

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH ST JOHN BAPTIST BERKSWELL

England & Wales - Charity number 1132450

Details

Other names BERKSWELL PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-11-04

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Berkswell
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Activities

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

Activities: MAKES GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS PROVIDES BUILDINGS/FACILITIES/OPEN SPACE PROVIDES SERVICES

Classification

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

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Coventry City
- Solihull

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£161,723	£162,277	-	-
2023-12-31	£133,343	£154,086	-	-
2022-12-31	£120,246	£136,972	-	-
2021-12-31	£141,333	£123,277	-	-
2020-12-31	£108,348	£122,893	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Mark Quinn Bratton	Chair	
Angela Childs		2022-05-19
Anthony Rich		2020-10-06
Christopher Thomas Powell		2024-07-01
Dr Stuart Thomas Hands		2025-05-08
Ivor John Charles Wood		2023-07-01
Kirsten Fergus		2020-10-06
MR TOM WALLS		
Michael John Parker		2022-05-19
PAUL STEPHEN MORRIS		2022-05-19
PETER ANDREW CROSS		2021-04-29
Patricia Denise Rich		2025-05-08
Peter Singh Toor		2023-07-01
Richard Hollingdale		2021-04-29
Veronika Daila Raugulis-Toor		2023-07-01

Accounts

Annual Report and Accounts
The Parochial Church Council
of St. John Baptist Church, Berkswell
Year ended 31st December 2024

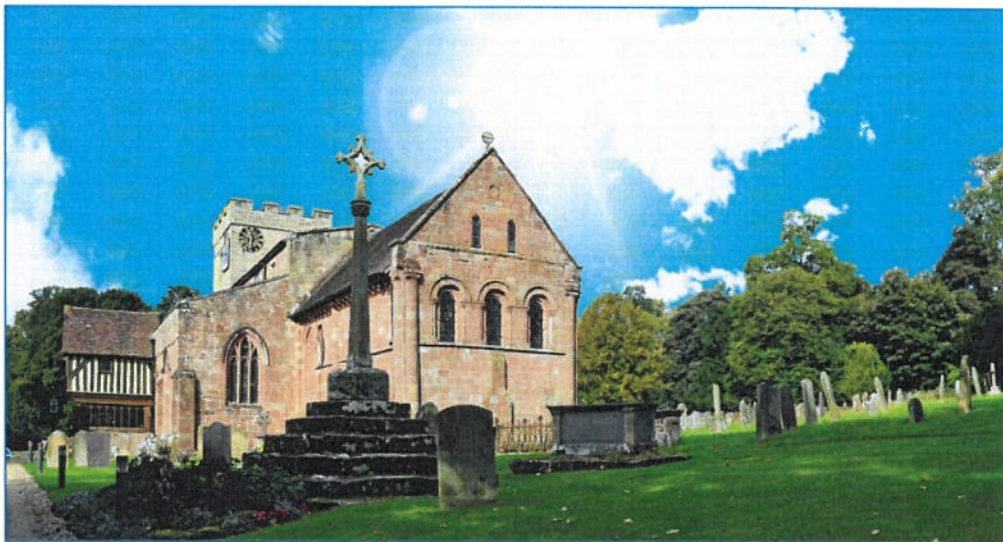


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Trustees' Report

Aim and Purposes

St. John Baptist Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon Dr Mark Bratton, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions as to how our services can engage the many groups that live within our parish. We are a passionate, inclusive church, responding to our faith in God.

When planning activities for the year, the PCC considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. 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; developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate the whole mission, the PCC is specifically responsible for the important task of maintaining the Church building and the adjoining rooms.

The PCC complied with its duty in having due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding vulnerable children and adults (under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016). The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Wendy Burns, whose report can be found on page 19.

Background

This year, we have seen the continuing return to 'normal' church life after the Coronavirus pandemic. Although some of its impacts may persist, our congregation is strong and growing, reflecting renewal and hope. Our Children and Families ministry has expanded with the employment of two part-time staff dedicated to this area.

Achievements and Performance

Ministry Team

The Ministry Team continued to meet on a regular basis to plan and prepare for worship, with particular focus on our special services and to pray for the life of the church community. The ministry team consisted of Revd Canon Dr Mark Bratton and our licensed Reader, Richard Hollingdale, who took primary responsibility for the leading of worship in our church community, overseeing liturgy and the rhythm of both special services and ordinary worship. The team was supported by a number of lay ministers and guest preachers.

Throughout 2024 we continued to offer the ministry of occasional offices of baptisms, weddings, funerals and burials, all of which have been significant and meaningful occasions for those involved.

Worship and Prayer

Worship and prayer are at the heart of our church life. Our regular pattern of worship now consists of three services each week. Our principal service, held every Sunday at 10.00 a.m., is a sung Parish Communion

(Common Worship) with Junior Church sessions running during part of the service, and 5.30 p.m. Evensong or Holy Communion, with a said Holy Communion on Thursdays at 10.30 a.m.

Junior Church is an intrinsic part of church life at Berkswell, the leadership team undertook to provide sessions on a weekly basis during term time. A thoughtful, informative and enjoyable programme was delivered, linking in with the key themes of the liturgical year in addition to Christian values and such topics as care for creation. It was encouraging to see an increase in the number of children and young families attending worship. Being such an important dimension to the worshipping life of the church, we were delighted to welcome two new Children and Families Ministry Workers, Selina and Katie, who have exciting plans for the future.

We are actively involved with our ecumenical brothers and sisters through Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell.

In addition to our weekly worship, a full series of special services took place during 2024:

- Candlemas
- Ash Wednesday
- Mothering Sunday
- Choral Passion Service
- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday Meditations and Liturgy
- Easter Day
- Rogation – processing to beat the bounds of the village
- Harvest – goods and produce passed to a local charity, Carriers of Hope.
- All Souls’ service for the bereaved
- Armistice Day and Remembrance Day
- Advent Carols
- Lessons and Carols
- Christingle Services
- Midnight Mass
- Christmas Day Family Communion

We are grateful and thankful for the contributions to worship by so many of our congregation and friends, be that music, readings, creative ideas or behind the scenes technical expertise. Special thanks go to Patricia Rich, Wendy Burns and Peter Cross for ensuring our services continued to be broadcast online to the small, private group of congregation members no longer able to attend in person. Thanks also to our Director of Music, Kevin Stannard, and the choir members for their wonderful, choral contributions, both at regular and special services. Worship is a richer experience with the addition of such fine music. We thank Stephen Collins and Jack Cross for their steadfast service as Sacristan and Crucifer, respectively.

During Lent, a book study course was well received. The PCC has also been devoting time at each PCC meeting to read and discuss ‘How Village Churches Thrive’.

We plan to continue with a rich pattern of worship and music in 2025 celebrating the key liturgical seasons in the Church’s calendar and to connect with our parish in a meaningful way throughout the coming years.

Electoral Roll and Statistics for Mission

As of 31st December 2024, there were 179 people on the church electoral roll, of whom 104 resided outside of the parish. Our worshipping community at the end of 2024 was 195, comprising 158 adults and 37 children

and young adults. We welcomed 30 new adults and 18 children during the year, with 26 adults and 14 children leaving for a variety of reasons.

On a positive note, the signs of growth seen in our church give hope for the future, it was one of our biggest challenges over the last few years.

Attendance at Easter and Christmas services:

Easter Day: 140

Advent and Nativity services: 417

Christingle, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: 594

In addition to our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God through the various milestones of life's journey. In baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and in funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life now completed in this world, commending their loved ones into God's keeping.

We celebrated 19 baptisms and 9 weddings.

21 funerals were held with 21 committals only or burial of ashes. Sadly, these figures include a number of long-standing congregation members.

Safeguarding

The PCC takes Safeguarding seriously, believing in the intrinsic value of training to facilitate culture change and to promote the safety and welfare of everyone who accesses our church.

Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment policies were adopted from the recommended policies from Coventry Diocese. The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults is an important part of our Christian ministry and therefore training is vital to ensure all church officers and volunteers understand their responsibilities. Everyone who participates in the life of the church has a role to play in promoting a safer church, this being underpinned by robust, good quality training. The PCC thanks Wendy Burns, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, for her diligent work and focus on this important aspect of church life. The PCC acknowledges the volunteers and officers for completing their training on time.

Church Centre

The church is open daily, available to our local community for quiet and private prayer and to visitors who come to the church, from far and wide, as borne out by our visitors' book. The church space and grounds provide a place for those seeking a quiet and reflective environment for worship, prayer or a period of solitude. The church complex includes two rooms and a kitchen adjoining the church which may be hired exclusively for meetings or events incidental or ancillary to the activities of the church. The Parish office is operational weekdays until early afternoon.

Repairs and Renovations

Routine maintenance and servicing continued in line with our programme of works to ensure health and safety requirements were met. Other repairs or maintenance were attended to in a timely and appropriate manner. The Quinquennial Inspection took place in 2023, inevitably there were some works required with other elements recommended to be undertaken over the next few years. Thanks to Peter Wilson and Robin Worley for their expertise and practical assistance throughout the year. The PCC is planning to embark on the larger projects in 2025.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral visits and home communion for the sick were undertaken by Revd Mark Bratton. Occasionally, home communion was administered by authorised individuals to those members of our congregation no longer

able to attend services in person due to illness or mobility issues. Many congregation members continued to act as 'good neighbours', keeping in touch with and supporting their church friends.

We continue to be engaged with Solihull Council's Community Champions, receiving regular updates on all help and support available to people be that health and well-being, parenting, or simply ensuring access to medication and groceries shopping.

Mission and Evangelism

The successful weekly Coffee Shop continues, thanks to Liz Whalley, June Smitten and their team of willing volunteers. Many new faces soon became regulars, appreciating the warm welcome and social aspects of this ever-growing group.

The infamous Berkswell Beerfest was again a hugely successful aspect of outreach. Many thanks to Graham Parry and the organising committee and volunteers without whose help, the event may not have continued.

Community events included:

Fundraising quizzes, thanks to the hard work of Cathy and Graham Parry and others.

Day Trip to the Cotswolds, thanks to Paul Morris and John Foudy.

History Talks, thanks to the various presenters and speakers.

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Donations of goods and toiletries for our foodbank collection goes to Carriers of Hope, Coventry. Other collections for the Mothers' Union Homeless project are supported. Under the watchful eye of Patricia Rich (Editor), the monthly parish magazine continues to be an interesting, informative read, reaching out to the wider community, keeping parishioners informed of important matters affecting our church and local articles of interest.

Ecumenical Relationships

Our church is a member of Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell (CTBB). Various activities in which we participated included the monthly coffee mornings in Balsall Common village centre, Lenten Breakfasts and rotational hosting of the annual Women's World Day of Prayer service. There are also social and fundraising activities that enable sharing and fellowship. We thank Barbara Magson and David Bell for representing Berkswell in 2023 along with the Rector. Emma Bratton has now taken over the reins from Claire Laland as CTBB Secretary. The PCC thanks those church members that have both supported and volunteered at the various activities.

Volunteers

The PCC warmly thanks all volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. There are too many to name individually but, in particular, we are very grateful to our Churchwardens, Angela Childs and Michael Parker, who have worked tirelessly on our behalf; also, Peter Cross, Honorary Treasurer, who helped us understand the church's financial position and guided us on financial decisions.

Risk Management

The PCC maintains a Risk Management profile that is reviewed regularly. This describes the principal risks and uncertainties facing the church and its undertakings, as identified by the trustees (PCC members), together with a summary of plans and strategies for managing those risks. Health & Safety risk reviews are

carried out regularly by the churchwardens or other appointed persons. Additional risk assessments were undertaken to ensure we complied with both the government and Church of England guidance for various events and activities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. John Baptist the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent (our Rector), Churchwardens, Diocesan Synod representative, Deanery Synod representatives, Licensed Readers and members of our church, elected by those on the church electoral roll. Members of the congregation who are eligible, are encouraged to apply to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including decisions on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial induction into the workings of the PCC. The PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 81%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has established a number of advisory groups and sub-committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These groups, detailed on page 8, are all responsible to the PCC and are expected to report back regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC for discussion, as necessary.

The PCC maintains relationships with Berkswell Church of England Primary school via the Foundation Governors, who were nominated by the PCC. The current Foundation Governors are the Rector (Ex-officio), Kevin Millward, Rebecca Crowe, Michael Parker and Christine Gough. A new Foundation Governor is in the process of being nominated and appointed, to fulfil the remaining vacancy.

Administrative information

Berkswell Church is situated in Church Lane, Berkswell, CV7 7BJ

The parish office telephone number is 01676 529123.

The Parish is part of the Diocese of Coventry within the Church of England.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity, as a place of worship, currently registered with the Charity Commission - Charity Number 1132450.

Trustees

PCC members who served at any time from 1st January 2024 until the date of this report are:

Ex Officio Members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Dr Mark Bratton (Chairman)

Reader: Richard Hollingdale

Churchwardens: Angela Childs and Michael Parker

Diocesan Synod Representatives: Chris Powell and Anthony Rich

Deanery Synod Reps (3-year term to 2026) Paul Morris, Peter Toor, Veronika Toor, Ivor Wood

Elected Members:

Peter Cross Kirsten Fergus Jo Hands Simon Northover Tom Walls

Stuart Hands (from APCM 2024)

Officers:

PCC Secretary - Janet Roberts

Honorary Treasurer - Peter Cross

Committees and Groups

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by Canon Law; created from members of the PCC, it has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. In 2024 it comprised:

The Rector	Churchwardens	Licensed Reader	Honorary Treasurer
PCC Secretary	2 additional PCC members (Tom Walls and Anthony Rich)		

Advisory Sub-committees and Groups Led by:

Baptism Preparation	Margaret Walls (until September)
Bell Ringers/Tower Captain	Stephen Patrick & Steven Tibbetts (Ringing Master)
Music provision	Kevin Stannard (Director of Music)
Churches Together	Revd Canon Dr Mark Bratton
Eco-church	Jo Hands
Gift Aid Secretary	Peter Cross
Finance Committee	Tom Walls
Children & Families Ministry	Katie Goodacre and Selina Toor
Magazine Editor	Patricia Rich
Worship	Revd Canon Dr Mark Bratton

Approval of Report

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the Parochial Church Council at its meeting held on 24th March 2025.

Rector's Report

Looking Back

The keynote of the past year has been **uplift**.

The keynotes for the previous two years were **encouragement** and **development**.

Several goals in the Rector's Report last year have been achieved or nearly achieved.

The Stewardship Campaign, held on March 9th and 13th, encouraged the congregation to join the Parish Giving Scheme to reduce the gap between expenditure (£150,000) and planned giving (£82,000), which is currently bridged by income generated from investments. We will soon assess the success of this endeavour.

The Children and Families program has flourished this year under the guidance of our CFM ministers, Katie Goodacre and Selina Toor. More than 20 children came forward for baptism in the calendar year 2024, and there has been strong attendance at Junior Church and Stay, Play and Pray.

Three Reading Groups with good attendance have been held in Marlene Jolley's home. They have explored biblical and theological themes and contribute to Christian instruction.

The ministry of preaching has continued to be encouraged and resourced. Annie McCormick, Anthony Rich, Mark Bratton, Michael Parker, Pauline Warner, Richard Hollingdale, and Stuart Hands have regularly preached.

The PCC has endorsed the Eco Church sub-committee's recommendation to prioritise reducing the Church's substantial carbon footprint rather than pursuing the new criteria established for the Eco Church Gold Award, for which Berkswell Church is not yet adequately prepared.

In late November 2024, the Church hosted its most successful Beer Festival yet, both financially and in terms of attendance.

The PCC has reached the second-to-last chapter of the book 'How Village Churches Thrive.'

In addition to last year's specified goals, I am grateful to John Foudy and Paul Morris for organising two exceedingly successful outings to the Cotswolds for the Church and local community in July 2024 and April 2025. This is a valuable form of community outreach.

Looking Now

I remain deeply grateful for the care, competence, reliability, support and wisdom of our two Churchwardens, Angela Childs and Michael Parker. Together with the Rector and the PCC, the Churchwardens are diligently working to implement the quinquennial survey and its report findings.

Richard Hollingdale is, as ever, a deeply valued ministerial colleague who shares the burdens and joys of leading worship, preaching, and pastoral care. Richard somehow manages to fit in his ministerial duties while reading for a PhD in Music at London University. Richard's wisdom is much valued on the Ministry Leadership Team, which meets weekly.

Our Parish and Assistant Parish Administrators, Janet Roberts and Anne Green, continue to support, maintain consistency, and responsibly manage the Church's administration. As first responders, Janet and Anne are often tasked with addressing complex legal and pastoral issues – always doing so with gentleness and respect. Together with Wendy Burns, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, they have ensured that Berkswell Church remains a safe space for children and vulnerable adults. I am exceedingly grateful to them.

As Treasurer, Peter Cross has ensured the Church's financial stability despite the challenges posed by the stewardship campaign. I remain, as always, immensely grateful for Peter's meticulous work and indebted to Jim Fergus for his support of Peter.

Our Sacristan and assistant Sacristan, Stephen Collins and Jack Cross (who is also the Crucifer), devotedly contribute to the serenity and smoothness of our worship, including numerous special services. Our Director and Assistant Director of Music, Kevin Stannard and Christine Gough, continue to uphold high standards of choral and musical accomplishment, enhancing the excellence of worship at Berkswell. I am extremely grateful to Francis Hooper, Kim Rawson and Norman Ashfield for playing the organ at Evensong.

Our two Children and Families Ministers, Katie Goodacre and Selina Toor, have greatly enhanced the Church's outreach to children and young families. At Katie's instigation, our mums and toddlers group 'Stay, Play and Pray' has evolved into a vibrant weekly (term-time) activity. Selina leads weekly worship in the Church, strengthening its ties with the school. Both assist the Rector with baptism visits, encouraging parents to get involved with Junior Church.

Anthony Rich and Stuart Hands continue to explore their vocations to licenced ministry in the Church of England, as Reader and Ordained Priest, respectively.

Spiritual and congregational life at Berkswell continues to flourish. The main morning service often has over 90 or 100 worshipping members. The Thursday communion service continues to grow, regularly numbering over 30. The growth of the morning congregation is partly due to investing more in our children and families' work. This confirms my suspicion that greater ministerial investment is essential to Church growth, whether through volunteers or paid workers.

More importantly, growth—whether in numerical terms or spiritual depth—is the blossoming of our relationship with Jesus Christ and with each other. Whether through extending a warm welcome, honouring life events, creatively using our magnificent building, manifesting care for our beautiful churchyard, fulfilling our role at the centre of the community, celebrating our heritage, cultivating fruitful festivals, welcoming children and families, reaching out to the isolated and lonely, or communicating effectively, we are fundamentally called to love God and our neighbours as ourselves. For Jesus, this encompassed the whole of the law, and so it does for us.

I want to express my gratitude to Graham Parry and Paul Tyler in this connection. Their organisation of the Church Beer Festivals has invited, and continues to invite, local community members who do not typically attend church to experience the spiritual quality of our church building and the warmth of our church community.

Looking ahead

These are my aims for the next year:

1. To close the gap between income and expenditure and have a high percentage of our regular givers on the Parish Giving Scheme
2. To appoint another Children and Families minister to replace Katie Goodacre following her recent amicable resignation.
3. To promote Confirmation classes and Confirmation within the congregation to deepen faith and mark Christian commitment.
4. To substantially reduce Berkswell Church's sizeable carbon footprint.
5. To outline a more detailed strategy for the Church that is based on the principles of how village churches thrive.
6. To revitalise the Bereavement Ministry Team.

The Rector

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the members/trustees of St John Baptist, Berkswell, Parochial Church Council.

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

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

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Simon Heath FCCA

8th March 2025

Financial Review

The results show a deficit of incoming to outgoing resources of £554 for the year, compared with a deficit of £20,743 last year. Two legacies and a significant charitable donation meant that the recorded deficit was considerably less than our original budgeted deficit of £39,000. We continue to hold some of our investments in cash to cover the deficits that the PCC has approved. The investment values increased over the year, and we saw a net increase in value of £34,591. Together with our deficit, this gave a net increase in funds for the year of £34,037. We continue to use our Eaton fund to support employment of Children and Families workers, this continues to strengthen and build our young families in the congregation. Our agreed budget for next year therefore reflects this liability and is for a deficit of £31,500. This budget is better than 2024, reflecting our improved voluntary income and collective efforts. As in previous years, given the strength of our reserves, the PCC is confident that our finances continue to represent a 'going concern' and our accounts have been prepared on this basis.

Incoming Resources

Unrestricted voluntary income (excluding grants and legacies) increased this year from £78,761 to £88,515. (Boosted by £5,000 received from the Kirkby family trust)

Our Church of England 'Parish Giving Scheme' now has 41 scheme members, each giving an average of £17.40 per week.

Two legacies were received this year, £10,000 from the estate of Michael Palmer and £10,000 from the estate of John Douce.

Expenditure

We repaired our porch lantern and its fixings on the porch when it became unsafe. We replaced our hymnbooks with a more modern edition.

Our staff costs increased again this year, and we now have six part-time members of staff.

Reserves Policy

We are currently using our reserves (and their generated income) to cover the shortfall between our voluntary income and our day-to-day costs.

The Common fund is held in the form of investments to provide income.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ending 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and Legacies	2(a)	109,015	130	0	109,145	85,931
Income from charitable activities	2(b)	16,363			16,363	16,535
Other trading activities	2(c)	12,243			12,243	8,752
Investments	2(d)	18,789	5,183		23,972	22,125
TOTAL INCOME		156,410	5,313	0	161,723	133,343
EXPENDITURE						
Cost of generating funds	3(a)	3,442			3,442	2,365
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(b)	141			141	0
Expenditure on charitable activities	3(c)	154,210	4,484		158,694	151,721
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		157,793	4,484	0	162,277	154,086
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		-1,383	829	0	-554	-20,743
NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS		30,692	1,278	2,621	34,591	77,735
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	9	29,309	2,107	2,621	34,037	56,992
Total funds brought forward		617,831	73,620	127,688	819,139	762,147
Total funds carried forward		647,140	75,727	130,309	853,176	819,139

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	6	698,941	674,350
Tangible		1	1
		<u>698,942</u>	<u>674,351</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
CCLA Deposit Account		80,000	80,000
Santander (Current Account)		37,721	32,287
Fund Bank Accounts		31,913	31,320
Debtors	7	5,051	1,231
		<u>154,685</u>	<u>144,838</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors	8	-451	-50
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>154,234</u>	<u>144,788</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>853,176</u></u>	<u><u>819,139</u></u>

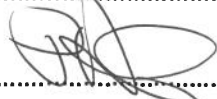
Represented by:

Unrestricted	9	647,140	617,831
Restricted	9	75,727	73,620
Endowment	9	130,309	127,688
		<u>853,176</u>	<u>819,139</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 24th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

.....


Chairman

.....


PCC member

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. 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, together with applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts for Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and (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 of 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.

Unrestricted funds represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. 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. 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.

Resources Expended.

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.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with Section 10(2)(a) and (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).

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ending 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
2 INCOMING RESOURCES					
a) Donations and Legacies					
Planned giving (tax efficient)	46,787			46,787	42,828
Planned giving (non tax)	4,731			4,731	2,699
Tax recovered from Gift Aid	16,006			16,006	14,249
Open Plate (Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals)	1,143			1,143	1,231
Open Plate collections	2,274			2,274	2,862
Sundry Donations	5,420	130		5,550	1,320
Wall Safe	4,789			4,789	3,511
CAF donations (unplanned)	50			50	0
Miscellaneous Receipts	0			0	450
Unplanned Tax efficient giving	7,315			7,315	9,811
Grants	500			500	1,970
Legacies	20,000			20,000	5,000
	109,015	130	0	109,145	85,931
b) Income from charitable activities					
Fees	10,933			10,933	11,902
Magazine Sales	4,170			4,170	3,363
Fees for Rooms	1,260			1,260	1,270
	16,363			16,363	16,535
c) Other trading activities					
Goods & Souvenirs	122			122	169
Collective Efforts	12,121			12,121	8,583
	12,243			12,243	8,752
d) Investments					
Investment Interest	14,495	1,104		15,599	9,129
C.B.F. Interest	4,294	4,079		8,373	12,996
	18,789	5,183		23,972	22,125
Total income	156,410	5,313	0	161,723	133,343

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ending 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
3 EXPENDITURE					
Costs of raising funds					
a) Expenses	3,442			3,442	2,365
	3,442			3,442	2,365
Costs of generating funds for voluntary income					
b) Giving Costs	141			141	0
Charitable activities					
Cleaning	0			0	127
Fabric Maintenance	0	1,686		1,686	1,291
Extraordinary Expenses	0			0	2,208
Service Costs (incl Organ)	5,977			5,977	2,029
Courses / Education / Conferences	40			40	48
Junior Church	93			93	0
Staff	41,490			41,490	27,275
Miscellaneous Expenses	302			302	1,539
Admin. & Office Expenses	381			381	7,278
Utilities	8,086			8,086	13,041
Maintenance	2,916	200		3,116	3,096
Insurances	6,243			6,243	5,941
Parish Share	74,500			74,500	70,000
Children and Families Ministry	1,280			1,280	2,011
Churchyard Expenses	1,728	2,598		4,326	6,874
Postage	20			20	33
Printing & Stationery	25			25	96
Telephone & Broadband	731			731	680
Choir, Other Expenses	265			265	127
Grants, Gifts, Affiliations	175			175	350
Relief Clergy	630			630	446
Relief Organists	1,360			1,360	640
Flowers in Church	996			996	428
Berkswell Parish Magazine	2,723			2,723	1,677
Missionary Societies	300			300	300
Other Charities	460			460	0
Bank Charges	24			24	24
Rectory Expenses	512			512	460
Rector's Expenses	2,724			2,724	3,550
Rooms Consumables	229			229	152
	154,210	4,484		158,694	151,721
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	157,793	4,484		162,277	154,086

5 Related Parties

Mrs Patricia Rich was employed by the PCC as Parish Magazine editor, she received £2,520. Ms Selina Toor was employed by the PCC as a Children and Families Minister, she received £7,200. No pension contributions nor other benefits were made.

No other PCC members or related parties received benefits or emoluments.

No travelling, subsistence, nor out of pocket expenses were received by PCC members. The Rectors expenses are shown in note 3c.

Notes to the financial statements**For the year ending 31st December 2024**

NOTE

6	FIXED ASSETS			£
	Investments			
	Market Value at 1st January			674,350
	Purchases at cost			0
	Disposals			-10,000
	Gain on revaluations			34,591
	Market Value at 31st December			698,941
7	Debtors			
	December Gift Aid Claim			823
	Q3 Fees			2,428
	H2 Magazine Charges			1,800
				5,051
8	Creditors			
	Global Care H2 Donation			-150
	Agency Collection			-301
				-451
9	FUND DETAILS	31.12.24	1.01.24	movement
		£	£	£
	Unrestricted			
	Common	440,030	419,538	20,492
	General	40,155	27,460	12,695
	Eaton Bequest	166,955	170,833	-3,878
		647,140	617,831	29,309
	Restricted			
	Bushill	18,733	17,672	1,061
	Churchyard	3,004	2,953	51
	Fabric	53,990	52,995	995
		75,727	73,620	2,107
	Endowment			
	Betty Huggins	18,317	17,908	409
	CBF Bushill Feeder Fund	11,530	11,272	258
	Eborill	13,144	13,144	0
	Stokes	87,318	85,364	1,954
		130,309	127,688	2,621
	TOTALS	853,176	819,139	34,037

Eborill Fund

Specifically to be used 50 % for the Maintenance of the Churchyard, particularly the Eborill Graves and 50 % to augment the Rector's Stipend in consideration of him ensuring that the Graves are maintained in good order.

Bushill Fund

Specifically to be used for the maintenance of the Bells.

Fabric Fund

Specifically for the fabric of the Church and Tower.

Betty Huggins Fund

Specifically for flowers in the Church

Eaton Bequest Fund

Designated for projects aimed specifically at involving the local community

Stokes Churchyard Fund

Specifically for the upkeep of the churchyard

Accounts

Annual Report and Accounts
The Parochial Church Council
of St. John Baptist Church, Berkswell
Year ended 31st December 2023



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Trustees' Report

Aim and Purposes

St. John Baptist Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon Dr Mark Bratton, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions as to how our services can engage the many groups that live within our parish. We are a passionate, inclusive church, responding to our faith in God.

When planning activities for the year, the PCC considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. 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; developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate the whole mission, the PCC is specifically responsible for the important task of maintaining the Church building and the adjoining rooms.

The PCC complied with its duty in having due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding vulnerable children and adults (under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016). The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Wendy Burns, whose report can be found on page 19.

Background

The Coronavirus pandemic has proven to be one of the greatest challenges to the Church since the second World War. We lost a great deal of freedom during the last three years and a sense of what was our 'normal' life. Our life as a church family has now, however, returned to much of what we knew previously. Whilst the impacts of the pandemic will be felt for many years there is a sense of renewal and hope which is encouraging.

Achievements and Performance

Ministry Team

The Ministry Team continued to meet on a regular basis to plan and prepare for worship, with particular focus on our special services and to pray for the life of the church community. The ministry team consisted of Revd Canon Dr Mark Bratton, our licensed Reader, Richard Hollingdale, Stephen Collins and Anthony Rich. This team takes primary responsibility for the leading of worship in our church community and therefore oversees liturgy and the rhythm of both special services and ordinary worship.

Throughout 2023 we continued to offer the ministry of occasional offices of baptisms, weddings, funerals and burials, all of which have been significant and meaningful occasions for those involved.

Worship and Prayer

Worship and prayer are at the heart of our church life. Our regular pattern of worship now consists of three services, being two services on a Sunday and a mid-week service on Thursdays. Sunday services are 10 a.m. sung Parish Communion (Common Worship) and 5.30 p.m. Evensong or Holy Communion, with a said Holy Communion on Thursdays at 10.30 a.m.

Junior Church is an intrinsic part of church life at Berkswell, the leadership team undertook to provide sessions on a weekly basis during term time. A thoughtful, informative and enjoyable programme was delivered linking in with the key themes of the liturgical year in addition to such topics as care for creation. It was encouraging to see an increase in the number of children and young families attending worship. Being such an important dimension to the worshipping life of the church, we were delighted to welcome two new Children and Families Ministry Workers, Selina and Katie, who have exciting plans for the future.

We are actively involved with our ecumenical brothers and sisters through Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell.

We were thankful to be able to hold a full series of special services during 2023.

- Candlemas
- Ash Wednesday
- Mothering Sunday
- Choral Passion Service
- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday meditation and Eucharist
- Easter Day
- Rogation – processing to beat the bounds of the village
- Celebration of the Coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III
- Harvest – goods and produce passed to a local charity, Carriers of Hope.
- All Souls' service for the bereaved
- Armistice Day and Remembrance Day

- Advent Carols
- Lessons and Carols
- Christingle Services
- Midnight Mass
- Christmas Day Family Communion

We are grateful and thankful for the contributions to worship of so many of our congregation and friends, be that music, readings, creative ideas or behind the scenes technical expertise. Special thanks go to Patricia Rich and Peter Cross for ensuring our services continued to be broadcast online to the small, private group of congregation members no longer able to attend in person. Also to our Director of Music, Kevin Stannard, and the choir members for their wonderful, choral contributions, both at regular and special services. We were delighted to welcome Stephen Collins as our Sacristan and the return of Jack Cross as Crucifer, thanks to you both for your steadfast service.

During Lent, a study course was organised and led by Anne Short – ‘Differences – The power of faith in a conflicted world’.

We hope to continue with a rich pattern of worship and music in 2024 celebrating the key liturgical seasons in the Church’s calendar and to connect with our parish in a meaningful way throughout the coming years.

Electoral Roll and Statistics for Mission

As of 31st December 2023 there were 190 people on the church electoral roll, of whom 107 resided outside of the parish. Our worshipping community at the end of 2023 was 209, comprising 178 adults with 31 children and young adults. We welcomed 23 new adults and 15 children during the year, with 19 adults and 11 children leaving for a number of reasons.

Numbers are still recovering post-pandemic and has been one of our big challenges over the last two years. On a positive note, the new signs of growth in our church give hope for the future.

Attendance at Easter and Christmas services:

Easter Day: 105

Advent and Nativity services: 275

Christingle, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: 668

In addition to our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God through the various milestones of life’s journey. In baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God’s blessing and in funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life now completed in this world, commending their loved ones into God’s keeping.

We celebrated 4 baptisms and 5 weddings

16 funerals were held with 8 committals only or burial of ashes.

Safeguarding

The Diocese takes safeguarding very seriously and is keen to ensure that parishes are aware of, and able to take appropriate action where concerns have been raised about potential safeguarding issues. As a Church, the PCC also takes Safeguarding seriously, believing in the intrinsic value of training to facilitate culture change and to promote the safety and welfare of everyone who accesses our church. The PCC adopted the recommended Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment policies from Coventry Diocese. The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults is an important part of our Christian ministry and therefore training is vital to ensure church officers and volunteers understand their responsibilities. Everyone who

participates in the life of the church has a role to play in promoting a safer church and this is underpinned by robust, good quality training. The PCC thanks Wendy Burns, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, for her diligent work and focus on this important aspect of church life.

Church Centre

The church is open daily, available to our local community for private prayer and to visitors who come to the church for a number of reasons, as borne out by our visitors' book. The church space and grounds provide a place for those seeking a quiet and reflective environment for worship, prayer or a period of solitude. The church complex includes two rooms and a kitchen adjoining the church which may be hired exclusively for meetings or events incidental or ancillary to the activities of the church. Room bookings are now starting to increase bringing in much needed income from the hire of rooms. The Parish office operates on weekday mornings.

Repairs and Renovations

Routine maintenance and servicing continued in line with our programme of works to ensure health and safety requirements were met. Other repairs or maintenance were attended to in a timely and appropriate manner. The Quinquennial Inspection took place in 2023 and the PCC is delighted report that all was considered in good order. Inevitable there are some works required and some other elements recommended to be undertaken over the next few years.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral visits and home communion for the sick were undertaken by Revd Mark Bratton. Occasionally, home communion was administered by authorised individuals to those members of our congregation no longer able to attend services in person due to illness or mobility issues. Many congregation members continued to act as 'good neighbours', keeping in touch with and supporting their church friends.

We continue to be engaged with Solihull Council's Community Champions, receiving regular updates on all help and support available be that health and well-being, parenting, or simply ensuring access to medication and groceries shopping.

The Jordan Room was open as a Warm Hub on Thursday mornings from November 2022 until Spring 2023, partly coinciding with Coffee Shop, this was a collective venture, co-ordinated through Churches Together. Given our more rural, village location, attendance was minimal.

Mission and Evangelism

The coffee group, successfully set up in 2022 for Ukrainian refugees and their sponsors, came to a natural end with refugees finding employment and homes of their own. It was a privilege to be involved in such an initiative.

Our very successful weekly Coffee Shop has grown further, thanks to Liz Whalley, June Smitten and their team of volunteers. Many new faces soon became regulars, appreciating the welcome and social aspects of this ever-growing group.

The infamous Berkswell Beerfest was held before Advent, a hugely successful element of outreach. Many thanks to Graham Parry and the organising committee and volunteers without whose help, the event may not have continued.

Community events included fundraising quizzes, Coronation celebrations and the Big Coronation lunch, thanks to the hard work of Cathy and Graham Parry and others.

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. We actively encouraged donations of goods and toiletries for our foodbank collection which goes to Carriers of Hope, Coventry. The monthly parish magazine, under the watchful eye of Editor, Patricia Rich, continues to be an interesting, informative read, reaching out to the wider community keeping parishioners informed of important matters affecting our church and local articles of interest.

Ecumenical Relationships

Our church is a member of Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell (CTBB). Various activities in which we participated included the monthly coffee mornings in Balsall Common village centre, Lenten Breakfasts and rotational hosting of the annual Women's World Day of Prayer service. There are also social and fundraising activities that enable sharing and fellowship. We thank Barbara Magson and David Bell for representing Berkswell in 2023 along with the Rector. Emma Bratton has now taken over the reins from Claire Laland as CTBB Secretary. The PCC thanks those church members that have both supported and volunteered at the various activities.

Volunteers

The PCC warmly thanks all volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. There are too many to name individually but, in particular, we are very grateful to our Churchwardens, Angela Childs and Michael Parker, who have worked tirelessly on our behalf; also Peter Cross, Honorary Treasurer, who helped us understand the church's financial position during these unstable times.

Risk Management

The PCC maintains a Risk Management profile that is reviewed regularly. This describes the principal risks and uncertainties facing the church and its undertakings, as identified by the trustees (PCC members), together with a summary of plans and strategies for managing those risks. Health & Safety risk reviews are carried out annually by the churchwardens or other appointed persons. Additional risk assessments were undertaken to ensure we complied with the government and Church of England guidance for various events and activities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. John Baptist the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent (our Rector), Churchwardens, Diocesan Synod representative, Deanery Synod representatives, Readers and members elected by those of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. Members of the congregation who are eligible, are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including decisions on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial induction into the workings of the PCC. The PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 76%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has established a number of advisory groups and sub-committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These groups, detailed on page 8, are all

responsible to the PCC and are expected to report back regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC for discussion, as necessary.

The PCC maintains relationships with Berkswell Church of England school via the Foundation Governors, who were nominated by the PCC. The current Foundation Governors are the Rector (Ex-officio), Kevin Millward, Rebecca Crowe, Michael Parker and Christine Gough.

Administrative information

Berkswell Church is situated in Church Lane, Berkswell, CV7 7BJ

The parish office telephone number is 01676 529123.

The Parish is part of the Diocese of Coventry within the Church of England.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity, as a place of worship, currently registered with the Charity Commission - Charity Number 1132450.

Trustees

PCC members who served at any time from 1st January 2023 until the date of this report are:

Ex Officio Members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Dr Mark Bratton (Chairman)

Reader: Richard Hollingdale

Churchwarden: Angela Childs

Churchwarden: Michael Parker

Diocesan Synod Representative: Anthony Rich

Deanery Synod Reps (3-year term to 2026) Paul Morris, Peter Toor, Veronika Toor, Ivor Wood

Elected Members:

Peter Cross Kirsten Fergus Jo Hands Simon Northover Tom Walls

Faye Newcombe – resigned March 2023

Liz Whalley – retired April 2023

Officers:

PCC Secretary - Janet Roberts

Honorary Treasurer - Peter Cross

Committees and Groups

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by Canon Law; created from members of the PCC, it has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. In 2023 it comprised:

The Rector	Churchwardens	Licensed Reader	Honorary Treasurer
PCC Secretary	Tom Walls	Simon Northover (part)	Anthony Rich (part)

Advisory Sub-committees and Groups Led by:

Baptism Preparation

Margaret Walls

Bell Ringers

Stephen Patrick & Steven Tibbetts (Ringing Master)

Music provision

Kevin Stannard

Churches Together

Revd Canon Dr Mark Bratton

Eco-church

Jo Hands

Gift Aid Secretary

Peter Cross

Finance Committee

Tom Walls

Children & Families Ministry
Magazine Editor
Worship

Selina Toor (from September)
Patricia Rich
Revd Canon Dr Mark Bratton

Approval of Report

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the Parochial Church Council at its meeting held on 18th March 2024.

Rector's Report

Looking Back

The keynote of the past year has been **development**

The keynotes for the previous two years were 'encouragement' and 'recovery'.

Several goals set out in last year's report have been achieved.

The PCC has discussed and asked one of its members Paul Morris to consider various ways of improving levels of stewardship and propose a strategy.

Over the past year, we have appointed Kate Goodacre and Selina Toor as Children and Families Ministers on a job-sharing basis. They have made valuable contributions, overseeing the work of Junior Church, participating in the administration and preparation of candidates for baptism, and forging close links with the local primary school. Recently, the church's first 'parent and toddlers' group, called 'Stay, Play and Pray' was launched and has already attracted more than 10 children on a regular basis.

The Church successfully achieved its Eco Church Silver Award, an enterprise spearheaded by the Eco subgroup of the PCC, under its Chair, Jo Hands.

The Church has worked productively with the Berkswell Mothers' Union, which has attracted several new members throughout the year. Church members hosted the Bishop of Kapsabet in Kenya, and his wife, Mama Seline, who is the Chair of the Mother's Union in that diocese, to a service of Evensong in November, and refreshments afterwards.

The preaching ministry in the Church has been enhanced by the contributions of Michael Parker and Anthony Rich, and the Revds Annie McCormick and Pauline Warner.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, the PCC has reflected on how our village church might thrive, exploring the areas of welcome, life events, the creative use of our building, caring for God's Acre, our role in the community and celebrating our heritage. This coming year, we will be considering making the most of festivals, welcoming more children, reaching the isolated and lonely and communicating effectively.

Looking Now

Churchwardens Angela Childs and Michael Parker have worked superbly well together to ensure smooth running of Church life on a daily basis. A major event was the quinquennial survey and report, and its

implementation will be a goal for next year. To have one good churchwarden is a blessing, to have two is a miracle, especially where a quarter of Church of England parishes are entirely without.

This blessedness extends to the ministries of Stephen Collins as Sacristan and principal Server, and Jack Cross as Assistant Sacristan and Crucifer, assisting the priest in the conduct of serene and dignified worship. It was with great sadness that we received news of the death of former Crucifer and Sacristan, Ray Wilcox, whose funeral service we held in Berkswell Church just before Christmas. Our condolences are extended to his widow Jean, his children Raymond St John, and Billie-Jean, and the wider family. I am grateful to Stephen for agreeing to lead and preach at Evensong regularly.

With the appointment of our two Children and Families Ministers, new energy has been injected into the work of Junior Church, which has attracted significant numbers of new children and families throughout the year. I am thankful for the continuing commitment of our Junior Church leadership team, especially, Cally Northover, Emma Bratton, Jo Hands, Kirsten Fergus and Stuart Hands. This has significantly contributed to the rise in the number of baptism applications, and I continue to be grateful to Margaret Walls who efficiently administers these and provides a vital link between families and the Church. The policy of making home visits to baptism families, usually on Saturday mornings, has proved a good way of deepening relationships and making these feel valued members of the church.

Peter Cross has continued to handle the complex finances of our church with utmost reliability and surefootedness. I am grateful to Jim Fergus for assuming some of Peter's responsibilities and lightening the Treasurer's heavy load a little, and, of course, to our parish administrator, Janet Roberts, for her assistance. Again, increasing numbers of parishes are without treasurers, and so I am doubly thankful for Peter's commitment and contribution

Janet, as Parish Administrator, has continued to be the linchpin of so much of our Church life and the mushroom-like growth of her role over many years necessitated a review of her multifarious activities and the appointment of an assistant, Anne Green, who has capably taken on some of Janet's former responsibilities. Janet works closely with Wendy Burns, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, for whom I am immensely thankful in this complex and delicate area of church governance and law. Many parishes find it exceptionally difficult to find someone to assume this indispensable role.

Richard Hollingdale is my closest ministerial colleague, and I am blessed to have in Richard a fine preacher, serene leader of worship and wise counsellor. Anthony Rich and Michael Parker have also preached superbly, reinforcing the strength-in-depth the Church has in this area of ministry, as have our regular guest preachers, the Revds Annie McCormick and Pauline Warner.

Our Director of Music, Kevin Stannard, and his assistant, Christine Gough, have maintained exceedingly high standards of musical worship, especially at Advent and Christmas Carols and Passiontide. The contribution of our music to our mission cannot be overstated. Kevin has recently relinquished his evening commitments for wider ones, and I am grateful to Francis Hooper and Norman Ashfield for their reliable assistance and proficiency at Evensong.

There are distinct signs of growth in our church life currently. Recently, numbers at our principal morning service have exceeded 100 with the presence of numerous children accounting for this. The must be partly to do with increased investment in church life, particularly the children and families ministry and energetic committed newcomers. This growth is not solely numerical, but also qualitative, as evidenced by the 17 members of the Lent Reading Group held in the spacious boundaries of Marlene Jolley's living room in Balsall Common.

Another successful Beer Festival in the latter part of 2023 'project managed' by Graham Parry and assisted by Paul Tyler – to both of whom I am immensely grateful - was symptomatic of the Church's good community relations and the attractiveness of our Church and location for people who do not normally go to Church.

My overall message is that the Church is 'in good form' and 'fine fettle' for which thanks be to God.

Looking ahead

We have a firm foundation on which to further build. Look ahead:

1. To continue working on our church finances to close the gap between expenditure and 'regular giving' income, currently bridged by income generated from investments.
2. To continue growing our children and families work and consequently the number of families coming forward for the baptism of their children.
3. To engage more systematically in the work of Christian instruction, both with newcomers to the Christian faith, and more seasoned Christians seeking regular Christian education and fellowship in small bible-study and/or reading groups.
4. To encourage adults in the congregation to get baptised and confirmed if not already so, as a mark of commitment and base for a deepening Christian faith.
5. To continue encouraging and resourcing the ministry of preaching in the Church.
6. To begin progress towards the achievement of our Eco Church Gold Award.
7. To continue community outreach through the creation of a revitalised Church Fete team and further Beer Festivals.
8. To continue to reflect collectively, and systematically, on the requirements for a thriving village Church.

The Rector

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the members/trustees of St John Baptist, Berkswell, Parochial Church Council.

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

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Simon Heath FCCA

09 March 2024

Financial Review

The results show a deficit of incoming to outgoing resources of £20,743 for the year compared with a deficit of £16,726 last year. A legacy meant that the recorded deficit was less than our original budgeted deficit of

£24,600. Our investment income is much improved. We continue to hold some of our investments in cash to cover the deficits that the PCC has approved. The investment values increased over the year and we saw a net increase in value of £77,735. Together with our deficit this gave a net increase in funds for the year of £56,992. We have agreed to use our Eaton fund to support employment of Children and Families workers to strengthen and build our young families in the congregation. Our agreed budget therefore reflects this increased liability and is for a deficit of £39,000. As in previous years given the strength of our reserves, the PCC is confident that our finances continue to represent a 'going concern' and our accounts have been prepared on this basis.

Incoming Resources

Unrestricted voluntary income (excluding grants and legacies) increased this year from £74,023 to £78,761.

Our Church of England 'Parish Giving Scheme' now has 30 scheme members, each giving an average of £17.12 per week.

One legacy was received this year, £5,000 from the estate of Mary Bullock.

Expenditure

We purchased a replacement printer this year which increased our office costs. In the churchyard we extended our burial plot area and replaced the old fencing separating the old burial area and the church field.

The monitor in the Jordan room was replaced with a new one and partly funded from the remaining AV charges.

Our staff costs increased with the appointment of three new members of staff.

Reserves Policy

We are currently using our reserves (and their generated income) to cover the shortfall between our voluntary income and our day-to-day costs.

The Common fund is held in the form of investments to provide income.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES


For the year ending 31 December 2023


	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and Legacies	2(a)	85,731	150	50	85,931	85,846
Income from charitable activities	2(b)	16,535			16,535	14,835
Other trading activities	2(c)	8,752			8,752	6,305
Investments	2(d)	18,114	4,011		22,125	13,260
TOTAL INCOME		129,132	4,161	50	133,343	120,246
EXPENDITURE						
Cost of generating funds	3(a)	2,365			2,365	2,043
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(b)	0			0	133
Expenditure on charitable activities	3(c)	148,831	2,890		151,721	134,796
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		151,196	2,890	0	154,086	136,972
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		-22,064	1,271	50	-20,743	-16,726
NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS		62,969	4,842	9,924	77,735	-49,996
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	9	40,905	6,113	9,974	56,992	-66,722
Total funds brought forward		576,926	67,507	117,714	762,147	828,869
Total funds carried forward		617,831	73,620	127,688	819,139	762,147

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	6	674,350	606,614
Tangible		1	1
		<u>674,351</u>	<u>606,615</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
CCLA Deposit Account		80,000	85,000
Santander (Current Account)		32,287	40,078
Fund Bank Accounts		31,320	30,454
Debtors	7	1,231	2,232
		<u>144,838</u>	<u>157,764</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors	8	-50	-2,232
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>144,788</u>	<u>155,532</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>819,139</u>	<u>762,147</u>
Represented by:			
Unrestricted	9	617,831	576,926
Restricted	9	73,620	67,507
Endowment	9	127,688	117,714
		<u>819,139</u>	<u>762,147</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 18th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


..... Chairman


..... PCC member

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. 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, together with applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts for Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and (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 of 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.

Unrestricted funds represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. 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. 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.

Resources Expended.

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.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with Section 10(2)(a) and (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).

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ending 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
2 INCOMING RESOURCES					
a) Donations and Legacies					
Planned giving (tax efficient)	42,828			42,828	44,102
Planned giving (non tax)	2,699			2,699	520
Tax recovered from Gift Aid	14,249			14,249	13,854
Open Plate (Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals)	1,231			1,231	1,709
Open Plate collections	2,862			2,862	3,483
Sundry Donations	1,170	150		1,320	950
Wall Safe	3,511			3,511	2,742
CAF donations (unplanned)	0			0	50
Miscellaneous Receipts	400		50	450	305
Unplanned Tax efficient giving	9,811			9,811	6,308
Grants	1,970	0		1,970	0
Legacies	5,000			5,000	11,823
	85,731	150	50	85,931	85,846
b) Income from charitable activities					
Fees	11,902			11,902	11,252
Magazine Sales	3,363			3,363	2,693
Fees for Rooms	1,270			1,270	890
	16,535			16,535	14,835
c) Other trading activities					
Goods & Souvenirs	169			169	236
Collective Efforts	8,583			8,583	6,069
	8,752			8,752	6,305
d) Investments					
Investment Interest	9,129			9,129	7,611
C.B.F. Interest	8,985	4,011		12,996	5,649
	18,114	4,011		22,125	13,260
Total income	129,132	4,161	50	133,343	120,246

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ending 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
3 EXPENDITURE					
Costs of raising funds					
a) Expenses	2,365			2,365	2,043
	<u>2,365</u>			<u>2,365</u>	<u>2,043</u>
b) Costs of generating funds for voluntary income					
Giving Costs	0			0	133
c) Charitable activities					
Cleaning	127			127	80
Fabric Maintenance	1,291			1,291	821
Extraordinary Expenses	2,208			2,208	0
Service Costs (incl Organ)	2,029			2,029	1,937
Courses / Education / Conferences	48			48	615
Junior Church	0			0	20
Staff	27,275			27,275	22,882
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,070	468		1,538	465
Admin. & Office Expenses	7,278			7,278	3,677
Utilities	13,041			13,041	13,186
Maintenance	3,096			3,096	2,609
Insurances	5,941			5,941	5,401
Parish Share	70,000			70,000	70,000
Children and Families Ministry	2,011			2,011	0
Churchyard Expenses	4,453	2,422		6,875	3,526
Postage	33			33	76
Printing & Stationery	96			96	38
Telephone & Broadband	680			680	674
Choir, Other Expenses	127			127	110
Grants, Gifts, Affiliations	350			350	508
Relief Clergy	446			446	539
Relief Organists	640			640	495
Flowers in Church	428			428	756
Berkswell Parish Magazine	1,677			1,677	2,022
Missionary Societies	300			300	390
Other Charities	0			0	566
Bank Charges	24			24	24
Rectory Expenses	460			460	601
Rector's Expenses	3,550			3,550	2,494
Rooms Consumables	152			152	284
	<u>148,831</u>	<u>2,890</u>		<u>151,721</u>	<u>134,796</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	151,196	2,890		154,086	136,972

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**4 STAFF COSTS**

	2023	2022
Wages and Salaries	27,275	22,882
<u>Average no. of employees</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

During the year the PCC employed a Parish Administrator, an Assistant Administrator, a Magazine Editor, a Child and Families Worker and a Director of Music.

No payments were large enough to attract social security costs.

No PCC members nor related parties received more than £60,000

5 Related Parties

Mrs Patricia Rich was employed by the PCC as Parish Magazine editor, she received £840. No pension contributions nor other benefits were made.

Miss Selena Toor was employed by the PCC as a Children and Families worker, she received £2,400. No pension contributions nor other benefits were made.

No other PCC members or related parties received benefits or emoluments.

No travelling, subsistence, nor out of pocket expenses were received by PCC members. The Rectors expenses are shown in note 3c

Notes to the financial statements**For the year ending 31st December 2023****NOTE**

6	FIXED ASSETS				£
	Investments				
	Market Value at 1st January				606,614
	Purchases at cost				0
	Disposals				-10,000
	Gain on revaluations				77,736
	Market Value at 31st December				<u>674,350</u>
7	Debtors				
	December Gift Aid Claim				1,231
					<u>1,231</u>
8	Creditors				
	Agency Collection				-50
					<u>-50</u>
9	FUND DETAILS	31.12.23	1.01.23	movement	
		£	£	£	
	Unrestricted				
	Common	419,538	396,841	22,697	
	General	27,460	27,768	-308	
	Eaton Bequest	170,833	152,317	18,516	
		<u>617,831</u>	<u>576,926</u>	<u>40,905</u>	
	Restricted				
	Bushill	17,672	17,274	398	
	Churchyard	2,953	2,557	396	
	Fabric	52,995	47,676	5,319	
		<u>73,620</u>	<u>67,507</u>	<u>6,113</u>	
	Endowment				
	Betty Huggins	17,908	16,310	1,598	
	CBF Bushill Feeder Fund	11,272	10,295	977	
	Eborill	13,144	13,144	0	
	Stokes	85,364	77,965	7,399	
		<u>127,688</u>	<u>117,714</u>	<u>9,974</u>	
	TOTALS	<u>819,139</u>	<u>762,147</u>	<u>56,992</u>	

Eborill Fund

Specifically to be used 50 % for the Maintenance of the Churchyard, particularly the Eborill Graves and 50 % to augment the Rector's Stipend in consideration of him ensuring that the Graves are maintained in good order.

Bushill Fund

Specifically to be used for the maintenance of the Bells.

Fabric Fund

Specifically for the fabric of the Church and Tower.

Betty Huggins Fund

Specifically for flowers in the Church

Eaton Bequest Fund

Designated for projects aimed specifically at involving the local community

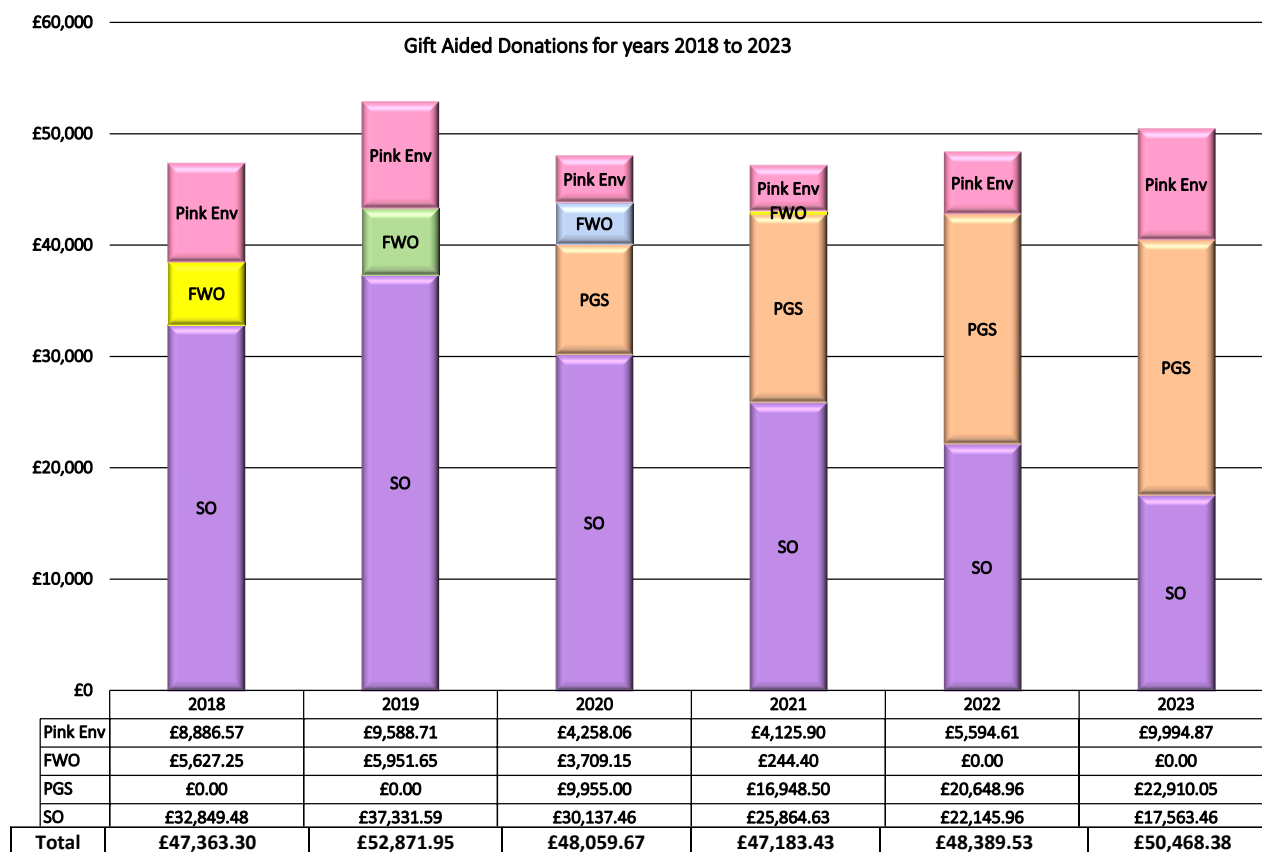
Stokes Churchyard Fund

Specifically for the upkeep of the churchyard

OTHER REPORTS

GIFT AID AND REGULAR DONATIONS

Annual Gift Aided giving increased by 4.3% this year, though it has not recovered to pre-pandemic levels.



The chart shows the following giving amounts for each year 2018 to 2023.

Pink Env: Gift Aided donations received in pink envelopes.

FWO: Gift Aided Free Will Offering envelopes received.

PGS: Gift Aided Direct Debit giving, collected for us via the Parish Giving Scheme.

SO: Gift Aided Standing Orders paid directly into the PCC bank account.

Church service attendances continued to increase this year. The average number of individuals for which tax was reclaimed **increased** this year **from 84** per month in 2022 up **to 91** per month in 2023, (as averaged over the year). Our contactless terminal now takes Gift Aided donations.

The overall number of planned givers increased this year **from 74** in 2022 **to 77** in 2023.

The non-gift aided regular giving for 2023 (Standing Orders and Parish Giving Scheme) totalled £5,674 (a significant increase compared with £3,437 of last year).

This together with the gift aided regular giving and the tax reclaimed we received a total committed amount for the year of £59,458, (i.e. not including Pink Envelope donations), up from £57,139 in 2022.

The total gift aided tax reclaimed for 2023 was £14,248 which is up from £13,854 in 2022, (The total tax reclaimed included £1,628 from eligible small donations e.g. open plate collections.)

Peter Cross Gift Aid Secretary

The Churchwardens' Report

We have now completed two years in office, and in our second year we have strived to build on the good practice we believe we and our predecessors helped to establish as we recovered from the impact of the enforced closure of the churches during the national lock-downs. We have met with the Rector, the Parish Administrator and our Licensed Reader in regular weekly meetings to keep a weather-eye on the life of our church. Teams of volunteers of readers, intercessors and chalice ministers are now settled and well established. Attendance at services, on Sundays and Thursdays continues to grow steadily, and we are now regularly close to eighty in number on Sunday mornings, and regularly about thirty on Thursdays. We continue to offer access to the online recording of the Sunday service, restricted by password. At present a small number of people continue to participate by this method.

Throughout the year the church building and the attached rooms have been regularly inspected, and minor problems resolved. Our Quinquennial Inspection took place towards the end of 2023, and no serious concerns were raised. Recommendations have been made, and these will be addressed over the quinquennial period. We are in the process of establishing a small team of volunteers to look after minor works. In particular, the porch lamp has been repaired, and at the time of writing was close to being ready for re-installation. The Inspection Report is available to view on request. Angela has continued to lead on garden maintenance and on intensive cleans. The church is in good order. Noticeboards have been updated and kept tidy, informative and relevant.

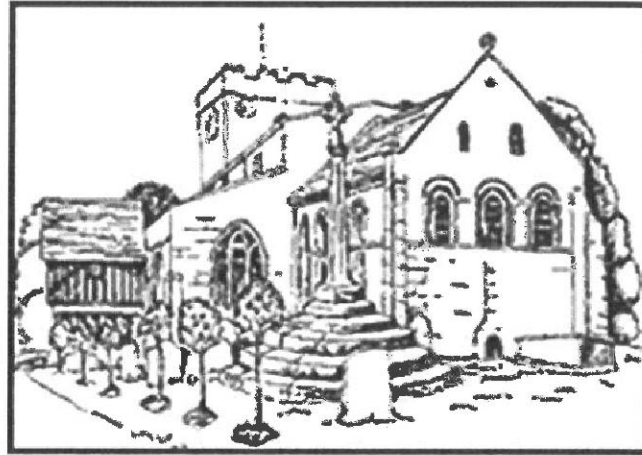
A new digital inventory has been prepared, with close comparison made to the previous manuscript versions. This was presented to the PCC, and we can report that all is in good order. The inventory, terrier, logbook and all other relevant documents are available for inspection on request.

We are grateful to the many people who have offered and given us their help and support, some of it unbidden, whether at services or behind the scenes. They have our thanks.

It continues to be a privilege and an honour, and we can also say a joy, to serve as your churchwardens.

Angela Childs and Michael Parker

Accounts



Report and Accounts
The Parochial Church Council
of St. John Baptist Church, Berkswell
Year ended 31st December 2022

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Trustees' Report

Aim and Purposes

St. John Baptist Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon Dr Mark Bratton, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church and rooms adjoining the church.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions as to how our services can engage the many groups that live within our parish. We are a passionate, inclusive church, responding to our faith in God.

When planning activities for the year, the PCC considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. 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; developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate the whole mission, the PCC is specifically responsible for the important task of maintaining the Church building and the adjoining rooms.

The PCC complied with its duty in having due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding vulnerable children and adults (under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016). The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Wendy Burns, whose report can be found on page 19.

Background

The Coronavirus pandemic has proven to be one of the greatest challenges to the Church since the second World War. We lost a great deal of freedom during the last three years and a sense of what was our 'normal' life. Our life as a church family has now, however, started to return to much of what we knew previously. The impacts of the pandemic will be felt for many years.

Achievements and Performance

Ministry Team

The Ministry Team continued to meet on a regular basis to plan and prepare for worship, with particular focus on our special services and to pray for the life of the church community. The ministry team consisted of Revd Canon Dr Mark Bratton, our licensed Readers Steve Bell (until November) and Richard Hollingdale with Revd Canon Peter Holliday also leading some services. This team takes primary responsibility for the leading of worship in our church community and therefore oversees liturgy and the rhythm of both special services and ordinary worship.

Throughout 2022 we continued to offer the ministry of occasional offices of baptisms, weddings, funerals and burial of ashes services which have been significant and meaningful occasions for those involved.

Understandably, many weddings and baptisms had been postponed since 2020 in the hope that the occasions could be celebrated more fully.

We hope to continue to offer a rich variety of worship services at St John Baptist, Berkswell during 2023 and pray that the ministry team will continue to grow.

Worship and Prayer

Worship and prayer are at the heart of our church life. Since the COVID-19 pandemic our regular pattern of worship now consists of three services, being two services on a Sunday, 10 a.m. sung Parish Communion and 5.30 p.m. Evensong or Holy Communion, with 10:30 a.m. said Holy Communion on a Thursday.

Junior Church was suspended until November 2021 when a new leadership team formed and undertook to provide Junior Church on a weekly basis during term time. A thoughtful, informative and enjoyable programme was delivered linking in with the key themes of the liturgical year in addition to such topics as care for creation. More latterly we have seen an increase in the number of young families attending worship.

Junior Church is an important dimension to the worshipping life of the church, so much so, that the PCC agreed to seek and employ a Children and Families Ministry Worker. It is hoped the role will be filled and operational by the summer of 2023.

We are actively involved with our ecumenical brothers and sisters through Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell.

Following the easing of government restrictions, we were delighted and thankful to be able to hold a full series of special services during 2022 once again.

- Candlemas
- Ash Wednesday
- Mothering Sunday
- Choral Passion Service
- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday meditation
- Easter Day
- Rogation – beating the bounds of the village
- Services for Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II
- Harvest – goods and produce passed to local charity, Hope Coventry.
- All Souls’ service for the bereaved
- Remembrance Day
- Advent Carols
- Lessons and Carols
- Christingle Services
- Midnight Mass
- Christmas Day Family Communion

We are thankful for the contributions from so many of our friends and congregation, be that music, readings, creative ideas or behind the scenes technical expertise. Special thanks go to Steve Bell, Tricia Rich and Peter Cross to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for ensuring our services were not only broadcast throughout the year but of the highest standard, and also to the choir for their wonderful choral contributions. Towards the end of the year, the PCC decided to cease streaming online services on an open platform due to privacy and safeguarding considerations. Instead, a closed group can register for viewing on You Tube, mainly used by those no longer able to attend church due to illness or mobility issues.

We hope to continue with a rich pattern of worship and music in 2023 celebrating the key seasons in the church’s year and to connect with our parish in a meaningful way throughout the coming years.

Electoral Roll and Statistics for Mission

As of 31st December 2022 there were 190 people on the church electoral roll, of whom 103 resided outside of the parish. Our worshipping community at the end of 2022 was 199, being 176 adults with 23 children and young adults. 15 of our worshipping community were predominantly or wholly 'Church at Home' worshippers watching the live-streamed services, reduced to 5 in the closed group. We welcomed 23 new adults and children but during the year but leavers totalled 21 adults and 10 children.

Numbers are still recovering post-pandemic; it will take time and is one of our big challenges. On a more positive note, new signs of growth in our church give hope for the future.

Easter and Christmas services saw stronger numbers attending as restrictions relaxed:

People attending services on Easter Day: 110

People attending Advent and Nativity services: 227

People attending worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: 611

In addition to our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God through the various milestones of life's journey. In baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and in funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life now completed in this world, commending the person into God's keeping. We celebrated 10 baptisms and nine weddings, several of which were postponed from 2020 and 2021. 13 funerals were held with 9 committals only or burials of ashes.

Safeguarding

The Diocese takes safeguarding very seriously and is keen to ensure that parishes are aware of, and able to take appropriate action where concerns have been raised about potential safeguarding issues. As a Church, the PCC also takes Safeguarding seriously, believing in the intrinsic value of training to facilitate culture change to promote the safety and welfare of everyone who accesses our church. The PCC adopted the recommended Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment policies from Coventry Diocese. The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults is an important part of our Christian ministry and therefore training is vital to ensure church officers and volunteers understand their responsibilities. Everyone who participates in the life of the church has a role to play in promoting a safer church and this is underpinned by robust, good quality training.

Church Centre

We re-opened our church daily in September 2021 and continue to do so to be available to our local community for private prayer and to visitors. The church space and grounds provide a place for those seeking a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship and prayer. The Parish office operates on weekday mornings; The church complex also includes two rooms adjoining the church which are normally available for hire, exclusively for meetings or events incidental or ancillary to the activities of the church. Room bookings are now starting to increase bringing in much needed income from the hire of rooms.

Repairs and Renovations

Routine maintenance and servicing continued in line with our programme of works to ensure health and safety requirements were met. Other repairs or maintenance were attended to in a timely and appropriate manner.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral visits and home communion were undertaken by Revd Mark Brattón. Occasionally Home communion was administered by authorised individuals. Our congregation continued to act as 'good neighbours', keeping in touch with and supporting their church friends.

We actively engaged with Solihull Council's Community Champions, receiving regular updates on all help and support available be that health and well-being, parenting, or simply ensuring access to medication and groceries shopping.

The Jordan Room was open as a Warm Hub on Thursday mornings from November, partly coinciding with Coffee Shop, this was a collective venture, co-ordinated through Churches Together.

Mission and Evangelism

Many events planned for 2021 had to be cancelled or postponed but we were delighted to hold these in 2022. A Feast Food Fair weekend was held in conjunction with the Global Research Project team at Warwick University, as part of the Resonate Festival, Coventry City of Culture. Celebratory foods from different cultures were sampled with informative talks. The infamous Berkswell Beerfest was held the same weekend, showcasing the historical links of church ales. A hugely successful element of outreach reinstated as allowed post-pandemic.

Community events included a St George's Day quiz and Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street party, thanks to the hard work of Cathy and Graham Parry and others.

A successful coffee group was set up for Ukrainian refugees and their sponsors, this enabled Ukrainian families and their children to feel both part of the community, supported and to speak with their compatriots in their native language.

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Fundraising efforts had, of necessity, moved mainly online but have been pleased to support both local and national charities. We have actively encouraged donations of goods and toiletries for our foodbank collection which has gone to Carriers of Hope Coventry. The monthly parish magazine continues to be made available online (free of charge). It has, however, also returned to a printed format (nominal fee), distributed via post and volunteers to the wider community. The magazine keeps parishioners informed of important matters affecting our church and also features local articles of interest.

The Rector led a bible study group via Zoom, and an online course, Living in Love and Faith, both attended by our own church members and those of other churches in the local and deanery area.

Ecumenical Relationships

Our church is a member of Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell. Various activities in which we normally participate were reinstated – monthly coffee mornings in Balsall Common village centre, Lenten Breakfasts and rotational hosting of the annual Women's World Day of Prayer service. There are also social and fundraising activities that enable sharing and fellowship. We thank Barbara Magson and David Bell for representing Berkswell, along with the Rector.

Volunteers

The PCC warmly thanks all volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. There are too many to name individually but, in particular, we are very grateful to our Churchwardens, Angela Childs and Michael Parker, who have worked tirelessly on our behalf; also Peter Cross, Honorary Treasurer, who helped us understand the church's financial position during this unstable time.

Risk Management

The PCC maintains a Risk Management profile that is reviewed regularly. This describes the principal risks and uncertainties facing the church and its undertakings, as identified by the trustees (PCC members), together with a summary of plans and strategies for managing those

risks. Health & Safety risk reviews are carried out annually by the churchwardens or other appointed persons. Additional risk assessments were undertaken to ensure we complied with the government and Church of England guidance in making the church COVID-19 safe.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. John Baptist the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent (our Rector), Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives, Readers and members elected by those of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. Members of the congregation who are eligible are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including decisions on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial induction into the workings of the PCC. The PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 88%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has established a number of advisory groups and sub-committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These groups, detailed on page 7, are all responsible to the PCC and are expected to report back regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC for discussion, as necessary.

Administrative information

Berkswell Church is situated in Church Lane, Berkswell, CV7 7BJ

The parish office telephone number is 01676 529123.

It is part of the Diocese of Coventry within the Church of England.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity, as a place of worship, currently registered with the Charity Commission - Charity Number 1132450.

Trustees

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2022 until the date of this report are:

Ex Officio Members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Dr Mark Bratton (Chairman)

Reader: Richard Hollingdale

Churchwarden: Angela Childs (from APCM 2022)

Churchwarden: Michael Parker (from APCM 2022)

Deanery Synod Representatives (until APCM 2023)

Steve Bell (Resigned November 2022)

Michael Palmer. (Deceased January 2023)

Anthony Rich

Outgoing Churchwarden - Patricia Charlton-Sheppard (until APCM 2022)

Outgoing Churchwarden - Chris Powell (until APCM 2022)

Elected Members:

Peter Cross

Kirsten Fergus

Jo Hands

Paul Morris

Fay Newcombe

Simon Northover

Tom Walls

Liz Whalley

Gill Harrison (until May 2022)

Margaret Powell (until September 2022)

Officers:

PCC Secretary - Janet Roberts

Honorary Treasurer - Peter Cross

Committees and Groups

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by Canon Law; created from members of the PCC, it has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. In 2022 it comprised:

The Rector	Churchwardens	Readers	Honorary Treasurer
Simon Northover	Tom Walls	PCC Secretary	

Advisory Committees / Groups

	Lead
Baptism Preparation	Margaret Walls
Bell Ringers	Steven Tibbetts (Deputy for Mr Stephen Patrick)
Music provision	Kevin Stannard
Churches Together	Revd Canon Dr Mark Bratton
Gift Aid Secretary	Peter Cross
Finance & Stewardship	Tom Walls
Junior Church	Leaders' Shared Responsibility
Magazine Editor	Zoe Bell
Worship	Revd Canon Dr Mark Bratton
Eco-church	Jo Hands

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27th March 2023.

Rector's Report

The keynote of the past year has been **encouragement**.

The previous year's keynote was 'recovery'.

Several goals set out in last year's report have been achieved.

After initial concerns about the lack of candidates presenting themselves for office, we appointed two extremely capable Churchwardens at the APCM in Angela Childs and Michael Parker. They have been immensely supportive to me and have worked very hard to ensure that the practical day-to-day running of the Church has proceeded smoothly. I owe them a huge debt of gratitude which I wish publicly to acknowledge here.

We have also appointed a very adept Sacristan in Stephen Collins, who is principally responsible for setting up for communion at our principal Sunday and mid-week Eucharist, also acting as server. This is an enormously important liturgical role as it assists the priest in the conduct of smooth and dignified worship. Stephen succeeded Ray Wilcox who continued to act as Crucifer until his recent retirement from that role. I would like to put on record here my huge thanks to Stephen for all that he has done this past year, and Ray for his many years of devoted service to this Church.

I am delighted to say that Jack Cross has recently returned to Church to serve as Crucifer in succession to Ray, and to assist Stephen as Assistant Sacristan and Server.

Annual Report - St John Baptist, Berkswell

We took significant steps towards reducing our carbon footprint as a Church in keeping with the Church of England's commitment to reduce to carbon 'net zero' by 2030 by setting up an Environmental Sub-Committee of the PCC chaired by Jo Hands, who was also appointed as Secretary to the Diocesan Environment Group, of which I am a member. The work of the sub-committee is now a standing item on the PCC agenda. I would like to thank Jo for steering the work of the sub-committee and especially for gathering the information that was necessary to secure our EcoChurch Bronze award during the course of the year.

We have advertised locally and nationally for a Children and Families Minister to oversee our children's and family work at Berkswell Church and will interview shortlisted candidates shortly after Easter with a view to making appointment by the end of April or the beginning of May. This appointment promises to enhance greatly the work undertaken amongst our children and young families currently. I would like to express my thanks to Cally Northover, Emma Bratton, Jo Hands, Kirsten Fergus and Stuart Hands for the sterling work they have done since the beginning of last September to sustain and grow Junior Church over the year. And also to Margaret Walls who has been the principal point of contact for families wishing to have their children baptised at Berkswell of which there is a constant, steady stream.

Sadly, we said goodbye to the Bell family at the end of last year following their move out of the village to another, slightly more urban, one, Allesley Village. They represent a big loss to this Church community, Steve was a valued colleague and friend, ministering as Reader in our Church. He was a gifted preacher and often acted as the Church's 'social conscience' with his work amongst the homeless community in Birmingham. Zoe was Assistant Parish Assistant, she spearheaded the work of Junior Church, and edited the Parish Magazine. Faith was confirmed at Coventry Cathedral on Easter Day last year, and Miles was a keen footballer with the Berkswell and Balsall Common Hornets. We will very much miss them.

Thankfully, Tricia Rich agreed to take over the editorship of the magazine and has already 'flown solo' with the efficient production of the February and March editions. I very much look forward to working with Tricia over the coming months and years. I would also like to thank Tricia and Peter Cross for the application of their technological expertise to ensure that the Church continues to make its services 'virtually' available to those who cannot come to Church physically.

Peter has continued to discharge his duties as Treasurer with his usual unflappable reliability safely steering the fiscal life of the Church safely through the choppy waters of the last few years, caused by the pandemic. To him on behalf of myself and the whole Church I tender my very grateful thanks.

Happily, Richard Hollingdale remains with us as Reader, and continues to combine preaching excellence with a dignified liturgical presence, contributing to the excellent quality of our worship. As does the Choir under the immensely capable and efficient leadership of Kevin Stannard and Christine Gough. The capacity that good quality sung worship has to draw people into a more intimate relationship with God cannot be overestimated. I would publicly like to thank the Choir for its dedication, quality and effectiveness over the last year. I would like to acknowledge the great sadness we all feel following the deaths of two faithful choir members; Christine's husband Michael, and Michael Palmer. *Ut Requiescant in pace et Resurgant in Gloria!*

The Berkswell Mothers' Union was reinstated under the leadership of Karen Morris, the President of the Coventry Dioceses' Mothers' Union. This important organisation has been an increasingly important part of this Church's ministry and support, such as providing hospitality for a group of pilgrims visiting Berkswell Church.

We have encouraged the ministry of preaching over the past year, with members of the congregation contribution to this vital ministry for the first time, such as Anthony Rich, Michael Parker and Stephen Collins.

Last, but not least, Janet Roberts, our indispensable Parish Administrator, has been another enormous source of support to me and the Church. The range of her responsibilities is ocean-wide, from dealing with broken mortice locks to the finer points of interpretation of the Churchyard Regulations, as well as being an immensely friendly face of the Church, Janet embodies the surprising complexities of Church life in this unique village ecology of Berkswell. This explains why Berkswell Church is a source of startling surprise to all who visit it for the first time.

We should, of course, recall an event of historical moment which occurred last September, the death of our monarch and Supreme Governor of the Church of England, Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The Church marked the event with services and prayers and provided a Book of Condolence for signature and comment in the Church. We look forward to the Coronation of King Charles III this May.

Looking ahead

It is gratifying to look back over the last year and realise that we have achieved many of the goals we set out. Looking ahead, in addition to building on the achievements of last year:

1. To put our finances in order by encouraging people to consider their level of stewardship giving especially through use of the 'Parish Giving' scheme. Although not a 'business', as a Church, we are called to be 'business-like', in our quest to resource our ministry, and extend it.
2. To appoint and induct our new Children and Families Minister and integrate the successful candidate with the life of Junior Church, our baptism families, and our local primary school.
3. To make progress towards the achievement of our EcoChurch Silver Award
4. Working more closely with the Berkswell Mothers' Union to enhance the ministry of Church through care for families and the offering of hospitality.
5. To encourage and resources the ministry of preaching in the Church.
6. To reflect collectively, and systematically, on what we need to do to make our village Church thrive, especially in terms of,
 - a. Extending a warm welcome
 - b. Making the most of life events
 - c. Using our building creatively
 - d. Caring for God's Acre
 - e. Being the heartbeat of the community
 - f. Celebrating our heritage
 - g. Cultivating fruitful festivals
 - h. Welcoming more children
 - i. Reaching the isolated and lonely
 - j. Communicating effectively.

The Rector

27th March 2023

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the members/trustees of St John Baptist, Berkswell, Parochial Church Council.

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

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 you as 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 matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(Signed)



Simon Heath FCCA

04 March 2023

Financial Review

The results show a deficit of incoming to outgoing resources of £16,726 for the year compared with a surplus of £18,056 last year. We are now seeing a recovery in numbers in our congregations which is reflected in increased open plate donations. A legacy covered our reduced investment income and increased utility costs, meaning that we were less than our original planned deficit of £18,500. Our investment income dropped following a decision by our investment committee to liquidize our investments prior to switching them to Church of England managed funds. We held some of the moneys in cash whilst investment values were dropping. The investments values overall dropped over the year and we saw a net decrease in value of £49,996. This together with our deficit giving a net decrease in funds for the year of £66,722. We anticipate another challenging year next year, so our agreed budget is for a deficit of £24,670. As in previous years given the level of our reserves the PCC is confident that our finances continue to represent a 'going concern' and our accounts have been prepared on this basis.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income (excluding grants and legacies) increased this year from £68,944 to £74,023, all of this income was unrestricted.

Our Church of England 'Parish Giving Scheme' now has 24 scheme members, with an average giving of £16.44 per week.

Two legacies were received this year. £1,823 from the estate of Diana Jackson and £10,000 from the estate of Mary Goode.

Expenditure

Our Parish share was reduced this year and that offset to a large degree the increase in our utilities but other increased costs from maintenance, office etc. saw our overall costs rise.

We have spent £1,170 improving the operation and reliability of our AV system and continue to hold £833 towards completion of the AV system to the original specification.

Reserves Policy

We are currently using our reserves (and their generated income) to cover the shortfall between our voluntary income and our day-to-day costs.

The Common fund is held in the form of investments to provide income.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ending 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and Legacies	2(a)	85,846			85,846	110,175
Income from charitable activities	2(b)	14,835			14,835	9,796
Other trading activities	2(c)	6,305			6,305	1,749
Investments	2(d)	12,730	530		13,260	19,613
TOTAL INCOME		119,716	530	0	120,246	141,333
EXPENDITURE						
Cost of generating funds	3(a)	2,043			2,043	0
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(b)	133			133	61
Expenditure on charitable activities	3(c)	134,796			134,796	123,216
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		136,972	0	0	136,972	123,277
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		-17,256	530	0	-16,726	18,056
NET LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS		-31,845	-4,269	-13,882	-49,996	53,502
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	9	-49,101	-3,739	-13,882	-66,722	71,558
Total funds brought forward		626,027	71,246	131,596	828,869	757,311
Total funds carried forward		576,926	67,507	117,714	762,147	828,869

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

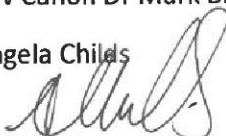
	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	6	606,614	144,057
Tangible		1	1
		606,615	144,058
CURRENT ASSETS			
CCLA Deposit Account		85,000	0
Santander (Current Account)		40,078	656,619
Fund Bank Accounts		30,454	29,924
Debtors	7	2,232	771
		157,764	687,314
LIABILITIES			
Creditors	8	-2,232	-2,503
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		155,532	684,811
TOTAL NET ASSETS		762,147	828,869
 Represented by:			
Unrestricted	9	576,926	626,027
Restricted	9	67,507	71,246
Endowment	9	117,714	131,596
		762,147	828,869

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27 March 2023, and signed on its behalf by:

Rev Canon Dr Mark Bratton Chairman

Angela Childs

PCC Member




The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. 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, together with applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts for Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent **(a)** income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and **(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 of 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.

Unrestricted funds represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. 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. 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.

Resources Expended.

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.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with Section 10(2)(a) and (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).

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ending 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
2 INCOMING RESOURCES					
a) Donations and Legacies					
Planned giving (tax efficient)	44,102			44,102	44,011
Planned giving (non tax)	520			520	835
Tax recovered from Gift Aid	13,854			13,854	12,446
Open Plate (Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals)	1,709			1,709	768
Open Plate collections	3,483			3,483	871
Sundry Donations	950			950	2,825
Wall Safe	2,742			2,742	1,276
CAF donations (unplanned)	50			50	0
Miscellaneous Receipts	305			305	0
Unplanned Tax efficient giving	6,308			6,308	5,912
Legacies	11,823			11,823	41,231
	85,846			85,846	110,175
b) Income from charitable activities					
Fees	11,252			11,252	6,856
Magazine Sales	2,693			2,693	2,730
Fees for Rooms	890			890	210
	14,835			14,835	9,796
c) Other trading activities					
Goods & Souvenirs	236			236	58
Collective Efforts	6,069			6,069	1,691
	6,305			6,305	1,749
d) Investments					
Investment Interest	7,611			7,611	16,505
C.B.F. Interest	5,119	530		5,649	3,108
	12,730	530		13,260	19,613
Total income	119,716	530	0	120,246	141,333

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ending 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
3 EXPENDITURE					
Costs of raising funds					
a) Expenses	2,043			2,043	0
	2,043			2,043	0
b) Costs of generating funds for voluntary income					
Giving Costs	133			133	61
c) Charitable activities					
Cleaning	80			80	167
Fabric Maintenance	821			821	180
Service Costs (incl Organ)	1,937			1,937	1,366
Courses / Education / Conferences	615			615	155
Junior Church	20			20	71
Staff	22,882			22,882	22,828
Miscellaneous Expenses	465			465	239
Admin. & Office Expenses	3,677			3,677	863
Utilities	13,186			13,186	3,932
Maintenance	2,609			2,609	1,111
Insurances	5,401			5,401	5,253
Parish Share	70,000			70,000	78,200
Churchyard Expenses	3,526			3,526	3,546
Postage	76			76	2
Printing & Stationery	38			38	13
Telephone & Broadband	674			674	673
Choir, Other Expenses	110			110	110
Grants, Gifts, Affiliations	508			508	0
Relief Clergy	539			539	211
Relief Organists	495			495	80
Flowers in Church	756			756	173
Berkswell Parish Magazine	2,022			2,022	1,832
Missionary Societies	390			390	130
Other Charities	566			566	0
Bank Charges	24			24	24
Rectory Expenses	601			601	615
Rector's Expenses	2,494			2,494	1,424
Rooms Consumables	284			284	18
	134,796	0		134,796	123,216
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	136,972	0		136,972	123,277

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**4 STAFF COSTS**

	2022	2021
Wages and Salaries	22,882	22,828
<u>Average no. of employees</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

During the year the PCC employed a Parish Administrator, an Assistant Administrator and a Director of Music.

No payments were large enough to attract social security costs.

No PCC members nor related parties received more than £60,000

5 Related Parties

Mrs Zoe Bell was employed by the PCC as an assistant administrator and Parish Magazine editor, she received £4,844. No pension contributions nor other benefits were made.

No other PCC members or related parties received benefits or emoluments.

No travelling, subsistence, nor out of pocket expenses were received by PCC members. The

Rectors expenses are shown in note 3c

Notes to the financial statements**For the year ending 31st December 2022****NOTE**

6 FIXED ASSETS	£		
Investments			
Market Value at 1st January		144,057	
Purchases at cost		512,553	
Disposals		0	
Gain on revaluations		-49,996	
Market Value at 31st December		<u>606,614</u>	
7 Debtors			
December Gift Aid Claim		1,032	
Magazine H2 printing		1,200	
		<u>2,232</u>	
8 Creditors			
AV Balance		-833	
Agency Collection		-1,399	
		<u>-2,232</u>	
9 FUND DETAILS	31.12.22	1.01.22	movement
	£	£	£
Unrestricted			
Common	396,841	419,709	-22,868
General	27,768	45,024	-17,256
Eaton Bequest	152,317	161,294	-8,977
	<u>576,926</u>	<u>626,027</u>	<u>-49,101</u>
Restricted			
Bushill	17,274	16,744	530
Churchyard	2,557	2,913	-356
Fabric	47,676	51,589	-3,913
	<u>67,507</u>	<u>71,246</u>	<u>-3,739</u>
Endowment			
Betty Huggins	16,310	18,475	-2,165
CBF Bushill Feeder Fund	10,295	11,662	-1,367
Eborill	13,144	13,144	0
Stokes	77,965	88,315	-10,350
	<u>117,714</u>	<u>131,596</u>	<u>-13,882</u>
TOTALS	<u>762,147</u>	<u>828,869</u>	<u>-66,722</u>

Eborill Fund

Specifically to be used 50 % for the Maintenance of the Churchyard, particularly the Eborill Graves and 50 % to augment the Rector's Stipend in consideration of him ensuring that the Graves are maintained in good order.

Bushill Fund

Specifically to be used for the maintenance of the Bells.

Fabric Fund

Specifically for the fabric of the Church and Tower.

Betty Huggins Fund

Specifically for flowers in the Church

Eaton Bequest Fund

Designated for projects aimed specifically at involving the local community

Stokes Churchyard Fund

Specifically for the upkeep of the churchyard

Accounts

Charity Commission Annual Return 2021

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH ST JOHN BAPTIST BERKSWELL

Charity registration number: 1132450

Most of the information you give in this form will become publicly available on the Register of Charities. Any field that the Charity Commission will not display will be clearly marked.

This document is a record of the information provided in the Annual Return 2021.

PART A - Charity information

Financial period

Financial period start date

01/01/2021

Financial period end date

31/12/2021

Income and spending

Income £

£ 141,333

Spending £

£ 123,277

Serious Incidents

For the period of this return, were there any serious incidents in your charity that have not been reported to the Charity Commission?

No

Fundraising - professional fundraiser

Did your charity raise funds from the public?

Yes

Did the charity work with any professional fundraisers?

No

Fundraising - commercial participator

Did your charity work with any commercial participators?

No

Grantmaking

Was grant making the main way your charity carried out its purposes?

No

Government contracts

During the financial period for this annual return, did the charity receive income from contracts (other than grant agreements) with central government or local authorities?

No

Government grants

During the financial period for this annual return, did the charity receive income from grants from central government or local authorities?

No

Income from outside the UK

Did your charity receive income from outside the UK?

No

Spending outside England & Wales

Did your charity operate outside England and Wales?

No

Total Spending outside England & Wales

£

Trading subsidiaries

Did the charity have any subsidiaries?

No

Trustee payments

Did any of the trustees receive any remuneration, payments or benefits from the charity other than refunds of legitimate trustee expenses?

No

Did any of the trustees resign and then take up employment with the charity?

No

Employees' salaries

Did any of your charity's staff receive total employee benefits of £60,000 or more?

Select No if your charity does not have any staff or does not pay any staff.

No

For your highest paid member of staff only, what was the total value of their employee benefits?

(For example if your highest paid member of staff received £35,000 enter 35000). If you do not have any staff or did not pay any staff, enter 0 (zero)

£ 12,741

Volunteers

How many UK volunteers, excluding trustees, did the charity have during the financial period?

0

Financial controls

Did your charity review its internal financial controls?

Yes

Privacy statement

Any information you give us will be held securely and processed only in accordance with the rule on data protection. We will not disclose your personal details to anyone unconnected to the Charity Commission unless:

- you have consented to their release; or
- we are legally obliged to disclose them; or
- we regard disclosure as either (a) necessary so that we can properly carry out our statutory functions or (b) necessary in the public interest.

We may share and disclose information about you with relevant public authorities, regulatory bodies and agencies, outside the Charity Commission but only if:

- we can lawfully do so; and
- we decide that disclosure is necessary for national security, crime detection, prevention, and law enforcement, or other issues in the public interest

Information we collect about you

We will use this information:

To enable us to carry out our statutory functions and duties;

This will include the following actions:

- (a) update, consolidate, and improve the accuracy of our records;
- (b) undertake crime detection and prevention and law enforcement and assist the third parties specified above to investigate or prevent crime and carry out law enforcement;
- (c) data analysis, testing, research, statistical and survey purposes

Information we receive from other sources.

Information we receive from other sources

We may combine this information with information you give to us and information we collect about you.

We may use this information and the combined information for the purposes set out above (depending on the types of information we receive).

We will ensure that any such disclosure and use is proportionate; considers your right to respect for your private life; and is done fairly and lawfully in accordance with the data protection principles of the Data Protection Act.

The Data Protection Act 1998 regulates the use of 'personal data', which is essentially any information, however stored, about identifiable living individuals.

As a 'data controller' under the Act, the Charity Commission must comply with it. Any changes we may make to our privacy statement in the future will be set out in the replacement version of this form.

Please check back frequently to see any updates or changes to our privacy policy.

Declaration

This annual return has not been submitted and no Declaration has been made

Accounts



Report and Accounts
The Parochial Church Council
of St. John Baptist Church, Berkswell
Year ended 31st December 2020

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Trustees Report

Aim and Purposes

St. John Baptist Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Dr Mark Bratton, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church and rooms adjoining the church.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions as to how our services can engage the many groups that live within our parish.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. 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; developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.

- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate our whole mission it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. John Baptist and the adjoining rooms.

The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding vulnerable children and adults (under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016). The appointed Parish Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Karen Morris, whose report can be found on page 21.

Background

2020 has been an extraordinary year, the likes of which many have not experienced in their lifetimes. The coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak soon established itself, becoming a pandemic with the first national lockdown introduced on 23rd March 2020

The coronavirus pandemic has radically affected life at Berkswell Church, and indeed all our lives. Many church buildings were closed for a large part of 2020 opening for public worship and prayer only when safe to do so. We are still going through a huge upheaval and have tried to bring creativity to our worship and demonstrate resilience to the negative impacts. On a positive note, we have continued to offer worship and pastoral support to our congregation and parishioners during this difficult time.

Achievements and Performance

Ministry Team

Throughout this time the Ministry Team continued to meet on a regular basis to plan and prepare for worship, with particular focus on our special services and to pray for the life of the church community. The ministry team consisted of Revd Dr Mark Bratton, our licensed Readers Steve Bell, Richard Hollingdale with Revd Peter Holliday and Revd Pam Smith also leading some services. This team takes primary responsibility for the leading of worship in our church community and therefore oversees liturgy and the rhythm of both special services and ordinary worship.

Throughout 2020 we continued to offer the ministry of occasional offices as allowed; baptisms, weddings, funerals and burial of ashes services which have been significant and meaningful occasions for those involved. Understandably, many weddings and baptism have been postponed until 2021 in the hope that these occasions can be celebrated more fully.

We hope to continue to offer a rich variety of worship services at St John Baptist, Berkswell during 2021 and pray that the ministry team will continue to grow.

Worship and Prayer

Worship and prayer are at the heart of our church life. Our usual regular pattern of worship consists of three services on a Sunday, 8:30am Communion, 10am Parish Communion and 5pm or 6pm Evensong or Holy Communion, with 10:30am Holy Communion on a Thursday. Our Junior Church runs throughout school term time during our 10am Sunday Parish Communion service; this is an important dimension to the worshipping life of the church. We are actively involved with our ecumenical brothers and sisters through Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell.

Out of necessity we have had to seek alternative ways to worship with services being broadcast initially from the Rectory, a mixture of pre-recorded and live, later moving to a full Eucharist service live streamed from the church without public presence. Once safe to do so the church was re-opened for public worship at 10

a.m. on Sundays and for private individual prayer on Wednesday mornings (10 a.m. – 12 noon) and Sundays following the service until 2.00 p.m.

A series of special services was held during 2020, some prior to lockdown restrictions, others remotely live-streamed and occasionally in person adhering to strict COVID safety guidelines. We have aspired to incorporate creativity into worship, and we are thankful for the contributions from so many of our friends and congregation be that music, readings, creative ideas or behind the scenes technical expertise. Special thanks go to Steve Bell, Simon Northover and Peter Cross to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for ensuring our services were not only broadcast but of the highest standard, and also to the choir for their 'remote' choral contributions.

- Candlemas
- Ash Wednesday and the imposition of ashes
- Mothering Sunday: our first lockdown live streamed service
- Passiontide: a telling of the passion story through readings with music and anthems
- Holy Week: Good Friday meditations
- Easter day
- Rogation: virtually beating the bounds of the village
- Harvest: with a contribution by Junior Church
- All Souls' service for the bereaved
- Remembrance Day
- Advent Carols
- Lessons and Carols
- Christingle services
- Christmas Day Family Communion

We hope to continue with a rich pattern of worship and music that celebrates the key seasons in the church's year and connects with our parish in a meaningful way throughout the coming years.

Electoral Roll and Statistics for Mission

As at 31st December 2020 there were 214 people on the church electoral roll, of whom 125 reside outside of the parish. Our worshipping community at the end of 2020 was 349 with 100 adults and children joining us during the year, at least 85 being regular online worshippers, and with 16 leaving. We have continued to welcome people from all walks of life to our services. The average weekly attendance on a 'usual' Sunday, in 2019 was 128 (98 adults and 30 children), however the overall numbers attending worship increased significantly in 2020 due to our online provisions – average weekly 'meaningful' views was 375.

The Christingle service was live-streamed in order to accommodate all those who wished to attend, Christingle packs were available for collection and self-assembly. We were restricted to just 61 people being able to worship with us in person on Christmas Day.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God through the various milestones of life's journey. In baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and in funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life now completed in this world, commending the person into God's keeping. We celebrated just one baptism prior to lockdown and two weddings with restricted numbers. 10 funerals were held, many with restricted numbers and at the graveside, and 10 committals only or burials of ashes.

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod, in so far as Berkswell is concerned, is the joint synod between Kenilworth and Coventry South deaneries. Berkswell was represented by Chris Powell, Alan Hanbury and Tom Walls until October

2020, when their three-year terms of service ended. Our elected representatives are now Steve Bell, Michael Palmer and Anthony Rich.

Of the three deanery synod meetings due to be held in 2020 only one has taken place, a virtual meeting in November.

Church Centre

We want our church to be open daily to our community for private prayer; we look forward to when we can once again open fully to visitors and those seeking a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship and prayer. The Parish office is open weekday mornings; however staff have been working remotely since March 2020. There are two rooms adjoining the church which are normally available for hire, exclusively for meetings or functions incidental or ancillary to the activities of the church. Groups from other churches may hire the rooms for events such as Quiet Reflection Days, planning meetings and Alpha 'Away Days', but unfortunately, we were unable to provide this facility due to the church's closure.

Repairs and Renovations

Routine maintenance and servicing continued in line with our programme of works to ensure health and safety requirements were met.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral visits and home communion were only allowed in exceptional cases and were undertaken by Revd Mark Bratton. Our congregation took up the 'call to arms' and acted as 'good neighbours' keeping in touch with and supporting their church friends.

At the start of the lockdown in March we set up a support group known as 'Berkswell Angels' to ensure that everyone who required support received it. This was soon disbanded due to the sterling efforts of the joint venture with the local community and local council when the Balsall Common Community Support group was set up. This group ensured that all necessary safeguarding requirements were met and any of our support volunteers were encouraged to join that group so one concerted effort covered all communities.

A course on supporting the bereaved was held in the early part of 2020 for those that were interested and felt they have a ministry in that area. Our bereavement support group consists of six members plus two reserves.

We have actively engaged with the Solihull Council's Community Champions and receive regular updates on all help and support available be that health and well-being, parenting, or simply ensuring access to medication and groceries shopping.

Mission and Evangelism

Our highly successful Beer Festivals had to be cancelled, this meant that we were unable to welcome the usual significant numbers of local people across the Church threshold, many of whom do not habitually go to church but hope to reinstate these in 2021 thereby providing people with an opportunity to enjoy the beauty and numinous atmosphere of the church, as well as opportunities for church members to engage them in conversation.

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Fundraising efforts have, of necessity, moved mainly online but have been pleased to support both local and national charities. Our usual activities in supporting the homeless have had to cease but have actively encouraged donations of goods and toiletries for our foodbank collection which has gone to Hope Coventry. A monthly parish magazine is available (nominal fee)

and is distributed via post and volunteers to the wider community. The magazine keeps parishioners informed of important matters affecting our church and also features local articles of interest. The magazine has been published online free of charge since September.

Ecumenical Relationships

Our church is a member of Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell. We hope the various activities in which we normally participate in will continue next year – monthly coffee mornings in Balsall Common village centre, Lenten Breakfasts and rotational hosting of the annual Women’s World Day of Prayer service. There are also social and fundraising activities that enable sharing and fellowship.

Volunteers

The PCC thanks all volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. There are too many to name individually but, in particular, we are very grateful to our Churchwardens, Mrs Pat Charlton-Sheppard and Mr Chris Powell, who have worked tirelessly on our behalf; also Mr Peter Cross, Honorary Treasurer, who has helped us understand the church’s financial position during this unstable time, and to Mr Alastair Dymond who manages the repairs and fabric of the church buildings.

Risk Management

The PCC maintains a Risk Management Profile that is reviewed annually. This describes the principal risks and uncertainties facing the church and its undertakings, as identified by the trustees (PCC members), together with a summary of plans and strategies for managing those risks. Health & Safety risk reviews are carried out annually by the churchwardens or other appointed persons. Additional risk assessments have been undertaken to ensure we comply with the government and Church of England guidance in making the church COVID-19 safe for public worship when able to do so.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. John Baptist the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent (our Rector), Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives, Readers and members elected by those of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. Members of the congregation who are eligible are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including decisions on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial induction into the workings of the PCC. The PCC met seven times during the year with an average level of attendance of 83%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has established a number of advisory groups and sub-committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These groups, detailed on pages 7 and 8, are all responsible to the PCC and are expected to report back regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC for discussion, as necessary.

Administrative information

Berkswell Church is situated in Church Lane, Berkswell, CV7 7BJ

The parish office telephone number is 01676 529123.

It is part of the Diocese of Coventry within the Church of England.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently registered with the Charity Commission - Charity Number 1132450.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2020 until the date of this report are:

Ex Officio Members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Dr Mark Bratton	(Chairman)
Reader: Mr Richard Hollingdale	(until APCM 2020 then co-opted)
Reader: Mr Steve Bell	(until APCM 2020 then elected as Deanery Synod rep.)
Churchwarden: Mrs Patricia Charlton-Sheppard	
Churchwarden: Mr Chris Powell	(Deanery Synod rep. until APCM 2020)
Deanery Synod Representatives:	
Mr Alan Hanbury	(until APCM 2020)
Mr Tom Walls	(until APCM 2020)
Mr Anthony Rich	(from October 2020)

Elected Members:

Mr Peter Cross	(Honorary Treasurer)
Mrs Gill Harrison	
Mrs Diana Jackson	
Mrs Barbara Magson	(until October 2020)
Mrs Fay Newcombe	
Mr Simon Northover	
Mr Michael Palmer	(Deanery Synod rep from October 2020)
Mrs Anne Short	(until October 2020)
Mrs Liz Whalley	
Mr Stuart Whalley	(resigned July 2020)
Mrs Kirsten Fergus	

Co-opted Members:

Mrs Margaret Powell	
Mrs Janet Roberts	(PCC Secretary)

Committees and Groups

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by Canon Law; it has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. In 2020 it comprised:

The Incumbent	Churchwardens	Simon Northover
PCC Secretary	Readers	Tom Walls
Treasurer		

Advisory Committees / Groups

Some of these groups and activities were curtailed during 2020

	Chair
Baptism Preparation	Mrs Margaret Walls
Bell Ringers	Mr Steven Tibbetts (Deputy for Mr Stephen Patrick)
Music provision	Mr Kevin Stannard
Church Cleaning	Mrs Barbara Magson (group suspended for 2020)
Churches Together	Revd Dr Mark Bratton
Fabric	Mr Alastair Dymond
Fundraising and Communications	Mr Simon Northover
Finance & Stewardship	Mr Tom Walls
Gift Aid Secretary	Mr Peter Cross
Investment Committee	Mr Tom Walls
Junior Church	Leaders' Shared Responsibility
Magazine Editor	Mrs Zoe Bell
Social Committee	Mrs Cathy Parry
Rooms Stakeholders	Mrs Liz Whalley /Mrs Janet Roberts /Dr Penny Stableforth
Welcome Team	Mrs Margaret Powell
Worship	Revd Dr Mark Bratton

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the Parochial Church Council on 22 March 2021.

Rector's Review

This is an odd report to write given all that has happened since March 2020. The coronavirus pandemic has radically affected life at Berkswell Church, as it has churches everywhere. Public worship has been suspended twice. The first suspension (March-July 2020) was compulsory. The second (February to late March 2021) was not compulsory but instituted following a rigorous risk assessment. Between March and September 2020, services were livestreamed from the Rector's home using a media platform called Streamyard. Since February 2021, services have been livestreamed from church. Between September 2020 and February 2021, we had a small 'socially distanced' congregation of about 20-30 people, with a larger (booking only) congregation of 66 on Christmas Day. Remarkably, the online audiences have been very large, averaging 350+ before Christmas and 250+ after Christmas on Facebook and YouTube. These numbers are based on the analytics provided by these platforms. This indicates that there is a significant diaspora of those who do not normally come to church but are prepared to worship online in the comfort of their own homes. The significance of this will need to be carefully reflected upon. These online services would have been impossible without the help and support of Steve Bell, Simon Northover, Peter Cross and Chris Powell to whom I wish to pay special tribute.

Apart from funerals, our occasional services have practically come to a standstill. Unsurprisingly, parents bringing children forward for baptism, and wedding couples, have wished to postpone these events until the restrictions on numbers who are able to attend are lifted. Funerals have continued to be held, either in the form of graveside services or services at the crematorium. Some crematorium services have been

livestreamed. During the pandemic, it has been impossible to conduct weekly worship in Berkswell School so short video contributions have been created instead. Except in cases of necessity, it has also been impossible to meet parishioners in their homes, although we have been able to 'gather together' socially on Zoom for coffee mornings hosted by one of our churchwardens, Chris Powell. The way in which the congregation has taken collective responsibility for caring for one another through maintaining contact and delivering necessities, and through prayer support, has been deeply impressive. Through the use of platforms such as Zoom and MS Teams, church meetings such as the PCC, Standing Committee, and Churchwarden's weekly meeting, as well as other ad hoc church meetings, have continued to take place. The value of this technology has been especially evident in the way it has facilitated the teaching opportunities to members of the congregation, and beyond. A Radical Presence course was run either side of Lent 2021, and the Lent Reading Group has attracted members from several other congregations. In this connection, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our Parish Administrator, Janet Roberts, who has scaled a very steep 'learning curve' to master Zoom, thus contributing to the smooth running of these groups.

There is a major, but hopefully temporary, financial challenge as a result of the pandemic. The Church has been reliant on the giving of those who give regularly by Standing Order or Direct Debit. Nevertheless, we are facing a major deficit of c.£20,000 for 2020 in addition to the deficit we are suffering in 2021. The financial position should be improved somewhat with the resumption of our regular services. However, it is essential that we encourage as many people as possible to use the Parish Giving Scheme to secure the resources needed to ensure that the ministry at Berkswell continues to the glory of God and building up of God's Kingdom.

Looking ahead, we should recall that we entered lockdown between Easter and Pentecost. For the disciples, this was a time of 'watching and waiting', and devotion to prayer and fellowship, in anticipation of what God was to do next. In the wake of the Resurrection, all plans, schemes, theories and game plans were set aside and a new attentiveness to God and his Spirit was developed. The earliest disciples gathered in the Upper Room had no ideologies, or preconceptions or assumptions. They learnt to attune themselves to the promptings of the Spirit. I believe that as we emerge from the pandemic, we are being called to cultivate a similar stance. We have a unique moment to reflect afresh upon the challenges and opportunities the pandemic experience has presented us with. This may well include amongst the population at large a keener sense of mortality and urge to invest life with meaning. We need as the writer of 1 Peter puts it "ready to give an answer to those who ask the reason for the hope we have in meekness and awe" (1 Peter 3:15).

To conclude: I would like to thank our Parish Administrator, Janet Roberts, and our Assistant Parish Administrator, Zoe Bell, for their unstinting and sterling efforts to sustain the practical life of the church, and its systems of communication, during these exceptional times.

The Rector

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the members/trustees of St John Baptist, Berkswell, Parochial Church Council.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019 which are set out on pages 10 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 management committee concerning any such matters.

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by Mr Simon Heath, FCCA



Financial Review

The results show a deficit of incoming to outgoing resources of £14,545 for the year compared with a deficit of £37,253 last year. This has been an exceptional year but thanks to the continued support of our planned givers and two legacies we have kept our deficit close to our planned deficit of £5,000. The deficit was funded from our invested reserves. The effect of the pandemic also affected our investments, which decreased in value by £19,478, giving a net reduction in funds for the year of £34,023. Given the continued pandemic we don't expect a quick return to our usual activities, so next year our budgeted deficit is £25,000. Given the level of our reserves and the promise of a relaxation of restrictions this year the PCC is confident that our finances continue to represent a 'going concern' and our accounts have been prepared on this basis.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income (excluding grants and legacies) dropped this year from £79,871 to £66,751. Of this amount £65,390 was unrestricted.

The year saw the roll out of the CofE Parish Giving scheme. So far 20 givers are using the scheme. With the suspension of public worship, we have not received donations from many of our free will offering givers. We will continue to encourage our occasional givers to consider planned giving.

Fewer people are carrying cash these days (more so now that contactless payments are preferred by shops). We have installed a contactless donations terminal in church to allow visitors this option. We also have a QR code that will take smart phone users to an online giving webpage.

Two legacies were received this year. One (£9,756) from the estate of John Webb, the other (£1,000) from the estate of David Pyke.

Expenditure

Our expenditure has dropped in areas such as utilities and service costs. Cleaning costs rose having employed professional cleaners to deep clean prior to reopening the church after the first lockdown of the pandemic.

The AV system has been used to good effect, in livestreaming our services whilst the church is closed to public worship. We are still holding £2,000 pending successful completion of the project.

Reserves Policy

We are currently using our reserves (and their generated income) to:

- A) to fund the deficit between our voluntary giving and our parish running costs
- B) to fund our onward giving

The Common fund is held in the form of investments to provide income to make up the shortfall between our voluntary income and our day-to-day costs.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ending 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and Legacies	2(a)	76,146	1,361		77,507	145,855
Income from charitable activities	2(b)	9,232			9,232	17,496
Other trading activities	2(c)	1,446			1,446	11,207
Investments	2(d)	17,566	2,597		20,163	23,765
TOTAL INCOME		104,390	3,958	0	108,348	198,323
EXPENDITURE						
Cost of generating funds	3(a)	456			456	2,300
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(b)	134			134	170
Expenditure on charitable activities	3(c)	118,778	3,525		122,303	233,106
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		119,368	3,525	0	122,893	235,576
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		-14,978	433	0	-14,545	-37,253
NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS		-27,285	1,117	6,690	-19,478	89,667
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	9	-42,263	1,550	6,690	-34,023	52,414
Total funds brought forward		616,983	64,335	110,016	791,334	738,920
Total funds carried forward		574,720	65,885	116,706	757,311	791,334

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	6	701,252	735,730
Tangible		1	1
		701,253	735,731
CURRENT ASSETS			
Santander (Current Account)		27,771	30,162
Fund Bank Accounts		29,619	29,264
Debtors	7	1,176	1,429
		58,566	60,854
LIABILITIES			
Creditors	8	-2,508	-5,251
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		56,058	55,603
TOTAL NET ASSETS		757,311	791,334

Represented by:

Unrestricted	9	574,720	616,983
Restricted	9	65,885	64,335
Endowment	9	116,706	110,016
		757,311	791,334

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 22nd March 2021

and signed on its behalf by :-

..... *M. G. G.* Chairman

..... *C. Powell* PCC member

The Notes on pages 14 - 18 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ending 31st December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. 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, together with applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts for Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent **(a)** income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and **(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 of 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.

Unrestricted funds represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. 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. 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.

Resources Expended.

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.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with Section 10(2)(a) and (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).

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ending 31st December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
2 INCOMING RESOURCES					
a) Donations and Legacies					
Planned giving (tax efficient)	44,041			44,041	44,628
Planned giving (non tax)	1,286			1,286	2,624
Tax recovered from Gift Aid	12,181			12,181	15,055
Open Plate (Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals)	118			118	1,228
Open Plate collections	584			584	3,623
Sundry Donations	1,036	150		1,186	470
Wall Safe	971			971	1,144
CAF donations (unplanned)	500			500	25
Miscellaneous Receipts	6			6	241
Unplanned Tax efficient giving	4,667	1,211		5,878	10,833
Grants	0	0		0	65,984
Legacies	10,756			10,756	0
	76,146	1,361		77,507	145,855
b) Income from charitable activities					
Fees	5,843			5,843	11,246
Magazine Sales	2,864			2,864	4,420
Fees for Rooms	525			525	1,830
	9,232			9,232	17,496
c) Other trading activities					
Goods & Souvenirs	54			54	405
Collective Efforts	1,392			1,392	10,802
	1,446			1,446	11,207
d) Investments					
Investment Interest	17,039			17,039	20,654
C.B.F. Interest	527	2,597		3,124	3,111
	17,566	2,597	0	20,163	23,765
Total income	104,390	3,958	0	108,348	198,323

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ending 31st December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
3 EXPENDITURE					
Costs of raising funds					
a) Goods & Souvenirs	0			0	134
Festival Expenses	456			456	2,166
	456			456	2,300
b) Costs of generating funds for voluntary income					
Giving Costs	134			134	170
c) Charitable activities					
Cleaning	1,264			1,264	180
Fabric Maintenance	0	0		0	3,367
Extraordinary Expenses	0	36		36	57,893
Service Costs (incl Organ)	1,078			1,078	1,699
Courses / Education / Conferences	775			775	484
Junior Church	0			0	19
Staff	24,623			24,623	19,645
Miscellaneous Expenses	826	0		826	2,387
Admin. & Office Expenses	1,338			1,338	658
Utilities	196			196	6,617
Maintenance	1,920			1,920	2,293
Insurances	5,530			5,530	5,049
Parish Share	76,200			76,200	79,200
Curacy	0			0	25,120
Churchyard Expenses	0	3,489		3,489	9,181
Postage	84			84	39
Printing & Stationery	109			109	292
Telephone & Broadband	669			669	692
Choir, Other Expenses	107			107	707
Grants, Gifts, Affiliations	50			50	424
New Building Expenses	0			0	0
Relief Clergy	130			130	706
Relief Organists	80			80	1,140
Welfare Payments	0			0	81
Flowers in Church	0			0	250
Berkswell Parish Magazine	1,114			1,114	3,230
Spirit of Berkswell	0			0	0
Missionary Societies	260			260	260
Church Societies	0			0	2,992
Other Charities	0			0	4,488
Bank Charges	24			24	24
Rectory Expenses	659			659	1,059
Rector's Expenses	1,563			1,563	2,395
Rooms Consumables	179			179	535
Rooms Equipment	0			0	0
	118,778	3,525		122,303	233,106
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	119,368	3,525		122,893	235,576

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**4 STAFF COSTS**

	2020	2019
Wages and Salaries	24,623	19,645
<u>Average no. of employees</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

During the year the PCC employed a Parish Administrator, an Assistant Administrator and a Director of Music.

No payments were large enough to attract social security costs.

We have now engaged a contractor to run our communications and fundraising activities. (See Related Parties Note 5)

No PCC members nor related parties received more than £60,000

5 Related Parties

Mrs Zoe Bell is employed by the PCC as an assistant administrator and Parish Magazine editor; she received £5,542. No pension contributions nor other benefits were made.

Mr Simon Northover has been contracted by the PCC to work on our Communications and Fundraising activities and received £2,250 in this respect. No pension contributions or benefits were made.

No other PCC members or related parties received benefits or emoluments.

No travelling, subsistence, nor out of pocket expenses were received by PCC members. The Rector's expenses are shown in note 3c

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ending 31st December 2020

NOTE

6	FIXED ASSETS				£
	Investments				
	Market Value at 1st January			735,730	
	Purchases at cost				
	Disposals			-15,000	
	Loss on revaluations			-19,478	
	Market Value at 31st December			<u>701,252</u>	
7	Debtors				
	December Gift Aid Claim			1,176	
				<u>1,176</u>	
8	Creditors				
	AV Balance			-2,003	
	Donation to Homeless Project			-500	
	Donation to Childrens Society			-5	
				<u>-2,508</u>	
9	FUND DETAILS	31.12.20	1.01.20		movement
		£	£		£
	Unrestricted				
	Common	394,500	428,777		-34,277
	General	27,048	27,027		21
	Eaton Bequest	153,172	161,179		-8,007
		<u>574,720</u>	<u>616,983</u>		<u>-42,263</u>
	Restricted				
	Bushill	16,439	16,120		319
	Churchyard	2,755	2,469		286
	Fabric	46,691	45,746		945
		<u>65,885</u>	<u>64,335</u>		<u>1,550</u>
	Endowment				
	Betty Huggins	16,153	15,110		1,043
	CBF Bushill Feeder Fund	10,196	9,537		659
	Eborill	13,144	13,144		0
	Stokes	77,213	72,225		4,988
		<u>116,706</u>	<u>110,016</u>		<u>6,690</u>
	TOTALS	<u>757,311</u>	<u>791,334</u>		<u>-34,023</u>

Eborill Fund

Specifically to be used 50 % for the Maintenance of the Churchyard, particularly the Eborill Graves and 50 % to augment the Rector's Stipend in consideration of him ensuring that the Graves are maintained in good order.

Bushill Fund

Specifically to be used for the maintenance of the Bells.

Fabric Fund

Specifically for the fabric of the Church and Tower.

Betty Huggins Fund

Specifically for flowers in the Church

Eaton Bequest Fund

Designated for projects aimed specifically at involving the local community

Stokes Churchyard Fund

Specifically for the upkeep of the churchyard