

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of St Alkmund's Church

For the year ended 31st December 2024

Charity registration number: 1129900

The Parochial Church Council of St Alkmund's Church Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024

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Objectives and Activities

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

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

Achievements and Performance

- See elsewhere for all the mid-week activities and the ways in which the St Alkmund's community fulfils its remit for worship, pastoral care, outreach, community service and civic involvement.
- There are usually two services each Sunday, with the addition of an 8am service on the first Sunday of each month.
- All who live in the town have a right to the occasional offices. In 2024 there were 7 weddings and 20 baptisms. There were 32 funerals in church followed by burial or cremation (and 10 cremations only).

Financial Review Melanie Williams - Treasurer

The arrival of Rev Chris Precious as the new Rector of St Alkmund's Church, along with his trainee curate Rev Pippa White in March was welcomed. The IDS fund was helpful in decoration costs of the Rectory (£3,200) and utility bills revealed a slight overcharge that was eventually resolved. At the APCM, I gave notice that I wished to resign from post and at the time of writing we are in the process of recruiting someone. This will be a paid position as there has not been any interest from volunteers. With this in mind, I have tried to promote Giving Direct – the most efficient system (for the Treasurer) for regular giving, administered on our behalf by Lichfield Diocese Board of Finance who claim Gift Aid on a monthly basis. There has been an increase in the number of donors from 8 in August to 17 in December. I would like to extend my thanks to all who have made the move to this method or have been prompted to start giving regularly in this way. The most significant single expenditure item was the CCTV system upgrade which was completed at a cost of £5,410. James Kellas, our Music Director, started Fridays@One organ & piano recitals in December 2023 and they continue to entertain audiences outside our traditional congregation. Income from donations from these is £2,201, expenditure £788 and a brought forward balance (transfer of income from James Kellas' first recital in December 2023) means these have generated so far a closing balance of £1,516. A generous legacy of £20,000 from a devoted parishioner was much appreciated. Total surplus for the year was £20,996, of which £2,187 was unrestricted.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance in the bank accounts of at least three months' unrestricted payments plus £10,000 for Restricted General expenditure. The purpose of the policy is to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. Total unrestricted expenditure was £145,013 in 2024, so 3 months equates to £36,253 (2023: £36,989), plus £10,000 is £46,253. The balance in the bank accounts at the year-end was £76,309 (2023: £55,762) which covers the required contingency.

Safeguarding

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

Review of the Year

Church Wardens Reports - John Stokes & Sheila Chase

A very busy year following some minor works regarding reordering in hand with architects. Grand Piano loaned to us by Whitchurch Stown Council due to civic Centre being closed. New photocopier installed (on lease).

Outstanding

Some minor items and the accessible toilet, a faculty sent in to put in rear porch instead of the vestry. Some tarmac work to entrance – work in hand. Some work to front pillars etc – work in hand.

AOB

- * PAT testing carried out on all electrical appliances.
- * All fire extinguishers serviced and renewed where necessary.
- * Roof alarm serviced.
- * Security alarm serviced.
- * Fire alarm serviced.
- * Gutters maintenance carried out by Mr Simon Dudleston.
- * The church organ and piano underwent its regular tuning and servicing during the year.
- * Old graveyard - grass cut and strimmed.
- * Memorial Gardens - strimmed and maintained
- * Rectory Garden - lawns mowed by SP mowing.
- * All graves underwent the annual safety check.
- * Various signs under Health and Safety erected where appropriate around the church and grounds.
- * Bridgewater streets properties - The management of these two apartments is carried out by Barbers Estate Agents.
- * Fire alarms tested weekly by John Stokes and Alison Dunne.
- * Repairs to the boiler and serviced.

Safeguarding - Meriel Edge

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Safeguarding is of immense importance in St Alkmund's Church. It features as an agenda item at every PCC meeting. In the past. Safeguarding policy and procedures are reviewed annually at the January meeting. Moving forward, periodic reviews will also take place during the year. Photographs and contact details of Mrs Meriel Edge, Incumbent Reverend Chris Precious and Curate Miss Pippa White are displayed in the Church porch should anyone wish to make contact.

The following groups/people undergo training and adhere to the safeguarding policy – Incumbent, Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens, Time Together leaders and team, Bell Ringers, Baptism welcomers, Bible Study, Choir leaders, Homes Communion Teams, Residential Homes team, Junior Church, Prayers for Healing, Bubble Church leaders, Pastoral visitors and Transport. DBS documentation is continually reviewed, and persons are contacted who need to update/refresh their DBS or Safeguarding training. Alison Dunne and Meriel Edge have supported people in achieving this. The required number of people have completed their leadership safeguarding training which involves two meetings and additional written work. Safeguarding is at the centre of our faith, in our practice, in our worship, in our praying, and in our believing. In other words, safeguarding is an integral to the very DNA of the Church rather than an appendage, with good safeguarding behaviours flowing naturally and intuitively. Theology, by which we simply mean clear thinking about God and the faith we share, has been interwoven into all our learning and the development pathways. As IICSA identified, this requires a significant shift in the Church's culture as a whole system approach. Safeguarding support everyone in developing and maintaining the necessary values, beliefs, knowledge, and skills to safeguard and protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults as outlined in the 'Promoting a Safer Church' House of Bishops policy statement (2017). Copies of this Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework 2021-2024 are available on request. Safeguarding meetings take place as and when required. The Churchwardens and Safeguarding Officer discuss relevant matters as and when needed. Considerations take place and solutions are reached. Rest assured, the Safeguarding team take their roles very seriously and act to the very best of their ability to keep the church and everyone in it as safe as possible.

Electoral Roll - Paul Williamson

At the 2024 APCM 146 names were on the list and 12 of those lived outside the Parish. My thanks to Alison for her support.

PCC Secretary – Elaine Bucknell

At the beginning of 2024 it was busy with meetings involving the building Contractors and the Architect, in relation to outstanding issues with the re-ordering work. Rev Chris Precious joined us on 10th March and took over that responsibility (much to my relief) and is continuing the battle to get approval for the Accessible Toilet. The Annual Parish Meetings were delayed due to problems getting the year end accounts approved, eventually taking place on 19th May. At this meeting four of the five Deputy Churchwardens resigned, David Fisher, Pauline Green, John Castledine and Tom Rylands, with only one remaining on the PCC. Steve White unfortunately had to resign from the PCC later in the year due to health issues. On a positive note, three new members have joined, Sarah Radford, Irene Daldry and Lynne Bowden, bringing us back to a total of 16. At a later meeting the role of Deputy Warden was changed to Worship Assistant, but the duties remain the same. Two members of the congregation are being trained to join Paul and myself in fulfilling this role. The problem of people using the Church Car Park on non-church business is on-going with several persistent offenders. We continue to be represented in Churches Together, Christian Aid, Friends of St Alkmund's, Time Together, Whitchurch Fairtrade Group, Whitchurch Relief in Need and the Higginson's Charities.

Bargates Hall - Sheila Chase

Bargates Hall continues to flourish with new bookings, though we are very sad to lose the Guides and Brownies, due to having no helpers to run the activities. A few of the bookings came due to the

closure of the Civic Centre, though others that are with us, enjoy the atmosphere that the Hall affords them. Maintenance is an ongoing issue, that is dealt with as and when required, by Simon Dudleston and his team, always a pleasant gentleman and easy to work with. We have had to replace the rear door out to the playground as that had become rotten along the bottom and water was constantly coming into the hallway.

All electrical appliances are PAT tested, and if found up to be faulty they are replaced.

Alarm system is tested weekly, by John and myself, any issues are reported to ADT who respond quickly, annual services are booked in for April of each year.

All safety certificates are in place on the notice boards in the hall way and the rooms, ie , Fire Safety Certificates, Insurance Certificates, and Assembly points in the event of a fire.

My contact details are also available for anyone to contact me if they encounter any problems.

Churches Together in Whitchurch – Celia Churchill

Our 2024 Churches Together events started in January with a Christian Unity service hosted by St Georges. With the start of Lent in February there were shared Lent lunches each week with donations for Christian Aid. There was also a Christian Film “Undaunted” shown using St John Talbot School projection facilities and open to all in the community. The Maundy Thursday Service was led by the Beacon Church and a Walk of Christian Witness took place on Good Friday led by St Johns. The Christian Aid Service in May was hosted by St Johns church using the materials made available by Christian Aid nationally. Pre -election hustings in June were held in St Johns and hosted by Churches Together and chaired by Rev Chris Precious. The AGM took place in July followed by speakers Dr Isabel Carter and Moira Matthews from South Shropshire who gave a challenging talk entitled “What does climate change mean for Christians and what can we do about it?” Beacon church hosted this event.

As part of the Blackberry Fair Churches Together were invited to contribute to the Theme of “Unity through love Peace and Hope” and a range of lovely activities on this theme took place in all four churches. There was a Churches Together coffee morning in October in the Market Hall providing a small fund to cover the cost of the hire of a Lent film

Remembrance Day included remembrance at the Cenotaph and a special Civic Service at St Alkmund's with a good turnout of uniformed groups for this significant occasion. A further collaboration took place with Churches Together and the organisers of the Blackberry Fair and there was a “High Street Advent Calendar Event” with the churches depicting the biblical meaning of Christmas. A quiet reflective Advent Churches together service was hosted by St Georges as an antidote to the busyness of domestic Christmas preparation A Churches Together Christmas card was designed, printed and should have been distributed to all residential addresses in Whitchurch. Unfortunately, the distribution by the Royal Mail was incomplete and Churches Together offer apologies for this. Important activities in the town continue to be undertaken ecumenically and they include: Fair Trade, Christian Aid, The Food Bank, Time Together, The Hospital Chaplaincy, The Bible Society and Action on Climate Change Churches Together has had a busy year with several new events in the calendar all of which have been well supported by the four churches comprising Whitchurch Churches together St Alkmund's, St George's, St John's and The Beacon Church.

Foundation Governors Whitchurch Church of England Federation – Jane Rylands

In January 2024 Sarah Camacho became Principal of the Whitchurch Federation which comprises the Infants and the Juniors. Rev Chris has become a Foundation Governor, I am the other. Both Rev Chris and Rev Pippa take regular school worship sessions (as does the Methodist Church's Children's Worker) and have found many other ways to contribute to school life and particularly the aspects which relate to the Church of England foundation and our own church links with them. In May the Junior School had a Church School inspection (SIAMs) and received a very encouraging and affirming report. In the summer the Federation

was awarded the status of Growing Faith Learning Hub, part of a national initiative with funding for two years so I look forward to reporting on the fruits of that next year!

Whitchurch Junior C of E Academy Experience Days - Wendy Darter

We were delighted to welcome the students of the Junior Academy for four Experience Days this year. The Y5 came at Easter, the Y6 at Pentecost, Y3 at Harvest and the Y4 at Christmas. Each class comes for half a day and learns about five different aspects of the festival, in small groups led by volunteers. The class then gather in the chancel for a concluding session. We have been pleased to be led by Rev Chris, with the help of a great bunch of volunteers including Rev Pippa. Once again, we have had volunteers from St George's, the Beacon Church and retired clergy in addition to those from St Alkmund's congregation. We would always be happy to have more volunteers. We all enjoy these sessions, and they are well received by the students, who respond with ideas and questions. We hope that what they have learned and discussed will in some way shape their future attitudes and that they feel God's presence while they are in church.

Junior Church/Sermon Slot - Jane Rylands

Meriel, Jane and Wendy continued to offer a Junior Church session on all but the first Sunday in term time supported by a small group of assistants. It is always interesting from a leader's perspective to focus on one element of the weekly readings to share and think about with our young people. Our young people seem to enjoy the challenges we give them – thankfully they do come back for more!

Reader's Report – Jane Rylands

It's been fun to be part of our new ministry team, also a blessing that with Tom's illness there has not been a pressure to be available. After a couple of months of doing very little for the Benefice, I have found much comfort from being involved again and am beyond grateful for the prayers and support that you have given Tom and me.

Deanery Report - Pauline Stokes

St. Alkmund's Representatives

Elected Lay Members of the Deanery Synod:

John Stokes

Pauline Stokes

Steve White

Clergy Members of the Deanery Synod:

Revd. Chris Precious

Revd. Pippa White

Revd. Sue Armstrong

The annual Deanery Eucharist Service for Ascension Day took place at St. Peter & St. Paul's Church, Wem, in May, and was attended by St. Alkmund's representatives. All parishes are invited to attend. Deanery Meetings also took place in Wem in March, Market Drayton in July, and Bargates Hall, in October.- Topics for discussion included "Shaping for Mission – Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Chad" – Each parish was invited to be purposeful about evangelism in our communities, and we each chose 3 of the 9 goals which we felt most closely fitted with current priorities and activities within our parishes. Then, we were asked to consider which of the 3 of the 9 goals would we find most *challenging*, and what small steps could we take towards overcoming those challenges, and what support might help us?

At the Meeting held in Whitchurch following on from the previous meeting, representatives were invited to talk about *one* thing that was going well in their parish, and one thing that parishes were worried about. Representatives then had the opportunity to share their concerns.

Time Together Report – Wendy Darter

In 2024 we were saddened by the deaths of two of our longest serving volunteers, Pauline Green and Marianne Hughes. They both played important roles and are very much missed.

Working in partnership with AgeUK the purpose of the Time Together group is to provide social, spiritual, physical and emotional support for those with Memory Loss or Dementia and their family members or carers. The group continue to meet twice a month on Wednesday afternoons when we enjoy a range of activities and entertainments. Boccia is a favourite, though the floor at Bargates is a challenge, being very uneven. We play games, have discussions and share memories. We have lots of fun with singing and are amazed at how our friends remember words. We also devour quite a lot of cake and biscuits along with tea and coffee, and twice a year have parties with even more treats. The great team of volunteers all enjoy our sessions as much as those we serve. Donations from grateful participants and from community organisations allow us to provide a full and varied programme.

Pastoral Care Group Report – Jill Wallace

Communion at Home ... for those unable to attend services in Church Revd Chris and a few of us are happy to bring Communion to your homes if you would let Revd Chris know or Alison in the Church Office.

Visiting ... Any who would value a visit when ill or unable to attend church there is the pastoral team who will gladly visit as required. There is a box under the Prayer Board for you to put in any names and addresses of any who would wish this or phone Alison in the Church Office.

Streaming Services ... How thankful we are to John Stokes and Mel Williams for working the sound system to enable this to happen, and Alison Dunne puts the link in the Pew Sheets to allow anyone at home to watch most of our regular services.

The Prayer Board ... This is used by many who visit the Church as well as our own members and prayer requests can be left at any time. They are remembered at the Sunday services and also in the Fails, Tilstock and Whitchurch Prayer Link that is sent to any who would like it by Judy Bellingham.

Bible Reading Notes ... For those who would like to share in reading daily notes to help us to deepen our love for Jesus, there are regular notes available, samples at the back of church, so just let Jill Wallace know if you would like any of these ... if we send for them as a group, we have free postage!

Music Report – James Kellas

It has been a busy and fruitful year for the music department liturgically as well as extra-liturgically. The musical resources of the church with its beautiful organ and acoustic enable the choir and organists to explore varied and rewarding repertoire within the services.

The organ tuner, Philip Cartright, has continued to do an excellent job of maintaining the instrument and the tuning has continued to settle in more and more since he began his contract in 2023. Some mechanical faults have also been seen to such as silent pipes and stiff piston levers. With the Chappell piano having been moved from the civic centre in July 2024 and being sympathetically restored by piano technician, Paul Pickering, and our own Dennis Edwards carpentry skills, we have been enjoying bi-monthly concerts as part of a new recital series - Fridays@1. It has so far proved popular with local classical music lovers, regularly attracting 30+ audience members (sometimes as many as 80) and has brought more footfall into the church at the same time as raising money for the music department. With the money raised by the recital series we have purchased a lighter keyboard that one person can easily carry at choir practice - although the large

stage piano sounds clearer it was proving impractical to carry it from behind the organ, especially now the civic centre piano is in the way. We have also put the money towards new hymns books and payment for organists at services where I need to conduct. Liturgically we have added 2-3 new mass settings to the 10am services: the Nardone Mass, an Advent Mass and the MacMillan Mass. The Nardone is more challenging being rhythmically and melodically more mobile than the Rizza and Inwood we have been accustomed to - for this reason I have limited it to 1-2 times a month and I feel it provides a pleasing contrast. The Advent Mass is simple and effective and similarly the MacMillan Kyrie was picked up recently quite easily by the choir and congregation, both providing a more solemn atmosphere for Advent and Lent.

The choir numbers are holding steady, and we have welcomed a few new members over the year. Given some recent shuffling around we also now have two tenors and basses quite consistently for evensong! Unfortunately, we sadly lost the wonderful Marianne.

The choir are to be fully commended and appreciated for their hard work and commitment which keeps the wheels of the music department moving each week. We continue to meet on Wednesday evenings for an hour to prepare for the two Sunday services. These practices are proportioned roughly 1/3 towards the morning service and 2/3 towards evensong due to the weightier repertoire for the evening. For the 9 Lessons & Carols in December Alison helped produce an attractive service booklet which contributed to slightly more formal and special feel. The choir prepared some challenging repertoire for several weeks in the run up and were boosted by some local "extras" on the day, especially in the bass and tenor sections. Henry did a fabulous job as organist on the day.

I want to finally take this opportunity to thank the various musicians who have covered me on various occasions when my full-time job as Lead Accompanist at Shrewsbury School has overlapped with my responsibilities at St Alkmund's - principally Stewart, Sam, Angela and Helen. I am extremely grateful to them all for their professionalism, enthusiasm and willingness to help on a consistent basis. It has also been a pleasure working with Reverend Chris and Pippa throughout year and we are fortunate they both are very supportive of the music department.

Church Office – Alison Dunne

The Church office continued to be busy throughout 2024, with the welcome addition of Rev Chris and Rev Pippa joining us to enable me to resume to my normal duties of pewsheets, posters, rotas etc. Throughout the year we saw many funerals, sadly many of whom were known personally to us. Also, bookings for baptisms and weddings, and an increase in enquiries for the booking of the church. With the introduction of the online LED system to enable all funerals, weddings and baptisms to be recorded electronically, and providing the facility for enquiries to be made directly to us via the St Alkmund's website. Our DBS and Safeguarding courses kept me busy with new volunteers joining us and the ongoing renewals. Our live streaming of services has been received well with numbers of people watching increasing throughout the year. The office continued to be open from Monday to Friday from 9am-2pm throughout 2024.

Wednesday FTW Bible Study group - Jill Wallace

This past year we have mainly looked at the life of Jesus in Luke's Gospel with the help of Tom Wright's Study notes. However, some of us found it difficult to understand Tom's questions, so have decided to mainly read the Bible passage chosen and discuss it, taking it in turns to lead the group and discuss the Bible notes from our various translations. At present we are looking at the shorter Epistles beginning with James. For the winter we have been meeting in the Church Vestry (when there was no funeral or church function) for warmth but will continue in Bargates once the warmer weather comes! How much we do miss Pol Green following her sudden death just before Christmas. We welcome all who come and share in with us as we learn together and discuss informally, enjoying a cup of tea and biscuits at the end.

Flower Arrangers – Sheila Chase

With Sue Fawcett stepping down as team leader, we were left with no one at the helm, so Rev Chris and I, stepped in to keep the group together and up to date with various dates for displaying their wonderful creations, with the weekly rota on display in the Flower Vestry.

We always receive many compliments about how beautiful the flowers in St Alkmund's always look. Especially the displays for Easter and Christmas, our Church comes alive with the scent and display of seasonal colours. Well done great Teamwork.

Bell ringing - Malcolm Monie

Despite a severe shortage of our own ringers, we have managed to ring for most Sunday morning services thanks to ongoing support from two members of the Malpas band: Chris and Sarah. Our numbers have been further reduced by injury [Malcolm Aird] and ill-health [Mike]. In addition, Paul has had to pause his bell-ringing due to work and family commitments. On a more positive note, we have welcomed a new learner to the band. Helene had just started to ring on Sundays when winter approached, and she and her husband decamped to the Canary Islands. We look forward to their return in the spring!

Practices have been held on most Thursday evenings. As well as those mentioned above, we have frequently been joined by Peter and Ray from Ellesmere along with Guy from Hanmer. We have also welcomed a number of visitors during the year and rung for several weddings. The band is still very low on numbers, and we are actively recruiting both new and experienced recruits. The Whitchurch Gossip kindly gave us a half page feature in the December issue.

Baptism Welcome Group - Wendy Darter

We have had a steady flow of baptisms over the past year, led by Rev Chris and Rev Pippa, who have both introduced new features to the service. We continue to visit the families at home so that we volunteers can talk to the parents about the service and the promises they are going to make. These meetings sometimes take place in church, but we still talk about the Godparents and their important role in nurturing the child as well as the practical aspects of the service.

Unfortunately, few families return to church services, but it is good to greet them when we meet in town and show them that they are remembered. Anyone who would like to volunteer to make home visits or assist at baptism services please contact the church office.

Social Working Group

Easter Breakfast- We started our year with our Easter Breakfast in Bargates Hall, at which we offer a full English, with toast, fruit juice and tea/ coffee, many thanks for all the hard work of the team that prepare this, those that came certainly enjoyed it.

Coffee Morning-We held our Coffee Morning in the Sports Hall, this year due to the closure of the Civic Centre, though the morning started early for the helpers, by mid-morning we were really busy with over £500 being raised.

Parish Outing-We made our usual outing to Llandudno ,with so many wanting to join us ,we had to have a large mini bus on hand to get everyone there, This was the first outing for Rev Chris, Laura and family joined us ,on arrival many made their way for refreshments, the sun shone for us and everyone enjoyed the visit, a Prize Draw was done on the return journey, thanks to Elaine and team on coach one ,and Alison and team on coach two ,and to all who provided draw prizes. Harvest Lunch was served in Bargates Hall, our menu consisted of Jacket potatoes with various fillings, and various fruit crumbles offered as a dessert, along with the usual refreshments. Thanks to all helpers and congregation that joined us.Christmas Eve-This year we served light refreshments of tea/ coffee, sausage rolls etc at the back of Church, due to all of our helpers involved with assisting at both of our Crib services.This takes us to the end of 2024, looking forward to seeing you all in 2025.

After Service Refreshments - Dorothy Cartlidge & Wendy Darter

Throughout 2024 the refreshments team made good use of the new servery. We have served coffee, tea and biscuits after morning service and after each Memorial service. We also served mince pies after several December services as well as the Crib Festival. We were able to add some new names to the rota allowing one team to stand back for the winter months. We would be delighted to have more volunteers to take a turn every six weeks or to be on standby to cover a holiday or illness. Meanwhile we are very grateful to all our volunteers.

The Children's Society - Rebecca Sims

As a church we support the work of the Children's Society through individual collection boxes and our annual Christingle service. Collection boxes are emptied on a yearly basis in September, or sooner if requested. The total raised this year was £1002.99. Thank you to everyone who generously contributes in this way. Also, to the people who don't hold a box but like to make a yearly donation instead. An additional £50 was also sent, which came from the sale of the 'Christmas tree hats'. Thank you to Doreen, Wendy and Sarah for the donation and all your hard work. We held our annual Christingle service in December. The service was better supported this year and a total of 78 Christingle oranges were given out. Children and adults alike made up their own Christingles throughout the service, so everyone had a bag of materials to collect on their way into church. Everyone seemed to enjoy this. Huge thanks to Rev Pippa who wore an inflatable orange suit and became our 'human Christingle' through the service! Donations at the service totalled £149.82.

The Children's society does wonderful work supporting deprived children, especially helping children in family trauma, runaways, refugees and child carers. A big thank you to everyone who supports this very important work. The box collection is invaluable to what we contribute to the society, so if you haven't got a box please do consider it. Just ask me if you would like any more information on becoming a box holder. Many thanks to everyone.

Hospital Chaplaincy Team – Rev Pippa White

It has been a pleasure to lead the hospital chaplaincy team since March 2024, with the ladies providing spiritual and pastoral support to the patients and staff of Whitchurch Community Hospital. Our team currently stands at three members, after the sad passing of Pol Green in December 2024. The team is purely voluntary, with the hospital no longer paying us for this service, and therefore there are no minimum contractual hours to fulfil. Each volunteer usually visits the hospital for an afternoon per week, delivering spiritual and pastoral care, prayer cards, holding crosses, or Holy Communion (reserve bread and wine kept in the chaplaincy locker at the hospital) when appropriate.

It was great fun to provide Christmas carolling around the hospital on the afternoon of the 18th December 2024 – this replaced the Crib Service previously held in the hospital and was an ecumenical affair. Together with Christmas cards for all patients and staff, and visiting on Christmas Day, the hospital was very grateful for our services around Christmastime and continues to thank us for our work year-round. As our numbers of volunteers have become small, we are currently in the process of recommending to the hospital six new candidates to join our team: three people from St. George's church, and three people from the Beacon Church. The team meets every 4-6 weeks, to support one another and to share stories, and any changes in COVID regulations.

Residential / Nursing Homes' Services - Pauline Stokes

Each month, our small team visits Greenfields, and starting in the autumn we began to visit Weston House once again after a break of two or three years, following Covid. We also visit our friends in St. John's Park, too. Either the Rev. Chris our Rector, or Rev. Pippa takes the

service, with Rev Pippa usually leading the little service at Weston House, duly accompanied by Freddie her dog, which goes down a treat with the residents at Weston House!

(I came across a report written back in 2018, when we visited 5 Homes in Whitchurch in the same week each month, but sadly Edgeley House & Court, and Cloverfields, are no longer in existence.) However, we visit during the second week in each month - Weston House on a Wednesday afternoon, and St. John's Park followed by Greenfields on Thursday mornings. We start our service with a well-known hymn, continuing with a shortened Communion Service, during which one of our team will read, usually, part of Sunday's Gospel, followed by a short reflection by Rev. Chris or Rev. Pippa. Following the distribution of Communion to the residents, we end our little service with another hymn. It is humbling, when some of the residents who cannot read the service booklet or follow the words of the hymns because of their poor eyesight, remember parts of the service, or they will join in with the singing – wonderful! Afterwards, we circulate and have a chat with the residents, whom I am sure appreciate the time we spend with them – some we have known for quite some time on our visits each month. If you can spare a little time each month to join us, we would be delighted!! Later in the month we have a "Songs of Praise" at Greenfields, led by our Reader, Jane Rylands, accompanied by the "songsters" – (she says with tongue in cheek!!) from church to help with the singing. Once again, it is something which the Residents do appreciate, for some regularly attended church, wherever that might have been in the country, before moving to Greenfields, and we very often ask them about that time, and it brings back memories for them. Do join us, if you can!!

Crib Festival - Doreen Ashurst and Wendy Darter

We were pleased to be able to celebrate our Annual Crib Festival in November last year. We had 85 cribs on display and many visitors passing through Church during the day, not all of whom were regular attenders. As ever this year the festival was a valuable outreach event which was supplemented by the 'The Green Hat Tree' which raised donations for the needy both locally and nationally.

Fairtrade Report - Mrs Judy Bellingham

St Alkmunds continues to be a Fairtrade Church. This means that we agree to serve Fairtrade tea/coffee at our services and events and other things like sugar and biscuits if possible. We also agree to support Fairtrade Fortnight. We have done this in the past by having a Big Brew in church. This year we had it in the Market Hall and it was very successful. The Christmas Card and Gift Coffee Morning in October was held in Bargates Hall and was well supported. Thank you to all who attended. I continue to have a stall in the Whitchurch Market each Friday and have had stalls at Blackberry Fair and the Christmas Lights Switch on. We also have a representative at Whitchurch Fairtrade Town Group and Churches Together. Every time we choose to buy a Fair trade product, we are helping someone less fortunate to make a decent living for their family. If you can't come to the market on Fridays, I can let you have goods either in church or other place.

The Friends of St. Alkmund's, W/ch - Alex Williamson, Chair

The Friends of St Alkmund's Whitchurch is a standalone charity with the principal objective of raising funds to support the preservation, repair, restoration and improvement of the fabric of St Alkmund's. The Friends raise funds through annual memberships and fundraising events. During 2024 we held a number of events including:

- Quiz & hotpot supper, raising over £400;
- Strawberry Tea (courtesy of Mr & Mrs R Hutchinson-Smith), raising over £400;
- Opera for the People concert by Nicola Mills raising over £1,300; and
- raffles at the above events and at other events.

The Friends AGM was held on 14 May. We welcomed two new trustees at the AGM, Rev'd Chris Precious and Sarah Matson. After the business of the AGM, we were entertained by James Kellas, Director of Music for St Alkmund's, who enlightened us on the workings of the church organ and

played two pieces composed by Bach to demonstrate the full capability of the organ. We are thrilled to confirm that Nicola Mills has agreed to come back to St. Alkmund's on 17 October 2025 to perform her 'Spoonful of Julie' musical. Information on booking will be made available nearer the time. I would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to Hilda Francis-Roberts and Allison Haycox who have overseen the raffles at numerous events and finally, a sincere thank you to all of you who are members of The Friends and those who have supported our events, making them enjoyable occasions at the same time as raising funds.

Rector's Report St Alkmund's, Whitchurch

Mothering Sunday back on 10th March 2024 was an unusual day to begin a new ministry, and of course by that time the wonderful St Alkmund's congregation knew there were two priests joining them, not just the new rector but his curate too. The welcome my family and I have received coming to Whitchurch has been exemplary, and we are so grateful to you all for your Christian warmth and hospitality.

2024 has been an exciting year as we have strengthened relationships with our local schools and The Blackberry Fair, meanwhile continuing the excellent community support we offer through the hard work of the St Alkmund's family. 2024 has also been a tough year as we have said farewell to dear congregation members who have died or moved away from the area to be nearer to family. St Alkmund's Church building is beautiful and attracts people from far and wide to come and appreciate its splendour. What I want to really celebrate in this report is the church of St Alkmund's, that is, all the wonderful people who worship in the building and give so freely of their time and talents all through the year in loving service to their church family and the community of Whitchurch. There are too many people to thank individually here each and every year, but please know that you are appreciated for being you- whatever your role in our church family. My particular thanks go to our church wardens John and Sheila, to Pauline and Alison in the office, who have put up with an incoming new boss with good humour and tireless dedication- to you a heartfelt thank you. An extra note of thanks to Mel our outgoing treasurer, for her dedication over 10+ years and for her patience with an extended recruitment period for our next treasurer.

All the wonderful activities that have been mentioned in the pages of this annual report are grounded in prayer. As a church we pray together, help together and give together our time and our talents in Christ's service. The challenge we face going forward is to move away from a culture of service to a culture of participation, with Bubble Church starting in the New Year and other intergenerational initiatives to follow, 2025 will be an exciting time for us as a church.

Structure, Governance and Management

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

The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. The PCC members receive training from courses run by the Diocese. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The PCC meet 6 times a year. [Given its responsibilities, the PCC has a number of sub committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of

parish life. These include Worship, Mission and Outreach, Buildings and Finance and Youth Work. Each reports back to the PCC with the minutes of their meetings.]

Related

Donations from related parties (PCC members) included £7,250 for the Renewal Project.

Reference and Administrative details

The Church is situated in Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1LB and is part of the Deanery of Wem & Whitchurch, in the Diocese of Lichfield. The correspondence address is the Rectory, Church Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire. SY13 1LB. Registered charity number 1129900. Our website address is: www.stalkmunds.com

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

Ex Officio Members

The Incumbent	The Reverend Christopher Precious (Chairman) The Reverend Philippa White (Curate)
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Reader	Jane Rylands
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Churchwardens	John Stokes Sheila Chase
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Deanery Synod Reps	John Stokes Pauline Stokes Steve White
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Elected Members	Elaine Bucknell (Secretary) Melanie Williams (Treasurer) Linda Martin Meriel Edge John Castledine Sarah Radford Hilda Francis-Roberts Paul Williamson Lynne Bowden Irene Daldry
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Bank	Barclays plc
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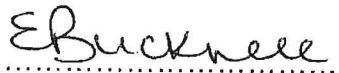
Investment Managers	CCLA
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Independent Examiner	Jonathan Hill, Lichfield Board of Finance
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Approved by the PCC on ~~14th~~ ^{17th} May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


.....

Reverend Chris Precious (Chairman)


.....

Mrs Elaine Bucknell (Secretary)

The Parochial Church Council of St Alkmund's Church, Whitchurch

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Accounting Policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 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 PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions. They have also been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. 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.

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown.

Cashflow Statement

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a Cash flow statement on the grounds that the income does not exceed £500,000.

Going Concern

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

Accounting Estimates and Prior Year Errors

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period.

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period.

Description of Funds

Unrestricted funds are 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 which are therefore not included in its "free reserves" as disclosed in the trustees' annual report.

Restricted funds comprise of two elements:

a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest

b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Endowment funds are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Income

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received or when the PCC becomes entitled to the resource and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Accounting Policies continued

Expenditure

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Governance and Support Costs

Support costs should be allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources eg by allocating staff costs by time spent and other costs by their usage.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts by s.10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

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

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

Investments

Investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are valued initially at cost and subsequently at market value at the year end. Investments held for re-sale are treated as current asset investments.

Debtors

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount. Subsequently they are measured at cash expected to be received.

Creditors and Accruals

Creditors are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts. Accruals are measured on best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees/members of The PCC of Whitchurch Registered charity number: 1129900

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

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement


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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 
Jonathan Hill FCMA CGMA
Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance
St Marys House, The Close, Lichfield. WS13 7LD

Date: 22/05/2025

PCC of Whitchurch

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	93,214	3,759	19,993	—	116,966	104,150
Income from charitable activities	13,840	—	—	—	13,840	17,561
Other trading activities	22,822	—	1,152	—	23,974	22,682
Investments	17,324	—	9,757	—	27,081	31,120
Other income	—	—	—	—	—	1,176
Total income	147,200	3,759	30,902	—	181,861	176,689
Payments						
Raising funds	3,343	298	—	—	3,641	3,390
Expenditure on charitable activities	141,670	1,118	14,436	—	157,225	362,241
Total expenditure	145,013	1,417	14,436	—	160,866	365,632
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	2,187	2,343	16,466	—	20,996	(188,943)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	2,512	103	1,680	—	4,295	2,012
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,783)	—	(2,512)	—	(4,295)	(2,012)
Other recognised gains / losses	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gains / losses on investment assets	4,569	—	8,045	—	12,614	54,117
Net movement in funds	7,485	2,446	23,679	—	33,610	(134,826)
Total funds brought forward	1,132,508	2,481	363,977	—	1,498,966	1,633,793
Total funds carried forward	1,139,993	4,927	387,656	—	1,532,576	1,498,966
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General Fund	1,139,993	—	—	—	1,139,993	1,132,508
Designated						
Bell Designated	—	2,557	—	—	2,557	2,512
Piano/ Organist	—	1,516	—	—	1,516	—
Vacancy Support Fund	—	854	—	—	854	(31)
Restricted						
Church Buildings Fund Scheme	—	—	220	—	220	220
Fabric Restricted	—	—	367,820	—	367,820	351,654
Growing Faith Foundation Learning Hub	—	—	10,000	—	10,000	—
Interior Decorating Scheme	—	—	1,627	—	1,627	4,077
Lectern Restricted	—	—	1,000	—	1,000	1,000
Time Together	—	—	6,989	—	6,989	7,026

PCC of Whitchurch

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Balance sheet

	Total funds	Prior year funds
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	892,300	892,300
Investments	563,727	551,113
	<u>1,456,027</u>	<u>1,443,413</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	3,163	7,143
Cash at bank and in hand	76,309	55,762
	<u>79,472</u>	<u>62,905</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	2,923	7,352
	<u>2,923</u>	<u>7,352</u>
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>76,549</u>	<u>55,553</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>1,532,576</u>	<u>1,498,966</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>1,532,576</u>	<u>1,498,966</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General Fund	1,139,993	1,132,508
Designated		
Bell Designated	2,557	2,512
Piano/ Organist	1,516	—
Vacancy Support Fund	854	(31)
Restricted		
Growing Faith Foundation Learning Hub	10,000	—
Fabric Restricted	367,820	351,654
Time Together	6,989	7,026
Church Buildings Fund Scheme	220	220
Interior Decorating Scheme	1,627	4,077
Lectern Restricted	1,000	1,000
Agency collection	—	—
Funds of the church	<u>1,532,576</u>	<u>1,498,966</u>

Approved by the PCC on 4th May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Chris Precious
The Revd Christopher Precious
Chair

E Bucknell
ELANE BUCKNELL
PCC SECRETARY

PCC of Whitchurch
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of assets and liabilities - 2024

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Fixed assets - Investments						
CCLA Investment Fund CB3008499 -	62,801	—	—	—	62,801	61,396
CCLA Investment Fund CB3028464 -	52,257	—	—	—	52,257	51,088
CCLA Investment Fund CB3028465 -	89,138	—	359,531	—	448,669	438,629
Totals	204,197	—	359,531	—	563,727	551,113
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
Bargates Hall -	584,282	—	—	—	584,282	584,282
3a Bridgewater Street -	154,009	—	—	—	154,009	154,009
3b Bridgewater Street -	154,009	—	—	—	154,009	154,009
Totals	892,300	—	—	—	892,300	892,300
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
Barclays Current Account -	1,194	2,415	7,909	—	11,517	10,660
Barclays Deposit Account -	44,101	2,512	18,111	—	64,725	45,000
Petty Cash -	26	—	—	—	26	84
Flowers Petty Cash -	41	—	—	—	41	18
Totals	45,362	4,927	26,020	—	76,309	55,762
Current assets - Debtors						
Interior Decorating Scheme -	—	—	1,627	—	1,627	4,077
Church Building Fund Scheme -	—	—	220	—	220	220
Sundry Debtors -	—	—	—	—	—	1,675
Prepayments -	137	—	—	—	137	—
Accounts Receivable -	1,179	—	—	—	1,179	1,172
Totals	1,316	—	1,847	—	3,163	7,143
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	(258)	—	(258)	(802)
Totals	—	—	(258)	—	(258)	(802)
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Accruals -	—	—	—	—	—	4,247
Accounts Payable -	3,182	—	—	—	3,182	3,906
Totals	3,182	—	—	—	3,182	8,153
Grand total	1,139,993	4,927	387,656	—	1,532,576	1,498,966

Statement of Assets and Liabilities – 2023

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed Asset - Investments						
6450: CCLA Investment Fund CB3008499	61,396	-	-	-	61,396	56,116
6455: CCLA Investment Fund CB3028464	51,088	-	-	-	51,088	46,695
6460: CCLA Investment Fund CB3028465	87,143	-	351,486	-	438,629	594,185
Total	199,627	-	351,486	-	551,113	696,996
Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets						
6430: Bargates Hall	584,282	-	-	-	584,282	584,282
6441: 3a Bridgewater Street	154,009	-	-	-	154,009	154,009
6442: 3b Bridgewater Street	154,009	-	-	-	154,009	154,009
Total	892,300	-	-	-	892,300	892,300
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand						
6501: Barclays Current Account	10,339	40	282	-	10,660	16,860
6505: Barclays Deposit Account	35,376	2,512	7,111	-	45,000	25,024
6530: Petty Cash	84	-	-	-	84	106
6531: Flowers Petty Cash	18	-	-	-	18	3

Total	45,816	2,552	7,393	-	55,762	41,993
Current Asset - Debtors						
6560: Interior Decorating Scheme	-	-	4,077	-	4,077	3,514
6561: Church Building Fund Scheme	-	-	220	-	220	220
6565: Sundry Debtors	1,675	-	-	-	1,675	53
Z05: Accounts Receivable	1,172	-	-	-	1,172	786
Total	2,847	-	4,297	-	7,143	4,573
Liability - Agency Accounts						
6699: Agency collections	-	-	(802)	-	(802)	(1,660)
Total	-	-	(802)	-	(802)	(1,660)
Liability - Creditors: Amounts Falling Due in One Year						
6601: Accruals	4,176	71	-	-	4,247	884
Z04: Accounts Payable	3,906	-	-	-	3,906	2,847
Total	8,082	71	-	-	8,153	3,730
Net total assets	1,132,508	2,481	363,977	-	1,498,966	1,633,793

Fund movement by type - 2024

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
GFF - Growing Faith Founda						
Restricted	—	10,000	—	—	—	10,000
Sub-total for GFF	—	10,000	—	—	—	10,000
General - General Fund						
Unrestricted	1,132,508	147,200	145,013	729	4,569	1,139,993
Sub-total for General	1,132,508	147,200	145,013	729	4,569	1,139,993
Bell - Bell Designated						
Designated	2,512	45	—	—	—	2,557
Sub-total for Bell	2,512	45	—	—	—	2,557
Piano - Piano/ Organist						
Designated	—	2,201	788	103	—	1,516
Sub-total for Piano	—	2,201	788	103	—	1,516
VSF - Vacancy Support Fund						
Designated	(31)	1,513	628	—	—	854
Sub-total for VSF	(31)	1,513	628	—	—	854
Fabric - Fabric Restricted						
Restricted	351,654	18,205	10,084	—	8,045	367,820
Sub-total for Fabric	351,654	18,205	10,084	—	8,045	367,820
Time Toget - Time Together						
Restricted	7,026	2,447	1,152	(1,332)	—	6,989
Sub-total for Time Toget	7,026	2,447	1,152	(1,332)	—	6,989
CBFS - Church Buildings Fun						
Restricted	220	—	—	—	—	220
Sub-total for CBFS	220	—	—	—	—	220
IDS - Interior Decorating						
Restricted	4,077	250	3,200	500	—	1,627
Sub-total for IDS	4,077	250	3,200	500	—	1,627
Lectern - Lectern Restricted						
Restricted	1,000	—	—	—	—	1,000
Sub-total for Lectern	1,000	—	—	—	—	1,000
Grand total	1,498,966	181,861	160,866	—	12,614	1,532,576

Fund movement summary – 2023

Fund	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Journals	Closing
	General						
Unrestricted	1,106,257	142,346	147,954	1,012	30,848	-	1,132,508
Sub-totals	1,106,257	142,346	147,954	1,012	30,848	-	1,132,508
	Bell						
Designated	2,512	-	-	-	-	-	2,512
Sub-totals	2,512	-	-	-	-	-	2,512
	VSF						
Designated	-	1,988	2,019	-	-	-	(31)
Sub-totals	-	1,988	2,019	-	-	-	(31)
	Fabric						
Restricted	514,061	28,651	214,326	-	23,269	-	351,654
Sub-totals	514,061	28,651	214,326	-	23,269	-	351,654
	Time Together						
Restricted	6,229	3,642	1,332	(1,512)	-	-	7,026
Sub-totals	6,229	3,642	1,332	(1,512)	-	-	7,026
	CBFS						
Restricted	220	-	-	-	-	-	220
Sub-totals	220	-	-	-	-	-	220
	IDS						
Restricted	3,514	63	-	500	-	-	4,077
Sub-totals	3,514	63	-	500	-	-	4,077
	Lectern						
Restricted	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Sub-totals	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Totals	1,633,793	176,689	365,632	-	54,117	-	1,498,966

Analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2024

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

Donations and legacies

Planned Giving - Gift Aid - Bank	31,814	—	—	—	31,814	38,646
Planned Giving - Gift Aid (Card Machine)	1,059	—	—	—	1,059	—
Other planned giving	5,867	—	300	—	6,167	4,680
Loose plate collections	4,665	—	—	—	4,665	5,831
Other Donations eg Funerals	2,511	45	9,443	—	11,999	5,864
Giving through church boxes	1,597	—	—	—	1,597	1,767
One-off Gift Aid gifts	779	—	—	—	779	958
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	7,451	—	—	—	7,451	9,395
Legacies	20,000	—	—	—	20,000	11,000

Recurring grants - LDBF IDS & CBFS Bonus	—	—	250	—	250	63
Recurring grants - LDBF Extra Parishes	—	—	—	—	—	36
Recurring grants - Faults Admin Contribut	2,400	—	—	—	2,400	2,261
Recurring grants - Tilstock Admin Contri	2,400	—	—	—	2,400	2,256
Recurring Grants - LDBF Vacancy Support	—	1,513	—	—	1,513	1,988
Recurring Grants - Growing Faith Foundat	—	—	10,000	—	10,000	—
Non-recurring one-off grants	10,363	—	—	—	10,363	16,127
Other funds generated	2,309	2,201	—	—	4,510	3,280
Total	93,214	3,759	19,993	—	116,966	104,150

Income from charitable activities

Statutory Fees for weddings	2,423	—	—	—	2,423	1,100
Statutory Fees for funerals	6,820	—	—	—	6,820	7,883
Local Fees for weddings	770	—	—	—	770	348
Local Fees for funerals	3,827	—	—	—	3,827	5,366
Hospital Chaplaincy	—	—	—	—	—	2,864
Total	13,840	—	—	—	13,840	17,561

Other trading activities

Rummage sales etc	906	—	—	—	906	365
Church hall lettings	20,401	—	1,152	—	21,553	19,955
Hire of Church	916	—	—	—	916	1,372
Parish magazine and other income	599	—	—	—	599	990
Total	22,822	—	1,152	—	23,974	22,682

Investments

Dividends	5,541	—	9,757	—	15,298	19,750
Bank and building society interest	542	—	—	—	542	269
Rent from 3a Bridgewater Street	5,640	—	—	—	5,640	5,640
Rent from 3b Bridgewater Street	5,600	—	—	—	5,600	5,460
Total	17,324	—	9,757	—	27,081	31,120

Other income

Insurance claims	—	—	—	—	—	1,176
Total	—	—	—	—	—	1,176
INCOME TOTAL	147,200	3,759	30,902	—	181,861	176,689

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds

Costs of fetes & other events	1,859	298	—	—	2,158	1,925
Investment management costs	1,484	—	—	—	1,484	1,465
Total	3,343	298	—	—	3,641	3,390

Expenditure on charitable activities

Giving to missionary societies	—	—	—	—	—	1,000
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Home mission	160	—	—	—	160	150
Secular charities	—	—	—	—	—	2,000
Parish Share	41,486	—	—	—	41,486	40,673
Salary of parish administrator	17,943	—	—	—	17,943	16,319
Rector expenses - mileage	852	—	—	—	852	180
Rector expenses - postage and other misc	11	—	—	—	11	10
Rector expenses - publications	64	—	—	—	64	95
Rector expenses - hospitality	18	—	—	—	18	80
Rector expenses - telephone	190	—	—	—	190	292
Rector expenses - computer	40	—	—	—	40	80
Rector expenses - house insurance	41	—	—	—	41	—
Rector expenses - training	414	—	—	—	414	—
Rector expenses - Rectory garden	—	—	—	—	—	825
Reader/Deanery Synod and other expenses	(278)	318	3,200	—	3,240	961
Education	21	—	1,332	—	1,353	1,512
Parish training and mission	474	—	—	—	474	225
Bubble Church	1,974	—	—	—	1,974	—
Church running - insurance	6,461	—	—	—	6,461	6,127
Church office - telephone	2,132	—	—	—	2,132	2,223
Organ / piano tuning and organist	10,225	490	—	—	10,715	7,322
Church maintenance	10,361	—	5,410	—	15,771	11,819
Cleaning	3,718	—	—	—	3,718	3,270
Upkeep of services	3,347	311	—	—	3,657	3,501
Upkeep of churchyard	6,008	—	—	—	6,008	4,788
Upkeep of car parks	1,798	—	—	—	1,798	49
Printing/Photocopying	2,254	—	(180)	—	2,074	2,961
Postage & Stationery	984	—	—	—	984	1,003
Office Equipment	2,978	—	—	—	2,978	2,807
Annual Subscriptions	1,542	—	—	—	1,542	918
Bank Charges	523	—	—	—	523	604
Visiting speakers / locums	—	—	—	—	—	180
Memorial Book	560	—	—	—	560	705
Church running - electric	4,546	—	—	—	4,546	5,025
Church running - gas	8,072	—	—	—	8,072	7,142
Church running - water	273	—	—	—	273	250
Church running - heating and lighting	—	—	—	—	—	3,710
Hall running - electricity	2,131	—	—	—	2,131	2,261
Hall running - gas	2,475	—	—	—	2,475	3,032
Hall running - insurance	388	—	—	—	388	388
Hall running - maintenance	3,109	—	—	—	3,109	4,957
Hall running - water	441	—	—	—	441	508
Hall running - consumables	163	—	—	—	163	150
Governance costs examination/audit fee	175	—	—	—	175	—
Church major repairs - structure	—	—	456	—	456	196,762
Church major repairs - professional fees	—	—	4,219	—	4,219	16,515
Church interior and exterior decorating	—	—	—	—	—	2,545
Bridgewater Street property costs	3,597	—	—	—	3,597	6,318
Total	141,670	1,118	14,436	—	157,225	362,241
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	145,013	1,417	14,436	—	160,866	365,632
GRAND TOTAL	2,187	2,343	16,466	—	20,996	(188,943)

Allocation of Support Costs

Support costs comprise Trustee Training and Governance Costs etc. Due to the nature of the financial activities of the PCC, these would be allocated across Charitable Expenditure which comprises the majority of its expenditure and as such are automatically charged there.

PCC of Whitchurch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Staff Costs

	2024	2023
Wages & Salaries	£ 24,042	£ 19,517
Average number of employees	3	2

During the year the PCC employed an administrator and church cleaner (both part-time). Our organist James Kellas is now on an employment contract (from August 2024). The administrator's salary attracts additional employer pension costs. There were no employers NI contributions as the PCC benefits from the Employers NI Allowance. The PCC uses the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) for its pension payments.

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the previous or current year.

Trustees' Remuneration & Expenses

No trustee was employed and no trustee received remuneration during the year.

1 Trustee has been reimbursed £1,060 (2023: £552) for travel and phone expenses incurred during the year.

Related Parties

No other expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them, or related parties.

Donations from related parties (PCC members) totalled £7,996 (2023: £10,335). This is the total of all giving/donations made by PCC members who served during the year ie. includes planned/regular giving as well as any one-off donations.

Fees for the examination of the accounts

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent Examiner's fees	245	175
Other fees (eg accountancy services) paid to the Independent Examiner	0	0

Analysis of Transfer between Funds

Analysis of Transfer between Funds 2024

Description	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total £
Transfer to Interior Decorating Scheme	(500)		500	0
Hire of Church Hall - Time Together	1,152		(1,152)	0
Photocopying Recharge - Time Together	180		(180)	0
Piano Recital Dec 23	(103)	103		0
Total	729	103	(832)	0

Analysis of Transfer between Funds 2023

Description	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total £
Transfer to Interior Decorating Scheme	(500)		500	0
Hire of Church Hall - Time Together	1,152		(1,152)	0
Photocopying Recharge - Time Together	360		(360)	0
Total	1,012	0	(1,012)	0

Fixed Assets

a. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Cost/Value 01/01/2024	Additions	Disposals	Revaluation	Depreciation	Cost/Value 31/12/2024
Bargales Hall	584,282.00					584,282.00
3a Bridgewater Street	154,009.00					154,009.00
3b Bridgewater Street	154,009.00					154,009.00
Total						892,300.00

The Tangible Fixed Assets are shown at historical cost and are not revalued each year. The properties are well-maintained and an impairment review is carried out periodically.

b. Fixed Asset Investments

	CCLA No	Cost/Value 01/01/2024	Additions	Disposals	Revaluation	Cost/Value 31/12/2024
Unrestricted Fund						
CCLA Investment Fund Shares	CB3028464-001	51,088			1,169	52,257
CCLA Investment Fund Shares	CB3028465-001	87,143			1,995	89,138
CCLA Investment Fund Shares	CB3008499-001	61,396			1,405	62,801
Total Unrestricted		199,627			4,569	204,196
Restricted - General Fabric						
CCLA Investment Fund Shares	CB3008465-001	351,486			8,045	359,531
Total Restricted		351,486			8,045	359,531
Total Investments		551,113			12,614	563,727

Current Assets

a. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
IDS & CBFS	1,847	4,297
Gift aid recoverable	0	1,615
Prepayments and accrued income	137	60
Other debtors – Church Hall lettings Dec 2024	1,179	1,172
Total	3,163	7,143

Liabilities

a. Amounts falling due in one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals	0	4,247
Accounts payable	3,182	3,906
Agency payments/ collections	(258)	(802)
Total	2,923	7,352

Prior Year Comparative

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	85,155	1,988	17,008	-	104,150	102,915
Income from charitable activities	17,561	-	-	-	17,561	12,185
Other trading activities	21,530	-	1,152	-	22,682	19,421
Investments	16,925	-	14,195	-	31,120	31,832
Other income	1,176	-	-	-	1,176	-
Total income	142,346	1,988	32,355	-	176,689	166,353
Payments						
Raising funds	3,390	-	-	-	3,390	1,663
Expenditure on charitable activities	144,564	2,019	215,658	-	362,241	160,056
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	147,954	2,019	215,658	-	365,632	161,720
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(5,609)	(31)	(183,303)	-	(188,943)	4,633
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	1,512	-	500	-	2,012	2,932
Gross transfers between funds - out	(500)	-	(1,512)	-	(2,012)	(2,932)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets	30,848	-	23,269	-	54,117	(92,995)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	26,251	(31)	(161,046)	-	(134,826)	(88,362)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	1,106,257	2,512	525,023	-	1,633,793	1,722,154
Total funds carried forward	1,132,508	2,481	363,977	-	1,498,966	1,633,793