THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF NESTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1129453

Details

Other names	NESTON PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-05-07
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Neston Centre High Street Neston CH64 9TZ
Phone	0151 336 5346
Email	NESTONPARISHOFFICE@GMAIL.COM
Website	www.nestonparishchurch.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Church activities & social events support to parishioners & local residents.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Cheshire West & Chester

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Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£153,148	£191,449	-	-
2023-12-31	£149,266	£147,784	-	-
2022-12-31	£143,692	£149,775	-	-
2021-12-31	£218,988	£154,717	-	-
2020-12-31	£125,018	£132,983	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Kevin David Crinks	Chair	2023-09-07
Belinda Dianna Giovanna Ludlow		2025-05-08
Carol Ann Stott		2021-09-16
David Clifford Johnson		2025-06-17
Dr Helena Catherine Jones		2024-05-09
Kenneth Smith		2024-05-09
Linda Ann Haigh		2019-09-04
MARION JEAN FORSHAW		2020-10-18
Mark Ryan		2026-05-07
Nicola Ruth Skarnes		2026-05-07
Nigel Clawson		2026-05-07
RICHARD WILLIAM LEWIS		
Sara Elizabeth Lilly		2025-07-15
Susan Jennifer Thomas		2022-05-10
TERRY ABEL		2013-05-05
VALERIE MARGARET JOHNSON		2011-09-02

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF NESTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1129453

Accounts

The Parish of Neston

Charity No 1129453

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Neston Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2024

Incumbent

Fr. Kevin Crinks

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31st December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £	*2023* £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS							
Voluntary Income	2(a)	99,039	4,400	0	0	103,439	*83,558*
Church activities	2(b)	7,726	5,638	1,220	0	14,584	*19,251*
Activities For Generating Funds	2(c)	27,859	4,766	0	0	32,625	*36,540*
Income From Investments	2(d)	0	2,500	0	0	2,500	*9,917*
TOTAL INCOME		134,624	17,304	1,220	0	153,148	*149,266*
EXPENDITURE							
Raising funds	3(a)	197	0	0	0	197	*601*
Church activities	3(b)	130,594	59,603	0	0	190,197	*145,822*
Other Expenditure	3(c)	1,055	0	0	0	1,055	*1,361*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		131,846	59,603	0	0	191,449	*147,784*
NET INCOME/(-EXPENDITURE)		2,778	-42,299	1,220	0	-38,301	*1,482*
Gross Transfers between funds - In		800				800	*1,642*
Gross Transfers between funds - Out				-800		-800	*-1,642*
Gains on Investment Assets					4,999	4,999	*6,952*
Other Recognised Losses						0	*0*
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		3,578	-42,299	420	4,999	-33,302	*8,434*
Balances b/fwd 1st January		37,652	209,457	4,704	266,574	518,387	*509,953*
Balances c/fwd 31st December		41,230	167,158	5,124	271,573	485,085	*518,387*

The Notes on Pages 3 to 6 form part of these accounts.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31st DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets		25,001	25,001
Investment Assets	9	301,975	296,976
	4	326,976	321,977
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock on Hand		330	330
Debtors	6	15,206	6,482
Short Term Deposits		154,288	202,578
Cash		148	32
		169,972	209,422
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	7	11,863	13,012
NET CURRENT ASSETS		158,109	196,410
TOTAL ASSETS		£485,085	£518,387
FUNDS	5		
Endowment		271,573	266,574
Unrestricted - Designated		5,124	4,704
Restricted		167,158	209,457
Unrestricted		41,230	37,652
		£485,085	£518,387

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 8 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Vicar
Fr Kevin Crinks

Trustee
Lucy Brooks
Member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

The Notes on Pages 3 to 6 form part of these accounts.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of Financial Reporting Standard 102.
The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provision. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2nd Edition(FRS102))

Fixed Assets

Consecrated Land and Buildings and Movable Church Furnishings.

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Such Assets are not capitalised in the financial statements
No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other Fixtures and Office Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis appropriate to the life of the equipment concerned.

Funds

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.
They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment Funds

Endowment funds have been introduced this year. There were none last year. These are restricted and separately invested.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024 (Continued)

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL *2023* *£*
2	**INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS**					
2(a)	*Incoming Resources From Donors*					
	Planned Giving	62,376			62,376	*57,614*
	Collections in Church and Boxes	11,302			11,302	*5,286*
	Gift-Aided Gifts				0	*0*
	Regular Gift Days				0	*0*
	Donations and Appeals	8,879	3,270		12,149	*2,953*
	Planned Giving Tax Refunds	16,482	130		16,612	*12,704*
	Legacies		1,000		1,000	*5,000*
	Chester Diocesan Board Grant				0	*0*
	Vision Income				0	*0*
	Gas and P Rounding				0	*1*
		99,039	4,400	0	103,439	*83,558*
2(b)						
	Incoming Resources From Church Activities					
	Wedding and Funeral fees PCC	7,250			7,250	*13,971*
	Stay & Play			1,220	1,220	*600*
	Grants and VAT Refunds	476	5,638		6,114	*764*
	Assistant Staff Costs refunded by Diocese				0	*3,916*
2(c)		7,726	5,638	1,220	14,584	*19,251*
	Activities For Generating Funds					
	Wedding and Funeral fees Diocese	3,826			3,826	*6,802*
	Parish Fellowship	545			545	*374*
	Rent - Neston Centre	3,300			3,300	*3,550*
	Rent - 99 The Ringway	1,767	4,766		6,533	*6,934*
	Comrade's Field	730			730	*720*
	Room Hire	4,853			4,853	*9,685*
	Wall Safe	19			19	*227*
	Shop Income	1,005			1,005	*1,195*
	Village Fair	3,454			3,454	*2,580*
	Christmas Fairs	3,316			3,316	*1,825*
	Events	4,794			4,794	*2,648*
	Other Income -Gas & Power Compensation	250			250	*0*
2(d)		27,859	4,766	0	32,625	*36,540*
	Investments					
	Income from Investments		2,500		2,500	*9,917*
	Bank interest etc				0	*0*
		0	2,500	0	2,500	*9,917*

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024 (Continued)

3	EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL *2023* *£*
3(a)	*Fundraising Trading: Costs of Sale & Other Costs*					
	Costs of Stewardship Campaign	99			99	*485*
	Shop Expenses	98			98	*116*
	Investment Management Costs				0	*0*
		197	0	0	197	*601*
3(b)	*Church Activities*			Designated		
	Outward Giving				0	*0*
	Secular Charities				0	*0*
	Weddings & Funeral Fees Diocese	3826			3,826	*6,802*
	Parish Share	75344			75,344	*71,757*
	Assistant staff costs	422			422	*6,187*
	Vicar's Working Expenses	1460			1,460	*304*
	Curate's Working Expenses				0	*0*
	Vicarage Expenses	3534			3,534	*3,093*
	Education				0	*0*
	Insurance	7624			7,624	*7,315*
	Organ, piano tuning	936			936	*936*
	Repairs & Maintenance Churches	4874	40,969		45,843	*4,550*
	Cleaning	3591			3,591	*3,122*
	Altar requisites	199			199	*567*
	Service books	0			0	*264*
	Robes & chalices	0			0	*76*
	Music licences	808			808	*756*
	Organist's fees	5640			5,640	*6,565*
	Choir fees	0			0	*360*
	Bell fees	0			0	*200*
	Upkeep of churchyard	540	1,249		1,789	*384*
	Equipment hire				0	*45*
	Equipment servicing/ usage charges	526			526	*518*
	Heating, Lighting & W Rates	14936	5,904		20,840	*15,207*
	Repairs & Maintenance Neston Centre	4404	2,756		7,160	*12,648*
	Vision Expenditure	0	7,690.00		7,690	*674*
	Youth Matters General Expenditure	0			0	*0*
	Miscellaneous Expenditure	1461	1035	0	2,496	*2,995*
	Bank charges	469			469	*497*
		130,594	59,603	0	190,197	*145,822*
3(c)	*Other Expenditure*					
	Other Ordinary PCC Expenditure	50			50	*0*
	Parish Office & Administration	483			483	*815*
	Parish office equipment				0	*0*
	Software subscriptions	522			522	*546*
		1,055	0	0	1,055	*1,361*

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024 (Continued)

4 FIXED ASSETS

	2024	2023
Freehold Land and Buildings	25,000	25,000
Equipment Written down	1	1
Investment in Ringway property : The Hillcrest Curacy Trust Fund.	112,393	112,393
Invested Legacy re Betty Smith Endowment	189,582	184,583
	326,976	321,977

The freehold land & buildings comprise the Neston Centre and Comrade's Field at Neston.
The gross values of these and the equipment have been estimated at 1st January 1997.

5 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

	At 1st Jan 2024 £	Gains & Losses £	Movement in Year £	At 31st Dec 2024 £
Endowment Funds				
Betty Smith Endowment	184,583	4,998		189,581
Hillcrest (including Robert Hamilton) Fund Endowment	81,991			81,991
	266,574	4,998	0	271,572
Designated Funds				
3 Churches Repairs from £10,000 designated	2,104			2,104
Chester Diocesan Board	0			0
Crump Legacy	2,000			2,000
Stay and Play	600		420	1,020
	4,704		420	5,124
Restricted Funds				
Garden Fund Bishops Trust	596			596
Lighting Fund	1,441			1,441
Neston Centre And Comrade's Field Fund	25,000			25,000
St Thomas's Donations	1,000			1,000
Vision Fund	88,074		-16,018	72,056
Miss Morris Legacy for Parish Church	60,131		-31,494	28,637
Hillcrest (including Robert Hamilton) Fund	24,320		4,766	29,086
Beazley Legacy for St Mary & St Helen's Church	4,000			4,000
Dr Evans' Legacy for St Mary & St Helen's Churchyard	1,000		-549	451
Donation for Organ			650	650
Flower Festival 2025			250	250
Houghton Legacy			1,000	1,000
Neston Town Council Grant for Xmas Lights			2,500	2,500
Betty Smith Investment income for Parish Church	3,895		-3,404	491
	209,457		-42,299	167,158
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	37,652		3,578	41,230

6 DEBTORS

	2024 £	*2023 £*
Prepayments	0	***0***
Other Debtors	15,206	***6482***
Tax and VAT refunds due	0	*0*
	15,206	*6,482*

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Accrued Expenses	7,208	*8,357*
Neston Centre Deposits	275	*275*
Agency Collections		
Parish Church Bells	4,302	*4,302*
cash reimburse	78	*78*
	11,863	*13,012*

8 Staff Costs

No PCC Members were paid any wages in the year.
Several members of the PCC were reimbursed for minor expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC.

9 Connected Charities

The Hillcrest Curacy Trust Fund
The Robert Hamilton Fund

On 13th July 2021 the PCC became the sole trustee of the Hillcrest Curacy Trust fund and the Robert Hamilton Fund was merged into it at the same time to be administered as a restricted fund in the PCC accounts.
These Trusts have been invested in the Curates house at 99 Ringway along with £30,402 of PCC Funds
Land Registry records show the registered owner of the property is Chester Diocesan Board of Finance and as such the house does not form part of the assets of the PCC. The PCC's investment of £30,402 in the property is recorded in the Balance Sheet.

10 Neston Village Fair

An autonomous committee runs this annual event and maintains an account to fund the next event. The ultimate benefactor of these funds held in additional accounts would be the PCC and the surplus carried forward at the year end was £7,245

Report of The Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Neston Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024. which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

As trustees of the charity. the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity 'Commisioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act): and
- 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 Commission

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit. and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145(3) of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act: or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

B. H. Morris FCA

Highfield. Bull Hill
Lt Neston

CH64 4DN

24 April 2025

Parish of Neston

2024 Report and Accounts

Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Neston, Cheshire.

Aim and purposes

Neston Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the aim of every Church of England church:

To promote the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting this aim throughout the ecclesiastical parish of Neston.

The PCC is specifically responsible for maintaining:

- St Mary & St Helen's Church: Parish Church, High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ;
- St Michael and All Angels' Church: Marshlands Road, Little Neston, CH64 4AD;
- St Thomas's Church: School Lane, Parkgate, CH64 6SR; and
- Neston Centre: High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. We aim to enable people to live out their Christian faith as part of our parish through:

- Services, worship, and prayer;
- Social outreach and pastoral work; and
- Missionary outreach, especially to children and young people.

It is also important that we maintain the fabric of our three church buildings and the Neston Centre to enable us to carry out our objectives and activities.

Achievements and performance

Revd Kevin Crinks started work in the Parish of Neston in September 2023, with the assistance of local, retired priests, especially Revd Maureen Hobbs, Revd Frances Skinner, and Revd Richard Skinner.

Work with elderly people continues with CAFÉ (Community and Friendship for Everyone), meeting monthly in the Neston Centre. Work with the recently bereaved continues through OASIS in the Blue Bicycle coffee shop.

Our pre-school gatherings continued during 2024: Stay & Play met in term-time on Friday mornings at the Parish Church, offering Christian teaching in a creative and well-received way. It is over-subscribed.

Children from the High School and primary schools made visits during the year and held their carol concerts in 2024. Experience Christmas and Experience Easter workshops were held for local schools.

Most of our activities in all three churches benefit from the work and commitment of many volunteers, without whom much of our work could not happen and the PCC would not meet its objectives. The PCC

want to thank those many people who are contributing their time and talents to our work.

The PCC is reasonably placed to address its financial position and manage budgets, but in 2024, it was only possible to work within our agreed working funds by drawing on other reserves. While there are large capital reserves for projects that are yet to be designed and delivered, day-to-day income is not covering day-to-day expenditure such as the Parish Share, Insurance, utilities, maintenance etc. A Stewardship group of the PCC is working on a new campaign. We acknowledge particularly the skill and commitment of the Treasurer, Lucy Brooks.

The PCC established three subgroups to address: stewardship, communications and events. The Events Group has delivered many events throughout the year that have enhanced fellowship within our congregations and improved contact with the wider community. The Communications Group is making steady progress, and the Stewardship Group will start its work in 2025.

Churchwardens' reports

Linda Haigh has continued to work on the energy contracts throughout the year. We are still with EDF. However, the contracts are up for renewal in 2025.

Five of the 8 meters have been changed to smart meters. The Parish church electric meter can't be changed until they can access the safety switch, which is under the grass area to the side of the church. The area will be excavated in 2025 to complete the work

The gas meter in the Parish Church is too big to change to a smart meter, as is the gas meter in the Neston Centre

An exhibition based on the Twelve Days of Christmas was held in the first week of December 2024 in the Parish church. It consisted of 12 fabric banners created by Meryl Abel which took two years to complete. The banners were created by stitching, embroidering, painting and with a touch of appliqué work. They were mounted on stands which were supplied by her husband Terry Abel.

Over £1,000 was raised for parish funds from donations, and sales of refreshments and craft work.

Marion Forshaw helped lead a number of Civic outreach services:

- **Civic Service**. The Service in February was well attended by the Deputy Lieutenant, the Lord Mayor of Chester, Mayors of a number of adjoining areas and Civic leaders from Neston Town Council and elected representatives from Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- **Neston Female Society**. The Society held their Annual Walk through Neston on 6th June. This was attended by over 100 children and the adult members of the Society plus various civic dignitaries. Their Ecumenical Service was held at the Parish Church and outside at Neston Cross led by Revd Crinks. It included a presentation by Open the Book which delighted the children present.
- **Armistice Day.** The outside service and wreath laying at the war memorial was on 11th November, was well supported and led by Revd Crinks.

- **Remembrance Sunday**. The parade and the Service was well attended by the British Legion, Members and Veterans of the armed forces, Civic Leaders and local Cadet and Youth Groups. The Service was led by Revd Crinks.
- **Christmas outreach events**
  - The Parish Church hosted Christmas carol concerts for the University of Liverpool Leahurst Veterinary School, Neston Primary School, Parkgate Primary School and Neston High School.
  - Outdoor carol singing was held in Mostyn Square, Parkgate and in the Blue Bicycle courtyard in Neston. Both events being well attended and enjoyed by local residents.

Worship and prayer

The Principal Sunday Service is streamed live from the Parish Church each week.

Services are held every Sunday in all three churches. Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday in the Parish Church, and twice a month on Sundays in St Michael's and St Thomas's churches.

The mid-week Communion service continues in the Parish Church, now on Wednesday mornings. A weekly mid-week Communion service has started in St Michael's Church on Thursday afternoons.

Prayers for healing are included once a month, and the Mothers Union hold their monthly meeting in the Parish Church after a Communion service.

In 2024, our annual return to Statistics for Mission indicated:

- Approx. 115 people (including children) attended our three churches in person on those Sundays in October 2024 – a slight increase on 2023;
- Approx. 178 people attended our three churches on Easter Day – an increase of over 30 on 2023;
- Advent and Christmas services were held in all three churches:
  - Approx. 745 people attended a range of services including carol services etc.;
  - Approx. 175 attended services on Christmas Day in person.
  - A children's party - Jesus's birthday party – was held in St Michael's Church instead of a Christingle service.
- The number of views of streamed services on YouTube fluctuated through the year. Approx. 80 views were made of each of the live services streamed in October 2024;
- A prayer group has continued to meet, focussing on praying for the world, the parish, for growth and for achieving our mission. The group has established itself on Zoom, as a weekly prayer group, with 6-8 people attending each Friday evening;
- Ten people were baptised. Baptism services are usually celebrated separately after our main Sunday services;
- There were three weddings in our churches;
- There were twenty-one funerals held during the year, either in our churches or at crematoria / cemeteries.

At **St Michael's Church**

- St Michael's has continued to hold Sunday services during the year, with Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sunday and Sunday Praise on the 2nd and 4th Sunday. There is also Communion on Thursday afternoon, followed by tea and coffee and a Warm Space during the winter months.
- The services are fairly well attended, and some children who come along and join us with their mums.
- Bluetooth has been installed which gives more flexibility with music should an organist be unable to play.
- New lighting has been installed in the building.
- Daniel Wakefield has played the organ for services on most Sundays after Jim Wilcock died earlier in the year.
- There was Alternative Carol Service at Christmas. It was well attended and enjoyed by those who came along.
- The Patronal Festival was on Sunday 29th September and was well attended. On the evening before, there was a Scouse and Quiz night for 60 people.
- The Communion and Carols united service on Sunday 29th December was well attended. It included an Adult Nativity, where some members of the congregation recreated the nativity.
- There are a number of groups who hire the Church buildings on a regular basis.

At **St Thomas's Church**

- There is a thriving congregation despite a number of regular members dying during the year.
- Throughout the year there were two Taizé Services which were well attended thanks, in part, to advertising on social media.
- The Patronal Festival was a great success, bringing church and community together. Our Saturday event, The Parkgate Village Fair, had stalls, a BBQ and a sporting Revd Crinks who allowed people to throw water sponges at him in the stocks. The Café Church the following day was one of our Parish United Services. Breakfast was enjoyed by many from our congregations coming together from across the parish.
- The first Pet Blessing Service was held one Sunday afternoon in August. This attracted people from across several communities and charities, in addition to church people and over 20 extremely well-behaved dogs of all shapes and sizes.
- There was a Parish Harvest Supper for 60 people, with table quizzes, a raffle and were entertained by Gabriel, the local guitar player and singer.
- Together, the Harvest Supper and the Patronal Festival raised over £1,000 for PCC Funds.
- There was another Café Church Service (Come and have breakfast) on Advent Sunday.
- In December the St Thomas' front garden was packed for the annual Open-Air Carols with the Port Sunlight Lyceum Band, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
- As well as occasional hirers, a weekly Art Class is now running successfully.
- The congregation continues to clean the building and maintain the gardens.
- Music plays an important role within acts of worship across the parish.
- Daniel Wakefield is our Organist and Choirmaster in the parish church.
- Currently there are about 16 regular members of the choir. The choir leads singing at our principal Sunday Service and other services.

- The bell-ringing band continued to ring prior to every 10.45am service and the joint services held at the parish church during 2024, as well as additional Sunday afternoon and evening services.
- Twenty-four quarter peals were rung at Neston in 2024, a mixture of ringing for the additional services, by visiting bands and for training and development by our band. One of the band members and one of our regular visitors on both Fridays and Sundays both rang their first quarter peals during the year.
- Quarter Peals were rung prior to the Ascension Day, Remembrance Sunday and Crib services. Quarter peals were also rung to mark the Patronal Festival, 80th Anniversary of D-Day, the Village Fair, the visit by Revd Richard Coles, the Neston High School Carol Concert, and the Carol Concert by Candlelight.
- Although there are ten members in the band and regular visitors both for our Friday evening practice and on a Sunday morning, due to a couple of regular ringers retiring for health reasons, the band is looking to recruit new ringers. The band has continued to attract ringers from elsewhere who see Neston as a supportive place to develop their ringing skills.
- Progress in both method ringing and the quality of ringing has been made during 2024, and we hope that you have enjoyed the improvement of the ringing throughout the year.
- A small sub-committee was formed in 2024 to make progress with the much-needed bell restoration project.

- Our three churches are decorated with flowers, especially at festivals.
- In the Parish Church, there are six people working on arrangements for the Nave Dais and for the main porch. There are similar arrangements in St Michael's and St Thomas's churches.
- For the Festivals of Easter, Harvest, Christmas and also Remembrance and Heritage Open Days a larger group of volunteers come together to produce more arrangements to decorate the churches.
- The PCC acknowledges this offering to our worship.

Deanery Synod

Neston is part of the Wirral South Deanery in the Diocese of Chester.

- All our clergy are members of the Deanery Synod: Revd Kevin Crinks, who has become the Chapter Clerk.
- Two lay representatives were elected in 2023 to the Deanery Synod for 3 years: Robin Hughes and Richard Lewis. There are two vacancies.
- Lesley Irvin is an ex officio member as a licensed pastoral worker.
- Richard Lewis is the Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod.
- Revd Beth Glover (Eastham parish) retired as Rural Dean and was succeeded by Revd Vicky Barrett (Thornton Hough).
- Deanery Synod met three times in 2024 and learned about the Wirral Waters initiative in Birkenhead Docks, Dementia-friendly activities as well as deanery-wide worship at Thornton Hough and at Ellesmere Port.

Electoral Roll

- There were 201 people on the Electoral Roll for the parish.

- The post of Electoral Roll Officer was unfilled until late 2024, following the death of Jim Wilcock in January 2024.
- Marion Forshaw was elected as Electoral Roll Officer by the PCC in late 2024.

Buildings and services

Our churches have been used by the wider community for civic and other purposes which help us to meet our objectives. (see Wardens' Report – above)

We have continued to maintain our buildings and grounds.

Parish Church of St Mary & St Helen

- Contractors were called in to remove vegetation, and repoint gables on the roof.
- The process of building a new disabled ramp at the south door (ramp door) is still ongoing. A design has been approved, and a contractor has been assigned. There is a delay in the Faculty Application due to there being two ancient graves within the area of the site build.
- There was consideration given to the installation of automatic glass doors at the south entrance from the proposed new ramp. At the time of investigation the design proved difficult and the cost with the ramp was too expensive, The decision was to go with just the ramp with the view of addressing the doors at a later date.
- The continuing need to repair and rebuild the West Wall of the churchyard (on Church Lane) is nearing its commencement date in May 2025. Public notices have been posted at graves, public noticeboards and media outlets advising that a number of graves adjacent to the wall are required to be exhumed. This will be done professionally. The work will be a combined effort between The Vicar, Wardens, Diocese, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Architect, and contractor.
- The four main rainwater roof outlets (Gargoyles) were improved for better water escape.
- A plan has been drawn up to incorporate the Parish Office into the Vestry including installing Wi-Fi for the Parish Church.
- A problem with the sound system occurred and a commercial sound engineer was called in.
- Lightning conductor on the Parish Church Tower inspection failed, but will being upgraded in April 2025.
- The annual Hardwire and PAT Tests were carried out in the Parish Church.

St Michael's

- The exterior of the building was repainted, and new rainwater furniture replaced the original cast iron furniture. The wooden outside patio hand rail was replaced with new.
- Hedge and shrubs were cutback and pruned.
- A new notice board was erected on the south wall adjacent to the main entrance doors.
- New replacement LED lights were installed in the Chapel and the Helen room.
- The sound system was improved, and a Bluetooth connection was installed

St Thomas

- Two new dog fouling signs were erected in the access gates.

- An area of the internal east wall was re-plastered and painted following severe signs of dampness.
- A condensation trap with water outlets was fitted to the east wall windowsill.

The Neston Centre

- The smoke detection system was up graded to the present British Standard.
- A quote was received for redecorating the rear committee room, toilet and adjacent hallway. No action taken.
- An investigation is under way looking in to re-instating the Parish Hall to a social amenity that may include winter services to reducing the cost of heating the Parish Church.

In addition,

- New church information notice boards were designed and installed at all three Churches.
- Two memorial benches were erected, one at St Michael's and one at St Thomas', both at no cost to PCC.

Village Fair

- The 2024 Village Fair was held on the first Saturday in July.
- Despite mixed weather on the day, the event was well attended by the people of Neston, who were able to enjoy a good family afternoon out for the whole family.
- Entertainment was provided throughout the afternoon with the usual mix of local acts.
- The Parish made a total of approx. £2,000, which included income from the Grand Raffle, the gate money, craft and toy stalls, and from the teas and cakes in the church.

Winter Fair

A Winter Fair was held in November 2024 to avoid the clash of Christmas events. It was held in the Parish Church and was well attended by the wider parish and local school choirs. Approx £3,300 was raised for church funds. Of this, a substantial element was due to a raffle for a gold and diamond pendant, generously donated by Balducci, the Jewellers.

Pastoral Care

- Conversations, telephone calls, input to Prayer and Action along with the Guild of St Luke and St Raphael prayer chain keep the Ministry Team and Church aware of health and isolation issues within the community.
- Where appropriate and permitted, Home Communion is offered and taken out from the Church.
- Revd Kevin Crinks coordinates funerals with local retired priests and Readers. Funeral ministry extends to many years after initial contact and the immediate impact of bereavement. This includes follow up information, OASIS support group, making connections and visiting with particular attention to isolation. There is an annual Memorial Service on the Sunday closest to All Souls' Day.

- The **Guild of St Luke and St Raphael** continued its key ministry of offering regular prayers for healing, daily for many in the local communities and further afield. Again, the Guild's wider prayers for healing ministry has been a monthly focus within Mid-Week Communions.
- Healing Eucharists have continued and are now part of a monthly principal Sunday service.

CAFÉ group

- CAFE stands for Community and Friendship for Everyone and meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month in the Neston Centre. It is open to anyone, with games, Scrabble, Rummikub, Dominoes and Painting, plus tea, coffee and cake. It is also a Warm Space for the winter months. There are a number of regulars who come along each month.

OASIS group

- OASIS meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Blue Bicycle. It is for people who are bereaved and want to meet up and chat. It is not a counselling group, but a friendship group, which has a group of regulars who come along most months and is open to anyone.

Knit And Natter Group

- In 2024, the group had another successful year full of friendship, knitting and nattering. They were able to give knitted donations to:
    - Claire House
    - The Salvation Army
    - The Seamans Mission
    - The Hedgehog Society
    - Brimstage Hall Care Home
    - The Ark
    - Arrowe Park Hospital Maternity Unit
    - Charles Thompson Mission.
- They also had an Easter coffee morning and stalls at the Summer Fair, the Winter Fair and the Christmas Exhibition. From these we were able to give a donation of over £700.00 to the church.
- In June we had our annual "Afternoon Tea" party in order to thank all our members for all their work during the year.

Bible Study Group

During the year, Revd Crinks has led weekly bible studies with up to two dozen parishioners in the Blue Bicycle coffee shop.

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) groups

Two groups explored topics in informal ways to grow, strengthen and support the faith of those attending. The three-fold ingredients are prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

- The GG7 GIFT house group facilitated by Beryl and Robin Hughes, continued, during its tenth year, to gather monthly at their home, for Bible study, prayer and enjoyment. It majored in video-supported studies of St Paul's Journeys and St Peter's journey to Rome, and we all learned a lot about the geography of the Eastern Mediterranean and the very early church.
- The second group, coordinated by Carol Stott, met throughout the year. During the darker nights, meetings were held over Zoom and reflected on St Mark's Gospel in particular. During the lighter evenings, the group met socially in the Parish.

Mission and evangelism with schools

- Revd Crinks has made contact with Neston schools and visits them.
- Children from Parkgate, Woodfall, St Winefride's and Burton Road Schools attended Experience Easter and

Experience Christmas events at St Michael's and St Thomas's churches.

- We are praying that more leaders will be found to help with this vital work with children and young people.

Mothers' Union

- MU have met every month in 2024, except August, after the 1.30 Communion Service in the Parish Church. They enjoyed many excellent speakers and hosted a Deanery Advent Service and afternoon tea in December. Prayer is at the heart of all MU does, including participating in the MU worldwide wave of prayer in May.
- MU gave a children's Bible to every baptism candidate and a Wedding Bible to couples getting married in our Parish.
- Proceeds of £200 from our Lent lunches went to the MU Relief fund.
- For Mothering Sunday, MU raised money in all three churches to purchase five Gifts of Dignity in grateful thanks for our much-loved mothers. The 5 gifts were: Literacy and business skills training; Helping communities build resilience against natural disasters; Empowering women to reach their full potential; Enabling families to pay school fees and support their futures; Supporting income generation and agricultural enterprises. The total amount raised for the worldwide Mothers' Union was £226.
- MU supported the MU Summer of Hope Appeal. The Christmas Appeal benefitted from our Advent Deanery Raffle. This Appeal was to empower literacy amongst women. (480 million women around the world can't read or write. Which means they can't register the birth of their child, read a medicine bottle, open a bank account and gain independence.)
- 43 baby hats (including 21 special premature baby hats) were delivered to the Maternity Unit at Arrowe Park Hospital.
- Mothers' Union worked in partnership with Kidsbank in Chester, which is a local faith-based registered charity supporting families. They collect new and pre-loved items for babies and children, distributing them to families in Cheshire and Flintshire. These families face challenges like homelessness, unemployment, high living costs and domestic violence.
- Neston Mothers' Union now have 29 members for 2025. We welcome new members.
- Angela Klabou has now stood down after 6 years as Branch Leader and Diane Millington has taken over.
- The MU Stay & Play team run this ever-growing group. There are 25-30 children attending regularly with parents and grandparents. The aim is to share the love of Jesus with these families in all we do with them. It's a wonderful, friendly outreach for the Church and Mothers' Union. Friday morning is their church. We have a Bible story, action songs and prayers. At Easter and Christmas, MU gives them children's books about these events.

Outward Giving

- Neston PCC was unable to give unrestricted gifted income to local and overseas charities in 2024.

- The Parish Website: Neston PCC continued to maintain our web presence with information about our services and activities on

http://www.nestonparishchurch.org/index.asp

- Prayer & Action pew sheets are a valuable, informative, and important weekly flyer of group activities, and weekly service information keeping everyone updated. Approx. 90% of these are now emailed weekly or posted to members of the congregation and others interested in our work, mainly in the town.

- During 2024, we were assisted by retired priests in holding our services including Revd Maureen Hobbs, Revd Frances Skinner and Revd Richard Skinner.
- Lesley Irvin continued her work as Licensed Pastoral Worker.
- Elizabeth Joyce is a Reader Emeritus and leads services in all our churches.
- Tony Cooke is a Reader , working in the parish for about 6 months each year.
- Richard Lewis and John Hart are Readers and lead services, in all our churches.
- Val Johnson and Carol Stott were trained by Chester Diocese and qualified as OWLs (Occasional Worship Leaders) – an initiative by the diocese that started in 2024.

Ecumenical work

Neston and District Churches Together (NDCT)

- We have continued in our support of NDCT and have attended their regular meetings and their Service for Christian Unity in January, the Christian Aid Service in May and the Service for One World Week in October. We have also hosted in rotation a number of prayer breakfasts at St Michael's.
- Open the Book taking Bible Stories back into school assemblies is gaining strength and the teams include members of our congregations.
- Christian Aid is promoted and maintaining the Fair-Trade status of Neston is encouraged.
- Member churches operate Warm Hubs on a number of days through out each week.
- NDCT also have a representative on the Neston and Willaston Community Partnership Steering Group. This group focuses on mental wellbeing, children and young people and the wellbeing of our older citizens.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024: FINANCES

The funds available to the parish consist of:

1. Our General Fund where general income and expenditure go in and out. The overall balance of this is our "General Reserve."

2. Other "Restricted" Funds which are reserves which can only be used for particular purposes.

It is the policy of the PCC to hold enough General Reserves to cover three months' running costs.

SUMMARY

Our running costs exceeded our general income by more than £22,400 (2023 £16,500). This excludes significant repairs to the Parish Church roof costing £28,200.

Other funds have been used to subsidise the running costs of the parish, as explained later in these notes.

The PCC's largest item of expenditure is Parish Share which is paid to Chester Diocese:

2022	£69,666.60
2023	£71,756.64
2024	£75,344.40
2025	£77,604.72

Electricity, gas & water is the third largest area of expenditure. The cost of these increased by one third during 2024, and are 82% higher than 2022.

PLANNED GIVING

Following the request from the PCC to electoral roll members, planned giving increased by 25% during 2021.

2019	£49,389.84
2020	£47,215.35
2021	£59,001.87
2022	£56,829.32
2023	£57,613.97
2024	£62,375.86

There are around 100 people involved in planned giving, and so far around a third have responded to the request at the end of 2024 to increase giving.

The majority of planned givers use monthly standing orders. A review of the 2024 standing orders revealed:

Monthly Amount	No. of Standing Orders	Total Amount
£0 - £22	32	£5,263
£22 - £43	29	£11,375
£43 - £65	15	£9,306
£65 - £87	8	£7,270
£87 - £130	7	£8,455
£130 - £328	4	£10,470
Total	95	£52,139

Of the planned giving standing orders:

76 provided £25,944 (50% of the total)

19 provided £26,195 (50% of the total)

The average standing order was £46 per month.

GAS, ELECTRICITY & WATER

2022	Parish Church	£8,042.43
	St Michael's	£2,475.73
	St Thomas'	£934.93
		£11,453.09
2023	Parish Church	£10,337.53
	St Michael's	£2,923.22
	St Thomas'	£1,945.65
		£15,206.40
2024	Parish Church	£13,336.19
	St Michael's	£5,921.96*
	St Thomas'	£1,582.58
		£20,840.73

*includes gas of £4,048.78 from 2 July 2023 to 31 May 2024

USE OF OTHER FUNDS TO SUBSIDISE THE GENERAL RUNNING COSTS

1. Part of the Parish Church's energy & water costs have been paid using monies totalling **£5,904.30** withdrawn from the Betty Smith legacy investment.

2. Significant repairs to the Parish Church roof totalling **£28,191.95**, and other repairs to the building of **£3,301.99**, were paid for by the Morris Legacy.

3. Repairs to buildings and car parks, pruning of trees, and improvements to sound systems totalling **£16,017.57** were paid for by the Vision Fund.

This subsidising of the General Fund from other funds results in a picture as follows:

Income	£134,624.26
Expenditure	£131,846.23*
Surplus	**£2,778.03**

* Expenditure excludes amounts paid from other funds as detailed above.

It is the policy of the PCC to hold enough General Reserves to cover three months' running costs. Based on expenditure during 2024, excluding the Parish Church roof repairs, this threshold is £39,500.

In the course of 2024, the General Reserve increased from £37,500 to £41,000, by using restricted legacies and the Vision Fund where possible to subsidise the running costs of the Parish.

BETTY SMITH LEGACY INVESTMENT

The value of the investment at the end of December 2024 was £189,582, an increase of 2.7% compared to the December 2023 value of £184,584.

Lump sum withdrawals from this investment are likely in the short term to fund large projects at the Parish Church, such as replacing the external ramp.

OTHER RESERVES

A summary of the PCC's reserves is included in the notes to the accounts.

The largest restricted reserves of the PCC at the end of 2024 were:

- Vision Fund £72,056
- Hillcrest (including Robert Hamilton) Curacy Fund £29,086
- Morris Legacy for the Parish Church £28,637

The Vision Fund is available for a range of activities:

- Communications
- Youth
- Ministry Team & Leadership
- Worship for all the Family
- Fellowship and Social
- Prayer and Study
- Giving
- Outreach & Pastoral
- Buildings & Resources

Safeguarding

During 2024, in line with Diocese of Chester guidelines, Neston Parish has a Safeguarding Officer for Neston Parish, Liz Ledsham.

- At the beginning of 2024 she arranged and held a basic safeguarding training session with Amanda Donelan, DBS lead recruiter, at St Michaels. The turnout was 23 and the training was well received.

On-line training During 2024, Volunteers accessing the CofE training portal has resulted in 3 volunteers completing the Basic training, 6 people completing the Foundation, 1 Leadership, 6 Domestic Abuse, 1 Safer Recruitment.

DBS Checks 4 DBS checks have been completed locally by the DBS Lead Recruiter. Other Diocese DBS renewals have also taken place

CoE Dashboard system.

- Neston was one of the first of 81 parishes (265 Invited) to sign up to the

Safeguarding Dashboard. The Dashboard is designed to make life simpler and provide a way of checking that the parish has everything in place regarding its safeguarding procedures. There are three levels to complete, level 1 being the first. It also has a traffic light system to show if the Parish is succeeding and has everything in place, needs work or is failing. There are 7 different sections, and these are being added to at each level. It is a way of auditing what is already in place, what needs doing and when things need reviewing.

- The PCC agreed and authorised Level 1 Dashboard Safeguarding Action Plan October 2024
- Level One Safer Foundations of the Dashboard has been completed.
- We are currently working through Level 2 and Level 3. Level 2 covers Safer Foundations and Safer Activities
- The Dashboard has thrown up areas that the Parish needs to put in place to complete level 2 and 3. Some of these have already been completed in the past 12 months.
    - A Recruitment of Offenders Policy is now in place and authorised by the PCC.
    - Safer Recruitment Policy, written and awaiting PCCs approval
    - List of 9 Church Activities to be included on the Dashboard agreed by the PCC
    - Insurance Check against listed activities has been completed by the Secretary
    - PCC agreed that all new volunteers will follow C of E Safer recruitment procedures when they start to volunteer in any of the 9 activities, including 2 references plus the other safer recruitment procedures. Where a DBS is required for the volunteer role, they have to complete the DBS check and Safeguard training before starting in the volunteer role. (Not all roles require DBS checks or Safeguarding Training)
    - All 9 listed Parish activities on the Dashboard each need a risk assessment completed for their activity and role descriptions written for volunteer roles. All volunteers should also have a copy of the role description. This is part of Level 2 on the Dashboard and is yet to be completed.
- The Dashboard also alerts the Parish to procedures that need reviewing and has alerted the PCC for the need to review its procedures for dealing with safeguarding concerns.

The Hub The Parish was invited and is now registered to use the new Hub. The Hub keeps a record of the Parish Safeguarding training and DBS checks for volunteers and any renewal dates. This will be a very useful tool in the future and will have the ability to run off reports as well as alerts when DBS checks need renewing.

New Organisations using Church Premises St Thomas's has a new organisation using the premises and all the paperwork regarding acceptance of Parish safeguarding policy has been completed and put on file. I haven't been informed of any other new organisations using Church Premises.

Safeguarding Concerns or Allegations In the previous 12 months there were no concerns, allegations or need to make a report to the Diocese Safeguarding Team.

Audits With the dashboard in place there is no need for future audits.

Structure and governance

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Neston is a corporate body established by the Church of England, and is a Registered Charity registered with the Charity Commission, with the public benefit being for the advancement of religious education promoting the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines of the Church of England.

The governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules 2020 (as amended in 2022)

The object of the charity is to promote the whole mission of the Church in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Neston.

The trustees of the charity, being the elected, co-opted, or ex-officio members of the PCC, organise a formal election each year in the run-up to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to fill vacancies on the PCC. New members elected to the PCC automatically become trustees of the charity.

Elected and co-opted PCC members serve for a period of no more than 3 years after which they may seek re-election. There are no limits to the number of times a person may serve as PCC member. On standing down from the PCC, a member is also removed from the list of trustees of the charity. A full list of the trustees of the charity is available on the Charity Commission website.

At the annual meeting in May 2024, there were 201 people on the Electoral Roll. About 20 members attended the meeting.

The members of the PCC in December 2024 were:

Clergy: Revd Kevin Crinks (Chair)

Churchwardens: Marion Forshaw; Linda Haigh

PCC Secretary: Richard Lewis

PCC Treasurer: Lucy Brooks

Trustees: Terry Abel; Lucy Brooks; Alex Cummins; John Hart; Lesley Irvin (Vice Chair); Val Johnson; Helena Jones; Peter Rossiter; Carol Stott; Sue Thomas.

Deanery Synod – laity: Robin Hughes, Richard Lewis. Lesley Irvin attends as a licensed Pastoral Worker in her own right.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Liz Ledsham, who has provided reports to PCC, and attended some meetings.

Administration and contact details

- St Mary & St Helen's Church: Parish Church, High Street, Neston CH64 9TZ;
- St Michael and All Angels' Church: Marshlands Road, Little Neston CH64 4AD;
- St Thomas the Apostle's Church: School Lane, Parkgate CH64 6SR; and
- Neston Centre: High Street, Neston CH64 9TZ.
- The Parish Office is at the Neston Centre and is staffed on Monday mornings and Wednesday mornings. 07464 258372 nestonparishoffice@gmail.com

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF NESTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1129453

Accounts

The Parish of Neston

Charity No 1129453

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Neston Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2023

Incumbent

Fr. Kevin Crinks

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31st December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2023	*2022*
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	*£*
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS							
Voluntary Income	2(a)	78,558	5,000	0	0	83,558	*85,451*
Church activities	2(b)	18,225	426	600	0	19,251	*20,427*
Activities For Generating Funds	2(c)	31,482	5,058	0	0	36,540	*33,305*
Income From Investments	2(d)	0	9,917	0	0	9,917	*4,509*
TOTAL INCOME		128,265	20,401	600	0	149,266	*143,692*
EXPENDITURE							
Raising funds	3(a)	601	0	0	0	601	*4,096*
Church activities	3(b)	134,873	9,727	1,222	0	145,822	*143,429*
Other Expenditure	3(c)	1,361	0	0	0	1,361	*2,250*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		136,835	9,727	1,222	0	147,784	*149,775*
NET INCOME/(-EXPENDITURE)		-8,570	10,674	-622	0	1,482	*-6,083*
Gross Transfers between funds - In		1,421		221		1,642	*200*
Gross Transfers between funds - Out		-1,042		-600		-1,642	*-200*
Gains on Investment Assets					6,952	6,952	
Other Recognised Losses						0	*-18,369*
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-8,191	10,674	-1,001	6,952	8,434	*-24,452*
Balances b/fwd 1st January		45,843	198,783	5,705	259,622	509,953	*534,405*
Balances c/fwd 31st December		37,652	209,457	4,704	266,574	518,387	*509,953*

The Notes on Pages 3 to 6 form part of these accounts.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31st DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 £	*2022 £*
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets		25,001	*25,001*
Investment Assets	9	296,976	*290,024*
		321,977	*315,025*
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock on Hand		330	*310*
Debtors	6	6,482	*5,746*
Short Term Deposits		202,578	*202,442*
Development Fund			
Cash		32	*15*
		209,422	*208,513*
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	7	13,012	*13,585*
NET CURRENT ASSETS		196,410	*194,928*
TOTAL ASSETS		£518,387	*£509,953*
FUNDS	5		
Endowment		266,574	*259,622*
Unrestricted - Designated		4,704	*5,705*
Restricted		209,457	*198,783*
Unrestricted		37,652	*45,843*
		£518,387	*£509,953*

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 16 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Chairman
Fr. Kevin Crinks

Hon. Treasurer
Lucy Brooks
Member of the Association of
Chartered Certified Accountants

The Notes on Pages 3 to 6 form part of these accounts.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of Financial Reporting Standard 102.
The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provision. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2nd Edition(FRS102))

Fixed Assets

Consecrated Land and Buildings and Movable Church Furnishings.

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Such Assets are not capitalised in the financial statements
No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other Fixtures and Office Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis appropriate to the life of the equipment concerned.

Funds

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.
They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment Funds

Endowment funds have been introduced this year. There were none last year. These are restricted and separately invested.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023 (Continued)

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL *2022* *£*
2	**INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS**					
2(a)	*Incoming Resources From Donors*					
	Planned Giving	57,614			57,614	*56,829*
	Collections in Church and Boxes	5,286			5,286	*4,198*
	Gift-Aided Gifts				0	*0*
	Regular Gift Days				0	*0*
	Donations and Appeals	2,953			2,953	*3,648*
	Planned Giving Tax Refunds	12,704			12,704	*13,060*
	Legacies		5,000		5,000	*2,000*
	Chester Diocesan Board Grant				0	*0*
	Vision Income				0	*5,400*
	Gas and P Rounding	1			1	*316*
		78,558	5,000	0	83,558	*85,451*
2(b)						
	Incoming Resources From Church Activities					
	Wedding and Funeral fees PCC	13,971			13,971	*13,562*
	Stay & Play			600	600	*650*
	Grants and VAT Refunds	338	426		764	*973*
	Assistant Staff Costs refunded by Diocese	3,916			3,916	*5,242*
2(c)		18,225	426	600	19,251	*20,427*
	Activities For Generating Funds					
	Wedding and Funeral fees Diocese	6,802			6,802	*5,195*
	Parish Fellowship	374			374	*320*
	Rent - Neston Centre	3,550			3,550	*9,597*
	Rent - 99 The Ringway	1,876	5,058		6,934	*5,760*
	Comrade's Field	720			720	*720*
	Room Hire	9,685			9,685	*4,552*
	Wall Safe	227			227	*84*
	Shop Income	1,195			1,195	*950*
	Village Fair	2,580			2,580	*2,811*
	Christmas Fairs	1,825			1,825	*1,147*
	Events	2,648			2,648	*1,579*
	Insurance Claims	0	0		0	*590*
2(d)		31,482	5,058	0	36,540	*33,305*
	Investments					
	Income from Investments		9,917		9,917	*4,500*
	Bank interest etc				0	*9*
		0	9,917	0	9,917	*4,509*

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023 (Continued)

3	EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL *2022* *£*
3(a)	*Fundraising Trading: Costs of Sale & Other Costs*					
	Costs of Stewardship Campaign	485			485	*96*
	Shop Expenses	116			116	
	Investment Management Costs				0	*4,000*
		601	0	0	601	*4,096*
3(b)	*Church Activities*			Designated		
	Outward Giving				0	*0*
	Secular Charities				0	*100*
	Weddings & Funeral Fees Diocese	6802			6,802	*5,167*
	Parish Share	71757			71,757	*69,667*
	Assistant staff costs	6187			6,187	*9,150*
	Vicar's Working Expenses	304			304	*0*
	Curate's Working Expenses				0	*0*
	Vicarage Expenses	2537		556	3,093	*2,028*
	Education				0	*111*
	Insurance	7315			7,315	*6,802*
	Organ, piano tuning	936			936	*1,084*
	Repairs & Maintenance Churches	4045	505		4,550	*7,006*
	Cleaning	3122			3,122	*2,524*
	Altar requisites	567			567	*359*
	Service books	171	93		264	*18*
	Robes & chalices	76			76	*0*
	Music licences	756			756	*703*
	Organist's fees	6565			6,565	*5,818*
	Choir fees	360			360	*360*
	Bell fees	200			200	*600*
	Upkeep of churchyard	384			384	*1,446*
	Equipment hire			45	45	*0*
	Equipment servicing/ usage charges	518			518	*690*
	Heating, Lighting & W Rates	9152	6,055		15,207	*11,453*
	Repairs & Maintenance Neston Centre	10248	2,400		12,648	*14,351*
	100 Club Prizes	0			0	*0*
	Vision Expenditure	0	674.00		674	*1,594*
	Youth Matters General Expenditure	0			0	*0*
	Miscellaneous Expenditure	2374		621	2,995	*1,897*
	Bank charges	497			497	*501*
		134,873	9,727	1,222	145,822	*143,429*
3(c)	*Other Expenditure*					
	Other Ordinary PCC Expenditure				0	*864*
	Parish Office & Administration	815			815	*904*
	Parish office equipment				0	*0*
	Software subscriptions	546			546	*482*
		1,361	0	0	1,361	*2,250*

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023 (Continued)

		2023	2022
4	**FIXED ASSETS**		£
	Freehold Land and Buildings	25,000	25,000
	Equipment Written down	1	1
	Investment in Ringway property : The Hillcrest Curacy Trust Fund.	112,393	112,393
	Invested Legacy re Betty Smith Endowment	184,583	177,631
		321,977	315,025

The freehold land & buildings comprise the Neston Centre and Comrade's Field at Neston.
The gross values of these and the equipment have been estimated at 1st January 1997.

5 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

	At 1st Jan 2023 £	Gains & Losses £	Movement in Year £	At 31st Dec 2023 £
Endowment Funds				
Betty Smith Endowment	177,631	6,952		184,583
Hillcrest (including Robert Hamilton) Fund Endowment	81,991			81,991
	259,622	6,952	0	266,574
Designated Funds				
3 Churches Repairs from £10,000 designated	2,104			2,104
Chester Diocesan Board	1,001		-1,001	0
Crump Legacy	2,000			2,000
Stay and Play	600			600
	5,705		-1,001	4,704
Restricted Funds				
Garden Fund Bishops Trust	596			596
Lighting Fund	1,441			1,441
Neston Centre And Comrade's Field Fund	25,000			25,000
St Thomas's Donations	1,000			1,000
Vision Fund	91,241		-3,167	88,074
Miss Morris Legacy for Parish Church	60,210		-79	60,131
Hillcrest (including Robert Hamilton) Fund	19,262		5,058	24,320
Beazley Legacy for St Mary & St Helen's Church			4,000	4,000
Dr Evans' Legacy for St Mary & St Helen's Churchyard			1,000	1,000
Betty Smith Investment income for Parish Church	32		3,863	3,895
	198,782		10,675	209,457
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	45,843		-8,191	37,652

6 DEBTORS

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Prepayments	2,621	***1348***
Other Debtors	60	***744***
Tax and VAT refunds due	3,801	*3,654*
	6,482	*5,746*

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Accrued Expenses	8,357	*9,244*
Neston Centre Deposits	275	*275*
Agency Collections		*194*
Parish Church Bells	4,302	*3,872*
cash reimburse	78	
	13,012	*13,585*

8 Staff Costs

No PCC Members were paid any wages in the year.
Several members of the PCC were reimbursed for minor expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC.

9 Connected Charities

The Hillcrest Curacy Trust Fund
The Robert Hamilton Fund

On 13th July 2021 the PCC became the sole trustee of the Hillcrest Curacy Trust fund and the Robert Hamilton Fund was merged into it at the same time to be administered as a restricted fund in the PCC accounts.
These Trusts have been invested in the Curates house at 99 Ringway along with £30,402 of PCC Funds
Land Registry records show the registered owner of the property is Chester Diocesan Board of Finance and as such the house does not form part of the assets of the PCC. The PCC's investment of £30,402 in the property is recorded in the Balance Sheet.

10 Neston Village Fair

An autonomous committee runs this annual event and maintains an account to fund the next event. The ultimate benefactor of these funds held in additional accounts would be the PCC and the surplus carried forward at the year end was £8629

Report of The Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Neston Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.
It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity 'Commisioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- 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 Commission
An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters.
The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145(3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

B. H. Morris FCA

Highfield, Bull Hill CH64 4DN April 2024
Lt Neston

Neston Parochial Church Council
Trustees' Report for 2023

Parish of Neston

2023 Report and Accounts

Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Neston, Cheshire.

Aim and purposes

Neston Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the aim of every Church of England church:

To promote the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting this aim throughout the ecclesiastical parish of Neston. The PCC is specifically responsible for maintaining:

- St Mary & St Helen's Church: Parish Church, High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ;
- St Michael and All Angels' Church: Marshlands Road, Little Neston, CH64 4AD;
- St Thomas's Church: School Lane, Parkgate, CH64 6SR; and
- Neston Centre: High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. We aim to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish through:

- Services, worship, and prayer;
- Social outreach and pastoral work; and
- Missionary outreach, especially to children and young people.

During the first part of 2023, Neston PCC and the Ministry Team worked with officers in the Diocese of Chester to select the next Vicar of Neston. Members of our congregations made invaluable input to this work.

In September 2023, the new Vicar of Neston, Revd Kevin David Crinks, was inducted as the Incumbent of the Parish of Neston.

Some of the work we had hoped to do in previous times that had been delayed, has started again following the arrival of Revd Crinks.

It is also important that we maintain the fabric of our three church buildings and the Neston Centre to enable us to carry out our objectives and activities.

Achievements and performance

During 2023, we were able to conduct worship in all three churches with the invaluable assistance of Revd Judith Calvert (our Assistant Curate) and of local, retired priests, especially Revd Canon Ian Davenport, Revd Maureen Hobbs, Revd Alan Leach, Revd Frances Skinner, Revd Richard Skinner, Fr Mark Turner and Revd Ian Urquhart.

Revd Crinks was appointed following interviews chaired by the Archdeacon of Chester, the Ven Michael Gilbertson in May 2023.

Revd Judith Calvert retired as Assistant Curate in July 2023.

Work with elderly people continues with CAFÉ (Community and Friendship for Everyone), meeting monthly in the Neston Centre. Work with the recently bereaved continues through OASIS in the Blue Bicycle coffee shop.

Our pre-school gatherings continued during 2023: Stay & Play met in term-time on Friday mornings at the Parish Church, offering Christian teaching in a creative and well-received way. It is over-subscribed.

Children from the High School and primary schools were able to resume their visits and worship in our churches in 2023. Experience Christmas and Experience Easter workshops resumed, as did carol services and crib services – all with high attendances.

The Knit & Natter Group held a well-attended exhibition of their work in St Thomas's Church in August 2023 – depicting biblical, church and local events.

Most of our activities in all three churches benefit from the work and commitment of many volunteers, without whom much of our work could not happen and the PCC would not meet its objectives. The PCC want to thank those many people who are contributing their time and talents to our work.

The PCC is reasonably placed to address its financial position and manage budgets to prevent unplanned over-spending and enable growth – but spending levels are getting close to agreed working funding levels. We acknowledge particularly the skill and commitment of the Treasurer, Lucy Brooks, who became a Trustee at the APCM in May 2023.

Quality management information enables the PCC to understand its financial position. A planned-giving campaign was deferred until Revd Kevin Crinks was in post.

New contracts were negotiated for gas supply to all our churches and buildings.

Churchwardens' reports

This was Linda Haigh's first year as church warden, and it was quite challenging.

She made a point of visiting each of the churches when possible and getting to know the congregations

She spent most of her time sorting new energy contracts and smart meters for our 4 buildings. Our energy provider is now EDF, and 5 accounts now have smart meters

The Neston Centre and Parish Church gas meters are too big to change to smart meters and there is a problem with the Parish church electric with the cut-out switch and a company called Quartz Elec in Liverpool is coming to access the cable under the pathway in order to fix it

The Heritage Open Days in September were successful.

We have an ongoing problem with the public parking in the Neston Centre. The parking bays have been repainted and new signs put up, and it is much better

Marion Forshaw helped lead a number of Civic outreach services:

- **Civic Service.** After a few years' absence, due to covid, we were able to once again hold this annual event which was led by Rev Maureen Hobbs. The Service was well attended by Deputy Lieutenant Mark Mitchell, our Member of Parliament, the Lord Mayor of Chester, Mayors of a number of adjoining areas and Civic leaders from Neston Town council and representatives from Cheshire West and Chester Council. We were pleased to accept for laying up the standard of 2nd Neston Guides as this unit has long ceased to exist.
- **King's Coronation.** A United Service of celebration was held on 6th May led by Rev Canon Ian Davenport, King's Chaplain.
- **Neston Female Society**. The Society held their Annual Walk through the town on 1st June 2023. This was attended by over 100 children and the adult members of the Society. Their Ecumenical Service was held at the Parish Church and outside at Neston Cross led by Bishop Julie assisted by Rev Richard Skinner, Rev Francis Skinner and Fr

Francis from St Winifred's (Roman Catholic Church).

- **Installation of our new Incumbent**. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Mark on 7th September 2023 to lead us in the Induction and Installation of our new Incumbent Revd Kevin Crinks. The service was attended by clergy and lay readers from the Deanery, Revd Crinks's previous Parish and members of the Anglican Grey Friars; civic dignitaries; representatives of local clubs and societies; representatives from other local places of worship; local school heads; many members of both the Parish of Leigh and Parish of Neston. In all almost 300 packed the church for this occasion. It was followed by refreshments at Neston Town Hall, and we are indebted to the civic team there who helped set that up and Neston Flower Society who decorated the venue.
- **Armistice Day.** The outside service and wreath laying at the war memorial on 11th November was well supported and led by Revd Kevin Crinks.
- **Remembrance Sunday**. The parade and the Service was well attended by the British Legion, Members and Veterans of the armed forces, Civic Leaders and local Cadet and Youth Groups. The Service was led by Revd Kevin Crinks.
- **Christmas outreach events**
  - We were pleased to host Christmas concerts for Neston Primary School, Parkgate Primary School and Neston High School.
  - Outdoor carol singing was held in Mostyn Square, Parkgate and in the Blue Bicycle courtyard in Neston. Both events being well attended and enjoyed by local residents.

Worship and prayer

The Principal Sunday Service is streamed live from the Parish Church each week.

Services are held every Sunday in all three churches. Holy Communion is celebrated every week in the Parish Church, and twice a month in St Michael's and St Thomas's churches.

The midweek service continues in the Parish Church on Wednesday afternoons. Prayers for healing are included once a month, and the Mothers Union hold their monthly meeting in conjunction with one of these services.

A united service across all our churches is held on the fifth Sunday of the month, taking place in each of our churches in turn.

In 2023, our annual return to Statistics for Mission indicated:

- Approx. 110 people (including children) attended our three churches in person on those Sundays in October 2023 when we held services there;
- Approx. 145 people attended our three churches on Easter Day;
- Advent and Christmas services were held in all three churches:
  - 1150 people attended a range of services including carol services, crib services, Blue Christmas services and Christingle;
  - Approx. 185 attended services on Christmas Day in person.
- The number of views of streamed services on YouTube fluctuated through the year. On average, approx. 70 views were made of each of the live services streamed in October 2023;
- A prayer group has continued to meet, focussing on praying for the world, the parish, for growth and for achieving our mission. The group has established itself on Zoom, as a weekly prayer group, with about 8 people attending each week;
- There were 16 baptism services in our churches and 18 people were baptised. Baptism services are usually celebrated separately after our main Sunday services;

- There were 2 weddings in our churches;
- There were 55 funerals held during the year, either in our churches or at crematoria / cemeteries;

At **St Michael's Church** in 2023,

- We now have two Eucharist services a month and two Sunday Praise services, and this has been much appreciated by the congregation, which remains mostly the same.
- We have a number of children who attend with their parents on a regular basis.
- We have sadly lost Len Smith, a member of our congregation who was a regular communicant and who did a lot of work for the parish over the years. Len's family are donating a bench in his memory, which will be situated outside St Michael's, and we thank his family for this kind offer.
- During the year, Jim Wilcock's health prevented him from doing many of the things he enjoyed and valued doing, including being the organist. Sadly, Jim died in early 2024. We thank Daniel Wakefield, the parish church organist for stepping in to play when Jim was ill, and who is now playing at St Michael's on a regular basis. Both Len and Jim will be sorely missed.

At **St Thomas's Church** in 2023,

- Although a couple of members of our congregation have died or moved from the area, our regular congregation numbers have increased over the year.
- There have been several All-Age Café style services throughout the year, which included breakfast.
- There was an All-Age Commemorative Service on Sunday, 7th May. In the afternoon there was a successful Bring and Share Coronation Lunch, with a good number of competitors in the Best Crown Competition.
- The Annual Parish Harvest Supper received positive feedback. This has been an Outreach Event since St Thomas' reopened in 2010. Revd Kevin Crinks and his Franciscan colleagues provided an Amazing Entertainment.
- The Knit and Natter Bible Stories Exhibition was a great success in August.
- The garden in front of the church was overflowing at our Annual Open Air Carols event – lots of families with children together with a Brownie Pack, followed by refreshments inside the church afterwards.

- Music plays an important role within acts of worship across the parish.
- Daniel Wakefield is our Organist and Choirmaster in the parish church with Christine Schofield supporting in an administrative role.
- Currently there are about 16 regular members of the choir. The choir leads singing at our principal Sunday Service and other services.

- 2023 was a busy year for bell ringers across the country. Following the large amount of half-muffled memorial ringing following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the ringing around the coronation of King Charles III was more joyous. The ringing took place at Neston in the form of a quarter peal (45 minutes continuous ringing) on the eve of the coronation and ringing on the day of the coronation by the local band, including our "Ring for the King" recruit, John King. Showing the strong bell ringing community spirit, members of the Neston band helped at many other local towers to help ring for this important national occasion.
- Our ringers have continued to ring prior to every 10.45am service and the joint services held at the parish church as well as the additional Sunday afternoon and evening services. Quarter peals were rung before the Neston Music Festival Choral Evensong, for the induction of the new vicar and before the Blue Christmas and Christingle services. Quarter peals were also rung for the Armistice weekend and to open the Village Fair. Part of this last

quarter peal was played on the "Breakfast Bells" feature on Radio 3.

- There are currently twelve members in the band, including our two newest recruits who started to ring for services during the year. Our Friday practices have also begun to attract a couple of regular visitors who have seen Neston as a place to improve their ringing skills. New recruits are always welcome and will be needed to ensure ringing can continue to take place at Neston.
- No progress has been made on the overhaul of the bell frame and fittings.

- Our three churches are decorated with flowers, especially at festivals.
- In the Parish Church, there are 6 people on the Porch rota and 4 people on the Dais rota. Two people work fortnightly to provide arrangements for these. There are similar arrangements in St Michael's and St Thomas's churches.
- For the Festivals of Easter, Harvest, Christmas and also Remembrance and Heritage Open Days all rota ladies, plus helpers, come together to produce larger and extra arrangements to decorate the church. The combined cost of flowers and foliage for these occasions is approximately £500.
- The PCC acknowledges this offering to our worship.

Deanery Synod

Neston is part of the Wirral South Deanery in the Diocese of Chester.

- All our clergy are members of the Deanery Synod: Revd Judith Calvert, followed by Revd Kevin Crinks.
- Two lay representatives were elected in 2023 to the Deanery Synod for 3 years: Robin Hughes and Richard Lewis. There are two vacancies.
- Lesley Irvin is an ex officio member as a licensed pastoral worker.
- Richard Lewis is the Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod.
- Deanery Synod met three times in 2023 and reviewed environmental issues (Faith4Change) and Casting the Net Wide (the Chester Diocese Strategy).

Buildings and services

Our churches have been used by the wider community for civic and other purposes which help us to meet our objectives;

- The Neston Female Society held their Annual Walk on 1st June. This was attended by over 100 children and the members of the Society. Their Ecumenical Service was held at the Parish Church and on the Cross led by Julie, Bishop of Birkenhead;

- The parade for Remembrance Sunday and the Service was well attended by the Royal British Legion, Members and Veterans of the armed forces, Civic Leaders and local Cadet and Youth Groups. The Service was led by Revd Kevin Crinks;

- We have continued to maintain our buildings and grounds.

Parish Church of St Mary & St Helen

- In March 2023, the card reader was installed at the West End Shop for contactless payments.
- The east wall of the graveyard required repair following damage by vehicle impact accident. [Faculty & insurance claim were required]
- The church roof was cleared of vegetation and the gables repointed, rain water outlets were improved and the loose merlon on the church tower was repaired.
- Plans were agreed in principle for a new disabled ramp. Investigation into automatic operated doors was requested. [Faculty & planning permission required]
- A new loop system amplifier was purchased.

- New LED lights and socket were required in the bell room due to weather corrosion.

St Michael's Church

- A new replacement oak cross was purchased and fitted into a new brick build base outside the church.

St Thomas's Church

- New fence posts replaced rotten ones and the fence made secure.
- The entrance was re-decorated by a local painter.
- Easing of the entrance doors was required and the adjacent wall was repainted.
- New radiator valves were required for four radiators and a service was included.
- The boiler's outside vent pipe was replaced.

The Neston Centre and Comrades' Field

- The absorption of soil moisture by tree roots caused subsidence and cracking to the north side wall. The drains were cleared, a new lintel fitted, and the wall re-plastered, the repainting was done 'in house.' No insurance claim due to natural causes.

The Vicarage

- It fell to PCC to make good the inner decoration prior to the new Vicar's arrival. This was done 'in house.'
- Small routine maintenance and electrical work was carried out in all above buildings i.e. broken furniture and replacement light bulbs etc.

Work pending

- Pruning of two copper beech trees south of The Neston Centre.
- External re-decorating of St Michael's.

Village Fair

- The 2023 Village Fair was held on the first Saturday in July.
- The event was well attended by the people of Neston, who were able to enjoy a good family afternoon out for the whole family. There were a number of new attractions this year.
- Entertainment was provided throughout the afternoon with the usual mix of local acts.
- The Parish made a total of £2,600, which included income from the Grand Raffle, the gate money, craft and toy stalls, burgers and from the teas and cakes in the church.

Winter Fair

A Winter Fair was held in November 2023 to avoid the clash of Christmas events. It was held in the Parish Church and was well attended by the wider parish and local school choirs. Approx £1800 was raised for church funds.

Pastoral Care

- Conversations, telephone calls, input to Prayer and Action along with the Guild of St Luke and St Raphael prayer chain keep the Ministry Team and Church aware of health and isolation issues within the community.
- Where appropriate and permitted, Home Communion is offered and taken out from the Church.
- Revd Kevin Crinks coordinates funerals with local Readers. Funeral ministry extends to many years after initial contact and the immediate impact of bereavement. This includes follow up information, OASIS support group, making connections and visiting with particular attention to isolation. There is an annual Memorial Service on the Sunday closest to All Souls' Day.

- The **Guild of St Luke and St Raphael** continued its key ministry of offering regular prayers for healing, daily for many in the local communities and further afield.

Again, the Guild's wider prayers for healing ministry has been a monthly focus within Mid-Week Communions.

- Healing Eucharists have continued and are now part of a monthly principal Sunday service.

CAFÉ group

- "Community and Friendship for Everyone" met in the Neston Centre on the first Tuesday of the month throughout the year from 2 – 4pm.
- It is a place for people to come and chat, play games such as Scrabble, Rummikub, dominoes, or try their hand at painting.
- We provide tea, coffee and cake.
- This group is open to anyone, not just church members and we regularly have 15+ people attend each month.

OASIS group

- OASIS is a bereavement group which meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Blue Bicycle cafe from 3 – 5pm.
- This is a social group, not a counselling group. After each funeral, the parish sends out a letter to the next of kin which informs them of the group, and we also have referrals from the local surgeries and the wellbeing co-ordinator. Those interested in referring people to OASIS are encouraged to bring them along.

- There were 201 people on the Electoral Roll for the parish. Jim Wilcock continued as Electoral Roll Officer until he resigned in late 2023 due to ill health.

- Our two GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) groups explored topics in informal ways to grow, strengthen and support the faith of those attending. The three-fold ingredients are prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

Knit And Natter

- Knit and Natter had another successful year knitting for various charities and the Church.
- They were able to deliver twice to our charities in June 2023 and January 2024:
    - The Seaman's Mission. (Hats, scarves and gloves.)
    - The Salvation Army. (Hats, scarves, gloves, cardigans and jumpers.)
    - Arrow Park Hospital. (Baby hats and blankets.)
    - Claire House. (Baby doll outfits.)
- They also made donations to:
    - The Hedgehog Rescue Centre. (Pompom hedgehogs.)
    - Local Care Homes. (Twiddle muffs.)
- They had four events for the Church:
    - The Summer Fair
    - A Knitted Bible Story Exhibition at St Thomas,' Parkgate.
    - Winter Fair
    - Spring Coffee Morning
- An Afternoon Tea was held at St Michael's, Little Neston in June as a "Thank You" to all the members of the group.

Mission and evangelism

- Monthly All Age worship was introduced at St Michael's Church from September 2022. Six children from four families attend the services in St Michael's Church.
- Revd Crinks has made contact with Neston schools and visits them.
- Children from Parkgate, Woodfall and Burton Road Schools attended Experience Easter and Experience Christmas events at St Michael's and St Thomas's churches.
- We are praying that more leaders will be found to help with this vital work with children.

Mothers' Union

- MU has met every month in 2023, except August and December, after the 1.30 Communion Service in the Parish Church. They enjoyed many excellent speakers, hosted a Deanery afternoon tea for the Coronation and attended an Advent service at Willaston. Prayer is at the heart

of all we do. Members participated in the MU worldwide wave of prayer in May.

- There were 18 Baptisms in 2023 and MU gave a children's Bible to every candidate. A new venture was to give Bibles to couples getting married in our Parish.
- Proceeds of £125 from the Lent lunches went to the MU Relief fund. MU also supported the MU Summer of Hope Appeal, £200, and the Christmas Appeal. In November, 7 small blankets and 25 baby hats (including 5 special premature baby hats) were delivered to the Maternity Unit and 16 emergency wash bags to A&E at Arrowe Park Hospital. A Neston family (mum and four children) thoroughly enjoyed their 'Away From It All' holiday in August at Presthaven sands in North Wales. They had not had a holiday since 2005 so this was special for them as a family.
- In November MU members participated in the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence and abuse. RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse is Mothers' Union's new campaign to raise awareness about domestic abuse.
- Neston Mothers' Union now has 33 members for 2024 including the Vicar.
- Our Stay & Play team runs this ever-growing group! The group regularly has 25-30 children with their parents and grandparents. It is very popular, and they love the friendly atmosphere. It's a wonderful outreach for the Church and Mothers' Union. Friday morning is their church, with a Bible story, action songs and prayers. They often light a candle for special intentions. At Easter and Christmas, the Group give them children's books about these events. Our aim is to share the love of Jesus with these families in all we do with them.

- Neston PCC was unable to give unrestricted gifted income to local and overseas charities in 2023.

- The Parish Website: we continued to maintain our web presence with information about our services and activities on http://www.nestonparishchurch.org/index.asp
- Our Prayer & Action pew sheets are a valuable, informative, and important weekly flyer of group activities, and weekly service information keeping everyone updated. Approx. 90% of these are now emailed weekly or posted to members of the congregation and others interested in our work, mainly in the town.
- During the Vacancy, we were assisted by retired priests in holding our services including Revd Maureen Hobbs, Revd Alan Leach, Revd Ian Urquhart, Fr Mark Turner and Revd Ian Davenport. We were also assisted by Revd Frances Skinner and Revd Richard Skinner who were ministering in other parishes as part of their training.
- Lesley Irvin continues her work as Licensed Pastoral Worker.
- Elizabeth Joyce is a Reader Emeritus and leads services in all our churches.
- Tony Cooke is a Reader , working in the parish for about 6 months each year.
- Richard Lewis is a Reader and leads services, in all our churches.
- John Hart completed his training as a Reader and was licensed in Chester Cathedral in October 2023. He is also leading services in all our churches.

Ecumenical work

Neston and District Churches Together (NDCT)

- We have continued in our support of NDCT and have attended their regular meetings and their Service for Christian Unity in January, the Christian Aid Service in May and the Service for One World Week in October. We have also hosted in rotation a number of prayer breakfasts at St Michael's.
- Open the Book taking Bible Stories back into school assemblies is gaining strength and the teams include members of our congregations.
- Christian Aid is promoted and maintaining the Fair-Trade status of Neston is encouraged.

- Member churches operate Warm Hubs on a number of days through out each week.
- NDCT also have a representative on the Neston and Willaston community Partnership Steering Group. This group focuses on mental wellbeing, children and young people and the wellbeing of our older citizens.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023: FINANCES

The funds available to the parish consist of:

1. Our General Fund where general income and expenditure go in and out. The overall balance of this is our "General Reserve."

2. Other "Restricted" Funds which are reserves which can only be used for particular purposes.

It is the policy of the PCC to hold enough General Reserves to cover three months' running costs.

SUMMARY

Our running costs exceeded our general income by more than £16,500 (2022 £15,000) and in the absence of a one-off hire fee of £4,500, would have been over £21,000.

Other funds have been used to subsidise the running costs of the parish, as explained later in these notes.

The PCC's largest item of expenditure is Parish Share which is paid to Chester Diocese:

2022	£69,666.60
2023	£71,756.64
2024	£75,344.40

Electricity, gas & water is the second largest area of expenditure. The cost of these increased by one third during the year.

PLANNED GIVING

Following the request from the PCC to electoral roll members, planned giving increased by 25% during 2021.

2019	£49,389.84
2020	£47,215.35
2021	£59,001.87
2022	£56,829.32
2023	£57,613.92

There are around 200 people on the electoral roll. Of these, around 100 are involved in planned giving.

The overwhelming majority of planned givers use monthly standing orders. During 2023 a review of all standing orders was undertaken:

Monthly Amount	No. of Standing Orders	Total Amount
£0 - £22	30	£5,149
£22 - £43	28	£10,885
£43 - £65	12	£7,404
£65 - £87	7	£6,653
£87 - £130	8	£9,780
£130 - £260	4	£9,889
Total	89	£49,760

Of the planned giving standing orders:

70 provided £23,438 (47% of the total)
19 provided £26,322 (53% of the total).

The average standing order was £47 per month.

GAS, ELECTRICITY & WATER

2022	Parish Church	£8,042.43
	St Michael's	£2,475.73
	St Thomas'	£934.93
		£11,453.09
2023	Parish Church	£10,337.53
	St Michael's	£2,923.22
	St Thomas'	£1,945.65
		£15,206.40

USE OF OTHER FUNDS TO SUBSIDISE THE GENERAL RUNNING COSTS, AND ONE-OFF INCOME

1. Part of the Parish Church's energy & water costs have been paid using monies totalling **£6,054.64** withdrawn from the Betty Smith legacy investment.

2. The cost of replacing the boiler in The Neston Centre of **£2,400** was paid for by the Vision Fund.

This subsidising of the General Fund from other funds results in a picture as follows:

Income	£128,642.51
Expenditure	£136,835.49*
Overspend	**£8,192.98**

* Expenditure excludes amounts paid from other funds as detailed above.

During 2023 the PCC received **£4,500 for the hire of St Thomas'** for filming.

The overspend during the year would have exceeded £21,000 if other funds had not been used and the hire fee had not been received.

The PCC's financial position is not sustainable for the long-term.

It is the policy of the PCC to hold enough General Reserves to cover three months' running costs. Based on expenditure during 2023 this threshold is £34,200.

In the course of 2023 the General Reserve fell from £45,800 to £37,600.

BETTY SMITH LEGACY INVESTMENT

The value of the investment at the end of December 2023 was £184,584, an increase of almost 4% compared to the December 2022 value of £177,631.

Lump sum withdrawals from this investment are likely in the short term to fund large projects at the Parish Church, such as repairs to the roof and replacing the external ramp.

OTHER RESERVES

A summary of the PCC's reserves is included in the notes to the accounts.

The largest restricted reserves of the PCC at the end of 2023 were:

- Vision Fund £88,074
- Morris Legacy for the Parish Church £60,131
- Hillcrest (including Robert Hamilton) Curacy Fund £24,321

The Vision Fund is available for a range of activities:

- Communications
- Youth
- Ministry Team & Leadership
- Worship for all the Family
- Fellowship and Social
- Prayer and Study
- Giving
- Outreach & Pastoral
- Buildings & Resources

Safeguarding

In line with Diocese of Chester guidelines Neston Parish has a Safeguarding Officer for Neston Parish, Liz Ledsham.

At the beginning of 2023, a Safeguarding audit was carried out involving all three churches. This showed an improvement on the previous audit but highlighted several areas of concern that needed to be addressed. These were:

1. Parish Safeguarding handbooks were not present or accessible in the church buildings and the signed Parish Safeguarding Policy was not displayed.
2. Hire Agreements for use of church premises did not include an agreement for organisations hiring the premises to follow and comply with the Parish Safeguarding Policy.

3. The Parish did not have an appointed Lead Recruiter to complete the DBS checks.
4. Most existing DBS checks were about to run out or had run out and needed renewing.
5. There had been a fall-off in the number of people completing the Safeguarding training.
6. No accurate up to date record of volunteers and their roles existed in the Parish.

During 2023 the areas of concern following the audit have formed an action plan identifying issues to priorities in order to address the problems. This will make the church a safer environment and maintain a robust safeguarding culture.

1. Although the Safeguarding Handbooks were out of print and could not be ordered, photocopied versions were supplied, and these are now available in each church. In addition, each church building also has a signed copy of the Parish Safeguarding Policy to display. An A3 and A4 "Promoting a Safer Church" poster which lists local and national contacts, in case of a safeguarding concern or emergency, are up to date and displayed.
2. Room Hire Agreements - All group leaders who hired the church premises were sent letters explaining the need for them to comply with current Parish safeguarding procedures and that they needed to be aware of our Safeguarding policy. Each received a copy of the policy and 2 copies of the agreement to sign to adopt the policy or submit their own policy. All the organisations hiring church premises have complied and signed the documents.
3. A lead recruiter role was advertised in P&A and has been appointed. Amanda Donelan was proposed and accepted by the Diocese to be the Parish's Lead Recruiter to process Volunteer DBS checks.
4. In August 2023 Amanda Donelan and Liz Ledsham set aside 2 days to complete the DBS applications for the Parish. Everyone was informed about what identification documents were required. Most DBS checks were completed in the 2 days and anyone unable to attend was given an individual appointment. This has brought the Volunteer DBS checks up to date.
5. Safeguard Training – Anyone required to do Safeguarding Training has been encouraged to register onto the Church of England Training Portal and to complete the online training. 100% of the PCC members have completed the Basic and Foundation levels of training, other volunteers have also completed the training, two volunteers have completed the Leadership Training and others have completed the Domestic Abuse training. Not everyone is comfortable training online and to increase the number of people receiving the training preparations were made to develop and run face to face basic Safeguarding Training in 2024. This would be open to anyone in the Parish who would like to take part and it will be certificated.
6. To produce better record keeping Liz Ledsham has worked with Robin Hughes to compile details of Parish volunteers and the volunteer roles. This has been invaluable in identifying which roles require DBS checks, which volunteer roles require certain levels of training. This should enable the Parish to produce statistics and information in the future.

During 2023 two concerns regarding Safeguarding were recorded and forwarded to the Diocese Safeguarding Adviser. Both concerns were dealt with and reported within the specified 24 hours. Full reports were submitted to the Diocese and feedback was given to the Parish SGO by the DSA. Neither of the reports required concerns to be escalated or required them to be referred to outside organisations. The Diocese was pleased with our prompt, correct response in handling the concerns and our accurate reporting.

Liz Ledsham

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Structure and governance

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Neston is a corporate

body established by the Church of England, and is a Registered Charity registered with the Charity Commission, with the public benefit being for the advancement of religious education promoting the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines of the Church of England.

The governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules 2020 (as amended in 2022)

The object of the charity is to promote the whole mission of the Church in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Neston.

The trustees of the charity, being the elected, co-opted, or ex-officio members of the PCC, organise a formal election each year in the run-up to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to fill vacancies on the PCC. New members elected to the PCC automatically become trustees of the charity.

Elected and co-opted PCC members serve for a period of no more than 3 years after which they may seek re-election. There are no limits to the number of times a person may serve as PCC member. On standing down from the PCC, a member is also removed from the list of trustees of the charity. A full list of the trustees of the charity is available on the Charity Commission website.

At the annual meeting in May 2023, there were 201 people on the Electoral Roll. About 20 members attended the meeting.

The members of the PCC in December 2023 were:

Clergy: Revd Kevin Crinks (Chair)

Churchwardens: Marion Forshaw; Linda Haigh

PCC Secretary: Richard Lewis

PCC Treasurer: Lucy Brooks

Trustees: Terry Abel; Lucy Brooks; Alex Cummins; John Hart; Lesley Irvin (Vice Chair); Val Johnson; Mary Olson; Cara Pickthall; Peter Rossiter; Carol Stott; Sue Thomas.

Deanery Synod – laity: Robin Hughes, Richard Lewis. Lesley Irvin attends as a licensed Pastoral Worker in her own right.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Liz Ledsham, who has provided reports to PCC, and attended some meetings.

Some PCC meetings were chaired by the Rural Dean, Revd Beth Glover.

Some PCC meetings have been held jointly with the Ministry Team to address arrangements for filling the vacant post of Vicar of Neston.

Administration and contact details

- St Mary & St Helen's Church: Parish Church, High Street, Neston CH64 9TZ;
- St Michael and All Angels' Church: Marshlands Road, Little Neston CH64 4AD;
- St Thomas the Apostle's Church: School Lane, Parkgate CH64 6SR; and
- Neston Centre: High Street, Neston CH64 9TZ.
- The Parish Office is at the Neston Centre and is staffed on Monday mornings and Wednesday mornings. 07464 258372 nestonparishoffice@gmail.com

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF NESTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1129453

Accounts

The Parish of Neston

Charity No 1129453

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Neston Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2022

Incumbent

No Incumbent appointed.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31st December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £	*2021* *£*
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS							
Voluntary Income	2(a)	79,128	5,296	2,650	0	87,074	*156,704*
Church activities	2(b)	18,804	0	0	0	18,804	*11,986*
Activities For Generating Funds	2(c)	28,513	4,792	0	0	33,305	*50,298*
Income From Investments	2(d)	9	4,500	0	0	4,509	*0*
TOTAL INCOME		126,454	14,588	2,650	0	143,692	*218,988*
EXPENDITURE							
Raising funds	3(a)	96	0	0	4,000	4,096	*177*
Church activities	3(b)	130,837	11,593	999	0	143,429	*152,584*
Other Expenditure	3(c)	1,386	864	0	0	2,250	*1,956*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		132,319	12,457	999	4,000	149,775	*154,717*
NET INCOME/(-EXPENDITURE)		-5,865	2,131	1,651	-4,000	-6,083	*64,271*
Gross Transfers between funds - In		200				200	*408*
Gross Transfers between funds - Out				-200		-200	*-408*
Other Recognised Losses					-18,369	-18,369	*281,991*
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-5,665	2,131	1,451	-22,369	-24,452	*346,262*
Balances b/fwd 1st January		51,508	196,652	4,254	281,991	534,405	*188,145*
Balances c/fwd 31st December		45,843	198,783	5,705	259,622	509,953	*534,407*

The Notes on Pages 3 to 6 form part of these accounts.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31st DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 £	*2021 £*
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets		25,001	*25,001*
Investment Assets	9	290,024	*312,393*
		315,025	*337,394*
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock on Hand		310	*410*
Debtors	6	5,746	*8,190*
Short Term Deposits		202,442	*148,148*
Development Fund			*49,993*
Cash		15	
		208,513	*206,741*
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	7	13,585	*9,730*
NET CURRENT ASSETS		194,928	*197,011*
TOTAL ASSETS		£509,953	*£534,405*
FUNDS	5		
Endowment		259,622	*281,991*
Unrestricted - Designated		5,705	*4,254*
Restricted		198,783	*196,652*
Unrestricted		45,843	*51,508*
		£509,953	*£534,405*

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 2nd May 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Vice Chair
Terry Abel

Hon. Treasurer
Lucy Brooks
Member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

The Notes on Pages 3 to 6 form part of these accounts.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of Financial Reporting Standard 102.
The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provision. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2nd Edition(FRS102))

Fixed Assets

Consecrated Land and Buildings and Movable Church Furnishings.

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Such Assets are not capitalised in the financial statements
No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other Fixtures and Office Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis appropriate to the life of the equipment concerned.

Funds

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.
They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment Funds

These are restricted and separately invested.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2022 (Continued)

2	INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL *2021* £
2(a)	*Incoming Resources From Donors*					
	Planned Giving	56,829			56,829	*59,002*
	Collections in Church and Boxes	4,198			4,198	*3,713*
	Gift-Aided Gifts				0	*30*
	Regular Gift Days				0	*0*
	Donations and Appeals	3,648			3,648	*4,292*
	Planned Giving Tax Refunds	12,860	200		13,060	*14,384*
	Grants and VAT Refunds	1,278	-305		973	*2,062*
	Legacies			2,000	2,000	*72,471*
	Chester Diocesan Board Grant				0	*0*
	Stay & Play			650	650	*150*
	Vision Income		5,400		5,400	*600*
	Gas and Power Compensation	315	1		316	*0*
		79,128	5,296	2,650	87,074	*156,704*
2(b)						
	Incoming Resources From Church Activities					
	Wedding and Funeral fees PCC	13,562			13,562	*10,812*
	Assistant Staff Costs refunded by Diocese	5,242			5,242	*734*
	Cadent Compensation	0			0	*440*
2(c)		18,804	0	0	18,804	*11,986*
	Activities For Generating Funds					
	Pew sales	0			0	*60*
	Wedding and Funeral fees Diocese	5,195			5,195	*8,324*
	Parish Fellowship	320			320	*53*
	Rent - Neston Centre	9,597			9,597	*12,900*
	Rent - 99 The Ringway	1,558	4,202		5,760	*16,248*
	Comrade's Field	720			720	*720*
	Room Hire	4,552			4,552	*2,865*
	Wall Safe	84			84	*66*
	Shop Income	950			950	*164*
	100 Club	0			0	*2,241*
	Village Fair	2,811			2,811	*0*
	Christmas Fairs	1,147			1,147	*0*
	Events	1,579			1,579	*475*
	Insurance Claims	0	590		590	*6,182*
2(d)		28,513	4,792	0	33,305	*50,298*
	Investments					
	Income from Investments		4,500		4,500	
	Bank interest etc	9			9	
		9	4,500	0	4,509	*0*

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2022 (Continued)

3	EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL *2021* £
3(a)	*Fundraising Trading: Costs of Sale & Other Costs*					
	Costs of Stewardship Campaign	96			96	*177*
	Investment Management Costs			4,000	4,000	
		96	0	4,000	4,096	*177*
3(b)	*Church Activities*			Designated		
	Outward Giving				0	*3,213*
	Secular Charities	100			100	*100*
	Weddings & Funeral Fees Diocese	5,167			5,167	*8,324*
	Parish Share	69,667			69,667	*68,132*
	Assistant staff costs	9,150			9,150	*2,239*
	Vicar's Working Expenses	0			0	*1,112*
	Curate's Working Expenses	0			0	*447*
	Vicarage Expenses	2,028			2,028	*4,296*
	Education	111			111	*53*
	Insurance	6,802			6,802	*6,398*
	Organ, piano tuning	1,011	73		1,084	*997*
	Repairs & Maintenance Churches	2,195	4,811		7,006	*19,345*
	Cleaning	2,524			2,524	*1,523*
	Altar requisites	359			359	*417*
	Service books	18			18	*87*
	Robes & chalices	0			0	*198*
	Music licences	703			703	*681*
	Organist's fees	5,818			5,818	*3,941*
	Choir fees	360			360	*240*
	Bell fees	600			600	*425*
	Upkeep of churchyard	1,389	57		1,446	*7,324*
	Equipment hire				0	*382*
	Equipment servicing/ usage charges	690			690	*779*
	Heating, Lighting & W Rates	6,985	4,468		11,453	*5,860*
	Repairs & Maintenance Neston Centre	13,761	590		14,351	*10,318*
	100 Club Prizes				0	*1,085*
	Vision Expenditure		1,594		1,594	*2,669*
	Youth Matters General Expenditure				0	*176*
	Miscellaneous Expenditure	898		999	1,897	*1,353*
	Bank charges	501			501	*470*
		130,837	11,593	999	143,429	*152,584*
3(c)	*Other Expenditure*					
	Other Ordinary PCC Expenditure		864		864	*50*
	Parish Office & Administration	904			904	*816*
	Parish office equipment				0	*694*
	Software subscriptions	482			482	*396*
		1,386	864	0	2,250	*1,956*

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2022 (Continued)

		2022	2021
4	**FIXED ASSETS**		£
	Freehold Land and Buildings	25,000	25,000
	Equipment Written down	1	1
	Investment in Ringway property : The Hillcrest Curacy Trust Fund.	112,393	112,393
	Invested Legacy re Betty Smith Endowment	177,631	200,000
		315,025	337,394

The freehold land & buildings comprise the Neston Centre and Comrade's Field at Neston.
The gross values of these and the equipment have been estimated at 1st January 1997.

5 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

	At 1st Jan 2022 £	Movement in Year £	At 31st Dec 2022 £
Endowment Funds			
Betty Smith Endowment	200,000	-22,369	177,631
Hillcrest (including Robert Hamilton) Fund Endowment	81,991		81,991
	281,991	-22,369	259,622
Designated Funds			
3 Churches Repairs from £10,000 designated	2,104		2,104
Chester Diocesan Board	2,000	-999	1,001
Crump Legacy	0	2,000	2,000
Stay and Play	150	450	600
	4,254	1,451	5,705
Restricted Funds			
Garden Fund Bishops Trust	653	-57	596
Lighting Fund	2,161	-720	1,441
Neston Centre And Comrade's Field Fund	25,000		25,000
St Thomas's Donations	800	200	1,000
Vision Fund	88,900	2,341	91,241
Miss Morris Legacy for Parish Church	64,078	-3,868	60,210
Hillcrest (including Robert Hamilton) Fund	15,060	4,202	19,262
Betty Smith Investment income for Parish Church		32	32
	196,652	2,130	198,782
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	51,508	-5,665	45,843

6 DEBTORS

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Prepayments	1,348	*1,800*
Other Debtors	744	*734*
Tax and VAT refunds due	3,654	*5,656*
	5,746	*8,190*

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Accrued Expenses	9,244	*5,583*
Neston Centre Deposits	275	*275*
Agency Collections	194	
Parish Church Bells	3,872	*3,872*
	13,585	*9,730*

8 Staff Costs

No PCC Members were paid any wages in the year.
Several members of the PCC were reimbursed for minor expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC.

9 Connected Charities

The Hillcrest Curacy Trust Fund
The Robert Hamilton Fund

On 13th July 2021 the PCC became the sole trustee of the Hillcrest Curacy Trust fund and the Robert Hamilton Fund was merged into it at the same time to be administered as a restricted fund in the PCC accounts.
These Trusts have been invested in the Curates house at 99 Ringway along with £30,402 of PCC Funds
Land Registry records show the registered owner of the property is Chester Diocesan Board of Finance and as such the house does not form part of the assets of the PCC. The PCC's investment of £30,402 in the property is recorded in the Balance Sheet.

10 Neston Village Fair

An autonomous committee runs this annual event and maintains an account to fund the next event. The ultimate benefactor of these funds held in additional accounts would be the PCC and the surplus carried forward at the year end was £7,456.76.

Report of The Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Neston Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.
It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity 'Commisioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- 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 Commission
An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters.
The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145(3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

B. H. Morris FCA

Highfield, Bull Hill CH64 4DN April 2023
Lt Neston

Neston Parochial Church Council
Trustees' Report for 2022

Parish of Neston

2022 Report and Accounts

Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Neston, Cheshire.

Aim and purposes

Neston Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the aim of every Church of England church:

To promote the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting this aim throughout the ecclesiastical parish of Neston. The PCC is specifically responsible for maintaining:

- St Mary & St Helen's Church: Parish Church, High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ;
- St Michael and All Angels' Church: Marshlands Road, Little Neston, CH64 4AD;
- St Thomas's Church: School Lane, Parkgate, CH64 6SR; and
- Neston Centre: High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. We aim to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish through:

- Services, worship, and prayer;
- Social outreach and pastoral work; and
- Missionary outreach, especially to children and young people.

During the year, the Parish of Neston has been without a Vicar following the resignation of Revd Alan Dawson in 2021.

Neston PCC and the Ministry Team have been working with officers in the Diocese of Chester to select the next Vicar of Neston. Members of our congregations have made invaluable input to this work by outlining their hopes for the future of Christian ministry in the parish.

This meant that some of the work we had hoped to do has been delayed, as the pastoral role and ministry insight of the Vicar of Neston has an important part to play in our work.

It is also important that we maintain the fabric of our three church buildings and the Neston Centre to enable us to carry out our objectives and activities.

Achievements and performance

Following the resignation of our previous Vicar (Revd Alan Dawson) in 2021, we have been able to conduct worship in all three churches with the invaluable assistance of Revd Judith Calvert (our Assistant Curate) and of local, retired priests especially Revd Canon Ian Davenport, Revd Maureen Hobbs, Revd Alan Leach, Fr Mark Turner and Revd Ian Urquhart.

United Services have been re-established and held in the Parish Church. The first celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022, the Parish Church was open each day until the day of the State Funeral for private prayer and evening prayer. A Book of Condolences was provided for people to sign.

We have been working and praying to discern who the next Vicar of Neston will be. Neston PCC developed a plan, with the assistance of the Rural Dean and the Archdeacon of Chester, to seek the views and comments of our Parishioners and the wider Parish community. This Hope Cards exercise took place in the spring of 2022 generating almost 400 ideas from about 100 respondents.

No-one was appointed following the first round of advertising the vacancy in autumn 2022. Work continues in 2023 to identify and appoint the next Vicar of Neston.

Following the relaxation of Covid19 restrictions, most activities have been restored, including concerts in our churches, the Village Fair and the Christmas Fair. All-age worship has resumed in St Michael's Church.

The Knit & Natter Group held a well-attended exhibition of their work in the Parish Church in October 2022 – depicting biblical, church and local events.

Work with elderly people continues with CAFÉ (Community and Friendship for Everyone), meeting monthly in the Neston Centre. Work with the recently bereaved continues through OASIS in the Blue Bicycle coffee shop.

Our pre-school gatherings continued during 2022: Stay & Play met in term-time on Friday mornings at the Parish Church, offering Christian teaching in a creative and well-received way. It is over-subscribed.

Children from the High School and primary schools were able to resume their visits and worship in our churches in 2022. Experience Christmas resumed, as did carol services and crib services – all with high attendances.

Most of our activities benefit from the work and commitment of many volunteers, without whom much of our work could not happen and the PCC would not meet its objectives. The PCC want to thank those many people who are contributing their time and talents to our work.

June 2022 was a particular sad time following the death of our former Churchwarden, Don Poole, who achieved the status of the oldest Church Warden in the Diocese.

The PCC is reasonably placed to address its financial position and manage budgets to prevent unplanned over-spending and enable growth. This means it is more secure in the control of its funds. We acknowledge particularly the skill and commitment of the Honorary Treasurer, Lucy Brooks, who, though not a Trustee, has continued to provide exceptional service.

Quality management information enables the PCC to understand its financial position. A planned-giving campaign has been deferred until a new Vicar is in post.

New contracts were negotiated for electricity supply to all our churches and buildings, and work on new gas supply contracts started.

Worship and prayer

Our worship on Sundays has largely resumed its pre-Covid19 pattern. The Principal Sunday Service is streamed live from the Parish Church each week. (Parish of Neston YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqJnfi7zblT5zttz7OQQWJw)

The midweek services in all three churches were combined into one midweek service in 2020 in the Parish Church, attracting people from across our congregations to a lunchtime communion service. This arrangement is continuing.

A united service across all our churches is held on the fifth Sunday of the month in the Parish Church.

In 2022, our annual return to Statistics for Mission indicated:

- Approx. 115 people (including children) attended our three churches in person on

those Sundays in October 2022 when we held services there;

- Approx. 170 people attended our three churches on Easter Day;
- Advent and Christmas services were held in all three churches:
    - 1750 people attended a range of services including carol services, crib services, Blue Christmas services and Christingle;
    - Approx. 140 attended services on Christmas Day in person.
- The number of views of streamed services on YouTube fluctuated through the year. On average, approx. 80 views were made of each of the live services streamed in October 2022;
- A prayer group has continued to meet, focussing on praying for the world, the parish, for growth and for achieving our mission. The group has established itself on Zoom, as a weekly prayer group, with about 8 people attending each week;
- There were 8 baptism services in our churches. Baptism services are usually celebrated separately after our main Sunday services;
- There were 7 weddings in our churches;
- There were fifty-two funerals held during the year, either in our churches or at crematoria / cemeteries;

At **St Michael's Church** in 2022,

- Services have largely returned to pre-Covid arrangements. There are a number of new regular worshippers to the Sunday services.
- Lynne Vaughan retired from running the Kids Club at St Michael's.
- Monthly All-age worship was introduced in autumn 2022, and there is provision for children at all services.

At **St Thomas's Church** in 2022,

- Services have returned to pre-Covid arrangements, including having a couple of 'Come and have Breakfast' services. We are delighted that we now welcome a number of new regular worshippers to our Sunday services;
- Sunday Club reopened in September, though many youngsters didn't return as they had reached High School age;
- The church was open for 'Thy Kingdom Come' with a quiet corner displaying relevant material for visitors;
- The Harvest Supper continued to be a successful Outreach event with a number of new people from the local community attending;
- We had our first Taizé Service since December 2019;
- Despite the freezing cold, Open Air Carols was also resumed with The Port Sunlight Brass Band playing to a huge crowd of people, followed by mulled wine and mince pies afterwards;
- Our Memorial Book is now safely displayed in a beautiful Memorial Book Cabinet made by John Dixon.

- Music plays an important role within acts of worship across the parish.
- Daniel Wakefield is our Organist and Choirmaster in the parish church with Christine Schofield supporting in an administrative role.
- Currently there are about 16 regular members of the choir. The choir leads singing at our principal Sunday Service and other services.
- 2022 was a busy year for bell ringers across the UK and beyond. Bells were part of the

Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the sombre ringing that took place on the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of the King. The bells at Neston were rung to mark all three occasions.

- We have rung every Sunday morning for the principal service.
- 17 Quarter Peals (approx. 45 minutes continuous ringing) have been rung at Neston during 2022, all but one of them by the local band. This meant that Neston was the leading Wirral tower in 2022, and the fourth leading tower within the Chester Diocesan Guild and were in the top 3.2% of towers worldwide. This demonstrates that the quality of ringing at Neston has improved.
- We currently have ten members of the band, including two new recruits who have made sufficient progress to join our Sunday morning ringing. For the first time in many years, a Sunday service band entered the Wirral Branch striking competition, finishing a close second.
- The proposed bell restoration project has been delayed this year due to the vacancy.

- All three churches are decorated with flowers, especially at festivals.
- For the Festivals of Easter, Harvest, Christmas and Remembrance we have larger and extra arrangements to decorate the church.
- The PCC acknowledges this offering to our worship.

Deanery Synod

Neston is part of the Wirral South Deanery in the Diocese of Chester.

- All our clergy are members of the Deanery Synod: Revd Judith Calvert.
- Two lay representatives were elected in 2020 to the Deanery Synod for 3 years: Robin Hughes and Richard Lewis. There are two vacancies.
- Lesley Irvin is an ex officio member as a licensed pastoral worker.
- Richard Lewis is the Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod.
- Deanery Synod met three times in 2022, and reviewed Living in Love and Faith, healing ministries and Casting the Net Wide (the Chester Diocese Strategy).

Buildings and services

Our churches have been used by the wider community for civic and other purposes which help us to meet our objectives;

- For the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Services of Celebration were held on 29th April during our regular United Sung Eucharist and repeated again at the 10.45am Eucharist on 5th June. Both led by Revd Canon Ian Davenport (now King's Chaplain);

- The Neston Female Society restored their Annual Walk, following the lifting of Covid restrictions, on 2nd June. This was attended by over 100 children and the members of the Society. Their Ecumenical Service was held at the Parish Church and on the Cross led by Fr Mark Turner, ably assisted by Fr Francis from St Winifred's (Roman Catholic Church) and Mark Thomas (Methodist) who also organised an Open the Book presentation, which was well received, especially by the children;

- The Falklands Memorial Service was held on 14th June to mark the 40th Anniversary of the conflict. This was well attended by Civic leaders, the British Legion, and Veterans of the Conflict. It was led by Fr Mark Turner;

- Following the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II, we held the Book of Condolences for Neston which was signed by over 300 people. We hosted the Civic leaders following the Proclamation of the new King, the Service for which was led by

Revd Judith Calvert. Services of Holy Communion were said in our Churches on 18th September, led by Revd Canon Ian Davenport;

- The parade for Remembrance Sunday was restored and the Service was well attended by the Royal British Legion, Members and Veterans of the armed forces, Civic Leaders and local Cadet and Youth Groups. The Service was led by Fr Mark Turner;

- The nativity scene outside the Parish Church was also welcomed again, along with an installation of advent candles; and

- We have continued to maintain our buildings and grounds.

Parish Church of St Mary & St Helen

- In May 2022, a Faculty was granted for the Bell frame project in the Parish Church. Some outside funding has been identified. The PCC are waiting for a clear, costed project proposal for the work to go ahead.
- Two wooden benches were donated to the Parish Church, installed in the churchyard and have been welcomed and used by the general public.
- The new wheelchair ramp project still awaits detailed drawings from the Architect in order to go forward for costing and to request Faculty permission.
- The coming of winter and increased energy costs led us to reassess heating and lighting, and a new plan was put into action. New electricity supply contracts were negotiated in 2022, and work on new gas supply contracts started.
- Throughout the year there has been a steady flow of maintenance and repairs. Many of the lights in our buildings have been changed to LED and better management of time periods which will allow the illumination of our buildings and external lighting to be more cost effective.
- Consideration has been given to our "aging" maintenance team and their inability to climb ladders and scramble over roofs etc. Good relationships with local contractors have been formed to assist with the more challenging work required.

St Michael's Church

- The continued unauthorised parking at St Michael's was swiftly dealt with by introducing a NO PARKING sign at the entrance to the car park.

St Thomas's Church

- The entrance St Thomas's was decorated by a local contractor.
- An upgraded sound system was installed at St Thomas's to allow more flexibility and improved sound quality.

The Neston Centre and Comrades' Field

- The Charity Commission agreed to a clarification of the deed that transferred the land to what is now Neston PCC. This enables the PCC to conduct commercial activities from the land on which the Neston Centre is built and from the 'Comrades' Field.'
- Following impact damage to the ramp wall at the entrance to the Neston Centre, this was reported to Ecclesiastical Insurance and a claim was agreed to repair the damage. Repairs have been completed.
- Evidence of structural subsidence of the north wall of the Neston Centre was discovered when preparing for re-plastering and was investigated by a structural engineer. He reported that it was an old 'wound,' and the cause was tree roots absorbing the moisture from the soil. Tree roots also cause infiltration to the surface water drains and were repaired under our insurance policy.
- He also advised that a tree specialist be brought in to manage the pine and beech trees in the church yard and the Centre car park. Cheshire West and Chester Council who are responsible for the graveyard trees have said it is our responsibility, which is disputed. Further discussions will take place.

- We lost a reliable source of income when Accountant Robert Jones vacated The Neston Centre for different office accommodation service.
- It was agreed that during the winter months, Café would use two vacant offices in the Neston Centre instead of the Parish Church. Heating was more cost effective than in church.
- The Church Warden looked into an alternative use of the field as parkland and being more accessible to the residents of Neston while reserving areas for the Village Fair and possible church fund raising activities. The thoughts were shelved until a new incumbent was secured as they may have ideas of their own.
- In November consideration was given to controlling the ever-troublesome un-authorised parking at The Neston Centre by installing an automatic barrier at the entrance. This is still under review; however, the access is also to the field and Vicarage and possibly the new incumbent may request an input into any plan.

- In all it has been a year of "making the best with what we've got". While still in the interregnum, we have maintained regular services and activities, and my thanks to all those involved for their hard work.

Village Fair

- The 2022 Village Fair was the first Fair for three years. The 2020 and 2021 Fairs had been cancelled due to the COVID Pandemic.
- The event was well attended by the people of Neston, who were at last able to enjoy a good family afternoon out for the whole family. There were a number of new attractions this year.
- Entertainment was provided throughout the afternoon with the usual mix of local acts.
- All the stalls did brisk business, and we were able to allow those stall holders that made money for their cause to retain all their proceeds. We would hope this is a trend that can be continued in future years.
- The Parish made a total of £2,830, which included income from the Grand Raffle, the gate money, craft and toy stalls, burgers and from the teas and cakes in the church, whilst the local charities and good causes raised a total of £3,847 from their stalls.

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair also returned following the pandemic. It was held in the Parish Church and was well attended by the wider parish and local school choirs. Approx £1200 was raised for church funds.

Pastoral Care

- Conversations, telephone calls, input to Prayer and Action along with the Guild of St Luke and St Raphael prayer chain keep the Ministry Team and Church aware of health and isolation issues within the community.
- Where appropriate and permitted, Home Communion is offered and taken out from the Church.
- Currently our Pastoral Worker, Lesley Irvin coordinates funerals with local Readers and visiting priests. Funeral ministry extends to many years after initial contact and the immediate impact of bereavement. This includes follow up information, OASIS support group, making connections and visiting with particular attention to isolation.

- The **Guild of St Luke and St Raphael** continued its key ministry of offering regular prayers for healing, daily for many in the local communities and further afield. Again, the Guild's wider prayers for healing

ministry has been a monthly focus within Mid-Week Communions.
- Healing Eucharists have continued and are now part of a monthly principal Sunday service.

- **CAFÉ** (Community and Friendship for Everyone) meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 2 - 4pm in the Neston Centre at the present time. We moved into the centre during the winter to save money. We usually have 12 - 14 people, playing Scrabble, Rummikub, Dominoes and we have an art room. All are welcome to come along.

- **OASIS** (Bereavement group): This group meets on 2nd Tuesday of the month at Blue Bicycle from 3 - 5pm. We meet to chat and enjoy quality time together. Once again all are welcome for as long as they want to.
- We are getting referrals to both CAFÉ AND OASIS from the Community Social Prescriber, usually from a surgery.
- There were 200 people on the Electoral Roll for the parish. Jim Wilcock continued as Electoral Roll Officer; and
- Two of the house groups have met through the year using Zoom; one using St Thomas's church for a couple of monthly gatherings but have subsequently reverted to in-person meetings as the risk subsided. Both Gift Groups are open to the whole Parish. These GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) groups explored topics in informal ways to grow, strengthen and support the faith of those attending. The three-fold ingredients are prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

Knit And Natter

- The Knit and Natter group had a happy and busy time in 2022. Members continued to knit personal items as well as items for the charities they continue to support.
- On two occasions they delivered hats, scarves and gloves to the Seaman's Mission, and on three occasions they delivered baby hats and blankets to Arrowe Park Hospital.
- They were also able to donate to the Salvation Army, doll clothes to Claire House and twiddle muffs to two nursing homes. They also donated to other charity shops.
- Ongoing knitting for the Summer Fair and the Christmas Fair also kept the knitters busy.
- The Knit and Natter members also knitted characters and scenery for a Knitting Exhibition of Bible Stories which was held in the Parish Church in November 2022. This was attended by members of our church congregations, over 360 visitors from the local community and beyond and raising £600.00 for church funds.
- Knit and Natter continues to thrive and there is a waiting list to join.

Mission and evangelism

- Our Sunday Kids' Club continued through the year to summer 2022 when Lynne Vaughan, its leader, retired. Monthly All Age worship has been introduced at St Michael's Church from September 2022. Six children from four families attend the services in St Michael's Church.
- We are praying that more leaders will be found to help with this vital work, as we rely on the parents to be there to allow the sessions to take place with the necessary ratio of adults to children.

Mothers' Union

- Emerging from Covid Mothers' Union gradually returned to some sort of normality in 2022. They met on the second Wednesday of every month after the 1.30 Service, except in August.
- At the Baptisms in 2022, each candidate received a Children's Bible from Mothers' Union. They also gave Baptism Anniversary cards on first and second anniversaries.
- February 24th, 2022, saw the start of the war in Ukraine and MU members, together

with the Parish and local community, generously donated goods for the Ukrainian refugees.

- In February 2022, 15 emergency toiletry bags (for patients who go to hospital unexpectedly) were delivered to A&E, as well as knitted items to the premature baby unit at Arrowe Park hospital.
- Our two Lent lunches raised £290 which was donated to the DEC Christian Aid Ukraine Appeal.
- During the year, members raised funds for the Mothers' Union Relief Fund, the Summer of Hope Appeal and Mothers' Union Worldwide and collected essential items and toys for refugees locally and in Chester.
- In November 2022, in partnership with the charity Door of Hope and the Bags of Education scheme, members filled a bag with essential educational equipment for some of the poorest communities in Eastern Europe, including Ukraine.
- Members participated in the 16 days of activism against gender violence in November and December 2022.
- Neston Mothers' Union now have 33 members for 2023, including three gentlemen!
- **Our MU Stay & Play team** run this ever-growing group. We now regularly have 33 children and 28 Adults. It is very popular, has a friendly atmosphere, and is held every Friday morning during term time in the Parish Church. It provides outreach for the Church and Mothers' Union.

- Neston PCC was unable to give unrestricted gifted income to local and overseas charities in 2022.

- The Parish Website: we continued to maintain our web presence with information about our services and activities on http://www.nestonparishchurch.org/index.asp
- Our Prayer & Action pew sheets are a valuable, informative, and important weekly flyer of group activities, and weekly service information keeping everyone updated. Approx. 90% of these are now emailed weekly or posted to members of the congregation and others interested in our work, mainly in the town.
- We are being assisted by retired priests in holding our services including Revd Alan Leach, Revd Ian Urquhart, Fr Mark Turner and Revd Ian Davenport. Revd Maureen Hobbs has also assisted after moving into the parish. We are also assisted by Revd Frances Skinner and Revd Richard Skinner who have been ministering in other parishes as part of their training.
- Lesley Irvin continues her work as Licensed Pastoral Worker.
- Elizabeth Joyce is a Reader Emeritus and leads services in all our churches.
- Richard Lewis is a Reader and leads services, in all our churches.
- John Hart began his third year of training in September 2022. He is leading more services in all our churches.

Ecumenical work

Neston and District Churches Together (NDCT)

- We have continued in our support of NDCT and have attended their regular meetings. We hosted at the Parish Church the Service for Christian Unity in January and the Service for One World Week in October. We have also hosted in rotation a number of prayer breakfasts at St Michael's.
- Open the Book has recommenced and several teams, who include members of our congregations, are now back taking Bible Stories back into school assemblies.

Finances

The funds available to the parish consist of:

1. Our General Fund where general income and expenditure go in and out. The overall balance of this is our "General Reserve."

2. Other "Restricted" Funds which are reserves which can only be used for particular purposes.

It is the policy of the PCC to hold enough general reserves to cover three months' running costs.

Summary

Our running costs exceeded our general income by almost £15,000 and as a result other funds have been used to subsidise the running costs of the parish, as explained later in these notes.

The PCC's largest item of expenditure is Parish Share which is paid to Chester Diocese. During 2022 this was £69,666.60. For 2023 it is £71,756.64.

Planned giving reduced slightly during the year.

The cost of electricity, gas & water used during the year almost doubled.

Planned Giving

Following the request from the PCC to electoral roll members, planned giving increased by 25% during 2021.

2019 £49,389.84

2020 £47,215.35

2021 £59,001.87

2022 £56,829.32

There are around 200 people on the electoral roll. Of these, around 100 are involved in planned giving, and of these around 50 increased their giving during 2021.

The decrease in giving in 2022 is due to the death of some of our planned givers.

Gas, electricity & water

2021	Parish Church	£3,662.04
	St Michael's	£1,489.26
	St Thomas'	£708.65
		£5,859.95
2022	Parish Church	£8,042.43
	St Michael's	£2,475.73
	St Thomas'	£934.93
		£11,453.09

Use of other funds to subsidise the general fund

1. Part of the Parish Church's energy & water costs have been paid using the **£4,467.71** income from the Betty Smith legacy investment.

2. Church maintenance costs of **£4,811.48** paid by other funds:

- Vision fund £1,741.50 for final balance of the new entrance doors at St Michael's
- Morris Legacy £1,200 for architect's fees relating to proposed new ramp at Parish Church
- Morris Legacy £1,869.98 towards Parish Church maintenance costs

This subsidising of the General Fund from other funds results in a picture as follows:

Income	£126,654.55
Expenditure	£132,319.14*
Overspend	**£5,664.59**

* Expenditure excludes expenditure paid from other funds as detailed above.

The overspend during the year would have been £14,943.78 if other funds had not been used.

It is the policy of the PCC to hold enough general reserves to cover three months' running costs. Based on expenditure during 2022 this threshold is £35,500.

At the end of 2022, the general reserve was £45,843.

Addressing our over-expenditure

1. The "core 100" people who typically attend one of the four church services on Sundays, and who are involved in planned giving, contributed almost £57,000 during the year.

Of the "core 100", around 50 increased their planned giving, by almost £11,800 during 2021, following the PCC's request. Whilst these 50 or so individuals may wish to review their giving, it appears inappropriate to request a further increase from them.

The remaining 50 or so of the "core 100" chose not to increase their giving following the PCC's request.

The 100 or so people on the electoral roll who do not attend Sunday services or take part in planned giving are unlikely to engage further with the Parish during the Interregnum.

2. The PCC may need to consider limiting usage of the Parish Church, particularly during the winter months, to reduce energy costs. The Café and Oasis groups already use alternative accommodation in The Neston Centre and a local coffee shop.

3. In the absence of an Incumbent, and a Vision strategy for the Parish to increase engagement, it appears the PCC have little choice in using other available funds to meet the running costs of the Parish in the short term.

4. This is not a sustainable solution in the long term, however the PCC must ensure its Parish Share commitment is met, to avoid compromising the appointment of a new Incumbent.

The hope is that a new Incumbent will breathe new life into the Parish and increase engagement with the church.

Betty Smith legacy investment

£196,000 was invested with Quilter plc in April. The value of the investment at the end of December was £177,631, a reduction of 9%. The war in Ukraine has impacted stock markets significantly, in addition to concerns that were already present regarding energy prices and inflation.

This type of investment may fluctuate in value, but over time is likely to increase in value, as it did in the past. (The initial amount placed into Trust following Betty's death in 2006 almost doubled in value before being transferred to the PCC in 2022.)

Vision Fund

A legacy of £5,000 for the Vision fund was received.

During the year Vision funds were spent on:

- £1,741.50 new entrance doors at St Michael's
- £483.60 sound system at St Thomas's
- £833.99 audio visual equipment for the Parish to use in any of its buildings

The fund balance at the end of the year was £91,240.

Safeguarding

In line with Diocese of Chester guidelines Neston Parish has a Safeguarding Officer for the parish, Liz Ledsham.

Information and parish contacts for safeguarding in the parish are displayed in all three church buildings in the parish.

No safeguarding issues or allegations have been reported in Neston Parish in 2022.

The take-up of online training has slowed down and the Safeguarding Officer has contacted volunteers and church officers who are required to do the training.

Audits have been completed on our three churches. There are no differences between the three churches in either compliance or areas that need some improvement.

The audit has revealed that in some areas we are wholly compliant and other areas that need updating and new paperwork needs to be implemented. An action plan is to be developed.

Following the retirement of Michael Maden as Lead Recruiter, an appeal for a new Lead Recruiter has been made. All the current volunteers require new DBS checks. This doesn't apply to the clergy/Ministry as their DBS checks are done via the Diocese.

We will have an Action Plan to work towards over the next 12 months. This will help us to meet all the Parish goals for training, procedures required and necessary paperwork so that we can create a healthy safeguarding culture in the parish.

Liz Ledsham SGO

Structure and governance

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Neston is a corporate body established by the Church of England, and is a Registered Charity registered with the Charity Commission, with the public benefit being for the advancement of religious education promoting the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines of the Church of England.

The governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules 2020 (as amended in 2022)

The object of the charity is to promote the whole mission of the Church in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Neston.

The trustees of the charity, being the elected, co-opted, or ex-officio members of the PCC, organise a formal election each year in the run-up to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to fill vacancies on the PCC. New members elected to the PCC automatically become trustees of the charity.

Elected and co-opted PCC members serve for a period of no more than 3 years after which they may seek re-election. There are no limits to the number of times a person may serve as PCC member. On standing down from the PCC, a member is also removed from the list of trustees of the charity. A full list of the trustees of the charity is available on the Charity Commission website.

At the annual meeting in May 2022, there were 200 people on the Electoral Roll. About 20 members attended the meeting.

The members of the PCC in December 2022 were:

Clergy: Vacant (Chair); Revd Judith Calvert;

Churchwardens: Terry Abel (Lay Chair – Vice Chair); Marion Forshaw

PCC Secretary: Richard Lewis

Trustees: Alex Cummins; Linda Haigh; Robin Hughes; Lesley Irvin; Val Johnson; Peter Rossiter; Carol Stott; Sue Thomas; Geoff Wood.

Deanery Synod – laity: Robin Hughes, Richard Lewis. Lesley Irvin attends as a licensed Pastoral Worker in her own right.

The Treasurer is Lucy Brooks who is not a member of the PCC.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Liz Ledsham, who has provided reports to PCC, and attended some meetings.

Some PCC meetings have been chaired by the Rural Dean, Revd Beth Glover.

Some PCC meetings have been held jointly with the Ministry Team to address arrangements for filling the vacant post of Vicar of Neston.

Administration and contact details

- St Mary & St Helen's Church: Parish Church, High Street, Neston CH64 9TZ;
- St Michael and All Angels' Church: Marshlands Road, Little Neston CH64 4AD;
- St Thomas the Apostle's Church: School Lane, Parkgate CH64 6SR; and
- Neston Centre: High Street, Neston CH64 9TZ.
- The Parish Office is at the Neston Centre and is staffed on Monday mornings and Wednesday mornings. 0151 336 5346 nestonparishoffice@gmail.com

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF NESTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1129453

Accounts

The Parish of Neston

Charity No 1129453

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Neston Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2021

Incumbent

Interregnum: No Incumbent appointed.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31st December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	*2020* £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS							
Voluntary Income	2(a)	81,872	74,682	150	0	156,704	*77,963*
Church activities	2(b)	11,986	0	0	0	11,986	*8,840*
Activities For Generating Funds	2(c)	26,815	23,483	0	0	50,298	*53,640*
Income From Investments	2(d)	0	0	0	0	0	*0*
TOTAL INCOME		120,673	98,165	150	0	218,988	*140,442*
EXPENDITURE							
Raising funds	3(a)	177	0	0	0	177	*212*
Church activities	3(b)	127,024	25,560	0	0	152,584	*139,041*
Other Expenditure	3(c)	1,956	0	0	0	1,956	*1,206*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		129,157	25,560	0	0	154,717	*140,459*
NET INCOME/(-EXPENDITURE)		-8,484	72,605	150	0	64,271	*-16*
Gross Transfers between funds - In			408			408	
Gross Transfers between funds - Out		-408				-408	
Other Recognised Gains					281,991	281,991	
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-8,892	73,013	150	281,991	346,262	*-16*
Balances b/fwd 1st January		60,400	123,639	4,104	0	188,145	*188,161*
Balances c/fwd 31st December		51,508	196,652	4,254	281,991	534,407	*188,145*

The Notes on Pages 3 to 6 form part of these accounts.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31st DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 £	*2020 £*
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets		25,001	*25,001*
Investment Assets	9	312,393	*30,402*
		337,394	*55,403*
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock on Hand		410	*410*
Debtors	6	8,190	*9,282*
Short Term Deposits		148,148	*88,198*
Development Fund		49,993	*53,195*
		206,741	*151,084*
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	7	9,730	*18,344*
NET CURRENT ASSETS		197,011	*132,740*
TOTAL ASSETS		£534,405	*£188,143*
FUNDS	5		
Endowment		281,991	*0*
Unrestricted - Designated		4,254	*4,104*
Restricted		196,652	*123,639*
Unrestricted		51,508	*60,400*
		£534,405	*£188,143*

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21st April 2022 and signed on its behalf by

Vice Chair
Marion Forshaw

Hon. Treasurer
Lucy Brooks
Member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

The Notes on Pages 3 to 6 form part of these accounts.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of Financial Reporting Standard 102.
The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provision. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102))

Fixed Assets

Consecrated Land and Buildings and Movable Church Furnishings.

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Such Assets are not capitalised in the financial statements
No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other Fixtures and Office Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis appropriate to the life of the equipment concerned.

Funds

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.
They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment Funds

Endowment funds have been introduced this year. There were none last year. These are restricted and separately invested.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2021 (Continued)

2	INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL *2020* *£*
2(a)	*Incoming Resources From Donors*					
	Planned Giving	59,002			59,002	*47,215*
	Collections in Church and Boxes	3,713			3,713	*3,155*
	Gift-Aided Gifts	30			30	*586*
	Regular Gift Days	0			0	*7,815*
	Donations and Appeals	3,492	800		4,292	*4,415*
	Planned Giving Tax Refunds	14,384			14,384	*12,176*
	VAT Refunds	750	1,312		2,062	
	Legacies	500	71,971		72,471	
	Chester Diocesan Board Grant				0	*2,000*
	Stay & Play			150	150	
	Vision Income		600		600	*600*
	Rounding	1	-1		0	*0*
		81,872	74,682	150	156,704	*77,963*
2(b)						
	Incoming Resources From Church Activities					
	Wedding and Funeral fees PCC	10,812			10,812	*8,840*
	Assistant Staff Costs refunded by Diocese	734			734	
	Cadent Compensation	440			440	
2(c)		11,986	0	0	11,986	*8,840*
	Activities For Generating Funds					
	Pew sales	60			60	*0*
	Wedding and Funeral fees Diocese	8,324			8,324	*8,176*
	Parish Fellowship	53			53	*393*
	Rent - Neston Centre	12,900			12,900	*12,265*
	Rent - 99 The Ringway	1,188	15,060		16,248	*1,649*
	Comrade's Field	720			720	*720*
	Room Hire	2,865			2,865	*990*
	Parish Magazine Adverts	0			0	*1,260*
	Wall Safe	66			66	*6*
	Shop Income	164			164	*233*
	100 Club		2,241		2,241	*3,656*
	Village Fair	0			0	*0*
	Christmas Fairs	0			0	*0*
	Events	475			475	*0*
	Insurance Claims	0	6,182		6,182	*24,292*
2(d)		26,815	23,483	0	50,298	*53,640*
	Investments					
	Income from Investments	-				
		0	0	0	0	*0*

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2021 (Continued)

3	EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL *2020* *£*
3(a)	*Fundraising Trading: Costs of Sale & Other Costs*					
	Costs of Stewardship Campaign	177			177	*212*
	Shop Purchases	0			0	*0*
		177	0	0	177	*212*
3(b)	*Church Activities*					
	Outward Giving		3,213		3,213	*778*
	Secular Charities	100			100	*0*
	Weddings & Funeral Fees Diocese	8,324			8,324	*8,176*
	Parish Share	68,132			68,132	*67,624*
	Assistant staff costs	2,239			2,239	*578*
	Vicar's Working Expenses	1,112			1,112	*1,092*
	Curate's Working Expenses	447			447	*0*
	Vicarage Expenses	4,296			4,296	*3,978*
	Curate's Rent,Rates,Water and Phone	0			0	*0*
	Repairs, Fees & Maintenance Ringway	0			0	*-7*
	Education	53			53	*44*
	Training				0	*25*
	Insurance	6,398			6,398	*6,365*
	Organ, piano tuning	997			997	*23,423*
	Repairs & Maintenance Churches	7,759	11,586		19,345	*1,875*
	Cleaning	1,523			1,523	*972*
	Altar requisites	417			417	*216*
	Service books	87			87	*51*
	Robes & chalices	198			198	*0*
	Music licences	681			681	*534*
	Organist's fees	3,941			3,941	*2,415*
	Choir fees	240			240	*0*
	Bell fees	425			425	*0*
	Flowers	0			0	*82*
	Upkeep of churchyard	1,103	6,221		7,324	*2,065*
	Equipment hire	382			382	*1,526*
	Equipment servicing/ usage charges	779			779	*581*
	Visiting speakers	0			0	*0*
	Heating, Lighting & W Rates	5,860			5,860	*6,612*
	Parish Magazine Costs & Prayer & Actio	0			0	*53*
	Bookstall costs	0			0	*0*
	Repairs & Maintenance Neston Centre	10,318			10,318	*6,750*
	100 Club Prizes		1085		1,085	*1,772*
	Vision Expenditure		2,669.00		2,669	*576*
	Youth Matters General Expenditure		176		176	*0*
	Miscellaneous Expenditure	743	610		1,353	*465*
	Bank charges	470			470	*418*
		127,024	25,560	0	152,584	*139,041*
3(c)	*Other Expenditure*					
	Other Ordinary PCC Expenditure	50			50	*50*
	Parish Office & Administration	816			816	*760*
	Parish office equipment	694			694	*0*
	Software subscriptions	396			396	*396*
		1,956	0	0	1,956	*1,206*

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2021 (Continued)

		2021	*2020*
4	**FIXED ASSETS**	£	*£*
	Freehold Land and Buildings	25,000	*25,000*
	Equipment Written down	1	*1*
	Investment in Ringway property (including The Hillcrest Curacy Trust Fund)	112,393	*30,402*
	Invested Legacy re Betty Smith Endowment	200,000	
		337,394	*55,403*

The freehold land & buildings comprise the Neston Centre and Comrade's Field at Neston.
The gross values of these and the equipment have been estimated at 1st January 1997.

5 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

	At 1st Jan 2021 £	Movement in Year £	At 31st Dec 2021 £
Endowment Funds			
Betty Smith Endowment	0	200,000	200,000
Hillcrest (including Robert Hamilton) Fund Endowment	0	81,991	81,991
	0	281,991	281,991
Designated Funds			
3 Churches Repairs from £10,000 designated	2,104		2,104
Chester Diocesan Board	2,000		2,000
Stay and Play		150	150
	4,104	150	4,254
Restricted Funds			
Garden Fund	653		653
Lighting Fund	2,661	-500	2,161
Neston Centre And Comrade's Field Fund	25,000		25,000
St Thomas's Donations	39	761	800
St Thomas' Bishop's trust	2,100	-2,100	0
Thursday Coffee Fund	3,213	-3,213	0
Vision Fund	89,788	-888	88,900
Miss Morris Legacy for Parish Church		64,078	64,078
Hillcrest (including Robert Hamilton) Fund		15,060	15,060
War memorial fund	10	-10	0
Youth Fund	176	-176	0
	123,640	73,012	196,652
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	60,400	-8,892	51,508

6 DEBTORS

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Prepayments	1,800	*1,852*
Other Debtors	734	*3,541*
Tax and VAT refunds due	5,656	*3,888*
	8,190	*9,282*

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Accrued Expenses	5,583	*5,269*
Neston Centre Deposits	275	*275*
Agency Collections		*-133*
Parish Church Bells	3,872	*1,272*
Vicar And Wardens' Trust Hillcrest		*9,285*
Vicar And Wardens' Trust: Robert Hamilton		*2,376*
	9,730	*18,344*

8 Staff Costs

No PCC Members were paid any wages in the year.
Several members of the PCC were reimbursed for minor expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC.

9 Connected Charities

The Hillcrest Curacy Trust Fund
The Robert Hamilton Fund

On 13th July 2021 the PCC became the sole trustee of the Hillcrest Curacy Trust fund and the Robert Hamilton Fund was merged into it at the same time to be administered as a restricted fund in the PCC accounts.
These Trusts have been invested in the Curates house at 99 Ringway along with £30,402 of PCC Funds
Land Registry records show the registered owner of the property is Chester Diocesan Board of Finance and as such the house does not form part of the assets of the PCC. The PCC's investment of £30,402 in the property is recorded in the Balance Sheet.

10 Neston Village Fair

An autonomous committee runs this annual event and maintains an account to fund the next event. The ultimate benefactor of these funds held in additional accounts would be the PCC and the surplus carried forward at the year end was £6,433.
The Fair did not take place in 2021 because of Coronavirus restrictions.

Report of The Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Neston Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.
It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commisioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- 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 Commission.
An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters.
The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145(3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

B. H. Morris FCA

Highfield, Bull Hill CH64 4DN 19th April 2022
Lt Neston

Neston Parochial Church Council
Trustees' Report for 2021

Parish of Neston

2021 Report and Accounts

Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Neston, Cheshire.

Aim and purposes

Neston Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the aim of every Church of England church:

To promote the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting this aim throughout the ecclesiastical parish of Neston. The PCC is specifically responsible for maintaining:

- St Mary & St Helen's Church: Parish Church, High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ;
- St Michael and All Angels' Church: Marshlands Road, Little Neston, CH64 0SN;
- St Thomas the Apostle's Church: School Lane, Parkgate, CH64 6SR; and
- Neston Centre: High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. We aim to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish through:

- Services, worship, and prayer;
- Social outreach and pastoral work; and
- Missionary outreach, especially to children and young people.

During the year, the Vicar of Neston (Revd Alan Dawson) resigned. From the 15th November 2021, the post of incumbent has been vacant.

During the year we continued to address some of the additional needs of the parish identified in 2020 including:

- The need to clarify our vision, including worship, pastoral care, and mission in the wider community.
- The need to address our financial position and manage our budgets to prevent unplanned overspending.
- How to operate during the restrictions placed on churches and the country more widely during the Covid19 pandemic.

We continued to apply the lessons learned from the restrictions required by the Covid19 pandemic, when our churches were closed and we learned how to worship, pray, and communicate better online, by phone, by socially distanced visiting and by post.

It is also important that we maintain the fabric of our three church buildings and the Neston Centre to enable us to carry out our objectives and activities.

Achievements and performance

Revd Alan Dawson announced his resignation as Vicar of Neston in June 2021 and resigned on 15th November 2021. The Parish and the PCC thanked Revd Dawson for his service in the parish at his last service on 14th November.

The resignation has created some uncertainty about when a replacement would be available. Careful consideration and a plan was developed by the PCC in late 2021, with the assistance of the Rural Dean and Archdeacon of Chester to seek the views and comments of our Parishioners and the wider Parish community.

Work and prayer continues in 2022 to discern who the next Vicar of Neston will be. (Hope cards have been distributed, and comments analysed, shared and discussed. These will help the PCC prepare a Parish Profile and other reports for interested applicants for the vacant post of Vicar of Neston).

The Covid19 pandemic that started in 2020 required responses and actions to ensure

everyone stayed safe, and imagination to find new ways of doing our work. While some activities ceased for some time, much has now been restored and new work started and is thriving.

Most of our activities benefit from the work and commitment of many volunteers, without whom much of our work could not happen and the PCC would not meet its objectives. The PCC wish to thank those many people who are contributing their time and talents to our work.

During lockdown in early 2021, several people remained at home, which limited what we were able to do in our church buildings and beyond.

The year began with two Clergy in the Parish and a strong, albeit small Ministry Team. By the end of 2021, the position of Vicar was vacant, and the Assistant Curate was taking extended leave.

The PCC is reasonably placed to address its financial position and manage budgets to prevent unplanned over-spending and enable growth. This means it is more secure in the control of its funds. We acknowledge particularly the skill and commitment of the Honorary Treasurer, Lucy Brooks, who, though not a Trustee, has continued to provide exceptional service.

Work on a clear vision for the Parish continued during 2021 until the Vicar's resignation and this work has been deferred until a new Vicar is in post.

Quality management information enables the PCC to plan to strengthen its financial base. A planned-giving campaign has been deferred until a new Vicar is in post.

Due to the pandemic, we had to rethink the social events that we could still provide and where would be the safest place to hold them. It was decided to start a new group combining the Bereavement group that had been held at St Michael's Church and the Young at Heart group held at the Parish Church. This is now a combined group called CAFÉ (Community and Friendship for Everyone).

One of our pre-school gatherings resumed during 2021: Stay & Play met in term-time on Friday mornings at the Parish Church, offering Christian teaching in a creative and well-received way. However, the toddler group meeting at St Michael's Church did not resume as restrictions were lifted during the year.

Kids' Club resumed meeting at St Michael's Church, though the Sunday Club that met at St Thomas' did not.

Worship and prayer

At the start of 2021, during the lockdown, while our churches were closed for worship, Revd Alan Dawson (and the Ministry Team) recorded and streamed a Sunday service on YouTube. Dedicated IT was upgraded to improve the streaming of our services on YouTube, and a team of volunteers was set up for the streaming of the Parish Church's Principal Service. The Principal Sunday Service is Streamed live from the Parish Church each week. (Parish of Neston YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqJnfi7zblT5zttz7OQQWJw)

Our worship patterns changed in 2021 so that a Sunday service takes place on alternate Sundays in St Michael's Church, with the Kids' Club taking place on the remaining Sundays. Weekly services resumed at St Thomas's Church. Two Sunday services and the recently established midweek service take place in the Parish Church. (The midweek services in all three churches were combined into one midweek service in 2020 in the Parish Church, attracting people from across our congregations to a lunchtime communion service.)

In 2021, our annual return to Statistics for Mission indicated:

- Approx. 90 people (including children) attended our three churches in person on those Sundays in October 2021 when we held services there (including the Kids' Club at St Michael's Church);
- Our churches reopened for Easter 2021, when approx. 120 people attended our three churches on Easter Day;

- Advent and Christmas services were held in all three churches:
  - 66 people attended in person a service of readings and carols, and a Blue Christmas service;
  - The Christingle service was cancelled as infection levels were high in the town;
  - The pre-recorded Christmas Eve Virtual Crib Service has gained 315 views on YouTube; and
  - Approx. 135 attended services on Christmas Day in person.
- The number of views of streamed services on YouTube fluctuated through the year. On average, approx. 45 views were made of each of the live services streamed in October 2021;
- A prayer group has continued to meet, focussing on praying for the world, the parish, for growth and for achieving our mission. The group has established itself on Zoom, as a weekly prayer group, with up to 15 people attending each week;
- During 2021, we were able to conduct baptisms in our churches. There were 6 baptisms in our churches. Baptism services are usually celebrated separately after our main Sunday services;
- There were 3 weddings in our churches;
- There were sixty-five funerals held during the year, either in our churches or at crematoria / cemeteries;
- CAFÉ (Community and Friendship for Everyone) meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the west end of the Parish Church from 2 – 4pm. It is open to all, church and non-church members and their friends, and offers the opportunity to meet with other people to either chat, play games such as Rummikub, Scrabble, dominoes, or try their hand at painting. It is free and there is always coffee, tea and cake on offer;
- The CAFÉ group were visited by the Bishop of Chester, Mark Tanner on Tuesday 30th November 2021 at St Michael's Church. It was a visit enjoyed by everyone as he spent time chatting to all those who were there.
- In June 2021, at the suggestion of the Vicar, we started our OASIS group which meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 3pm – 5pm at Blue Bicycle coffeeshop. This group was started specifically for those people who had been bereaved in the past 2 years, as a place of calm and safety in which to come together and meet and chat with other people in a similar situation;
- We have a team of volunteers who support the families and friends of those who have died, who maintain a professional approach to this important ministry;
- There were 201 people on the Electoral Roll for the parish. Jim Wilcock continued as Electoral Roll Officer; and
- Two of the house groups have met regularly through the year. One continued to meet regularly using Zoom, whereas the other meets regularly in St Thomas's Church. These GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) groups explored topics in informal ways to grow, strengthen and support the faith of those attending. The three-fold ingredients are prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

At St Michael's Church in 2021,

- We changed to having two Sunday services a month, rather than each Sunday as before. Sunday Praise at 9.30am on 1st Sunday of the month, and Sunday Praise with Eucharist also at 9.30am on 3rd Sunday of the month.
- We have been extremely fortunate to continue the Kids' Club group every Sunday, due to the commitment of the volunteer leader (Lynne Vaughan), who kept in touch with the families each week during the periods of lockdown, in her commitment to the young people and their parents.
- At St Michael's Church, we welcomed the services of the Parish Church organist, Daniel Wakefield, when the regular organist Jim Wilcock was unable to play.
- The congregation at St Michael's Church has continued to look after and decorate the Church for worship. They have accepted the reduction in services and not being able to have refreshments after the services due to the pandemic restrictions.

At St Thomas's Church in 2021

- We resumed our Sunday Services at St Thomas's Church, sitting in the round.
- We purchased a couple of Choral and Orchestral CD's to enhance the worship, especially when we were not allowed to sing.
- We have not held Taizé Services, Café Style Services and Experience Easter and Experience Christmas for Parkgate School children, nor our Open-Air Carols.
- As the Vacancy started, the number of Sunday Eucharist services was reduced at St Thomas's Church from three to two with Sunday Praise on the alternate Sundays. Sunday Club for children has not yet resumed.

Deanery Synod

Neston is part of the Wirral South Deanery in the Diocese of Chester.

- All our clergy are members of the Deanery Synod: Revd Alan Dawson (Until Nov 15th, 2021,) and Revd Judith Calvert.
- Two lay representatives were elected in 2020 to the Deanery Synod for 3 years: Robin Hughes and Richard Lewis. There are two vacancies.
- Lesley Irvin is an ex officio member as a licensed pastoral worker.
- Richard Lewis is the Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod.
- Deanery Synod met once in October 2021 at St Mary's Church, Eastham, when a service of return following the lockdowns was held. No further meetings were called in 2021.
- Sadly, the Deanery Synod secretary John Lewis of Thornton Hough died during 2020. The Secretary role is unfilled.

Buildings and services

Despite the restrictions in response to the pandemic, our churches have been used – to a limited extent - by the wider community for civic and other purposes which help us to meet our objectives;

- Ladies Club Day was celebrated in different ways in June. The traditional parade, church service and blessing at The Cross could not take place. Instead, parishioners and towns people placed floral displays in the grounds of St Mary & St Helen's Church;
- The annual Remembrance Sunday service and the separate Armistice Day commemoration were held in the Parish Church and at the War Memorial, although no parades were held. Commemorations were held at our churches on Remembrance Sunday. Cascading poppy tributes and silhouettes of soldiers were placed in the grounds of our three churches;
- The nativity scene at the Parish Church was also welcomed, along with an installation of advent candles; and
- From the summer of 2021, St Thomas's and St Michael's Churches were again used regularly by groups and societies in Neston including the Parkgate Society, Art Society, Ukulele Club, Martial Arts and Keep Fit classes.

- We have continued to maintain our buildings and grounds, Some work was postponed during the pandemic, and work resumed in 2021:
- Most of the recommendations made in the Archdeacon's visitation in September 2018 have been implemented. Further work on implementing and managing our health and safety policies is required:

    - At St Mary & St Helen's Church:
        - The electrics have been upgraded and new circuit breaker distribution boards installed replacing old fuse boxes.
        - Problematic roof rain gullies have been cleared and repaired, and the leaking in the north aisle has stopped. However, while we still have adjacent trees, the gully outlets will require constant inspection.
        - Following the Quinquennial report in July 2021, there are no items of

note over and above standard recommendations. However, the Churchwarden carried out a review of the church buildings that identified some areas that will require attention.

- In October 2021, a problem occurred with the gas supply to the heating system in the Parish Church. Unfortunately, this happened during an extremely cold spell. The problem was due to low pressure occurring locally in the Neston area and was the responsibility of Cadent (the national gas infrastructure company). Excavations in the church yard and re-siting the gas meter cured the problem.
- We have applied for a faculty for a steel bell frame in the Parish Church, assuming a replacement steel frame would be acceptable instead of a wooden frame (as now). The PCC has yet to discuss and agree to progress with the restoration of the frame and bells.
- Progress on the disabled ramp has been slow over the year. A preview 3D image showing the ramp was produced by our appointed Architect and detailed drawings will follow. A faculty and planning permission will follow.
- Heritage Open Days in the Parish Church were well attended in September 2021. We were able to display some of the church silver within a locked glass cabinet. Sadly, there was no art & craft displayed or refreshments.
- IT equipment has been updated so that we continue to stream our Principal Sunday services on YouTube;
- Grass cutting in most of the graveyard at St Mary & St Helen's Church was maintained by Cheshire West and Chester Council, while volunteers from the Church and wider parish maintained the graveyard on the east and south sides of the church;
- The Northwest entrance wall was damaged in a road incident in September 2019. Repairs started in 2020 and were completed in 2021; and
- The CCTV recording systems at the Parish Church and at St Michael's Church were serviced and upgraded.

- At St Michael's Church:
  - The overgrown trees and shrubs on the south side were cut back and pruned. The external painting of the building has not been done since the Church was rebuilt until now. Sticking main doors are to be replaced with new standard doors.

- At St Thomas's Church:
  - planning permission was sought for the cutting back and pruning of shrubs and trees. After considerable time and intervention by residents and the councillor, permission was granted. A tree surgeon has been engaged to carry out the work.
  - New external flood lighting has been fitted to the underside of the north eaves to floodlight the pathway.
  - Volunteers from Lloyds Banking Group spent a day cleaning the church and doing various small gardening jobs in October 2021.
  - During the period that the church was closed due to the pandemic, St Thomas' was partially redecorated, financed by the remaining balance from The Bishop's Trust which had been transferred to the PCC bank account.
  - Health and Safety issues were addressed by having the stone pathways professionally cleaned and new outside lighting installed

down the School Lane side of the building.
  - The congregation raised the money for the Latham memorial bench to be restored by Barrie Youde in memory of Jill and Jimmy Pratt.
  - John Dixon made a display cabinet for St Thomas's Memorial Book, funded by a donation from the Taylor family.
  - The Heritage Open Day in September was quiet.
  - We were able to have our Harvest Supper in October with restricted numbers, social distancing, a hot meal with table service followed by quizzes.

- At the Neston Centre:
  - We have two tenants in the Neston Centre, and Parish Office is staffed two mornings a week;
  - At the beginning of 2021, Parish Office work was managed by the PCC Secretary working at home. One of the other tenants has reduced the time they spent in the building by working at home;
  - Subsidence on the north side of the Neston Centre was discovered when plastering work commenced. The wall and lintel at the emergency exit had significantly cracked and signs of cracking are noticeable along the north wall.
  - Structural engineers and Ecclesiastical insurance are involved to propose a solution.
  - The disabled entry ramp is awaiting assessment from Ecclesiastical insurance before repair.
  - Parking remains a problem and while three officers of the church have been accosted by members of the public over parking, PCC have yet to comment about this. The problem continues.

- Music plays an important role within acts of worship across the parish.
- Daniel Wakefield is our Organist and Choirmaster with Christine Schofield supporting in an administrative role.
- Currently there are between 16 and 20 regular members of the choir. During lockdown, the choir continued to meet on Zoom. Once choirs could sing services again, a small choir has led Sunday services in the Parish Church.

- Bell ringing has not been restricted since the relaxation of restrictions in July 2021, and the ringers' schedule of Friday evening practice and service ringing prior to the 10.45am Sunday service has been uninterrupted. There has also been ringing prior to all additional Sunday evening services and for those around Christmas. Ringing has also taken place to mark national events, including tolling for the funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh, and ringing as part of a national initiative to coincide with the start of COP26.
- We currently have ten ringers in the band of ringers, two of whom are officially ringers elsewhere but ring regularly with us for services. We are now able to recruit some new ringers.
- The recruitment of new ringers will be a central part of the proposed bell restoration scheme. The Neston Bell Ringers Facebook Page has continued to provide information on the ringing taking place within the tower and has seen an increasing number of followers and those engaging positively with the posts, both from members of the congregation and those in the wider local community.
- Progress on the replacement of the bell frame, refurbishment of the fittings and re-tuning of the bells is slowly progressing, and we are hopeful that we will soon know the final proposed scheme and the cost to be submitted to the PCC for their discussion and final approval. It will be a major project but one that will enable ringing to continue in Neston for at least the next two hundred years with minimal maintenance and will help with the

training of new ringers and the continued development of the existing ones.

- A report by Adrian Dempster of Ward Cole Structural Engineers was carried out on the structure of the Parish Church tower and he has confirmed that the tower is stable, there is no tower sway and that the existing wooden frame should be replaced with a new metal one. A faculty application has been made to enable us to find out if the project is viable from a diocesan point of view. The ringers are extremely grateful to Terry Abel, Lucy Brooks and Don Poole who have been working on this project with our Tower Captain, David Jones.
- Regular checks on the bells and some routine maintenance have been carried out by the local ringers.
- The bell at St Thomas's Church is rung for Sunday services.

- The Parish Church Flower Rota resumed, after lockdown, on 10th April 2021, and is now led by Janet Rossiter.
- There are a reduced number of only 5 people on the rota for normal time and 2 people are needed every fortnight to provide 1 arrangement for the porch and 1 for the dais altar.
- These people each cover 6 slots on the rota throughout the year for normal weeks, at their own expense. The PCC acknowledges this offering to our worship.
- For the Festivals of Easter, Harvest, Christmas and Remembrance and Heritage Open Days all 5 rota ladies, plus another helper, come together to produce larger and extra arrangements to decorate the church. This year we were given a very generous, one-off donation by one of our church members for these.

- The lockdown periods, the rules on social distancing and the prevailing levels of infection in the town meant that the 2021 Village Fair was cancelled, and the 2021 Christmas Fair did not take place.

Pastoral Care

- Conversations, telephone calls, input to Prayer and Action along with the Guild of St Luke and St Raphael prayer chain keep the Ministry Team and Church aware of health and isolation issues within the community. Covid19 restrictions permitting, the Clergy, Licensed Pastoral Worker and the wider Church follow this up with hospital visits, visiting in the Parish and surrounding area. This includes local Residential and Nursing Homes. Where appropriate and permitted, Home Communion is offered and taken out from the Church.
- Currently our Pastoral Worker, Lesley Irvin coordinated funeral with local Readers and visiting priests. Funeral ministry extends to many years after initial contact and the immediate impact of bereavement. This includes follow up information, support group, making connections and visiting with particular attention to isolation.

- The Guild of St Luke and St Raphael continued its key ministry of offering regular prayers for healing, daily for many in the local communities and further afield. Again, the Guild's wider prayers for healing ministry has been a monthly focus within Mid-Week Communions.

- The Knit and Natter group includes 38 ladies who meet every fortnight at St Michael's Church. The group provides an opportunity for members developing friendships and caring for each other, as well as knitting goods for church fairs and for charity.
- Knit and Natter's leadership have maintained close and special care of members during lockdown.
- Deliveries of much valued knitwear have continued.

Mission and evangelism

- Sunday Club families were kept in touch and given Bible stories, worksheets and craft materials via email during the early part of 2021.

- Our Sunday Kids' Club resumed in September 2021 on a weekly 'in person' basis; although we still are only able to join in with the congregation during their fortnightly services. The children have told us how much they miss seeing the rest of St Michael's Church family and having the refreshments and fellowship afterwards.
- Weekly emails were also sent until the end of the year.
- We continue to help Sunday Club members, young and older, to enjoy learning about Jesus and understand stories from the Bible, in an informal way with music and craft sessions. We were delighted to celebrate the confirmation of two Sunday Club members by Bishop Julie at the Parish Church on December 12th, 2021.
- The numbers are still very small; on roll at present are 6 families, giving a total of 10 children altogether. No other families have joined us since before the pandemic.
- We are praying that more leaders will be found to help with this vital work, as we rely on the parents to be there to allow the sessions to take place with the necessary ratio of adults to children.

Mothers' Union

- 2021 was another difficult year. For the first three months we had our MU get-togethers on Zoom including last year's AGM. Then, April to July we were able to come to the 1.30pm Service with MU input. Our first human get together was in August for an Afternoon Tea in aid of the Summer of Hope Appeal. We are now continuing to meet monthly after the 1.30pm Holy Communion in the Parish Church.
- 15 emergency toiletry bags (for patients who go to hospital unexpectedly) were delivered to A&E and knitted items - 7 small blankets and 20 baby hats - to the premature baby unit in Arrowe Park hospital.
- Although most Baptisms last year were postponed, we continue to send Baptism anniversary cards to Baptism candidates. We also give a children's Bible to each Baptism candidate.
- After meeting on Zoom for the beginning of the year, we restarted **Stay & Play** for pre-school children on the 21st May meeting in the train park behind the Civic Hall. In September we moved back into St Mary & St Helen and continue to meet every Friday (9.15-11.15am) during term time. Special thanks to our Stay & Play team, who do a sterling job running this ever-growing group! We now regularly have 28 children and 25 Adults. It is very popular, and they love the friendly atmosphere. It's a wonderful outreach for the Church and Mothers' Union.
- Mothers' Union now have 34 members for 2022 and we welcome new members and supporters. Many thanks to all who gave so generously to our Appeals in 2021.

- Although we were unable to give unrestricted gifted income to local and overseas charities in 2021, the PCC decided to use a fund which contained income from the sale of refreshments that had built up over some years to make donations. The Mothers Union were asked to nominate which charities to support. Some £3,200 was shared between
  - Northern Lights
  - OAKS (Overseas Aid for the Kids of Sierra Leone)
  - Wirral Churches ARK Project
  - Claire House
  - Neston Hub for Adults with Learning Difficulties
  - Mothers Union charities
  - Christian Aid
  - Alzheimer's Society
  - National Youth Advocacy Service
  - Macmillan Cancer Support
  - Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

- The Parish Website: we continued to maintain our web presence with information about our services and

activities on http://www.nestonparishchurch.org/index.asp

- Our Prayer & Action pew sheets are a valuable, informative, and important weekly flyer of group activities, weekly service information keeping everyone constantly updated. Approx. 90% of these are now emailed weekly to members of the congregation and others interested in our work, mainly in the town.
- The Shop in the Parish Church reopened during 2021, to provide booklets, cards, and hand-made items for sale.

- Revds. Richard and Frances Skinner – who were Readers in this parish were ordained as priests in June 2021 by the Bishop of Chester. They continue their Curacies at Holy Trinity, Hoylake (St Hildeburgh's Church), and St John's, Meols, respectively. They are assisting this parish during the Vacancy by celebrating Holy Communion and taking funerals and baptisms.

- We are being assisted by retired priests in holding our services including Revd Alan Leach, Revd Ian Urquhart, Revd Ian Davenport, Revd Ray Dent, Revd Peter Froggatt in 2021.
- Lesley Irvin continues in her work as a Pastoral Worker.
- Elizabeth Joyce became a Reader Emeritus in October 2021 and continues to lead services in our churches.
- Richard Lewis completed his training as Reader and was licensed as Reader by the Bishop of Chester in the Cathedral in October 2021. He is leading services, in all our churches, and mainly in the Parish Church.
- John Hart began his second year of training in September 2021. He is leading more services in our churches, and mainly in the Parish Church.

Ecumenical work

Neston and District Churches Together

Despite the impact of the pandemic which meant that churches within Neston and District Churches Together (NDCT) were physically closed for some of the year, we have continued to support the work of NDCT.

Neston Singers 2021

Neston Singers (formerly Neston Ecumenical Singers) restarted rehearsals in September 2021 after a long break due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The pandemic affected a few of our older members who have declined to return to rehearsal for fear of the virus, but we have some new younger members who we are delighted to have joined us.

The Singers had a successful Christmas concert in the United Reformed Church and some of our audience said it was the best Christmas Concert we have ever done.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid is an ecumenical organisation, begun nationally by the churches to provide funds to help the poorest of the poor - victims of natural disasters, such as earthquakes and tsunamis; refugees of war and the homeless; those who are unable to survive without help.

Last May, in 2021, Christian Aid celebrated their 75th Anniversary with a special national service of reflection, celebration and rededication which can still be watched on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GS1jsFUSfJ4

The Christian Aid Conference was again live streamed so that all supporters could attend the sessions. Zoom regional meetings were also held during the Conference, where we were able to meet other groups from the North West, and learn many diverse ways of fund raising.

Our Christian Aid Group have been actively fundraising all year, with the Climate Change Emergency as our focus. Margaret Heibel has been appointed as our Climate Change Co-ordinator.

The Christian Aid Week Service was live streamed at St Winefride's Church; Christel

Langdon-Griffiths, Christian Aid's Church Engagement and Fundraising Officer for Cheshire, Staffordshire and Wirral, gave an inspiring talk.

Our group are no longer collecting door to door during Christian Aid Week; local churches have been doing their own collections.

The Christian Aid Sponsored walk was held as part of the Climate Coalition Great Big Green Week in September 2021. The Fairtrade Group provided free refreshments for the free Christian Aid film shown at St Michael's - 'Thank You For The Rain' about drought and climate change in Kenya

Our Churches were asked to pray for the young Christians relay walking from Cornwall to Scotland for the COP26 conference and some made origami paper boats to publicise that the climate crisis is a storm but that we are not all in the same boat. The boats made in this area were taken to the Liverpool Cathedral service and sent on to Glasgow where they became part of a giant origami boat. The Parish Church displayed a large mobile installation of origami boats, 249, one for each country of the world, to raise awareness of the problem.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported Christian Aid financially and by giving their time volunteering. Over £8,600 was raised in the NDCT area for Christian Aid in 2021.

World Day of Prayer 2021.

The Neston World Day of Prayer Committee has representatives of every church in the District, including Thornton Hough.

The host Church for March 2021 was the Parish Church, chosen to accommodate the most socially distanced people. However, the decision was made to record the Service prepared by the women of Vanuatu and stream it on YouTube, using members from all the different churches to participate in the Order of Services. A small choir was allowed, and we had a mix of online and organ music as well.

As of March 2022, the streamed service has been viewed over 377 times. The committee has received over £260 in donations, with many others sending a donation direct.

The Committee enjoyed a Face-to-Face Garden Party for the first time in September 2021 when the lockdown restrictions had eased. The weather was kind and we welcomed former members of our Committee who joined us.

Finances

Summary

Huge progress has been made during 2021 to reduce the overspend on day to day running costs of the Parish thanks to the generosity and commitment of planned givers.

The PCC received two substantial legacies during the year. Most of the larger legacy has been invested to provide a monthly income towards the running costs of the Parish Church.

Part of the smaller legacy will be spent on replacing the external ramp at the Parish Church.

Vision funds remain available for a range of future projects.

Increase in giving

Following the request from the PCC to electoral roll members, planned giving increased by 25% during 2021.

The response to the PCC's request was both remarkable and revealing. There are around 200 people on the electoral roll. Of these, around 100 are involved in planned giving, and of these around 50 increased their giving. There appears to be scope to further engage with electoral roll members on the periphery.

General reserves

The increase in planned giving significantly reduced the PCC's overspend on annual running costs of the Parish to around £8,900.

In 2019 (the last pre-covid year) our running costs exceeded our income by £17,800.

It is the policy of the PCC to hold enough general reserves to cover three months' running costs. Based on expenditure during 2019 the reserves threshold is £37,600.

At the end of 2021 the general reserves of the PCC were £51,500.

From 2022 income from the Betty Smith legacy investment will reduce the need to spend as much from our general reserves however, it is not yet known what increases will apply to energy costs. During 2021 electricity, gas and water for our three churches cost £5,900.

Betty Smith Legacy

Betty was Verger of the Parish Church for around fifty years, and when Betty died her estate was placed in Trust for her son Michael.

During 2021 Michael died, and the Church of St Mary's and St Helen of Neston became the beneficiary of the Trust, worth around £264,000.

The PCC decided to wind up the Trust to enable the monies to be used in accordance with Betty's wishes. In winding up the Trust a tax liability of around £51,000 arises on the gain from when the Trust was created.

The PCC has decided to invest £200,000 to provide an income of £6,000 per year towards the day to day running costs of the Parish Church.

Accountancy and legal costs will be incurred in closing the Trust and the PCC expects to receive the remaining balance during 2022.

Morris Legacy

During the year the PCC received £72,000 from the estate of Miss Morris, for St Mary's and St. Helen's Parish Church.

£9,000 was spent on architect's fees (external ramp), engineer's report (tower), electrical & plumbing repairs, plus chairs, tables and new toys for Stay & Play.

This meant that we did not need to use money from our general reserves for these items.

Going forwards, it is expected that part of the legacy will be spent replacing the external ramp.

Vicar's and Wardens' Trusts – responsibilities transferred to PCC.

When 99 Ringway was purchased and refurbished during 2011 to provide a house for future Curates, two funds managed by the Vicar & Wardens were used (Hillcrest £75,255 and Robert Hamilton £6,736) together with PCC monies of £30,402. Until 2021 only the monies invested by the PCC have been included in the accounts.

To simplify the allocation of the net rental income, during 2021 a Deed of Appointment and Retirement was prepared by Brabners Solicitors which transferred responsibility for the Hillcrest and Robert Hamilton funds from the Vicar & Wardens to the PCC. The accounts now include the full amount invested in Ringway.

Vision Fund - remaining monies

The Vision fund was set up in 2000. Very little of this was spent during 2021 and the balance at the end of the year was £88,900.

This fund is available for a broad range of activities:

- Communications
- Youth
- Ministry Team & Leadership
- Worship for all the Family
- Fellowship and Social
- Prayer and Study
- Giving
- Outreach & Pastoral
- Buildings & Resources

Safeguarding

In line with Diocese of Chester guidelines Neston Parish has a Safeguarding Officer for the parish, Liz Ledsham.

Information and parish contacts for safeguarding in the parish are displayed in all three church buildings in the parish. These have recently been updated (December 2020)

in a new format and distributed to the churches.

During 2021, no safeguarding issues have arisen or been reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) or Rev Alan Dawson.

Structure and governance

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Neston is a corporate body established by the Church of England, and is a Registered Charity registered with the Charity Commission, with the public benefit being for the advancement of religious education promoting the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines of the Church of England.

The governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules 2020.

The object of the charity is to promote the whole mission of the Church in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Neston.

The trustees of the charity, being the elected, co-opted, or ex-officio members of the PCC, organise a formal election each year in the run-up to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to fill vacancies on the PCC. New members elected to the PCC automatically become Trustees of the charity.

Elected and co-opted PCC members serve for a period of no more than 3 years after which they may seek re-election. There are no limits to the number of times a person may serve as PCC member. On standing down from the PCC, a member is also removed from the list of trustees of the charity. A full list of the trustees of the charity is available on the Charity Commission website.

At the annual meeting in May 2021, there were 201 people on the Electoral Roll. About 20 members attended the meeting either in person or by Zoom.

The members of the PCC in December 2021 were:

Clergy: Vacant (Chair); Rev Judith Calvert;

Churchwardens: Terry Abel; Marion Forshaw (Lay Chair – Vice Chair)

PCC Secretary: Richard Lewis

Trustees: Alex Cummins; Linda Haigh; Robin Hughes; Lesley Irvin; Val Johnson; David Richardson; Carol Stott.

Deanery Synod – laity: Robin Hughes, Richard Lewis. Lesley Irvin attends as a lay Pastoral Worker in her own right.

The Treasurer is Lucy Brooks who is not a member of the PCC.

Administration and contact details

- St Mary & St Helen's Church: Parish Church, High Street, Neston CH64 9TZ;
- St Michael and All Angels' Church: Marshlands Road, Little Neston CH64 0SN;
- St Thomas the Apostle's Church: School Lane, Parkgate CH64 6SR; and
- Neston Centre: High Street, Neston CH64 9TZ.
- The Parish Office is at the Neston Centre and is staffed on Monday mornings and Wednesday mornings. (0151 336 5346 (incl. answerphone) nestonparishoffice@gmail.com)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF NESTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1129453

Accounts

The Parish of Neston

Charity No 1129453

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Neston Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2020

Incumbent

The Reverend Alan Dawson

The Vicarage, Church Field

High St. Neston

CH64 9TZ

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31st December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £	*2019* £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	75,364	598	2,001	77,963	*79,591*
Church activities	2(b)	8,840	0	0	8,840	*11,824*
Activities For Generating Funds	2(c)	25,691	27,948	0	53,640	*20,101*
Income From Investments	2(d)	0	0	0	0	*0*
TOTAL INCOME		109,895	28,546	2,001	140,442	*111,516*
EXPENDITURE						
Raising funds	3(a)	212	0	0	212	*122*
Church activities	3(b)	112,191	26,849	0	139,041	*142,711*
Other Expenditure	3(c)	1,206	0	0	1,206	*-29,387*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		113,609	26,849	0	140,459	*113,446*
NET INCOME/(-EXPENDITURE)		-3,714	1,697	2,001	-16	*-1,930*
Gross Transfers between funds - In						*422,572*
Gross Transfers between funds - Out						*-422,572*
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-3,714	1,697	2,001	-16	*-1,930*
Balances b/fwd 1st January		64,115	121,942	2,103	188,161	*190,091*
Balances c/fwd 31st December		60,400	123,639	4,104	188,145	*188,161*

The Notes on Pages 3 to 6 form part of these accounts.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31st DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 £	*2019 £*
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets		25,001	*25,001*
Investment Assets	9	30,402	*30,402*
		55,403	*55,403*
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock on Hand		410	*410*
Debtors	6	9,282	*7,971*
Short Term Deposits		88,198	*84,607*
Development Fund		53,195	*54,994*
		151,084	*147,982*
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	7	18,344	*15,225*
NET CURRENT ASSETS		132,740	*132,757*
TOTAL ASSETS		£188,143	*£188,159*
FUNDS	5		
Unrestricted - Designated		4,104	*2,103*
Restricted		123,639	*121,942*
Unrestricted		60,400	*64,115*
		£188,143	*£188,159*

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 22nd April 2021 and signed on its behalf by

Chairman
The Revd. Alan Dawson

Hon. Treasurer
Lucy Brooks
Member of the Association of
Chartered Certified Accountants

The Notes on Pages 3 to 6 form part of these accounts.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of Financial Reporting Standard 102.
The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provision. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102))

Fixed Assets

Consecrated Land and Buildings and Movable Church Furnishings.

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Such Assets are not capitalised in the financial statements
No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other Fixtures and Office Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis appropriate to the life of the equipment concerned.

Funds

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.
They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment Funds

The PCC did not have any Endowment Funds this year or last.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2020 (Continued)

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL *2019* £
2	**INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS**					
2(a)	*Incoming Resources From Donors*					
	Planned Giving	47,215			47,215	*49,390*
	Collections in Church and Boxes	3,155			3,155	*9,715*
	Gift-Aided Gifts	586			586	*1,047*
	Regular Gift Days	7,815			7,815	
	Donations and Appeals	4,415			4,415	*2,612*
	Planned Giving Tax Refunds	12,176			12,176	*16,074*
	Chester Diocesan Board Grant			2,000	2,000	*0*
	Vision Income		600		600	*750*
	Rounding	1	-2	1	0	*2*
		75,364	598	2,001	77,963	*79,591*
2(b)						
	Incoming Resources From Church Activities					
	Wedding and Funeral fees PCC	8,840			8,840	*11,824*
2(c)		8,840	0	0	8,840	*11,824*
	Activities For Generating Funds					
	Pew sales	0			0	*650*
	Wedding and Funeral fees Diocese	8,176			8,176	*9,608*
	Parish Fellowship	393			393	*2,102*
	Rent - Neston Centre	12,265			12,265	*12,625*
	Rent - 99 The Ringway	1,649			1,649	*-24,335*
	Comrade's Field	720			720	*720*
	Room Hire	990			990	*6,096*
	Parish Magazine Adverts	1,260			1,260	*1,445*
	Wall Safe	6			6	*425*
	Shop Income	233			233	*1,062*
	100 Club	0	3,656		3,656	*3,760*
	Village Fair	0			0	*2,167*
	Christmas Fairs	0			0	*1,163*
	Events	0			0	*2,614*
	Insurance Claims	0	24,292		24,292	*0*
2(d)		25,691	27,948	0	53,640	*20,101*
	Investments					
	Income from Investments	-				
		0	0	0	0	*0*

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2020 (Continued)

3	EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL *2019* £
3(a)	*Fundraising Trading: Costs of Sale & Other Costs*					
	Costs of Stewardship Campaign	212			212	*122*
	Shop Purchases	0			0	*0*
		212	0	0	212	*122*
3(b)	*Church Activities*					
	Outward Giving	778			778	*7,004*
	Secular Charities	0			0	*115*
	Weddings & Funeral Fees Diocese	8,176			8,176	*9,608*
	Parish Share	67,624			67,624	*65,975*
	Assistant staff costs	578			578	*992*
	Vicar's Working Expenses	1,092			1,092	*1,443*
	Curate's Working Expenses	0			0	*2,868*
	Vicarage Expenses	3,978			3,978	*4,316*
	Curate's Rent,Rates,Water and Phone	0			0	*-13,642*
	Repairs, Fees & Maintenance Ringway	-7			-7	*-66*
	Education	44			44	*51*
	Training	25			25	*882*
	Insurance	6,365			6,365	*4,830*
	Organ, piano tuning	321	23102		23,423	*597*
	Repairs & Maintenance Churches	1,875			1,875	*7,053*
	Cleaning	972			972	*2,251*
	Altar requisites	216			216	*733*
	Service books	51			51	*401*
	Robes & chalices	0			0	*50*
	Music licences	534			534	*401*
	Organist's fees	2,415			2,415	*6,559*
	Choir fees	0			0	*220*
	Bell fees	0			0	*320*
	Flowers	82			82	*1,072*
	Upkeep of churchyard	666	1,399		2,065	*1,291*
	Equipment hire	1,526			1,526	*1,526*
	Equipment servicing/ usage charges	581			581	*2,552*
	Visiting speakers	0			0	*49*
	Heating, Lighting & W Rates	6,612			6,612	*13,130*
	Parish Magazine Costs & Prayer & Actio	53			53	*218*
	Bookstall costs	0			0	*516*
	Repairs & Maintenance Neston Centre	6,750			6,750	*9,990*
	100 Club Prizes		1772		1,772	*1,815*
	Vision Expenditure		576.25		576	
	Youth Matters General Expenditure		0		0	*4,972*
	Miscellaneous Expenditure	465			465	*2,067*
	Bank charges	418			418	*551*
		112,191	26,849	0	139,041	*142,711*
3(c)	*Other Expenditure*					
	Other Ordinary PCC Expenditure	50			50	*0*
	Parish Office & Administration	760			760	*659*
	Parish office equipment	0			0	*74*
	Software subscriptions	396			396	*281*
	Expenditure on purchasing Ringway	0			0	*-30,402*
		1,206	0	0	1,206	*-29,387*

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2020 (Continued)

4 FIXED ASSETS

	2019 and 2020 £
Freehold Land and Buildings	25,000
Equipment Written down	1
	25,001

The freehold land & buildings comprise the Neston Centre and Comrade's Field at Neston.
The gross values of these and the equipment have been estimated at 1st January 1997.

5 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

	At 1st Jan 2,020 £	Movement in Year £	At 31st Dec 2020 £
Designated Funds			
3 Churches Repairs from £10,000 designated	2,104		2,104
Chester Diocesan Board	0	2,000	2,000
	2,104	2,000	4,104
Restricted Funds			
Garden Fund	0	653	653
Lighting Fund	2,661		2,661
Neston Centre And Comrade's Field Fund	25,000		25,000
St Thomas's	249	-210	39
St Thomas' Bishop's trust	2,753	-653	2,100
Thursday Coffee Fund	3,213	0	3,213
Vision Fund	87,880	1,908	89,788
War memorial fund	10		10
Youth Fund	176		176
	121,942	1,698	123,640
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	64,114	-3,714	60,400

6 DEBTORS

	2020 £	*2019 £*
Prepayments	1,852	*1153*
Other Debtors	3,541	
Tax Refund due	3,888	*6,819*
	9,282	*7,972*

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Accrued Expenses	5,269	*9,031*
Neston Centre Deposits	275	*275*
Agency Collections	-133	
Parish Church Bells	1,272	
Vicar And Wardens' Trust Hillcrest	9,285	*3,908*
Vicar And Wardens' Trust: Robert Hamilton	2,376	*2,011*
	18,344	*15,225*

8 Staff Costs

No PCC Members were paid any wages in the year.
Several members of the PCC were reimbursed for minor expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC.

9 Connected Charities

The Incumbent and Churchwardens administer the following trusts and are considered to be connected charities:

The Hillcrest Curacy Trust Fund
The Robert Hamilton Fund

These Trusts have been invested in the Curates house at 99 Ringway along with £30,402 of PCC Funds
Land Registry records show the registered owner of the property is Chester Diocesan Board of Finance and as such the house does not form part of the assets of the PCC. The PCC's investment of £30,402 in the property is recorded in the Balance Sheet.

10 Neston Village Fair

An autonomous committee runs this annual event and maintains an account to fund the next event. The ultimate benefactor of these funds held in additional accounts would be the PCC and the surplus carried forward at the year end was £6,368.

Report of The Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Neston Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity 'Commisioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- 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 Commission

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145(3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

B. H. Morris FCA

Highfield, Bull Hill CH64 4DN 16th April 2021
Lt Neston

Neston Parochial Church Council
Trustees' Report for 2020

Parish of Neston

2020 Report and Accounts

Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Neston, Cheshire.

Aim and purposes

Neston Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the aim of every Church of England church:

To promote the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent (Rev Alan Dawson) in promoting this aim throughout the ecclesiastical parish of Neston. The PCC is specifically responsible for maintaining:

- St Mary & St Helen's Church: Parish Church, High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ;
- St Michael and All Angels' Church: Marshlands Road, Little Neston, CH64 0SN;
- St Thomas the Apostle's Church: School Lane, Parkgate, CH64 6SR; and
- Neston Centre: High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. We aim to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish mainly through:

- Services, worship, and prayer;
- Social outreach and pastoral work; and
- Missionary outreach, especially to children and young people.

During the year, we identified additional needs in the parish that we addressed including:

- The need to clarify our vision, including worship, pastoral care, and mission in the wider community.
- The need to address our financial position and manage our budgets to prevent unplanned overspending.
- How to operate during the restrictions placed on churches and the country more widely during the Covid19 pandemic.

We identified lessons to be learned from applying the restrictions required by the Covid19 pandemic, when our churches were closed and we learned how to worship, pray, and communicate better online, by phone, by socially distanced visiting and by post.

It is also important that we maintain the fabric of our three church buildings and the Neston Centre to enable us to carry out our objectives and activities.

Achievements and performance

The Covid19 pandemic that started in 2020 required responses and actions to ensure everyone stayed safe, and imagination to find new ways of doing our work. While some activities ceased for some time, new work started and thrived.

Most of our activities benefit from the work and commitment of many volunteers, without whom much of our work could not happen and the PCC would not meet its objectives. During lockdown, several people were shielding at home, which limited what we were able to do in our church buildings and beyond.

Neston Parochial Church Council
Trustees' Report for 2020

The year began with two Clergy in the Parish and a strong, albeit smaller Ministry Team by the end of 2020.

The PCC has been working on priorities identified early in 2020 with a view to new approaches, especially for pastoral care, worship and mission in the context of a 2021 Vision Statement (in preparation).

The PCC is better placed than for some time to address its financial position and manage budgets to prevent unplanned over-spending and enable growth means it is more secure in its control. We acknowledge particularly the skill and commitment of the Honorary Treasurer, Lucy Brooks, who, though not a Trustee, has provided exceptional service.

Quality management information enables the PCC to plan to strengthen its financial base, starting with the Gift Day held in November 2020, when parish members were invited to make donations and review regular giving. The donations reduced the 2020 deficit and looking forward, new pledges will provide increased security. A planned-giving campaign is projected when Covid permits and work has started on this.

At the beginning of 2020, most established groups, such as the Mothers Union, Bereavement Support Group, Knit & Natter and Young at Heart were able to meet in person.

The two pre-school gatherings also met at the beginning of 2020: Stay & Play met on Friday mornings at St Mary & St Helen's Church, as did the toddler group meeting at St Michael's Church mid-week, the former offering Christian teaching in a creative and well-received way.

Kids Club met at St Michael's Church weekly and Sunday Club met at St Thomas' monthly: both on Sundays.

Drop-in meetings continued in all three churches. The strong network across the congregations can in part be attributed in part to the Thursday morning Drop-In at St Mary & St Helen's Church.

Making churches Covid secure in 2020

Prior to the national lockdown on March 23rd, 2020, precautions were implemented by introducing hand-wash sanitisers in our churches, along with instructions and advisory precautions for the congregation and visitors to take.

Later,

- Streamed services on YouTube were introduced from the Vicarage and from St Mary & St Helen's Church.
- Information was available online via email listings and on the Parish Website
- Printed copies of *Prayer and Action* (our weekly information pew sheet) were posted to people who had no online facilities at home.

On June 17th, 2020 we decided to reopen St Mary & St Helen's Church for private prayer only. St Michael's Church and St Thomas's Church remained closed.

A trial run to reopen St Mary & St Helen's Church was tested in late June 2020, with the following precautions in place:

- Open twice a week for two hours only for private prayer;
- Rotas for support and assistance to visitors;
- Registration of name and contact details;
- Hand sanitising stations;
- 2m spacing in alternate pews, guided by signage;
- One-way throughway guided by signage; and

- Introduction of restricted areas including West End social area, kitchen, and toilets.

On August 19th, 2020, all three churches reopened for public worship on Sundays with covid-secure precautions in place.

Funeral services in church were reintroduced.

Other activities that make up our Church life, were set up using Zoom, and are included later in this report.

Communication has been key throughout lockdown periods. The Parish Office has developed an email contact system that keeps the Parish informed. Many people have been involved in coordinating vital communications within the Parish during the year.

Otherwise, our churches remained closed, apart from services and at times set aside for private prayer, to enable us to keep our buildings Covid-secure. Room lettings at St Michael's and St Thomas's Churches have temporarily ceased.

Worship and prayer

At the start of 2020, we held regular public worship open to everyone in our three churches, on Sundays and during the week. We use different styles of worship that are sensitive to a range of worshippers' needs.

During the lockdowns, while our churches were closed for worship, Rev Alan Dawson started to stream Sunday worship from his study on YouTube, and later from St Mary & St Helen's Church. The PCC agreed to invest money from the Vision Fund to buy dedicated IT to improve the streaming of our services on YouTube. (Parish of Neston YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqJnfi7zblT5zttz7OQQWJw)

Our worship patterns have temporarily changed so that a Sunday service took place alternately in St Michael's and St Thomas's Churches fortnightly, and at least one Sunday service and a new midweek service took place in St Mary & St Helen's Church. The midweek services were combined into one midweek service in St Mary & St Helen's Church, attracting people from across our congregations to a lunchtime communion service.

In 2020, our annual return to Statistics for Mission indicated:

- Approx. 90 people (including children) attended our three churches in person on those Sundays in October when we held services there (including the Kids' Club at St Michael's Church);
- Our churches were closed for Easter 2020;
- Advent and Christmas services were held in all three churches:
  - 125 people attended in person a service of readings and carols, a blue Christmas service, and a Christingle service.
  - Pre-recorded Christmas Eve Virtual Crib Service has gained 315 views on YouTube
  - Approx. 125 attended services on Christmas Day in person.

- The number of views of streamed services on YouTube fluctuated through the year. On average, approx. 75 views were made of each of the live services streamed in October;
- A prayer group has continued to meet, focussing on praying for the parish, for growth and for achieving our mission. The group met twice monthly in St Mary & St Helen's Church, attracting approx. 15 people from across all our churches. During the first lockdown, the group re-established itself on Zoom, as a weekly prayer group, with

more people joining each week than before;

- There were 2 baptisms in our churches. Baptism services are usually celebrated separately after our main Sunday services. We have not been able to celebrate baptisms in church under the Covid19 restrictions;
- There were 65 funerals, though many could not be held in our churches during the year. We have a team of volunteers who support the families and friends of those who have died, who maintain a professional approach to this important ministry;
- There were 2 weddings in our churches;
- There were 201 people on the Electoral Roll for the parish. Jim Wilcock continued as Electoral Roll Officer; and
- Two of the house groups have met regularly through the year. The move to using Zoom for meetings enabled them to meet more frequently and to widen their membership. These GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) groups explored topics in informal ways to grow, strengthen and support the faith of those attending. The three-fold ingredients are prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

- Worship by the Kids' Club restarted fortnightly at St Michaels' Church, alternating with Sunday services for congregational worship. Some children were not able to resume their attendance due to social distancing problems, but were sent email lessons, as they had been during the lockdown. Kids Club has maintained the pattern of fortnightly emails to all the families with the lesson, a link to music, the story, and craft activities.
- The congregation at St Thomas's Church were unable to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the re-opening of St Thomas's Church. Instead, we were able to dedicate one of our streamed Sunday Services on St Thomas's Day.
- Apart from a brief period when St Thomas's Church and St Michael's Church reopened for some Sunday services, we have been unable to come together as a church family for our usual annual social events at harvest and Christmas.

Deanery Synod

Neston is part of the Wirral South Deanery in the Diocese of Chester.

- All our clergy are members of the Deanery Synod: Rev Alan Dawson, and Rev Judith Calvert.
- Three lay representatives were elected in 2017 to the Deanery Synod for 3 years: Val Johnson, Richard Lewis, and Richard Skinner.
- Only one lay representative was elected at the delayed APCM in 2020: Richard Lewis. Arrangements for co-opting other people from our parish to Deanery Synod are being explored.
- Deanery Synod met once before lockdown in March 2020. No further meetings were called in 2020.
- Sadly, the Deanery Synod secretary John Lewis of Thornton Hough died during 2020. The Secretary role is unfilled.

Buildings and services

Despite the restrictions placed by the pandemic, our churches have been used – to a limited extent - by the wider community for civic and other purposes which help us to meet our objectives;

- Ladies Club Day was celebrated in different ways in June. The traditional parade, church service and blessing at The Cross could not take place. Instead, parishioners and towns people placed

floral displays in the grounds of St Mary & St Helen's Church;

- On Sunday 4th October, a Civic Service was held by Zoom;
- The annual Remembrance Sunday service and the separate Armistice Day commemoration were replaced by brief commemorations at the war memorial. Cascading poppy tributes were placed in the grounds of our three churches;
- The nativity scene at the Parish Church was also welcomed, along with an installation of advent candles; and
- At the beginning of the year, St Thomas's and St Michael's Churches were used regularly by groups and societies in Neston including the Parkgate Society, Music Therapy, Theatre Community Group, Women's Institute, Art Society, Ukulele Club, Martial Arts and Keep Fit classes.

- We have continued to maintain our buildings and grounds, though to a lesser extent while so many people were shielding during the year, to maintain social distancing. Some work has been carried over to 2021 for attention:

- Most of the recommendations made in the Archdeacon's visitation in September 2018 have been implemented. Further work on implementing and managing our health and safety policies is required:

    - At St Mary & St Helen's Church:
        - IT equipment has been bought from the Vision Fund to stream our services on YouTube;
        - The organ was repaired in summer 2020 by David Wells Organ Builders following rainwater damage in November 2019 and is now playing well. The work was funded – subject to our paying a small excess - by Ecclesiastical Insurance, our insurers.
        - Grass cutting in most of the graveyard at St Mary & St Helen's Church was maintained by Cheshire West and Chester Council, while volunteers from the Church and wider parish maintained the graveyard on the east and south sides of the church. This was especially valued during the lockdown when many church members were shielding;
        - The North West entrance wall was damaged in a road incident in September 2019. Repairs started in 2020 and were due to be completed in 2021. As the wall is included in the listed status of the Parish Church it is to be repaired to professional, conservation standards; and
        - The CCTV recording systems at the St Mary & St Helen's and at St Michael's Churches need servicing and upgrading.

    - At St Michael's Church:
        - A new Gardener has been engaged after the retirement of Greenfields Gardener in late 2019.

    - At St Thomas's Church:
        - volunteers have continued to work in St Thomas's gardens, keeping the grass mown and looking after the flower beds.

    - At the Neston Centre:
        - We have two tenants and the staffed Parish Office in use at present;

  - Since March 2020, Parish Office work has been managed by the PCC Secretary working at home, and one of the other tenants has reduced the time they spent in the building by working at home;
  - Cleaning continued during the pandemic; and
  - Parking continues to be an issue as unauthorised parking causes problems for deliveries to the Centre.

- Planning for a new disabled ramp at St Mary & St Helen's Church has progressed slowly. The current ramp is too steep and needs resurfacing. We have approached an architect who has made recommendations and we are seeking comparisons from other architects.

- Music plays an important role within acts of worship across the parish.
- Daniel Wakefield is our Organist and Choirmaster with Christine Schofield supporting in an administrative role. Jim Wilcox helps to organise the music and play the organ at St. Michael's.
- Currently there are between 16 and 20 regular members of the choir. During lockdown, the choir continued to meet on Zoom. Once choirs could sing services again, a small choir led Sunday services.
- The fault that had developed on the organ in 2019 was repaired by David Wells Organ Builders from Liverpool, and the organ reinstated.

- Bell ringing was severely impacted by the pandemic. No ringing took place between the first lockdown and September. Since then, when there has been no lockdown, the bell ringing band has rung for all the 10.45am services, and for the additional services around Christmas, in accordance with guidance issued by the Central Council of Bell Ringers. Due to the distance between ropes, only four ringers were able to ring for any session of 15 minutes only. It did not sound the same as our normal ringing, but it let the community know there was a service about to take place. The band were overwhelmed with the positive response to their ringing;
- The band has been keeping together with a weekly virtual practice;
- The pandemic has put any plans for the major refurbishment of the frame and fittings on hold. John Taylor & Co, the bellfounders and bellhangers visited the tower again in October 2020 to do some detailed measurements to consider reducing the potential costs. The revised quote is expected imminently. Two other companies have been approached to provide quotes, but this has been hampered by the pandemic. The band have been discussing possible fundraising measures. The PCC has not yet decided to fund refurbishing the bells.
- The bell at St Thomas's Church is rung for Sunday services.

- During 2020 there were limited opportunities for the flower arranging team at St Mary & St Helen's Church. Floral installations were placed outside on the lawns at the east end for Easter, Ladies' Day, and VE Day.
- Flowers are also arranged for services in St Michael's Church and St Thomas's Church.

- The lockdown periods and the rules on social distancing meant that the 2020 Village Fair was cancelled, and the 2020 Christmas Fair did not take place.

Pastoral Care

- Conversations, telephone calls, input to Prayer and Action along with the Guild of Health and St Raphael prayer chain keep the Ministry Team and Church aware of health and isolation issues within the community. Covid19 restrictions permitting, the Clergy, Licensed Pastoral Worker and the wider Church follow this up with hospital visits, visiting in the Parish and surrounding area. This includes local Residential and Nursing Homes. Where appropriate, Home Communion is offered and taken out from the Church.
- In addition to the Clergy, one of our Readers, Elizabeth Joyce looks after funerals. Another Reader, Tony Cooke is presently in training to lead funerals as is the Pastoral Worker, Lesley Irvin. Covid19 restrictions permitting, funeral ministry extends to many years after initial contact and the immediate impact of bereavement. This includes follow up information, support group, making connections and visiting with particular attention to isolation.

- The Guild of Health and St Raphael continued its key ministry of offering regular prayers for healing, daily for many in the local communities and further afield. Again, the Guild's wider prayers for healing ministry has been a monthly focus within Mid-Week Communion's. Consideration was given to continuing membership of the Guild and alternative arrangements for our ministry in this area were developed. It is expected new arrangements will be put in place during 2021.

- The Bereavement Support Group initially met monthly at St Michael's Church. It provides fellowship and support for those who are bereaved, with a speaker at most meetings. The aim of the group is to offer a place to meet, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a listening ear. It is not a counselling group but contact numbers and information will be available if anyone requires specialist help.

- The Knit and Natter group includes 38 ladies who initially met every fortnight at St Michael's Church. The group provides an opportunity for members developing friendships and caring for each other, as well as knitting goods for church fairs and for charity. These charities include: Arrowe Park Hospital Baby Unit, Alder Hey Hospital, Claire House, the Seamen's Mission, Age Concern, the Fire Brigade, for nursing homes and for African babies.
- Knit and Natter's leadership have maintained close and special care of members during lockdown.
- Deliveries of much valued knitwear have continued.
- Members look forward to meeting face to face as soon as it is safe to do so.

- The Young at Heart group initially met on the first Tuesday of each month in St Mary & St Helen's Church. It is essentially a time where people from the wider community can meet to socialise and play games, such as Scrabble, Rummikub, and dominos. We also have the opportunity for people to try their hand at painting a masterpiece. We have tea, coffee, and cakes halfway through the afternoon. This is for anyone in the community who may feel isolated or would just like to meet up for a sociable afternoon.

Mission and evangelism

- Stay and Play, the Friday pre-school group at St Mary & St Helen's Church has moved online within Zoom. Teaching and singing are important parts of the offering. Ongoing contact and conversation have been invaluable.
- Children's ministry; Sunday Clubs have as a minimum maintained contact. Lynne Vaughan has offered significant resources online via email. This has been made available through various contacts and well received. In autumn 2020, Kids' Club met on alternate weeks to the service at St Michael's Church.

- Neston Mothers Union (MU) has 40 members and in 2020 had only three meetings.
- MU has met on Zoom and been a monthly focus within Mid-Week Communion's when they were able to celebrate Holy Communion in Church.
- MU did manage three Lent lunches before Lockdown and sent the proceeds of £130 to the MU International Relief Fund.
- MU supported their Worldwide Fund to the tune of £100 and a further £50 in response to their Urgent Appeal in May.
- Knitting has been a popular pastime this year:
  - 14 Blankets, made up of knitted or crocheted squares, were sent to the refugees in Lesbos;
  - 58 baby hats and 7 small blankets (for premature babies) were delivered to the Maternity Unit at Arrowe Park Hospital;
  - 20 emergency toiletry bags were given to the A&E department; and
  - All have expressed their gratitude for these invaluable items.
- Baptism Anniversary cards continue to be sent out.
- MU members continued to support Stay & Play when it continued on Zoom.

- As our financial position weakened during the year while people were at home, the PCC decided not to give unrestricted gifted income to local and overseas charities, apart from donations held over from 2019.
- We continued to support the Wirral Churches Ark project. At Harvest, voluntary cash donations from individual members of our congregations were sent to the Ark.
- Much of the Harvest Festival food went to Foodbank who were co-ordinating distribution due to the pandemic.

- The Parish Website: we continued to maintain our web presence with information about our services and activities on http://www.nestonparishchurch.org/index.asp
- The Parish News in its new format was temporarily halted in March 2020 and its future is under consideration as new communication channels have been used since the pandemic started.
- Our Prayer & Action pew sheets are a valuable, informative, and important weekly flyer of group activities, weekly service information keeping everyone constantly updated. Approx. 90% of these are now emailed weekly to members of the congregation and others interested in our work, mainly in the town.
- The Shop was closed in March 2020, but did provide booklets, cards, and hand-made items for sale at the start of the year.

- Richard and Frances Skinner completed their training as ordinands at Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham. On 3rd July 2020 they both took up their Curacies at Holy Trinity, Hoylake (St Hildeburgh's Church), and St John's, Meols, respectively, having been commissioned as Deacons the previous day on Zoom by the Bishop of Birkenhead. They were ordained as deacons in October 2020 by the Bishop of Chester.
- Lesley Irvin has grown into her role as Pastoral Worker. A pilot Pastoral System is now at a stage of benefitting the whole of the Parish. This is based on individual members committing to regular pastoral contact with about six people on an ongoing basis. In many cases this is formalising networks that are already in place and have become most important this year.
- We have two Readers in training. Richard Lewis completed his second year of training in 2020 and is due to be licensed in the autumn of 2021. John Hart began his first year of training last September. He is likely to have a higher profile in the Parish from the summer of 2021.

Ecumenical work

Neston and District Churches Together

Despite the impact of the pandemic which meant that churches within Neston and District Churches Together (NDCT) were physically closed for much of the year, we have continued to support the work of NDCT.

We have assisted (often by streamed services or networked meetings) at events for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christian Aid week and One World Week.

Open the Book had to stop, and the teams have been unable to take school assemblies, but once restrictions are lifted, they will be keen to take the bible stories into the schools again.

Christian Aid is an ecumenical organisation, begun nationally by the churches to provide funds to help the poorest of the poor - victims of natural disasters, such as earthquakes and tsunamis; refugees of war and the homeless; those who are unable to survive without help.

- Each church in our area provides a Representative to serve on the Committee. Lynne Vaughan represents the Church of England from our Parish.
- The Committee aims to raise awareness among our congregations about the needs of the most vulnerable people in the world, and to carry out our Christian calling by raising funds to meet these needs. Also, we lobby and raise issues which are felt to contribute to world poverty.
- During the pandemic, the Christian Aid Committee has continued to meet via zoom meetings.
- At Christmas 2020, our supporters helped raise funds by knitting Christmas Angels, and the Committee produced a Recipe Book. These were sold via a pop-up Stall at Neston Methodist Church, and a stall at the Neston Friday Market. The committee were amazed by people's generous donations. The Christmas Appeal raised over £1,045.00.
- The administration base of the organisation has been cut back nationally to make as much money as possible accessible to the on-going projects around the world - as, in common with many other charities,

there is a significant shortfall in money received.

World Day of Prayer

From 2020 onwards the name of this movement became 'World Day of Prayer' to reflect current attitudes of inclusion due to the changing nature of world communication. In 2020, the focus was on the work of the church in Zimbabwe.

Finances

(see separate annual report and financial statements for details)

The Statement of Financial Activities shows an overall overspend of £16 during 2020. This consists of a grant of £2,000 from Chester Diocese which has been designated (set aside), plus net income from restricted funds of £1,697, less the unrestricted fund (day-to-day expenditure) overspend of £3,714.

During 2019 three large historic accounting adjustments, relating to the property at Ringway which was purchased in 2010, totalling £20,330 were included. When comparing the 2019 and 2020 financial information, the historic adjustments have been excluded.

The 2020 pandemic has impacted the Parish's unrestricted day-to-day income and expenditure.

During 2019 the Parish received unrestricted income of £132,545. During 2020 this was £109,893. The difference of around £23,000 includes reductions in income from:

Donations* (including gift aid)	£3,000
Wedding & funeral fees	£3,000
Parish Fellowship (including Thursday coffee)	£2,000
Room hire	£5,000
Parish Church shop	£1,000
Village & Christmas Fairs and Events	£6,000

*Donations include the Gift Day donations received during 2020 of £7,800. Of this total, £6,300 was received from four donors.

During the year, a small number of planned givers reduced or stopped their regular giving. The overall effect was a reduction in income of £6,600 per year.

Although the Gift Day has helped plug part of the shortfall for 2020, an increase in regular giving is required to sustain the Parish.

The standing order information to the end of January 2021 indicates that regular donations have so far increased by approximately £850 per month / £10,200 per year.

During 2019 the Parish spent unrestricted funds on day-to-day expenditure of £150,379. During 2020 this was £113,608. The difference of around £37,000 includes reductions in expenditure on:

Outward Giving	£6,000
Curate's work & house costs	£5,000
Parish training	£1,000
Church maintenance	£3,000

Cleaning (St Michael's)	£1,000
Altar requisites	£1,000
Organists' fees	£4,000
Flowers	£1,000
Equipment usage	£2,000
Heating, lighting & water (three churches)	£7,000
Neston Centre expenses	£3,000
Miscellaneous	£2,000

It is the policy of the PCC to hold enough unrestricted reserves to cover approximately three months' estimated expenditure. This threshold is based on 2019 expenditure and is approximately £37,500 (£150,380 x 3/12) as 2019 is the most recent year of typical expenditure.

At the end of 2020, the PCC had unrestricted reserves of £60,400, equivalent to less than five months' estimated expenditure.

The unrestricted day-to-day income & expenditure of the Parish will continue to be monitored and reported monthly to the PCC and to the Parish via Prayer & Action.

In addition to unrestricted reserves for day-to-day expenditure, the PCC also has a few other funds and details of these can be found in the notes in the financial statements.

The largest restricted fund is the Vision fund which was set up in 2000. These funds, which totalled almost £90,000 at the end of 2020, can be spent on a broad range of activities which are still relevant today.

- Communications
- Youth
- Ministry Team & Leadership
- Worship for all the Family
- Fellowship and Social
- Prayer and Study
- Giving
- Outreach & Pastoral
- Buildings & Resources

Safeguarding

In line with Diocese of Chester guidelines Neston Parish has a Safeguarding Officer for the parish, Liz Ledsham.

Information and parish contacts for safeguarding in the parish are displayed in all three church buildings in the parish. These have recently been updated (December 2020) in a new format and distributed to the churches.

During 2020, no safeguarding issues have arisen or been reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) or Rev Alan Dawson.

During 2020, the PSO and Rev Alan Dawson have scrutinised Parish archive records held at Chester Records Office on behalf of the Parish, regarding possible past historic abuse or safeguarding issues. This was in line with Past Case Review 2, which was a national review into the handling of safeguarding cases in the Church of England.

Three visits were made to Chester Archive Office and Neston PCC minutes and Standing Committee minutes from 1933 were read and checked for any information of uncorroborated or corroborated evidence of safeguarding or abuse allegations. No allegations were found,

and no minutes checked suggested concerns regarding safeguarding or abuse had been raised in the parish in the recorded minutes.

The PSO, Rev Alan Dawson, Michael Maden and Marion Forshaw have reviewed DBS checks and review application procedures. The number of roles requiring DBS checks has dropped because some activities involving children have ceased. The criteria of activities involving adults at risk requiring a DBS check has changed and are not activities that church volunteers would engage in e.g. care activities or regular driving.

In November 2020, following PCC concerns the Parish Safeguarding Policy was reviewed the Church of England Safeguarding Policy has been adopted instead to replace it.

Structure and governance

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Neston is a corporate body established by the Church of England, and is a Registered Charity registered with the Charity Commission, with the public benefit being for the advancement of religious education promoting the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines of the Church of England.

The governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules 2020.

The object of the charity is to promote the whole mission of the Church in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Neston.

The trustees of the charity, being the elected, co-opted, or ex-officio members of the PCC, organise a formal election each year in the run-up to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to fill vacancies on the PCC. New members elected to the PCC automatically become Trustees of the charity.

Elected and co-opted PCC members serve for a period of no more than 3 years after which they may seek re-election. There are no limits to the number of times a person may serve as PCC member. On standing down from the PCC, a member is also removed from the list of trustees of the charity. A full list of the trustees of the charity is available on the Charity Commission website.

At the delayed annual meeting in October 2020, there were 201 people on the Electoral Roll. About 35 members attended the meeting either in person or by Zoom.

The members of the PCC in December 2020 were:

Clergy: Rev Alan Dawson (Chair)*; Rev Judith Calvert*;

Churchwardens: Terry Abel*; Marion Forshaw*

PCC Secretary: Richard Lewis*

Trustees: Alex Cummins; Doreen Gordon*; Linda Haigh; Robin Hughes; Lesley Irvin; Val Johnson*; David Richardson; Peter Rossiter.

Deanery Synod – laity: Richard Lewis.

A standing committee - which includes the PCC members whose names are marked with an asterisk - meets to discharge business between PCC meetings and to address issues remitted to them by the PCC.

The Treasurer is Lucy Brooks who is not a member of the PCC.

Administration and contact details

- St Mary & St Helen's Church: Parish Church, High Street, Neston CH64 9TZ;
- St Michael and All Angels' Church: Marshlands Road, Little Neston CH64 0SN;
- St Thomas the Apostle's Church: School Lane, Parkgate CH64 6SR; and
- Neston Centre: High Street, Neston CH64 9TZ.
- The Parish Office is at the Neston Centre and is staffed on Monday mornings and Wednesday mornings. (0151 336 5346 (incl. answerphone) nestonparishoffice@gmail.com)