

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

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for 2024

Annual Report 2024

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 aim to support people in living 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 in achieving our objectives.

In planning activities for the year, the PCC has had due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, including 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 finds both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For that reason, we continue to offer a full pattern of Sunday services, including both intimate and reflective worship, and more outgoing forms of worship.

We continue to grow in relationship with St Leonard's, Beoley. Two "all-together" services were held—one at each church—as well as a joint Harvest Social. We also shared discipleship groups across both parishes during Lent and Advent.

We committed to exploring welcome and hospitality using Inclusive Church resources, integrating these into our worship, and offering opportunities for deeper engagement through midweek groups.

In May, we launched a new monthly café-style worshipping community at 9:15am, which takes an intergenerational approach. A monthly toddler service was also introduced as a new worshipping community, focusing on children aged 0–4 and their parents/carers.

Places of Welcome continues to offer valuable support to attendees. New activities, including jigsaws, have proved especially popular.

Revd Martin Allen was ordained priest in 2024, and presided for the first time at an All-Together Communion Service with St Leonard's. A joint celebratory lunch followed.

Everyone is welcome at our regular services. At the end of 2024, 90 parishioners were on the Electoral Roll. Our worshipping community numbers approximately 148, including around 30 children and young people.

We celebrated 10 baptisms, conducted 7 funeral services at church, 5 at the crematorium, and held 15 interments of ashes.

Advent and Christmas attendance increased by 9% compared to 2023. Alongside our public worship, we maintain a confidential prayer chain, and continue to pray for individuals named in the Prayer Tree and Prayer Folder.

Risk Review

The PCC has reviewed the major risks to which the church is exposed. The main areas identified include the financial sustainability of ministry and mission, maintaining adequate volunteer capacity, and the upkeep of the church building and associated facilities. The PCC monitors income and expenditure regularly and will continue to explore future sources of funding to protect against any significant reduction. The PCC is actively involved in, and oversees, the delivery of its activities to ensure both safety and quality are maintained across all areas of ministry.

Deanery Synod

One PCC member and our Vicar sit on the Deanery Synod, providing a vital 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. In the summer of 2024, we were awarded £189,000 from the National Lottery Heritage fund for work on the tower. As part of this work, we are having the tower clock electrified too. Work will start on this in May 2025. The churchyard continues to be maintained by a dedicated team of volunteers, and we had the lower churchyard extended by having some ground levelling work done.

Our Organ Fund which is raising money for essential works to our church organ is still on going, this year we launched sponsor a pipe appeal, which has been going steady.

The Audio-Visual work was completed at the beginning of 2024 and has been used successfully, enhancing our worship experience.

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.

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.

Mission and Evangelism

The Growing Mission and Ministry Group enrolled in the Myriad New Worshipping Communities Pathway. As additional support and commitment to expanding our mission, we also joined the Diocesan Mission Accompanier Scheme.

Support was provided to the churches in Peru through financial, practical, and prayer contributions. Assistance was also extended to the Montgomery Heights Christian Care Centre in Zimbabwe and Faith at Work in Worcestershire, where four members of the congregation serve as workplace chaplains in Alvechurch and Redditch. A Peruvian day was organized, integrated into worship, and followed by an event featuring stalls selling Peruvian goods and a shared meal with Peruvian foods. Proceeds supported various areas of ministry in Peru. Regular contributions continue to be made to the food bank run by New Starts in Bromsgrove.

For the second consecutive year, a free Christmas Day Community lunch was organized, operated entirely by volunteers, with 70 attendees. Seasonal Ark Lunches continued to be well attended, and links with the church school included the school choir providing entertainment at the Christmas Ark lunch, which was enjoyed by participants.

The monthly parish magazine, The Grapevine, remains free of charge and has grown in readership. It provides information about the village of Alvechurch, addresses matters affecting the church, informs readers of activities, and aims to develop knowledge and trust in Jesus Christ.

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.

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 shared meal.

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. There are no outstanding safeguarding issues.

Financial Review

Income for Unrestricted Funds in 2024 was £108,951 and in 2023 was £119,439.
Income for Restricted Funds was £115,259 and in 2023 was £16,336.

Expenditures from Unrestricted Funds in 2024 was £118,566 and in 2023 was £152,752.

Ministry Share paid in 2024 was £35,213 and £50,000 in 2023.

Expenditures from Restricted funds in 2024 was £19,058 and in 2023 was £11,786.
Cash reserves of General Unrestricted funds stood at £50,130 at the end of 2024 and £59,956 at the end of 2023, representing less than 6 months' expenditure.

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

There have been significant administrative changes this year. During the year the Parish Administrator, Mrs Lynda Lewis retired. Following a restructure of roles we now have, have Mrs Charlotte Palethorpe as Ark and Building Administrator, and Mrs Michelle Read as Finance Officer. Mrs Penny Walker continues in the shared role as Ministry Support Administrator between St Laurence and St Leonard's. Ms Helen Cran transferred from self-employed to an employee too.

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
Churchwarden	Mr Graham Clark (until May) Mr Mick Fletcher (From May) Mr Michael Davenport
Curate	Rev Martin Allen
Lay Readers	Mrs Sue Philips-Wardle, Mrs Helen Ayling
Treasurer	Mr Mark Blamire-Brown (until May) Mrs Michelle Read (from May)
Secretary	Mrs Lysandre Notley
Members	Mr Andrew Notley Mr Roger Wardle Mr Peter Freeman Mrs Sue Lambert Mrs Sarah Linton Mr Mark Linton Mrs Linda Helmore Mr Andrew Edwards

Mr Colin Bennett

Ms Sue Sperring

Ms Gloria Wilson

Mrs Helena Allen

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:

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.

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

Charity Registration Number: 1131783

**Accounts for the year ended
31st December 2024**

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024**

Contents

	Page
Independent Examiner's Report	1
Receipts and Payments Account	2
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	3
Notes to the Accounts:	
1. Accounting Basis	4
2. Receipts	4
3. Payments	5
4. Transfer Between Funds	6
5. Movement of Accumulated Funds	7
6. Investment Assets	8
7. Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits	8

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024**

**Independent examiner's report to the members of the PCC of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Alvechurch for the year ended 31st December 2024.**

I report on accounts of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch for the year ended 31st December 2024, 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.

M.A. Edwards Date 15/5/25

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 2024

Receipts and Payments Account

	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts						
Planned giving		46,576	0	1,494	48,070	48,184
Collections at services		4,818	0	1,842	6,660	7,357
Other voluntary receipts	2(a)	1,235	50	98,831	100,116	13,045
Gift aid tax recovered		10,863	13	876	11,752	12,865
Total Voluntary receipts		63,492	63	103,043	166,598	81,451
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	4,600	248	468	5,316	5,145
Investment receipts	2(c)	7,657	0	4,110	11,767	7,944
Church activities	2(d)	12,526	20,365	7,638	40,529	41,235
Total Receipts		88,275	20,676	115,259	224,210	135,775
PAYMENTS						
Church activities						
Diocesan Ministry Share contributions		35,213	0	0	35,213	50,000
Clergy & staffing costs	3(a)	22,477	9,996	0	32,473	20,713
Church running expenses	3(b)	22,191	568	9,817	32,576	21,332
Utilities expenses	3(c)	7,602	7,022	0	14,624	7,877
The Ark running costs		0	6,196	3,074	9,270	7,452
Mission giving & donations		97	0	3,985	4,082	6,204
Cost of generating funds		680	0	1,042	1,722	725
Other expenses	3(d)	900	5,624	1,140	7,664	50,235
Total Payments		89,160	29,406	19,058	137,624	164,538
Excess/(Deficit) off Receipts over Payments		(885)	(8,730)	96,201	86,586	(28,763)
Transfers between funds	4	(1,660)	1,449	211	0	0
Net movement in funds	5	(2,545)	(7,281)	96,412	86,586	(28,763)
Reconciliation of funds						
Accumulated funds b/f		52,675	7,281	468,472	528,428	557,191
Accumulated funds c/f		50,130	0	564,884	615,014	528,428

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024
Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Cash funds						
Bank		33,644	0	115,137	148,781	69,896
Cash in hand		798	0		798	1,321
Deposit funds		15,688	0	251,160	266,848	259,194
		<u>50,130</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>366,297</u>	<u>416,427</u>	<u>330,411</u>
Investment assets						
Investment fund shares at cost	7	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>199,764</u>	<u>199,764</u>	<u>199,764</u>
Liabilities						
Agency Collections		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,177)</u>	<u>(1,177)</u>	<u>(1,747)</u>
		<u>50,130</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>564,884</u>	<u>615,014</u>	<u>528,428</u>

These accounts were approved by the Parochial Church Council on
and signed on its behalf by:

G. Rogers

Rev'd Gail Rogers
Chair of the Parochial Church Council

14/5/25

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

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 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
2(a) <u>Other voluntary receipts</u>					
Other donations	735	50	3,709	4,494	2,159
Legacies	500	0	500	1,000	10,338
Grants	0	0	94,623	94,623	548
	1,235	50	98,831	100,116	13,045
A sum of £94,623 was received from the National Lotteries Fund on 29/07/24, being the first tranche of a grant towards the costs of refurbishing the church tower. These works are due to start in Spring 2025.					
2(b) <u>Activities for generating funds</u>					
Fund raising events	2,690	248	468	3,406	2,325
Grapevine magazine advertising	1,910	0	0	1,910	2,820
	4,600	248	468	5,316	5,145
2(c) <u>Investment receipts</u>					
Dividends	7,401	0	1,249	8,650	1,230
Deposit interest	256	0	2,861	3,117	6,714
	7,657	0	4,110	11,767	7,944
2(d) <u>Church activities</u>					
Fees - weddings & funerals	4,470	0	2,872	7,342	12,462
The Ark lettings & events	0	19,894	1,439	21,333	22,482
Other receipts	8,056	471	3,327	11,854	6,290
	12,526	20,365	7,638	40,529	41,235

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Accounts

3 PAYMENTS	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
3(a) <u>Clergy & staffing costs</u>					
Clergy expenses	2,374	0	0	2,374	2,181
Staff costs - administration & ministry support	20,103	9,996	0	30,099	18,532
	22,477	9,996	0	32,473	20,713
St Leonard's Beoley District Church Council contributes towards 50% of clergy expenses and 50% of the ministry support administrator's salary costs, the receipts for which are shown in church activities, other receipts.					
3(b) <u>Church running expenses</u>					
Fees - weddings & funerals	0	0	0	0	774
Insurance	6,801	0	0	6,801	6,302
Repair & maintenance	5,029	125	9,047	14,201	8,096
Worship resources	805	0	0	805	1,299
Administration	3,470	0	25	3,495	3,034
Independent Examiner's Fee	1,176	0	0	1,176	1,128
Other expenses	4,910	443	745	6,098	698
	22,191	568	9,817	32,576	21,332
3(c) <u>Utilities expenses</u>					
Gas	3,808	3,014	0	6,823	4,069
Electricity	3,297	3,297	0	6,594	3,225
IT & Telecommunications	497	711	0	1,208	582
	7,602	7,022	0	14,624	7,877
3(d) <u>Other expenses</u>					
Audio visual system installation	0	5,624	0	5,624	50,212
Professional fees	900	0	1,140	2,040	0
Small equipment purchases				0	23
	900	5,624	1,140	7,664	50,235

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Accounts

4 TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £
<u>2024</u>			
From General Fund to The Ark fund	(1,449)	1,449	0
From General Fund to Churchyard Maintenance Fund	(211)	0	211
	<u>(1,660)</u>	<u>1,449</u>	<u>211</u>
<u>2023</u>			
From General Fund to Audio Visual Fund	(43,835)	43,835	0
From Others Fund to Audio Visual Fund	0	12,000	(12,000)
From General Fund to Ark Fixtures & Fittings Fund	(505)	0	505
From General Fund to Churchyard Maintenance	(788)	0	788
From Others Fund to General Fund	632	0	(632)
From General Fund to Clock Fund	(41)	0	41
	<u>(44,537)</u>	<u>55,835</u>	<u>(11,298)</u>

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Alvechurch
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Accounts

5 MOVEMENT ON ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	01/01/24 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	31/12/24 £
<u>Unrestricted Fund</u>					
General Fund	52,675	88,275	(89,160)	(1,660)	50,130
<u>Designated Funds</u>					
Audio Visual	5,623	0	(5,623)	0	0
The Ark	1,658	20,676	(23,783)	1,449	0
	7,281	20,676	(29,406)	1,449	0
<u>Restricted Funds</u>					
Ark Community Fund	0	2,086	(1,227)	0	859
Ark Fittings & Fixtures	1,890	75	(335)	0	1,630
Ark Tots & Toddlers	2,132	1,482	(219)	0	3,395
Bells Fund	2,360	29	(52)	0	2,337
Capital Repair Fund	343,469	0	0	0	343,469
Churchyard Maintenance (Capital)	40,883	0	0	0	40,883
Churchyard Maintenance Fund	0	4,621	(4,741)	211	91
Clock Fund	3,111	0	0	0	3,111
Fabric Fund	4,582	2,861	(3,880)	0	3,563
Music	0	166	0	0	166
Organ Restoration Fund	1,110	3,466	(2)	0	4,574
Others	2,362	5,850	(4,271)	0	3,941
The Ark Recoupment Fund	58,881	0	0	0	58,881
Tower Project Fund	0	94,623	(4,331)	0	90,292
Youth Fund	7,692	0	0	0	7,692
	468,472	115,259	(19,058)	211	564,884
TOTAL FUNDS	528,428	224,210	(137,624)	0	615,014

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 2024

Notes to the Accounts

6 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	
		31/12/24 £	31/12/23 £
Alvechurch Black Paddock (Recoup)	(a)	74,150	70,549
Alvechurch Black Paddock Ch'yard Maint	(b)	46,032	45,002
Alvechurch PCC	(c)	119,534	113,728
		<u>239,716</u>	<u>229,279</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 permanent endowment.

(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 in 2022 was invested 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.

7 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Clergy expenses amounting to £2,374 (2023 £2,181) were paid in the year.