and flexible. We have also welcomed visiting organists on many occasions and we thank them too for their wonderful contribution to our worship.

Welcomers etc

This report would be incomplete without mention of our team of welcomers, lesson readers and prayer leaders. We feel it is vital that everyone who enters our church for a service is properly greeted and made to feel very welcome, and we have a wonderful team of people who do this, week in and week out. Not everyone feels comfortable standing up to read from scripture or lead our prayers, but we are again fortunate to have a team of people who do this as well as it could possibly be done. Whether welcomer, reader or prayer leader (and some are all three) you are a key part of our church life and your ministry is so much appreciated.

Fabric

The management of the church itself, along with the churchyard and the heavily-used church hall, create a very demanding workload. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who regularly decorate the church with beautiful flower arrangements, and who carry out essential maintenance such as bulb-changing, and keeping roofs, gutters, downpipes and gullies clear. This particular work is vital to prevent water ingress into the building, and consequent rot, mould and similar costly and unsightly damage. Other work deserving mention includes:

- Gaining planning permission for the move of Primrose's shed.
- Producing manuals containing practical information on the hall and church buildings.
- The replacement of the choir vestry toilet floor in November.
- Discussions with HM Prison and Probation service about possible work to help the church.

- The setting up of a heating group to examine and recommend options for the replacement of the church heating system.
- The quinquennial inspection by our architects Smith & Roper.
- The carrying out of the quinquennial test and inspection of the church wiring.
- Deep cleaning of the hall meeting room carpet.
- Work to improve the hot water supply to the hall kitchen sinks, and to improve the drainage from the same.
- Refurbishment and repainting of the red church noticeboard facing St Edmund's Close following the appointment of the Revds Rachael and Sarah.
- The fitting of a meter to the church water supply, meaning that we are only charged for the small quantity of water we actually use, instead of paying a flat rate based on average consumption. Thanks to Chris Jack for instigating and executing this project.
- Annual inventory check done on 11 April.

Other Work Completed and Ongoing

Work has included the necessary checks of fire, electrical and gas safety as well as numerous running repairs and some specialist work to keep our historic tower clock in good running order. At the same time, we are seeking to move towards net Zero (and manage our energy costs) with ongoing projects to improve insulation, evaluate alternative heating methods and make our church lighting both more effective and more efficient.

We continue to have an issue with the retaining wall to the west of the church hall car park. Restricting use of the car park (to minimise the load on the wall) has stabilised the situation. We have now appointed consulting engineers to systematically monitor whether there is any further movement.

In all these, we have had the outstanding support of the Fabric Committee comprising Geoff Bailey, Richard Wood, Richard Flatman and David Halliwell, and of many other volunteers who, in so many ways, ensure our church is able to continue its rich ministry to our local community.

Parish Priest's Report – Rev'd Rachael Brooks

2024 was a year of being welcomed and finding my feet. It has been a joy to start to get to know members of the church, their family, and local people in the parish. Thank you so much to all of you for your kindness and grace to Andrew and me as we've settled in.

It has been an eventful year aside from our arrival. Peter's death in July, while anticipated, was hard. It was good to gather on that first Sunday after the news came out, thank you to those who spread the news and ferried people without transport from church to St Matthew's at short notice. It was also good to gather in church to join in the funeral via livestream, huge thankyou's to those who made the tech happen.

Nationally, we've had the impact of the Makin report and the resignation/retirement of the Archbishop of Canterbury. While this hasn't overtly affected our church services or attendance, it has had an impact on the way the church is viewed by those outside our doors. We have work to do to win back trust. I am thankful to Louise and Madeleine and PCC who endeavour to help us keep one another safe, and to all those who complete the necessary training and checks. Demonstrating our love for one another can be time-consuming and tiresome at times, but it's the right thing to do so we bear it.

Planning for the future

In the summer the four churches' PCCs joined together for an away day looking at who we are, how culture around us has changed and what that means for how we might engage with people of different ages who are open to finding out more about the God who loves and died for them. Our PCC drew up a priority list which comprised:

1. Less formality in worship to make church more accessible to new members.

We began this in coalition with St Matthew's who also have this priority, forming our cross-benefice All Age team in time for our Harvest services. The team swung into action to put on our Crib services too. More plans are afoot for 2025.

2. Pastoral outreach to Allestree families, starting with contacts from occasional offices.

2024 saw lots of funerals, baptisms and some weddings, each supported by a fabulous team who do their jobs with care. Thank you to the small but effective team who put on baptism preparation with me. The All Souls' Service was very well attended and connections were made or deepened and links made with the wonderful Luncheon Club. And our tots group is so appreciated by local families. It would be wonderful to have a couple of other people to serve God and our young families by helping wash up, or serve drinks and chat with those who come.

3. Growing our own faith and discipleship through study and prayer.

I set up a group aimed at relatively newish Christians in the autumn which was a handy learning opportunity and informed my thinking about how home groups might work here. I decided that Lent 2025 would be a good time to aim at for commencing home groups across the benefice.

Uniformed groups

We had encouraging contact with two Beavers groups in Allestree earlier in the year. It was disappointing that they didn't get involved with Christingle, perhaps in 2025. However, it was wonderful to have our Brownies and Guides involved in preparing Christingle kits and in running that service, something that we must build on in 2025.

The four parishes

My joint appointment with Rev'd Sarah Watson has led to a closer engagement with St Nick's and St Paul's. St Nick's hosted a post-service picnic in their hall in the summer which was well attended and enjoyed by all. As well as working together at the PCC away day we have encouraged joint working for our communities. A couple of us joined the Experience Easter team to deliver immersive learning to local primary, infant and junior schools and I'm very glad to report that one of our congregation has joined the youthwork team running an after-school club at St Nick's for pupils at Woodlands School.

Sarah and I have also planned for our fifth Sunday services to now be celebrated as a four rather than a two. The first joint service took place on 29th December here at St Edmund's, resulting in a very healthy congregation of 77 people, with all four churches represented. We're working together on special services too, the first one of which was the All Souls' service and advertised one-another's Advent and Christmas services. It was good to find various people going to services at different parishes according to which timings worked best for them.

Thank you

2024 provided me with a very steep learning curve and I'm very grateful to all of you for the ways you've helped me, whether by giving me information, helping me with things or simply being patient with my efforts to lead you well.

There are several groups/ people I must thank in particular:

- The choir and David Redfern for their roles in leading worship with me.

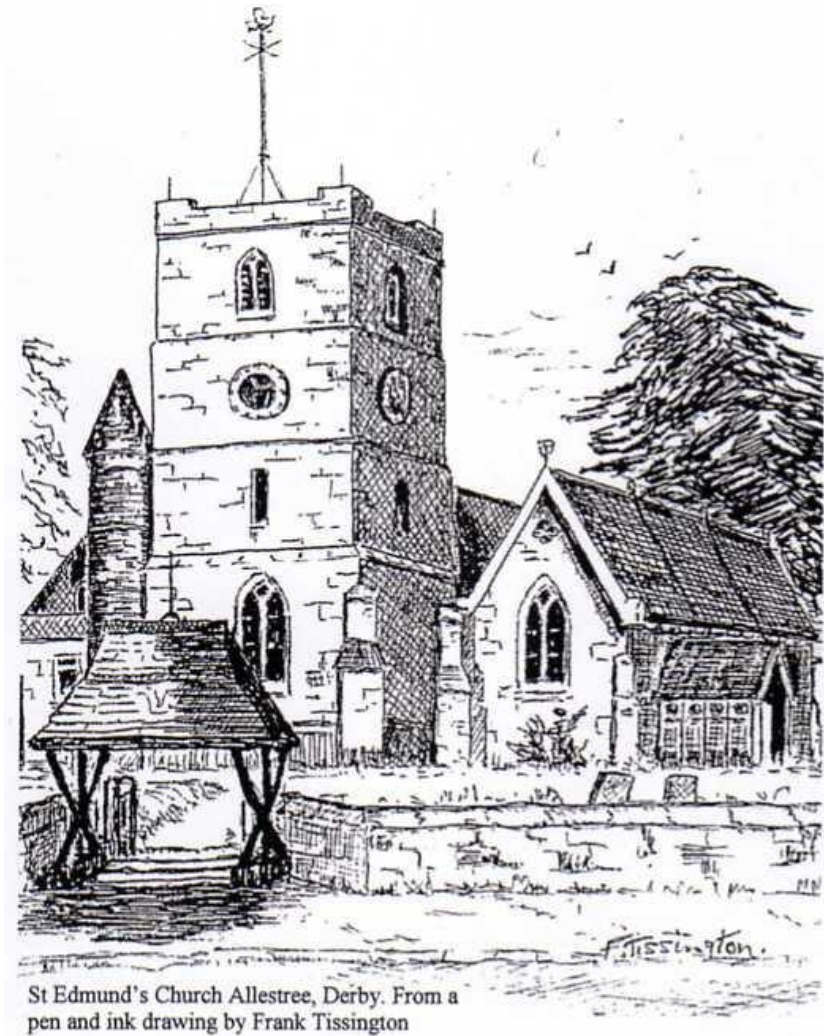
- the pastoral care team who shares my pastoral responsibilities and do so much behind the scenes to support vulnerable members of our congregation.
- I could not do my job without the various members of PCC doing theirs. I am so grateful that you take the lead on finance, the building, safeguarding and other organisational stuff, using the gifts God has given you to serve us here. Paul and Ann are such fab churchwardens to work with, bringing their own considerable gifts to lead you with me.

And finally, there are two people without whom I would have been completely stuck.

- Caroline is just the most capable, organised, thoughtful, wise administrator – Peter really picked a good one in her! The breadth of stuff that comes at her day by day really is astonishing, we've had some particularly thorny churchyard challenges to unpick this year, and she's supported me so well through it all.
- Andrew, who basically makes our home function and masterminded our move from Littleover into our vicarage, so I've been able to focus on what it means to be a parish priest here. He's a total gem, as I'm sure many of you are beginning to find out.

Accounts

The Parish of St Edmund, Allestree



Election of Churchwardens

and

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024

Sunday 28th April 2024

After the 10am service in the Church

Contents

	Page
Agenda	3
Minutes of Churchwardens' Meeting 2023	4
Land Charities Accounts	5
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023	7
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council	11
Treasurers Report for the year 2023	14
Independent Examiner's Report	18
PCC Committee and Other Group/Activity Reports	19
Safeguarding Report	24
Churchwardens' Report	26
Parish Priest Report	28

Agenda

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Churchwardens' Meeting 2023 (see page 4)
4. Election of Churchwardens
5. Land Charity Accounts (see page 5)

Followed by:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2023 APCM (see page 7)
3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll – this year we have 124 people on the roll
4. Election of Laity Representatives
5. Annual Report of the PCC (see page 11)
7. Financial Report (see page 14)
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. Presentation of other Reports (see page 19)
10. Churchwardens' Report (see page 26)
11. Parish Priest Report (see page 28)
12. Opportunity for questions

THE PARISH OF ST. EDMUND ALLESTREE
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH WARDENS' MEETING

23rd April 2023

Present: Rev Rachael Brooks, Chair.

Parishioners: 40

1. Rev Rachael Brooks welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers especially for Peter and Julie. She welcomed Sarah Watson, the Area Dean.

2. Apologies

Rev Peter Barham, Julie Barham, Dot Lawer, Richard Wood and John Aspinall.

3. Minutes of the Churchwardens' Meeting on 8th May 2022

The minutes were read and accepted as a true record.

4. Election of Church Wardens

Paul Smith is happy to stand again as Church Warden and was nominated by Kate Smith and seconded by Julie Barham. No other nominations had been received.

Rachael thanked Paul for standing again and for his hard work during this last year. Parishioners showed thanks with a round of applause.

5. Land Charities Accounts

The final accounts were presented in the APCM booklet and both the Church wardens' Land Charity and the Parish Clerk's Land Charity accounts are now closed. The funds have now been moved into the PCC accounts. Rachael thanked everyone who had been involved in this.

This concluded the Church Wardens' meeting.

ST. EDMUND'S ALLESTREE, CHURCHWARDEN'S LAND CHARITY
(Registered Charity No 219394)

(A) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2023

RECEIPTS	£	PAYMENTS	£
	0.00		0.00
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	0.00		
Cash at Bank and in Hand (1st Jan 2023)			0.00
Cash at Bank and in Hand (31st Dec 2023)			0.00

(B) STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2022 £	2023 £
CASH FUNDS	0.00	0.00
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	0.00	0.00
ENDOWMENT ASSETS	0.00	0.00

OTHER ASSETS

8.9 (approx) acres of Arable Land

at Sawrey Hill (formerly known as Saucy Hill) - current value approx £90,000

Rental from this asset paid direct to St Edmund's PCC A/C
from Fisher German's Client A/C re: Markeaton Estate.

Current Rental Income = £700.00 pa

St. Edmund's Allestree Churchwarden's Land Charity

Registered Charity No 219394

Accounts for the year ended 31st Dec 2023

The accounts of the Churchwarden's Land Charity have been prepared in a similar manner to previous years, although they are somewhat limited as the Trustees decided to close the Nat West Bank Accounts and transfer all the cash assets and investment assets to the PCC last year (see last year's accounts). The latter were intended to be the final accounts for the charity, but events have conspired to delay the merging of the Land Charity into the PCC (itself a registered charity):

The future of the Land Charity is still under discussion between the PCC and our legal advisor, the Registrar of the Diocese of Derby.

The accounts, such as they are, are merely a statement of where the process is, the rental income from the Sawrey Hill field has now been paid directly to the PCC for both 2022 and 2023.

Prepared by: Richard Flatman

Richard Flatman 25/1/24

Approved by: Paul Smith (Trustee and Churchwarden)

Paul Smith 26/1/24

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

23rd April 2023

1. Apologies

As recorded in previous minutes.

2. Minutes of 2022 APCM

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

The roll has 124 names in total, 72 being resident in the parish and 52 not resident in the parish.

We remembered with love and affection Enid Clarke who has passed away during the year.

Rachael thanked Mathew and Alex Cooper for sorting the electoral roll.

4. Election of Laity representatives

The 7 members of the PCC who are due to retire at this APCM are Geoff Bailey, Paula Birchell, David Halliwell, Julie Hutchinson, Christopher Jack, Elizabeth Jack and Louise Whittaker. Paula Birchall is not standing again due to ill health. Julie Hutchinson is not standing again as she has moved north to Cumbria. The position of PCC Secretary is therefore vacant. Julie gave a brief outline of what the role involved. There were no volunteers for this role. Geoff Bailey, David Halliwell, Christopher Jack, Elizabeth Jack and Louise Whittaker were happy to stand again and were nominated and seconded accordingly. There are now 3 vacancies on the PCC. Rachael encouraged people to consider standing on the PCC and reinforced how important it is to have a cross section of people on the PCC.

The Deanery Synod representatives, Mark Halliwell, David Redfern and Richard Wood need re-electing and all wished to stand again. They were nominated and seconded accordingly.

Nominations were elected to the PCC and Deanery Synod unanimously.

PCC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023-2024 will be -

Incumbent Vacancy – Rev Peter Barham is retiring due to ill health.

Church Wardens Paul Smith

VACANCY

Parish Safeguarding Officers Louise Whittaker

Madeleine Fullerton

Treasurer Chris Jack

Secretary VACANCY

Readers Deborah Simpson

ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE PCC

Michèle Aspinall

Geoff Bailey

Matthew Cooper

Richard Flatman

Madeleine Fullerton

David Halliwell

Chris Jack

Elizabeth Jack

Louise Whittaker

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES – EX OFFICIO PCC MEMBERS

Mark Halliwell

David Redfern

Richard Wood

Retiring members at APCM 2024

Matthew Cooper, Richard Flatman.

Retiring members at APCM 2025

Michèle Aspinall, Madeleine Fullerton.

Retiring members at APCM 2026

Geoff Bailey, David Halliwell, Christopher Jack, Elizabeth Jack, Louise Whittaker.

5. Annual Report of the PCC

The report is contained within the 2023 APCM booklet.

Rachael thanked Julie for her work as PCC Secretary. The parishioners showed appreciation with applause.

6. Financial Report

The full report is contained within the 2023 APCM booklet.

In summary, Chris Jack reported that the surplus for the year is £11,825, however, this includes the transfer of Land Charities into the PCC accounts and is, in real terms, a £10,000 loss.

Chris thanked Geoff and Richard for all their work and research into the land associated with the Land Charities. The land is now being registered as being in ownership of the PCC.

Costs have increased, mainly due to fuel costs more than doubling. Donations have decreased by £5,000.

Hall lettings have now recovered after COVID and a small profit is being made which is being invested in the building. Insulation has been increased significantly. Chris thanked Geoff and Richard for doing this.

Despite the PCC having considerable savings, the position of increasing outgoings and decreasing incomings could lead to disaster in the future and Chris is keen to start an increased giving campaign.

Chris thanked members of the Finance Committee and Peter Hilton, for support through the year.

Steve Burton asked about the £3,500 donation to St Nicholas to support their work with young people and why St Edmunds hasn't seen any young people. Chris felt it was important to encourage young people within the wider community and Michèle felt there were positive signs for the future. Rachael, in her role, reported about the many things that were happening and how working with young people can make slow progress as trust needs to be gained. A Christian Union group has been set up at Woodlands. Rachael felt that services have to be welcoming to young people and have to be what they want to come to so changes to our services may be needed if we want to see more young people attending.

Chris Willis felt the cost paid to the registrar for registering the land was very high. Chris explained that it was the cost of the solicitor assigned by the Diocese.

Rachael thanked Chris for all his hard work.

7. Appointment of Auditor/Independent Financial Examiner

Peter Hilton has volunteered to be an independent financial examiner again next year. Proposed by Chris Jack. Seconded by Paul Smith. Majority for.

8. Presentation of Committee Reports

Committee reports are printed in full in the APCM booklet. Extra comments are recorded below.

Children's Work – Rachael and Alex are putting something together for small children to make services more child friendly. Volunteers needed.

Baby and Toddler – Rachael did a service prior to Easter which was lovely.

Flower Group – Rachael thanked Michèle and her team for the stunning displays that they create. Michèle explained that there were many volunteers in the Flower Group, not all members of church and she thanked them for generous donations.

Bookworms – Cyra is now running this and there are some spaces. Julie will be greatly missed.

Events Committee – This is back up and running with Michèle and Elizabeth organising various things. More volunteers are needed.

Food Bank – Paul feels this is most worthwhile and benefits the whole city. As Julie and Dave have moved away, more volunteers are needed to take the food collection to the Hope Centre in Derby. Thank you to everyone who supports this.

Luncheon Club – Rachael thanked Anne Madge and her team.

Handbell Group – more people are welcome to attend.

Ground force – Steve Burton reported that there was a core of about 8 people regularly helping, 4 from within the church community and 4 from the local community. Rachael thanked Steve and his team and confirmed that the church grounds always look neat.

Safeguarding – Louise explained that safeguarding is becoming an increasing part of church life. All training is up to date. Louise reiterated that the most important thing to remember is that if anyone has any concerns about anyone around them then please speak to Louise or Madeleine. Michèle proposed a round of applause in appreciation of all the work that Louise and Madeleine do.

9. Churchwardens' Report

The report was printed in full in the APCM booklet.

Paul recounted how his phone hasn't stopped ringing since he took over the role of Church Warden and he has had to deal with all sorts of issues. He is so grateful to everyone who has helped him in dealing with all these issues. He has felt very supported and this is why he is happy to continue as Church Warden. Paul was pleased that the Archdeacon's inspection stated that St Edmund's is a small church but is very well kept and the churchyard too. He confirmed that he had carried out the annual churchwarden inspection and inventory check and that neither had revealed matters of concern.

Rachael thanked Paul for all his hard work.

The parishioners showed thanks to Paul with applause.

10. Vicar's Report

The Vicar's report was printed in full in the APCM booklet.

Rachael reported that Peter and Julie's last service will take place at St Edmund's on Sunday 30th April. It will be very hard for all and Rachael is hoping for a service of joy as well as poignancy. We will all continue to pray for Peter and Julie.

A big thankyou was given to all the clergy and readers who have stepped in and supported the church. All services have run with very little disruption.

Rachael is really enjoying working at St Edmunds and is looking forward to taking evensong soon. She is pleased that St Edmund's is maintaining its congregation through this very difficult time and that we are supporting each other.

11. Opportunity for questions

There were no questions.

Sarah Watson, Area Dean, congratulated everyone for the big turn out for an APCM. She thanked everyone for all they do for St Edmund's and she is holding the whole community in prayers. She feels there is huge potential going forward from the foundations that Peter and Julie have laid and there is hope. There was a round of applause.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Presentation of the Electoral Roll

PCC Report for May 2023 to April 2024 – Paul Smith (Church warden & Acting Lay Chair)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for co-operating with the incumbent to promote the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

Members are Trustees of the church's affairs, buildings and resources. Some are ex officio (clergy, readers, wardens and deanery synod reps), the rest are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC can also co-opt up to two members.

PCC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023-2024 was:

Incumbent Vacancy – Rev Peter Barham retired in May 2023 due to ill health.

Churchwardens Paul Smith

VACANCY

Parish Safeguarding Officers Louise Whittaker

Madeleine Fullerton

Treasurer Chris Jack

Secretary Thelma Thompson

Readers Deborah Simpson

ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE PCC

Michèle Aspinall

Geoff Bailey

Matthew Cooper

Richard Flatman

Madeleine Fullerton

David Halliwell

Chris Jack

Elizabeth Jack

Louise Whittaker

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

Mark Halliwell

David Redfern

Richard Wood

Changes in the course of the year were that Julie Barham left when Revd Peter retired. Deborah Simpson has not attended any meetings, no longer worships at St Edmund's, and has just recently announced she is retiring after many years of active reader ministry. Michèle Aspinall and Madeleine Fullerton stood down from the PCC in the course of the year for personal reasons, but both have continued to make special contributions to the life of the church. In the last 12 months, meetings have been chaired either by me as Warden or by the Revd Rachael Brooks.

Retiring members at APCM 2024:

Matthew Cooper, Richard Flatman.

Retiring members at APCM 2025:

None

Retiring members at APCM 2026:

Geoff Bailey, David Halliwell, Christopher Jack, Elizabeth Jack, Louise Whittaker.

PCC meetings take place every other month, preceded by meetings of the Standing Committee (SC). The SC sets the agenda for the main PCC meeting and also makes decisions on its behalf where necessary (e.g. issues too urgent to wait for the next meeting). The PCC has a number of sub-committees, notably finance, fabric, events and worship.

All meetings open and close with prayer and are minuted. A typical agenda is:

Apologies for absence

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising (where not otherwise covered by the agenda)

Safeguarding

Treasurer's report including year-to-date financial position

Warden's report, including worship/church life, fabric and hall

Looking back/looking forward

Deanery synod and Allestree Churches Together (ACT)

Any other business

Date of next meeting

Issues the PCC has focused on this year include:

- Maintaining worship and the wider life of the church during Revd Peter's sick leave and the subsequent Vacancy.
- Working with our three sister parishes to recruit Revd Sarah and Revd Rachael to their new roles, and to support them in their ministry.
- Maintaining the fabric of the church, as well as the churchyard and the hall, to the best possible standard.
- Pursuing projects to save energy and reduce energy costs, notably the installation of improved insulation in the hall.
- Organising special services and other events to raise the profile of the church and welcome new members.
- Ensuring the church operates on a sound financial footing, and bringing all assets under the Treasurer's overview.
- Keeping safeguarding policies up-to-date, and making sure people are properly trained (and, where required, DBS-checked) and that information (e.g. on reporting a concern) is readily available.
- Ensuring that our employees have up-to-date terms and conditions, and are properly remunerated.

My thanks to all current and past members, without whose help the warden's role would not be possible. In closing, I give special thanks for the life of former PCC member Ken Eunson. He was a great support to me and many others and we send our very best wishes to Jacquie, Claire and the family.

Accounts for 2023 and Treasurers Report for 2024 APCM – Chris Jack (Treasurer)

Summary

The Receipts and Payments summary and Statement of Assets and Liabilities are attached to this report. The former shows a surplus for the year of £7,008.

Receipts and Payments

Planned Giving:

Despite our appeal last year, the amount we received from regular giving to the church fell by over £4,000. In times when the cost of living is rising and St Edmund's financial position is healthy, this is understandable. But as an indicator of number of donors it is worrying.

Legacies

We received £34,395 in legacies in the year, which exceeded the total from all living donors. We should all consider a donation when reviewing our wills. It is a sad way for us to generate income, but an important one.

Church Hall

Income from Hall lettings was £25,424, following an increase in rental charges and more bookings. Running and maintenance costs came to about £23,000, including work to improve roof insulation which was largely funded by a legacy from Enid Clark.

We continue to investigate more environmentally friendly ways of heating the hall.

Other Income

This includes a variety of sources including recharging of office expenses and Caroline's salary to St Matthews, sale of memorial plaques and refunds from the diocese of payments to visiting priests during the vacancy.

Parish Share

We paid our Parish Share in full, which is by far the largest expense we have. Many parishes do not achieve this. For 2024 the amount we are asked to give has gone down by over £10,000 which will certainly aid our finances.

Employment Costs

These have risen substantially as we reflect the government's National Living Wage requirements and a further increase in Caroline's hourly rate and overtime. We recognise the importance of the work Caroline does for both parishes and the extra work she has had to take on during the vacancy. We have further recognised this by bonuses which were agreed by the PCC and paid in 2023 and 2024.

The new arrangement of four linked parishes has highlighted significant differences between the hourly rate paid to Caroline and that paid to Emma, the administrator at St Nicholas. We have therefore taken steps in the last few weeks to bring them more into line.

Energy Costs

As I explained last year the cost of fuel for both the hall and, more significantly, the church is a major expense. In the winter we pay over £1,300 per month to heat the church. Our current contract expires in the middle of this year and I hope we can find a better rate, whilst I hope also changing to a 'green' supplier.

Assets

Our deposit accounts and investment funds continue to make acceptable returns.

In last year's accounts I failed to make clear that the investment account from the Churchwarden's Land Charity should be regarded as an Endowment - i.e. whilst we may use the return on this investment for the upkeep of the church, the capital may not be spent. This has been rectified and highlighted in this year's accounts.

Sawrey Hill Field

Documentation to register the field, which is currently still owned by the Churchwarden's Land Charity, had been submitted to the Land Registry. We are told this could take up to 2 years to complete, although we note that the Registry maps do now show the area as registered. We are still in some discussion with the diocesan registrar on the future legal ownership of the land.

Donations to Charity

Childrens Society £ 210

Christian Aid £ 474

Hardy Group £ 650

Malawi Students £ 905

Barnardos £ 650

Padley Group £ 650

RNI Deaf £ 650

Syrian Earthquake £ 350

TOTAL £ 4,539

Looking Forward

The overall financial position of the church remains very healthy and we are more than able to meet our current obligations including making significant donations to charity, thanks to our reserves. We are in a very fortunate position compared with some other churches. The reduction in parish share and potential fuel bill reductions will be offset by increased wage costs. The steady decrease in planned giving remains a concern.

I would like to record my thanks to members of the Finance Committee, who do a lot of the work of administering our finances. Without their help the Treasurer's job would be almost impossible. I would also like to acknowledge the help of our examiner Peter Hilton, who not only checks the numbers but also provides expert advice when needed throughout the year, without any charge.

St Edmund's, Allestree 2023 Accounts

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Totals 2023	Totals 2022
		£	£	£		£
RECEIPTS						
	Notes					
1 & 2	Planned Giving	34,082			34,082	38,463
3	Collections at services	5,159			5,159	5,187
4	Other voluntary giving and donations	6,286		211	6,497	4,661
6	Tax recovered	8,494			8,494	10,158
	Total from donors	54,021	0	211	54,232	58,470
7	Legacies	24,303		10,092	34,395	9,000
8	Grants	0				900
9	Fund raising	0		582	582	632
10	Bank Interest	5,683		4,158	9,841	3,966
11	Service Fees	6,152			6,152	6,953
12	Trading Income: Hall	25,424			25,424	20,472
12	Trading Income: Magazine and book sales	1,691			1,691	1,568
13	Other income	17,156			17,156	39,563
13c	Agency income	6,713			6,713	10,748
	Total Other Income	87,122	0	14,832	101,954	93,801
TOTAL RECEIPTS		141,143	0	15,043	156,186	152,271
PAYMENTS						
17	Fund raising					350
18	Outward giving	1,039	3,500		4,539	6,845
19	Common Fund - Parish	54,527			54,527	54,527
20	Salaries and Honoraria	25,296		949	26,245	19,718
21	Clergy expenses	4,968			4,968	4,043
22	Mission giving	-			-	3,500
23	Church Running Expenditure	11,939		1,954	13,893	14,150
24	Church utilities	10,524			10,524	4,563
25	Cost of Trading	22,804	4,493		27,297	18,422
26	Governance	361			361	389
99	Other costs	1,545			1,545	3,519
	Agency Payments	5,279			5,279	10,421
TOTAL PAYMENTS		138,282	7,993	2,903	149,178	140,446
Excess of Receipts over Payments		2,861	-7,993	12,140	7,008	11,825
OPENING CASH BALANCES		130,543	498	100,013	231,054	219,229
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS		-7,500	7,500			
CLOSING CASH BALANCES		125,904	5	112,153	238,062	231,054

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

		Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Totals 2023	Totals 2022 £
CASH FUNDS						
	Cash and cheques on hand	1,233			1,233	0
	CAF current	7,909	5		7,914	9,696
	CAF deposit	25,013		112,153	137,166	132,459
	CCLA deposit	91,749			91,749	88,900
	TOTAL	125,904	5	112,153	238,062	231,054
INVESTMENT FUNDS VALUATION						
	CCLA CBF account				246,790	219,241
	CCLA CBF account (Endowment from Churchwarden's Land charity)	1			169,370	154,803
CHURCH HALL		2			114,000	114,000
CREDITORS	Agency				1,434	327

Notes to Accounts

- 1 Previously classed as a restricted fund, the capital transferred from the Churchwarden's Land charity should be classed as an Endowment in line with the historical documentation available. The change in value of this investment, held by CCLA CBF, is retained in the endowment and cash payments from it placed in a Restricted fund for use as described in that documentation, i.e. the maintenance of the fabric of the church.
- 2 The church hall is valued at £114,000, but is insured for £1 million. The land on which the hall stands was donated to the church by the Offilers Brewery, with the condition that it is used for ecclesiastical purposes. This clearly limits the open market value of the land and hence the hall.

ST EDMUND'S CHURCH ALLESTREE PCC

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF
ST EDMUND'S CHURCH ALLESTREE**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2023, which comprise the Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2016. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the members of the PCC those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Act, to follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145 of the Act and Church Guidance, 2016 edition and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

Name P B Hilton FCA
Address 5 Wharfedale Close, Allestree, Derby
Date 23rd February 2023
Signed 

PCC Committee and other Group/Activity Reports

Children's Work – Cyra Buxton

Following last year's AGM, Rachael had a small meeting with a few of us to discuss children's church. Alex then led an informal meeting over coffee, after church on 16th July. We had a good discussion about ways St Edmund's could become more welcoming to children and their families. Our initial plan was to make story sacks for young children to borrow and enjoy when they come to Sunday services, baptisms, weddings etc. We also discussed the need to sort out the existing toys and books and to make the tower area into a more appealing space.

A big thank you for all the enthusiasm and hard work from so many people involved in knitting, sewing, washing toys, sorting out broken and noisy toys, searching for items for story sacks etc. It has been a real team effort, including the WI, who made some lovely bags for us. More story sacks are being completed but do have a look at the ones we have so far.

It has been lovely to see a few children using the tower area and story sacks during services and I also met a grandma recently who regularly pops in to read books to her grandson.

There is a lot more to be done, and we are very pleased that Rachael will be able to bring her experience and expertise to encouraging families to join us!

Church Magazine – Fiona Fraser & Chris Willis

Fiona Fraser (all the work), Chris Willis (proof reading and distribution), Paul Smith (proof reading).

The Parish Magazine continues to be produced throughout the year, 11 magazines being produced in the 12 month period, due to the double issue in December/January. The magazine 'year' runs from 1st July - 30th June in any one year. This was adopted at a time when subscriptions were collected in person by distributors, and weather would most likely be fine and evenings were light. This had to stop during covid restrictions, and the system of paying direct was adopted and, having been adopted, this system has remained in place.

The cost of the magazine is still £1 per copy, but for those who have the magazine delivered and pay in advance the cost is £10 per annum. There is a strong case for an increase in the cost of the magazine, because the printers have kept the price of printing down for some years and this likely to change.

On average 200 magazines are printed by John E Wright in Derby. Of these 12 are posted, 122 are delivered by hand by a team of 14 devoted helpers, 20 are placed for sale in the Newsagent at Blenheim Parade and 5 in the Pharmacy there. 2 free copies go to the Library at Park Farm Centre.

The lions share of the work in producing the magazine is done by Fiona – to whom much grateful thanks is due.

Church Hall Report – Caroline Audley

St Edmund's Preschool continue to use the hall Monday-Friday during term time and School's Out hire the hall during most holidays. We also welcome Ballet on a Monday (term time) as well as a new group who have moved from St Nick's – The Tuneless Choir. Studio 86 (a dance class, term time) and Derventio choir hire the hall on a Tuesday. Brownies and Guides are in on a Wednesday (term time). Thursday's and Friday's tend to be free as we no longer have Studio 86 on a Thursday. Ann Miller's choirs hire the hall

fairly regularly but this tends to be at the weekend when we also have parties. We are grateful to them all for this invaluable income.

National Grid have very recently been doing work in the sub-station at the back of the hall and have said they'll resurface the fake grass area at the top as well as replace the sleepers.

Thank you as always to Tony for helping with various aspects of the hall from moving all of the chairs, cleaning the windows and dusting the high corners to sweeping the outside play area for the pre-school. We are very grateful.

Baby & Toddler Group – Caroline Audley

The group which meets on a Thursday during term time from 10-11.30am seems to be very popular. I don't ask people to book as this can be stressful for new parents and plans also change so some weeks are lighter than others but some weeks are very busy. I welcome childminders who tend to bring multiple children. I don't think it's right to exclude them like some groups do.

The group offers fruit and biscuits, squash, tea and coffee. This is kindly donated from Morrison's in Belper and their Community Champion Lucy.

Thank you again to Tony for helping week after week to get all of the toys in and out of the cupboard, I couldn't do it without him.

Thanks also to Michèle who has been coming to help make teas and coffees as well as wash up at the end so there isn't so much to take home.

Thanks also to Anna Oldknow, St Nick's Children's Worker who is coming more regularly to help Michèle and I.

Flower Group - Michèle Aspinall

2023 was a year in which flowers served as a backdrop for our church community and national life. In April, we were sad to bid farewell to Peter, our vicar, in very difficult circumstances. Peter gave whole-hearted support to the flower team and always shared his appreciation publicly. The church was beautifully decorated for Peter's and Julie's farewell service. They will be much missed.

In June, for the Coronation of King Charles, church and village came together to provide flower displays, memorabilia and local community information, all of which filled the church with colour. This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and showcase the many and varied activities of St. Edmund's and local organisations; a truly special occasion for the parish and people of Allestree to share.

In normal circumstances, the church flower group ensures that fresh flowers are always on display for services apart from Lent and Advent. A special effort is made for festivals such as Easter and Christmas. Appropriate flowers and colours are also in place for Remembrance Sunday, Whitsun etc. We always try to follow the wishes of families for funeral flowers and also provide arrangements to celebrate anniversaries or memorials.

Some of our funding comes from wedding flowers, when we make a small profit whilst still providing flowers at a more competitive price than some florists. Thanks to generous donations from individuals, the congregation's response to appeals and the skills of the group, the floral arrangements at Easter, Harvest and Christmas continue to impress. Mothering Sunday flowers are also provided from this funding.

The church flower group gladly welcomes new recruits. Many of our team are also members of Allestree Flower Group. No flower arranging skills are required as full training is offered by our expert, talented team. Volunteers to clear flowers and help with "normal" weeks are particularly welcome. We see flower

arranging as a pleasant, social and creative way of serving the church and helping to make it a welcoming and comforting place at the heart of our community.

Choir - Elizabeth Jack

We continue with our busy schedule and are pleased to continue the regular pattern of sung services - 2 morning and 2 Evensongs plus a goodly number of joint services throughout the year with St. Matthew's choir.

We sang a most memorable joint choral Evensong in celebration of the coronation of King Charles III, the highlight being Handel's Zadok the Priest. The choir then performed this piece again with 100 others at an RSCM festival at Derby Cathedral under Alex Binns' direction. We commemorated the 400th anniversary of the deaths of William Byrd and Thomas Weelkes at a July choral Evensong.

July also saw us join with St. Matthew's to say goodbye to John Gratton who has led the choir there for so many years and are delighted that he and Alison continue to sing. We were very grateful to Geoff Howell who took over the reins during the musical interregnum there and we're now enjoying working with Tim Capes.

The choir enjoyed a very sociable evening meal at the Hanging Gate at Shottle in September – the first choir dinner since pre-lockdown. We were finally able to toast the memory of Brian Bonsall, a much missed tenor, with a glass of champagne.

The Christmas season saw the choir leading the singing for Carols in the Churchyard and providing a good mix of styles at the carol service. The early weeks of 2024 were full - organising an afternoon Epiphany celebration in the church hall with words and music and we felt honoured to lead the singing of hymns at the licensing of Rachael and Sarah in Walter Evans School Hall. Rachael has since been very supportive of the choir, particularly at choral Evensongs. Congregations for these wonderful services are usually small – we would urge you to join us for a reflective end to the day on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

Sincere thanks go to David Redfern, our regular organist and Tom Corfield who plays for several choral Evensongs for us and also to other singers who join us from time to time. Huge thanks to my wonderful choir who continue to support me and sing to such a high standard.

Bookworms - Cyra Buxton, Jane Burton and Anne Madge

Bookworms has continued to meet monthly throughout the year in St Edmund's choir vestry and currently has 10 members from both St Edmund's and St Matthew's parishes.

The nature of the group has had to change slightly due to Julie Barham, the instigator and initial leader of the group, leaving the area. Having concluded the list of books suggested by Julie at the end of 2023, we have now moved on to discussing titles put forward by the individual members of the group. The current list covers a range of different genres and geographical settings, but interestingly all the books were written within the last 110 years. The specific titles are listed on the church website and in the parish magazine.

Members continue to enjoy being introduced to new authors and/or titles and the opportunity to share their life and literary experiences with fellow booklovers.

Events Committee – Elizabeth Jack

The events committee resumed its work in 2023 with myself, Michele Aspinall, Mary Pollett, Diane Bakhda and Gill Flatman planning various events, some of which have already taken place. The bring and share Harvest Supper was very well received. We decorated the tables with fruit and flowers and there was an abundance of food. We provided drinks and nibbles after Patronal Festival Evensong and at Candlemas and a joint effort by both churches saw a wonderful spread after Sarah and Rachael's licensing. Pastries were much appreciated both at the afternoon Epiphany celebration and after Sarah and Rachael's Declaration service.

More events to come!

Food Bank – Paul Smith

As in previous years, we have supported the Hope Centre (Curzon Street) with monthly donations of groceries and toiletries. These are collected on the first Sunday of the month (food bank Sunday) and are then taken to Curzon Street by one of our team of volunteers. Special thanks to Revd John Rice, Chris & Elizabeth Jack, and Chris Willis for doing this on a regular basis.

It's been well publicised that food banks have been in very great demand during the cost of living crisis and ours is no exception to this. While some may argue that food banks should not be necessary, the truth is that many individuals and families struggle to put the basic necessities on the table. By contributing, we are directly helping people in our City in the most pragmatic way possible. It is a source of satisfaction that people in our parish have continued to be most generous in their donations and we have seen little, if any, decline in support, just when this support is most needed. Whenever, we do a delivery to Curzon St, the organisers always make a point of saying a special thank you to us for all they receive from St Edmund's.

As with any other enterprise, the work is less if shared and we could really do with a couple more volunteers to help with this most valuable work. The more names we have on the rota, the less often your turn comes round! You don't need a large car and help with loading/unloading can be readily arranged. Please speak to me if you would like to join our team.

Luncheon Club – Anne Madge

We have had another successful year with a great team of volunteers to enable the club to continue to run smoothly.

A former helper, Julie Peck, who sadly died a little while ago, left us a generous and unexpected legacy for which we are very grateful. We are now in the happy position of being able to update some of our equipment and keep our prices at a manageable level of £5 for a 3-course meal as well as £5 for a place on the community bus, despite rising prices. We currently have a very healthy bank balance which includes a staff fund mostly donated by our members at Christmas of £59.50p. We have earmarked £600 to pay for 2 free meals this year, one for our birthday in May and the other for Christmas. We will shortly be purchasing new tablecloths and table centrepieces as well as some much-needed new kitchen equipment.

We were last visited by Environmental Health in November 2023 and were again awarded the top rating of 5 stars.

Thank you to all our volunteers, the staff who help on the day and the ladies on the pudding rota. You all have a very important contribution to make for this to continue to be a happy place for isolated people to meet, socialise and share a meal together.

We currently have 31 members on our books with some capacity on the bus. If you know anyone who would like to join us, please let us know.

Allestree Churches Together (ACT) – Clive Lemmon (St Matthew's) wrote this report.

Another successful Holiday at Home event was run in the summer of 2023, but it was thought best to wait until the two new Anglican priests were in post before working out what the future of ACT should be. Since the arrival of Sarah Watson and Rachael Brooks (to serve the four Anglican parishes) there have been discussions with Rashel Beya (minister at Broadway Baptist Church) and Judith Neal (Lay Pastor at S. John's Methodist Church) and there is now a plan to wind up the formal ACT organisation, but to carry on oecumenical activity across the constituent churches in other ways.

Handbell Group – Gill Flatman

It is a whole year since we welcomed our new leader, Bryan Clarke, who very soon became our new Chairman too!

Although we miss Janice Johnson and were so pleased when handbell ringers, Diana Saul and Carolyn Hardy, then stepped in to help lead us, we are more than happy that with Bryan conducting us we are able to use our full team as handbell ringers. As I noted last year, our new members are more talented musically than most of the existing members and their expertise is very welcome. On a sad note, we said farewell to Eileen Sturgess, a talented musician and a member of our group for many years. A few of us attended her funeral.

In mid December we entertained shoppers at Park Farm, while again supporting Blood Bikes. The shoppers' interest in Blood Bikes ensured they remained listening to us for longer! We will be pleased to support Blood Bikes again this year on December 7th, 2024 between 10.30 and 11.30 am and look forward to seeing you all there! We also played prior to the Nine Lessons and Carols in St Edmund's. Many of you attended our first concert under Bryan's leadership. We were delighted to be asked by Ann Miller to support her Voices Ensemble in this concert, enabling her to send £245 to Children First Derby, a local charity enhancing life opportunities for vulnerable children and their families.

As well as meeting weekly in the choir vestry we also meet socially outside practice time! Lola Davies arranges our social activities, which include Saturday Coffee Mornings at Hudson's and our annual Christmas Dinner, this year postponed until March!

Further to our support of Blood Bikes we are invited to their HQ in June to see and hear more about their work.

Richard ensures the bells are well maintained and took them to the Bell Foundry in Loughborough in summer, 2023 for their biennial inspection and minor refurbishment.

Groundforce – Steve & Jane Burton

The St Edmund's Groundforce team continues to meet once a month to maintain both the churchyard and church hall grounds. It consists of a loyal team of about 10 members from both within St Edmund's congregation and the wider community.

Over the past year due to the various storms, we have suffered damage to several trees in the churchyard which, although the council has made the trees safe, has necessitated clearing a considerable number of fallen branches from the graves. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, this is still work in progress.

We have also had to tidy and do some replanting in the border alongside Vicar's Path where a neighbour had replaced the long boundary fence.

Due to badgers foraging for food, there has been further work trying to repair the worst of the damage they have done and gently discouraging them from further activity.

We have also removed the overhanging shrubs which were encroaching on Primrose's Book Shed and trimmed the laurel which was getting out of hand to the side of the church hall.

At the bottom of the churchyard we have created three new woodpiles as a habitat for small mammals and insects, with fallen dead wood and generally improved the area by removing some overhanging branches of the large leylandii hedge and large quantities of fallen leaves which were completely covering the graves.

Apart from this, there was the usual care of the flower beds, and a considerable amount of general leaf-gathering to enable the grass to grow and to allow the spring bulbs to thrive and be seen.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Groundforce team for their willingness to turn out in all sorts of weather and their valuable contribution to the team.

Safeguarding - Louise Whittaker & Madeleine Fullerton (PSO's for St Edmund's Church, Allestree)

As the Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) for Saint Edmund's Church, Madeleine Fullerton and Louise Whittaker are continuing to comply with our duties in relation to Safeguarding as set down in the House of Bishops Safeguarding policy 'Promoting a Safer Church'. We remain dedicated to fulfilling our PSO duties and have had a year of continuing to bring things up to date in readiness for the arrival of our new Minister in charge, the Rev Rachael Brooks who was licensed (along with the Rev. Sarah Watson) on Sunday 14th January and has been working alongside us since then.

We continue to ensure that relevant groups who provide services to the parish receive up to date safeguarding training and that up to date role descriptions and risk assessments for the specific groups are in place. In addition, the Safeguarding Training of all role holders within Saint Edmund's Church is currently up to date.

It is vital that we maintain as great a protection as possible for all members of our Church and the Diocese's Updating Service has been wonderful in ensuring that most DBS certificates have been easy to renew when necessary. We have one person who did not manage to join the updating service at the original time of applying for their certificate and whose re application process is ongoing. All other of St.

Edmund's role holders now have up to date DBS certification in place. We appreciate all the support we have been given to help us keep on top of all this paper work.

As we try to further protect our parish and its members at a safeguarding level, we have recently taken on board the suggestion of one of our volunteers who has completed their Leadership training pathway course. We have added a new 'Safe places' poster on to our parish notice boards providing information for victims of abuse by members of the church. We have also put a new page onto the parish website which gives useful Safeguarding information, numbers and emails for vulnerable people or people with concerns as a reference guide. The parish magazine will equally be providing contact numbers and website details for individuals to refer to in varying cases of concern. The suggestion for greater awareness of potential safeguarding issues in our Parish and the wider community and the need for help to cope with them, has led to our Church Warden Paul Smith writing the article for our March magazine 'Be smart and stay safe on your phone or PC'. This has been very well received and taken on by the Deanery. Our thanks go to Paul for his support with this important area of concern.

With regards to the Annual Safeguarding Audit (the 'Dashboard'), we continue to fulfil the requirements that are highlighted for us and we are currently up to date with all but one of the requirements. This future action concerns the individual DBS and updating service issue that we referenced above.

As part of our liaising with Church House in safeguarding matters relevant to the Dashboard, we have updated our Recruitment of ex-offenders policy in accordance with the Diocesan template that we received from Church House. This will hopefully be adopted at our next PCC meeting in May. We are also planning to adopt the Safeguarding Code of Conduct, the template of which has been forwarded to us by the Diocese and goes hand in hand with our Parish Safeguarding policy 'Promoting a Safer Church'. Subsequently, this will be given to and signed by all individuals who hold a volunteer or paid role at Saint Edmund's Church. Finally, with regards to keeping on top of safeguarding requirements, Madeleine and Louise have been asked by Rachael to re-look at the current Safeguarding policies for Saint Edmund's Church to improve and amend as necessary - for re-confirmation by the PCC in May. We will then compare them with the policies of our sister churches to ensure best practice.

Saint Edmund's has been one of ten Parishes trialling a second online Dashboard Hub, which enables PSOs to keep track of training and DBS checks and ensure that all roles are compliant with guidance. This first phase of the rollout has been discussed and having taken part in one of the feedback sessions, it appears to have been a positive experience in general. However we wait to hear back from the Diocese as to how it will be taken forward taking into account the cost and complexity of it being offered to all of the parishes in the Diocese. Louise's experience of it however was extremely positive.

Since the last Annual Safeguarding report, we have had one Safeguarding issue arise concerning the mental health of a former member of our parish. This has been addressed and we have very much valued the support we were given in this matter from Church House.

We look forward to working closely with Sarah and Rachel on our Safeguarding responsibilities in the months ahead and we will continue to report back to the PCC at each meeting.

Finally we would like to remind everyone that a copy of the Parish Safeguarding handbook 'Promoting a Safer Church' brings into one place the key safeguarding responsibilities for parishes and is designed to

support day to day safeguarding work. It is available online in its most up to date format and can be found by going to www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding for everyone to access.

Churchwardens' Report – Paul Smith

Worship and Church Life

The dominant factor here was the serious illness of our former Vicar, Revd Peter Barham. He started the year on sick leave and took early retirement on ill-health grounds in May. This triggered a Vacancy. Fortunately, we were able to maintain our normal pattern of worship. We benefited from a 3-month leadership placement which involved Revd Rachael Brooks ministering to St Edmund's and St Matthew's.

New Clergy

Then in October and following a recruitment process which required the PCC to draw up and approve a new parish profile, Bishop Libby announced Rachael's appointment as Associate Priest as part of a wider restructuring within the Deanery. This means that she and Revd Sarah Watson are now licensed across the parishes of St Edmund's, St Matthew's along with St Nicholas (Allestree) and St Paul's (Quarndon), with Rachael leading for the first two and Sarah for second two. Both have been given a strong mission brief to minister to the approximately 5,000 children and young people of our area.

The Support We've Had

Framed appreciation certificates have been issued to the principal clergy and readers whose help enabled us to run our normal pattern of worship throughout the year as well as numerous occasional offices (baptisms, weddings, funerals, interments of ashes). Special thanks also go to Barbara Coe who, along with Clive Lemmon, managed the clergy rota throughout the year. Mention must also be made of our parish administrator, Caroline Audley, who took on significant extra responsibility as a result of Revd Peter's sick leave and the subsequent Vacancy.

Cause to Celebrate

Although 2023 was in many ways a difficult year for the reasons outlined above, we have much to celebrate and be grateful for. Highlights included:

- The services to say farewell to Peter and Julie, attended by over 150, and to celebrate the coronation of HM King Charles III and Queen Camilla.
- A special choral evensong in July to mark 400 years since the death of English composer, William Byrd. This is just one of so many acts of worship supported by our choir and organists.
- The award of the Bishop's Badge to Michèle Aspinall at a special service in the Cathedral in September, recognising her long service and commitment to St Edmund's. Two other parishioners, Bryan and Margaret Clarke, received Badges at this service to honour their work.
- The book sales run by Diane Bakhda, assisted by numerous helpers.
- The monthly churchyard working parties involving our Groundforce volunteers. We regularly receive favourable comments on how neat and well-kept this area is.
- Work to make the tower area more attractive to visiting children. This has involved preparing book bags and making a large number of hand-knitted toys.
- A most-moving Remembrance Service, led by Revd John Rice and attended by our three City Councillors and HM Deputy Lord Lieutenant, as well as by our friends from the Royal British Legion.

- A wonderful series of services through Advent and Christmas, which saw record numbers attend church and also allowed significant donations to the Children's Society and to Christian Aid. Huge thanks to all involved, and especially to Revd Lee Martin who not only led two very well-attended crib services on Christmas Eve but also came back at 11.30pm to take us into Christmas Day with the traditional Midnight Mass.

Fabric

The management of the church itself, along with the churchyard and the heavily-used church hall, have created a very demanding workload.

Work Completed and Ongoing

Work has included necessary checks of fire, electrical and gas safety as well as numerous running repairs and some specialist work to refurbish our historic tower clock to keep it in good running order. Various work has also been done, and redone, to keep roofs, gutters, and downpipes clear so as to avoid potentially very expensive water damage. At the same time, we are seeking to move towards net Zero (and manage our energy costs) with ongoing projects to improve insulation, evaluate alternative heating methods and make our church lighting both more effective and more efficient.

In the hall, contractors installed much improved insulation to limit heat loss. Also, Geoff Bailey (assisted by several helpers) designed and installed a new ceiling in the storage area leading off the meeting room. This area, previously un-ceilinged and so open right up to the underside of the roof, had been identified as a significant pathway for heat to be lost from the building. This work was funded by a legacy from the estate of Enid Clarke, former warden, and choir member. A plaque has been placed in the hall to honour her and record the use to which her legacy has been put.

We also have an ongoing issue with the retaining wall to the west of the church hall car park.

In all these, I have had the outstanding support of the Fabric Committee comprising Geoff Bailey, Richard Wood, Richard Flatman and David Halliwell.

Following a suggestion made to PCC, building handbooks have been compiled for both the church and the hall. These capture essential information such as names of key holders, location of stop cocks and meters etc.

Vicarage

With the Vicarage being vacant, we also have supported the Diocese by making regular checks to ensure all is well with this building. Special thanks to Geoff Bailey and Matt Cooper who have willingly taken on this extra responsibility.

Land Charities

I am also grateful to Richard Flatman and our Treasurer, Chris Jack, for their ongoing work to wind up the Churchwarden's and Parish Clerk's Land Charities and transfer their assets to the PCC.

Parish Priest's Report – Rev'd Rachael Brooks

Report on my placement in 2023.

The purpose of curate leadership placements is to have a three-month stint in charge of a benefice that is without a vicar in order to gain experience of leading alone, but with access to their Training Incumbent for mentoring at a distance.

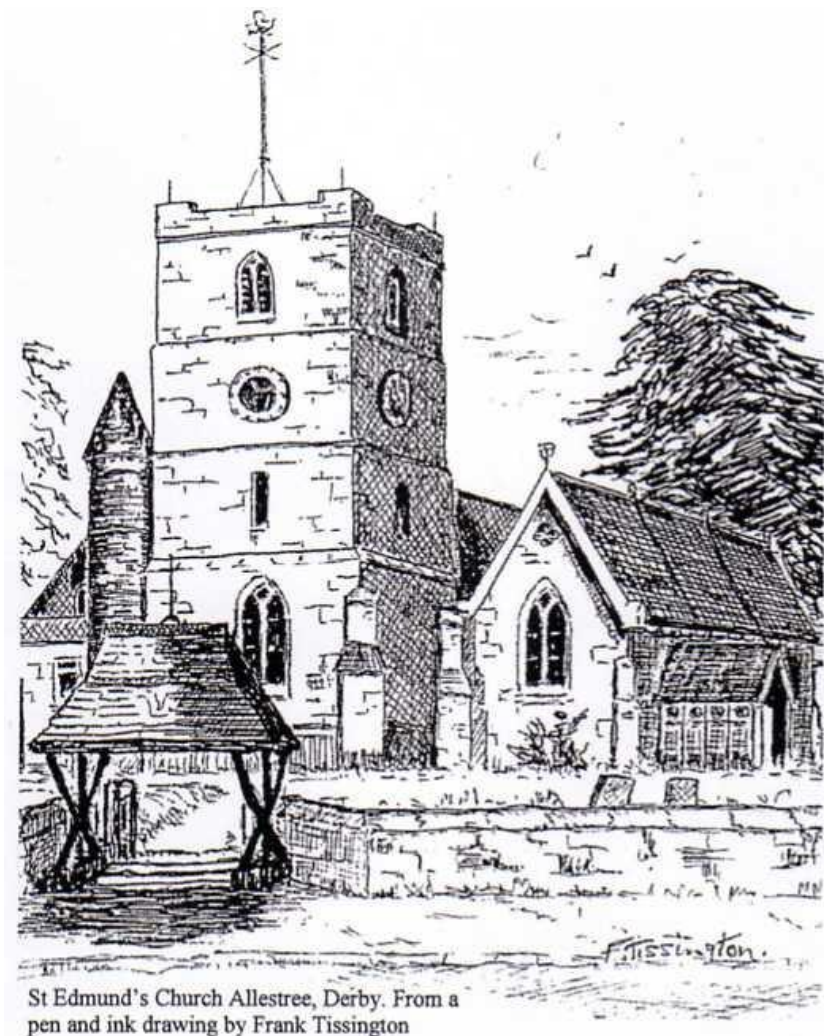
I came to St Edmund's on 19th February, introduced by Archdeacon Matthew. The brief he gave me was not just to get the experience I needed of leading a two-parish benefice and taking more traditional Anglican services, but to focus on supporting the parishes in re-engaging with children / schools post-covid.

During my three and a half months I was with you I did each of these things. I attended PCC meetings and led the APCM. I was supported very well by the choir in learning how to lead Choral Evensong in particular, as well as taking morning services. I took an assembly at Portway Junior School on the coronation and popped into the St Edmund's Toddler group as well as telling the Easter story to the Preschool and toddler group in the church.

Towards the end of my time with you I met with a group of you who were keen to provide a more welcoming space for children and we discussed the possibility of setting up a children's group. The latter wasn't deemed feasible, but the story bag idea I suggested was, and it was a delight to find several in the tower when I arrived back with you. If you've not seen them, do have a look, they have a story book and various props that help to tell the story, such as knitted sheep, vegetables, a green farmer and more. All created by members of the congregation and others outside church who were supportive. There has been feedback that they're appreciated by people who bring their children or grandchildren in for a storytime during the week. Not something we anticipated but great to hear!

Accounts

The Parish of St Edmund, Allestree



St Edmund's Church Allestree, Derby. From a pen and ink drawing by Frank Tissington

Election of Churchwardens

and

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023

Sunday 23rd April 2023

After the 10am service in the Church

Contents

	Page
Agenda	3
Minutes of Churchwardens' Meeting 2022	4
Land Charities Accounts	5
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022	8
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council	12
Treasurers Report for the year 2022	14
Independent Examiner's Report	18
PCC Committee and Other Group/Activity Reports	19
Safeguarding Report	22
Churchwardens' Report	23
Vicar's Report	25

Agenda

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Churchwardens' Meeting 2022 (see page 4)
4. Election of Churchwardens
5. Land Charity Accounts (see page 5)

Followed by:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2022 APCM (see page 8)
3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll – this year we have 125 people on the roll
4. Election of Laity Representatives
5. Annual Report of the PCC (see page 12)
7. Financial Report (see page 14)
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. Presentation of other Reports (see page 19)
10. Churchwardens' Report (see page 23)
11. Vicar's Report (see page 25)
12. Opportunity for questions

THE PARISH OF ST. EDMUND ALLESTREE
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH WARDENS' MEETING

8th May 2022

Present: Revd Peter Barham, Chairman

Parishioners: 30

1. Revd Peter Barham welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies

Julie Barham, Madeleine Fullerton, David Redfern, Clive and Cyra Buxton, Louise Whittaker, John Aspinall, Doreen Heath, Margaret Pearson, Jane and Steve Burton, Richard Wood, Rita Harvey, Jo Allison, Janet Wolstenholme, Margaret Statham and Jane Parkin.

3. Minutes of the Churchwardens' Meeting on 4th July 2021

The minutes were read and accepted as a true record.

4. Election of Church Wardens

Michèle Aspinall is standing down as Church Warden after 6 years in the role. Peter thanked her with a gift from St Edmund's and parishioners all agreed with Peter as to what a fantastic job she had done. There was a round of applause for her.

One nomination for Church Warden had been received. Paul Smith was nominated by Kate Smith and seconded by Richard Flatman. Peter was very grateful that Paul had volunteered but reminded parishioners that we needed a second Church Warden. Peter explained that we are not electing Deputy Church Wardens again this year because those people who carried out this role prior to Covid have dwindled down to very few for various reasons. Peter and Paul will sit down to work out how to get all the jobs done but volunteers are desperately needed to step forward to work with Paul.

5. Land Charities Accounts

The accounts were presented in the APCM booklet and Peter thanked Michèle and Richard Flatman for preparing them.

The progress of moving the Land Charities accounts has been slow and frustrating. Peter reported that the money has been moved into the PCC account, both bank accounts have been closed and rent payments for the land we own have been transferred and rent increased. Work is still on going to formalise those holdings and get them registered in the name of the PCC and to move the CCLA (Charity Fund Managers) accounts across. Peter thanked trustees Colin and Barbara and everyone who had done a lot of hard work on this especially Michèle, Richard, Chris, Geoff and Caroline.

Geoff Bailey asked for the notes accompanying the financial statement to correctly state that Sawrey Hill is within the Markeaton estate not part of the Markeaton Estate as stated.

This concluded the Church Warden's meeting.

1. ST. EDMUND'S ALLESTREE, CHURCHWARDEN'S LAND CHARITY
(Registered Charity No 219394)

A/ INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 1/3/2022

RECEIPTS	£	PAYMENTS	£
Dividends		PCC of St. Edmund's Allestree	
COIF A/C No 302160002T February	1,157.38		25,683.09
COIF A/C No 302160001T February	12.80		
Rent (all rent this year is paid to St. Edmunds PCC)	0.00		
Interest from Business Reserve A/C	0.06		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	1,170.24	TOTAL PAYMENTS	25,683.09
EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS			24,512.85

Cash at Bank and in Hand (1st Jan 2022)	24,512.85
Cash at Bank and in Hand (31st Dec 2022)	0.00

**B/ CASH FUNDS TRANSFERRED DIRECTLY TO ST EDMUND'S PCC ACCOUNT
FOLLOWING CLOSURE OF THE NAT WEST ACCOUNTS ON 1/3/2022
AND CLOSURE OF CCLA ACCOUNTS ON 12/5/2022**

Dividends	£
COIF A/C No 302160002T 31st May	1,157.38
COIF A/C No 302160001T 31st May	12.80
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	1,170.18

**C/ ENDOWMENT ASSETS TRANSFERRED TO PCC ACCOUNT
FOLLOWING SALE OF SHARES ON 12/5/2022**

COIF Charities Funds	£
COIF A/C No 30210002T Sale of 8560.50 shares	157,009.84
COIF A/C No 30210001T Sale of 94.7 shares	1,736.91
TOTAL ENDOWMENT ASSETS TRANSFERRED	158,746.75

2. ALLESTREE PARISH CLERKS LAND CHARITY
(Registered Charity No 503498)

A/ INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 1/3/ 2022

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	£
Dividends Received			
COIF A/C No. 330720001T 28/02/2020 (see below)	0	PCC of St.Edmunds Allestree	588.79
Building Society Interest	0.32		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	0.32	TOTAL PAYMENTS	588.79
EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS			588.47
Cash at bank (1st January 2022)			588.47
Cash at Bank (31st December 2022)			0.00

**B/ CASH FUNDS TRANSFERRED DIRECTLY TO ST. EDMUNDS PCC ACCOUNT
FOLLOWING CLOSURE OF LEEDS B/SOCIETY A/C ON 1/3/2022,
AND CCLA ACCOUNT ON 1/6/2022**

Dividends	£
COIF A/C No 330720001T 30/11/2021 due date	13.92
28/02/2022 due date	13.93
31/05/2022 due date	13.93
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	41.78
(paid to PCC A/C on 24/6/2022)	

**C/ ENDOWMENT ASSETS TRANSFERRED TO PCC ACCOUNT
FOLLOWING SALE OF SHARES ON 1/6/2022**

COIF Charities Fund	£
COIF A/C No 330720001T Sale of 103.0 shares	1,936.32
TOTAL ENDOWMENT ASSETS TRANSFERRED	1,936.32

St. Edmund's Churchwardens' Accounts for the year ended 31st Dec 2022

The accounts (financial statements) of the St. Edmunds Allestree Churchwardens' Land Charity and the Allestree Parish Clerk's Land Charity have been prepared in accordance with the charities' governing documents, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for smaller entities published on 16th July 2014.

Notes to the financial statements

- (1) These accounts are the final accounts to be produced for the Churchwardens' Land Charity and the Parish Clerk's Land Charity. As reported last year, the trustees of the two charities have determined that the interests of the charities would best be served by merging their assets into the PCC, itself a registered charity. These accounts indicate the movement of funds into the PCC accounts, during the winding up process.
- (2) It should be noted that the rental income from the Sawrey Hill field has been paid to the PCC in its entirety this year, (but with an increase over previous years).
- (3) The Endowment Fund from the Churchwardens' Charity is to be held as an Endowment Fund in the PCC accounts. Annual income from the Endowment to be placed in a Restricted Fund to be spent on Church Maintenance, together with the total cash funds transferred to the PCC.
- (4) *The Endowment Fund from the Parish Clerk's Land Charity (being small) is to be held in a Restricted Fund together with the cash funds transferred to the PCC. The Fund is to be used to pay towards St. Edmund's share of the cost of our joint benefices' administrator.*
- (5) The arrangements in para (2), (3) and (4) are in agreement with Charity Commission guidance.

Prepared by: Richard Flatman

Richard Flatman 2/1/2023

Approved by:

Barbara Colder (Trustee)

B Colder 9.1.23

Colin Pearson (Trustee)

CF Pearson 9.1.2023

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

8th May 2022

1. Apologies

As recorded in previous minutes.

2. Minutes of 2021 APCM

The minutes were accepted as a true record with one correction.

3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

The roll has 125 names in total, 77 being resident in the parish and 48 not resident in the parish.

Peter read out the names of members of the congregation who have died since the last APCM – John Gear, Brian Wrigley, Robert Owen and Colin Miller. We remembered them with love and affection.

Due to ill health, Ken Eunson has stood down as Electoral Roll officer. Peter asked that we hold Ken and Jackie in our thoughts and prayers as Ken starts treatment for Leukaemia.

A new officer is needed.

4. Election of Laity representatives

The three members of the PCC who are due to retire at this APCM are Madeleine Fullerton, Ken and Jackie Eunson. Ken and Jackie will not be standing again, and Peter thanked them both for many years of service to St Edmund's. Julie to send a card of thanks. Madeleine was happy to stand again and was proposed by Michèle Aspinall and seconded by Geoff Bailey. Michèle was nominated by Geoff Bailey and seconded by Madeleine Fullerton to become a member of the PCC (rather than Church Warden). There remains one vacancy on the PCC. Paula Birchall has been unable to attend PCC meetings for over a year due to poor health and we send love and prayers to her.

Nominations were elected to the PCC unanimously.

PCC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2022-2023 will be -

Incumbent	Rev Peter Barham
Church Wardens	Paul Smith
	Vacancy
Parish Safeguarding Officers	Louise Whittaker
	Madeleine Fullerton
Treasurer	Chris Jack
Secretary	Julie Hutchinson
Readers	Julie Barham
	Deborah Simpson

ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE PCC

Michèle Aspinall

Geoff Bailey

Paula Birchall

Matthew Cooper

Richard Flatman

Madeleine Fullerton

David Halliwell

Julie Hutchinson

Chris Jack

Elizabeth Jack

Louise Whittaker

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES – EX OFFICIO PCC MEMBERS

Mark Halliwell

David Redfern

Richard Wood

Retiring members at APCM 2023

Geoff Bailey, Paula Birchall, David Halliwell, Julie Hutchinson, Christopher Jack, Elizabeth Jack, Louise Whittaker.

Retiring members at APCM 2024

Matthew Cooper, Richard Flatman.

Retiring members at APCM 2025

Michèle Aspinall, Madeleine Fullerton.

5. Annual Report of the PCC

The report is contained within the 2022 APCM booklet.

Peter thanked Julie for her work as PCC Secretary.

6. Financial Report

This report is contained within the 2022 APCM booklet.

Chris Jack reported that our income over expenses was £9,200. We had £86,000 in legacies without which our balance sheet would be much less healthy. Chris is very grateful to those people who have thought of the church in their wills. The church has been able to pay its parish share of £54,000 and has donated almost £9,300 to charities and mission giving as detailed in the report. Investments have done well this year. The Church Hall was revalued at £1million for insurance purposes this year. It's asset value has, however, remained unchanged because of a restrictive covenant on the hall stating that any building on the land can only be used for ecclesiastical purposes.

Chris reported that the transfer of assets from the Land Charities to the PCC is going slowly and will have an effect on next years figures. He will ensure the wishes of the original donors are respected in the PCC accounts.

Chris reported that new contracts for gas and electricity have been taken out but that the overall cost will rise from £6,000 to an estimated £18,000 per annum. The PCC and the finance committee will look at how we can reduce our energy consumption.

Chris Willis asked about who had donated the land where the church hall is. This was the brewery.

Kate Smith had read that St Matthews had been unable to pay their parish share and asked if St Edmunds was able to support St Matthews in any way. Peter explained that money was given to St Edmunds for St Edmunds so direct help wasn't possible. St Edmunds contributes a bit more to the shared parish administrator's costs as she is involved much more with taking bookings for St Edmund's Church Hall than St Matthew's Fellowship Room. Peter explained that St Edmunds is in a very fortunate position and the vast majority of churches have problems paying their parish share.

Michèle asked about the appointment of an extra archdeacon. Peter explained that the Bishop felt a 3rd archdeacon was needed because of the broad area covered and this has been agreed by the deanery and diocese. The Cathedral has appointed a new Canon but funding for Cathedrals comes from a different source.

Paul Smith congratulated Chris for all the work done on land charities and on being an excellent treasurer. Peter thanked Chris and parishioners thanked him with applause.

Chris thanked members of the Finance Committee and in particular those involved with the land charities and Peter Hilton, for support through the year.

7. Appointment of Auditor/Independent Financial Examiner

Peter Hilton has volunteered to be an independent financial examiner again next year. Proposed by Chris Jack. Seconded by Richard Flatman. Carried unanimously.

8. Presentation of Committee Reports

Committee reports are printed in full in the APCM booklet.

Children's Work – Peter thanked Karen for continuing to do JACK by zoom through the year, but this has now ended as Karen has moved to a church nearer her home. Three activities for children have been planned but we need volunteers to take this important work forward.

Magazine – Peter thanked the editorial team especially Fiona Fraser and Chris Willis who organises distribution. Please forward anything that could be included in the magazine to the team.

Church Hall Committee – Peter thanked Caroline for all the work she does on this. It's lovely to see all the activities happening in the Church Hall. Thank you to Tony for being the caretaker.

Hand Bells – This has now restarted but desperately needs some new members.

Baby and Toddler – This restarted in November and is excellent. Peter thanked Caroline.

Flower Group – Peter thanked Michèle and her team for the stunning displays that they create.

Choir – Peter thanked Elizabeth Jack and the choir as it's been so good to get back to something like normal.

Bookworms – Julie is hoping that this can restart soon, and people interested should e-mail Julie.

Food Bank – Peter thanked Paul and Kate Smith and Julie and Dave Hutchinson for organising food bank collection.

Luncheon Club – Peter thanked Anne Madge and her team.

Allestree Churches Together – Peter expressed sadness that the Methodist Church in Allestree had closed.

Safeguarding – Peter thanked Louise Whittaker and Madeleine for all their work and thanked those who were getting their training done.

9. Churchwardens' Report

The report was printed in full in the APCM booklet.

Michèle reported that she was pleased the land charity wind up and transfer to PCC funds was progressing well finally as it will make life much easier for future church wardens and also makes financial sense as we can claim back VAT. She is hopeful that we can now start to plan more social events and that behind the scene tasks to keep the church clean and beautiful can be restarted with new volunteers. Her most pressing concern is our need to move forward with our work with young people. She asked for prayers and positive and practical suggestions as we look to fulfil a vital part of our ministry. Further to the thanks given in the report, Michèle wished to thank previous Church Wardens for their support and advice and to Paul Smith for agreeing to take over as Church Warden, wishing him every success as he moves into the role.

The parishioners showed thanks to Michèle with applause.

10. Vicar's Report

The Vicar's report was printed in full in the APCM booklet.

Peter reiterated that he was so grateful to the Standing Committee, Michèle, Chris, Matt and Julie, for their support through the last two years. Also, to Julie, John, Clive and Debs for their regular ministry and Neil, Geoffrey and Chris who are the first people Peter calls on if extra help is needed. He also thanked Julie, Matt and Sophie for doing zoom. Peter feels there are some things which need sorting and need volunteers for – chalice bearer rota, coffee after services (needs a couple of people to get this started) and help with baptisms.

Claire suggested that a list of jobs needing volunteers could be put in the Church magazine.

Alex thanked Peter, Julie and Caroline for Toddler Group and felt it was a very good toddler group and very important to mums after the isolation of covid.

Chris proposed a vote of thanks to Peter. Parishioners showed thanks with applause.

11. Opportunity for questions

There were no questions.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

PCC Report for May 2022 to April 2023 – Julie Hutchinson (PCC Secretary)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The Churchwardens and those elected to the Deanery Synod are ex-officio members. The PCC may also co-opt, in our case, up to two members.

PCC July 2021 – May 2022

Incumbent	Reverend Peter Barham
Readers	Deborah Simpson Julie Barham
Churchwardens	Paul Smith Vacancy

Deanery Synod Representatives

Richard Wood
Mark Halliwell
David Redfern

Elected Members of the PCC

Michèle Aspinall
Geoff Bailey
Paula Birchall
Matthew Cooper
Richard Flatman
Madeleine Fullerton (Parish Safeguarding Officer)
David Halliwell
Julie Hutchinson (PCC Secretary)
Chris Jack (PCC Treasurer)
Elizabeth Jack
Louise Whittaker (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Retiring members at APCM 2023

Geoff Bailey, Paula Birchall, David Halliwell, Julie Hutchinson, Chris Jack, Liz Jack, Louise Whittaker.

Retiring members at APCM 2024

Matthew Cooper, Richard Flatman.

Retiring members at APCM 2025

Madeleine Fullerton, Michèle Aspinall

Committees

The PCC works to support the clergy, mainly through subcommittees, which deal with the business of the church, such as finance issues, care of the church and church hall and pastoral matters.

Present subcommittees are Fabric (church), Finance, Church Hall (presently paused), Pastoral (restarted recently) and Events (presently paused). PCC members choose on which committees to serve depending on their experience and interests. Other church members may help on subcommittees at the discretion of the respective chairs.

The Standing Committee is required by law and consists of a minimum of 5 people and usually includes the Clergy, Lay Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and the Chair of any of the other subcommittees which are usually the Church Wardens. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings and also sets the agenda for PCC meetings.

Review of PCC Meetings May 2022 to April 2023

Areas the PCC has focused on this year include:

- Reviewing the COVID situation and how we keep the congregation safe in church has taken place at each meeting this year. Thankfully we have been able to return to normal with masks as an option and we have been able to restart coffee after Church in the Church Hall.
- Reviewing how we can cover for Peter's illness and support Paul, the Church Warden, in his consequent increased work load. We have been supported well by visiting clergy.
- Reviewing the Church's financial situation reported by the treasurer. Discussing plans from the Finance Committee. These have included transferring of Land Charity accounts to the PCC accounts, ways to save energy in church and charitable giving nominations.
- Discussing plans from the Fabric Committee on an improved lighting scheme for church, war grave signs, redecoration of vestry and sacristy, work in the churchyard by the Groundforce group of volunteers and remedial work on the windows.
- Discussing plans from the Church Hall Committee (presently paused so now run under Fabric Committee) on a possible issue with a retaining wall, exploring the possibility of air source heating/ heat pump versus a new boiler, increasing insulation, fire safety and resurfacing the play area at the back.
- Discussing new safeguarding policies, taking part in online safeguarding training and renewing DBS certificates.
- Discussing plans from the Events Committee (presently paused). A few events have been run this year – Big Book Sale, a vicarage picnic and the Harvest Festival fish and chip supper have all been successful.
- Receiving reports from representatives of Derby Deanery Synod and Allestree Churches Together.

Accounts for 2022 and Treasurers Report for 2023 APCM – Chris Jack (Treasurer)

Summary

The Receipts and Payments summary and Statement of Assets and Liabilities are attached to this report. The former shows a surplus for the year of £11,825, however this is not an accurate statement because it includes a substantial transfer from the Churchwarden's and Parish Clerk's Land charities (see below for details). Once these are taken into consideration, we made a loss of about £10,000.

Receipts and Payments

Land Charities

The major changes to the balance sheet are due to the transfer of assets from the Land charities. We received £2,567 from the Parish Clerk's Land charity and, with agreement of the Trustees of that charity it was used to pay part of Caroline's salary, since she carries out many of the tasks formerly done by a Parish Clerk. That charity has since been closed down, and these funds exhausted.

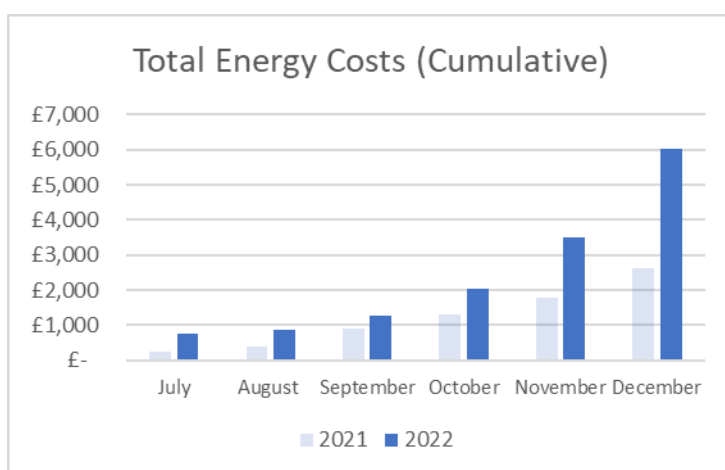
The Churchwarden's Land charity transferred £25,683 cash, and the Trustees agreed to the transfer on the basis that it would be used in accordance with the intentions of the original endowment, that is for the maintenance, repair and improvement of the church fabric. This money has therefore been placed in a Restricted Fund for that purpose. The charity cannot be closed as it still owns a field on the Markeaton Estate – see assets below.

Energy costs

Our existing gas and electricity supply contracts ran out during the year and new ones, put in place in June and lasting for 2 years, are more expensive. The chart shows the costs since that new contract was put in place, compared with the same six months of 2021. As you see costs have more than doubled.

Income from donations

Our income from donations, including reclaimed Gift Aid, dropped by more than £5,000 or about 8% which follows the trend of previous years. This is mainly due to the loss of some regular donors.



Church Hall

The surplus from lettings of the hall increased by about £2,800 which reflects increased bookings once Covid restrictions were lifted. Fuel price rises forced us to increase our hourly rates for hall users, and this will enable us to keep investing in the hall, in particular in the standard of insulation and perhaps a more environmentally sustainable method of heating.

Assets

The Churchwarden's Land Charity also held investments in a CCLA CBF account as a Permanent Endowment – that is the capital sum could not be used, but any income derived from it could be used for the purpose of the charity. These investments were sold, and the proceeds used to buy a similar investment in the name of the PCC. This is held separately from the existing PCC investment account so that the terms of the Permanent Endowment can be respected.

A field adjacent to the Markeaton estate still belongs to the Churchwarden's Land Charity. The land is currently unregistered which means its ownership is not officially recorded. We have instructed the

diocesan registrar to register the land with the Land Registry and have its ownership transferred to the PCC, and we have paid him £2,500 to do so, but it will take some time. Once that has taken place, we will get a valuation of the land so it can be recorded in these accounts.

The pre-existing PCC investment account decreased in value by about 10% over the year, reflecting market conditions.

Donations to Charity

PCC donations			Collections at services and other donations		
Ashbourne	Animal				
Welfare	£	350	Alzheimer Society	£	166
Book Aid International	£	350	Christian Aid	£	418
			DEC (Ukraine		
Caria Babi	£	350	Appeal)	£	208
DEC (Ukraine Appeal)	£	500	Derby City Mission	£	47
Derbyshire Blood Bikes	£	350	Leprosy Mission	£	10
Malawi Students	£	700	Padley Group	£	1,000
Padley Group	£	350	Shelter	£	290
Pandas Foundation	£	350			
Railway Mission	£	700			
Rainbows	£	350			
UNHCR	£	350			
Zane	£	350			

In addition, we donated £3,500 to St. Nicholas, Allestree to support their work with young people. This appears under 'Mission giving' in the balance sheet.

Looking forward

The overall financial position of the church remains very healthy, and we are more than able to meet our current obligations including making significant donations to charity, thanks to our reserves. We are in a very fortunate position compared with some other churches. However, the balance sheet shows that year by year we are steadily losing money. The church and its buildings are also going to see increased outgoings, not least to the cost of fuel, employees pay and other services.

I would like to record my thanks to members of the Finance Committee, who do a lot of the work of administering our finances. Without their help the Treasurer's job would be almost impossible. I would also like to acknowledge the help of our examiner Peter Hilton, who not only checks the numbers but also provides expert advice when needed throughout the year, without any charge.

St Edmund's, Allestree 2022 Accounts

St Edmund's Allestree Statement of Accounts 2023

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Totals 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
1 & 2 Planned Giving	38,463			38,463	45,294
3 Collections at services	5,187			5,187	4,748
4 Other voluntary giving and donations	4,661			4,661	2,300
6 Tax recovered	10,159			10,159	11,285
Total from donors	58,470			58,470	63,627
7 Legacies	9,000			9,000	86,644
8 Grants	900			900	776
9 Fund raising	632			632	350
10 Bank Interest	1,650		2,315	3,965	74
11 Service Fees	6,953			6,953	10,789
12 Trading Income: Hall	20,472			20,472	14,932
12 Trading Income: Magazine and book sales	1,568			1,568	1,789
13 Other income	10,814		28,749	39,563	7,130
13c Agency income	10,748			10,748	10,418
Total Other income	62,737	0	31,064	93,801	132,902
TOTAL RECEIPTS	121,207	0	31,064	152,271	196,529
PAYMENTS					
17 Fund raising	350			350	400
18 Outward giving	2,995	3,850		6,845	5,883
19 Common Fund - Parish	54,527			54,527	54,613
20 Salaries and Honoraria	16,552		3,166	19,718	17,303
21 Clergy expenses	4,042			4,042	2,234
22 Mission giving			3,500	3,500	3,500
23 Church Running Expenditure	11,210		2,940	14,150	21,901
24 Church utilities	4,562			4,562	2,474
25 Cost of Trading	18,397		25	18,422	15,680
26 Governance	389			389	506
27 Major Repairs to Church				-	1,700
99 Other costs	1,019		2,500	3,519	903
Agency Payments	10,421			10,421	10,136
Asset Purchase					50,000
TOTAL PAYMENTS	124,465	3,850	12,131	140,445	187,233

St Edmund's Allestree
Statement of Accounts 2023

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Totals 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-3,258	-3,850	18,933	11,826	9,296
OPENING CASH BALANCES	134,801	3,348	81,080	219,229	209,933
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	-1,000	1,000			
CLOSING CASH BALANCES	130,543	498	100,013	231,054	219,229

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Totals 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
CASH FUNDS					
CAF current	9,197	498		9,696	5,181
CAF deposit	32,446		100,013	132,459	126,302
CCLA deposit	88,900			88,900	87,746
TOTAL	130,543	498	100,013	231,054	219,229
INVESTMENT FUNDS VALUATION					
CCLA CBF account				219,241	241,366
CCLA CBF account (Restricted: Churchwardens Land account)				154,803	-
CHURCH HALL				114,000	114,000
CREDIT Agency				327	282

ST EDMUND'S CHURCH ALLESTREE PCC

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF
ST EDMUND'S CHURCH ALLESTREE**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022, which comprise the Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2016. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the members of the PCC those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Act, to follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145 of the Act and Church Guidance, 2016 edition and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

Name P B Hilton FCA
Address 5 Wharfedale Close, Allestree, Derby
Date 12th February 2023
Signed 

PCC Committee and other Group/Activity Reports

Children's Work

No report received

Church Magazine – Peter Barham, Fiona Fraser & Chris Willis

A huge thank you to Fiona and Chris who do most of the work for the magazine. Fiona has deadlines down to a fine art – we aim to get it out for the last Sunday of each month, so we start getting material to her a week or so earlier. By Wednesday evening I think “where is the magazine?”, and it always arrives. We do some final sorting on Thursday; it goes to the Wrights the printers on Friday morning and is ready that afternoon (a huge thanks to them). Chris sorts out the distributors – and thanks to the team – and all is done for another month! We also thank our advertisers – if you use their services, please tell them you saw them in the church magazine, and Caroline, who helps with some of the practicalities.

We have a small bunch of people who regularly contribute but are always on the lookout for more. If you have a “one off” contribution, or just some nice church photos from a holiday, or want to give us your thoughts, we are always glad to receive items. The magazine is part of our church's outreach – we give a copy to every family who comes for baptisms, we hand them to visitors at services, and if you are in church at any time and someone comes and explores, do offer them a magazine – it's always nice to receive some money for it, but getting it into peoples' hands is the most important thing. If your neighbours would like a copy, please use it. Magazines left gathering dust at the end of the month are no use to anyone. Thank you for supporting your magazine.

Church Hall Report – Caroline Audley

St Edmund's Preschool continue to use the hall Monday-Friday during term time and School's Out hire the hall during the holidays. We also welcome Ballet on a Monday (term time), Studio 86 (a dance class, term time) and Derwentio choir on a Tuesday, Brownies, and Guides on a Wednesday (term time) and Studio 86 (term time) again on a Thursday. We no longer have Zumba, also on a Thursday. We are grateful to them for this invaluable income.

Paul has already mentioned improving the hall insulation to reduce heat loss. We have also recently removed the Silver Birch from the garden which was causing root issues. In due course we will look at resurfacing the garden area with the pre-school who are the main users during term time.

Thank you as always to Tony for helping with various aspects of the hall from cleaning the windows and dusting the high corners to sweeping the outside play area for the pre-school. We are very grateful.

Baby & Toddler Group – Caroline Audley

The group which meets on a Thursday during term time from 10-11.30am seems to be going from strength to strength. I don't ask people to book so some weeks are lighter than others. Some weeks are very busy though, so I'll keep an eye on it as I do want to ensure the session is comfortable and enjoyable for all. I'd always rather welcome childminders who tend to bring multiple children and not ask people to book which can be quite stressful as a new parent.

The group offers fruit and biscuits, squash, tea and coffee. This is kindly donated from Morrison's in Belper and their Community Champion Lucy.

Thank you again to Tony for helping week after week to get all of the toys in and out of the cupboard, I couldn't do it without him.

Flower Group - Michèle Aspinall

2022 saw a welcome return to normality after the difficulties of the Pandemic. We decided to continue placing extra Mothering Sunday posies in the porch to be collected by people from the local community. Our displays for Easter were well received and then, happily, the wedding season began in earnest. We celebrated a good number of church weddings with beautiful flower displays. Autumn and winter meant a return to our familiar routine of Harvest, Remembrance, Patronal and Christmas flowers. Along with the continued rise in the cost of flowers, we have also had to consider sustainability and the environmental impact of importing flowers and using foam in large displays. This will be an interesting and important challenge to address over the coming years.

Perhaps the most memorable point of our flower year was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, which allowed us to produce spectacular arrangements to enhance the wonderful memorabilia brought into church by members of the congregation. This was, indeed, a special occasion for the parish and people of Allestree to share.

In normal circumstances, the church flower group ensures that fresh flowers are always on display for services apart from Lent and Advent. A special effort is made for festivals such as Easter and Christmas. Appropriate flowers and colours are also in place for Remembrance Sunday, Whitsun etc. We always try to carry out family's wishes for funeral flowers and also provide arrangements to celebrate anniversaries or memorials.

Some of our funding comes from wedding flowers, when we make a small profit while providing flowers at a more competitive price than some florists. Thanks to generous donations from individuals, the congregation's response to appeals and the skills of the group, the floral arrangements at Easter, Harvest and Christmas continue to impress. Mothering Sunday flowers are also provided from this funding.

This is a longstanding group which gladly welcomes new recruits. Many of our team are also members of Allestree Flower Group. No flower arranging skills are required as full training is offered by our expert, talented team. Volunteers to clear flowers and help with "ordinary" weeks would be most welcome. We see flower arranging as a pleasant, social and creative way of serving the church and helping to make it a welcoming and comforting place to be.

Choir - Elizabeth Jack

As a choir, we have been thrilled to complete what has been a relatively normal year with Covid restrictions gradually being lifted!

The regular pattern of singing for one Morning Prayer, one Communion and two Evensongs has continued throughout the year with joint services with St. Matthew's choir on fifth Sundays, alternating between the two churches; also Patronal Festivals, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Ascension Day and other major festivals. With Matt Cooper's able assistance, we were able to make a joint recording of Christmas music for Peter Barham. Matt also recorded the carol service for us.

We all enjoyed the Christmas carol service which was a good mix of old and new music. Despite coughs and colds, the choir performed well ably assisted by a few good friends and we were able to get together for mulled wine and jacket potatoes after the service for the first time since 2019.

Thanks go to David Redfern, our regular organist and also to Tom Corfield who has been able to play for several choral Evensongs for us. He also brings Rosemary his wife to join us which is a bonus. Tony Westerman helps us out if David and Tom are unavailable – this was the case for the carol service. I would like to thank him for all the years he put in as our regular Evensong organist,

My greatest thanks of all goes, as ever, to the choir who are the most loyal bunch of people I know. They turn out week after week for practices and services and continue sing to a very high standard. It is lovely when individual choir members suggest music for us to sing and this helps with the production of the monthly music sheet.

We have always been grateful for Peter and Julie Barham's support in all that we do and continue to pray for them both.

Bookworms - Julie Barham

Bookworms, the book club which originally began in the Vicarage in 2016, had an enforced break from March 2020 and restarted in the Choir Vestry at St Edmunds on the 8th August last year. The first book was Tracy Chevalier's "A Single Thread" which was a good starting point for discussion. We begin with tea, coffee and biscuits and often have a lively discussion. As we have numbered about eight there is still room for more eager readers, even if they are new to book groups. We meet every second Monday of the month (postponed to the following Monday if there is a Bank Holiday) with a wide range of titles. More details are available from Cyra Buxton and the next book is always given in the church magazines and on the church website. My thanks to all the members for the good discussions we have had over the years.

Events Committee

No report received

Food Bank – Paul Smith

Every month on the first Sunday, we gratefully receive donations of food which we take to the Hope Centre in Curzon Street. Every time I've been there, someone has asked me to pass on their thanks to those who have donated.

Some will be quick to point out that we should not need to have food banks, but there's no doubt that they are vital especially at this time of steeply rising prices. There are so many in our city who are really struggling with food, heating and transport costs. So, please maintain the marvellous level of support for the Food Bank. You can put bags in Primrose's shed at the Vicarage or bring them to church on the first Sunday of the month. You don't necessarily need to donate a mix of things. A whole bag of breakfast cereals, or soups, or other canned goods, is just as much appreciated by the volunteers at Curzon Street, and in fact it makes their job easier.

I'm now doing all the runs to Curzon Street myself, and I'd very much appreciate some help. You don't need a big car. Also, the Hope Centre volunteers always help unload, so you shouldn't need to worry about straining your back! Please do contact me (07792 569758) if you could help, even if it's just for two or three times a year.

Luncheon Club – Anne Madge

We are now operating normally following the issues with lockdown and have a great team of volunteers to enable the club to run smoothly.

Jill Potts retired as Treasurer in October 2022 after many years of sterling service. We are very grateful to her for all her hard work and are delighted to say that she has now joined us as a guest, so we still see her regularly. Eileen Holland has taken over the job of collecting the money at meetings and Anne Madge is running the bank account. This has been changed and updated to an online account, remaining with the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Currently we have a balance of £1932.62 in the account. This includes a staff fund of £105 and we have earmarked £250 to pay for a free meal to celebrate the King's coronation in May. This will coincide with our usual birthday meeting, so we are hoping to provide another free meal later in the summer as well. It is good to report that we have managed to maintain a healthy balance in view of the rising prices.

We recently made a donation to the Church funds in recognition of the increased heating costs for the hall, we are pleased that this has contributed towards improving the insulation.

Charges remain at £5 for a 3 course lunch and £5 for a place on the community bus.

We have 36 members on the books at present and possible space on the bus. We would welcome some new diners to join us.

We last had a visit from Environmental Health in March 2022 and were awarded the top rate of 5 stars.

Thank you to all our volunteers, the staff who help on the day and the ladies on the pudding rota. We couldn't do this without you all!

Allestree Churches Together (ACT) – Clive Lemmon (St Matthew's) wrote this report

The regular meeting of ministers allowed a successful Holiday at Home to be held in the summer, and there was a united service one Sunday afternoon in January 2023 which has prompted some of the former ACT committee to consider holding a meeting formally to decide the future for ACT as an organisation.

Handbell Group – Gill Flatman

We are just beginning to feel that life is returning to normal!

After the St Edmund's 2022 annual meeting, we were able to hold our own Handbell AGM in June, where we welcomed 2 new members. That is always a pleasure, as at times we have struggled to maintain a team to practise weekly. A great disappointment was the temporary withdrawal of leadership by Janice Johnson, on account of her husband's health. During the Spring and Autumn terms, her place was filled by two of our existing members. However, we are now in a position to welcome Bryan Clarke, who has volunteered to be our leader, beginning in February 23. Sadly, our Chairman also resigned! (Any volunteers from St Edmund's would be welcome.) On the plus side yet another member joined the team during the Autumn term. I do not think our existing members will be too annoyed if I say that the new members show talent superior to ours, or most certainly, mine!

It was good to return to a near normal Christmas, fundraising for Bloodbikes at Park Farm, followed by Christmas lunch, and then playing in Church, prior to Lessons and Carols, on the Sunday before Christmas. We are hoping for further fundraising venues during December, for our 2023 charity, as yet undecided.

Groundforce – Steve & Jane Burton

Although St Edmund's Groundforce sessions had lapsed during the pandemic we are now meeting once a month to maintain both the churchyard and the church hall grounds. It has a core team of around 8 members and has recently been joined by an ex- member of Seekers (and his parent) doing some community volunteering for a Duke of Edinburgh award.

Tasks have included a considerable amount of leaf-gathering, sweeping paths, weeding round the church, spreading compost and caring for the flower beds, as well as more specific projects such as starting to clear the graves close to the southern boundary wall which are completely overgrown with brambles, etc, making a new compost bin for the churchyard, and cutting down the overhanging branches in the church hall car park.

Safeguarding - Louise Whittaker & Madeleine Fullerton (PSO's for St Edmund's Church, Allestree)

As the Parish Safeguarding Officers for Saint Edmund's Church, Madeleine Fullerton and Louise Whittaker are continuing to comply with our duties in relation to Safeguarding as set down in the House of Bishops guidance. We remain dedicated to fulfilling our Parish Safeguarding Officer duties and have had a year of bringing things back up to date as Church life has gradually returned to near normal in the aftermath of the Covid epidemic.

We have continued to put our energies into ensuring that the necessary Safeguarding Training has been completed by all role holders within Saint Edmund's Church. The required Basics and Foundation Safeguarding Training for PCC members is now up to date. Last year the way in which Domestic Abuse courses are run changed. They stopped being run on an individual online basis and are now held in live groups run by the Diocesan Safeguarding Office trainers. PCC members are required to complete this training, and all have either completed it or are booked on to future courses. We continue to ensure that relevant groups who provide services through the Church receive up to date safeguarding training and that

up to date risk assessments are in place. The Pastoral Group has recently restarted and expanded, and we will ensure that everyone involved with this group receives the appropriate safeguarding training for their roles.

Although a few DBS Certificates have had to be processed from scratch this year, the three year renewal of DBS Certificates has generally been much quicker and simpler for those who joined the updating service. It is still a time consuming process but so very important in terms of maintaining as great a protection as possible for all members of our Church. We appreciate all the support we have been given to help us keep on top of all this paper work.

With regards to the Annual Safeguarding Audit (the Dashboard), we continue to fulfil all of the requirements that are highlighted for us.

- We have written a safeguarding addendum that has been added to all hire agreements and signed by all hirers of the church hall/church premises.
- As mentioned above, the Pastoral group has recently been reinstated and we have helped put together a policy and risk assessment for this group. All other risk assessments for our Church groups have also been brought up to date.
- Safeguarding strategy information sheets and a Safeguarding poster have been updated and displayed on notice sheets in the Church and in the Church Hall.

Since this last report, we have had one minor Safeguarding issue arise which has been addressed with valued support we were given from Church House.

Finally, we would like to remind everyone that a copy of the Parish Safeguarding handbook 'Promoting a Safer Church' brings into one place the key safeguarding responsibilities for parishes and is designed to support day to day safeguarding work. It is available online in its most up to date format and can be found by going to www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding for everyone to access.

Churchwardens' Report – Paul Smith

REVD P BARHAM

The latter half of the year has been overshadowed by the shocking news of Peter's cancer. On behalf of us all, I'd like to record our huge thanks to Peter and Julie for their ministry here and at St Matthew's, and express our very warmest wishes for whatever their future holds. The PCC's priority has been to support Peter and Julie in their anguish and to keep the life of St Edmund's running as normally as possible on the basis that this is what they would wish us to do.

In doing this I, as churchwarden and acting PCC chair, have been supported by an army of people both inside and outside St Edmund's. We have had great support from Matthew, our Archdeacon, and Sarah, our Area Dean, many retired and visiting clergy, and the licensed Readers of both St Edmund's and St Matthew's. Many of you know Barbara Coe who lives in our parish but worships at St Matthew's. She has done a fantastic job of arranging people to lead services at both churches. She initially covered Epiphany to Easter, and she has now agreed to organise the next three months through to end May. This has been an enormous help.

Since Ash Wednesday, we have also been very pleased to welcome Revd Rachael Brooks on a leadership placement; she has been especially tasked to develop the work of both churches with the approximately 5,000 children and young people resident in the area.

I am also delighted that Archdeacon Matthew has consistently paid tribute to Peter and Julie's ministry and presented his plans for the future as building on that foundation.

COVID-19

Looking through previous reports, it's striking to see how things have changed with regard to Covid: this is the first year since 2019 that Covid has not severely restricted our worship and activities. The PCC has always taken a precautionary approach to this risk, recognising that many of our congregation are elderly, clinically vulnerable, or both. Covid precautions are a standing item on the PCC agenda, and I'm pleased to say we have now been able to make mask wearing optional, relax social distancing and reinstate communion in both kinds as well as the taking of the collection. I also know how much you appreciate the return of tea/coffee after our morning service: many thanks to Gill Flatman for organising our tea/coffee makers.

FABRIC

Churchwardens bear a heavy responsibility for the fabric of the church, but fortunately I have been supported by an extremely competent and enthusiastic Fabric Committee comprising Richard Wood, Geoff Bailey, Richard Flatman and David Halliwell. A large amount of work goes on behind the scenes to make sure that electrical and gas equipment is checked, boilers and clocks are serviced, and that roofs/gutters and downpipes remain clear so as to minimise the risk of water ingress. This year, work has been carried out to improve the efficiency of the lightning conductor, to keep the clock going/striking and to redecorate the choir vestry and sacristy. Plans are being pursued to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the church lighting; especially worthwhile given the huge increase we have seen in electricity prices.

The hall is of course a much more modern building, but it is heavily used. This is great news, but it does lead to many calls for action, such as dealing with blocked toilets, loose door bolts and other fittings as well as non-functioning equipment (such as the kitchen microwave which we replaced). Here again we have focused on improving energy efficiency, with substantial work being done to improve the ceiling insulation and reduce heat loss. This is just the first stage of a much bigger plan to maximise efficiency and minimise both costs and CO₂ emissions.

We are very fortunate to have, in Caroline Audley, a most pleasant and efficient administrator who looks after hall bookings as well as myriad other admin matters, not to mention supporting our sister church at St Matthew's, helping with the parent/toddler group and liaising with all hall users.

I'd also like to especially thank:

- Our Groundforce volunteers, ably led by Jane and Steve Burton, who meet monthly to keep the churchyard clean and tidy.
- Our church musicians, both the regulars and the visitors.
- Geoff Bailey and Richard Flatman, whose experience and practical skills make a huge contribution to keeping our buildings running and to the life of the church generally.
- Michèle Aspinall, who, although no longer a churchwarden, still does so much to support the presentation of the church and the life of our parish.
- Louise Whittaker and Madeleine Fullerton, who take the lead on vital safeguarding matters including reporting, training and keeping our policy/procedures up to scratch.
- Chris Jack, our very effective Treasurer, whose wise counsel extends well beyond money matters.

The truth is that we would not be able to operate without the selfless commitment, skills and expertise of these people.

Vicar's Report – Peter
Barham

2022 has not been the year I had planned. You can find an overview of it, and lots of lovely photos, on the church website under “News” – and there is plenty there to be enthusiastic about. We started with Covid still prevalent, masks, social distancing, etc. etc. – and everyone coping with the restrictions with good humour.

We were busy with baptisms, weddings and funerals all through the year – and I am grateful to everyone in the team for all their help with these. Over the year we have expanded the number of people involved, and everyone has risen to the challenge of providing a caring, professional, service. The number of these services we do has diminished, which is the inevitable result of communities which no longer look to the Church. It is frustrating. I am sad when people tell me what a special building the church is, how much they appreciate it, but then tell me they will have dad's funeral at the Crematorium because that's easier. I find it ironic when people organise funerals with no clergy present, but then get in touch with me because they want the ashes to come to a churchyard. I get cross when I watch afternoon television and it is full of adverts for simple cremation, no funeral, no need – and then I get phone calls from people who did just that and realise six months later they had no opportunity to grieve. I see adverts from lots of wedding venues, but the Church of England seems incapable of advertising our wonderful churches as superb places to get married in. Please remember that we need church people to encourage and advertise and welcome – to be enthusiastic about all we have to offer, to be welcoming to all.

We celebrated Candlemas with a wonderful United Service and welcomed the Dean of Derby as our preacher. We had 500 people through our churches on Ash Wednesday as we welcomed all the children from Walter Evans School. We had wonderful Easter art from the school as well. Clive stepped in at short notice to cover at St Edmund's when Covid messed up the rotas – and preached his thousandth sermon. Our worship has settled into a new pattern, and the rhythm of worship has been very special. Thank you to everyone who makes it happen, week in and week out. We were able to start hosting concerts and our Books Sales again, and Easter was very special. It felt like normality was being restored.

We had proper Annual General Meetings again. Peter and David continued as churchwardens at St Matthew's, Paul replaced Michele at St Edmund's. I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude to the four of them for all their help and support over the years I have been Vicar. I have been extremely fortunate in my churchwardens here (not forgetting Patrick and Trevor in previous years) – thank you. There were jobs that needed filling – and we should have two churchwardens in each church – but people have stepped forward as the year has gone on (stepped forward in ways I often don't know about). Thank you. We've also, especially at St Matthew's, had outside groups who have come to help and support us – a huge thanks to them (and to church people who have organised it). Wonderful to see the Green Agenda bear fruit and bring people into church and churchyard.

As the summer started it really seemed as if we were picking ourselves up after Covid and making progress in so many areas of our church life. It was great to have a Children's afternoon in preparation for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, to welcome families from both churches. The Jubilee Birds in St Matthew's were stunning, and we had a good Jubilee weekend. St Edmund's looked lovely too, but the support we had from the community over the weekend was pretty dismal – which was a shame. When Her Majesty died, we welcomed some people who wanted space to reflect and give thanks – but many parish churches (not just us) found that it was Cathedrals and town centre churches that were the focal points for their communities. It is a changing world.

In the summer it was lovely to celebrate my 60th birthday with picnics in the garden – an event for our families, and another for our congregations. My plan was to build on all these events through the autumn

and into 2023 – to do a decent job of rebuilding after Covid, to get back some of those we have lost, to restart our children’s work, and to know that two parish churches do have a role in the 21st century (even if the role is very different to what it was a decade ago).

But sometimes our plans do not work out. A blood test led to a scan, which led to a colonoscopy, which led to a diagnosis of cancer, which led to stopping work and a major operation, and now I am about to start chemo and have applied for early retirement. I can’t really put into words how I feel about all this – angry, frustrated, guilty, fed up ...

In the middle of it all is the love and care we both feel from all of you, and the amazing way you have stepped up and continued to serve our communities. Thank you. Caroline is (as always) the most wonderful church administrator I have ever had. I’ve already praised our Wardens. The Readers and the retired clergy have been great. The Deanery and Diocese have supported us and will continue to do so. As we’ve moved into 2023, I have gained a Curate – welcome and thank you Rachael.

I spent an hour sitting in hospital yesterday reading a railway magazine while I waited for blood results to come back. Preserved railways are struggling. The costs of energy have sky-rocketed, whether that’s coal for the locos or electricity for the buildings. People are more cautious after Covid, less likely to come out for an event and spend money. Money is tight – people don’t have the spare cash to spend on a day out or to support a charity, even if they love their local steam train, they are less inclined to donate towards it. Every railway seems to be struggling to find volunteers, the age profile does not help, nor the changing face of legislation and Society – you cannot run your railway in the same way you did a decade ago. Those who manage our railways are saying that life is harder now than it was during Covid – those dreams of getting back to normal are simply dreams.

It all seems so familiar – all of these problems are problems the church has too. We coped with Covid, but normality has never returned. I am not the sort of Vicar who regularly quotes Scripture at you, but “I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14.6) is as true today as it has always been. It is our job, our mission, our purpose, to proclaim that to the world. Proclaim it with joy, with love, with tears (when it all gets a bit much), with laughter – proclaim it together – and proclaim it in faith. May God bless us all. Thank you.

Accounts

The Parish of St Edmund, Allestree



Election of Churchwardens

and

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022

Sunday 8th May 2022

After the 10am service in the Church

Contents

	Page
Agenda	3
Minutes of Churchwardens' Meeting 2020	4
Land Charities Accounts	5
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021	8
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council	11
Treasurers Report for the year 2021	13
Independent Examiner's Report	17
PCC Committee and Other Group/Activity Reports	18
Safeguarding Report	21
Churchwardens' Report	22
Vicar's Report	23

Agenda

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Churchwardens' Meeting 2020 (see page 4)
4. Election of Churchwardens
5. Land Charity Accounts (see page 5)

Followed by:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2021 APCM (see page 8)
3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll – this year we have 125 people on the roll
4. Election of Laity Representatives
5. Annual Report of the PCC (see page 11)
7. Financial Report (see page 13)
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. Presentation of other Reports (see page 18)
10. Churchwardens' Report (see page 22)
11. Vicar's Report (see page 23)
12. Opportunity for questions

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH WARDENS'S MEETING

4th July 2021

Present: Revd Peter Barham, Chairman

Parishioners: 35

1. Revd Peter Barham welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies

Julie Barham, Madeleine Fullerton, David Redfern, Clive and Cyra Buxton, Louise Whittaker, Mark Halliwell, John Aspinall, Doreen Heath and Margaret Pearson.

3. Minutes of the Churchwardens' Meeting on 11th October 2020

The minutes were read and accepted as a true record.

4. Election of Church Wardens

There have been no new nominations to take on the role of Church Wardens

Michèle Aspinall has agreed to do one more year, while we search for new Church Wardens, now that a lot more help has been put in place to support her in her role. There are now welcomers at services, volunteers who handle weddings and funerals, the standing committee has done much more this year (one more person needed to sit on this committee) and the Church Hall Committee is now up and running with Caroline, the parish administrator, taking on bookings etc.

Michèle was proposed by Maureen Caughey and seconded by Julie Hutchinson. Peter accepted the proposal with great joy and thanks. Everyone showed their appreciation to Michèle with applause.

5. Land Charities Accounts

The accounts were presented in the APCM booklet and Michèle thanked Richard Flatman for preparing them.

Discussion is under way to enable the PCC to handle these two charity accounts within the PCC accounts. This would reduce the workload of the Church Warden and also would enable more of the VAT to be reclaimed on repairs. Everyone was happy that this should go ahead.

This concluded the Church Warden's meeting.

1. ST. EDMUND'S ALLESTREE, CHURCHWARDEN'S LAND CHARITY
(Registered Charity No 219394)

(A) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2021

RECEIPTS	£	PAYMENTS	£
Dividends		Receipted Items	
COIF A/C No 302160002T		<u>G.Bailey Expenses</u>	
February	1,112.01	Paint & Brushes for	
May	1,129.13	Church Metalwork	70.52
August	1,129.13	Cleaning Fluid	2.19
November	1,156.52	Polish for Pews	2.98
COIF A/C No 302160001T		Paint & Brushes for	
February	12.30	Church Fence+Sink	
May	12.49	Waste Repair fittings	71.63
August	12.49	Curtain Gliders	1.50
November	12.79	Wire Brush+ Padlocks	19.85
Rent		Lamps for Church	125.92
Land at Sawrey Hill			294.59
March	290.00	<u>Cooper Electrical Services</u>	
September	290.00	Repair Pelmet Cable	309.60
Interest from Business		Replace Pelmet Tube	£79.20
Reserve A/C		Purchase & Install	
January to December	0.40	Bulbs + Spotlights	£273.60
			352.80
TOTAL RECEIPTS	5,157.26	TOTAL PAYMENTS	956.99
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	4,200.27		
Cash at Bank and in Hand (1st Jan 2021)			20,312.58
Cash at Bank and in Hand (31st Dec 2021)			24,512.85

(B) STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CASH FUNDS	2021 £	2020 £
Current A/C Nat West	20,378.53	16,178.66
Reserve A/C Nat West	4,134.32	4,133.92
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	24,512.85	20,312.58
ENDOWMENT ASSETS		
COIF Charities Funds	177,871.06	155,892.27
(8655.2 Income Shares)		
TOTAL ASSETS	202,383.91	176,205.85
(at year end)		

2. ALLESTREE PARISH CLERKS LAND CHARITY
(Registered Charity No 503498)

(A) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

RECEIPTS	£	PAYMENTS	£
Dividends Received			
COIF A/C No. 330720001T			
February	13.38		
May	13.59		
August	13.59		
November	0.00	*Building Society Cash Book Error	
Building Society Interest	0.26		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	40.82	TOTAL PAYMENTS	0.00
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	40.82		
Cash at bank (1st January 2021)			547.65
Cash at Bank (31st January 2022)			588.47

B.STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CASH FUNDS	2021	2020
	£	£
Leeds Building Society	588.47	547.65
ENDOWMENT ASSETS	2,118.34	1,855.17
COIF Charities Funds (103 Income Shares)		
TOTAL ASSETS	2,706.81	2,402.82
(at year end)		

St Edmund's Churchwardens' Accounts

The accounts (financial statements) of the St. Edmund's Allestree Churchwardens' Land Charity and the Allestree Parish Clerk's Land Charity have been prepared in accordance with the charities' governing documents, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for smaller entities published on 16th July 2014.

Notes to the financial statements

(1) The Churchwardens' Land Charity was set up from an endowment fund to provide an income for maintenance of the fabric of St. Edmund's Church. The main income of the charity continues to be dividends from a holding of 8655.2 Income Shares in the COIF Charities Fund, a managed investment portfolio set up by CCLA Investment Management Ltd. This fund is an approved fund for churches and other charities to invest in, if allowed by the charity's trust deed.

The value of the total holding of 8655.2 shares has increased by approximately 14 % during the past year, and was valued at £177,871 at the year end (Dec 2021). These shares derive mainly from the sale of Church Land east of the A6 (north of Allestree village) in about 1938 for building purposes, but also includes 94.70 shares derived from the M O Cowlshaw bequest.

The other source of income is the rental income from 8.89 acres of agricultural land at Sawrey Hill (part of the Markeaton Estate). This land was Church Land assigned to St. Edmunds Church and leased by the Churchwardens of St Edmund's who would receive the rental income from the land for the upkeep of the Church.

(2) The purpose of the Parish Clerk's Land Charity is to provide an honorarium to the PCC Secretary. The sole income of the Parish Clerk's Land Charity are the dividends from the holding of 103 shares in the COIF Charities Fund, which was valued at £1,855 (at the year end). These shares derive from the sale, for building purposes, of land which was once the Parish Clerk's Garden.

(3) The limited income for both charities is below that required for either an independent examination or an audit.

(4) The trustees of the two charities have now determined that purposes of the two charities would be best served by merging them both into the PCC. This has been agreed by the PCC, and approved by the charity commission, and the accrued assets will be transferred to the PCC during 2022. The assets will be held in separate restricted and endowment funds as required by the charity commission rules and accounting regulations.

Prepared by :
Richard Flatman

Approved by:

Michele Aspinall (Churchwarden)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

4th July 2021

1. Apologies

As recorded in previous minutes.

2. Minutes of 2020 APCM

The minutes were accepted as a true record with one correction. On page 8, under retiring members at APCM 2021, Karen Cowgill's name was removed.

3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

The role has 126 names in total, 80 being resident in the parish and 46 not resident in the parish.

Peter read out the names of members of the congregation who have died since the last APCM – Maureen Sanders, Audrey Halsey, Fred Clarke and Hazel Thorpe. We remembered them with love and affection.

4. Election of Laity representatives

The four members of the PCC who are due to retire at this APCM are Matthew Cooper, Richard Flatman, Barbara Colder and Graham Colder. Barbara and Graham do not wish to stand again on the PCC and Peter thanked them for their many years of service to St Edmund's. Julie to send a card of thanks. Richard was happy to stand again and was proposed by Michèle Aspinall and seconded by Julie Hutchinson. Matthew was also happy to stand again and was proposed by Julie Barham and seconded by Michèle Aspinall. Richard and Matthew were elected to the PCC unanimously. There were no other nominations. The Church Representation Rules state that there should be 12 representatives of laity on the PCC for our size of electoral roll and we are now at this number.

Nominations were elected to the PCC unanimously.

PCC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021-2022 will be -

Incumbent	Rev Peter Barham
Church Wardens	Michèle Aspinall
	Vacancy
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Louise Whittaker (with support from Anne Cogley)
Treasurer	Chris Jack
Secretary	Julie Hutchinson
Readers	Julie Barham
	Deborah Simpson

ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE PCC

Geoff Bailey
Paula Birchall
Matthew Cooper
Jackie Eunson
Ken Eunson
Richard Flatman
Madeleine Fullerton
David Halliwell
Julie Hutchinson
Chris Jack
Elizabeth Jack

Louise Whittaker

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES – EX OFFICIO PCC MEMBERS

Mark Halliwell

David Redfern

Richard Wood

Retiring members at APCM 2022

Jackie Eunson, Ken Eunson, Madeleine Fullerton.

Retiring members at APCM 2023

Geoff Bailey, Paula Birchall, David Halliwell, Julie Hutchinson, Christopher Jack, Elizabeth Jack, Louise Whittaker.

Retiring members at APCM 2024

Matthew Cooper, Richard Flatman.

5. Annual Report of the PCC

The report is contained within the 2021 APCM booklet.

Peter reported that the new headstones should arrive imminently and thanked Thelma Thompson for all the work she does looking after the records for the garden of rest and Debbie Fleming for digging the holes for interment of ashes.

6. Financial Report

This report is contained within the 2021 APCM booklet.

Chris reported that despite several financial risks at the beginning of the year, namely, not knowing what the ceiling project might reveal in terms of more work and the effect of Covid, we are in a far better position than expected. This position was greatly helped by the work Paul, the previous treasurer, had done in getting parishioners to change to giving by direct debit, by being able to furlough Caroline and Tony and by Richard claiming VAT. Chris thanked everyone concerned. He also thanked Caroline for coordinating Preschool so that income from the Church Hall was similar to the previous year. Chris also thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work and support and Peter Hilton, the auditor.

There were no questions. Peter thanked Chris and parishioners thanked him with applause. Peter said that our financial situation was remarkable as the picture nationally is very worrying with a lot of parishes unable to pay their parish share. Peter thanked everyone for their generosity and hard work.

7. Appointment of Auditor/Independent Financial Examiner

Peter Hilton has volunteered to be an independent financial examiner again next year. Proposed by Chris Jack. Seconded by Paul Smith. Carried unanimously.

8. Presentation of Committee Reports

Committee reports are printed in full in the APCM booklet.

JACK – Peter thanked Karen for continuing this. An activity with the families is being planned for over the summer.

Magazine – Peter thanked the editorial team especially Fiona Fraser and Chris Willis who organises distribution.

Church Hall Committee – Peter thanked Caroline for all the work she does on this.

Flower Group – Peter thanked Michéle and her team for the stunning displays that they create.

Choir – Peter thanked the choir for the singing that they have been able to do as restrictions changed through the year.

Food Bank – Paul Smith, Julie Hutchinson and Madeleine Fullerton have taken on the delivery of donations to the Hope Centre.

Luncheon Club – Anne Madge is taking on running this and hopes to have it up and running in October. Peter thanked everyone involved in keeping in touch with the members of Luncheon Club through Covid.

Allestree Churches Together – Peter has been in touch with four of the ministers from ACT churches and has been grateful for their support. Peter sadly reported that the Methodist Chapel on Duffield Road is very likely to shut.

Safeguarding – Peter thanked Louise Whittaker and Anne Cogley for all their work.

9. Churchwardens' Report

The report was printed in full in the APCM booklet.

Michèle has agreed to stand for an extra year but is keenly aware that we still need to recruit two new churchwardens. Michèle quoted from the Churchwarden's Yearbook where Bishop Libby describes the vital role churchwardens play in "growing churches, building communities, and transforming lives for good. The way that is delivered will, rightly, differ from place to place... Churchwardens, at their best, enable the contributions of others and facilitate the nurturing of everyone's gifts and skills. (They) have always been key to the flourishing of congregations: ... vital to their health and well-being". She said that at St. Edmund's, new churchwardens receive excellent support at parish and local level, and she has been grateful for the generous guidance of previous wardens, the unwavering support of Peter, the PCC and congregation, and excellent training opportunities from the diocese. Churchwardens are representatives of all that we do at St. Edmund's to serve God and to bring faith and compassion to our community. As we emerge from lock-down, she prays that volunteers will step forward to take up this important role. Through this next year, she hopes that new potential church wardens can learn alongside herself.

The parishioners showed thanks to Michèle with applause.

10. Vicar's Report

The Vicar's report was printed in full in the APCM booklet.

Peter's report shows that so much has changed over the last year and a half and that he is unsure what will happen over the next few weeks as restrictions are further lifted – what we will be allowed to do – what we will be happy to do. Zoom has been a great success and has enabled some people to join in worship much more. We are getting back to doing weddings and memorial services with 2 weddings and 4 memorials over the week or so which is very positive.

Dennis Caughey proposed thanks to Peter for all he has done through the pandemic.

11. Opportunity for questions

There were no questions.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

PCC Report for July 2021 to May 2022 – Julie Hutchinson (PCC Secretary)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The Churchwardens and those elected to the Deanery Synod are ex-officio members. The PCC may also co-opt, in our case, up to two members.

PCC July 2021 – May 2022

Incumbent	Reverend Peter Barham
Readers	Deborah Simpson Julie Barham
Churchwardens	Michèle Aspinall Vacancy

Deanery Synod Representatives

Richard Wood
Mark Halliwell
David Redfern

Elected Members of the PCC

Geoff Bailey
Paula Birchall
Matthew Cooper
Jackie Eunson
Ken Eunson
Richard Flatman
Madeleine Fullerton
David Halliwell
Julie Hutchinson (PCC Secretary)
Chris Jack (PCC Treasurer)
Elizabeth Jack
Louise Whittaker (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Retiring members at this APCM

Jackie Eunson, Ken Eunson, Madeleine Fullerton.

Retiring members at APCM 2023

Geoff Bailey, Paula Birchall, David Halliwell, Julie Hutchinson, Chris Jack, Liz Jack, Louise Whittaker.

Retiring members at APCM 2024

Matthew Cooper, Richard Flatman.

Committees

The PCC works to support the clergy, mainly through subcommittees, which deal with the business of the church, such as finance issues, care of the church and church hall and pastoral matters.

Present subcommittees are Fabric (church), Finance, Church Hall, Pastoral (suspended at the moment but restarting after Easter) and Events. PCC members choose on which committees to serve depending on their experience and interests. Other church members may help on sub committees at the discretion of the respective chairs.

The Standing Committee is required by law and consists of a minimum of 5 people and usually includes the Clergy, Lay Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and the Chair of any of the other subcommittees. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings and also sets the agenda for PCC meetings.

Review of PCC Meetings July 2021 to May 2022

Areas the PCC has focused on include:

- Dealing with the changing covid situation through this period. This has taken up much discussion and planning time. December saw an alarming increase in the new omicron variant of covid and so the usually very busy crib services were sadly cancelled. Despite high levels of infection in the community early in 2022, the government removed restrictions in all settings, so we have cautiously started removing restrictions in church and started planning to return to receiving full communion at the altar. Zoom services have continued successfully. It was decided that the 8am service would not restart and the 11.15am service is not taking place because of the clash with the zoom service. The choir are singing more often at the 10am service.
- Discussing and agreeing to plans from the Finance Committee. These have included transferring of Land Charity accounts to the PCC accounts, valuation of the Church Hall and charitable giving nominations.
- Discussing plans from the Fabric Committee on an improved lighting scheme for church, an accessible toilet, a ramp and remedial work on the windows.
- Discussing plans from the Church Hall Committee for removal of a tree in the play area and getting church hall users restarted. Luncheon Club has restarted and Toddler Group, with Caroline, Peter and Julie's help, has restarted. Coffee after church is due to restart soon.
- Discussing new safeguarding policies, taking part in online safeguarding training and renewing DBS certificates.
- Discussing plans from the Events Committee. A few events have been run this year – Big Book Sale, a summer picnic and the Harvest Festival fish, and chip supper have all been successful.
- Receiving reports from representatives of Derby Deanery Synod and Allestree Churches Together.

2021 End of Year Treasurer's Report

Summary

Taking together the excess of income over expenses and the improvement in our investment valuation our financial assets increased by £93,639 during the year. However, most of the income improvement was due to some very generous legacies, whilst our income from donations fell. Overall, our expenses remained at the same level as in 2020.

Balance sheet

As last year the categorisation and numbering of the income and expenses are in accordance with the PPC Accountability booklet published by the Business Committee of the General Synod.

The Covid pandemic continued to have significant effects on the life of the church in 2021 and, not surprisingly, the churches finances. Planned giving has fallen as income from the white envelope scheme has fallen away and several of our major donors are no longer with us. As a result, our income from donations fell by about £4,500. HMG grants for VAT rebates and furlough payments also reduced. Our income from legacies rose by £48,250. These resulted in an overall income increase of £37,600.

Major expenditures included radiator covers for the church hall and memorial stones, but overall payments were similar to last year.

The PCC authorised the transfer of £50,023 from the designated fund to the unrestricted fund. The designated fund is intended to hold in reserve those expenses authorised in advance by the PCC. No one on the PCC knew, and no record can be found, of the intended purpose of this money. Rather it seems to have been a pot into which monies from certain sources (possibly fees for wedding and funerals) had been paid for unspecified purposes. Sufficient funds were retained in the designated fund to meet PCC obligations which, this year were all charitable donations.

Assets

The PCC agreed to transfer £50,000 from our deposit account to our investment account, both with CCLA (our charity fund manager). This reflected prospects of low interest rates and raised inflation, both of which have continued. Thus, the value of investment account rose from £156,993 to £241,336 over the year, an increase of £84,373 of which the return on these investments was £34,373. Invested capital is, of course, subject to market fluctuations.

Our other main asset is the church hall, and we undertook in 2021 to have the value of the hall re-assessed. We employed a chartered surveyor to establish a) the rebuilding cost and b) the asset value of the hall i.e. what we might sell it for should the unlikely circumstance ever arise. The surveyor has estimated the total rebuilding cost at £1 million, and our insurance has been increased accordingly. The asset value is more complex as the land was donated to the parish with a restricted covenant such that the land and any building can only be used for 'ecclesiastical purposes'. So, we could only sell it to another church – a very limited market – with the restricted covenant still in place! Our examiner therefore advised that we did not change the asset value of the hall.

Charitable giving

During the year the congregation were invited, as usual, to nominate charities to which they would like to see the PCC make donations from our funds. These were reviewed by the PCC and £350 allocated to each charity nominated. In addition, collections were taken at regular services, weddings, funerals, and memorial services on behalf of specific charities. The total sum donated was £5,882, distributed as follows:-

<u>PCC donations</u>		<u>Collections at services</u>	
Aquabox	£ 700	BacZac	£ 70
Children with cancer	£ 350	BBC St Martin's appeal	£ 100
Embrace Middle East	£ 350	Book Aid International	£ 52
Just Ice	£ 350	Cancer Research	£ 137
Padley Group	£ 350	Christian Aid	£ 958
Practical Action	£ 350	Friends of Royal Derby Hospital	£ 26
Pro Zane	£ 350	Just Giving	£ 131
Railway Mission	£ 350	Kidney Research	£ 23
Unicef	£ 350	Nagpur Link	£ 327
		Parkinson's UK	£ 313
		PEEPS baby charity	£ 21
		Save the Children	£ 54
		Teenage Cancer Trust	£ 125
		The Dogs Trust	£ 46

In addition, we donated £3,500 to St. Nicholas, Allestree to support their work with young people. This appears under 'Mission giving' in the balance sheet.

Land Charities

There are two historical charities, entitled 'Parish Clerk's Land Charity', and 'Churchwarden's Land Charity'. The statement of accounts for these charities are given elsewhere in the APCM report. They each have only two or three of trustees and act independently of the PCC.

During the year, it was proposed that these charities be wound up and the assets and management of the assets be passed to the PCC, in order to simplify the management of the church's money and relieve the churchwardens of responsibility for their management. The trustees have met and agreed to this proposal on condition that any assets and income transferred to the PCC are used in accordance with the original purpose of the Land Charities. The PCC has formally agreed to this, and we are currently going through the various processes required to enact this decision.

When complete this will have major effects on the treasurer's report next year, as both the money and its distribution between the various fund categories are included.

Looking forward

The overall financial position of the church remains very healthy, and we are more than able to meet our current obligations including making significant donations to charity. We are in a very fortunate position compared with some other churches. However, the balance sheet shows that year by year we are very dependent on legacies.

As we emerge from the effects of the pandemic and more particularly with the threat to the cost of living, now is not the time to be asking our congregations for more money. But the church and its buildings are also going to see increased outgoings, not least to the cost of fuel, employees pay and other services.

I would like to record my thanks to members of the Finance Committee, who do a lot of the work of administering our finances. Without their help the Treasurer's job would be almost impossible. I would also like to acknowledge the help of our examiner Peter Hilton, who not only checks the numbers but also provides expert advice when needed throughout the year, without any charge.

St Edmund's, Allestree 2021 Accounts

These accounts are on the 'receipts and payments' basis and therefore include (1) the receipts and payments account and (2) an assets and liabilities statement.

St. Edmund's PCC Accounts for year ended 31st December 2021

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Totals 2021	Total 2020
		£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS						
	Notes					
1 & 2 Planned Giving	1	45,294			45,294	54,077
3 Collections at services	2	4,748			4,748	1,947
4 Other voluntary giving and donations		2,300			2,300	1,332
6 Tax recovered		11,285			11,285	10,817
Total from donors		63,627	0	0	63,627	68,173
7 Legacies		86,644			86,644	38,394
8 Grants	3	776			776	7,376
9 Fund raising		350			350	635
10 Bank Interest	4	74			74	553
11 Service Fees		10,789			10,789	8,525
12 Trading Income: Hall		14,932			14,932	16,620
12 Magazine and book sales		1,789			1,789	2,228
13 Other income		7,130			7,130	6,068
13c Agency income		10,418			10,418	10,384
Total Other income		132,902	0	0	132,902	90,783
TOTAL RECEIPTS		196,529	0	0	196,529	158,956
PAYMENTS						
17 Fund raising		400			400	376
18 Outward giving		2,033	3,850	0	5,883	4,007
19 Common Fund - Parish		54,613			54,613	54,698
20 Salaries and Honoraria		17,303			17,303	15,664
21 Clergy expenses		2,234			2,234	3,126
22 Mission giving				3,500	3,500	129
23 Church Running Expenditure	5	21,046	802	53	21,901	7,402
24 Church utilities		2,474			2,474	3,371
25 Cost of Trading	6	15,680			15,680	9,812
26 Governance		506			506	465
27 Major Repairs to Church				1,700	1,700	26,796
99 Other costs		903			903	212
Agency Payments		10,136			10,136	9,083
Total payments (less asset purchase)		127,328	4,652	5,253	137,234	135,141
Asset Purchase	7	50,000			50,000	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		177,328	4,652	5,253	187,234	135,141
Excess of Receipts over Payments		19,201	-4,652	-5,253	9,297	23,814
OPENING CASH BALANCES		65,577	58,023	86,333	209,933	186,118
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	8	50,023	-50,023			
CLOSING CASH BALANCES		134,801	3,348	81,080	219,229	209,933

St. Edmund's PCC Accounts for year ended 31st December 2021

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Totals 2021	Total 2020
		£	£	£	£	£
CASH FUNDS						
CAF current		5,181			5,181	4,604
CAF deposit		122,954	3,348		126,302	67,649
CCLA deposit	7	6,666		81,080	87,746	137,680
TOTAL		134,801	3,348	81,080	219,229	209,933
INVESTMENT FUNDS						
CCLA CBF account	7	241,366			241,366	156,993
CHURCH HALL	9	114,000			114,000	114,000
CREDITORS	Agency	282			282	1,301

ST EDMUND'S CHURCH ALLESTREE PCC

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF
ST EDMUND'S CHURCH ALLESTREE**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2021, which comprise the Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2016. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the members of the PCC those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Act, to follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145 of the Act and Church Guidance, 2016 edition and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name P B Hilton FCA

Address 5 Wharfedale Close, Allestree, Derby

Date 5th March 2022

Signed

PCC Committee and other Group/Activity Reports

Children's Work – Peter Barham

At St Matthew's we have been unable to run a Kids' Church since Rachel Trybula-Bryan moved to Canada. At St Edmund's Karen Cowgill started 2021 continuing with a monthly Zoom JACK meeting, but this is no longer taking place. We thank them both for their work over the years. Peter and Julie hosted a Vicarage Picnic for families from both churches in the summer, and we managed a small Nativity Play at St Matthew's just before Christmas. Sadly, all our other children's services at Christmas had to be cancelled because of Covid. There are discussions about what we can do in 2022, and we have three dates in the diary for Sunday afternoon Children's Work at St Matthew's. As churches which welcome so many children for baptism, where we have a flourishing Baby and Toddler Group and good links with Pre-school and with schools, there is a lot of potential, but we need people willing to commit to this work. Please pray that this is an area we can grow and develop over the next few months.

Church Magazine – Peter Barham, Fiona Fraser & Chris Willis

A huge thank you to Fiona and Chris who do most of the work for the magazine. Fiona has deadlines down to a fine art – we aim to get it out for the last Sunday of each month, so we start getting material to her a week or so earlier. By Wednesday evening I think "where is the magazine?", and it always arrives. We do some final sorting on Thursday; it goes to the Wrights the printers on Friday morning and is ready that afternoon (a huge thanks to them). Chris sorts out the distributors – and thanks to the team – and all is done for another month! We also thank our advertisers – if you use their services, please tell them you saw them in the church magazine, and Caroline, who helps with some of the practicalities.

We have a small bunch of people who regularly contribute but are always on the lookout for more. If you have a "one off" contribution, or just some nice church photos from a holiday, or want to give us your thoughts, we are always glad to receive items. The magazine is part of our church's outreach – we give a copy to every family who comes for baptisms, we hand them to visitors at services, and if you are in church at any time and someone comes and explores, do offer them a magazine – it's always nice to receive some money for it, but getting it into peoples' hands is the most important thing. If your neighbours would like a copy, please use it. Magazines left gathering dust at the end of the month are no use to anyone. Thank you for supporting your magazine.

Church Hall Report – Caroline Audley

St Edmund's Preschool continue to use the hall Monday-Friday during term time and School's Out have been using the hall during the holidays. We are grateful to them for this invaluable income.

We are nearly back to our pre-Covid regular bookings with Ballet on a Monday (term time), Derventio choir on a Tuesday, Brownies, and Guides on a Wednesday (term time) with Zumba and a dance class on a Thursday. We are no longer asking groups to clean touch points before and after their classes but the cleaning box that was created during Covid is kept topped up for all hall users to use. We are grateful to our regular groups for coming back to use the hall as soon as they felt it was safe.

As ever we continue to try and get those groups paying under the 'church rate' for bookings, closer to that rate but it's a fine balance to ensure the groups can continue to afford to meet in the hall.

We continue to share the cost of the weekly cleaner with the pre-school during term time and with School's Out during the holidays.

On the suggestion from the pre-school (who are all ladies), we also share the cost of a sanitary bin which will also be of benefit to other hall users.

Thank you as always to Tony for helping with various aspects of the hall from cleaning the windows and dusting the high corners to sweeping the outside play area for the pre-school. We are very grateful.

Handbells – Gill Flatman

Our regular weekly meetings ended on March 20th, 2020. When Covid regulations allowed, we met twice in December 2021 to practise our Christmas carols. We are now in a position to return to weekly practices in the Choir Vestry. However, each session is now in jeopardy as our leader needs to stay at home to look after her husband and another member has been forced to retire through ill health. As our membership numbers are low, we will need to check weekly whether or not we have enough members to play. This is particularly sad as we all enjoy playing and want to meet weekly. Do you know of any prospective members who would like to join our friendly group? During Covid, when national regulations allowed, we met twice for coffee in Hudson's Garden Centre. We all enjoyed these social occasions.

Baby & Toddler Group – Caroline Audley

We re-started the group on November 4th 2021. We continued to ask people to wear masks which everyone was happy to do. Now that there are no longer restrictions, we don't ask people to wear masks anymore, but we do still offer them, along with hand sanitiser.

Numbers vary every week but today (28th April 2022) we had 28 adults and 37 children! If we're honest it was probably a little too full. We would rather not ask people to book and turn away childminders who bring more than 2 children, but we do need to ensure the session is comfortable and enjoyable for all. We'll continue to monitor the numbers and decide in the coming weeks if people need to book.

Pre-Covid we offered fruit donated from Croots and had a rota of lovely ladies who helped make the teas and coffee. We now buy fruit from Aldi purely to save time, and it doesn't come to a huge amount. We must contact our previous teas ladies to see if any would like to come and help again.

Thank you again to Tony for helping week after week to get all of the toys in and out of the tiny cupboard, and to Peter and Julie for their tea making, storytelling and singing. I am very grateful and couldn't do it without them.

Flower Group - Michèle Aspinall

In January 2021 the third lockdown began, and we wondered if there would ever be a return to normal life. Thankfully, with the arrival of a vaccine, things gradually improved, but it was still not considered safe to re-open the church. As a result, Mothering Sunday posies were left in the porch to be collected by people from the local community. Would anyone want them? We needn't have worried – good news travels fast in Allestree and in less than two hours all the posies had gone! We were able to produce attractive displays for Easter and then, happily, the wedding rush began. The team were delighted to be back at work, creating lovely displays for so many couples who had endured the disappointment of plans which had been postponed many times. Autumn and winter meant a return to our familiar routine of Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas flowers. The cost of flowers has risen greatly, but people continue to be generous with the donations they make towards church flowers. I hope that everyone appreciates the beauty of the natural world displayed in our church building.

In normal circumstances, the group ensures that fresh flowers are always on display for services apart from Lent and Advent. A special effort is made for festivals such as Easter and Christmas. Appropriate flowers and colours are also in place for Remembrance Sunday, Whitsun etc. We always try to carry out family's wishes for funeral flowers and also provide arrangements to celebrate anniversaries or memorials.

Some of our funding comes from wedding flowers, when we make a small profit while providing flowers at a more competitive price than some florists. Thanks to generous donations from individuals, the congregation's response to appeals and the skills of the group, the floral arrangements at Easter, Harvest and Christmas continue to impress. Mothering Sunday flowers are also provided from this funding.

This is a longstanding group which gladly welcomes new recruits. Many of our team are also members of Allestree Flower Group. No flower arranging skills are required as full training is offered by our expert, talented team.

Volunteers to clear flowers and help with "ordinary" weeks would be most welcome. We see flower arranging as a pleasant, social and creative way of serving the church and helping to make it a welcoming and comforting place to be.

Choir - Elizabeth Jack

How we long for a “normal” year but who knows when this will happen!

We cautiously began to sing again in April 2021, for just 2 morning services with this pattern continuing until July when we added 2 choral Evensongs. We have settled into a pattern of singing choral Evensong on the 2nd Sunday of each month, Morning Prayer on a 3rd Sunday and 10 am Communion plus a further choral Evensong on a 4th Sunday. 5th Sundays continue to be joint 10 am Communion services with St. Matthew’s.

We began regular choir practices at the beginning of September 2021 with a few of us opting for a bit of Dutch courage at the Red Cow first! We continue to learn new music, including pieces heard on the Zoom services and using our new 16th Century Anthem Books.

We were delighted to sing at a full-length Christmas carol service, although the usual choir get together afterwards did not happen due to Covid worries. St. Matthew’s choir sang at midnight Communion and St. Edmund’s 10 am on Christmas Day. An Epiphany carol service followed at the beginning of January.

We were honoured to sing an anthem and Nunc Dimittis at Joyce Redman’s memorial service in March as well as several of her favourite hymns. She had always been a great supporter of the choir! The men, with a few extra volunteers, sang Compline after choir practices in Lent. Thanks to Peter Barham and John Rice for leading these short reflective services for us. Together with St. Matthew’ choir we sang on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and then twice on Easter Day.

We welcomed Claire Pegg to the choir in September. She has proved a great asset to the soprano line and made my life a lot easier! She is full of good ideas and has quickly become part of our choir family. Tony Westerman, who sadly had to step down as our evening organist, and Steve Fraser Burton regularly join us for Evensong on 4th Sundays.

Thanks go to David Redfern, our regular organist and also to Tom Corfield who has been able to play ay several choral Evensongs for us. The greatest thanks of all goes, as ever, to the choir who remain totally dedicated and continue sing to a very high standard on a weekly basis. We continue to be grateful for Peter Barham’s support of all that we do and are encouraged by the many compliments we receive from members of the congregation.

Bookworms and Other Vicarage Social Events - Julie Barham

Bookworms has been in abeyance for obvious reasons – our sitting room was packed when everyone came, no social distancing in sight. I would like to restart something this year, perhaps using the choir vestry at St Edmund’s as that is larger. If you would want to be part of it, probably one afternoon a month, please speak to me or drop me an email – julieebarham@gmail.com

Events Committee – Peter Barham

The PCC has a small events committee, comprising on myself, Michele, Elizabeth, Madeleine and Amy, but we have not had a very productive year. We were involved in the Allestree Scarecrow weekend in September, the Scarecrow Vicar and Reader were quite special. We did manage a successful Harvest Fish and Chip Supper in the Church Hall in October, and a less successful St George’s Day Concert (in 2022) which suggested that many of us are out of the habit of being social. We hope that Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee will be an opportunity to come together, enjoy each other’s company, and show our communities that we are still alive and welcoming.

Food Bank – Paul Smith

For several years Mike and Shirley Dawson have been in charge of our monthly food bank collection, with a lot of help and support from John Rice.

Paul Smith took this job on last year. With a lot of support from Julie and Dave Hutchinson, and others. Thank you to everybody who brings food to both churches on the first Sunday of the month and to those who deliver directly to Primrose’s Book Shed. The Hope Centre are always very grateful when we arrive with a car full of bags. They are very appreciative of the support they receive from our churches. Demand continues to grow so please continue to be generous. It is also worth recording that Joyce Redman was one of the founders of the Food Bank and Hope Centre – we give thanks to God for her life and ministry.

Luncheon Club – Anne Madge

Staffing numbers have been a bit of a problem due to Covid, but there are a number of people who may be willing to help in the future. (Colin Pearson; Diana Allsop and Carer for Rita Wrigley.)

The Treasurer presented her report covering the two years to February 2022. The following points were highlighted. The report showed funds totalling £1508.02 of which £250 was one untaken free meal, £80 Staff meals fund, and the balance of £1178.02.

No contribution has been made to Church funds for two years. Jill Potts reported that she had been told by Rev Peter Barham that the church hall funds were healthy, and no contribution was expected from the LC until further notice. This was well received and appreciated by the meeting.

The audit has been undertaken by Ken Eunson, who has also intimated that he will not be auditing the LC accounts in future, and we will need to find a new auditor. Review

Running Costs. The fortnightly contribution of £5 per lunch is currently adequate. However, in view of the progressive increase in the costs of the bus, the £3 contribution per person, which has stayed unchanged for several years, should be increased to £5 per person which is more in keeping with current costs. This is partly due to the increase in fuel, and also journeys taking longer and therefore costing more as the bus company charges by the hour. Increases will commence from May 2022

Jill informed the meeting that she would be retiring as Treasurer in October. Anne is hoping that Eileen Holland will take over as Treasurer and she will assist in the change. The committee expressed their appreciation to Jill for over 30 years as Treasurer.

The bank mandate of signatures will require updating when the new officers are established, and payment procedures will need upgrading for Banking changes. This may entail moving the account to a new bank.

The constitution has been updated to reflect the fact that we now meet every 2 weeks and no longer have any financial support from the council.

The annual Environmental Health inspection was satisfactorily completed in March 2022, and subject to a couple of minor points which will be addressed, again resulted in an excellent 5* certificate.

In 2022 the annual party will be free, and Jubilee themed with all volunteers being involved.

As we have a few members who have not returned since we reopened after lockdown, staff are to review the current membership to establish whether spaces could be released for new members to join.

Allestree Churches Together (ACT) – David is our ACT representative. Peter Barham wrote this report

Although ACT has not met as a formal group, the ministers of several of the Allestree churches have kept in touch and spent time praying together with regular Zoom meetings. We were sad to say “farewell” to Becky Mathew, the Vicar of St Nicks, who has moved to Manchester. We have shared resources – St Edmund’s support of Anna Oldknow, the Youth and Children’s Worker at St Nick’s, is much appreciated. Good work is being done in our schools – Peter was back in person at Portway Infants in April. There is an increase in environmental work, and deepening links with “Green” groups at St Matthew’s, Broadway, St Alkmund’s and others. There has been some support for the Allestree Nagpur link, with small fundraising and social events. There are plans for a Holiday at Home at Broadway this summer. One of the sadness’s was the closure of Allestree Methodist Chapel in October 2021 – we give thanks to God for their work and ministry over the years. No doubt there was Anglican annoyance when that Chapel opened – now there is Anglican sadness when it closed. Ecumenical work is different from how it was a decade ago, and it may be that formal Churches Together groups have had their day, but we still try and build God’s Kingdom together.

Safeguarding - Louise Whittaker & Madeleine Fullerton (PSO’s for St Edmund’s Church, Allestree)

As many of you will be aware, we report verbally to the PCC at each meeting throughout the year and are required to present a written Safeguarding Report to the PCC every six months. Our latest report dates back to March 2022. Since Anne Cogley retired from her position as Parish Safeguarding Officer last October, Madeleine Fullerton, our new PSO (approved by the PCC on 12th January) and Louise Whittaker are continuing to comply with our duties in relation to Safeguarding as set down in the House of Bishops guidance. As Church life has gradually started back up

again, we are pleased to report that we too have hit the ground running and are fully engaged once again in fulfilling our Parish Safeguarding Officer duties.

As from last September we have put our energies especially into bringing all Safeguarding Training requirements up to date. PCC members, along with paid staff, volunteers, and leaders of groups within the Parish have all received an email explaining what training is required for the roles that they each play and how to go about obtaining the various training certificates required for these roles. Most people are now up to date with at least the Basic Awareness training that is required of them. Madeleine has taken over the training side of the Parish role from Louise and she herself is working her way through the courses that are required for her to be fully up to date and qualified for the PSO role. I am very grateful for her support. Thanks, are also due to Caroline Audley who has helped Peter, Madeleine and Louise with offering some Basic Awareness training from her office, to those who do not have access to a computer of their own.

Since January 2022 DBS Certificates need to be renewed every three years rather than every five years, as was formerly the case. We have had to process DBS Certificates for all members of the PCC as well as many other members of the Parish with specific leadership roles. This has been especially time consuming and quite a learning curve for Louise as a church PSO has a much larger part to play in the process which in the past was largely completed by the diocesan Safeguarding officers at Church House. We are hoping that everyone manages to join the updating service this time round in order to make the process much quicker and simpler when certificates need to be renewed in three years' time.

With regards to the Annual Safeguarding Audit, we are working once again on fulfilling all requirements for the three levels that need to be completed as soon as possible. An Audit Action Plan was approved by the PCC at the meeting in March and most actions including an updated GDPR policy, updated Risk assessments and Role descriptions for volunteers and paid workers and a Safeguarding policy statement for Saint Edmund's Church added to our Church website are now completed and in place.

Since the last report, we have had no Safeguarding issues arise. The information on the Church website that was aimed at helping and informing those with Safeguarding anxieties or concerns has remained on the site throughout these difficult and uncertain times.

We will continue to work closely with Peter on our Safeguarding responsibilities and report back to the PCC at each meeting.

Finally, we would like to remind everyone that a copy of the Parish Safeguarding handbook 'Promoting a Safer Church' brings into one place the key safeguarding responsibilities for parishes and is designed to support day to day safeguarding work. It is available online in its most up to date format and can be found by going to www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding for everyone to access.

Churchwardens' Report - Michèle Aspinall

As I mentioned in last year's report, Shrove Tuesday's pancake evening was our last unrestricted social gathering. At that point we could not have imagined that two years down the line, we would still be living with the pandemic and dealing with its consequences. Luckily, we have faced these challenges together. We have become well versed in adapting our ways of worshipping, working, and keeping in contact. Meeting on zoom, drawing up risk assessments and reacting to changing guidance have all demanded patience, persistence, and flexibility. Led by Peter, we have been able to worship, celebrate and mourn, sometimes in ways that have differed from our usual custom, but always with the aim of allowing our church community to remain united.

In January 2021, a third lockdown was announced, so February and March saw Mothering Sunday posies and Palm Sunday crosses distributed from the church porch. As we emerged from lockdown and church re-opened for Easter worship, volunteers came forward once more to act as welcomers for services. They adapted their ways of working as these roles evolved, depending on Covid guidance and rules. Their work ensured that we could keep everyone as safe as possible.

Summer 2021 was a busy time for weddings, many of which had been postponed more than once. These joyful celebrations inspired the theme of the St. Edmund's entry for the Allestree Scarecrow festival. Our scarecrow bride and groom, accompanied by a scarecrow vicar and reader, earned us an award in the community section of the competition.

Autumn continued to be a busy time for weddings and baptisms. Harvest supper was celebrated with the now traditional fish and chips, a welcome return of music on the Compton organ and an autumn themed literary entertainment. It was good to gather for a social event. We were able to hold our All Souls' service and a beautiful Remembrance Sunday service with a full congregation.

As Christmas approached, members of the congregation were generous in their donations to the Rotary Club's shoebox appeal. We were able to enjoy carols in the churchyard, albeit without the customary mulled wine and mince pies. Our carol service went ahead as planned, but unfortunately, the Christmas Eve crib services had to be cancelled. We were able to hold Midnight Mass at St Edmund's and Boxing Day's feast of St. Stephen in a United Service at St. Matthew's.

During 2021, we lost a number of faithful members of the congregation, dear friends who served the church and community over many decades. They will be sorely missed.

Fabric Committee continued to address items raised in the 2019 Quinquennial Inspection and to explore ways of ensuring that the church remains an attractive place of worship. Painting of the church ceiling was completed at a final cost of £21,996.30. Throughout the year, essential maintenance was carried out; this included routine work of tuning the organ and servicing the tower clock, the lightning conductor, the fire system, and alarms. Initial plans were drawn up for a new lighting scheme. This work has become more urgent as the current light fittings are failing. New lights will have considerably lower running costs and a new scheme will provide better and more evenly distributed lighting throughout the building. There have been preliminary discussions regarding the possibility of installing an accessible toilet in the choir vestry. Remedial work on the church windows is being considered as a number of concerns were highlighted in previous Quinquennial Inspections and these problems are now becoming more serious. A report is being drawn up and future actions will be considered. I would like to thank Richard Flatman for continuing to audit the churchwardens' accounts and the committee as a whole for providing expert advice and practical help.

Radiator covers were installed in the church hall, providing a safer environment, and improving the appearance of the facilities.

Throughout the year, thanks to the Ground Force Team, work in the churchyard continued uninterrupted; the grass was cut, paths were swept, graves were tidied, and flower beds were planted up. I am grateful to all who donated plants and bulbs for the flower beds and to everyone who gave their time and labour in order to enhance the appearance of the churchyard and the church hall grounds. The tranquillity of the churchyard is appreciated by the many passers-by who walk through it and by those who use it as a quiet space for reflection. We continue to welcome and encourage volunteers to help with the multitude of tasks that contribute to the life of St Edmund's church.

The PCC purchased 8 large stones for the burial of ashes area adjoining Church Walk. This area is now complete. The total cost of £12,800 will be retrieved from the plot fees.

I would like to finish by thanking Peter, Julie and all who have led and contributed to worship during these challenging times. I am grateful to Caroline for her efforts to ensure that administration ran smoothly in spite of so many Covid-related complications. I am proud to have served as churchwarden since 2016 and am grateful to so many members of the congregation who work tirelessly in different roles to serve God and our church and who, through doing so, make the churchwarden's job so much easier. With God's guidance, we can look forward with confidence as we emerge from the pandemic.

Vicar's Report - Peter Barham

Another year of Covid and, in some ways, a more challenging year than 2020. Then we had rules, now we sometimes have guidance, but on occasions we have been left to work it out by ourselves. I have been very fortunate that both PCC Standing Committees have been pillars of strength as we have negotiated our way forward. I am incredibly grateful to them. At St Edmund's Michele, Chris, Julie and Matt at St Edmund's – with the presence and assistance of Paul, who will also step up to be Churchwarden (Hallelujah). At St Matthew's David, Peter, Clive, Barbara, Richard and Phil. Thank you. Thanks too to people who have stepped up to be welcomers, who have learned which key unlocks which door, and who have coped with regular changes to how we do things. Thank you too to all of you who have been understanding and patient. I am aware that some of you have lost your normal service over the last year as we have stopped doing 8 and 11.15 services – and I am grateful that the vast majority of people have quietly transferred to another. I believe we now have a service pattern which is sustainable. I am grateful to John, Clive, Julie, Melonie, and Debs for their ministry, and to Neil, Geoffrey and Chris who are the first people I call on when we need additional help. Thank you to our musicians, and all engaged in worship.

I am sad that some people have not returned to regular worship – indeed our Sunday congregations in both churches are at least a quarter down on where they were. Some of those who have not returned in person are joining us on Zoom – and my thanks to Julie, Clive, Matt and Sophie for their work ensuring that runs every week. Others watch on YouTube during the week. Others need regular visits and home communions – I am doing my best,

but there is only one of me! I hope others will return, but I can't make them. I am sad that people are still so reluctant to cross the A38 – they will drive to one church for Evensong, but not drive to the other the following week. Our churches cannot exist in isolation. The Diocese is planning to reduce clergy numbers from 120 to 80 in the next few years. That means that each Deanery will lose about five full time clergy. In our Deanery, basically the City of Derby, housing growth is in the south of the city – the parish of Sinfin is being increased by several thousand people - and that is where clergy will be concentrated. You don't need to have a crystal ball to realise that this will affect the way our churches do ministry in the years to come.

We started 2021 by making the decision to close our buildings due to Covid. We worshipped on Zoom through the first few months of the year. We regularly got 60 people on zoom, plus others watching in the following week. We reopened both churches on Easter Sunday – social distancing, masks, no singing, and we didn't shout that "Christ is Risen", but we know he is. We restarted Wednesday morning services in June and Evensongs in July. We had small choirs as soon as we could, and eventually re-started congregational singing. Both our churches were full for Remembrance Sunday, and we were looking forward to something like a normal Christmas. Sadly, that was not to be. Covid numbers rose, and we made the difficult decision that we could not host our big services – this was the second year they have had to be cancelled. It felt a real knock back. We did our best, in church, on Zoom and with home communions, but there was a real sadness.

It has been a difficult year financially in both churches. At St Matthew's we were unable to pay our Parish Share in full. Unless we can turn it round, this will have implications for the future of ministry in these parishes. I am grateful to those who continue to give and give regularly. At St Edmund's we are very fortunate to have income from Preschool and School's Out in the Hall (as well as using the Hall to support our families and young people in the area), and we have some hall bookings back. We have some bookings back at St Matthew's too – we need the Fellowship Room to be used. Every month we are collecting for the Food Bank – and the economic position of so many in our city just gets worse and worse. Many of our number are suffering from the pains of old age (which I'm sure is a line from a psalm) and finding that much of the support they need is not there. There is a lot of loneliness of young and old, and a lot of fear – many situations where a caring, loving church has so much to offer. Thank you for all you do in our communities.

We baptised 26 children last year across the two churches – actually in the last six months of last year – and it is a huge privilege being part of family celebrations once again. We married 22 couples – sometimes with just a handful of guests and a video link. Our organists are now "international organists", they have been livestreamed across the world! These services of joy and celebration have been wonderful. They are also a great deal of hard work, so a huge thanks to Caroline in the Office. Her efficiency and good humour, her skill at being a listening ear, and the way she copes with me – she deserves a gold star. She is, of course, not the only one – a gold star to Julie as well.