

RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND
DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2021



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PCC

On accounts for the year
ended

31ST DECEMBER 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1132968

Set out on pages

4 TO 9

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

Signed:

Date:

26th August 2022

Name:

DAVID CHARLTON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FCCA

Address:

DRUMBANNON, 121A WYRE HILL, BEWDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE
DY12 2UQ

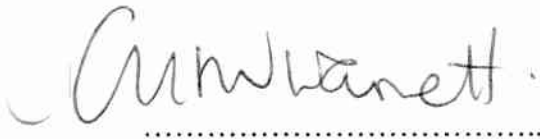
APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

These Accounts (together with the Notes appended thereto) were authorised at the
Annual Parish Meeting of Ribbesford with Bewdley and Dowles
held at St Anne's church on the 25 day of May 2022



Megan Gibbins

Rector



Gillian Warnett

Secretary of the PCC



Date of signing

RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

		General Fund Note (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
					2021 £	2020
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income (direct giving)	2a	86,480.75	97.00		86,577.75	90,522.51
Other voluntary income & grants	2b	20,379.38	507.84		20,887.22	3,980.00
Gross income from events and activities	2c	18,353.30			18,353.30	17,725.20
Other ordinary income	2d				0.00	14.70
Income from trading	2e	1,566.24			1,566.24	2,383.27
Income from investment	2f	10.55		2,657.72	2,668.27	2,657.86
(a) TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		126,790.22	604.84	2,657.72	130,052.78	117,283.54
RESOURCES USED						
Grants and donations	3a	1,000.00			1,000.00	670.00
Directly relating to work of the Church	3c	99,137.31	21,505.18		120,642.49	131,243.05
Church management & administration	3d	3,396.76			3,396.76	3,021.32
Projects	3e	0.00			0.00	104.00
(b) TOTAL RESOURCES USED		103,534.07	21,505.18		125,039.25	135,038.37
NET INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS (a) - (b)						
(c) TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS						
NET INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES (a) - (b) + (c)		23,256.15	(20,900.34)	2,657.72	5,013.53	(17,754.83)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS						
- realised					0.00	0.00
- unrealised				17,250.52	17,250.52	8,505.22
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		23,256.15	(20,900.34)	19,908.24	22,264.05	(9,249.61)
Balance b/f at 1st January 2021		337,409.06	(258,126.77)	102,710.04	181,992.33	191,241.94
Balance c/f at 31st December 2021		360,665.21	(279,027.11)	122,618.28	204,256.38	181,992.33

RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds						Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
		Belringer St,	Andrew St,	Leonard Churchyard,	St Anne's Collections	Fabric	for charity		2021	2020
2(a) Voluntary income (direct giving)										
Planned giving including Tax Refunds:	84144.58								84144.58	89425.63
Collections at services/Boxes	2336.17								2336.17	865.88
Subscriptions		97.00							97.00	220.00
	86480.75	97.00							86577.75	90511.51
2(b) Other voluntary income										
Grants	670.00				20.00				690.00	3220.00
Grants-Awards for All re Covid	9966.00								9966.00	
Donations and appeals	2700.00	101.00			386.84				3187.84	771.00
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme	43.38								43.38	
Legacies	7000.00								7000.00	
	20379.38	101.00			406.84				20887.22	3991.00
2(c) Gross income from events and activities										
Fees for weddings and funerals	18309.30								18309.30	13273.20
Printing: The Bridge advertising									0.00	4428.00
Printing & photocopying	44.00								44.00	24.00
	18353.30	0.00							18353.30	17725.20
2(d) Other ordinary income										
Other income									0.00	14.70
	0.00								0.00	14.70
2(e) Income from trading										
Hire of St Anne's & St Andrew's	1150.00								1150.00	1150.00
St Anne's Centre, sales & donations	416.24								416.24	1233.27
	1566.24				0.00				1566.24	2383.27
2(f) Income from investment (interest & dividends)										
C.B.F. Deposit Accounts	6.51								6.51	47.32
Bank Accounts	4.04								4.04	44.08
Harris Bequest Fund							2593.53		2593.53	2504.48
Seabright Bread Trust									0.00	0.00
Dowles Parish Fund							64.19		64.19	61.98
	10.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2657.72		2668.27	2657.86
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	126790.22	198.00	0.00	0.00	406.84	0.00	2657.72		130052.78	117263.54

**RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. RESOURCES USED

	General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds					TOTAL FUNDS	
		Bellringer	St Andrew's	St Leonard's	Churchyards	St Anne's Collections Fabric for charity	2021	2020
3(a) Grants & donations								
Charitable payments to:								
Church Overseas Relief Agencies	100.00						100.00	0.00
Secular charities	900.00						900.00	620.00
	1,000.00						1,000.00	620.00
3(b) Support costs								
Education & training	0.00						0.00	0.00
Courses, retreats & outings	0.00						0.00	0.00
	0.00						0.00	0.00
3(c) Directly relating to the work of the Church								
Ministry: Diocesan quota	77,783.00						77,783.00	77,783.00
Clergy expenses	840.27						840.27	892.92
	78,623.27						78,623.27	78,675.92
Church buildings:								
Utilities	2,217.61						2,217.61	4,623.40
Insurance	5,661.26						5,661.26	5,333.80
Cleaning	962.45						962.45	688.26
Maintenance paid from Covid Grant						6,576.63	6,576.63	
Repairs & Maintenance		381.98	622.01	2,041.89	5,149.99	6,732.68	14,928.55	12,346.99
	8,841.32	381.98	622.01	2,041.89	5,149.99	13,309.31	30,346.50	22,992.45
Other running expenses:								
Wedding/funeral fees	5,052.94						5,052.94	1,846.40
Wedding/funeral fees assigned to Diocese	3,281.00						3,281.00	5,472.85
Cost of other events, activities & sales	49.00						49.00	433.56
Services: organists, music & other	1,381.56						1,381.56	1,425.52
Other costs							0.00	146.16
	9,764.50	0.00					9,764.50	8,324.49
Printing: Paper & printing consumables							0.00	118.08
Photocopying charges	978.15						978.15	662.27
Publishing The Bridge	169.24						169.24	7,488.79
Refunds for Bridge Advertising							0.00	10,113.02
	1,147.39						1,147.39	18,382.16
St Anne's Church Centre:								

Telephone	558.08							558.08	753.23
Cards and other purchased items	202.75							202.75	1,114.80
	760.83							760.83	1,868.03
Total costs relating to work of the church	99,137.31	0.00	381.98	622.01	2,041.89	5,149.99	13,309.31	120,642.49	131,243.05
3(d) Church management and administration									
Planned giving envelopes & expenses	59.28							59.28	58.46
Licences, fees, bank charges & admin expenses	3,337.48							3,337.48	2,821.86
Gifts								0.00	191.00
Worker Salary								0.00	0.00
	3,396.76	0.00	0.00					3,396.76	3,071.32
3(e) Projects								0.00	104.00
Sunday Gang									
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	103534.07	0.00	381.98	622.01	2041.89	5149.99	13309.31	125039.25	135038.37

**RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

	Note	2021	2020
FIXED ASSETS			
Inventory assets	4	3540.00	3540.00
Investments	5	110086.74	96952.44
		<u>113626.74</u>	<u>100492.44</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
CBF Deposit Funds		33292.83	29175.97
Cash at Bank & In Hand		60617.81	58591.06
		<u>93910.64</u>	<u>87767.03</u>
LIABILITIES: amounts falling c	6	3281.00	6267.14
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>90629.64</u>	<u>81499.89</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>204256.38</u>	<u>181992.33</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted		90549.90	81236.17
Restricted:			
Bellringers		2546.09	2730.07
St.Andrew's		212.99	212.99
St.Leonard's		145.52	145.52
Churchyards		715.14	715.14
Endowment Funds		110086.74	96952.44
		<u>204256.38</u>	<u>181992.33</u>

RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

DETAILED ASSETS & LIABILITIES

	St Anne's Restricted Funds					Endowment		2021	2020
	St. Leonard's	Bellringers	St. Andrew's	St. Leonard's	Churchyards	St. Anne's	Collection Funds		
	General Fund					Fabric	for charity		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS									
Inventory assets (safe)	3,540.00							3,540.00	3,540.00
Investments									
CBF Investment Fund							104,725.74	104,725.74	91,437.64
CBF Deposit Fund							1,331.80	1,331.80	1,331.16
Charinco Investment Units							4,029.20	4,029.20	4,183.64
	3,540.00						110,086.74	113,626.74	100,492.44
CURRENT ASSETS									
CBF Deposit Accounts	3,374.36							3,374.36	3,374.36
CBF Acc Investment Fund	27,918.84							27,918.84	23,720.79
CBF Acc Fixed Interest Fund	1,999.63							1,999.63	2,080.82
Current Bank Accounts	7,827.57	1,164.82						8,992.39	23,469.56
Deposit Bank Accounts	48,501.11	1381.27	212.99	145.52	715.14			50,956.03	33,488.65
Bridge Account	669.39							669.39	1,632.85
	90,290.90	2,546.09	212.99	145.52	715.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	93,910.64
									87,767.03
CURRENT LIABILITIES									
Parish Fees	3,281.00							3,281.00	5,472.80
Other Creditors								0.00	794.34
	3,281.00							3,281.00	6,267.14
FUND BALANCE	90,549.90	2,546.09	212.99	145.52	715.14	0.00	0.00	110,086.74	204,256.38
									181,992.33

RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

4. FIXED ASSETS

		FOR USE BY PCC Equipment, fixtures & fittings	INALIENABLE ASSETS Inventory assets (pipeless organ, sound system)
Gross Book Value	As at 1st Jan 2021	13547.17	26170.59
	As at 31st December 2021	13547.17	26170.59
Depreciation	As at 1st Jan 2021	10007.17	26170.59
	As at 31st December 2021	10007.17	26170.59
Net Book Value	At 31st December 2021	3540.00	0.00

5. INVESTMENTS

Endowment	Custodian	Purpose of endowment	Invested in	Units	Mkt Value 31.12.21	Mkt Value 31.12.20	Gain in Value, £
Harris bequest	WDBF	Church maintenance	CBF Investment Fund	4013	93976.84	82052.61	11924.23
	WDBF	Upkeep Ribbesford Church	CBF Investment Fund	251	5877.94	5132.12	745.82
	WDBF	Sunday school teaching	CBF Investment Fund	100	2341.81	2044.67	297.14
Dowles Parish Fund	WDBF	Charitable work in the pari	CBF Investment Fund	108	2529.15	2208.24	320.91
					104725.74	91437.64	13288.10
Dowles Parish	WDBF	General Church Purposes	CBF Deposit Account		1227.8	1227.16	
Dowles Parish	WDBF	General Church Purposes	CBF Deposit Account		104.00	104.00	
					1331.8	1331.16	
Dowles Parish (Black Rock)	WDBF	Furthering religious and charitable work in the parish	Charinco Investment Fund	76.08	4029.2	4183.64	-154.44
				TOTAL	110086.74	96952.44	

6. CREDITORS Due in less than 1 year

	2021	2020
Fees assigned to diocese	3281	5472
Bridge refunds & deferred advertising Income	0	795
	3281	5472

2022 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Ribbesford with Bewdley and Dowles

Aims and purposes

Our central aim, in common with all Anglican churches is:

- to co-operate with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, thereby promoting the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In November 2019, the PCC adopted three additional aims. The PCC aims to:

- *make our buildings fit for purpose*
- develop our engagement with children, young people and families
- develop our engagement with the wider community.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. Anne's Church, Load Street, Bewdley, St. Leonard's Church and churchyard, Ribbesford and St. Andrew's Church, Button Oak. It also has responsibility for the maintenance of Dowles churchyard.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. When planning or arranging activities, we are conscious of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We are also conscious of our role as a charity for the advancement of religion and aim to put faith into practice as Kingdom People through:

- worship and prayer, developing and learning within a Christian community
- provision of pastoral care
- ecumenical relationships
- engagement with children, young people and families and engagement with the wider community

To facilitate this, we need to keep the fabric of our churches in good order.

An objective from November 2019 was the creation of plans to: make our buildings fit for purpose; develop our engagement with children, young people and families; develop our engagement with the wider community.

Achievements and performance:

Worship and prayer

At present there are 126 parishioners on the church electoral roll, 36 of whom are not resident in the parish.

The pattern of worship in 2021 was once again disrupted by Government restrictions and CofE guidance in response to the Covid19 pandemic. On the first Sunday of the year, services were held in St. Anne's and St. Leonard's, but from the 10th January all congregational worship was suspended along with access to our church buildings for private prayer.

Unfortunately, from the second week in January until the beginning of September, our Rector was on extended sick leave. Megan and her husband, Paul, were remembered in prayer at services each week during her absence.

The PCC is very grateful for the support of Area Dean Fr. Tim Williams and other members of the Kidderminster West Team Ministry during this time. In the early weeks our congregations were invited to join the worship offered by Kidderminster West via Zoom, using their liturgy. A regular time of 10.00am on Sundays became established with services taking place either in St. Anne's or St. John's in Kidderminster. Worship leaders were in the building but no congregation. St. Anne's regular Wednesday Morning services were also able to be broadcast via Zoom in a similar way and followed liturgy prepared by the Wednesday worship team. Service sheets for all services were sent out by email or delivered to those members of our worshipping community without access to the necessary technology.

Worship using Zoom proved invaluable during this period when we were unable to meet in person. Although frustrating on occasions, the technology generally served us well, enabling the worship and spiritual life of our churches to continue. Services from St. Anne's continued to be routinely available through Zoom throughout the year and into 2022.

Our weekly 'pew sheet' Network contains the weekly readings and notices and links to the different Zoom services. The PCC must give particular thanks to Peter Roberts for continuing to compile and distribute Network by email to more than 140 people each week, often working at short notice. Network was a valuable means of keeping the church community connected during a time of isolation for many. Printed copies were delivered to those without email access.

The pattern of Sunday worship at St Anne's, with a Service of the Word led by our lay worship team on the 4th Sunday each month, continued throughout February. From 28th February, Organist James Hickson was able to join the worship leaders and play St Anne's organ for the Sunday Zoom service. Our virtual congregation sang along in the privacy of their own homes. From the beginning of March, Fr. Tim was able to provide sufficient clergy so that all services could be broadcast from St Anne's, following a more familiar liturgy.

During Lent, Our Lenten Journey, a weekly resource for personal spiritual guidance was distributed. This offered a picture with a reflection, a short reading and a prayer. In Holy Week, the worship team led nightly services of Compline and a Good Friday service of Tenebrae via Zoom allowing us to end each day together in quiet thoughtfulness.

Church services in person recommenced at St. Anne's on Palm Sunday 28th March led by Mark Moreton, albeit with face masks and distanced seating. Easter Sunday at St. Anne's was celebrated by Archdeacon Robert Jones. No congregational singing was permitted in church buildings but Easter hymns were sung by a quartet in the chancel. These were joyous occasions, well-supported by a congregation eager to celebrate Easter in person.

St Leonard's remained closed for the early part of 2021 and re-opened for the Easter Dawn service, led by Barbara Fauset and Jim Ineson in the churchyard. We celebrated the joy and wonder of the resurrection in song as the sun rose and the birds awoke on a cold morning. Archdeacon Robert Jones was the celebrant at the 11:15 service of Holy Communion and led the congregation outside to sing. Services of either Matins or Holy Communion at St. Leonard's then continued on a fortnightly basis through the rest of 2021.

The lay worship team led services to mark particular events in the year. July's services at St. Anne's and St. Leonard's marked Climate Sunday. Members of the wider community, including students from The Bewdley School, contributed powerfully to the service, reminding the

congregation of its responsibilities. October's service to mark Black History Month welcomed a speaker from Bewdley Anti-Racism Group and included a video message from Bishop Martin.

The annual service for All Souls took place at St Leonard's on 7th November. This well-attended service once again gave us an opportunity to reach out to recently bereaved members of the wider community.

In Advent we worked with the other Christian churches in Bewdley to offer a short daily opportunity for midday reflection and prayer through the 'Pause at Noon'. This was hosted in turn by each church with St. Anne's hosting the final week.

The Wednesday service of morning prayer at St. Anne's continued throughout the year. It was solely on Zoom until Easter and then on Zoom as well as in person. St Anne's Mothers' Union members regularly support the Communion on the first Wednesday of each month which has a Mothers' Union focus. Members lead prayers and provide a reader for the gospel. In Advent the Mothers Union Advent service replaced the usual monthly Communion service. Regular weekly attendances were 6 to 8, with 20 to 25 for the monthly Mothers' Union Communion services.

St. Andrew's remained closed throughout the year. As part of the PCC's mission to the Button Oak and Pound Green community, the worship team led a Harvest Service and a Carol Service at Pound Green Village Hall, both with time afterwards for seasonal refreshments and fellowship.

As a parish we continue to benefit from the ministry of the large number of individuals who contribute to worship. In September, Robert Barbour was admitted to the office of Reader, licenced to serve in our parish, and Janet Adey received a certificate to mark completion of her training as an Authorised Lay Minister. The PCC would like to give particular thanks for the support of retired clergy (Heather Flack, Mark Moreton and Simon Thorburn), our Lay Ministry team (Barbara Fauset, Robert Barbour, Elaine Barbour, Caroline Hall, Diane Taylor, Janet Adey and Jim Ineson) and Pat Prosser during what has been another difficult year. We are grateful to Sheila Limbrick for her duties as sacristan, to Elaine Barbour who frequently produces service sheets, to the team who operate St Anne's sound system and to Janet Bishop and her team and the St. Leonard's flower arrangers for their care and skill in decorating our churches with flowers.

Our Rector, Rev. Megan Gibbins, made a phased return to parish ministry in September. The PCC is particularly grateful to Area Dean Fr. Tim for his care and wise leadership during Megan's absence and to the Kidderminster West Team for all their support. We are also grateful for the generous support given to us by Bishops John and Martin and by Archdeacon Robert.

In addition to regular worship, we aim to enable our wider community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of their journey through life. In the early part of 2021 Covid restrictions continued to affect baptisms, weddings and funerals in the parish. However, we were able to hold six baptisms in the parish in 2021 (compared with one in 2020) plus one service of thanksgiving. Four of these services were at St. Leonard's.

There were no marriages in St. Anne's in 2021 (same as in 2020) and eleven marriages at St. Leonard's (compared with only two in 2020). From April to September the Kidderminster West team and Rev. Mark Moreton, took the weddings during the Rector's absence. We are most grateful to them for their support.

A total of 43 funeral related activities took place in the Parish in 2021, compared with 54 in 2020. Five funeral services took place at St. Anne's (same as in 2020). Six funeral services took place at St. Leonard's (five last year), plus three burials and fifteen internments of ashes (significantly

up on the seven in 2020). In addition, our Parish Ministry team between them conducted fourteen funeral services at the Wyre Forest Crematorium (31 in 2020). The support of the bereaved remains a strong part of our parish ministry which, in addition to the Rector, relied on the commitment of retired clergy (Heather Flack, Mark Moreton and Simon Thorburn), and of Lay Ministers Barbara Fauset and Elaine Barbour.

The PCC is very grateful for the administrative support given to weddings and funerals by Paul Gibbins. May 2021 saw a significant change in the legal registration requirements laid down by the General Register Office for weddings so especial thanks are due to Paul this year for his diligence and hard work in learning about and managing those changes.

In 2021 the Civic Service of Mayor's Sunday did not take place and the Remembrance Sunday service was limited by social distancing. Because of the rapid rise in cases of the Covid Omicron variant, the Christmas Eve Nativity Service had to be cancelled at short notice. These were lost opportunities for the church to connect with the wider community. We remain hopeful that these town events will be re-established in 2022.

Music in worship was once again disrupted in 2021 by Covid restrictions. From January to the end of February there was no music in worship; this was followed by organ-only hymns and a mute congregation. On Palm Sunday 2021 restricted singing resumed in St Anne's with a quartet singing in the chancel. This was expanded, when regulations permitted, to a sextet. A capella hymn singing, with covid distancing, proved to be a different sort of challenge. Full singing returned on 12th September, but with choir numbers diminished. The choir mourned the loss of a long-serving member, Janet Kirk, but were glad that a small group of singers was permitted to record music which was then played at her funeral. A carols by candlelight service was held in December. The PCC recognises that, for many, the provision of music is an essential enhancement to worship. It is grateful to James Hickson and the choir, to Jim Ineson and the music group, and to Diane Taylor who contribute to this aspect of worship.

Bellringing gradually resumed as we emerged from Covid 19 restrictions and the ringers were able once again to ring for Sunday services on a regular basis as well as on civic occasions. The PCC would like to thank the Tower Captain and team of about a dozen for all their efforts in ringing the Sunday call to worship. The team are keen to attract younger recruits, and it is hoped that the forthcoming tower open day could provide an opportunity for this.

Development and learning within a Christian community

The Lent Course was held via Zoom, with Barbara Fauset and Robert Barbour as joint leaders. We followed the USPG Lent Course which for 2021 had the subject of climate change. Each week the theology of caring for God's creation was explored with examples from the world church. There were six sessions and 27 church members attended regularly. The parish Ecology Justice Group was created out of the Lent course.

In Advent two sessions for spiritual reflection took place: a prayer walk through St Leonard's churchyard and a Bible Study on the birth narratives of Luke's gospel. This session led to the setting up of a Bible study group on Luke's gospel during Lent 2022.

A Bible Reading Fellowship group met monthly when restrictions allowed, using the New Daylight course of readings and reflections to prompt discussion. Members kept in touch with each other by phone in the early part of the year. Two new members have joined the group in the year and

other members use the material remotely. The Saturday Prayer Group met each Saturday via Zoom. It follows Iona liturgy and each week the needs of the church are a focus for prayer.

St. Anne's branch of the Mothers' Union usually meets twice monthly in the summer and monthly in the winter with a full and varied programme of talks and activities. Covid again disrupted face to face meetings for much of 2021 but Branch Leader Ann Capell was able to keep in touch with email, newsletters, phone calls and visits. Members began meeting formally in September following the Wednesday morning communion service each month which has a Mothers' Union focus. They were delighted to share worship and each other's company during social time. Heather Flack was welcomed to the meeting in October when she spoke about 'Writing for God'. The year culminated with our Advent Service in December which was well attended by members and non members. 2022 brings a full programme of meetings.

Provision of pastoral care

St. Anne's position in the heart of the town, with its coffee bar usually open several days a week, enables an active welcome to visitors and a ministry of care to those seeking solace or comfort. Unfortunately, this ministry through the coffee bar was restricted in 2021. The PCC is grateful to the volunteer team, currently led by Sue Perrin, who enable this ministry to take place.

The Pastoral Group continued to maintain an overview of pastoral needs throughout the year, co-ordinating where appropriate the many individuals who visit the sick, needy, elderly and housebound of our parish and community. With the end of pandemic restrictions, usual and regular visiting resumed.

A few home communion and morning prayer services took place but there were no communions in care homes. The group intends to re-establish its contacts and regular visits to local care homes, including the provision of short Home Communion services to individuals and groups. The PCC is very grateful for the commitment of the Pastoral Group in their sensitive and prayerful ministry.

St Leonard's churchyard has been the final resting place for men, women and children of the Ribbesford and Bewdley communities for over 1,000 years. A sacred trust. We continue to work to retain the environment as a place of respect, honour, remembrance and reflection for those who come to grieve and seek peace and for those who pass through on walks and visits. Many drop into the church, delighted to find it open, to wander, to sit, to pray, to find quiet. Others find comfort in friendly and sympathetic chats with other regular visitors or, of course, with the honorary churchyard supervisor and counsellor, Gimbal, the cat!

Maintenance of the churchyard has been continued, by Ed Cameron, our loyal contractor, and by volunteer working parties. We continue to develop the ecological diversity of the area, by looking after an increasing area as wildflower meadow, proactively increasing habitats and by planning for the future to seek permissions to plant deciduous and fruit trees and to add local wild plant species appropriately.

In preparation for Holy Week, and at a time when our churches were closed for worship, a team delivered a message of hope to 120 households in the church community, often knocking on doors for a doorstep conversation. The message included a greeting with news of Holy Week and Easter services, a postcard with a picture of foot washing and readings, and a hand-sized palm cross. At a time of social distance, the giving and receiving of a tangible symbol of God's love were appreciated.

In the week before Christmas, more than 15 households were visited over several days by groups of carol singers, singing outside in four-part harmony. Thirty singers were involved at different times. Many recipients invited their neighbours. Recipients were chosen by the group or by members of the Pastoral Care group and included those with particular challenges, the isolated and house-bound, the recently bereaved and those seriously ill. Those who took part were once again moved by the grace of people coping with difficulties and know that this simple act is a small way to show God's love.

Ecumenical relationships

Until the pandemic, the parish had two representatives on Bewdley Christian Forum whereby information and concerns were shared and events organised at bi-monthly meetings. The annual Bewdley Passion is a product of Bewdley churches working together, as are the Bewdley Street Pastors, St. Anne's School Foundation Governors and the Open the Book team. Formal meetings of this group are yet to be revived but a strong spirit of co-operation exists between the Christian churches in our town.

Operating under the banner of Bewdley Churches Together, a committee comprised of Ministers and lay representation from each Bewdley Church – Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Elim and Quakers – planned for an exhibition from the Methodist Modern Art Collection at Bewdley Museum. After a two year postponement, this an exhibition of thirty pieces took place over Easter 2022. The collection is one of Britain's most important of modern religious art and includes more than fifty paintings, prints, drawings, reliefs and mosaics. A programme of exciting creative workshops, talks and reflections hosted in our local churches was organised to accompany the exhibition.

For several years, Bewdley Churches Together has held a Good Friday service on Crundalls Hill overlooking the town. Here three large crosses are erected, seen from far and wide. In 2021, the crosses were erected but the service at their foot was not able to take place.

Members of different churches in the town organised the Advent Pause programme, short services at midday in different churches in the four weeks before Christmas.

St. Anne's C of E Primary School

The PCC has been very pleased to develop closer links in 2021 between the parish and our church school, St. Anne's C of E Primary School. Foundation Governors kept regular contact with school during the year. Although unable to follow their full Foundation Governors' programme, they visited the school to look at RE work and supported the audit from the new Diocesan Advisor for RE.

The pandemic meant whole school assemblies could not take place for much of the year. Lay Minister Barbara Fauset was able to lead two smaller assemblies and Foundation Governor Diana Sutherland led an activity so that all pupils were able to mark Holy Week and Easter with representatives from church. Open the Book teams were able to take Bible stories to the school for the second half of the autumn term.

Signs of encouragement have been the appointment of a member of staff to develop spirituality, outside worship events for pupils, families and visitors, and direct contact to the PCC from Headteacher Malcolm Tipping with ideas of how closer ties between church and school might be realised. Jo Harvey, Acting Head since November because of illness, has shown great

commitment to closer engagement. Nursery Lead Teacher Sam Strand gave her time generously to support September's Parish Baptism Picnic in the school grounds and Nursery.

News from the school is now regularly shared in Network, including prayers written by the children, and the school is a regular PCC agenda item. The Rector planned to hold an October Harvest Festival for the school in St. Anne's and to visit the school to take assemblies during Advent, but a surge in Covid cases and illness prevented these from taking place. The school is eager to have input from the church to mark Festivals and other times in the church year.

The PCC is grateful to those members of the church community who are engaged with pursuing our mission to the school and to the school leadership who are actively encouraging this.

Church care and maintenance

In 2021 the Parish spent £9,336 on buildings maintenance: £622 on St. Andrew's, £6,673 on St. Anne's (excluding *Awards for All* expenditure) and £2,041 on St. Leonard's. Insurance costs are not included in these figures. £5,249 was spent on churchyard maintenance, including refuse collection (£12,346 was spent on buildings and churchyard maintenance in 2020).

Our property team of Martin Flegg and Rob Smith continued working hard to ensure that our buildings are maintained in a good, safe order and in a cost-effective manner. Work on the churches included regular planned maintenance covering fire extinguisher testing in all three churches, portable electrical appliance testing, roof maintenance and lightning conductor testing at St Anne's and St Leonard's.

At St. Anne's we successfully applied to the Lottery *Awards for All* funding body for a grant of approximately £10,000 to enable us to improve our welcome facilities after Covid lockdown closures. The grant application specified the following items: repainting the external doors and redecorating the narthex interior, replacing the old narthex furniture and lighting, installing brighter LED lamps in all the fittings in the chancel and in the nave aisles and installing new fittings to illuminate the pulpit, font and chancel steps. The grant also covered the replacement of the 20 year old sound desk and purchase of new microphones. Much of this work was completed in 2021 with the balance due in early 2022.

The pandemic hampered further work on consulting with the wider community on long term developments for St Anne's which aim to make the building of better use to the wider community.

At St. Andrew's regular inspections have been carried out and work done to ensure the building is kept weatherproof and does not deteriorate.

At St. Leonard's a statement of requirements for the provision of toilets and a kitchenette was approved by the PCC. A feasibility study with outline design plans was subsequently produced by Robert Kilgour our church architect. High level costs for the solution were estimated at over £110k. Further work to refine the design in consultation with the congregation were still in progress at the year-end as were further ideas on improving the heating.

The professional grass cutting maintenance of St. Leonard's churchyard was supplemented through the year by a number of volunteer working days. Dowles churchyard is disused but remains the responsibility of the PCC. Plans were initiated in 2021 to set up a group who will organise basic tidying of the churchyard to reveal more of the gravestones with some financial support from the Civic Society.

Use of our church buildings

From January 2021 we were still unable to fully open our buildings as a result of restrictions imposed as part of the 2nd wave Covid measures. Worship was celebrated in St Anne's on Sundays from January to March by the Kidderminster West team during our rector's sickness absence and this was made available to parishioners via Zoom and Facebook live broadcasts.

Congregational worship resumed in St. Anne's from Palm Sunday and in St. Leonard's from Easter day, with all services from St Anne's available live via Zoom. St Leonard's was closed to visitors in the early part of 2021 in compliance with Covid recommendations but was then open to visitors every day from dawn to dusk from Easter onwards via the time controlled lock.

Wednesday Morning Prayer in St. Anne's was resumed every Wednesday morning after Easter. This service was, and continues to be, made available via Zoom.

Traidcraft continued to provide fairly traded goods from its St. Anne's base throughout the year. We continued our long-standing support for the Black Country Foodbank by using St. Anne's as a donation point throughout 2021.

St. Anne's successfully sought Archdeacon's permission to provide a location for a town centre defibrillator on the wall opposite the Co-op, and this was installed by the Town Council in September.

The St. Anne's coffee bar reopened to welcome visitors in October. Opening was reduced to three days per week compared to the pre-covid five days (Thursdays and Fridays 10:00 until 14:00 and Saturdays 11:00 till 13:00). The Bewdley Chess club also resumed its meetings in St. Anne's in October 2021.

In December, St. Anne's and the Rector were pleased to welcome Bewdley Primary School for their end of term whole school celebration.

Engagement with children, young people and families

Children are always welcome at Sunday services although numbers are very low. In St. Anne's, a well equipped toy and activity corner is available. If children attend regularly, the Sunday Gang team intend to restart a programme of activities in the dedicated room in the tower.

For the past 30 years, St. Anne's Church has held a very popular traditional nativity service on Christmas Eve for the wider community with scores of children dressed as characters from the nativity scene. Since the church is usually filled to capacity for this service, the decision to cancel was taken because of uncertainty around the new Covid 19 variant in December.

The Baptism Co-ordinator maintains contact with those families who have recently brought children for Baptism. During Holy Week 2021, the families of children who had been baptised in the last five years received a leaflet explaining the first Easter and a wooden cross to decorate. In all cases whenever possible, a member of the congregation knocked and spoke to the families. An Advent activity was hand delivered to these families later in the year.

An invitation was extended to these families for a September picnic in the orchard and grounds of St. Anne's School Nursery. This was a happy event with five families enjoying fellowship, play and delicious cakes. The response from parents was very positive with encouragement for similar future events that demonstrate the church's love and support for families. The PCC is grateful to Headteacher Malcolm Tipping for his support of the event and to Nursery Lead

Teacher Sam Strand for her welcome and generosity with her time. The PCC is also very grateful for the work of Baptism Co-ordinator Mary Thorburn.

After a two year enforced break because of the Covid restrictions, the Open the Book team (St. Anne's Church and the Baptist Church) prepared to reintroduce this National Bible Story scheme back into our two schools again. Unfortunately, Bewdley Primary School did not respond to our invitation, and some of the team felt that they could not continue taking assemblies. However, we have been rejuvenated by the team swelling to sixteen leaders, and the forging of much closer links with St. Anne's School. Our enthusiastic OtB team were able to complete a half term programme in 2021, with another in the spring term 2022 despite two Covid outbreaks. These visits are received with great enthusiasm by staff and pupils.

Rugrats, a group of toddlers and carers meeting in St. Anne's church, and Messy Church were unable to resume in 2021.

Engagement with the wider community

A Christmas card, designed by Margaret Ashmore and with a greeting from the Rector and details of Christmas services, was sent out to a wide area of the benefice. 4,000 cards were delivered by a small army of church members.

The Ecology Justice Group met monthly during 2021 following the end of the Lent course. The group has about 25 members, a dozen of whom typically attend meetings. Campaigning was mainly letter writing to our MP and street leafleting on the eve of October's COP26 Climate Conference. In response to a request from the Church nationally, the church bells were rung on the eve of the conference. Thanks to our team of bell ringers! On the same day Barbara Fauset led a well attended and much appreciated prayer vigil for COP26 in St. Anne's. Paul Warnett helped fix a banner to the roof of the church. This made a real statement in the town. The parish became a member of the Wyre Forest Green Alliance in April.

Our churches were registered with EcoChurch in October and members of the Eco Group worked through the online surveys and developed an action plan in order to make an application, initially for the bronze award.

St. Anne's is a drop off point for donations to the Black Country Foodbank, supported by members of our congregations as well as the town community. The church has been able to continue support for the Foodbank throughout 2021. Information about making financial donations regularly appear in Network.

The PCC continues its commitment to support Traidcraft and is grateful to Elaine Barbour, church member and Traidcraft Fairtrader. Traidcraft sales, at £10,864.30 were a little higher than in 2020, coming mainly through orders. As church remained closed for a lot of the year there were far fewer sales from St Anne's narthex. The Christmas Fair was an excellent event with sales of £3,000. Elaine did two talks with stalls outside the parish at the end of the year. A few requests for sale or return goods from churches in the area came in around Christmas time, helping to boost total sales.

The Church connected walking group re-started in May 2021 after the COVID 19 interruption and adopted the new name of Stumblers. There were 7 walks during the year with numbers varying from 7 to 23 (not counting dogs) from a mailing list of over 40. The planning and leading of the walks were shared between 6 people and the starting points included Cleobury Golf Club,

Mamble, Kinlet, Unclyls Farm, Malvern, Tardebigge and Habberley. This companionable group is largely made up of church members but not exclusively and is certainly open to others.

The PCC is pleased to support the work of Bewdley Street Pastors as they patrol the town at night, keeping people safe. The team remained active whenever possible during the year, even though the town was quiet. An exception was on New Year's Eve when the town was once again full of people celebrating. One member of the church community is a trained Street Pastor and a number are supporting Prayer Pastors. David Ellis is the parish trustee. This valuable ministry in the town is welcomed by the Town Council, police and publicans.

A permanent casualty of pandemic lockdown was The Bridge magazine. This was produced by members of the church community, professionally printed and delivered by an army of volunteers to 4,600 homes. Supported financially by local advertisers, the magazine promoted organisations and events in the town and brought news of activities to a wide readership. Several pages were dedicated to news from Bewdley's churches, including services and other events. Publication was suspended in April 2020 because of the pandemic. The current team was not able to restart the magazine after a lengthy suspension and the PCC supported the decision to cease publication in April 2021. This decision was publicised in the hope that another organisation in the town would produce a community magazine.

Future plans

Plans for the future have been formulated by the Rector, a Reader and PCC groups tasked with making recommendations of activity designed to meet our aims. An early activity for the new PCC will be to prioritise these aims and form an action plan.

Worship and prayer

- Review the Baptism Policy, approved by PCC in March 2022, and formalise the procedure for arranging and conducting Baptisms.
- Develop a St. Anne's Welcome Team for services by September 2022.
- Introduce a service by the end of 2022 to cater for all ages and to help us meet our vision of growing the church younger and engaging with families and young people
- Introduce an informal 'service' to engage those exploring faith by the end of 2023.
- Plan to hold at least three services at Button Oak including one in the spring or summer, open air if possible, as well as Harvest and Carol services. Review 2021's Harvest and Carol Services in the Village Hall and find ways to engage with more members of the local community.
- Pursue the holding of services to mark important aspects of community and global concerns, building on the services held to mark Black History Month and Climate Sunday in 2021. A Climate Sunday service should become at least an annual event, as we proceed with our Eco church policy.
- Plan a programme of Taizé services in 2022 now that singing has been reintroduced to worship and in the light of its ecumenical ethos. These services could be held in any of the Bewdley churches.

Further plans to share worship with St. Anne's CofE Primary School are detailed in plans to meet the aim of developing our engagement with children, young people and families.

Social mission

- Establish a pattern of social events with a view to strengthening fellowship in our church community and to provide enjoyable activities to which potential church members can be invited.
- Establish a social committee to facilitate this by the end of 2022.

Development and Learning within a Christian Community

Activities in Lent 2022 included two weekly courses and a well-attended parish day retreat at Holland House. A future plan is to:

- Establish a pattern of retreat days to help members of the church community grow in discipleship.

Provision of Pastoral Care

- Re-establish contacts and regular visits to local care homes, including the provision of short Home Communion services to individuals and groups.

Making our buildings fit for purpose

St Andrew's:

- Continue to mothball St. Andrew's with regular checks to satisfy insurance requirements.
- Continue to search for the deeds of the property to identify any possible constraints on future use of the site for consideration by the PCC.

St Anne's:

Since the start of 2022 the work on tactical improvements to the narthex has been largely completed.

- During 2022 the Property Team will be participating in a pilot project led by the Diocese and funded by Worcestershire County Council to review the options for heating at St Anne's as well as looking at the potential for onsite generation with PVs (photovoltaic panels on the roof). We are all aware of the current turbulent state of the energy market which is leading to costs of gas and electricity more than doubling in the last year. We are also trying to reduce our carbon footprint by sourcing electricity from a 100% renewable supply.
- A trial of a different system for cleaning the exterior stonework was carried out in January 2022. This proved very successful and met with our architect's approval. The next step will be for the PCC to consider whether this initiative should be pursued. If approved this will then require diocesan faculty approval followed by a significant fundraising effort.
- A draft vision statement for the long-term development of St Anne's has recently been produced by the St. Anne's project team: *"Our vision is for St Anne's Church to become a vibrant community hub at the centre of Bewdley life, equipped to offer a wide range of activities for the benefit of the town. We want to develop a space which provides a warm welcome to all - as a place of worship and as a home for gatherings and performances, as a place where exciting and inclusive community events and activities can flourish."*
- The key practical requirements identified by the consultation exercises are flexible seating for up to 350 people, more toilet facilities, better kitchen facilities and a more welcoming and disabled friendly access.

- The next step is to hold a consultation with a wider range of community organisations to endorse the vision and key requirements and then put the challenges to several architects to develop solutions for further consideration.
- The Project Group undertaking this exercise is currently unable to make any further progress until the Rector has discussed our thinking and our vision with the other churches in the town.

St Leonard's:

- Since the start of January, the PCC and congregation of St Leonard's have had the opportunity to review a design produced by the church architect for the provision of toilets and a kitchenette facility. This will improve the ability of the church building to provide hospitality at events such as weddings and funerals and enable the building to be used for a wider variety of activities.
- Once a final design has been approved by the PCC an application for diocesan approval (the faculty) will be made. The intention will then be to start applying for funds.

Developing our engagement with children, young people and families

Baptism:

- Hold a baptism picnic, building on the success of the picnic in 2021
Encourage men from the church community to take part
- Explore new ways to work with Baptism families
- Set up a Baptism Books scheme

Rugrats:

- Explore ways of securing services of a paid worker so that Rugrats can be restarted

Open the Book:

- Encourage Bewdley Primary School to resume Open the Book
- Continue to recruit new participants, with training if necessary
- Hold a planning meeting in late summer term

St. Anne's School:

- Organise events in church for the school to celebrate major festivals
- Host a leavers' service in church July 2022
- Contribute articles regularly to the school's newsletter
- Invite the school choir to take part in church services
- Include representatives from the parish in diocesan training for collective worship
- Remain open to invitations from the school to share our mission
- Hold services at St Anne's school, inside or outside, relevant and appropriate for children and parents. Collaboration with the school in preparing and organising the service would draw school and church together.

Developing our engagement with the wider community

We propose as short-term platforms for action:

To promote our status as an Eco Church, for instance:

- Collaboration with Transition Bewdley already established in relation to the plastic free objectives for the town. We have momentum already on this with application for Eco Bronze in place and ideas to increase biodiversity in churchyard on-going. With the current energy crisis, it will be worth watching for possible financial incentives and planning acceptance to install solar panels. A quick fix in terms of communication with and engagement of community would be outdoor signage to show that the church was actively working for the environment in specific ways.

To promote our churches as Places of Welcome: (see <https://www.placesofwelcome.org.uk>)

- Explore extending the hours of St Anne's opening with ecumenical partners – for more to enjoy the brighter, more welcoming area.
- Develop a welcome team for worship, and organize ways to 'meet and greet' newcomers to the area when they move in to live in our town
- In collaboration with the buildings development team, actively explore making our buildings both suitable and available to the community in new and creative ways.
- Find ways to celebrate Christian action and giving. But, as above, maybe our most useful giving will be to invite Bewdley events into our buildings, ensuring that the Churches and the town have a two way relationship

Children and families work:

- This group wish to suggest that one of the best ways the Church can show its wish to put itself 'out there' for the wider community should be to engage body, mind and spirit with support for 'our' school (and indeed others). This involves understanding that the church's mission is far, far wider than the church walls and organised worship – but on the other hand links very closely with the objectives developed by the buildings group.

Other proposals:

The group has other proposals to develop and expand our capacity to offer pastoral support in the community. Due to various current constraints, these proposals may be difficult to bring to reality in the near future, but the parish may wish to note them for future reference:

- To work with local initiatives, such as by Bewdley Medical Centre, to promote 'Ageing Well'.
- To recommend use of the free iKnowchurch website package to facilitate regular communication following Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals. If useful, an upgraded package could contribute further to parish outreach.
- Institute a monthly tea, in St Anne's or St George's Hall for social time and companionship

Financial review

2021 continued to be dominated by the pandemic; let us hope that the worst is past, and that we can begin to live our lives normally once again.

Our financial position has been left far from secure. Although income for 2021 increased compared with 2020, this was only due to the receipt of the Awards for All grant of £10,000, and some £7,000 from legacies. For the fourth consecutive year our regular giving decreased, and

the proportion of that giving required to satisfy our Parish Share obligation increased to 91%. As was written in last year's report, that is unsustainable. We are, of course, fortunate that Parish Share has been replaced by Ministry Share, and our obligation to the Diocese is now significantly reduced; there are, however, no grounds for complacency.

With congregation numbers falling and giving reduced, we are faced with some serious challenges here in Bewdley. There are ambitious plans afoot to improve the fabric and domestic facilities at both St. Anne's and St. Leonard's. These improvements will have to be paid for, and, at present, operating on a deficit budget for 2022, our prospects for doing so are far from favourable. Something needs to be done to address this situation, and it will be for the new PCC to grapple with a toxic mixture of falling income and increasing expenditure. As was reported last year, the financial prospects for the Parish are far from secure. The PCC is very grateful to Treasurer Richard Rundell and to Bookkeeper Britta Flegg.

Reserves Policy

It has been the practice of the PCC to hold any surplus funds in a deposit account. This, in effect, constitutes our reserve, along with any monies (for example, legacies) given with an expressed wish that they be devoted to specific buildings or projects. At the end of 2021, after taking into account monies held for such specific purposes, our effective reserve was in the region of £27,000. In November the PCC agreed a budget for 2022 which provided for the use of £15,000 from that reserve. Therefore, unless we improve our finances during 2022, we will be left, at the end of the year, with a reserve of a little over £10,000. It will be for the new PCC to decide whether that is sufficient in the longer term and, if it is not, how to address the situation.

Volunteers

The PCC would like to thank the many volunteers who work to promote the mission of the church in the parish. Particular thanks are owed to the Churchwardens and PCC Vice Chair for their commitment and care in a difficult year.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Guidance in *relation to safeguarding and to keep safeguarding at the heart of what we do*. *Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at each PCC.*

In September 2021 the PCC reviewed and renewed the Safeguarding Policies on Children and Vulnerable Adults, Safer Recruiting Practice and Promoting a Safer Church. A signed copy of the Parish Policy in Respect of DBS Disclosures is sent to the Diocesan DBS Administrator each year and the policies are displayed in each church. They list activities occurring and contact numbers of the Incumbent, Safeguarding Representative, Diocesan officers and other emergency numbers. A Childline poster with relevant emergency numbers is displayed.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer has ensured that all DBS certificates are up to date and has encouraged all volunteers to complete the required safeguarding training. The DBS certificates now only last for three years. The PSO will contact volunteers to ensure no DBS certificate is older than three years at the cut-off point of 31st December 2023.

Open the Book restarted in the autumn, supported by 16 volunteers from the parish. All volunteers have a current DBS and have completed the required safeguarding training. The new volunteers have provided references as required by the Safer Recruitment guidelines.

One PCC member who had not previously undergone a DBS check has now done so and has completed the Basic Awareness training. One new PCC member has also had a DBS check and completed the training.

The Diocese now provides safeguarding training mainly online. Only when it is not possible for a volunteer to access these courses, will the Diocese provide face-to-face training. There are a number of volunteers including PCC members who need to renew the Foundation training in May 2022. The PSO will contact each person individually.

The Parish Dashboard is now the tool used by the parishes and diocese to monitor compliance with Safeguarding policies. Additional guidance have been added relating to Record keeping. The PCC is putting in place a procedure for how to comply. The Parish Dashboard is kept up to date by the PSO, while the Incumbent, Churchwardens, Vice Chair and PCC Secretary have access to view and to check what items are outstanding.

As a caring church we wish to be proactive in the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. In order to ensure our churches continue to be safe places, it is important for everyone in the church community to be aware of safeguarding issues and immediately ask for help if they have any concerns. The PCC is very grateful to Britta Flegg for her work as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity, number 1132968.

The appointment of PCC members is governed and set out in the Church Representation Rules. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC. All members of the PCC are required to comply with the safeguarding requirements described in the Safeguarding section of this report and attend relevant training courses. All PCC members are trustees.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how funds are to be spent. The PCC met 7 times in 2021: by Zoom in February, April and May; physically for a short meeting after May's and again in June, September and November. During the Rector's absence, from January to September, all PCC business was conducted under the aegis of the Area Dean and Archdeacon.

Provision was made for the inclusion of members without access to Zoom through the distribution of agendas with full notes against each relevant item and the use of Measure 29 of the Church Representation Rules (Business by Correspondence) for the approval of proposals following a meeting. Measure 29 was also used to conduct business between meetings.

The PCC has a Standing Committee with membership and functions according to the Church Representation Rules, including agenda setting for PCC meetings. Other committees responsible to the PCC are the Property Group and other groups set up from time to time for specific purposes. In November 2019, three such groups were formed and tasked to bring

recommendations to the PCC in relation to aims described in this report and to report progress to the APCM.

The Rector, Diana Sutherland and John Rhodes, elected by the PCC, sit as Foundation Governors on St. Anne's CE Primary School Governing Body. As well as attending meetings of the Board of Governors and other committees of which they are members, Foundation Governors meet twice a term to engage in activities arranged by the RE subject lead. The PCC is grateful to the Foundation Governors for their commitment to maintaining this important link between school and parish.

Six members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod, two of whom also sit on the Diocesan Synod; Robert Barbour is a member of the Diocesan Board of Education and Gill Warnett a member of the Diocesan Commission for Social Responsibility. Membership of these bodies provides the PCC with a valuable link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Administrative information

The Parish of Ribbesford with Bewdley and Dowles is part of the Diocese of Worcester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St. Anne's Church, Load Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire DY12 2AE

PCC members who have served at any time since 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

1st January to 24th May 2021

Vice Chair: Caroline Hall

Treasurer: Richard Rundell,

Secretary: Gill Warnett

Ex officio:

Incumbent: Rev. Megan Gibbins

Licensed Lay Minister: Barbara Fauset

Wardens: John Adey, Diane Taylor,
John Iles, Paul Warnett,

Assistant Warden: Betty Nicholas

Deanery Synod: Ann Capell,
Yvonne Rundell, Gill Warnett.

Diocesan Synod: Robert Barbour,
Susan Price

Elected Lay members: Janet Adey, Susan Cashmore, Paul Gibbins, Caroline Hall, Joyce Redstall, Peter Roberts, Richard Rundell, Diana Sutherland

24th May 2021 to 11th May 2022

Vice Chair: Caroline Hall

Treasurer: Richard Rundell,

Secretary: Gill Warnett

Ex officio:

Incumbent: Rev. Megan Gibbins

Licensed Lay Minister: Barbara Fauset

Wardens: John Adey, Diane Taylor,
John Iles, Paul Warnett,

Assistant Warden: Betty Nicholas

Deanery Synod: Ann Capell,
Yvonne Rundell, Gill Warnett,

Susan Price elected 30.09.21

Diocesan Synod: Robert Barbour,
Susan Price until 03.09.21

Janet Adey from 03.09.21

Elected Lay members: Janet Adey until 03.09.21, Paul Gibbins, Caroline Hall, Joyce Redstall, Peter Roberts, Richard Rundell, Diana Sutherland, Angela Williams