

# **2024 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:**

Throughout 2023, the Parish did not have the benefit of an active incumbent. In January 2023, Rev'd. Megan Gibbins, Rector, continued to be signed off duties by her doctor. In June 2023, Archdeacon Robert Jones informed the Parish that Rev'd. Gibbins had moved on from her post as Rector of Bewdley and that the Parish was in vacancy. Rev'd Melissa Beynon is due to be licensed as Rector on 2nd June 2024.

## **Worship and prayer**

At present there are 122 parishioners on the church electoral roll, 83 of whom are resident in the parish.

From the period of Rev'd. Gibbin's illness, a pattern of worship was established with Holy Communion in St Anne's on the first and third Sundays of the month. Holy Communion was



celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays at All Saints and in those months with a fifth Sunday the churches took turns to host a single service of Holy Communion for the whole benefice. This pattern ensured that the requirement for a service of Holy Communion in the incumbency every Sunday was met.

Services of the Word were held at St Anne's on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Zoom continued for services at St Anne's to allow members of our worshipping community to join in worship in their own homes if their circumstances prevented their attendance in person.

At St Leonard's, Holy Communion was celebrated on the first Sunday of the month and Matins on all other Sundays.

The pattern of St Anne's Wednesday Morning Prayer services continued through 2023. The first Wednesday of each month took the form of a Communion service for the Mother's Union, led by one of our retired clergy. Attendance for this monthly Communion service was around twenty.

On all other Wednesdays of the month a short service of Morning Prayer led by Barbara Fauset, Pat Prosser and Janet Adey was held. Elaine Barbour led the service when there was a fifth Wednesday. Average attendance for this service is around eight. The service was changed and adapted according to the season, and each new version was emailed out for the benefit of those at home who can join in via Zoom.

The PCC is hugely grateful to retired clergy and Lay Ministers for all their efforts in enabling worship to continue this regular pattern of worship.

In Holy Week our programme included three Zoom Compline services (Monday to Wednesday), Communion for Maundy Thursday, the Good Friday ecumenical service in Jubilee Gardens and the walk to the crosses where a short ecumenical service was held. On Holy Saturday St Anne's hosted a performance of Handel's Messiah. On Easter Day about twenty five participants braved the cold for the dawn service at St Leonard's. Despite the cold we were warmed by the joy of the event – as well as the Easter fire! We were sprinkled with the water of life and the birds drowned our singing with their own.

A number of services with a particular theme were held in 2023, including Taizé (on Palm Sunday and in Advent). Racial Justice Sunday in February 2023 was marked with a Service of the Word. This used material provided by Churches Together for Britain and Ireland and marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Stephen Lawrence. The PCC decided not to hold a climate service as originally intended in September 2023, but rather move to having an environmental Service of the Word as part of the local festival of sustainability – SustFest – in April 2024.

We were very pleased to be able to welcome visits from St Anne's school during 2023 to join in Sunday worship at St Anne's including contributions from the school drummers and from the growing school choir.

The All Souls' service was held at St Leonard's with its usual special outreach to those who had been bereaved in the previous year. This atmospheric and moving service was well attended by a congregation who responded to the invitation to place a candle for their loved one on the candle tree in the chancel.

The PCC was pleased that Area Dean Fr Tim Williams was once again able to officiate at the Remembrance Day wreath laying at the Load Street War Memorial followed by a service of



remembrance in St Anne's attended by the Mayor, Councillors and representatives of a wide range of town organisations including representatives of uniformed youth groups.

The Mothers' Union organised its traditional Advent Communion service. A Taizé service was also held in Advent.

The well attended Nativity service held in St Anne's on Christmas Eve at 6.30pm was led by Canon Fr. Tim Williams. The PCC is very grateful to Fr. Tim for leading this important mission to the town. The Christmas Day services at St. Anne's and St. Leonard's were both well attended and Simon Thorburn and Heather Flack are thanked for their ministry at these 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 at Pound Green Village Hall, followed by a harvest supper and product auction. The event was well attended, mainly by members of St. Anne's congregation. Generous bids in the auction, together with donations, raised over £450 for the Black Country Food Bank and church funds.

Music in worship is supported in St Anne's by our organist James Hickson and a choir of fifteen singers who are always willing to welcome new recruits. The choir is looking for ways of passing this musical enthusiasm to future generations and, in 2024, is hoping to hold a special service with music chosen to celebrate the centenary of C V Stanford's death. The PCC is also grateful to Jim Ineson, Barbara Fauset, Elaine Barbour and Ken Hadley (the St Anne's music group), and to Diane Taylor at St Leonard's for their contributions to this aspect of worship.

Bellringing for Sunday services at St Anne's took place weekly as well as for civic and other special occasions. The PCC would like to thank the Tower Captain and team for all their efforts in ringing the Sunday call to worship.

Our weekly 'pew sheet' Network contains the weekly readings and notices and links to the different Zoom services. The PCC is very grateful to Peter Roberts for his work in compiling and distributing Network by email to more than 150 people each week, a task which he had done for over 20 years. Peter had to step back from this in September owing to ill health, and we are very grateful to Peter Kirk for picking up the baton. Network remains a valuable means of keeping the wider church community connected. An additional pew slip has been produced for use in St. Anne's for newcomers and visitors to register interest in church.

As a parish we continue to benefit from the ministry of the large number of individuals who contribute to worship. 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 (Licensed Lay Ministers Barbara Fauset and Robert Barbour, Authorised Lay Ministers Janet Adey, Elaine Barbour, Caroline Hall and Diane Taylor, with support from Pat Prosser and Jim Ineson). We are grateful to Sheila Limbrick for her duties as sacristan, to Elaine Barbour who produces service sheets in liaison with whoever is leading worship, to Janet Bishop and her team and the St. Leonard's flower arrangers for their care and skill in decorating our churches with flowers.

The PCC recognises that worship only takes place smoothly thanks to those who organise the following rotas: welcome, chalice assistants, coffee after services, lesson readers, the sound desk and Zoom at St Anne's. And a big thank you to all those who willingly volunteer to take on these duties.

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.



Baptism numbers were once again low with four in 2023 (the same number as in 2022), two were at St Leonard's and two at St Anne's. The two at St Leonard's were particularly special. The first because it was a baptism that had to be postponed from 2022 because the baby was quite poorly and it was a joy to see him active and alert during the service which was beautifully led by Rev Rosemary Lawley. The second was one which was arranged at very short notice because Ukrainian relatives were visiting. St Leonard's congregation was very welcoming and offered hot drinks, squash and biscuits after the service and the family stayed and really appreciated the hospitality the Church offered.

There were three marriages at St. Leonard's (compared with five in 2022).

A total of 50 funerals, burials and memorial services took place in the Parish in 2023, compared with 47 in 2022. One funeral and one memorial service took place at St. Anne's (same as in 2022) and eight funeral services took place at St. Leonard's (ten last year). Eighteen burials took place in St. Leonard's churchyard: four of bodies in existing graves (three in 2022) and fourteen of cremated remains (eleven in 2022). Of the burial of cremated remains, seven were in existing plots, six in new plots and one in the Rose Garden. The churchyard no longer has space for new plots for the burial of bodies but has sufficient space for the burial of cremated remains to meet the likely needs of the parish in the short term. In addition, our Parish Ministry team between them conducted seventeen funeral services and four committals at the Wyre Forest Crematorium (fifteen and five in 2022), two funerals at Stourbridge Crematorium and one burial in Kidderminster Cemetery. The support of the bereaved remains a strong part of our parish ministry and relies heavily on the commitment of retired clergy (Heather Flack, Mark Moreton, Simon Thorburn and Rose Lawley) and of Lay Funeral Ministers Barbara Fauset and Elaine Barbour. These ministers also conducted funerals and burials within the Benefice at All Saints' church. The PCC is very grateful for this generous commitment to funeral ministry.

The PCC is grateful for the work and support given to weddings and funerals by Yvonne Rundell and Gill Warnett who continued in their temporary roles as Wedding and Funeral Administrators respectively.

### **Development and learning within a Christian community**

During lent, Robert Barbour led a group that followed the 2023 USPG Lent Course entitled 'Who is our neighbour'. This involved studying Bible passages and considering contexts from the world church. Some twenty people met regularly at 10 Valley View, and we had to split into two groups in different rooms.

For Advent 2023 Robert Barbour led four sessions on parables. We explored one from each of Matthew, Mark and Luke and had the option of writing our own for the final session. This proved to be a hard but interesting task! Numbers were again pleasing, with typically twenty three of us meeting for each session. For Advent we tried the option of dividing into afternoon and evening sessions and this worked well, accommodating both those working during the day and those who found the dark evenings uncondusive.

To mark Black History Month in October, a group read 'Ghost Ship' by Azariah France-Williams and met as a one-off book group to discuss it. The book deals with the racism that the author has encountered as a Church of England priest from within the Church itself. The discussion was rich and we may try the idea of a one-off book group again for Black History Month in 2024.



A number of small groups meets regularly. A Bible Reading Fellowship group met monthly using the New Daylight course of readings and reflections to prompt discussion as a house group of five. The Saturday Morning Group met each Saturday via Zoom at 8.30am for worship and prayer. It follows Iona liturgy and each week the needs of the church are a focus for prayer. The house group based in Sabrina Drive continued to meet fortnightly for worship and prayer, led by Robert Barbour and supporting those who are housebound. Anyone interested in being part of a regular group is encouraged to speak to Licensed Lay Ministers Robert Barbour or Barbara Fauset.

St. Anne's branch of the Mothers' Union has a membership of eighteen who enjoyed a full programme during 2023. Branch Leader Ann Capell keeps in touch with members through email, newsletters, phone calls and visits. This contact is particularly appreciated by those members with restricted mobility. Members enjoyed a range of interesting talks throughout the year. The Wednesday morning communion service each month in St. Anne's has a Mothers' Union focus and brings members and others together for prayer and worship. The well-attended Advent service had a focus on gender based violence and prisons.

### **Provision of pastoral care**

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

The Pastoral Group, a group of eight lay members, co-ordinates, where appropriate, those who visit the sick, needy, elderly and housebound of our parish and community. The group met formally four times in 2023 to update each other on the individuals on our list of concerns, a list also used for prayer. Emails are used to share significant news between meetings. Many others not in the group look after church folk and their neighbours offering a wide variety of help. One group member has written "I give thanks for networks of unknown befrienders, who make a quiet and often unseen difference to troubled lives."

The group updated the Risk Assessment and Pastoral Care Visitor documents with help from Parish Safeguarding Officer Britta Flegg in 2023. Beginning in March a monthly Communion service was introduced in Summerdyne Care Home on the second Tuesday, led by Elaine Barbour, Margaret Ashmore and Janet Adey. In November we began a monthly morning prayer service in Hernes Nest Care Home. In December choir members and others sang carols in both Care Homes, which was warmly welcomed by both homes and attracted lots of extra residents. Housebound people are visited with home communion or a Service of the Word.

The PCC is very grateful for the commitment of the Pastoral Group to their sensitive and prayerful ministry.

St. Leonard's churchyard has a special role in our mission to bereaved and lonely people in the parish and as a place of welcome and reflection to the many walkers and visitors who pass by. We aim to maintain the area to provide a place for memory, reflection and prayer, whilst nurturing the ecological environment to promote biodiversity and natural beauty in this part of the Wyre Forest. We know that significant numbers of people draw comfort from their time here (and sometimes from Gimbal, the venerable cat/ counsellor) – and many, although not regular Sunday church worshippers, go into the church to find spiritual consolation.



Following advice in our Natural Networks survey, we obtained Faculty permission to plant native deciduous trees around the churchyard, and successfully sourced saplings free from the Woodland Trust. We have also established a good relationship with Caring for God's Acre, resulting in a summer and spring visit from a team of scything experts to mow the 'meadow' area and help the regeneration of an increasing variety of meadow flora. We have recently achieved (another!) Faculty allowing the installation of three new benches, to be made from sustainable Wyre Forest oak at the Wyre Community Land Trust woodyard. We aim to improve opportunities for folk to sit, rest, listen and talk companionably during their visits to the churchyard.

In preparation for Holy Week, a team delivered a message of hope to 120 households in the church community. The message included a greeting with news of Holy Week and Easter services, a postcard and a hand-sized palm cross. The postcard contained a photograph taken by Ken Hadley of the three crosses on Crundalls Hill in 2022 and some thoughts for Holy Week and Easter from Meister Eckhart. The giving and receiving of a tangible symbol of God's love were appreciated.

During the week before Christmas, members of St. Anne's choir with other singers from our congregations visited households in Bewdley to sing carols.

### **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. 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. The annual Bewdley Passion is a product of Bewdley churches working together, as are the Bewdley Street Pastors and the Open the Book team.

The 2023 Bewdley Passion began with the observance of the Stations of the Cross at Holy Family RC Church. The ecumenical service in Jubilee Gardens on Good Friday was a well-attended and moving event and a powerful witness in the centre of town. For several years, Bewdley Churches Together has held a Good Friday service on Crundalls Hill overlooking the town. Here three large crosses, erected by members of the parish, can be seen from far and wide. Led by the minister from Riverside Elim Church in 2023, the service was appreciated by the large number of people who took part. The Bewdley Passion events concluded on Holy Saturday with a performance of Handel's Messiah by a chamber choir and orchestra in St. Anne's church.

### **St. Anne's C of E Primary School**

2023 saw the fruits of the increasingly close links between our congregations and church school, St. Anne's C of E Primary School. News from the school is shared in Network, sometimes including prayers written by the children, a church report regularly appears in the school newsletter and the school is a regular PCC agenda item. Planning meetings between members of the church and Headteacher Jo Harvey have led to a programme of church and school activities. The PCC is very grateful for the Headteacher's commitment to strengthening the school's relationship with church.

Members of the school choir and drumming group joined specially prepared Sunday morning services in St. Anne's church in 2023. The church building is becoming more familiar to the pupils. Parents and families have come to support their children and have been given a warm welcome by the congregation. The PCC is particularly grateful to the Lay Ministry team for their



leadership and initiative and to Jim Ineson who has been visiting the school regularly with his guitar to teach worship songs to the children.

During the year, the whole school and staff, accompanied by parent helpers, walked down to St Anne's Church for a special service at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. These services are an inspiration and much enjoyed by children, staff, congregation members and those parents who attend. The children particularly enjoy singing together in such a large space, accompanied by James on the organ and Jim on his guitar.

Diana Sutherland leads Collective Worship in St Anne's School Nursery with a weekly reflection for the older nursery children based on the school values. This worship usually contains a story or visual illustration, Bible references, a song and a prayer. Diana worked with the Nursery Lead Teacher to produce a documented structure for this worship.

Throughout 2023, eighteen members of St. Anne's congregation have been involved in presenting Bible stories regularly each week to the children at St. Anne's through Open the Book. An extended programme was created to tell the Easter story, culminating in the school experiencing the Resurrection story through a service in Church. From September 2023, the team has been trialling a new format of material produced by the Bible Society for Open the Book. These assemblies are popular with the children who enjoy recognising the team when they come to visit church.

Year 6 pupils took part in a church-based pilgrimage in July organised by LLM Barbara Fauset and ALM Diane Taylor to mark their transition from one stage of education to another. The pupils visited different areas of the church and learned about their significance. Each child was given a 'passport', like the ones used on more formal pilgrimages, and created a response at each area. The children were full of questions and interest.

With the retirement of Diana Sutherland as Foundation Governor, after years of most valuable and wise service, Caroline Hall and Richard Rundell now represent the church on the Board of Governors. Their 'Foundation' role involves oversight of the school's delivery of the RE curriculum and the way in which the school evidences its Christian ethos and values. However, as Governors they have wider responsibilities – Caroline on the Curriculum, Achievement and Progress Committee and Richard on the Business (Finance) Committee. The Foundation Governors are pleased to report that professional, friendly and positive relationships have been quickly established, and that under the leadership of Mrs Harvey, the whole school team are moving forward with optimism and pride.

Termly meetings with the Curriculum Leader for RE have given the Foundation Governors a thorough insight into how the curriculum and staff training are being led expertly and with deep commitment. This fosters the religious education of every child and gives every child an understanding of the meaning of faith and of living in faith. Displays throughout the school are creative and vibrant evidence of how both classroom teaching, individual conversations and whole school activities, including assemblies, promote the Christian ethos and values of the school community. The Foundation Governors wish to record their thanks to the leadership and whole staff of the school for their dedication, hard work, kindness and humanity.

Many members of the congregation volunteer in other areas of school life including reading, sewing and the creation of wall displays. 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**

We have continued to carry out all necessary regular maintenance in our three church buildings. Work on the churches included regular planned safety maintenance covering fire extinguisher testing in all three churches, portable electrical appliance testing, and roof maintenance and lightning conductor testing at St Anne's and St Leonard's, and boiler maintenance at St Anne's.

In 2023 we spent £3,541 on fabric maintenance at St. Anne's (£4,030 in 2022) and £3,916 on maintenance work in St Leonard's church (£1,666 in 2022).

St. Andrew's continues to be mothballed with regular checks to satisfy insurance requirements. In 2023 there was no expenditure on maintenance at St Andrews, though volunteer working parties carried out clearing of vegetation and clearing of gutters.

Dowles churchyard is disused but remains the responsibility of the PCC. A volunteer working group largely comprising members of Bewdley Civic Society met on the first Saturdays of each month during 2023. The group has continued to make progress in tidying the churchyard to reveal more of the gravestones. The PCC is very grateful for their efforts.

The care of St. Leonard's churchyard is reported in more detail under the heading of Pastoral Care on page 6. We have continued with work by professional churchyard gardeners supplemented by scything done by the 'Caring for God's Acre' organisation. The churchyard also benefited from the enthusiasm and versatility of volunteer working parties – whose only reward is job satisfaction and cake. In 2023 we spent £5,094 on churchyard maintenance including refuse collection (£4,880 in 2021).

We have kept a close eye on energy usage in our churches and installed a remote electricity monitoring facility in St Anne's. We have recently re-negotiated energy contracts. All our electricity is from renewable sources.

### **Use of our church buildings**

In 2023, in addition to Wednesday and Sunday worship times, St Anne's was open to visitors from 10.00am to 2.00pm each Thursday and Friday and from 11.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays. The St. Anne's coffee bar, located in the heart of the town, attracts members of the congregation and visitors alike. Bewdley Chess Club meets in the narthex each Friday lunchtime. In 2023 we started to promote Thursday mornings as the 4Cs: a place for Coffee, Cake, Company and Conversation. The church offers an active welcome to visitors whether for a hot drink, a walk around the building or to spend some quiet time in prayer. The PCC is grateful to the team led by Sue Perrin which includes members of the wider community. Additional volunteers to help with this element of our ministry would always be warmly welcomed.

A successful harvest fair was arranged in St Anne's in October 2023 with stalls run by local producers offering a range of goods. This was not a money making venture although donations were welcomed for heat and lighting. It was good to see the church crowded again, to the benefit of local businesses. A similar event supported the town's Christmas Lights event.



We were grateful to receive a grant from Wyre Forest District Council for the additional costs of operating St Anne's coffee bar as a "warm space" through the winter. The Narthex has been equipped with additional electric heaters and the coffee bar microwave has been replaced as part of this initiative.

St Anne's Church was again open on the day of Bewdley's Christmas lights switch on, with charity stalls run by volunteers and refreshments available with proceeds shared between church and Girl Guide funds. We also provided a base for the St John's Ambulance First Aid team. This year we also worked with Bewdley Town Council to host the display of Christmas trees decorated by local traders during Advent.

St Anne's is available for hire by organisations in the wider community. In 2023 it again provided a regular rehearsal venue for Bewdley Choral Society and was used monthly as a practice venue for the Bewdley Concert Band. St Anne's was also used as a concert performance venue for the Choral Society, the Concert Band, Bewdley British Legion, Kidderminster Choral Society Young Voices, Bewdley Festival and Got to Sing choir.

In October both St Anne's and Bewdley Primary schools held their Harvest services in St Anne's church. In December the church welcomed St. Anne's and Bewdley Primary schools and the Bewdley School for their Christmas services and Christmas end of term celebrations.

St Leonard's is open to visitors every day from dawn to dusk from Easter onwards via the time-controlled lock and is visited by those who wish to admire this historic building, walkers passing by on the Worcestershire Way as well as by those visiting the churchyard.

### **Making our buildings fit for purpose**

The PCC has identified the need to adapt and change our buildings to align with our mission needs as one of its main priorities.

After years of steady decline in the use of St. Andrew's building the PCC decided, after the enforced Covid closure, to investigate disposal of the building and move to using nearby Pound Green Village Hall for seasonal worship activity. Further to the progress made with the Diocesan Registrar and the Chancellor's office in 2022 we have established that any sale proceeds from the sale of St Andrew's will be put to the benefit of the Parish. In 2023 we proceeded with the application for Possessory Title for the property. We are also in the process of applying to Shropshire Council to demolish the building so that the land can be sold with outline consent for a residential development. This will enable PCC members, as charity trustees, to maximise the benefit to our charitable purposes.

At St. Anne's our successful 2022 Faculty application for stonework repair works was then followed by confirmation of a grant of £167,000 from the Government 'Shared Prosperity Fund'. This funding is initially committed to repair and renovation of the exterior stonework to get us safe and weatherproof. But it also includes funds for an architect led feasibility study into how the interior might be developed to meet the needs of its worshippers and the wider community which were set out in the St. Anne's vision statement approved by the PCC:

*"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."*



This feasibility study is now planned to start in 2024 with completion by early 2025. Further grants on top of the Shared Prosperity grant have also been received but more funds are required to complete the exterior works. Two further significant funding bids are planned to allow us to complete the exterior works.

At St. Leonard's we obtained outline drawings from our architect of the scheme for toilets and kitchenette, which were approved by the PCC. These will improve our welcome at events such as weddings and funerals and allow the building to be used for a wider variety of activities. The Faculty application process for this was started in 2023. We now await detailed architect's drawings to make the full application and so that estimates can be obtained. Much effort went into getting the heating at St. Leonard's to a reasonable state in 2023. All the heating elements in the high level heater units were replaced and problems with the power supply rectified. However this work then revealed that the units themselves needed to be replaced. Orders for this work are being arranged with, we hope, financial support from the Diocese. We continued to investigate how to get broadband provision in St Leonard's and are still planning for this in 2024.

### **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. During 2023, the Sunday Gang helpers have ensured that there is something for young children to do, such as colouring or a simple activity. An updated role description and activity risk assessment are in place. There is a rota, so that there is always somebody on the 'lookout' for children. During the year, families have only attended when there has been a baptism or when the school is visiting. The Sunday Gang helpers feel that it is important that any children attending will feel welcome.

The PCC is very grateful for the work of Baptism Co-ordinator Mary Thorburn. Numbers of parents having their children Baptised continues to be relatively small: in 2023 there were two baptisms at St Leonard's and two at St Anne's. The Baptism policy has changed this year as we felt that, although it is desirable for families to come to Church for three occasions before being able to progress with a baptism it did feel quite unwelcoming. For the Church, a Baptism enquiry is an opportunity to make contact with young families to encourage them and to engage with them and talk about their faith in a non threatening way, in a way that the Church environment does not always allow. The Baptism policy will be reviewed once our new Rector is with us. We have continued to deliver a communication to children who have been Baptised in the past five years, on Birthdays, at Christmas and Easter and tried where possible to hand deliver the envelopes.

This year we opened up the Special Sunday Picnic in the Nursery grounds and orchard to all St. Anne's Nursery children as well as the baptism families. The PCC is grateful to Headteacher Jo Harvey and Nursery Lead Teacher Sam Strand for their support of the event. It was held later in September than usual, on a very windy Sunday afternoon but was enjoyed by the handful of families that came. We may rethink the timing next year for this valuable connection with our Church school. Those families who came enjoyed the activities, in particular, the parachute games and the music activity led by Angela Cattanaach – Chell from All Saints' Church.

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. This service is reported on more fully on page 3



Activities of the Open the Book team are reported on page 7. The PCC is pleased that this ministry to children has now become well established after the pandemic.

### **Engagement with the wider community**

Traidcraft plc went into administration early in 2023, which meant the end of Traidcraft sales in the parish after over 40 years. The final big sale was held in July 2023 with most of the remaining stock going to support Ukrainian families. Over the 35 years with Elaine Barbour at the helm, the total of goods sold was just £11,000 short of three quarters of a million pounds. This is due to wide support from church members and the local community as well loaning stock to communities further afield. The annual Traidcraft sale in St. Anne's was a popular event, well-supported by the wider community. The church was often full with people who had come to shop or enjoying lunch in the narthex. The PCC is very grateful to Elaine for her astounding achievement over many years and for her commitment to make trade fairer for producers worldwide.

During the year funds were gathered from members of the congregation for distribution to Ukrainian families in the parish.

The Ecology Justice Group met regularly throughout the year. Topics included international climate issues (especially COP in November in Dubai), local regional issues via the Wyre Forest Green Alliance and a range of other topics. St Anne's obtained the silver Eco-Church award.

We continue to support the Black Country Food Bank in Stourbridge. Although our visits are less frequent, we have donated large quantities of food and household goods, such as duvets and cooking equipment. The need is growing as more families and individuals lose their means of earning, lose their homes and are unable to provide for their families. Many of our congregations continue to support the Food Bank with regular financial donations, both by direct debit and with cash.

The PCC is pleased to support the work of Bewdley Street Pastors as they patrol the town at night, keeping people safe. Churches in Bewdley continue to work together as street pastors, prayer pastors and trustees. Three members of the parish are actively involved. The pandemic and cost of living crisis have meant that the town is much quieter, and the work of the Street Pastors is now more limited. Nevertheless, this remains a valuable ministry in the town which is welcomed by the Town Council, police and publicans.

The parish Facebook page is administered by Janet Adey. In 2023, Janet increased the number of posts to include more information about services and events. During Advent and Lent she posted relevant material each day, using content provided by the Diocese and the Church of England.

As part of our church's outreach, we have invited local residents to come and hear talented local musicians. To date we have marvelled at the musical talents of three boys from The Bewdley School, aged from 13 to 17 years, demonstrating the strength of the music department, under the leadership of their teacher, Helen Blythe. Their piano recitals have awed us with music ranging from Bach, Mozart, Scott Joplin to their own compositions. These free hour long concerts have brought relatives and friends into a welcoming church community, and the students are well impressed by the acoustics of this building.

The PCC is grateful to Simon Thorburn and Linda Thursfield who lead the church walking groups. The Stumblers walking group, which is rooted in church life but has an open



membership, organised ten walks on Saturdays during 2023. Some of the walks were quite local to Bewdley but there were trips further afield with the walks varying in length from about four and up to about eight miles. The emailing list contacts over forty people although the number present on any given walk varied from half a dozen on a couple of occasions into the high teens on others. The group try to car share as much as possible. Planning and leading of the walks was shared between seven people and the starting points included Hawkbath, Enville, Arley, Heightington, Abberley, Mable, Alfrick, Unclys Farm, and Eastham in the Teme Valley. Walks are advertised well in advance together with a brief description of the likely ups and downs!

Over the last year a small group of walkers has been meeting on the first Tuesday morning of each month for a walk locally of about two hours. The group aims to use footpaths or very quiet roads and has covered areas both sides of the river, forest and fields, Numbers of walkers vary between two and six. New walkers are always welcome!

For the third year, more than fifty people took part in the project to deliver a professionally printed Christmas card to more than 4,500 houses and businesses in Bewdley and Wribbenhall. The card was produced by Margaret Ashmore and included a Christmas greeting from our Benefice churches with information about the various Christmas services that took place. The card was well received.

## **Future plans**

At the time of writing, we await the arrival of Rev'd Melissa Beynon as our new Rector. The PCC anticipates that during the year these plans will change; we look forward to this chapter.

### **Worship and prayer**

- Review the Baptism Policy, approved by PCC in March 2022, ensuring it meets its purpose.
- Formalise the procedure for arranging and conducting Baptisms.
- Plan to hold further services at Button Oak in addition to the Harvest and Carol services
- Engage with partner churches to continue joint events such as Taizé services, the Good Friday service in Jubilee Gardens and the programme in Lent 2024
- Review forms and patterns of worship

### **Making our buildings fit for purpose**

#### **St Andrews:**

- Obtain possessory title
- Pursue disposal of the land under best possible terms with funds available for the Parish's wider purposes

#### **St Anne's:**

- Start work on the major exterior repairs and renovation
- Engage with the congregation and wider community to establish the needs for the building
- Work towards the development of a feasibility plan for St Anne's interior re-ordering
- Continue with grant applications and fund-raising activities



**St Leonard's:**

- Complete the Faculty Application process for the installation of toilets and kitchenette
- Complete the replacement of overhead heating units
- Install router with internet access capability

**Developing our engagement with children, young people and families****Baptism:**

- Set up a Baptism Books scheme
- Hold a Baptism picnic in 2024

**Open the Book:**

- Encourage Bewdley Primary School to resume Open the Book
- Continue to recruit new participants, with training if necessary

**St. Anne's School:**

- Continue to organise events in church for the school to celebrate major festivals
- Host a leavers' event in church July 2024
- Continue to contribute articles regularly to the school's newsletter
- *Continue to invite a variety of groups, including 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 along with the wider community.

**Developing our engagement with the wider community**

- Encourage support for the Black Country Foodbank
- Engage with partner churches with the aim of reactivating Bewdley Christian Forum
- Work on actions needed to achieve Gold EcoChurch standard for St. Anne's

**St. Leonard's churchyard:**

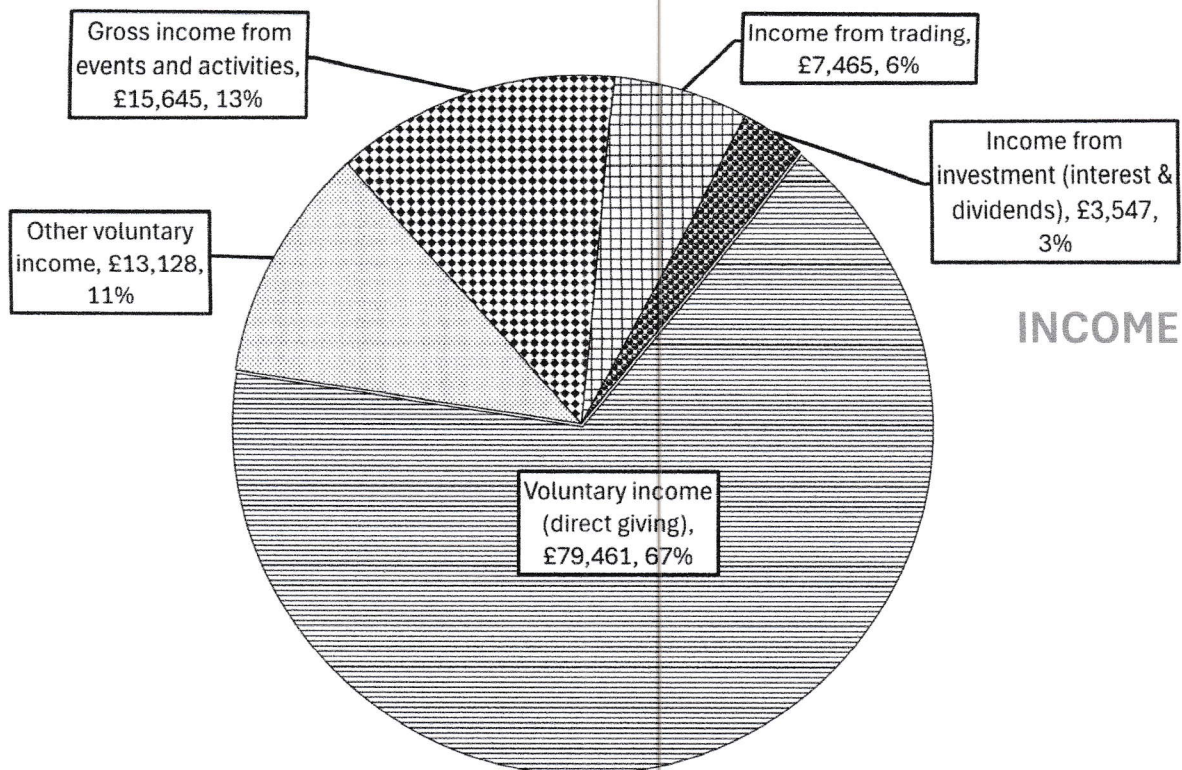
- Continue with the plan to improve biodiversity
- Install interpretation panels
- Develop our mission of outreach to visitors to the churchyard

**Financial Review**

Total income for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 was £119,262.

A break down is shown in the chart:

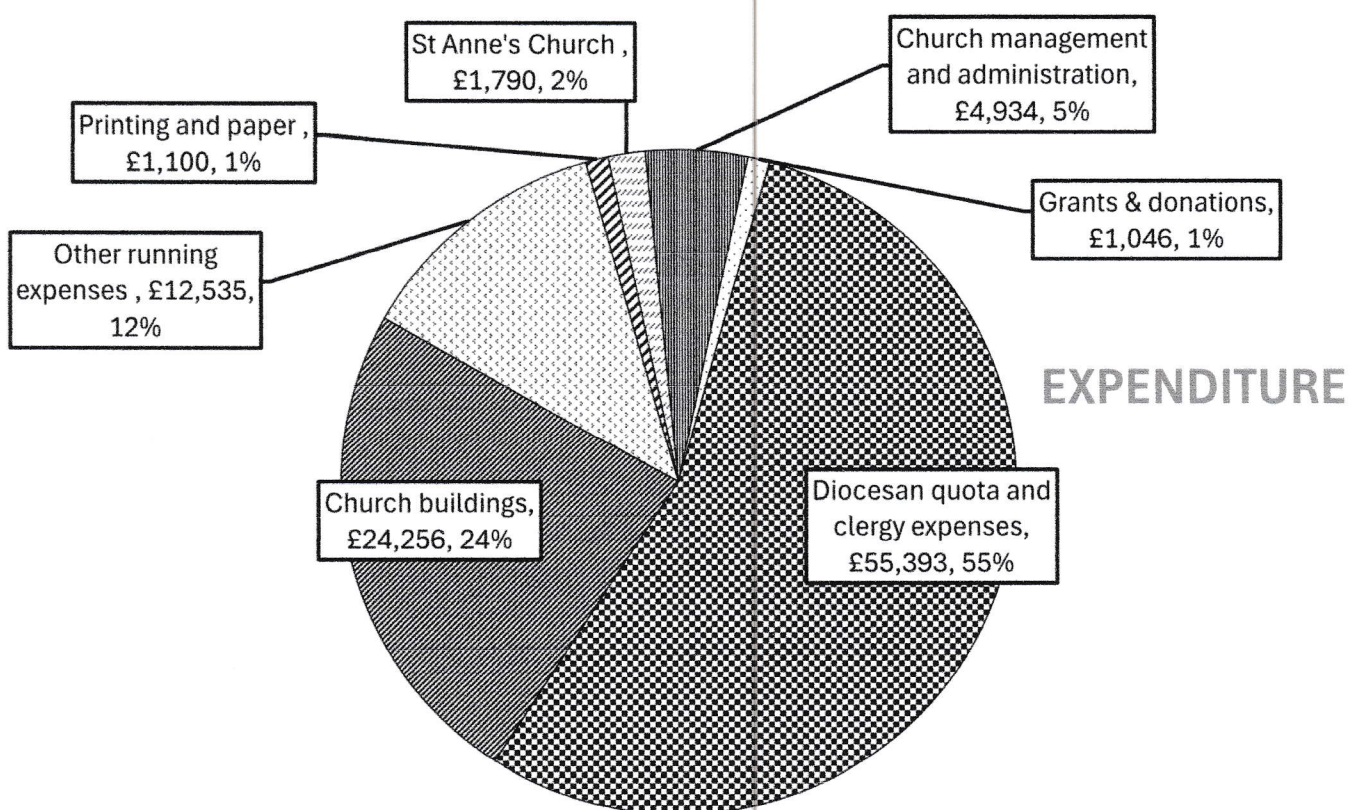




**Income notes:**

- Voluntary giving comes from grants, donations and appeals and legacies.
- Events and activities are from wedding and funeral fees and the Christmas Fair
- Income from trading is from the hire of the church and St Anne's centre sales and donations.

Expenditure for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 was £101,054.11. A breakdown is shown in the chart:





#### Expenditure notes:

- Grants and donations were to church charities, foodbank and Ukraine donations.
- Church building expenses are utilities bill and insurance (£10,5200), repairs and maintenance (£12,551) and cleaning (£510).
- Other running expenses are the wedding and funeral fees, costs of events (Good Friday in Jubilee Gardens) and organists, music etc.
- St Anne's expenses are for the telephone and equipment such as the narthex heaters.

For 2023 the surplus is £18,207.89 which is an improvement on last year's figure of £280.88, although it should be noted that 2023 income included £11,100 of one-off donations and grants giving an actual surplus of £7,109.89.

#### Endowment Funds

A number of investment funds are listed in the notes section of the accounts. A decision was taken in March 2024 to wind up those funds with a value of under £25,000 with capital released for the benefit of the Parish. Investment funds with a value of over £25,000 will remain with the interest being paid quarterly.

I would like to thank Britta Flegg for the bookkeeping and support. **Ken Hadley Treasurer**

#### **Reserves Policy**

It has been the practice of the PCC to hold any surplus funds in a deposit account. During 2023, at least £15,000 of these funds were held in reserve. At the end of 2023, this reserve remained intact.

#### **Volunteers**

The PCC would like to thank the many volunteers who work to promote the mission of the church in the parish. References have been made throughout this report to this work. Particular thanks are owed to Worship Leaders and Churchwardens 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. The PCC and incumbent accepts that it is a joint responsibility. Safeguarding & Safer recruitment is a standing agenda item at each PCC.

In September 2023 the PCC fully accepted and implemented the Policy Statements of the Church of England – Promoting a Safer Church, as the policy statement for this Parish and commended The Parish Safeguarding Handbook for use within the Parish. Signed copies of the policies are displayed in the St Anne's Narthex, St Anne's Tower and St Leonard's. A signed copy of the Policy in Respect of DBS Disclosures was sent to the Diocesan DBS Administrator.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO Britta Flegg) has ensured that all DBS certificates are up to date. At the end of 2023, no DBS were more than three years old. Sixteen DBS checks were carried out during 2023. There is a total of thirty five volunteers requiring a DBS; DBS checks for clergy and LLMs are carried out by the Diocese.



The PSO has encouraged all volunteers to complete and renew the required safeguarding training. During 2023, two volunteers completed the Leadership course and six volunteers have done the Foundation course. The church wardens are no longer required to complete the Leadership course but need to repeat the Foundation course every three years.

The PSO regularly attends the PSO network meetings and through that and through mailings from the Diocesan team is being kept up to date any changes to policies. The two PSOs in the benefice also work together to ensure there is a consistency across the benefice.

The Parish Dashboard is the tool used by the parishes and diocese to monitor compliance with Safeguarding policies. 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. Church activities listed on the Dashboard are Pastoral Visiting, Open the Book and Sunday Gang. Role descriptions are kept up to date for volunteers for these activities. The Role description for Coffee shop volunteers has been updated, and a meeting held at the beginning of 2023 with the volunteers where the PSO highlighted where information is available re Safeguarding, should the need arise.

During 2023 no new volunteers were recruited for roles with significant contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults.

The Diocesan Website is a good source of safeguarding information: <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk>. The Parish Safeguarding Handbook is also a valuable resource, which can be downloaded from the website.

## **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 2023: January, March, May, July, September and November and for a short meeting after May's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

During the year all PCC business was conducted under the aegis of the Area Dean and Archdeacon. At the end of the PCC's year in May 2024, the Parish continues to be in vacancy until Rev'd Melissa Beynon is licensed as Rector on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024.

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.



Diana Sutherland (until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023), Richard Rundell (from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023) and Caroline Hall are 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 have a programme of twice termly activities in school. Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility in taking the lead in upholding and promoting the deeply Christian character of a Church school. A key responsibility is to regularly monitor and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the school's Christian vision, values and ethos on the life and work of the school community. The PCC is grateful to the lay Foundation Governors for their commitment to meeting these obligations, during the Rector's absence and the vacancy.

Six members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod, four elected for a three year period at the APCM and two who also sit on the Diocesan Synod. 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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

#### **1<sup>st</sup> January to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

*Vice Chair:* Caroline Hall

*Treasurer:* Ken Hadley

*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

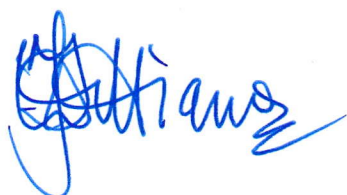
*Deanery Synod:* Ann Capell, Susan Price,  
Yvonne Rundell, Gill Warnett

*Diocesan Synod:* Janet Adey,  
Robert Barbour

#### **Elected Lay members:**

Alan Fairs, Paul Gibbins,  
Ken Hadley, Caroline Hall,  
Trevor Hockin, Richard Perrin,  
Joyce Redstall, Richard Rundell,  
Diana Sutherland, Angela Williams

*As approved at APCM 25/5/2024.*



#### **24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

*Vice Chair:* Richard Rundell

*Treasurer:* Ken Hadley

*Secretary:* Gill Warnett

#### **Ex officio:**

*Incumbent:* Rev. Megan Gibbins  
(until 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023)

*Licensed Lay Minister:* Barbara Fauset

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

*Assistant Warden:* Betty Nicholas

*Deanery Synod:* Ann Capell, Susan Price,  
Yvonne Rundell, Gill Warnett,

*Diocesan Synod:* Janet Adey,  
Robert Barbour,

#### **Elected Lay members:**

Alan Fairs, Ken Hadley, Trevor Hockin,  
Richard Perrin, Richard Rundell,  
Angela Williams

**Co-opted Lay members:** Heather Fairs  
(from 24<sup>th</sup> May), Caroline Hall (from 8<sup>th</sup>  
December 2023)



**RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND**  
**DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**



**Report to the trustees/  
members of****RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PCC****On accounts for the year  
ended****31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023****Charity no  
(if any)****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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

**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:****15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024****Name:****DAVID CHARLTON****Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):****FCCA****Address:****DRUMBANNON, 121A WYRE HILL, BEWDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE  
DY12 2UQ**



**RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

		General Fund Note (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £	2022
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Voluntary income (direct giving)	2a	79,326.00	135.00		79,461.00	80,309.97
Other voluntary income & grants	2b	10,661.80	2,466.20		13,128.00	10,775.19
Gross income from events and activities	2c	15,645.00			15,645.00	15,678.12
Other ordinary income	2d	16.00			16.00	29.40
Income from trading	2e	7,465.00			7,465.00	4,884.49
Income from investment	2f	783.00		2,764.00	3,547.00	2,854.90
<b>(a) TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>113,896.80</b>	<b>2,601.20</b>	<b>2,764.00</b>	<b>119,262.00</b>	<b>114,532.07</b>
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>						
Grants and donations	3a	1,046.00			1,046.00	3,039.25
Directly relating to work of the Church	3c	81,848.06	13,226.00		95,074.06	109,781.67
Church management & administration	3d	3,914.00	1,020.05		4,934.05	3,372.78
Projects	3e	0.00			0.00	0.00
<b>(b) TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>		<b>86,808.06</b>	<b>14,246.05</b>		<b>101,054.11</b>	<b>116,193.70</b>
<b>NET INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS (a) - (b)</b>						
<b>(c) TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</b>						
NET INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES (a) - (b) + (c)		27,088.74	(11,644.85)	2,764.00	18,207.89	(1,661.63)
<b>GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS</b>						
- realised					0.00	0.00
- unrealised				12,260.00	12,260.00	(15,817.07)
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>27,088.74</b>	<b>(11,644.85)</b>	<b>15,024.00</b>	<b>30,467.89</b>	<b>(17,478.70)</b>
<b>Balance b/f at 1st January 2023</b>		<b>373,049.31</b>	<b>(295,820.88)</b>	<b>109,549.25</b>	<b>186,777.68</b>	<b>204,256.38</b>
<b>Balance c/f at 31st December 2023</b>		<b>400,138.05</b>	<b>(307,465.73)</b>	<b>124,573.25</b>	<b>217,245.57</b>	<b>186,777.68</b>



RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds						Endowment Funds
		Beilringer	St.Andrew	St.Leonar	Churchya	St.Anne's Fabric	Collections for charity	
<b>2(a) Voluntary income (direct giving)</b>								
Planned giving including Tax Refunds:	76399.00							
Collections at services/Boxes/Foodbank	2927.00							
Subscriptions		135.00						
	<b>79326.00</b>	<b>135.00</b>						
<b>2(b) Other voluntary income</b>								
Grants					20.00			
Grants-Warm spaces	2200.00							
Donations and appeals	314.80	1057.00			866.2		523.00	
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme	647.00							
Legacies	7500.00							
	<b>10661.80</b>	<b>1057.00</b>			<b>886.20</b>		<b>523.00</b>	
<b>2(c) Gross income from events and activities</b>								
Fees for weddings and funerals	15274.00							
Other events	218.00							
Printing & photocopying	153.00							
	<b>15645.00</b>							
<b>2(d) Other ordinary income</b>								
Other income	16.00							
	<b>16.00</b>							
<b>2(e) Income from trading</b>								
Hire of St.Anne's & St.Andrew's	5360.00							
St.Anne's Centre, sales & donations	2105.00							
	<b>7465.00</b>			<b>0.00</b>				
<b>2(f) Income from investment (interest &amp; dividends)</b>								
C.B.F. Deposit Accounts	227.00							
Bank Accounts	556.00							
Harris Bequest Fund								2697.00
Seabright Bread Trust								
Dowles Parish Fund								67.00
	<b>783.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>2764.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>113896.80</b>	<b>1192.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>886.20</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>523.00</b>	<b>2764.00</b>



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 Fabric	2023	2022
						Collections for charity		
<b>2(a) Grants &amp; donations</b>								
Charitable payments to:								
Church Overseas Relief Agencies	0.00						0.00	50.00
Ukraine appeal	0.00						0.00	804.00
Church Charities	100.00						100.00	175.00
Gilex	119.00						110.00	
Social charities	827.00						827.00	2,010.25
	<b>1,046.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>					<b>1,046.00</b>	<b>3,039.25</b>
<b>3(b) Support costs</b>								
Education & training	0.00						0.00	0.00
Courses, retreats & outings	0.00						0.00	0.00
	<b>0.00</b>						<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>3(c) Directly relating to the work of the Church</b>								
Ministry: Diocesan quota	55,132.00						55,132.00	55,000.00
Clergy expenses	261.00						261.00	735.15
	<b>55,393.00</b>						<b>55,393.00</b>	<b>55,735.15</b>
Church buildings:								
Utilities	4,578.00						4,578.00	8,005.55
Insurance	5,042.00						5,042.00	5,005.47
Cleaning	510.00						510.00	1,229.25
Sound & Vision Equipment				675.00				
Maintenance paid from Covid Grant	0.00						0.00	4,654.83
Repairs & Maintenance				3,916.00	5,094.00	3,541.00	12,551.00	9,712.00
Refurbishment project	0.00						0.00	4,369.20
	<b>11,030.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,591.00</b>	<b>5,094.00</b>	<b>3,541.00</b>	<b>24,256.00</b>	<b>34,056.39</b>
Other running expenses:								
Wedding/funeral fees	3,116.05						3,116.05	3,061.62
Wedding/funeral fees assigned to Diocese	5,098.00						5,098.00	5,279.66
Cost of other events, activities & sales	131.00						131.00	5,275.28
Sonifex: organists, music & other	4,190.00						4,190.00	3,671.34
	<b>12,535.05</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12,535.05</b>	<b>17,487.82</b>
Printing: Paper & printing consumables	173.00						173.00	240.48
Photocopying charges	927.00						927.00	975.47
	<b>1,100.00</b>						<b>1,100.00</b>	<b>1,219.95</b>
St Anne's Church Centre:								
Telephone	1,037.00						1,037.00	650.39
Equipment & Fillings < £1000	518.00						518.00	621.97
Cards and other purchased items	235.00						235.00	0.00
	<b>1,790.00</b>						<b>1,790.00</b>	<b>1,272.36</b>
<b>Total costs relating to work of the church</b>	<b>81,848.05</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,591.00</b>	<b>5,094.00</b>	<b>95,074.05</b>	<b>109,781.67</b>
<b>3(d) Church management and administration</b>								
Planned giving envelopes & expenses							0.00	65.21
Licences, fees, bank charges, admin, sponsorship, miscellaneous	3,519.00	1,020.05					4,539.05	3,707.57
Traveling expenses & other clergy fees	395.00						395.00	0.00
	<b>3,914.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,020.05</b>				<b>4,934.05</b>	<b>3,772.78</b>
<b>3(e) Projects</b>								
Sunday Gang							0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>85,000.06</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,020.05</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,591.00</b>	<b>5,094.00</b>	<b>101,054.11</b>	<b>116,183.70</b>



**RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES**

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Inventory assets	4	3540.00	3540.00
Investments	5	105999.62	97066.76
		<u>109539.62</u>	<u>100606.76</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	6	4676.00	
CBF Deposit Funds		33839.31	30511.89
Cash at Bank & In Hand		74881.90	61148.69
		<u>113397.21</u>	<u>91660.58</u>
<b>LIABILITIES: amounts falling due within one year</b>	7	5691.26	5489.66
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>107705.95</u>	<u>86170.92</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>217245.57</u>	<u>186777.68</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted		107915.35	86051.18
Restricted:			
Bellringers		2256.95	2586.09
St.Andrew's		212.99	212.99
St.Leonard's		145.52	145.52
Churchyards		715.14	715.14
Endowment Funds		105999.62	97066.76
		<u>217245.57</u>	<u>186777.68</u>



RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

DETAILED ASSETS & LIABILITIES

	St.Anne's & St.Leonard's General Fund	Restricted Funds Bellringers	St.Andrew's	St.Leonard's	Churchyards	St.Anne's Fabric	Collection Funds for charity	Endowment
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>								
Inventory assets (safe)	3,540.00							
Investments								
<i>CBF Investment Fund</i>								101,090.90
<i>CBF Deposit Fund</i>								1,387.92
<i>Charinco Investment Units</i>								3,520.80
	3,540.00							105,999.62
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>								
Debtors	4,676.00							
CBF Deposit Accounts	3,374.36							
CBF Acc Investment Fund	28,546.18							
CBF Acc Fixed Interest Fund	1,918.77							
Current Bank Accounts	26,694.38	875.68						
Deposit Bank Accounts	44,856.92	1381.27	212.99	145.52	715.14			
	110,066.61	2,256.95	212.99	145.52	715.14			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>								
Parish Fees	5,098.20							
Other creditors	593.06							
	5,691.26							
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	107,915.35	2,256.95	212.99	145.52	715.14	0.00	0.00	105,999.62



RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

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 2023	13547.17	26170.59
	As at 31st December 2023	<u>13547.17</u>	<u>26170.59</u>
Depreciation	As at 1st Jan 2023	10007.17	26170.59
	As at 31st December 2023	<u>10007.17</u>	<u>26170.59</u>
Net Book Value	At 31st December 2023	<u>3540.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

5. INVESTMENTS

Endowment	Custodian	Purpose of endowment	Invested in	Units	Mkt Value 31.12.23	Mkt Value 31.12.22	Gain in Value, £
Harris bequest	WDBF	Church maintenance	CBF Investment Fund	4013	90715.07	82914.20	7800.87
	WDBF	Upkeep Ribblesford Church	CBF Investment Fund	251	5673.93	5186.01	487.92
	WDBF	Sunday school teaching	CBF Investment Fund	100	2260.53	2066.14	194.39
Dowles Parish Fund	WDBF	Charitable work in the parish	CBF Investment Fund	108	2441.37	2231.43	209.94
					<u>101090.90</u>	<u>92397.78</u>	<u>8693.12</u>
Dowles Parish	WDBF	General Church Purposes	CBF Deposit Account		1283.92	1243.95	39.97
Dowles Parish	WDBF	General Church Purposes	CBF Deposit Account		104.00	104.00	0.00
					<u>1387.92</u>	<u>1347.95</u>	<u>39.97</u>
Dowles Parish (Black Rock)	WDBF	Furthering religious and charitable work in the parish	Charinco Investment Fund	76.08	3520.8	3321.03	199.77
					<u>3520.8</u>	<u>3321.03</u>	<u>199.77</u>
				TOTAL	<u>105999.62</u>	<u>97066.76</u>	

6. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
Funeral, memorial fees & collections	4676.00	0.00

7. CREDITORS Due in less than 1 year

	2023	2022
Fees assigned to diocese	5098.20	5279.66
Other creditors	593.06	210.00
	<u>5691.26</u>	<u>5489.66</u>

*G. Pittman*  
22/5/24

Area Dean.

**RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND**  
**DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**



**Report to the trustees/  
members of****RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PCC****On accounts for the year  
ended****31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023****Charity no  
(if any)****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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

**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:****15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024****Name:****DAVID CHARLTON****Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):****FCCA****Address:****DRUMBANNON, 121A WYRE HILL, BEWDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE  
DY12 2UQ**

**RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

		General Fund Note (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £	2022
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Voluntary income (direct giving)	2a	79,326.00	135.00		79,461.00	80,309.97
Other voluntary income & grants	2b	10,661.80	2,466.20		13,128.00	10,775.19
Gross income from events and activities	2c	15,645.00			15,645.00	15,678.12
Other ordinary income	2d	16.00			16.00	29.40
Income from trading	2e	7,465.00			7,465.00	4,884.49
Income from investment	2f	783.00		2,764.00	3,547.00	2,854.90
<b>(a) TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>113,896.80</b>	<b>2,601.20</b>	<b>2,764.00</b>	<b>119,262.00</b>	<b>114,532.07</b>
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>						
Grants and donations	3a	1,046.00			1,046.00	3,039.25
Directly relating to work of the Church	3c	81,848.06	13,226.00		95,074.06	109,781.67
Church management & administration	3d	3,914.00	1,020.05		4,934.05	3,372.78
Projects	3e	0.00			0.00	0.00
<b>(b) TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>		<b>86,808.06</b>	<b>14,246.05</b>		<b>101,054.11</b>	<b>116,193.70</b>
<b>NET INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS (a) - (b)</b>						
<b>(c) TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</b>						
NET INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES (a) - (b) + (c)		27,088.74	(11,644.85)	2,764.00	18,207.89	(1,661.63)
<b>GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS</b>						
- realised					0.00	0.00
- unrealised				12,260.00	12,260.00	(15,817.07)
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>27,088.74</b>	<b>(11,644.85)</b>	<b>15,024.00</b>	<b>30,467.89</b>	<b>(17,478.70)</b>
<b>Balance b/f at 1st January 2023</b>		<b>373,049.31</b>	<b>(295,820.88)</b>	<b>109,549.25</b>	<b>186,777.68</b>	<b>204,256.38</b>
<b>Balance c/f at 31st December 2023</b>		<b>400,138.05</b>	<b>(307,465.73)</b>	<b>124,573.25</b>	<b>217,245.57</b>	<b>186,777.68</b>



RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds						Endowment Funds
		Beilringer	St.Andrew	St.Leonar	Churchya	St.Anne's Fabric	Collections for charity	
<b>2(a) Voluntary income (direct giving)</b>								
Planned giving including Tax Refunds:	76399.00							
Collections at services/Boxes/Foodbank	2927.00							
Subscriptions		135.00						
	<b>79326.00</b>	<b>135.00</b>						
<b>2(b) Other voluntary income</b>								
Grants					20.00			
Grants-Warm spaces	2200.00							
Donations and appeals	314.80	1057.00			866.2		523.00	
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme	647.00							
Legacies	7500.00							
	<b>10661.80</b>	<b>1057.00</b>			<b>886.20</b>		<b>523.00</b>	
<b>2(c) Gross income from events and activities</b>								
Fees for weddings and funerals	15274.00							
Other events	218.00							
Printing & photocopying	153.00							
	<b>15645.00</b>							
<b>2(d) Other ordinary income</b>								
Other income	16.00							
	<b>16.00</b>							
<b>2(e) Income from trading</b>								
Hire of St.Anne's & St.Andrew's	5360.00							
St.Anne's Centre, sales & donations	2105.00							
	<b>7465.00</b>			<b>0.00</b>				
<b>2(f) Income from investment (interest &amp; dividends)</b>								
C.B.F. Deposit Accounts	227.00							
Bank Accounts	556.00							
Harris Bequest Fund								2697.00
Seabright Bread Trust								
Dowles Parish Fund								67.00
	<b>783.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>2764.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>113896.80</b>	<b>1192.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>886.20</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>523.00</b>	<b>2764.00</b>

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 Fabric	2023	2022
						Collections for charity		
<b>2(a) Grants &amp; donations</b>								
Charitable payments to:								
Church Overseas Relief Agencies	0.00						0.00	50.00
Ukraine appeal	0.00						0.00	804.00
Church Charities	100.00						100.00	175.00
Gilex	119.00						110.00	
Social charities	827.00						827.00	2,010.25
	<b>1,046.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>					<b>1,046.00</b>	<b>3,039.25</b>
<b>3(b) Support costs</b>								
Education & training	0.00						0.00	0.00
Courses, retreats & outings	0.00						0.00	0.00
	<b>0.00</b>						<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>3(c) Directly relating to the work of the Church</b>								
Ministry: Diocesan quota	55,132.00						55,132.00	55,000.00
Clergy expenses	261.00						261.00	735.15
	<b>55,393.00</b>						<b>55,393.00</b>	<b>55,735.15</b>
Church buildings:								
Utilities	4,578.00						4,578.00	8,005.55
Insurance	5,042.00						5,042.00	5,005.47
Cleaning	510.00						510.00	1,229.25
Sound & Vision Equipment				675.00				
Maintenance paid from Covid Grant	0.00						0.00	4,654.83
Repairs & Maintenance				3,916.00	5,094.00	3,541.00	12,551.00	9,712.00
Refurbishment project	0.00						0.00	4,369.20
	<b>11,030.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,591.00</b>	<b>5,094.00</b>	<b>3,541.00</b>	<b>24,256.00</b>	<b>34,056.39</b>
Other running expenses:								
Wedding/funeral fees	3,116.05						3,116.05	3,061.62
Wedding/funeral fees assigned to Diocese	5,098.00						5,098.00	5,279.66
Cost of other events, activities & sales	131.00						131.00	5,275.28
Sonifex: organists, music & other	4,190.00						4,190.00	3,671.34
	<b>12,535.05</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>			<b>12,535.05</b>	<b>17,487.82</b>
Printing: Paper & printing consumables	173.00						173.00	240.48
Photocopying charges	927.00						927.00	975.47
	<b>1,100.00</b>						<b>1,100.00</b>	<b>1,219.95</b>
St Anne's Church Centre:								
Telephone	1,037.00						1,037.00	650.39
Equipment & Fillings < £1000	518.00						518.00	621.97
Cards and other purchased items	235.00						235.00	0.00
	<b>1,790.00</b>						<b>1,790.00</b>	<b>1,272.36</b>
<b>Total costs relating to work of the church</b>	<b>81,848.05</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,591.00</b>	<b>5,094.00</b>	<b>95,074.05</b>	<b>109,781.67</b>
<b>3(d) Church management and administration</b>								
Planned giving envelopes & expenses							0.00	65.21
Licences, fees, bank charges, admin, sponsorship, miscellaneous	3,519.00		1,020.05				4,539.05	3,707.57
Traveling expenses & other clergy fees	395.00						395.00	0.00
	<b>3,914.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,020.05</b>				<b>4,934.05</b>	<b>3,772.78</b>
<b>3(e) Projects</b>								
Sunday Gang							0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>85,000.06</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,020.05</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,591.00</b>	<b>5,094.00</b>	<b>101,054.11</b>	<b>116,183.70</b>



**RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES**

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Inventory assets	4	3540.00	3540.00
Investments	5	105999.62	97066.76
		<u>109539.62</u>	<u>100606.76</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	6	4676.00	
CBF Deposit Funds		33839.31	30511.89
Cash at Bank & In Hand		74881.90	61148.69
		<u>113397.21</u>	<u>91660.58</u>
<b>LIABILITIES: amounts falling due within one year</b>	7	5691.26	5489.66
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>107705.95</u>	<u>86170.92</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>217245.57</u>	<u>186777.68</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted		107915.35	86051.18
Restricted:			
Bellringers		2256.95	2586.09
St.Andrew's		212.99	212.99
St.Leonard's		145.52	145.52
Churchyards		715.14	715.14
Endowment Funds		105999.62	97066.76
		<u>217245.57</u>	<u>186777.68</u>

RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

DETAILED ASSETS & LIABILITIES

	St.Anne's & St.Leonard's General Fund	Restricted Funds Bellringers	St.Andrew's	St.Leonard's	Churchyards	St.Anne's Fabric	Collection Funds for charity	Endowment
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>								
Inventory assets (safe)	3,540.00							
Investments								
<i>CBF Investment Fund</i>								101,090.90
<i>CBF Deposit Fund</i>								1,387.92
<i>Charinco Investment Units</i>								3,520.80
	3,540.00							105,999.62
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>								
Debtors	4,676.00							
CBF Deposit Accounts	3,374.36							
CBF Acc Investment Fund	28,546.18							
CBF Acc Fixed Interest Fund	1,918.77							
Current Bank Accounts	26,694.38	875.68						
Deposit Bank Accounts	44,856.92	1381.27	212.99	145.52	715.14			
	110,066.61	2,256.95	212.99	145.52	715.14			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>								
Parish Fees	5,098.20							
Other creditors	593.06							
	5,691.26							
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	107,915.35	2,256.95	212.99	145.52	715.14	0.00	0.00	105,999.62



RIBBESFORD WITH BEWDLEY AND DOWLES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

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 2023	13547.17	26170.59
	As at 31st December 2023	<u>13547.17</u>	<u>26170.59</u>
Depreciation	As at 1st Jan 2023	10007.17	26170.59
	As at 31st December 2023	<u>10007.17</u>	<u>26170.59</u>
Net Book Value	At 31st December 2023	<u>3540.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

5. INVESTMENTS

Endowment	Custodian Trustees	Purpose of endowment	Invested in	Units	Mkt Value 31.12.23	Mkt Value 31.12.22	Gain in Value, £
Harris bequest	WDBF	Church maintenance	CBF Investment Fund	4013	90715.07	82914.20	7800.87
	WDBF	Upkeep Ribblesford Church	CBF Investment Fund	251	5673.93	5186.01	487.92
	WDBF	Sunday school teaching	CBF Investment Fund	100	2260.53	2066.14	194.39
Dowles Parish Fund	WDBF	Charitable work in the parish	CBF Investment Fund	108	2441.37	2231.43	209.94
					<u>101090.90</u>	<u>92397.78</u>	<u>8693.12</u>
Dowles Parish	WDBF	General Church Purposes	CBF Deposit Account		1283.92	1243.95	39.97
Dowles Parish	WDBF	General Church Purposes	CBF Deposit Account		104.00	104.00	0.00
					<u>1387.92</u>	<u>1347.95</u>	<u>39.97</u>
Dowles Parish (Black Rock)	WDBF	Furthering religious and charitable work in the parish	Charinco Investment Fund	76.08	3520.8	3321.03	199.77
					<u>3520.8</u>	<u>3321.03</u>	<u>199.77</u>
				TOTAL	<u>105999.62</u>	<u>97066.76</u>	

6. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
Funeral, memorial fees & collections	4676.00	0.00

7. CREDITORS Due in less than 1 year

	2023	2022
Fees assigned to diocese	5098.20	5279.66
Other creditors	593.06	210.00
	<u>5691.26</u>	<u>5489.66</u>

*G. Pittman*  
22/5/24

Area Dean.