

**Parochial Church Council
of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Charity Registration Number: 1131783**

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for 2022

Annual Report 2022

Objectives and Activities

The Parochial Church Council ('PCC') is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church, and regularly reviews how our services can appeal to and involve the many groups that live within our parish. We strive to put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music, and sacrament. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, and deepening their knowledge and trust as disciples of Jesus Christ
- provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish, and missionary and outreach work.

The church hall (The Ark) is an important asset to us in achieving our objectives. When planning its activities, the PCC has regard to the Charity Commissioners' guidance on public benefit, and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC aims to offer a range of services each week, and over the course of the year, that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For that reason, the PCC is keen to continue the full range of Sunday services which provide both intimate and reflective worship, and more outgoing forms of worship.

Rev Gail Rogers, who was appointed to St Laurence at the end of 2021 is also vicar of St Leonard's Beoley. Many of the activities of 2022 were aimed at facilitating her time sharing between the two churches and helping the two church communities to work and worship together. Sunday worship times at both churches were adjusted (for a trial period) to enable Rev Gail to attend both churches every week. Eucharist was held on the first Sunday of the month at 9.15am and on the second and third Sunday of the month at 11.15am at St Laurence. Joint services were held for both churches at each site at Easter, Pentecost and Christmas.

Everyone is welcome to attend our regular services. At the end of 2022, there were 95 parishioners on our Electoral Roll. Our worshipping community numbers some 140 including 25 children and young people.

We celebrated 2 baptisms, 7 weddings, and held 12 funeral services in our church (and 2 at the local Crematorium), 2 graveside burials and 14 interments of ashes.

In addition to praying for those mentioned on our Prayer Board, there is a confidential prayer chain for private prayer requests.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC, together with our Vicar, sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Fabric of the Church

Phase Two of our Capital Projects — repairs and refurbishment of the church tower and clocks was granted a faculty in 2021 and work will start once we have secured sufficient funds, from a combination of asset sales and grants, for which we shall shortly be applying. The sale of land in School Lane Alvechurch to provide some of the funds, was finally completed during the year.

We have carried out essential repairs as they have arisen and most of the remedial work arising from the Quinquennial Review has been completed except that on the tower as mentioned above. The churchyard continues to be maintained by a dedicated team of volunteers, and tree surgery has been performed to deal with any trees that might have presented a hazard to visitors or the general public. A dead tree stump was carved into an angel by a local artist to serve as a place of memorial for still born or neo-natal babies.

Pastoral Care

The Mother and Toddler Group continues to operate. The children's Sunday Club has run during the Sunday morning Family Service and remains popular, with adult helpers bringing considerable skill and imagination to this activity. All who work with children have been DBS checked.

A Baby Loss Awareness service was held in October when The Angel was dedicated to the memory of those lost locally.

St Laurence's is a caring community. The pastoral care group and others endeavour to visit or keep in contact with those who are no longer able to come to church due to sickness or infirmity or covid restrictions. Regular services in local residential homes at The Lawns and The Leys have resumed after they were suspended during the pandemic.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is also a demonstration of our faith in action. Financial, practical and prayer support was once again given to those we are linked with in the churches in Peru. We have also supported the work of the orphanage at Montgomery Heights Christian Care Centre in Zimbabwe, together with Faith at Work in Worcestershire - four members of our congregation are workplace chaplains in Alvechurch and Redditch. We give on a regular basis to the food bank run by New Starts in Bromsgrove, with donations also to Birmingham City Mission.

A "Places of Welcome" was introduced in The Ark to provide a warm place where people could meet informally over light refreshment. The church itself is also open during this time for private prayer and contemplation.

Our monthly parish magazine, The Grapevine, has been available free of charge across the parish this has continued through the pandemic after the first month of the initial restrictions. As well as giving information about the village of Alvechurch, the magazine deals with matters affecting the church, and reminds readers of our activities, as well as seeking to develop knowledge and trust in Jesus Christ. Special services, including our recorded services, are advertised across the parish. During the year the printing of this magazine was brought in-house with a considerable saving in cost.

Ecumenical Relationships

St Laurence is a member of Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green with joint events held during the year including Advent and Lent courses, reading of St Mark's Gospel, Christmas light switch service.

St Laurence members were active in the setting up and operating of the ecumenical Alvechurch Larder which provides near sell-by food at a greatly reduced cost to local people, thereby reducing food waste and helping those in financial need.

Safeguarding

The PCC has due regard to the House of Bishop's guidance in relation to safeguarding. DBS checks are up to date, as is mandatory safeguarding training for those who deal with vulnerable parishioners. The yearly Toolkit for the Archdeacon is now an online dashboard which is coloured red, orange, green depending on whether or not we are compliant with the requirements and if not our action plan. We are green in all areas. There are no outstanding safeguarding issues.

Financial Review

Income for Unrestricted Funds in 2022 was £127,813 (2021 £111,720). Income for Restricted Funds was £7,392 (2021 £10,682).

Expenditures from Unrestricted Funds in 2022 were £104,687 (2021 £117,264). Ministry Share of £50,000 was paid, equalling that paid for Parish Share in 2021. Expenditures from Restricted funds in 2022 were £6,220 (2021 £9,011). Cash reserves of General Unrestricted funds stood at £46,980 at the end of 2022, representing less than 6 months' expenditure.

During the year the Parish Room (disused since 2006) and the land on which it stood were sold. The £275,991 which this raised is to be used for future maintenance of the church building.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance in the General Unrestricted Fund which equates approximately six months' expenditures, excluding Ministry Share payments.

Administrative information

During the year Mr Ian Price, the Parish Administrator, resigned his post and was replaced by Mrs Lynda Lewis. We thank Ian for his many years' work for us and wish Lynda every success in the role.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Rector	Rev Gail Rogers
Churchwardens	Mr Graham Clark, Mr Mick Fletcher
Lay Readers	Mrs Sue Philips-Wardle, Mrs Helen Ayling
Members	Mr Colin Bennett
	Mr Andrew Notley
	Mr Roger Wardle
	Mr Michael Davenport
	Mrs Janet Wright (Treasurer and Electoral Roll Officer)
	Dr Martin Allen
	Mr Peter Freeman
	Mrs Sue Lambert
	Mrs Sarah Linton
	Mr Mark Linton
	Mrs Lysandre Notley (Secretary)

Aims and purposes

St Laurence PCC has the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the church - evangelistic, pastoral, social and ecumenical - within the ecclesiastical parish of Alvechurch and seeking ways to grow mission and ministry locally.

Structure, governance and management

Appointment of members to the PCC conforms with the Church Representation Rules. Everyone attending church is encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC Committees.

The PCC operates through several committees, which meet between full PCC meetings, and which met as necessary on Zoom following the start of the pandemic:

1) Finance and Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has powers to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to directions given by the Council. It oversees the general financial dimension of the work of St Laurence by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and co-ordinating the review of planned giving.

2) Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard for Mission Committee

This committee is responsible for the general maintenance and upkeep of church property (the church, the Ark, and the churchyard). It also now plans, co-ordinates and budgets both capital and maintenance projects. It is also responsible for work arising from the Quinquennial Inspection and the Asset Management Plan.

3) Children and Youth Work Committee

This committee is responsible for overseeing Church groups which are dedicated to helping children develop faith. It also considers the wider work of the church and community in relation to children and young people.

4) Mission Committee

This committee fosters the links with the Anglican Church and Christians in Peru, and the orphanage at Montgomery Heights Christian Care Centre in Zimbabwe, and other missionary work, including Faith at Work in Worcestershire.

Statement of Responsibilities of members of the PCC

The PCC is responsible for preparing the Annual Report in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity, and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements the PCC is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

- the PCC is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that they comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations
- The PCC is also responsible for safeguarding the assets and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Annual Accounts 2022

Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
<u>Incoming Resources</u>					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income		86,807	4,884	91,691	86,378
Activities for generating funds		1,115	-	1,115	2,755
Investment income		29	1,676	1,705	5,545
		87,951	6,560	94,511	94,678
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
		39,862	832	40,694	32,907
Total incoming resources	2	127,813	7,392	135,205	127,585
<u>Resources Expended</u>					
Charitable activities		104,687	6,220	110,907	130,327
Total resources expended		104,687	6,220	110,907	130,327
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses	3	23,126	1,172	24,298	(2,742)
Profit on sale of land		34,991	241,000	275,991	-
Adjustments				-	-
Transfers		(100)	100	-	-
Net movement in funds		58,017	242,272	300,289	(2,742)
Accumulated funds b/f		23,954	232,948	256,902	259,644
Accumulated funds c/f	5	81,971	475,220	557,191	256,902

There were no recognised gains or losses except as shown above.

Balance Sheet

	Notes	2022	2021
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
Tangibles	4	-	100,000
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Cash at bank and in hand		111,864	23,954
Investments - restricted funds		445,327	132,948
		<u>557,191</u>	<u>156,902</u>
Net Current Assets		557,191	156,902
Net Assets		<u>557,191</u>	<u>256,902</u>
<u>Reserves</u>			
Unrestricted funds	6	81,971	23,954
Restricted funds	6	475,220	232,948
Total church funds	6	<u>557,191</u>	<u>256,902</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on and signed on its behalf by :-



Rev Gail Rogers Chair of the PCC

Notes to the Accounts

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting Convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the the Charities Act 2011, on the receipts and payments basis.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when received. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included. Grants are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are received, and the church has fulfilled all conditions for its receipt. Investment income is included when it is received.

Outgoing Resources

Resources expended are recognised in the year in which they are paid.

Funds

The Unrestricted fund are incoming resources which are used for the objects of the church, without any specified purpose or further restriction. Restricted funds can only be used for the specific purposes as decided by the donor, within the objects of the church. Designated funds are unrestricted funds, which have been earmarked by the PCC for particular purposes.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind are excluded from the accounts by the Charities Act 2011. Freehold properties are stated in the balance sheet at cost.

The depreciation rates used are :-

Freehold property	Nil.
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Investments

Investments are stated at cost.

2 <u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>	2022	2021
<u>Voluntary incoming resources</u>		
Planned giving	54,040	58,216
Collections	20,007	18,115
Donations and legacies	16,517	8,027
Worcs. CC grant for churchyard	500	1,500
National Churches Trust grant	-	-
Alvechurch Parish Council grant	-	-
Advent purses/Bibles for Schools	627	520
Fundraising	-	-
	<u>91,691</u>	<u>86,378</u>
<u>Incoming resources from charitable activities</u>		
Ark café	958	608
Fees for special services	15,336	20,298
Church and annex lettings	22,788	12,001
Fund raising	1,612	-
	<u>40,694</u>	<u>32,907</u>
<u>Investment income</u>		
Rent from field	29	80
Dividends and interest	1,676	890
	<u>1,705</u>	<u>970</u>
<u>Others</u>		
VAT recovered	-	205
Model railway exhibition	-	-
Grapevine and website	1,115	2,550
	<u>1,115</u>	<u>2,755</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>135,205</u>	<u>123,010</u>

3 <u>NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES</u>	2022	2021
Depreciation	-	-
Independent examiner's remuneration	900	900
Salaries		14,528
Average number of employees	1	1
Council members' expenses	-	-
Council members' remuneration	-	-

There were no related party transactions.

4 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

For charitable use

<u>Cost or valuation</u>	Freehold Property	Total
Balance b/f	100,000	100,000
Additions	-	-
Disposals	(100,000)	(100,000)
Balance c/f	-	-
<u>Accumulated depreciation</u>		
Balance b/f	-	-
Charge for the year	-	-
Balance c/f	-	-
Net book value b/f	100,000	100,000
Net book value c/f	-	-

5 MOVEMENT ON ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	B/F at the Start of year	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Adjustments	C/F at the End of The year
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>						
General Unrestricted Fund	23,874	162,804	(104,687)	(100)	-	81,891
Ark Café Designated	80	-	-	-	-	80
	23,954	162,804	(104,687)	(100)	-	81,971
<u>Restricted Funds</u>						
Churchyard	305	1,843	(1,465)	-	-	683
Ark Fittings	2,441	100	(717)	-	-	1,824
Youth Fund	7,764	121	(382)	-	-	7,503
Fabric Fund	260	451	-	-	-	711
Bells Fund	1,300	583	(389)	100	-	1,594
Clock Fund	2,242	594	(60)	-	-	2,776
Others	14,310	3,700	(3,207)	-	-	14,803
	28,622	7,392	(6,220)	100	-	29,894
<u>Restricted Funds Invested</u>						
Capital Repair		241,000		100,000		341,000
Stipend	4,562	-	-	-	-	4,562
Recoupment	58,881		-		-	58,881
Churchyard Maintenance	40,883	-	-	-	-	40,883
	104,326	241,000	-	100,000	-	445,326
<u>Restricted Assets</u>						
Ark/Church Car Park	100,000	-	-	(100,000)	-	-
	100,000	-	-	(100,000)	-	-
	256,902	411,196	(110,907)	-	-	557,191

The 'Others' Fund holds donations restricted to specific church and charity uses on a short term basis

6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN THE FUNDS

	Invest- ments	Fixed Assets	Cash at Bank	Total
General unrestricted fund	-	-	81,891	81,891
Designated funds	-	-	80	80
Restricted funds	445,326	-		445,326
Restricted investments	29,894	-	-	29,894
Restricted assets	-	-	-	-
	475,220	-	81,971	557,191

7 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	2022	2021
<u>Incoming Resources</u>		
Planned giving	54,040	58,216
Collections	20,007	18,115
Donations and legacies	16,517	8,027
Worcs. CC grant for churchyard	500	1,500
Alvechurch Parish Council grant	-	-
Advent purses/Bibles for Schools	627	520
Ark café	958	608
Fees for special services	15,336	20,298
Church and annex lettings	22,788	12,001
Fund raising	1,612	-
Rent from field	29	80
Dividends and interest	1,676	890
VAT recovered	-	205
Grapevine and website	1,115	2,550
Total incoming resources	135,205	123,010
Profit on sale of land	275,991	-
	411,196	123,010
<u>Resources Expended</u>		
Fundraising	1,793	124
Ark administration/Diocesan Fees	5,882	3,692
Charitable giving	6,323	10,992
Diocesan parish share	50,000	50,000
Church and annex running costs	20,785	17,342
Church and Ark maintenance	537	2,091
Major repairs	-	13,432
Worship	900	514
Churchyard upkeep	5,465	8,998
Grapevine	1,168	4,753
Administration	14,771	16,074
Equipment repairs	984	36
Organists', Choir, Bells fees	615	945
Other expenses	-	42
Ark café	736	344
Independent examiner	948	948
	110,907	130,327
Available Surplus/Deficit for the year	300,289	(7,317)
Interest received not yet available		-
Recoupment fund		-
Churchyard Maintenance fund		-
	-	-
Overall surplus/deficit for the year	300,289	(7,317)

Independent examiner's report to the members of the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch for the year ended 31st December 2022.

I report on the accounts of the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 8 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of PCC and the examiner

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection

with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and 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.

M.A. Edwards Date *31/5/2023*

M.A. Edwards

For and on behalf of :-

M. A. Edwards Accountants Limited,
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