

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

**Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for
2023**

Annual Report 2023

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.

We continue to grow in relationship with St Leonard's Beoley. We held two "all-together" services, one at each church, and we held a joint Harvest Social.

The coronation of King Charles III was celebrated together at St Laurence.

A joint Confirmation service was conducted by Bishop Martin for 11 candidates from St Laurence and St Leonard (which included 2 baptisms).

A new monthly worshipping community, a café-style service, entitled Church@4 was started in April. Places of Welcome continues to grow and provides a valuable service to those who attend.

We welcomed Rev Martin Allen as a new curate member of our Ministry Team.

Everyone is welcome to attend our regular services. At the end of 2023, there were 98 parishioners on our Electoral Roll. Our worshipping community numbers some 140 including 30 children and young people.

We celebrated 7 baptisms, 7 weddings, and held 16 funeral services in our church and conducted 9 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 Redditch and Bromsgrove Deanery Synod. This provides an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Fabric of the Church

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 which is expected to be started in 2024. 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.

The experience of broadcasting recorded services whilst we were unable to meet in person during the Covid pandemic gave the impetus to continue this activity. Thanks to donations and legacies we raised the necessary funds for the installation of a new audio-visual presentation system which was commenced in December (and completed in 2024). This will be used to enhance the worship experience during services at St Laurence and will enable us to live stream or record services in the future.

Pastoral Care

The Tots 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.

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 continue to be held in local residential homes at The Lawns, The Leys, Grosvenor House and Hopwood House. We have commissioned 7 Pastoral Care Ministers to enable them to administer communion in these premises and in the homes of other local residents.

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

continue to give on a regular basis to the food bank run by New Starts in Bromsgrove, with donations also to Birmingham City Mission.

Our monthly parish magazine, The Grapevine, has been available free of charge across the parish. This has continued through the Covid 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 inhouse with a considerable saving in cost.

Ecumenical Relationships

St Laurence is a member of Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green (CTARG) with joint events held during the year including Advent and Lent courses, and the Christmas light switch-on service.

St Laurence members continue to be active in the operation of the ecumenical, Alvechurch Larder. This service provides near sell-by food at a greatly reduced cost to local people, thereby reducing food waste and helping those in financial need and continues to satisfy a growing local need.

As part of CTARG, St Laurence participated in the village Picnic in the Park in May, and with an ecologically-oriented service in Rowney Green in June.

A joint Service for Peace was held followed by a Ukrainian themed+ meal.

Safeguarding

The PCC has due regard to the House of Bishops' 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. There are no outstanding safeguarding issues.

Financial Review

The overall value of PCC funds fell by £28,762 in 2023, compared with a rise of £24,298 in 2022 (excluding an extraordinary profit of £275,991 on the sale of land).

The fall in overall funds in 2023 is mainly due to payments being made for the installation of new audio-visual equipment in St. Laurence's Church building, amounting to £50,212. This has been funded from legacies and, individual donations received in previous years, and a transfer made from

The Ark Café Fund following the closure of the café during the Covid pandemic, together with a transfer from the General Fund.

Receipts exceeded payments by £15,321 on the unrestricted, General Fund in 2023. This compares with a surplus in 2022 of £23,126 (excluding an extraordinary profit of £34,991 on the sale of land).

The balance on the General Fund at the end of 2023 is £52,675. This equates to approximately 8 months' normal expenditures, including Ministry Share payments. In view of the current geopolitical uncertainties, creating a cost-of-living crisis in the UK, together with potential continued loss of income from regular giving, the PCC considers that this level of General Fund reserve is necessary.

Reserves Policy

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

Administrative information

During the year the work of the Parish Administrator, Mrs Lynda Lewis, was augmented by the employment of a part-time Ministry Support Assistant, Mrs Penny Walker. This post is shared with St Leonard's Beoley.

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:

Priest in Charge Rev Gail Rogers

Churchwardens Mr Graham Clark, Mr Mick Fletcher (until April)
Michael Davenport (from April)

Curate Rev Martin Allen

Lay Readers Mrs Sue Philips-Wardle, Mrs Helen Ayling

Treasurer Mr Mark Blamire-Brown (from May)

Members Mr Andrew Notley

Mr Roger Wardle

Mr Michael Davenport

Mr Peter Freeman

Mrs Sue Lambert

Mrs Sarah Linton

Mr Mark Linton

Mrs Lysandre Notley (Secretary)

Mrs Linda Helmore

Mrs Jane Edwards

Ms Sue Sperring

Ms Gloria Wilson

Aims and purposes

St Laurence PCC is responsible for promoting the whole mission of the church - evangelistic, pastoral, social and ecumenical - within the ecclesiastical parish of Alvechurch, and for seeking ways to grow mission and ministry in the parish.

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 and groups, which meet between full PCC meetings, and which met as necessary on Zoom following the start of the Covid 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 receipts and payments, 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 building, the Ark, and the churchyard). It also plans, co-ordinates and budgets both capital and maintenance projects. It is 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 and young people develop faith. It also considers the wider work of the church and community in relation to children and young people.

4) Wider Mission Group

This committee fosters 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.

Other groups include, Pastoral Group, Growing Mission & Ministry, Churches Together and Eco Church. These groups represent the whole mission and ministry of the church.

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.

**The Parochial Church Council
of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch**

Charity Registration Number: 1131783

**Accounts for the year ended
31st December 2023**

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023**

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**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023**

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the members of the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch for the year ended 31st December 2023.

I report on accounts of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 2 to 8 .

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.

 Date 25/4/23

M.A. Edwards
For and on behalf of :-
M. A. Edwards Accountants Limited,
Chartered Accountants,
26, The Green,
Kings Norton,
Birmingham,
B38 8SD.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Receipts and Payments Account


	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts						
Planned giving		47,354	0	830	48,184	55,652
Collections at services		6,082	0	1,275	7,357	7,019
Other voluntary receipts	2(a)	10,705	40	2,300	13,045	16,785
Gift aid tax recovered		12,163	0	702	12,865	12,115
Total Voluntary receipts		76,304	40	5,107	81,451	91,571
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	4,102	83	960	5,145	2,682
Investment receipts	2(c)	43	0	7,901	7,944	1,825
Church activities	2(d)	16,385	22,482	2,368	41,235	39,127
Total Receipts		96,834	22,605	16,336	135,775	135,205
PAYMENTS						
Church activities						
Diocesan Ministry Share contributions		45,411	0	4,589	50,000	50,000
Clergy & staffing costs	3(a)	11,887	8,826	0	20,713	13,165
Church running expenses	3(b)	16,368	1,006	3,958	21,332	23,369
Utilities expenses	3(c)	3,695	4,182	0	7,877	9,028
The Ark running costs		0	7,013	439	7,452	5,948
Mission giving & donations		3,594	0	2,610	6,204	6,323
Cost of generating funds		535	0	190	725	2,961
Other expenses	3(d)	23	50,212	0	50,235	113
Total Payments		81,513	71,239	11,786	164,538	110,907
Excess/(Deficit) off Receipts over Payments		15,321	(48,634)	4,550	(28,763)	24,298
Profit on sale of land	4					275,991
Transfers between funds	5	(44,537)	55,835	(11,298)	0	0
Net movement in funds	6	(29,216)	7,201	(6,748)	(28,763)	300,289
Reconciliation of funds						
Accumulated funds b/f		81,891	80	475,220	557,191	256,902
Accumulated funds c/f		52,675	7,281	468,472	528,428	557,191

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
Cash funds						
Bank		43,370	7,281	19,245	69,896	111,864
Cash in hand		1,271	0	50	1,321	0
Deposit funds		8,034	0	251,160	259,194	241,000
		<u>52,675</u>	<u>7,281</u>	<u>270,455</u>	<u>330,411</u>	<u>352,864</u>
Other monetary assets						
Gift aid tax recoverable		<u>997</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>335</u>	<u>1,332</u>	<u>0</u>
Investment assets						
Investment fund shares at market value	7	0	0	229,279	229,279	204,686
Liabilities						
Agency Collections		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,747</u>	<u>1,747</u>	<u>0</u>

These accounts were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27th February 2024
and signed on its behalf by:

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Revd Gail Rogers
Chair of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Notes to the Accounts

- 1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 RECEIPTS	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
2(a) <u>Other voluntary receipts</u>					
Other donations	567	40	1,552	2,159	1,358
Legacies	10,138	0	200	10,338	14,927
Grants	0	0	548	548	500
	<u>10,705</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>2,300</u>	<u>13,045</u>	<u>16,785</u>
2(b) <u>Activities for generating funds</u>					
Fund raising events	1,282	83	960	2,325	1,612
Grapevine magazine advertising	2,820	0		2,820	1,070
	<u>4,102</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>960</u>	<u>5,145</u>	<u>2,682</u>
2(c) <u>Investment receipts</u>					
Dividends	0	0	1,230	1,230	608
Deposit interest	43	0	6,671	6,714	1,068
Rent from field	0	0	0	0	149
	<u>43</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,901</u>	<u>7,944</u>	<u>1,825</u>
2(d) <u>Church activities</u>					
Fees - weddings & funerals	12,350	0	112	12,462	15,336
The Ark lettings & events	0	22,482	0	22,482	23,746
Other receipts	4,034	0	2,256	6,290	45
	<u>16,385</u>	<u>22,482</u>	<u>2,368</u>	<u>41,235</u>	<u>39,127</u>

Change to accounts disclosure: Fees - weddings & funerals in 2022 included fees received from wedding couples and funeral directors that are due to third parties such as organists, vergers, bellringers and the diocese. Third party fees have been excluded from the figures for 2023 Fees - weddings & funerals.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Notes to the Accounts

3 PAYMENTS	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
3(a) <u>Clergy & staffing costs</u>					
Clergy expenses	2,181	0	0	2,181	1,109
Administrators staff costs	9,706	8,826	0	18,532	12,056
	<u>11,887</u>	<u>8,826</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20,713</u>	<u>13,165</u>

Redditch Holy Trinity PCC contribute towards 50% of clergy expenses. In 2022, the receipts were netted off against payments. In 2023, the receipts are included in Church Activities, Other Receipts

3(b) Church running expenses

Fees - weddings & funerals	774	0	0	774	4,781
Insurance	6,302	0	0	6,302	5,629
Repair & maintenance	3,705	711	3,681	8,096	8,395
Worship resources	1,274	0	26	1,299	900
Administration	2,800	80	154	3,034	2,333
Independent Examiner's Fee	1,128	0	0	1,128	948
Other expenses	385	215	98	698	382
	<u>16,368</u>	<u>1,006</u>	<u>3,958</u>	<u>21,332</u>	<u>23,369</u>

Change to accounts disclosure: Fees - weddings & funerals in 2022 included fees paid to third parties such as organists, vergers, bellringers and the diocese. Third party fees have been excluded from the figures for 2023 Fees - weddings & funerals.

3(c) Utilities expenses

0

Gas	1,957	2,112	0	4,069	4,539
Electricity	1,613	1,613	0	3,225	3,243
IT & Telecommunications	124	458	0	582	1,246
	<u>3,694</u>	<u>4,182</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,877</u>	<u>9,028</u>

3(d) Other expenses

Audio visual system installation	0	50,212	0	50,212	0
Small equipment purchases	23	0	0	23	113
	<u>23</u>	<u>50,212</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>50,235</u>	<u>113</u>

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Notes to the Accounts

4 PROFIT ON SALE OF LAND

Land in School Lane, Alvechurch, upon which the former Parish Room stood, was sold in May 2022 for £395,000. Net proceeds, after deducting professional charges, amounted to £375,991. As the land was not designated as endowment, there are no restrictions on the use of the proceeds, whether capital or income earned from investments, provided they are "for the ecclesiastical purposes of the charity 1131783: the Parish Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch". However, the PCC has decided that the funds should be classified as Restrictive and used in perpetuity for the maintenance and repairs of St. Laurence church buildings and its churchyard. This decision can be modified by the PCC provided they satisfy the Charities Commission stipulation.

5 TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £
<u>2023</u>			
From General Fund to Audio Visual Fund	(43,835)	43,835	
From Others Fund to Audio Visual Fund		12,000	(12,000)
From General Fund to Ark Fixtures & Fittings Fund	(505)		505
From General Fund to Churchyard Maintenance	(788)		788
From Others Fund to General Fund	632		(632)
From General Fund to Clock Fund	(41)		41
	(44,537)	55,835	(11,298)
<u>2022</u>			
From General Fund to Clock Fund	(100)		100
From Ark/Church Car Park Fund to Capital Repair Fund			(100,000) 100,000
	(100)	0	100

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Notes to the Accounts

6 MOVEMENT ON ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	01/01/23 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	31/12/23 £
<u>Unrestricted Fund</u>					
General Fund	81,891	96,834	(81,513)	(44,537)	52,675
<u>Designated Funds</u>					
Audio Visual	0	0	(50,212)	55,835	5,623
The Ark	80	22,605	(21,027)	0	1,658
	80	22,605	(71,239)	55,835	7,281
<u>Restricted Funds</u>					
Ark Fixtures & Fittings	1,824	0	(439)	505	1,890
Ark Recoupment	58,881	0	0	0	58,881
Ark Tots & Toddlers	0	2,256	(124)	0	2,132
Bells	1,594	786	(20)	0	2,360
Capital Repair	341,000	2,572	(103)	0	343,469
Churchyard Capital	40,883	0	0	0	40,883
Churchyard Maintenance	683	1,778	(3,249)	788	0
Clock Fund	2,776	756	(462)	41	3,111
Fabric	711	3,871	0	0	4,582
Others	14,803	2,992	(2,800)	(12,632)	2,363
Organ Restoration Fund	0	1,110	0	0	1,110
Stipend	4,562	27	(4,589)	0	0
Youth	7,503	188	0	0	7,691
	475,220	16,336	(11,786)	(11,298)	468,472
TOTAL FUNDS	557,191	135,775	(164,538)	0	528,428

During the year the PCC decided to create a new designated fund for a major project to install a new audio visual system in the church. This project had not been completed at the year-end.

The 2022 the General Fund receipts and payments include those in respect of the The Ark community centre. The PCC required greater visibility of The Ark receipts and payments, so in 2023 these were recorded in a separate designated fund for The Ark.

Prior to Jul 2023, the receipts and payments for Tots & Toddlers Group, which meets weekly in term time, were excluded from the PCC accounts. However, now that the Group is led by church members a new restricted fund has been created to collect fees and pay expenses for the Group.

The 'Others' Fund holds donations, on a short term basis, raised for specific church and charity uses .

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Notes to the Accounts

7 INVESTMENT ASSETS

Investment Funds

The Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance manages on the PCC's behalf the following CBF Church of England Investment Funds:

Fund Name	Note	Market Value	
		31/12/23 £	31/12/22 £
Alvechurch Black Paddock (Recoup)	(a)	70,549	62,627
Alvechurch Black Paddock Ch'yard Maint	(b)	45,002	41,102
Alvechurch PCC	(c)	113,728	100,957
		<u>229,279</u>	<u>204,686</u>

(a) Part of the land held by the PCC and known as the 'Black Paddock' was sold in 2003. Part of the proceeds, amounting to £978,710, was used to build The Ark community centre, being an extension to the existing church building. This land had previously been held as a permanent endowment by the PCC as a trustee in a separate charity 'for burial purposes and extension of the churchyard'. By order of the Charity Commission, the PCC placed £42,000 in an accumulated investment fund, permitting dividends accruing therefrom to be accumulated over 60 years. At the end of the 60 years the investment is to be treated as a

(b) £40,000 of the proceeds from the sale of 'Black Paddock' land was invested in Income shares, whereby the dividends are paid into the Churchyard Maintenance Fund.

(c) £100,000 from the land sale proceeds (see Note 4) was invested, in May 2022, in an Accumulation Fund.

Deposit Funds

Deposit savings are held on the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and in bank deposit accounts held on the CAF Charity Deposits Platform.

At the start of the year, the Worcester Diocesan Trust held £4,563 in a CBF Church of England Deposit Fund account named 'Alvechurch Stipends Trust' as Custodian Trustee for the PCC. The account was closed in February 2023 and the proceeds used to pay part of the PCC's Ministry Share for 2023.

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Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch**

Charity Registration Number: 1131783

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Independent Examiner's Report

**Independent examiner's report to the members of the PCC of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Alvechurch for the year ended 31st December 2023.**

I report on accounts of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 2 to 8 .

Respective responsibilities of PCC and the examiner

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Basis of independent examiner's report

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Independent examiner's statement

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- 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.

 Date 25/4/23

M.A. Edwards

For and on behalf of :-

M. A. Edwards Accountants Limited,
Chartered Accountants,
26, The Green,
Kings Norton,
Birmingham,
B38 8SD.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Receipts and Payments Account

	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts						
Planned giving		47,354	0	830	48,184	55,652
Collections at services		6,082	0	1,275	7,357	7,019
Other voluntary receipts	2(a)	10,705	40	2,300	13,045	16,785
Gift aid tax recovered		12,163	0	702	12,865	12,115
Total Voluntary receipts		76,304	40	5,107	81,451	91,571
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	4,102	83	960	5,145	2,682
Investment receipts	2(c)	43	0	7,901	7,944	1,825
Church activities	2(d)	16,385	22,482	2,368	41,235	39,127
Total Receipts		96,834	22,605	16,336	135,775	135,205
PAYMENTS						
Church activities						
Diocesan Ministry Share contributions		45,411	0	4,589	50,000	50,000
Clergy & staffing costs	3(a)	11,887	8,826	0	20,713	13,165
Church running expenses	3(b)	16,368	1,006	3,958	21,332	23,369
Utilities expenses	3(c)	3,695	4,182	0	7,877	9,028
The Ark running costs		0	7,013	439	7,452	5,948
Mission giving & donations		3,594	0	2,610	6,204	6,323
Cost of generating funds		535	0	190	725	2,961
Other expenses	3(d)	23	50,212	0	50,235	113
Total Payments		81,513	71,239	11,786	164,538	110,907
Excess/(Deficit) off Receipts over Payments		15,321	(48,634)	4,550	(28,763)	24,298
Profit on sale of land	4					275,991
Transfers between funds	5	(44,537)	55,835	(11,298)	0	0
Net movement in funds	6	(29,216)	7,201	(6,748)	(28,763)	300,289
Reconciliation of funds						
Accumulated funds b/f		81,891	80	475,220	557,191	256,902
Accumulated funds c/f		52,675	7,281	468,472	528,428	557,191

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Note	Fund	Fund	Funds	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds						
Bank		43,370	7,281	19,245	69,896	111,864
Cash in hand		1,271	0	50	1,321	0
Deposit funds		8,034	0	251,160	259,194	241,000
		<u>52,675</u>	<u>7,281</u>	<u>270,455</u>	<u>330,411</u>	<u>352,864</u>
Other monetary assets						
Gift aid tax recoverable		<u>997</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>335</u>	<u>1,332</u>	<u>0</u>
Investment assets						
Investment fund shares at market value	7	0	0	229,279	229,279	204,686
Liabilities						
Agency Collections		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,747</u>	<u>1,747</u>	<u>0</u>

These accounts were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27th February 2024
and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Revd Gail Rogers
Chair of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Notes to the Accounts

- 1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 RECEIPTS	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
2(a) <u>Other voluntary receipts</u>					
Other donations	567	40	1,552	2,159	1,358
Legacies	10,138	0	200	10,338	14,927
Grants	0	0	548	548	500
	<hr/> 10,705	<hr/> 40	<hr/> 2,300	<hr/> 13,045	<hr/> 16,785
2(b) <u>Activities for generating funds</u>					
Fund raising events	1,282	83	960	2,325	1,612
Grapevine magazine advertising	2,820	0		2,820	1,070
	<hr/> 4,102	<hr/> 83	<hr/> 960	<hr/> 5,145	<hr/> 2,682
2(c) <u>Investment receipts</u>					
Dividends	0	0	1,230	1,230	608
Deposit interest	43	0	6,671	6,714	1,068
Rent from field	0	0	0	0	149
	<hr/> 43	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 7,901	<hr/> 7,944	<hr/> 1,825
2(d) <u>Church activities</u>					
Fees - weddings & funerals	12,350	0	112	12,462	15,336
The Ark lettings & events	0	22,482	0	22,482	23,746
Other receipts	4,034	0	2,256	6,290	45
	<hr/> 16,385	<hr/> 22,482	<hr/> 2,368	<hr/> 41,235	<hr/> 39,127

Change to accounts disclosure: Fees - weddings & funerals in 2022 included fees received from wedding couples and funeral directors that are due to third parties such as organists, vergers, bellringers and the diocese. Third party fees have been excluded from the figures for 2023 Fees - weddings & funerals.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Notes to the Accounts

3 PAYMENTS	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
3(a) <u>Clergy & staffing costs</u>					
Clergy expenses	2,181	0	0	2,181	1,109
Administrators staff costs	9,706	8,826	0	18,532	12,056
	<u>11,887</u>	<u>8,826</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20,713</u>	<u>13,165</u>

Redditch Holy Trinity PCC contribute towards 50% of clergy expenses. In 2022, the receipts were netted off against payments. In 2023, the receipts are included in Church Activities, Other Receipts

3(b) Church running expenses

Fees - weddings & funerals	774	0	0	774	4,781
Insurance	6,302	0	0	6,302	5,629
Repair & maintenance	3,705	711	3,681	8,096	8,395
Worship resources	1,274	0	26	1,299	900
Administration	2,800	80	154	3,034	2,333
Independent Examiner's Fee	1,128	0	0	1,128	948
Other expenses	385	215	98	698	382
	<u>16,368</u>	<u>1,006</u>	<u>3,958</u>	<u>21,332</u>	<u>23,369</u>

Change to accounts disclosure: Fees - weddings & funerals in 2022 included fees paid to third parties such as organists, vergers, bellringers and the diocese. Third party fees have been excluded from the figures for 2023 Fees - weddings & funerals.

3(c) Utilities expenses

0

Gas	1,957	2,112	0	4,069	4,539
Electricity	1,613	1,613	0	3,225	3,243
IT & Telecommunications	124	458	0	582	1,246
	<u>3,694</u>	<u>4,182</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,877</u>	<u>9,028</u>

3(d) Other expenses

Audio visual system installation	0	50,212	0	50,212	0
Small equipment purchases	23	0	0	23	113
	<u>23</u>	<u>50,212</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>50,235</u>	<u>113</u>

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Notes to the Accounts

4 PROFIT ON SALE OF LAND

Land in School Lane, Alvechurch, upon which the former Parish Room stood, was sold in May 2022 for £395,000. Net proceeds, after deducting professional charges, amounted to £375,991. As the land was not designated as endowment, there are no restrictions on the use of the proceeds, whether capital or income earned from investments, provided they are "for the ecclesiastical purposes of the charity 1131783: the Parish Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch". However, the PCC has decided that the funds should be classified as Restrictive and used in perpetuity for the maintenance and repairs of St. Laurence church buildings and its churchyard. This decision can be modified by the PCC provided they satisfy the Charities Commission stipulation.

5 TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £
<u>2023</u>			
From General Fund to Audio Visual Fund	(43,835)	43,835	
From Others Fund to Audio Visual Fund		12,000	(12,000)
From General Fund to Ark Fixtures & Fittings Fund	(505)		505
From General Fund to Churchyard Maintenance	(788)		788
From Others Fund to General Fund	632		(632)
From General Fund to Clock Fund	(41)		41
	(44,537)	55,835	(11,298)
<u>2022</u>			
From General Fund to Clock Fund	(100)		100
From Ark/Church Car Park Fund to Capital Repair Fund			(100,000) 100,000
	(100)	0	100

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Notes to the Accounts

6 MOVEMENT ON ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	01/01/23 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	31/12/23 £
<u>Unrestricted Fund</u>					
General Fund	81,891	96,834	(81,513)	(44,537)	52,675
<u>Designated Funds</u>					
Audio Visual	0	0	(50,212)	55,835	5,623
The Ark	80	22,605	(21,027)	0	1,658
	80	22,605	(71,239)	55,835	7,281
<u>Restricted Funds</u>					
Ark Fixtures & Fittings	1,824	0	(439)	505	1,890
Ark Recoupment	58,881	0	0	0	58,881
Ark Tots & Toddlers	0	2,256	(124)	0	2,132
Bells	1,594	786	(20)	0	2,360
Capital Repair	341,000	2,572	(103)	0	343,469
Churchyard Capital	40,883	0	0	0	40,883
Churchyard Maintenance	683	1,778	(3,249)	788	0
Clock Fund	2,776	756	(462)	41	3,111
Fabric	711	3,871	0	0	4,582
Others	14,803	2,992	(2,800)	(12,632)	2,363
Organ Restoration Fund	0	1,110	0	0	1,110
Stipend	4,562	27	(4,589)	0	0
Youth	7,503	188	0	0	7,691
	475,220	16,336	(11,786)	(11,298)	468,472
TOTAL FUNDS	557,191	135,775	(164,538)	0	528,428

During the year the PCC decided to create a new designated fund for a major project to install a new audio visual system in the church. This project had not been completed at the year-end.

The 2022 the General Fund receipts and payments include those in respect of the The Ark community centre. The PCC required greater visibility of The Ark receipts and payments, so in 2023 these were recorded in a separate designated fund for The Ark.

Prior to Jul 2023, the receipts and payments for Tots & Toddlers Group, which meets weekly in term time, were excluded from the PCC accounts. However, now that the Group is led by church members a new restricted fund has been created to collect fees and pay expenses for the Group.

The 'Others' Fund holds donations, on a short term basis, raised for specific church and charity uses .

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Notes to the Accounts

7 INVESTMENT ASSETS

Investment Funds

The Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance manages on the PCC's behalf the following CBF Church of England Investment Funds:

Fund Name	Note	Market Value	
		31/12/23 £	31/12/22 £
Alvechurch Black Paddock (Recoup)	(a)	70,549	62,627
Alvechurch Black Paddock Ch'yard Maint	(b)	45,002	41,102
Alvechurch PCC	(c)	113,728	100,957
		<u>229,279</u>	<u>204,686</u>

(a) Part of the land held by the PCC and known as the 'Black Paddock' was sold in 2003. Part of the proceeds, amounting to £978,710, was used to build The Ark community centre, being an extension to the existing church building. This land had previously been held as a permanent endowment by the PCC as a trustee in a separate charity 'for burial purposes and extension of the churchyard'. By order of the Charity Commission, the PCC placed £42,000 in an accumulated investment fund, permitting dividends accruing therefrom to be accumulated over 60 years. At the end of the 60 years the investment is to be treated as a

(b) £40,000 of the proceeds from the sale of 'Black Paddock' land was invested in Income shares, whereby the dividends are paid into the Churchyard Maintenance Fund.

(c) £100,000 from the land sale proceeds (see Note 4) was invested, in May 2022, in an Accumulation Fund.

Deposit Funds

Deposit savings are held on the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and in bank deposit accounts held on the CAF Charity Deposits Platform.

At the start of the year, the Worcester Diocesan Trust held £4,563 in a CBF Church of England Deposit Fund account named 'Alvechurch Stipends Trust' as Custodian Trustee for the PCC. The account was closed in February 2023 and the proceeds used to pay part of the PCC's Ministry Share for 2023.