THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

England & Wales · Charity number 1133346

Details

Other names	ST OSWALD'S PCC, OSWESTRY
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-12-18
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Oswalds Parish Church Church Street Oswestry Shropshire SY11 2SY
Phone	01691652861
Email	stoswald.office@gmail.com
Website	www.oswestryparishchurch.org

Activities

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

Activities: The Parish Church of St Oswald, King & Martyr as part of the Diocese of Lichfield follows the Bishop's Three Primary Tasks of Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism and we are committed to developing discipleship, encouraging vocation and inspiring evangelism.

Classification

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

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Shropshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£176,572	£168,997	-	-
2023-12-31	£244,599	£166,506	-	-
2022-12-31	£164,301	£150,094	-	-
2021-12-31	£164,417	£161,534	-	-
2020-12-31	£172,979	£130,717	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Harvey Lloyd Gibbons	Chair	2018-04-29
Anne Pilsbury		2024-05-20
Carron Boulton		2020-10-18
ELIZABETH JUNE WILLIAMS		
Fiona Margaret Pearson		2019-04-30
Fiona Pearson		2024-05-20
Jenifer Chippett-Williams		2023-05-20
John Abram		2023-05-20
Johnathan Abbatt		2024-05-20
Judi Neale		2025-05-20
Lindsay Clarke		2023-05-20
MICHAEL WILLIAM DONKIN		
MR PAUL EVISON		
Muriel Edith Jones		2019-04-30
PAUL RUSSELL CROSBY		
Richard Major		2024-05-20
Sigourney Merrony-Potton		2024-05-20

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND M

England & Wales - Charity number 1133346

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1133346

Report of the Parochial Church Council and Unaudited Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31st December 2024 for

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

R Harvey-Robson F.C.C.A.
Adenhurst
Abbey Road
Llangollen
LL20 8SS

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

The Parochial Church Council present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024. The Parochial Church Council have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in 2015.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number
1133346

Principal address
The Parish Church of St Oswald, King and Martyr
Church Street
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 2SY

Parochial Church Council

Rev H Gibbons (Chairman)	
Mr D P Evison	
Miss E J Williams	
Mr P R Crosby	
Mr M W Donkin	
Mrs L Clarke	
Mr A Neale	
Mrs J Chesworth	
Mrs M Jones	
Mrs F Pearson	
Ms C Boulton	
Mrs MC Crosby	
Mr J Abram	
Mr J Abbatt	
Rev Yin-An Chen	Resigned 31st October 2024
Rev J Castillo-Burley	
Mrs J Chippet-Williams	
Ms R Evans	Retired 20th May 2024
Mr R Major	
Ms S Wright	
Mr D Smith	Appointed 20th May 2024
Ms S Best	Appointed 20th May 2024
Ms S Merrony-Potton	Appointed 20th May 2024
Ms A Pilsbury	Appointed 20th May 2024
Mrs S Hart	Appointed 20th May 2024
Ms C Fraser	Appointed 20th May 2024
Mrs A Earl Sadiq	Appointed 20th May 2024

Independent Examiner
R. Harvey-Robson F.C.C.A.
Adenhurst
Abbey Road
Llangollen
LL20 8SS

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Parochial Church Council powers measure (1956) as amended and church representation rules.

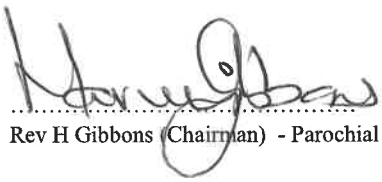
Risk management

The Parochial Church Council have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Safeguarding

The Parochial Church Council has adopted the Diocesan and Church of England policies in this regard.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



.....

Rev H Gibbons (Chairman) - Parochial Church Council member

17th March 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE P.C.C. OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

This report on the financial statements of the P.C.C. for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 4 to 15 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE P.C.C. AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The members of the P.C.C are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
   - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



R Harvey-Robson F.C.C.A.
Adenhurst
Abbey Road
Llangollen
LL20 8SS

17th March 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £ *
Incoming Resources					
Donations and Legacies	2a	115,180	973	116,153	183,433
Charitable Activities	2b	18,481	7,372	25,853	26,933
Other Trading Activities	2c	12,028	-	12,028	12,943
Investments	2d	22,538	-	22,538	21,290
Total		168,227	8,345	176,572	244,599
Resources Expended					
Raising Funds	3a	-	6,629	6,629	8,800
Charitable Activities	3b	159,256	3,112	162,368	157,706
Total		159,256	9,741	168,997	166,506
Net gain/(losses) on investment		11,647	-	11,647	10,622
Depreciation on fixed assets, charity's own use		(4,582)	-	(4,582)	(4,582)
Net Income/(Expenditure)		16,036	(1,396)	14,640	84,133
Transfer between funds		(2,293)	2,293	-	-
Net movement in funds		13,743	897	14,640	84,133
Total funds brought forward (1st Jan)		761,797	69,357	831,154	747,021
Total funds carried forward (31st Dec)		775,540	70,254	845,794	831,154

* See note 10 for full comparatives

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Balance Sheet
At 31st December 2024

	Notes	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	5a	13,745	18,327
Investment Assets	5b	678,604	666,957
		692,349	685,284
Current Assets			
Bank current accounts		-	-
Bank deposit accounts		126,832	123,402
CBF deposit fund		32,419	25,983
Cash		199	117
Stocks		511	125
Debtors		16,119	10,358
		176,080	159,985
Liabilities due in one year			
Bank current accounts		(4,898)	(1,239)
Creditors	6	(17,737)	(12,876)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		153,445	145,870
TOTAL NET ASSETS		845,794	831,154
Parish Funds	8		
Unrestricted funds		775,540	761,797
Restricted funds		70,254	69,357
TOTAL FUNDS		845,794	831,154

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17th March 2025 and were signed on it's behalf by:

.....
Rev H Gibbons (Chairman) - Parochial Church Council member

.....
D P Evison FCA - Chairman of Finance Committee and Treasurer

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

1 **Accounting Policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP) and applicable accounting standard FRS102.

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

Cash Flow Statement

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that the income does not exceed £500,000.

Description of Funds

Restricted funds comprise of two elements:-

a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest

b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and Benefice Property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10 (2) (a) & (C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

Depreciation is charged as follows;

Sound System - 20% Straight Line Basis.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value on 31st December.

Investment property

Investment property is shown at the most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in the market value is transferred to a revaluation reserve.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
2a	**Donations and Legacies** *Voluntary Income/Receipts*				
1	Tax efficient planned giving	55,960	-	55,960	56,217
	Other planned giving	7,504	-	7,504	5,420
2	Collections at services	13,907	-	13,907	14,511
3	All other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals	16,836	973	17,809	13,821
	Gift Aid Recovered	17,429	-	17,429	18,017
	Legacies received	3,544	-	3,544	75,447
		115,180	973	116,153	183,433

1) Analysis of Tax efficient planned giving

	£
Bank Donations	35,880
Regular Envelopes	20,080
	55,960

2) Analysis of Collections at services

	£
White Envelopes	3,746
Loose plate collections	8,120
Collections - Baptisms	845
Collections - Home Communions	231
Collections - Weddings	-
Collections - Special	965
	13,907

3) Analysis of all other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals

	£
Donations - Church	4,180
Donations - Charities	800
Donations - Organ Fund - Restricted	68
Donations - Organ Fund - Unrestricted	1,492
Donations - Flower Fund	195
Wall safes	4,313
Donations - Funerals	3,073
Donations - Place of Welcome	338
Donations - Bell Training - Restricted	905
Donations - Under 5's	280
Donations - Anniversary Events	2,165
	17,809

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS CONTINUED:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
2b Charitable Activities				
Church Activities				
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)	11,693	400	12,093	12,921
Summer Fete	-	-	-	-
Fundraising Activities	6,788	6,972	13,760	14,012
	18,481	7,372	25,853	26,933
2c Other Trading Activities				
Activities for Generating Funds				
Church Hall Hire	246	-	246	336
Church Lettings	2,170	-	2,170	2,820
Lower Brook Street Rent	8,400	-	8,400	8,400
Lichfield Diocesan - Decorator's Scheme	-	-	-	-
Parish Magazine & Bookstall	1,212	-	1,212	1,387
	12,028	-	12,028	12,943
2d Investments				
Dividends	19,407	-	19,407	19,288
Bank Interest	3,131	-	3,131	2,002
	22,538	-	22,538	21,290
TOTAL	168,227	8,345	176,572	244,599

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

EXPENDITURE ON:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
3a Raising Funds				
Costs of Generating Income				
Fetes & Fundraising	-	6,629	6,629	8,800
	-	6,629	6,629	8,800
3b Charitable Activities				
Church Activities				
Mission giving and donations	6,125	-	6,125	7,606
Diocesan Parish Share	46,672	-	46,672	45,757
Salaries/Wages	29,660	255	29,915	25,401
Clergy and Staff Expenses	12,001	-	12,001	7,591
Church Expenses				
Church running expenses	10,933	-	10,933	18,026
Church utility bills	24,447	-	24,447	20,114
Cost of trading	16,349	2,857	19,206	16,165
Major Capital Expenditure				
Major Repairs to the Church	9,295	-	9,295	13,493
Governance Costs	3,774	-	3,774	3,553
	159,256	3,112	162,368	157,706
TOTAL	159,256	9,741	168,997	166,506

4a STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries	29,915	25,401

During the year the PCC employed the following members of the PCC:

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Mr M Donkin	7,780	5,673
Ms C Boulton	6,880	6,552
	14,660	12,225

There were no other transactions made in respect of PCC Members, no PCC Member received benefit, or reimbursement of travelling or other expenses.

5a FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Buildings	Church Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
At Cost			
As at 1st January 2024	-	22,909	22,909
Additions in the Year	-	-	-
Disposals in the Year	-	-	-
Value at 31st December 2024	-	22,909	22,909
Accumulated Depreciation			
As at 1st January 2024	-	4,582	4,582
Charge for the Year	-	4,582	4,582
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31st December 2024	-	9,164	9,164
Net Book Value at 31st December 2024	-	13,745	13,745
Net Book Value at 31st December 2023	-	18,327	18,327

5b INVESTMENT ASSETS

	At 1.1.24	Additions	Disposals	Transfers	Change in Market Value	At 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
Investments	385,580	-	-	499	11,647	397,726
Investment Property - 14 Lower Brook Street	220,000	-	-	-	-	220,000
Restricted funds						
Investments	61,377	-	-	(499)	-	60,878
Total	666,957	-	-	-	11,647	678,604

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

The unlisted investments are made up of the following:

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Church of England Investment Fund	160,217	156,632
Church of England Fixed Interest Fund	26,153	25,386
M&G Charifund	188,735	183,940
Lichfield Diocesan Trust	83,500	81,000
	458,605	446,958

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
MARKET VALUE	
At 1st January 2024	220,000
Additional Expenditure	-
Change in Market Value	-
At 31st December 2024	220,000
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2024	220,000
At 31st December 2023	220,000

During 2011 the deeds at 14 Lower Brook Street were discovered to have been transferred into The PCC's name.
In light of this, the property has been brought into the accounts in 2011 at the then current market value of £160,000.00.

6 LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due in one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals of Utilities	2,083	2,363
Other Creditors	15,654	10,513
	17,737	12,876

7 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	General Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	13,745	-	13,745
Investments Assets	617,727	60,878	678,605
Current Assets	166,706	9,376	176,082
Current Liabilities	(22,635)	-	(22,635)
	775,543	70,254	845,797

STOCKS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stocks (Prayer Cards & Notelets etc)	511	125

DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments	1,482	1,430
Dividend Income	1,600	3,500
Gift Aid	8,063	4,336
Other debtors	4,974	1,092
	16,119	10,358

8 FUNDS RECONCILIATION

		Reserves at 1.1.24	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Investment Gain/Losses	Transfer between funds	Reserves at 31.12.24
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds							
General Fund		761,797	171,149	(162,178)	7,065	(2,293)	775,540
Restricted Funds							
Organ Fund	1	3,738	68	-	-	140	3,946
Flower Fund	2	1,109	-	-	-	41	1,150
Morris Fund	3	145	-	-	-	-	145
Wilfred Owen Fund	4	781	-	-	-	29	810
Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People in Need	5	567	-	-	-	-	567
For the Assistance of the Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund	6	9,640	-	-	-	360	10,000
Oswestry St Ann's Fund	7	12,898	-	-	-	482	13,380
Sunday School Fund	8	492	-	-	-	-	492
Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund	9	105	-	-	-	-	105
Boulton Trust Fund	10	16,013	-	-	-	598	16,611
Friends of Music / Choral Foundation	11	9	5,425	(4,733)	-	-	701
Bellringers	12	3,110	1,412	(1,069)	-	-	3,453
Bellringers - Bell Training	13	937	905	-	-	-	1,842
Ladies Group	14	1,713	535	(1,082)	-	-	1,166
Christmas Day Lunch	15	905	-	-	-	-	905
Morda School House Trust	16	17,195	-	(2,857)	-	643	14,981
		69,357	8,345	(9,741)	-	2,293	70,254
TOTAL FUNDS		831,154	179,494	(171,919)	7,065	-	845,794

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains and Losses £	Movement in Funds £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	171,149	(162,178)	7,065	16,036
Restricted Funds				
Organ Fund	68	-	-	68
Flower Fund	-	-	-	-
Morris Fund	-	-	-	-
Wilfred Owen Fund	-	-	-	-
Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People in Need	-	-	-	-
For the Assistance of the Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund	-	-	-	-
Oswestry St Ann's Fund	-	-	-	-
Sunday School Fund	-	-	-	-
Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund	-	-	-	-
Boulton Trust Fund	-	-	-	-
Friends of Music/Choral Foundation	5,425	(4,733)	-	692
Bellringers	1,412	(1,069)	-	343
Bellringers - Bell Training	905	-	-	905
Ladies Group	535	(1,082)	-	(547)
Morda School House Trust	-	(2,857)	-	(2,857)
	8,345	(9,741)	-	(1,396)
TOTAL NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	179,494	(171,919)	7,065	14,640

NOTES TO THE FUNDS
Restricted Funds

1) Organ Fund
This is used to maintain the organ in St Oswald's church.

2) Flower Fund
This fund is held to enable flowers to be purchased for the church throughout the year.

3) Morris Fund
This fund is used for the upkeep of a memorial.

4) Wilfred Owen Fund
This fund is held for the upkeep of the Wilfred Owen memorial.

5) Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People In Need
This fund is for small gifts for people in need at Vicar's discretion.

6) Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund
This fund is to be used to assist parishioners of St Oswald's in times of poor health and hardship. The funds were given to St Oswald's in a fellow parishioner's will.

7) Oswestry St Ann's Fund
This was generated from the sale of St Ann's chapel at Morda and is held to be used for capital projects.

8) Sunday School Fund
This fund is held to support the Sunday School at St Oswald's church.

9) Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund
This fund is held for capital projects.

10) Boulton Trust Fund
This fund is held for capital projects.

11) Friends of Music / Choral Foundation Fund
This fund is used for the Friends of Music Group.

12) Bellringers Fund
This fund is used for the Bellringers group.

13) Bellringers - Bell Training Fund
This fund was established to assist Bellringers training.

14) Ladies Group
This fund is used for the ladies fellowship group.

15) Christmas Day Lunch
This fund was established to provide funds for the Christmas Day Lunch Project.

16) Morda School House Trust
This fund is to be used for youth and family work within our Parish.

9 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Mr D. P. Evison, F.C.A. is a partner in Garner Pugh & Sinclair who are paid £3,145 plus VAT (£3,774) for Accounting and Administration services.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

10 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES COMPARATIVES (PREVIOUS YEAR)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £
Incoming Resources			
Donations and Legacies	182,780	653	183,433
Charitable Activities	18,769	8,164	26,933
Other Trading Activities	12,943	-	12,943
Investments	21,290	-	21,290
Total	235,782	8,817	244,599
Resources Expended			
Raising Funds	-	8,800	8,800
Charitable Activities	153,531	4,175	157,706
Total	153,531	12,975	166,506
Net gain/(losses) on investment	10,622	-	10,622
Depreciation on fixed assets, charity's own use	(4,582)	-	(4,582)
Net Income/(Expenditure)	88,291	(4,158)	84,133
Transfer between funds	(2,220)	2,220	-
Net movement in funds	86,071	(1,938)	84,133
Total funds brought forward (1st Jan)	675,726	71,295	747,021
Total funds carried forward (31st Dec)	761,797	69,357	831,154

THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST OSWALD, KING & MARTYR, OSWESTRY
The Parish Office, Church Street, Oswestry, SY11 2SY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2025 for the year 2024

The PCC cooperates with the Incumbent in the whole mission of the church according to the call of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. As part of the Synodical structure of the Church of England, the PCC makes known and puts into effect any provision made by the Diocesan or Deanery Synods and gives advice to these synods on any matters the PCC considers appropriate. The PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the church; the PCC draws up a budget and has the responsibility with the Incumbent of appointing, paying and dismissing paid officers of the parish. The PCC is responsible for the care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric of the Parish Church and the adjacent Parish Centre; a house at 14 Lower Brook Street, Oswestry is in the beneficial ownership of the Parochial Church Council, vested in the Diocesan Trust and is normally let to tenants. As a parish within the Diocese of Lichfield, it follows the Bishop's Three Primary Tasks of Discipleship, Evangelism and Vocation.

Membership of the PCC is as follows:

(a) Ex-Officio
Incumbent: *Vicar of St Oswald, King & Martyr, Oswestry* – Rev'd H L Gibbons, M.A.
Licensed Ministers: Rev Yin-An Chen (resigned 31st October), Rev. Jassica Castillo-Burley.

Churchwardens: Miss E. J. Williams, Mrs M. Jones, Mr A. Neale, Mr J. Abram

Deanery Synod Representatives (*elected in 2024*)
Mrs M. Crosby, Mrs L. Clarke, Ms Fiona Pearson & Mr Jonathan Abbatt

b) Elected Representatives

To serve until 2025: Mr D.P Evison, Ms C. Boulton.

To serve until 2026: Mrs J. Chesworth, Mrs Jenifer Chippet-Williams, Mr Richard Major, Ms Sally Wright, Mr Paul Crosby, Mr M. Donkin

To serve until 2027: Miss Chloe Fraser, Mrs Anne Pilsbury, Mrs Samantha Hart, Miss Sigourney Merrony-Potton, Mr David Smith, Ms Sandy Best, Mrs Angela Earl-Saddiq

(c) Co-opted Representatives

None

Under arrangements in force since the late 1980's and modified in 2002, five people are elected each year, for a term of three years.

Officers of the Council
The Vicar, as Incumbent is the legal Chairman of the Council
The Lay-co Chair of the Council is Mr Alan Neale
The Hon. Secretary to the Council is Ms Carron Boulton
The Hon. Treasurer to the Council is Mr Paul Evison
The Electoral Roll Officer is Mrs Maureen Crosby

Sub Committees of the Council
The Vicar is ex officio on all sub committees listed below:

Standing Committee (the sole statutory Sub Committee)
The Vicar, Two Churchwardens; Lay Co-Chair; Hon. Secretary; Hon. Treasurer – all ex officio Mr P Crosby, Mrs L Clarke.

Other sub committees include representatives appointed by the PCC from among their number, normally including one Churchwarden (at least) signified by "*"

Building and Fabric Committee – the full term of reference is available on request and the membership is as follows: Mr P. Crosby (Chair), Mr P. Evison, Mr C. Tansley, Mr A. Neale*, Mr M. Clarke, Mr P. Walley, Mr D Smith.

Finance Committee – the full terms of reference are available on request and the membership is as follows: Mr P. Evison (Chair), Mr M. Donkin, Cdr M. Peters (Gift Aid), Mr A. Clarke, Mr E. Evans, J. Abram*.

Parish Centre Management Committee to manage the daily running of the Centre and its staff – Mr A. Neale* (Chair), Ms Carron Boulton (Booking Secretary), Mr M. Wilson and Mrs E. Leek.

Events Committee with a focus on fellowship – Miss J. Williams*.

Mission and Giving Group – Rev. H. Gibbons, Mrs A. Pilsbury, Mrs L. Clarke, Mr H. Jones.

Mission and Ministry Team – Rev. H. Gibbons, Mrs L. Clarke, Mrs P. Willing, Mrs G. Evison, Ms S. Wright, Rev'd J. Castillo-Burley.

Sick and Needy Fund – Rev H. Gibbons, Mr P. Crosby, Mrs M. Jones.

The PCC appoints representatives to the local ecumenical body Churches Together in Oswestry and District. A total of two including the clergy are allowed according to the revised constitution of Churches Together adopted in 2012. Those nominated at the Annual Meeting were The Vicar and Mrs A Pilsbury who agreed to fill in when called upon to do so.

The Parish

The population of Oswestry according to the 2021 Census is 17,509 of which 10,700 live in the parochial parish of St Oswald, King & Martyr. The Electoral Roll at 29 April 2023 stood at 255. Thanks are due to Mrs Maureen Crosby for encouraging membership of the electoral roll. Average Sunday Adult attendance for the year stood at 261. Under the age of 16 years – 15.

Incumbent's Review of the Year

It has been another fascinating year, a mixture of extraordinary celebrations and some farewells. It would be fair to say that 2024 was shaped significantly by three significant events: my sabbatical from February until May, the 150th anniversary of the Victorian restoration of the church building, and the departure of the Rev'd Yin-An Chen, our curate.

Unusually, my sabbatical included Easter, the first time I had been able to celebrate it alongside my family for 25 years. From a personal perspective, the time away allowed me to reflect on a quarter of a century's ministry in seven benefices along with diocesan and national church roles. It also provided a time to reflect on lay ministry and my role as Warden of Readers in the Diocese of Lichfield. My sabbatical also marked the beginning of the end of Rev'd Yin-An Chen's time with us as our curate; Yin-An and Tim left Oswestry for the diocese of London where Yin-An will continue his training. I am extremely grateful for the way the clergy team and the church wardens enabled worship, governance, and pastoral care to continue during my sabbatical, and particularly in dealing so well with Yin-An's sudden absence from Easter.

Pastoral care of church members and non-members alike continues to be a priority, and I am grateful for the support I receive from the clergy team and the dedicated pastoral care group. Naturally, there is always more we could do. Place of Welcome and Under-5's continued to provide a safe space and pastoral support to those who attended. The home-communion team continued to grow both in membership and in outreach to people in their own homes, and in residential care homes.

The sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary of the Victorian renovation of St. Oswalds filled the summer with a variety of events. The anniversary is reported in more detail elsewhere in this annual report so I will not dwell on it here except to say an enormous 'thankyou' to everyone who worked so hard to make it the huge success that it was.

Our work with local schools is an important element within our ministry to the wider community. As in previous years, it primarily involved working with Morda Primary School, Oswestry School and providing weekly 'Prayer & Praise' sessions at Derwen College. However, we also welcomed the Bishop of Shrewsbury who presided over our confirmation Eucharist which included 6 Moreton Hall School pupils alongside 3 of our own candidates.

Within our mission to the wider town, our relationship continues to grow with the Orthodox communities from Shrewsbury and Chester who use the Lady Chapel for a service of Divine liturgy. The annual walk to, and blessing of, St. Oswalds Well in August proved very successful, and it was a joy to hear the well blessed in the Orthodox tradition. Our civic ministry to the town of Oswestry included a service to

commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in June 1944 along with the usual Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day services. The placing of Remembrance crosses on the war graves in Oswestry Cemetery involved pupils from Woodside Primary School along with the Combined Cadets from Oswestry School.

As usual, Christmas brought the year to an end, and it was a joy to welcome again local schools for their Christmas services alongside our full array of Advent and Christmas acts of worship.

I will end as I always do by stating my personal thanks to everyone who has worked so hard during the past twelve months; my clergy colleagues, the Church Wardens and PCC, our caretaker and maintenance team, the choir and music team, the flower arrangers and all who contribute to our worship, along with all those who quietly get on with things behind the scenes without making a fuss.

Harvey Gibbons

Churchwardens Report 2024

The first 3 months of the year were busier than ever for the Churchwardens who were left in overall charge as Vicar Harvey took a well-earned 3 months Sabbatical. The year began with the Wardens having to resolve the difficulties arising from the decision not to allow the Parish Church to be used as a focus point for Oswestry's Pride Celebrations in June.

However, attention soon returned to planning the busy programme of events for celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Church in 1874. An Opening Concert on the 6th July was followed by a Service on the 7th to mark the start of the celebrations. A varied programme of events then followed throughout July, August, September and October, including well attended concerts, talks, bellringing, and a Teddy Bear Zip Wire event. In August we hosted the Knitted Bible display which drew in many visitors from near and far and was very well received. A busy summer for all involved.

Despite increases in postal charges our Charity Christmas Card Shop remained well supported by the public and income from sales once again enabled us to support over 20 local and national charities.

We look forward to the implementation of the Building & Fabric Committee's maintenance and development programme planned to begin in 2025 which should help ensure the long-term viability of our Church and the Parish Centre.

Congregation numbers continued to return to pre-Covid levels and once again we thank all the many hard-working volunteers who assist us to ensure things run smoothly and that we continue to be a welcoming Church for everyone.

June, Muriel, Alan, John

Secretary's Report for the year 2024

Quarterly meetings have taken place in person in the Parish Hall. Overall attendance of PCC meetings has been very good.

We have discussed many issues this year, with the150th anniversary celebrations being a big point. We also discussed finance, and our carbon footprint and what we can do to reduce it.

Communion is still being dealt with effectively with sanitising of the servers hands before they offer communion to communicants.

St Oswalds conducted only 3 wedding ceremonies this year, with another 3 having been cancelled for one reason or another.

22 Baptisms took place throughout this year as well as Moreton Hall School confirmation. The clergy registered 61 funeral services conducted either at St Oswalds or in a local crematorium/cemetery and conducted by a member of the St Oswalds associate clergy team.

This year, saw us have a record number of new PCC members join the committee all bringing unique qualities and skill sets. Our committee now stands with 24 members.

Our Curate left us this year however our clergy team remains strong.

Carron Boulton - Secretary

Annual report on Acolyte's / Servers

Once again, I am delighted to be able to give a positive report on the strength of our committed team of Acolyte's / Servers. These are people who enjoy serving our Lord at the Altar with reverence. I have a very loyal team who I find are a great pleasure to work with and are willing to give up their time on Sundays and other occasions.
I am always looking for more people who feel that they may have this calling to Acolyte especially some of our young people.

I am also looking for anyone who would be prepared to be trained to serve at the 8am service on the third Sunday of the month.

Our team are: Samantha, Louise, Bridget, Carron, Chloe, Ruth, Sally W. Sally R.

Crucifer: Garry. Reserve's: Bruce, David. Choral evensong: David.

8am Servers: Paul

Chalice administer: Garry, Samantha, Bruce, Ruth, Carron, Mike, Sally W., Sally R.

The Holy Eucharist is the centre of our Sacramental life and it is a privilege that we with reverence, joy and great gladness worship our blessed Lord at the Altar.

Mike Jones

Altar linen report

Last year I reported that much of the Altar linen needed to be replaced and that we had purchased two new Altar cloths for the Lady chapel.

I also made an appeal for certain items that the Church required, I am extremely grateful to the response, a small Ciborium has been given in memory of the late Mair Bowen donated by Bill and his family.

A set of green vestments and green altar panels for the Lady Chapel together with a restored red Frontal, a new purple frontal and also two new white High Altar cloths were given in memory of Vera and Walter Wasteney donated by Christine and Peter Wasteney. The restoration and work done on the panels and frontals was created and made by Christine Wasteney.

The Church is still in need of a new set of white vestments which are not, I might add, cheap if anyone would like to donate in memory of a loved one or a special anniversary please contact either myself or the vicar.

Once again, I would like to thank Muriel for washing the purificators and other linen week by week.

Thank you all for the love and support that you give to St. Oswalds Parish Church for the glory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Mike Jones

Sidespeople

It is with grateful thanks from the church wardens to the team for their loyal support and assistance throughout the year.

This years sides people are: Val Hamer, Olive Morris, Dilys Lloyd, Wendy and Mike Peters, Sue and Colin Tansley, Ann Sagar, Carol Burke, David and Margaret Smith, Fran Stocking, Sally Wright and Natasha Bell.

If anyone else would like to join our fabulous team, please see June Williams

June Williams

Church Cleaning

We have had another busy year keeping the church clean and tidy. It was a challenging time when the renovation / repair work was carried out on the walls.

We have had to new volunteers this year for whom we are very grateful. If there is anyone else interested in joining us, particularly to help with the brass cleaning, please let Natasha know.

We have great support from Matt, Mike, Colin, Peter and David and we thank them all very much for this.

Finaly, we continue to have many lovely comments about the clean and tidy state of St Oswalds Church.

Natasha & Muriel

Building And Fabric Committee Report

Members of the committee are now Sue Tansley (Secretary), Colin Tansley, Peter Walley, David Smith, Paul Evison, Alan Neale, Rev'd Harvey Gibbons, Paul Crosby (Chairman). The committee has been very active throughout the year.

The Church Architect advised that he was reducing his workload and has suggested that we appoint a new Architect before the next Quinquennial Inspection due in 2027.

Mindful of the Church of England's target to be Carbon Neutral by 2030, the committee gained PCC approval to develop a programme of work over the next 5 – 6 years in an attempt to achieve this target date at St Oswald's.

It was recognised that there were limits to what could be achieved practically within the ancient building of St Oswald and it was felt that focusing on the windows, roof and walls of the uninsulated Parish Centre would have greater impact in reducing our carbon footprint so it was agreed that the Parish Centre should have a higher priority. It was also felt that, despite the extra time taken to seek separate Faculty permissions for the windows, roof and walls, it was a sensible approach in that any delay in seeking faculty permission for one would not delay the whole project. A Faculty has been sought to fit double glazed units in the windows.

The roof of the Parish Centre has no insulation and, coupled with the number of leaks after heavy rain, a new roof with insulation is seen as yet another priority.

We have been in discussion with contractors and initially sought estimates for the windows and roof covering.

The boilers in the church and the parish centre were serviced after some new parts had been fitted. However, further part failures have at times resulted in heating from only two of the five Church boiler modules working. The Church boilers are now 20 years old and have been less reliable. Maintenance is further complicated by some parts becoming obsolete and have had to be replace with non-standard parts. Three contractors have been approached to establish the level of costs involved in replacing the church boilers before there is a total failure during winter months. We hope to achieve this as a planned way during summer 2025 depending on the availability of funding.

We had hoped that the Church Lighting would last until 2026/2027 however there was continued concern that switches on the lighting control panel had become obsolete and the new smaller replacement panel was impractical because there was insufficient space in the smaller panels for the amount of wiring involved within the church. However, our church electrician devised a way of fabricating a new front panel to house the new smaller switches whilst retaining the existing control panel.

Additionally, the component parts of the SON (sodium) lights were also obsolete and following failures in both the Choir and the Lady Chapel on separate Sunday mornings. Attempts were made to introduce LED lighting but the biggest wattage LED lights were insufficient to generate the light levels to an acceptable standard so experiments have been made using floodlights. These brought the light levels to the required standard for the congregation but the 100watt floodlights offered only minimal savings to our carbon footprint.

Redecoration of several areas in the church was seen as a priority with the change of lighting. Following work in St George's Chapel last year a need for plastering behind the heating pipes was identified and a local plasterer engaged to repair not only that area but several other areas around the church where remedial action was needed were re-plastered with lime plaster before any redecoration could be undertaken.

A new Electricity 3-year contract with British Gas Lite was signed last year until 2026. St Oswald's has benefitted throughout the year from being locked into a 5-year Gas contract ending February 2025. A new Gas contract has been signed, also with British Gas, but is at a significantly higher rate.

VAT totalling £1,362, which had already been paid on eligible work, has been reclaimed under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. Paul Crosby made representation on behalf of St Oswald's to the Secretary of State DCMS, Rt. Hon. Lisa Nandy, that the LPWGS should be extended beyond 31 March 2025. Following our representation, we heard in January 2025 that the scheme has been extended for 12 months.

A new contract has been negotiated for servicing of the Fire Extinguishers. The Parish Centre Lift, Organ and Clock have all been serviced. A new contract is about to be signed for maintenance of the Turret Clock and Bells. All portable appliances in the church have been tested (PAT testing) and are safe to use.

Though thanks are due to the whole committee, particular thanks must go to David Smith who has co-ordinated the efforts to progress work on reducing our carbon footprint and who, along with Colin Tansley and Peter Walley have undertaken 'self-help' works and on-going maintenance throughout the year.

Paul Crosby, Chairman

Parish Centre Report

There has been an increase in the use of the Centre, with the Under-5s group now meeting twice a week and a number of new outside lettings. We were particularly pleased to welcome back the Brownies to the Centre, who are very appreciative of the facilities we offer. There have also been dance classes, talks and meetings, and children's birthday parties. The Centre has also been used for wakes following funerals in church.

Bookings are now managed by the church administrator with a booking form available for download from the church website.

The heating system has generally worked satisfactorily. The dishwasher continues to sporadically underperform and its future useful life may now need to be considered.

The Building and Fabric Committee continues to take forward planning for improvements to the building to make it more energy efficient.

Elaine Leek - Parish Centre Management Committee

Place Of Welcome

The Place of Welcome drop-in on a Tuesday morning was held 51 times during 2024, snow in November forcing the first ever closure in our history. We have continued to welcome guests from both the community and the church family. Numbers fluctuate, with some regular weekly attenders and others who drop in only periodically, but there is always good conversation to be had. We had Hot Cross Buns in Holy Week and in December Haydn Jones played Christmas music for us at our mince pie morning, which was very well attended.

Place of Welcome again registered as a 'Warm Welcome Space' available to anyone in our community who might be struggling to be warm at home. We continue to support the Foodbank from donations made by guests, and in 2024 also sent money to the UNICEF Gaza fund, the Hurricane Beryl emergency appeal, a project run by Crisis in Liverpool helping prisoners who might be released into homelessness and also the Crisis at Christmas appeal.

Place of Welcome could not be possible without our nine cheerful volunteers on the kitchen rota, to whom thanks are due.

Elaine Leek

Ladies Group Report For The Year 2024

The Committee consists of:

Chair: June Williams
Secretary: Ann Sagar
Treasurer: Glenda Evison
Over 30 members

The members have enjoyed a wide range of speakers also a summer afternoon tea and a Christmas lunch both held at the Derwen Training College.

Friendship and Fellowship are important as are the endless cups of tea, coffee, biscuits and sometimes cake.

As usual members have helped out at church events including Place of Welcome, Sunday coffee.

We encourage and welcome Ladies to join us at our meetings on the first Monday of the month at 2.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre.

June Williams

Mothers' Union Fellowship Group

We are a small group now who meet in the Parish Centre on the second Thursday of the month. As we cannot any longer afford to pay, we have to rely on speakers who do not require a fee. Despite this last year we had a fairly varied programme with Harvey taking a Eucharist, Mike Donkin and Jassica both speaking. A talk about Tiwan by our Curate and two visits to Bluebell View Residential Home, one at Christmas to share carols and readings with them. The remaining meetings we had talks provided by the members with discussions amongst ourselves.

Pam Musson

Bible Study Group

It has been another enjoyable year of reading, learning, and earnest discussion during our bible studies.

Particular highlights have been a visit by Father Phil, when we learned more about his ministry; and listening to lectures given by David Solomon, a Jewish theologian on "Women in Judaism". We have tried to widen our topics by including a study relating to the Jewish faith thus broadening our knowledge of the origins of Christianity.

We were saddened to hear of the death of one of our previous and valued members Ann Solway, who hosted the group for several years.

Sally Wright - on behalf of Monday's bible study group

St Oswald's Church Choir Including The St. Oswald's Singers and the Scholars & Gentlemen Chamber Choir

The choir numbers are as follows:-

10 Trebles / Sopranos (2 fewer than last year)
4 Altos
2 Tenors and
4 Basses.

During the year the choir has sung 71 services. Despite the smaller numbers the Choir has maintained the high standard of music that does so much to support the services.

The St. Oswald's Singers, our informal group who sing when the choir is unavailable, sang 11 services. This group has gone from strength to strength and is much appreciated for providing a lead for the services in the Choir's absence.

The major event this year was the festival to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Church. This ran from 6th July until 13th October with many events and displays.

Music played a large part in the festival. The Choir sang two choral services to open the Festival on Sunday 7th July (Eucharist and Choral Evensong) and they sang the Closing service on Sunday 13th October in the presence of the Bishop of Lichfield.

There were 7 concerts, four of which formed a group entitled 'Music for a Summer's Evening'.

The Scholars & Gentlemen sang the opening concert on 6th July and one of the Summer's Evening concerts on 31st August. The Choir gave the final concert on Saturday 12th October, entitled 'What we really do' a programme of music that the Choir has sung for services but which is worthy of the concert hall. The programme comprised, among others, music by Haydn, Mozart and Handel and included a performance of the famous 'Miserere' by Allegri. A highlight was the performance of the 'Pie Jesu' from the Fauré and Lloyd Webber Requiems beautifully rendered by Eleri Roberts and Aoife Brennan.

It is a mark of the Choir's ability and stamina that they were able to sing such a demanding concert and then the next day sing to the same high standard for the Closing Service.

The festival apart, the Choir gave a performance of the Fauré 'Requiem' in the evening of Remembrance Sunday (10th November) and for the first time since the Covid lockdown we were able to put on a full Advent Carol Service on Sunday 1st December with the Choir processing by candlelight through the church as the service unfolded. Finally, a splendid Nine Lessons & Carols with 19 items sung by the choir was given to a packed church on Sunday 22nd December, followed by a splendid Midnight Mass and Christmas morning just two days later.

The Choristers work hard but the rewards, in terms of a free education in singing and musicianship is very worthwhile. I recommend the choir to any child who loves to sing. You would be surprised how many professional singers from the worlds of classical, jazz and pop started their careers in a church choir.

In July we lost two of our senior choristers. Alice Williams left to begin her studies at Birmingham University and Myles Wilkinson left to take up a place with a Choral Scholarship at Summerville College, Oxford. Fortunately, like other ex-choristers, they returned during the university holidays and sang with us for the Christmas season.

On the credit side an ex-chorister, Jools Brennan, having graduated from Chester University, rejoined the Choir as a bass. It has been great to have Jools back with us, albeit for a short time as he leaves next September to do a Master's Degree at Queen's University, Belfast.

Now I must turn to some sadder news. On 17th November we lost a long-standing choirman and friend when John Moore died in a tragic car accident while driving to Oswestry to sing for Choral Evensong. Choral music was John's great love. He had performed in a concert given by the Scholars & Gentlemen the previous evening and had sung again for the Sunday morning at St. Oswald's. It was a huge shock to hear of his death the next day.

John joined the choir in 2009 and had become the Choir's leading tenor. He is and will be sorely missed. A full Choir sang for John's funeral which included pieces that he had requested and others which I knew had a special place in his heart.

We have lost a committed member who always put the church and choir first and Kate and I have lost a very dear friend. May he rest in peace.

Mike Donkin
Director of Music

Churches Together In Oswestry District

In January St Oswald's hosted a prayer meeting in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Then in March members participated in a service at St Martin's devised by Palestinian women for the World Day of Prayer. It made the struggle in the Holy Land feel very real.

As usual on Good Friday CTOD took their trailer to the Bailey Head, where for 4½ hours they ran children's activities, gave out Easter booklets and provided a Christian presence. Volunteers would be welcome for a similar event in 2025.
The trailer made an appearance again just before Christmas where a group sang carols and read some of the Christmas story. Bethlehem carol sheets were available for passers by to join in.

There were general meetings at St John the Baptist, Whittington, and at Holy Trinity, Oswestry where we heard about plans for setting up a Street Pastors group in Oswestry.

Sadly two churches closed in 2024: Cornerstone Baptist Church, and the 150 year-old Moors Methodist Church. Services of thanksgiving were held for each.
On a happier note, Albert Road Evangelical Church welcomed their new minister, Ben Sealey, in November.

CTOD now has 13 churches.

Fiona Pearson

Safeguarding Report for 2024

Safeguarding remains a very important topic for the church and the PCC.

During 2024, unfortunately, we were notified by a local police force of an incident that was being investigate. Whilst this was not something that had occurred inside the church, and had occurred outside of the church, it did involve a member of our congregation. This was dealt with, proactively and sensitively with the safeguarding leads at the diocese. This has now been resolved.

All PCC members have undertaken to complete the basic and foundation awareness training courses offered by the diocese.

The Assistant Safeguarding officer for the diocese is Kim Hodgkins 01543 306099 kim.hodgkins@lichfield.anglican.org.

The Shropshire Safeguarding Local Authority Designated Officer is Ellie Jones Lado@shropshire.gov.uk 0345 678 9021

Notices are around the church and parish hall with contact information available.

Carron Boulton
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mission and Giving

The amount allocated for charitable giving was increased to £5,000. This is in addition to the charitable giving raised through special collections and fundraising efforts supporting emergency appeals and the charities we traditionally support. This year, the situation in Gaza steered the international giving whilst the local giving continued to support mental health and well-being.

The £5,000 was shared as follows:
UNHCR £500
International Rescue Committee £500
Compassion UK £500
Childhood bereavement £500
The Farming Community Network £500
Designs in mind £500
West Mercia Women's Aid £500
Derwen College £500
Hope House £500

Morda Primary School (Pastoral fund) £250
Our Lady & St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School (Choir fund) £250

Harvey Gibbons

The Parish Sick and Needy Fund

The fund was set up some years ago formerly known as the Vicar's Discretionary Fund to help people within the parish who are suffering with hardship and is administered by a small committee under the chairmanship of the Vicar. If any member of the congregation is aware of any such case, they should contact the Vicar for the case to be discussed with the committee.

Harvey Gibbons

MMT Report 2024

MMT met four times during 2024 to exchange and develop ideas for St Oswald's moving forward. Subjects under discussion were Lent Groups, Holy Week, new Intercessors, Prayer and Spirituality, Pastoral Care, Advent Reflections and Dementia Church. Sadly, the Prayer Walk with picnic which had been planned for early summer as part of our Prayer and Spirituality, had to be cancelled due to the resignation of Rev Chen. However, we managed to recruit 6 new intercessors for the Sunday morning services which has led to a welcome diversity of approaches. New dementia–friendly signage has been installed. The Lent Groups had been well attended, although the books under discussion hadn't been very popular, and the Advent Reflections had provided a time of quiet during that busy month.

It was hoped that we would be able to join with the Pastoral Care Group in providing times of fellowship in 2025.

Everything we do as a church should be underpinned by prayer, and it is vital that we develop and maintain prayer at St Oswald's not only on Sundays but also during the week, and MMT is keen to seed new prayer groups and house groups. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who feels called to contribute to this crucial part of our spiritual life.

Lindsay Clarke

Schools work

The clergy were variously involved in taking Acts of Collective Worship at Morda Primary School. Clergy were also actively involved in supporting focus weeks such as 'eat well' and 'sleep well' weeks and in pastoral support to staff, children and school families. The school attended church to celebrate their end of term service at Christmas, Easter and the end of the academic year in July.

As a result of Morda Church of England Primary School entering a federation arrangement with Whittington Church of England Primary School during the year, the vicar became a Foundation Governor of the Federation and an Associate Governor of Morda Primary School. He continues to be the Bishop of Lichfield's Representative on the Governing Body of Oswestry School.

Harvey Gibbons

Home Communion

This outreach ministry continues to grow both in the numbers visited and in those doing the visiting. During the year several recipients have died but at the same time fresh individuals have been added to the list. In addition, we have been able to develop a significant ministry with the new residential home Bluebell View. Starting our visits before the Home formerly opened enabled us to form working relationships with the staff which have led to high level of mutual trust. This has enabled us in addition to monthly visits for Holy Communion to support them in events such as their Summer Fete, at which Pam performed the formal opening, Christmas and St Valentines Parties at which yours truly is always expected to say a few words and most recently an act of remembrance for a deceased resident with residents and members of his

family present. We continue to visit New Fairholm, High Lea and Woodlands in Morda where the residents include several previous members of our congregation.

Currently there are nine members in the team Sal, Frances, Michael, Julia, Fiona, Natasha, June, Pam and Keith. If you wish to know more about our ministry please speak to any member of the team or myself. We have started to worship together once a quarter and you are welcome to join us as we value your prayerful support. Times of the services are included in the pew slip.

Keith Musson

Deanery Synod Report 2024
(including environmental action)

It has been a time of change for the Oswestry Deanery, but a more positive atmosphere than 2023 under the active and enthusiastic leadership of Rural Dean Suzane Williams until her departure near the end of the year. We thank Suzan for all her work here in difficult times and wish her well in her move to Herefordshire.

The first meeting of the year, on 30th January, was a Deanery Social at the Parish Centre where I was introduced as Lay Co-Chair of the Synod and we said goodbye to Chris Precious and Kathy Trimby, who will be much missed. We each brought one 'encouragement' and one 'challenge' to share about our parish.

On 22nd May at Trefonen, the Synod met to hear a presentation by Strategic Development Officer Jill Smith on 'Pioneering Parishes', aimed at helping parishes to reach out and implement change. The Synod discussed our goals in 'Shaping for Mission' , and our parish strengths and challenges. These were later discussed by Church members from across the Deanery on 15 July when Bishop Sarah led a stimulating meeting attended by over 80 people at St Oswalds Church.

Vacant positions in the Diocesan Synod were filled by uncontested nominations at the end of June, from Paul Darlington, Stuart Jermy and Steve Nicholson in the House of Clergy, and from Geoff Nankivell and Michael Davie in the House of Laity.

Rural Deans and Lay Chairs from across the Shrewsbury Area met with Bishop Sarah at Emmanuel Church in Shrewsbury on 25th March and in Lichfield on 2nd and 3rd September to discuss matters of common concern, including the process for filling vacant posts.

The Deanery Synod met at Kinnerley on 25th September where we discussed the Climate and Nature crises and how to respond to them. Suzan presented a short video from the Diocesan Synod of schoolchildren sharing their concerns about the future. I introduced some stories from Katharine Hayhoe, a renowned climate scientist and evangelical Christian, about the challenges of discussing her research and engaging people without overwhelming them.

We looked at how we can be both faith-motivated and science-informed. That our Christian hope gives us confidence to take action, even if success is not guaranteed! We looked at the support offered by EcoChurch which has registered over 8000

churches across the UK, 100 in our diocese, in schemes which mark progress and award success. We discussed how we might take these issues forward, and celebrate action already taken in building work, land use, nature protection, outreach and prayer. St Oswald's Church is now registered under EcoChurch and will form a group to do a survey early in 2025. Others are registered or interested.

At the Deanery Day in St Martins Church on 26 October, Pete and Christine Winmill gave an inspiring account of their work with Count Everyone In, a charity they established in 2017. There are an estimated 1.5 million adults with learning disabilities, the vast majority of whom never enter any of the 40,000 churches in the UK. There is much work to be done, inspiring and equipping churches to be welcoming and accessible to everyone, especially adults with learning disabilities. Everyone Christian is called to help people know who Jesus is, help them to understand him, trust him and to grow in faith.

The day was attended by a small but enthusiastic group from the Deanery. Following the presentation, the group learned some basic Makaton sign language during the singing of a worship song, how to engage with a Bible story using coloured flags and spent time sharing experiences.

Jonathan Abbatt

Under 5's (U5's)

The U5's runs on a Wednesday and Friday, 10am-12pm. We have a steady number of children on a Wednesday session at the moment and the numbers increase on a half term/holiday session. Fridays are very quiet still and Rosita and Sigourney work alternative Fridays as they are contracted to 2.5hours a week each.

Wednesdays consist of some form of craft, such as painting, playdough or making some kind of art piece, as well as playing with the toys and a little singsong at the end of the session. Friday is more about playing and has less structure to it.

We have 2 volunteers a month, Cynthia and Irene, they come and make the refreshments for us on the first and last Wednesday each month. They are a great addition to us so that both S & R can be out working with the children and parents.

Aswell as tea's and coffee's we are providing snacks for the children & parents/grandparents which are cheese, fruit and crackers/crisps (sometimes cakes).

Quite a lot of our 'regular children' have now started nursery/pre-school and we only see them on our holiday sessions, we are registering more new younger children, who are attending with parents and grandparents.

We had Jolly visit from Father Christmas in December, parents/grandparents brought in dishes/snacks for the party and Irene made a fabulous spread (her famous sausage rolls went down a treat!!) and we had lots of dancing and party games with the children before we closed over the Christmas period.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help with the refreshments or mixing with the children & families.

Sigourney Merrony-Potton

The Children's Society

St Oswald's continues to support The Children's Society through the House Box scheme and Annual Christingle Service. The Children's Society works to provide specialist support that empowers young people to make positive changes and rediscover their hope. Children and young people want a future they can look forward to and the Children's Society is there to make sure they get it. Working alongside young people, their families and community, they will not rest until together, step-by-step, they've created a society built for all children.

The total amount donated from the Christingle Service and house box collections this year was just over £900. Collecting loose change in a House Box is one way to support the Children's Society but as less and less cash is being used some people are switching to donating via a direct debit from their bank account. This could be monthly, annually or as a one-off and can still be 'gift aided'. Information on how to set up a regular or one off direct debit can be found from the Children's Society Website www.childrenssociety.org.uk or by contacting Liz Gibbons, our Children's Society Co-ordinator.

Liz Gibbons - Children's Society House Box Co-ordinator

Social Media

The new website is working well and is (usually) kept up to date, bright and interesting. We try to attract new people to St Oswalds as well as giving information to visitors and keeping the congregation informed.

Chloe Fraser keeps the St Oswalds Facebook page up to date. The FB page received nearly 10,000 views during Christmas period and most likely to go up again during Easter or for special events like St Oswald's day or concerts where they get 3,000 to 4,000 views.

Photos and videos taken during and after a service do particularly well on Social media which can and possibly do encourage people to come to the services in the future.

Thanks go, as always, to Diane Dawson for the Parish Magazine and to Ann Sagar for the pew sheet.

Anne Pilsbury and Chloe Fraser

150th Anniversary Celebrations

2024 marked one hundred and fifty years since our church reopened for worship following major restoration work. To celebrate this occasion, we held a series of events. Music formed a large part of the celebrations with guest artists and our own choir performing to large audiences.

Throughout August we hosted The Knitted Bible which drew in many visitors who marvelled at the detail of the work.

Our bellringers displayed their talents with a variety of peals and some teddies and soft toys once again braved the zip wire ride.

In the parish centre we held four well attended talks remembering the role that many people had played in the life of Oswestry and our church, and we supported the local heritage days with displays in church.

All of this culminated in a Celebration Service on the 13th October attended by Michael, Bishop of Lichfield and various other dignitaries, followed by a sumptuous high tea.

Pam Willing

Bell Ringers

January and February recruitment 'Taster Days', were well attended and very well received. Those attending were offered a planned twice weekly, personalised training programme over the remainder of the year. Thanks to Richard Major, Chris Hoare, Brian Rothera and Peter Woollam, supported by others from the tower when needed, this has been a great success and seven attendees are now very capable of ringing Call Changes and Plain Hunt. Two new experienced ringers also joined the band this year, raising our band numbers to 23 ringers. This has meant we can ring all eight bells for Sunday worship and practice evenings are well attended. Additionally we were able to ring for Christmas services simultaneously at St Oswald's and Whittington, St. John the Baptist. Ben Rothera was lost from regular ringing as he took up his university place in September but he continues to attend when home. We were very sad to lose our friend, respected and experienced ringing colleague Andrew J Harris early in 2024. A Quarter Peal was rung to celebrate his life and Andy's sister joined in the ringing.

Andrew's wishes for his funeral in February were that donations should go toward improving the bells, specifically for training purposes. Over £900 was donated in this way and we decided to combine this with money that Richard Major won for his 'Pullometer' research article in the Ringing World, giving us £1800 to put towards a project. After a meeting in October to discuss different options we decided to purchase 2 training bells to be installed in the clock room, with the option to include these in the simulator. Andy had gained a faculty some years ago to adjust the ringing circle and had purchased the pulley blocks that would be needed for enhancement. It is the intention to visit towers with each of these types of training bells to assess the suitability for our needs. A successful application was made to Oswestry Council for a £500 grant and an application has also been made to Whittington Parish Council

Quarter Peals were rung for the inauguration service of St. Oswald's celebrations for the 150th G.E. Street renovation of the church, with 2 more in August and October, and also for the Anniversary closing service in October.

Other Quarter Peals were rung in memory of Hilda Rothera, John Moore and the widow of a bell ringer who rang his first Quarter Peal at St. Oswald's and proposed in the tower.

Two very successful Zip-wire days, the first in July as part of the 150th Church Renovation celebrations and the second, as usual, on Boxing Day. Donations from both events, raised £274 for the bell fund.

The Shropshire Association of Church Bell Ringers held its Monthly Practice Meeting in July 2024. In September we won the Charles Allmand Memorial Shield at the Shropshire Association Striking Competition. This competition gave further opportunity for new ringers to demonstrate their newly acquired skills and join a good day out meeting others in the Association.

A May ringing outing visiting 6 towers around the Wenlocks and surrounding churches gave our new ringers an excellent opportunity to ring church bells elsewhere (not always as good as St Oswald's) with a second in August to Calverhall and Ightfield.

Oswestry Cubs visited the tower in September. Many questions were asked and the group were really interested. These Cubs were known to our youngest ringer Sam Davies (11 years old) and appeared impressed watching him ringing.

Visitors came to ring from Hampshire, Kent and 13 ringers from Cambridge University Guild of Change Ringers.

Jan Snowball – Secretary

Gift-Aid Report For 2024

I am pleased to provide a positive report about donations to St Oswald's in 2024 which have enabled recovery from the HMRC of a very similar value to the previous year.

Recovery of tax from the HMRC: For 2024, the total tax recovered from HMRC was £17,429. This achieved 99.6% of the anticipated amount in the 2024 budget, and is only a little lower than the recovery in 2023 which was £18,017.

Some additional information:

Gifts from named donors: Gifts from all named donors during the year amounted to £67,210. This includes payments received through (i) the Bank, (ii) Stewardship numbered envelopes (iii) Casual donations via Blue envelopes and one-off occasions when cheques are received with donor details. The majority of these donations were tax efficient enabling recovery of tax from the HMRC.

The HMRC Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (known as GASDS), enables gift aid to be recovered from anonymous donations in cash up to £20 at a time, up to a maximum

of £8,000 in any financial year, giving a possible return to the Church of £2,000. This includes cash received from donations via the Card Reader machine, the cash plate at Church Services, Wall Safes, Coffee after Services etc. I'm pleased to report that once again cash donations of this type exceeded more than the £8,000 threshold in 2024, thus enabling a recovery of £2,000 from the HMRC.

Payments through the bank: It is encouraging to see the total value of donations made by regular Bank payments has increased by 9.16% during the last 12 months. This is partly due to members increasing the amount of their donations and partly due to an increase in parishioners choosing to donate to the Church in this way. Members can choose the frequency of their Bank payments when setting up their standing order. I can provide the St Oswald's bank details for parishioners who would like to start donating in this way, together with a Gift Aid Declaration Form for tax payers.

Stewardship envelopes: The envelopes scheme provides a box of 52 envelopes which have a unique reference number assigned to the member. The envelopes are date stamped for each Sunday of the year. Whilst the intent of the envelopes is to enable the member to easily make a weekly donation when they attend Church, the scheme is flexible regarding how often a member makes their donation and the amount they donate. If you are a member of this scheme and miss donations for a week or so, you can simply use the relevant dated envelope the next time you come to Church, without the need to submit envelopes for the weeks you missed. The number of members opting to donate via the envelopes scheme is continuing to reduce as members elect to use bank payments instead. The new envelopes for the 2024/25 tax years have recently been made available, and are yellow. We hope you like the new colour!

Blue envelopes: Blue envelopes are available in church for parishioners and visitors who would like to make occasional donations. These require name and address details to be completed on the front of the envelope, together with signature of the gift aid section if you are a tax payer. If you are regularly using this type of envelope for your donations you might like to consider the Stewardship envelopes scheme or Bank payments as an alternative and easier way to make your donations.

As always, sincere thanks go to all those who make donations to St Oswald's and additionally to those who have been able to complete the process for the Gift Aid scheme.

I would also like to thank Mike Peters and Muriel Jones for assisting with communications between parishioners and myself. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or to provide my details to parishioners who may be interested in participating.

Alison Vincent
Gift Aid Secretary, 2024
Contact details: Email alisonvincent43@btinternet.com
Mobile: 07541056235

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND M

England & Wales - Charity number 1133346

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1133346

Report of the Parochial Church Council and Unaudited Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31st December 2023 for

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

R Harvey-Robson F.C.C.A.
Azets
Column House
London Road
Shrewsbury
SY2 6NN

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

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Report of the Parochial Church Council	1 to 2
Independent Examiner's Report	3
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Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 15

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

The Parochial Church Council present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023. The Parochial Church Council have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in 2015.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number
1133346

Principal address
The Parish Church of St Oswald, King and Martyr
Church Street
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 2SY

Parochial Church Council

Rev H Gibbons (Chairman)	
Mr D P Evison	
Miss E J Williams	
Mr P R Crosby	
Mr M W Donkin	
Mrs L Clarke	
Mrs F Major	Retired 22nd May 2023
Mr A Neale	
Mrs J Chesworth	
Mrs M Jones	
Mrs F Pearson	
Ms C Boulton	
Mrs MC Crosby	
Mr J Abram	
Mr J Abbatt	
Rev Yin-An Chen	
Rev J Castillo-Burley	
Mrs J Chippet-Williams	Appointed 22nd May 2023
Ms R Evans	Appointed 22nd May 2023
Mr R Major	Appointed 22nd May 2023
Ms S Wright	Appointed 22nd May 2023

Independent Examiner
R. Harvey-Robson F.C.C.A.
Azets
Column House
London Road
Shrewsbury
SY2 6NN

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document
Parochial Church Council powers measure (1956) as amended and church representation rules.

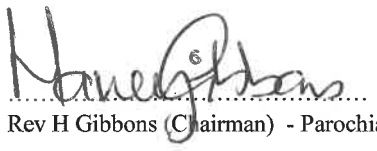
Risk management
The Parochial Church Council have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Safeguarding
The Parochial Church Council has adopted the Diocesan and Church of England policies in this regard.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



Rev H Gibbons (Chairman) - Parochial Church Council member

18th March 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE P.C.C. OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

This report on the financial statements of the P.C.C. for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 4 to 15 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE P.C.C. AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The members of the P.C.C are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
   - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

R Harvey-Robson F.C.C.A.
Azets
Column House
London Road
Shrewsbury
SY2 6NN

18th March 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £ *
Incoming Resources					
Donations and Legacies	2a	182,780	653	183,433	111,726
Charitable Activities	2b	18,769	8,164	26,933	22,151
Other Trading Activities	2c	12,943	-	12,943	11,051
Investments	2d	21,290	-	21,290	19,373
Total		235,782	8,817	244,599	164,301
Resources Expended					
Raising Funds	3a	-	8,800	8,800	9,453
Charitable Activities	3b	153,531	4,175	157,706	140,641
Total		153,531	12,975	166,506	150,094
Net gain/(losses) on investment		10,622	-	10,622	(4,999)
Depreciation on fixed assets, charity's own use		(4,582)	-	(4,582)	-
Net Income/(Expenditure)		88,291	(4,158)	84,133	9,208
Transfer between funds		(2,220)	2,220	-	-
Net movement in funds		86,071	(1,938)	84,133	9,208
Total funds brought forward (1st Jan)		675,726	71,295	747,021	737,813
Total funds carried forward (31st Dec)		761,797	69,357	831,154	747,021

* See note 10 for full comparatives

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Balance Sheet
At 31st December 2023

	Notes	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	5a	18,327	-
Investment Assets	5b	666,957	656,335
		685,284	656,335
Current Assets			
Bank current accounts		-	5,602
Bank deposit accounts		123,402	65,868
CBF deposit fund		25,983	20,443
Cash		117	257
Stocks		125	195
Debtors		10,358	11,685
		159,985	104,050
Liabilities due in one year			
Bank current accounts		(1,239)	-
Creditors	6	(12,876)	(13,364)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		145,870	90,686
TOTAL NET ASSETS		831,154	747,021
Parish Funds	8		
Unrestricted funds		761,797	675,726
Restricted funds		69,357	71,295
TOTAL FUNDS		831,154	747,021

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 18th March 2024 and were signed on it's behalf by:

.....
Rev H Gibbons (Chairman) - Parochial Church Council member

.....
D P Evison FCA - Chairman of Finance Committee and Treasurer

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP) and applicable accounting standard FRS102.

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

Cash Flow Statement

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that the income does not exceed £500,000.

Description of Funds

Restricted funds comprise of two elements:-

a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest

b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and Benefice Property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10 (2) (a) & (C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value on 31st December.

Investment property

Investment property is shown at the most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in the market value is transferred to a revaluation reserve.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
2a	**Donations and Legacies**				
	Voluntary Income/Receipts				
1	Tax efficient planned giving	56,217	-	56,217	60,163
	Other planned giving	5,420	-	5,420	5,392
2	Collections at services	14,511	-	14,511	12,926
3	All other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals	13,168	653	13,821	13,716
	Gift Aid Recovered	18,017	-	18,017	19,029
	Legacies received	75,447	-	75,447	500
		182,780	653	183,433	111,726

1) Analysis of Tax efficient planned giving

	£
Bank Donations	34,337
Regular Envelopes	21,880
	56,217

2) Analysis of Collections at services

	£
White Envelopes	4,630
Loose plate collections	7,403
Collections - Baptisms	495
Collections - Home Communions	336
Collections - Weddings	404
Collections - Special	1,243
	14,511

3) Analysis of all other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals

	£
Donations - Church	5,013
Donations - Charities	1,422
Donations - Organ Fund - Restricted	653
Donations - Organ Fund - Unrestricted	1,164
Donations - Flower Fund	415
Wall safes	3,081
Donations - Funerals	1,562
Donations - Place of Welcome	511
	13,821

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS CONTINUED:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
2b Charitable Activities				
Church Activities				
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)	11,704	1,217	12,921	12,983
Summer Fete	-	-	-	-
Fundraising Activities	7,065	6,947	14,012	9,168
	18,769	8,164	26,933	22,151
2c Other Trading Activities				
Activities for Generating Funds				
Church Hall Hire	336	-	336	299
Church Lettings	2,820	-	2,820	2,400
Lower Brook Street Rent	8,400	-	8,400	7,108
Lichfield Diocesan - Decorator's Scheme	-	-	-	-
Parish Magazine & Bookstall	1,387	-	1,387	1,244
	12,943	-	12,943	11,051
2d Investments				
Dividends	19,288	-	19,288	19,077
Bank Interest	2,002	-	2,002	296
	21,290	-	21,290	19,373
TOTAL	235,782	8,817	244,599	164,301

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

EXPENDITURE ON:

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
3a	**Raising Funds**				
	Costs of Generating Income				
	Fetes & Fundraising	-	8,800	8,800	9,453
		-	8,800	8,800	9,453
3b	**Charitable Activities**				
	Church Activities				
	Mission giving and donations	7,606	-	7,606	7,229
	Diocesan Parish Share	45,757	-	45,757	45,757
	Salaries/Wages	24,651	750	25,401	24,135
	Clergy and Staff Expenses	7,591	-	7,591	6,565
	Church Expenses				
	Church running expenses	15,052	2,974	18,026	8,211
	Church utility bills	20,114	-	20,114	19,447
	Cost of trading	15,714	451	16,165	22,401
	Major Capital Expenditure				
	Major Repairs to the Church	13,493	-	13,493	3,381
	Governance Costs	3,553	-	3,553	3,515
		153,531	4,175	157,706	140,641
TOTAL		153,531	12,975	166,506	150,094

4a STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries	25,401	24,135

During the year the PCC employed the following members of the PCC:

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Mr M Donkin	5,673	5,394
Ms C Boulton	6,552	6,240
	12,225	11,634

There were no other transactions made in respect of PCC Members, no PCC Member received benefit, or reimbursement of travelling or other expenses.

5a FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Buildings	Church Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
At Cost			
As at 1st January 2023	-	-	-
Additions in the Year	-	22,909	22,909
Disposals in the Year	-	-	-
Value at 31st December 2023	-	22,909	22,909
Accumulated Depreciation			
As at 1st January 2023	-	-	-
Charge for the Year	-	4,582	4,582
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31st December 2023	-	4,582	4,582
Net Book Value at 31st December 2023	-	18,327	18,327
Net Book Value at 31st December 2022	-	-	-

5b INVESTMENT ASSETS

	At 1.1.23	Additions	Disposals	Transfers	Change in Market Value	At 31.12.23
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
Investments	374,304	-	-	654	10,622	385,580
Investment Property - 14 Lower Brook Street	220,000	-	-	-	-	220,000
Restricted funds						
Investments	62,031	-	-	(654)	-	61,377
Total	656,335	-	-	-	10,622	666,957

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

The unlisted investments are made up of the following:

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Church of England Investment Fund	156,632	143,162
Church of England Fixed Interest Fund	25,386	24,044
M&G Charifund	183,940	188,366
Lichfield Diocesan Trust	81,000	80,763
	446,958	436,335

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
MARKET VALUE	
At 1st January 2023	220,000
Additional Expenditure	-
Change in Market Value	-
At 31st December 2023	220,000
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2023	220,000
At 31st December 2022	220,000

During 2011 the deeds at 14 Lower Brook Street were discovered to have been transferred into The PCC's name.
In light of this, the property has been brought into the accounts in 2011 at the then current market value of £160,000.00.

6 LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due in one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals of Utilities	2,363	2,252
Other Creditors	10,513	11,112
	12,876	13,364

7 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	General Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	18,327	-	18,327
Investments Assets	605,581	61,377	666,958
Current Assets	150,767	7,980	158,747
Current Liabilities	(14,115)	-	(14,115)
	760,560	69,357	829,917

STOCKS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Stocks (Prayer Cards & Notelets etc)	125	195

DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayments	1,430	1,279
Dividend Income	3,500	4,154
Gift Aid	4,336	4,976
Other debtors	1,092	1,276
	10,358	11,685

8 FUNDS RECONCILIATION

		Reserves at 1.1.23	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Investment Gain/Losses	Transfer between funds	Reserves at 31.12.23
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds							
General Fund		675,726	235,782	(153,531)	6,040	(2,220)	761,797
Restricted Funds							
Organ Fund	1	2,973	653	-	-	112	3,738
Flower Fund	2	1,069	-	-	-	40	1,109
Morris Fund	3	145	-	-	-	-	145
Wilfred Owen Fund	4	753	-	-	-	28	781
Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People in Need	5	567	-	-	-	-	567
For the Assistance of the Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund	6	9,290	-	-	-	350	9,640
Oswestry St Ann's Fund	7	12,430	-	-	-	468	12,898
Sunday School Fund	8	492	-	-	-	-	492
Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund	9	3,079	-	(2,974)	-	-	105
Boulton Trust Fund	10	15,432	-	-	-	581	16,013
Friends of Music / Choral Foundation	11	1,005	6,030	(7,026)	-	-	9
Bellringers	12	3,236	1,541	(1,667)	-	-	3,110
Bellringers - Bell Training	13	937	-	-	-	-	937
Ladies Group	14	1,977	593	(857)	-	-	1,713
Christmas Day Lunch	15	905	-	-	-	-	905
Morda School House Trust	16	17,005	-	(451)	-	641	17,195
		71,295	8,817	(12,975)	-	2,220	69,357
TOTAL FUNDS		747,021	244,599	(166,506)	6,040	-	831,154

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains and Losses £	Movement in Funds £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	235,782	(153,531)	6,040	88,291
Restricted Funds				
Organ Fund	653	-	-	653
Flower Fund	-	-	-	-
Morris Fund	-	-	-	-
Wilfred Owen Fund	-	-	-	-
Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People in Need	-	-	-	-
For the Assistance of the Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund	-	-	-	-
Oswestry St Ann's Fund	-	-	-	-
Sunday School Fund	-	-	-	-
Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund	-	(2,974)	-	(2,974)
Boulton Trust Fund	-	-	-	-
Friends of Music/Choral Foundation	6,030	(7,026)	-	(996)
Bellringers	1,541	(1,667)	-	(126)
Bellringers - Bell Training	-	-	-	-
Ladies Group	593	(857)	-	(264)
Morda School House Trust	-	(451)	-	(451)
	8,817	(12,975)	-	(4,158)
TOTAL NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	244,599	(166,506)	6,040	84,133

NOTES TO THE FUNDS
Restricted Funds

1) Organ Fund
This is used to maintain the organ in St Oswald's church.

2) Flower Fund
This fund is held to enable flowers to be purchased for the church throughout the year.

3) Morris Fund
This fund is used for the upkeep of a memorial.

4) Wilfred Owen Fund
This fund is held for the upkeep of the Wilfred Owen memorial.

5) Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People In Need
This fund is for small gifts for people in need at Vicar's discretion.

6) Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund
This fund is to be used to assist parishioners of St Oswald's in times of poor health and hardship. The funds were given to St Oswald's in a fellow parishioner's will.

7) Oswestry St Ann's Fund
This was generated from the sale of St Ann's chapel at Morda and is held to be used for capital projects.

8) Sunday School Fund
This fund is held to support the Sunday School at St Oswald's church.

9) Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund
This fund is held for capital projects.

10) Boulton Trust Fund
This fund is held for capital projects.

11) Friends of Music / Choral Foundation Fund
This fund is used for the Friends of Music Group.

12) Bellringers Fund
This fund is used for the Bellringers group.

13) Bellringers - Bell Training Fund
This fund was established to assist Bellringers training.

14) Ladies Group
This fund is used for the ladies fellowship group.

15) Christmas Day Lunch
This fund was established to provide funds for the Christmas Day Lunch Project.

16) Morda School House Trust
This fund is to be used for youth and family work within our Parish.

9 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Mr D. P. Evison, F.C.A. is a partner in Garner Pugh & Sinclair who are paid £2,950 plus VAT (£3,540) for Accounting and Administration services.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

10 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES COMPARATIVES (PREVIOUS YEAR)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £
Incoming Resources			
Donations and Legacies	109,873	1,853	111,726
Charitable Activities	17,535	4,616	22,151
Other Trading Activities	11,051	-	11,051
Investments	19,373	-	19,373
Total	157,832	6,469	164,301
Resources Expended			
Raising Funds	-	9,453	9,453
Charitable Activities	135,455	5,186	140,641
Total	135,455	14,639	150,094
Net gain/(losses) on investment	(4,999)	-	(4,999)
Net Income/(Expenditure)	17,378	(8,170)	9,208
Transfer between funds	(2,186)	2,186	-
Net movement in funds	15,192	(5,984)	9,208
Total funds brought forward (1st Jan)	660,534	77,279	737,813
Total funds carried forward (31st Dec)	675,726	71,295	747,021

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND M

England & Wales - Charity number 1133346

Accounts

THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST OSWALD, KING & MARTYR, OSWESTRY
The Parish Office, Church Street, Oswestry, SY11 2SY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2023 for the year 2022

The PCC cooperates with the Incumbent in the whole mission of the church according to the call of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. As part of the Synodical structure of the Church of England, the PCC makes known and puts into effect any provision made by the Diocesan or Deanery Synods and gives advice to these synods on any matters the PCC considers appropriate. The PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the church; the PCC draws up a budget and has the responsibility with the Incumbent of appointing, paying and dismissing paid officers of the parish. The PCC is responsible for the care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric of the Parish Church and the adjacent Parish Centre; a house at 14 Lower Brook Street, Oswestry is in the beneficial ownership of the Parochial Church Council, vested in the Diocesan Trust and is normally let to tenants. The Vicar and Churchwardens have passed on the School House at Morda Church of England Primary School in the parish to the school and have received the sum of £25,000, this will help fund our new Youth and Families officer. As a parish within the Diocese of Lichfield, it follows the Bishop's Three Primary Tasks of Discipleship, Evangelism and Vocation.

Membership of the PCC is as follows:

(a) Ex-Officio
Incumbent: *Vicar of St Oswald, King & Martyr, Oswestry* – Rev'd H L Gibbons, M.A.
Licensed Ministers: Rev Yin-An Chen (*from July 2022*), Rev. Jassica Castillo-Burley (*from October 2022*)

Churchwardens: Miss E. J. Williams, Mrs M. Jones, Mr A. Neale, Mr J. Abram

Deanery Synod Representatives (*elected in 2022*)
Mrs M. Crosby, Mrs L. Clarke

(b) Elected Representatives
Ms C. Boulton (Secretary), Mrs L. Clarke, Mrs M. Crosby, Mrs F. Major, Mr D.P. Evison (Hon. Treasurer), Mr P. Crosby, Mr M. Donkin, Mrs F. Pearson, Mrs J. Chesworth,

Under arrangements in force since the late 1980's and modified in 2002, three people are elected each year, for a term of three years.

To serve until 2023 Ms C. Boulton, Mrs J. Chesworth, Mrs F. Major
To serve until 2024 Mr P. Crosby, Mr M. Donkin
To serve until 2025 Mr J. Abbatt, Mr D.P Evison, Mrs F. Pearson

(c) Co-opted Representatives
Miss F. Parker (until August 2022)

Officers of the Council

The Vicar, as Incumbent is the legal Chairman of the Council
The Lay-co Chair of the Council is Mr Alan Neale
The Hon. Secretary to the Council is Ms Carron Boulton
The Hon. Treasurer to the Council is Mr Paul Evison
The Electoral Roll Officer is Mrs Maureen Crosby

Sub Committees of the Council
The Vicar is ex officio on all sub committees listed below:

Standing Committee (the sole statutory Sub Committee)
The Vicar, Two Churchwardens; Lay Co-Chair; Hon. Secretary; Hon. Treasurer – all ex officio
Mr P Crosby, Mrs L Clarke

Other sub committees include representatives appointed by the PCC from among their number, normally including one Churchwarden (at least) signified by *

Building and Fabric Committee – the full terms of reference is available on request and the membership is as follows: Mr P. Crosby (Chair), Mr P. Evison, Mr C. Tansley, Mr A. Neale*, Mr M. Clarke, Mr G. Howe, Mr P. Walley

Finance Committee – the full terms of reference are available on request and the membership is as follows: Mr P. Evison (Chair), Mr M. Donkin, Cdr M. Peters (Gift Aid), Mr A. Clarke, Mr E. Evans, J. Abram*

Parish Centre Management Committee to manage the daily running of the Centre and its staff – Mr A. Neale* (Chair), Mrs J. Holderness (Booking Secretary), Mr M. Wilson and Mrs E. Leek

Social Committee with a focus on fellowship – Miss J. Williams*, Ms C. Boulton, Mr P. Walley

Mission and Giving Group – Rev. H. Gibbons, Mrs A. Pilsbury, Mr H. Jones

Mission and Ministry Team – Rev. H. Gibbons, Mrs L. Clarke, Mrs P. Willing, Mrs G. Evison, Ms S. Wright, Rev'd J. Castillo-Burley, Rev'd Y. Chen (from September)

Sick and Needy Fund – Rev H. Gibbons, Mr P. Crosby, Mrs M. Jones

The PCC appoints representatives to the local ecumenical body Churches Together in Oswestry and District. A total of two including the clergy are allowed according to the revised constitution of Churches Together adopted in 2012. Those nominated at the Annual Meeting were The Vicar and Mrs A Pilsbury who agreed to fill in when called upon to do so.

The Parish

The population of Oswestry according to the 2021 Census is 17,509 of which 10,700 live in the parochial parish of St Oswald, King & Martyr. The Electoral Roll at 29 April 2021 stood at 248. Thanks are due to Mrs Maureen Crosby for encouraging membership of the electoral roll. Average Sunday Adult attendance for the year stood at 130. Under the age of 16 years – 15.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is foremost in our thinking as a PCC and we have complied with the duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. In 2022 there were no safeguarding issues reported.

The members of the PCC and Bellringing team have started to undertake Safeguarding training and awareness information. A good number of PCC members have now completed basic safeguarding awareness training and further training will be provided for the new PCC members after the annual general meeting. Notices are around the church and parish hall with contact information available and more documentation will be forthcoming with information regarding what safeguarding is.

Shropshire Local Authority Designated Officer is currently Emma Harding, 01743 25792 Emma.HardingSafeguarding@Shropshire.gov.uk.
The designated officer for the church is Kim Hodgkins, 01543 306099 kim.hodgkins@lichfield.anglican.org.

Mission and Giving

£4,000 was allocated for charitable giving over and above the various special collections and fundraising efforts supporting emergency appeals and those we traditionally support. This year, the situation in Ukraine steered the international giving whilst the local giving was to support mental health and well-being.

The £4,000 was shared as follows:

UNHCR	£500
The Leprosy Mission	£500
Christian Aid East Africa Hunger Crisis	£500
Médecins Sans Frontiers	£500
Designs in mind	£500
Hope House	£500
Oswestry and District Foodbank	£500
Morda Primary School (Pastoral)	£500

An additional £750 was made available by donation to support work with local children and families in need.

Public Benefit

The Trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that by promoting the work of the Church of England in the ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald, King & Martyr, Oswestry it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively within the ecclesiastical Parish and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the

public by: - Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers: and promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

The Parish Sick and Needy Fund

The fund was set up some years ago formerly known as the Vicar's Discretionary Fund to help people within the parish who are suffering with hardship and is administered by a small committee under the chairmanship of the Vicar. If any member of the congregation is aware of any such case, they should contact the Vicar for the case to be discussed with the committee.

Messy Church

Messy Church was held on the third Sunday of each month starting at 4 pm. It met from January until July under the leadership of Felicity, the church's Youth and Families worker. Following her departure for a new post in July, the decision was taken to stop Messy Church create a break before restarting similar activities in the new Year to provide time to re-evaluate our offering and support to families and young people.

Schools work

The clergy were variously involved in taking Acts of Collective Worship at Morda Primary School on Mondays and Thursdays. Clergy were also actively involved in supporting focus weeks such as 'eat well' and 'sleep well' weeks and in pastoral support to staff, children and school families. The vicar is a Governor at the school and also Bishop of Lichfield's Representative on the Governing Body of Oswestry School.

Incumbent's Review of the Year

I described 2021 as 'evolutionary' as we gently felt our way into resuming church activities following the chaos of 2020. In many ways, 2022, was both a continuation of the re-opening of parish life and an introduction of new activities which marked a break with the past.

The new 4 O'clock services pilot which began in 2021 developed into the 5.30 pm services of Café Church and Reflective Space on the second and fourth Sundays respectively, with Choral Evensong returning to its full glory on the first and third. The 8 O'clock services of Holy Communion also returned albeit on the second and fourth Sundays only. Thankfully, we were able to have an almost full Holy Week with services of Compline, a Maundy Thursday Eucharist, albeit without the washing of feet, followed by the Good Friday liturgy and a final hour at the cross. The Holy Saturday Easter ceremonies returned and there was a full Easter Day celebration.
Pastoral care of church members and non-members alike continued to be challenging with many care homes opening-up to visitors very slowly. Place of Welcome returned, once again providing a safe space and pastoral support to its visitors, during the winter it became part of Oswestry's Warm Spaces initiative. The Foodbank box on the vicarage drive continued to be very generously supported by a wide range of people from across Oswestry. Our teaching ministry continued with Lent courses being run both online and in person, and the Living in Love and Faith course which had been postponed from 2021, finally took place. However, it

coincided with members of the clergy team along with a number of church members finally succumbing to the Omicron variant of Covid, thankfully everyone recovered.

One of the great strengths of St. Oswald's is the fellowship created by its social life, something which was greatly missed due to Covid. It was therefore a great pleasure to see it continue to reopen with a more relaxed St. Oswald's Garden party when the sun shone, and everyone was able to relax... my thanks to Colin and Peter for their culinary skills on the BBQ and everyone who brought food to share. We also enjoyed a Christian Aid 'Big Brekkie', the return of 'post service' coffee and the Harvest lunch, which was greatly appreciated by everyone who attended. From a personal point of view, I would very much like to express my own and Liz's gratitude for the support you showed to our daughter Hester who married her fiancé James at St. Oswald's in April.
A similarly warm and supportive welcome was also extended to our new curate the Rev'd Yin-An Chen and his partner Tim when they arrived in September ahead of Yin-An's ordination to the diaconate at Michaelmas in Lichfield Cathedral. The clergy team was further strengthened by the arrival of the Rev'd Jassica Castillo-Burley who was licensed as Associate Minister in October by the Bishop of Shrewsbury. These new members of the St. Oswald's family have already made a significant contribution to our church life and mission to the town.

However, our mission is not restricted to our town and our relationship with the Orthodox communities from Shrewsbury and Chester continues to deepen. In August we held the now annual walk to, and the blessing of, St. Oswald's Well followed by a service of orthodox vespers in church. The Orthodox priests from Shrewsbury and Chester are now using the Lady Chapel on the first Sunday of each month for a service of Divine liturgy. This, combined with the Under 5's group is an important part of the support Oswestry now provides to its growing Bulgarian community.

St. Oswald's is Oswestry's civic church, and whilst our civic role has been much reduced over the last few years, it was encouraging to see new signs of life in that important ministry. In June we hosted the Platinum Jubilee and birthday celebrations for her Majesty the Queen, and sadly, the Civic Commemoration service and Book of Condolence following her death in September. As usual, Advent and Christmas brought the year to an end and it was a joy to welcome back local schools for their Christmas services and a full array of Advent and Christmas lessons and carols services, a well-attended nativity, and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve in addition to Christmas Day.

Rebuilding St. Oswald's post-Covid will continue to require energy, commitment, and patience, it will be a long and sometimes challenging road. To this end, the PCC Away Days at the end of October revisited the work begun at the 'Oswald's Tree' day in March 2020 immediately before the first national Coronavirus lockdown. The weekend was both a source of optimism and a sign that using the skills and gifts we possess as individuals and as a worshipping community, we can combine the old ways that we value with new ways to love God and serve our neighbour and so make St. Oswald's fit for mission in the 21st century.

I will end as I always do by stating my personal thanks to everyone who has worked so hard during the past twelve months; my clergy colleagues, the Church Wardens and PCC, our caretaker and maintenance team, the choir and music team, the flower arrangers and all who contribute to our worship along with all those who quietly get on with things behind the scenes

without making a fuss. Once again, it has been a huge team effort and once again, collectively we have risen to the challenge.

As ever, I look forward to the next twelve months with hope and great enthusiasm.

Website - https://www.stoswaldsoswestry.org.uk/

Our website's home page has been brightened up by Yin-An's lively posters. There seems to be a lot happening at the moment, but the website tries to keep everyone up to date, and to make our church an inviting place for new-comers and visitors. We are looking at the possibility of updating our website, as it is over ten years since the design was changed. A complete re-design to one of Church Edit's templates would cost £599, unless there is someone who is able to use the Church Edit Design Builder which is included in our package. I fear this may be beyond me. An alternative would be to find another website host who would do it cheaper.

If there is anything you want to add to the website, please email me at annepilsbury@gmail.com Please add a closing date for your post, if applicable, so it can be removed at the right time.
Thanks go as always to Ann Sagar for continuing to produce the weekly pew sheet, and to Diane Dawson for the monthly Parish News magazine.

Social Media

Facebook is our primary social media platform, enabling the broadcasting of morning prayer (from Monday to Friday), the streaming of Sunday services and some large evening services. It also advertises our community and church events and assists us to interact with other charities and our followers. So far, we have 620 Facebook followers. We usually have 7-10 people watching our service on Sunday morning.
The St Oswald's Community is grateful to Harvey, John, Adrian and Bill for leading our morning prayer services. Yin-An is our Facebook page administrator. We also maintain an official web page, A Church Near You, established by the Church of England for every single parish. This page gives basic information about our regular services and important Christian festivals (including Christmas and Easter). The page is administered by Yin-An and Paul Crosby.

Home Communion

With the removal of the restrictions on movement imposed due to the pandemic we have resumed visiting private homes and residential homes on a regular monthly basis. There is a sadness when someone we have visited for many years dies but there is also great joy in seeing the effect that bringing the love of Christ in the form of the Holy Sacrament has on those we visit.

Through the kind cooperation of the staff at the three residential homes in the parish, Woodlands at Morda and Fairholme and High Lea in Town, we are able to worship with groups of residents as well as visiting individuals in their rooms.

Not everyone feels comfortable with receiving the Sacraments at home but if you know of someone whose is unable to attend church and may wish to have a visit, please let me know. My thanks to Pam my wife and Michael Jones for sharing with me in this ministry.

Churches Together in Oswestry District

After a period of reflection and consultation, CTOD has started its new pattern of three open meetings each year combined with united outreach events. The open meetings provide an opportunity for fellowship (with some wonderful refreshments) together with the chance to hear about local missional activities and pray for them. Recent meetings have taken place at the Moors Methodist Chapel and then at Cabin Lane Church. United outreach activities have taken place on Good Friday in the Market, at the Oswestry Show and with an open-air Carol Service aimed at families on the Bailey Head.

Choir

The Choir continues to provide a high standard of music for services but we are still feeling the effects of the two Covid lockdowns and this is particularly the case with recruitment of young people. During the year three of our choristers moved to the adult choir sections one now singing alto and two singing tenor. One of our basses also left the choir due to both age and wishing to have more time for family.

As a result, the choir numbers are as follows: -

- 7 Trebles
- 5 Altos
- 4 Tenors and
- 3 Basses.

Covid is still having an effect and the Choir was unable to sing the services on Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday due to cases of Covid affecting members. Fortunately, we were fit enough to sing the Holy Week and Easter services.

During the year the choir has sung 73 services including two Sequences of Music & Readings, (for Candlemas and Remembrance respectively), 3 Carol services (Advent, Nine Lessons & Carols and Epiphany) and a special service of Thanksgiving for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Additionally, the Choir gave a performance of 'Messiah' by G. F. Handel with soloists from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

We continue to be the only place within 25 miles where traditional choral worship can be accessed and this is greatly appreciated by numerous members of the congregation who have been kind enough to express their appreciation of what the choir does.

Our efforts in 2023 must be to increase numbers in the Treble section.

The Children's Society

The Children's Society continues to work to ensure that every young person has the good childhood they deserve. That's why they fight for the happiness of young people when it's

threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect. They see the hope and courage in young people every day, and continue to support them through their most serious life challenges. At St Oswald's we continue to support the Children's Society through our annual Christingle Service and individually through the House Collection Box Network.

This year we held our Christingle Service in January and combined this with collecting the house boxes in so that they could be blessed. This worked very well and focused attention on the work of the Children's Society rather than being just another service at Christmas. At this service a number of new people signed up to have a house collection box and I hope that we can build on this success next year. Together we have raised nearly a £1000.

Acolyte's / Server's.

I am delighted that I am able to give a positive report this year on the growing strength of the team of Acolyte's /Server's, these are people who feel that they have a calling to serve our Lord at the altar with reverence, I have a very loyal team who I find are a pleasure to work with and are willing to give up their time on a Sunday and other Saint's days. I have two of the team who will soon be attending Confirmation classes these people are the church of the future and all should be encouraged.

The team are:	Garry and Tim and Bruce (reserve) crucifer.
	Paul and Tim 8am servers.
Sunday team:	Katja, Jis, Swapna, Lilly, Abbie, Samantha, Tabatha.

We also have a team of faithful people who, when we are back to normal having the sacrament in both kinds will administer a chalice. People quite often ask me what do the symbols of the medal that I wear mean: on the one side there is the Host, Chalice and lighted candles to remind us that the Eucharist is the centre of our sacramental life, on the other side of the medal are the words "I will go unto the Altar of God, with the centre part showing a pelican. This reminds us of the legend, that this bird feeds its young with the blood from its own breast, this is the meaningful symbol of the Blessed Sacrament – Christ feeds us with his Body and Blood.

We are always looking for other people who would like to serve our Lord at the Altar with joy and gladness.

Altar linen

Some of the altar linen has had to be replaced due to wear and tear or not being the correct width or length for the High and Lady chapel altar, two new altar cloths for the Lady chapel have been purchased together with 4 new purificator's and we will soon need to buy a new cloth for the High altar as we only have one which is the correct width and length.

One or two sets of vestments need attention by cleaning (not always possible) or replacing, maybe we could appeal to members of the parish if a kind person may like to buy a set-in memory of a loved one vestment are not cheap to buy.
I would like to thank Muriel for washing the purificators week by week.

Mission and Ministry (MMT)

The Mission and Ministry Team met four times in 2022. In January the emphasis was on planning for Easter as we tried to return to normal after the pandemic. We organised Lent Study courses, both online and face to face, and two members produced an Austerity Recipe Leaflet for everyone to use, as Lent Lunches were not possible this year. Plans were begun to mark the 150th anniversary of the Victorian refurbishment of St Oswald's in 2024.

In April we reviewed the Lent courses which had all been successful. Ideas were put forward for other fellowship groups such as a craft group; and a men's group to meet at the Bailey Head pub. These were badly needed after the isolation of covid. Two members produced a display of Bible Reading notes in church, with the opportunity to order these for home use. Plans were begun for a display of hand-made poppies in St George's Chapel to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in 2025.

In September we developed responses to 'Shaping for Mission', establishing ways in which St Oswald's could contribute time and talents to offer to other churches in the deanery. We planned to organise a pastoral care training course for St Oswald's and to re-start pastoral care groups for our congregation. A future get-together with home-grown entertainment was planned.

In October the MMT spent time walking the church, planning how best to use the space to accommodate tourists and to create useful areas for worship and outreach, removing clutter and planning signage and generally making the space more fit for purpose for everyone.

Oswestry Deanery Synod Report

Oswestry Deanery Synod met three times in 2022. The focus of the February meeting at Gobowen was Discipleship and members joined in small groups to discuss and pray about discipleship in their own parishes. The subject of the lack of Diocesan Training Courses in our area of the Diocese was raised again with promises of a follow-up by the Rural Dean.

Our second meeting, at St Martins, brought together all the parish surveys from Shaping for Mission. Each parish gave a short summary of what their parish had to offer other churches in the deanery, what problems they had and what further training and resources they felt they needed to engage with mission locally. Between all the churches in the deanery we had skills and experience and man-power to help each other move forward. It was emphasised that we are all one Christian family and we need to work together and that a major step towards this was to pray together.

The third meeting was held on November 9th. I was unable to attend but I am informed by the secretary that there was no agenda for this meeting and no minutes were taken.

Ladies Group

The Committee consists of:
Chair June Williams
Secretary Ann Sagar
Treasurer Glenda Evison
Committee members - Jane Wilkinson, Val Hamer and Olwen Phillips.

The group have enjoyed a wide range of speakers after starting meeting again after Covid. Members have enjoyed Friendship and Fellowship together, along with endless cups of tea, coffee, biscuits and sometimes cake. Once again Members have been busy with Place of Welcome, Sunday coffee and other Church Events.

We encourage and welcome Ladies to join us at our meetings which are usually held on the first Monday of the month at 2.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre. We have thirty-five members at present.

Mothers` Union Fellowship Group.

We continue to meet on the second Thursday in the month at 2pm in the Parish Centre. Meetings start with prayer and have had a theme each month either with a speaker or "do it Ourselves." These have varied month by month starting each year with an informal Eucharist Service and ending the year in Advent by making fabric Christmas stockings to hold sweets. We celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee by hosting Deanery members to join with us in a Service and tea.

Place Of Welcome

Throughout 2022 the Place of Welcome drop-in on a Tuesday morning continued to welcome guests from the community and the church family. Overall, numbers have risen and there is usually a lively buzz of conversation in the room. We put out the bunting and marked Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee with a special session in June, and in December Haydn Jones played Christmas music for us at our mince pie morning, which was attended by more than 40 people. This year we have introduced a 'book swap', which is becoming a popular feature. In the autumn, Place of Welcome registered as a 'Warm Welcome Space', meaning it was advertised around the town and on various websites as somewhere that was warm, free and available to anyone in our community who might be struggling to heat their home. We continue to support the Foodbank from donations made by guests, and in 2022 also sent money to the Ukraine Emergency Fund in March, to Crisis at Christmas, which supports homeless people, and to the local branch of the NSPCC. Place of Welcome could not be possible without the loyal members of the kitchen rota, to whom thanks are due.

Building And Fabric Committee

Members of the committee are Sue Tansley (secretary), Colin Tansley, Peter Walley, Gerry Howe, Malcolm Clark, Paul Evison, Alan Neale, Rev'd Harvey Gibbons, Paul Crosby (chairman). The committee has been very active throughout the year and much has been achieved.

Following mindless vandalism of the lead over the cloister joining the Church and the Parish Centre in 2021, investigation found that the felt under the lead had been affected by age-related deterioration and was replaced. We can now report that the damaged lead has also been replaced and is protected by Smart Water.

The Church was surveyed by the Church Architect and a 5-yearly Quinquennial Inspection was received identifying some areas that need attention. Hopper windows near the south door were identified as bowing in both the Quinquennial Inspections in 2011 and 2016 as needing attention but were postponed through lack of funds. These have now been repaired.

Other stained glass was also repaired as was a window in the Tower which was in danger of falling out. The Church Wall on Church Street was damaged by a car. Our insurers paid for the repair and claimed the cost, including our excess, from the driver's insurance.

A Faculty has been granted to introduce a bookcase on each side of the Yale Memorial to create a Reading Area. After removal of two short pews, two architect-designed bookcases were built by Hugh Griffiths, a professional woodworker. These improvements have been funded by Mr Nick Richards of David Davies and Sons and his siblings in memory of Bill and Gwen Richards, their parents.

The Garden of Remembrance was almost full so a Faculty was granted to extend the existing area, almost doubling its size. Significant problems were encountered in progressing this work because there was insufficient existing depth to meet Ecclesiastical Law for the burial of cremated remains. After re-planning the work by adding more topsoil and re-turfing the area, the Faculty was extended. The extension to the Garden of Remembrance is now completed (Feb 2023).

In 2021 the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) refused to support a Faculty to add 16 turned-spindle lights with shades within the choir stalls, as a memorial gift, because they thought it would be detrimental to the visual impact of the Choir, in an attempt to change their minds, 16 simulated light stands were produced by Gerry Howe adorned with mock-up shades created by the Vicar, in an attempt to assess views for the PCC and the wider congregation. The PCC decision was split - in favour by just one vote. Nevertheless, a further attempt was made to obtain a Faculty but once again it was not supported by the DAC. The PCC agreed that, in its present form, the proposal would never gain DAC support so the decision was taken to withdraw the Faculty request.

The streaming of services using an iPad or mobile phone, which started during lockdown, is being upgraded. A Faculty was sought to install three permanent high quality video cameras offering better coverage of services, improving both vision and audio. A Faculty has been granted and the contractor has programmed the work for March 2023.

Mindful of the Church of England's target to be Carbon Neutral by 2030, the committee will seek PCC approval to develop a programme of work over the next 5 – 7 years in an attempt to achieve this target date at St Oswald's. The Church Architect will identify ways to reduce heat loss by improving the insulation in the Parish Centre looking specifically at the roof, windows and walls. The plan is to incorporate all these into a single project.

The irritating noise from the fan radiators in the Parish Centre has been overcome. We are indebted to Gerry Howe who disconnected two fans and has re-packed the bearings with grease. He will check and re-pack the bearings of the remaining radiator fans during Summer 2023.

Colin Tansley and Peter Walley have lowered the weathervane and straitened the west compass point - which had been damaged by the flag. They have repainted the compass points and the cockerel which now look most impressive as they are lit in the night sky.

As gas and electricity costs have risen throughout the year St Oswald's has benefitted from being locked into contracts with big suppliers until February 2025 for Gas and November 2023 for Electricity. VAT totalling £3,505, which had already been paid on eligible work, has

been reclaimed under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. The scheme has now been extended until 31 March 2025.

A new contract has been negotiated for servicing of the Fire Extinguishers. The Parish Centre Lift, Organ and Clock have all been serviced. The boilers in the church and the parish centre will be serviced in early 2023 after some new parts have been fitted. All portable appliances in the church have been tested (PAT testing) and are safe to use.

Though thanks are due to the whole committee, particular thanks must go to Colin Tansley, Peter Walley and Gerry Howe who have undertaken 'self-help' works and on-going maintenance (in addition to that already mentioned) throughout the year.

Under 5s Play & Stay Toddler Group

Team members
Set up team: Matthew Wilson; Colin Tansley; Peter Walley
Volunteers: Bruce Hart; Cynthia Hawksley; Irene Gull; Judith Haslam; Julie Evans

I started running Under 5s 12th October one week after my licensing service. It has progressively gathered momentum having invested in better publicity. Since opening I have had at least one new family each week. We now have 27 families on our register, thankfully not all of them turn up at the same time, however we are averaging 13 families per session.

All sessions are free and we encourage the parents to bring snacks for their children. We offer tea, coffee, juice and the occasional biscuit. On request from the families, we are planning to offer the same facilities on a Friday. Plans are already on the way for this to happen.

Secretary

Quarterly meetings have taken place in person in the Parish Hall. Overall attendance of PCC meetings has been very good. We have discussed many issues this year, with the memorial works, renovation works, finances, and our carbon footprint and what we can do to reduce it. The church has successfully remained open following the Covid closure. Communion has been dealt with effectively with sanitising of communicants' hands before. A one-way system was in place for some considerable time at the time of communion to reduce the mixing of individuals.

St Oswald's conducted 5 wedding ceremonies for 2022 along with an additional 3 wedding blessings. 21 Baptisms took place throughout as well as Moreton Hall School confirmation. The clergy registered 57 funeral services conducted either at St Oswald's or in a local crematorium/cemetery. Bookings for wedding ceremonies have been coming in steadily and we have 7 booked for 2023 and 4 so far have been booked for 2024.

This year, three members will have completed their three-year tenure so the PCC will be requiring approximately 5 new members to join the committee and it is hoped that those coming forward willing to join the PCC and bring with them a vast background.
We have seen two new members join our clergy team and they have proved to be an invaluable asset.

Church wardens

Despite being a newly appointed member of the Churchwarden team, I have been entrusted to write this year's report .... so here goes!

After all the challenges of the last couple of years our Church is finally back to resuming normal service, with attendances back to pre-Covid levels if not slightly higher. Much work was required in preparation for re-opening and thanks are due to everyone involved.

We are blessed with wonderful volunteers whose work often goes unsung – these include the Sides-people, the Place of Welcome team, the Cleaners, the Flower arrangers, and all those who readily lend a hand to keep things running smoothly. Thanks are also due to Matt, our ever willing and helpful Caretaker.

As I am discovering, the Churchwarden's duties are wide ranging and include ensuring that the PCC carries out its responsibilities for the care of the building and that the Inventory is kept up to date. In these important matters we are very grateful to Paul Crosby and the members of the Building and Fabric Committee for all their hard work, and to Ann Boulton for her dedication in continuing the work of the late Michael Joby to produce the essential Church Inventory. For my part I am grateful for the cooperation I have received in updating the Church Key Register.
We move forward in a time of change and at the time of writing we have yet to see the outcomes from the Vision Day discussions, and what challenges and opportunities may lie in store for us in the months and years ahead. We will need to continue working together with that same spirit of cooperation and understanding that brought us safely through Covid.

Bible Study

Our Monday afternoon bible group has continued to meet on a weekly basis throughout the year. Our studies have been wide ranging and have included topics such as the twelve disciples, the apostle creed and the history of the tabernacle.
Highlights include a wonderful afternoon having a guided tour of St Oswald's Parish church stained-glass windows, kindly given by Sue Tansley and an oversight of the book of Hebrews given by an evangelical lay preacher.

We are also hoping to organise a trip to a synagogue in the near future. Have you considered getting like-minded people from a bible study group of your own? We would highly recommend it!

Pastoral Care Group

In the summer of 2022, a small group met to explore pastoral care in the parish. We were aware of how much care goes on quietly in the background by each of us. Many groups take place giving each other support. However, no group exists for the gentlemen perhaps a "noggin' and a natter" in a pub could be arranged. Harvey our vicar attended an early meeting giving his support.

The group continues to meet once a month. We feel prayer is at the centre of all of this. Our curate joined us in December. We would be grateful for any suggestions and ideas.

Gift-Aid / Stewardship

This year finally saw us able gradually to lift the restrictions imposed as a result of Covid-19. Congregations have been approaching the pre-pandemic numbers and as a result the opportunities for donations to the church and its activities have started to recover. Total donations were 2.3% lower than 2021; there was an increase in donations through the bank but other sources showed reductions. Tax-efficient income from all sources was £71,878 (£71,347 in 2021).

Stewardship envelopes: 44 members used their coloured envelopes during the year, reducing to 39 in December. (Average of 49 in 2021). The total donated this way was £23,878 (£32,191 in 2021), an average of £542 from each donor, (£645 in 2021), and £459 per week (£608 in 2021). Over 92% of donations were "tax-efficient".

Payments through the bank: During the year 57 gave this way (80 in 2021) including those who had changed from using regular envelopes. The total given for the year was £38,078 (£36,278 in 2021) and over 92% was "tax-efficient". This is an average of £614 per donor (£453 in 2021).
"Casual" Donors: Donations made in the blue envelopes totalled £5030 in 2022 (£2,239 in 2021) thus demonstrating the gentle recovery from the effects of the lock-downs. Some of these are from members of the congregation who make their tax-efficient donations this way. Others are visitors or who attend occasionally on Sundays and for weddings, funerals or special services; there were very few of these.

Anonymous donations: Under the Small Donations Scheme introduced in 2013, gift aid can be recovered from anonymous donations in cash, and up to £20 at a time, up to a maximum of £8,000 in any financial year, giving a possible return to the church of £2,000. In 2022 we easily reached that limit and so we received £2,000 from HMRC. In 2021 donations totalled £5,230 (Tax recovered £1307.50). Any members of the congregation who could make their donations "tax-efficient" should be encouraged to do so. This Small Donations Scheme also applies to donations made through the bank card reader.

General: The total tax recovered from HMRC was £19,029 (£18,938 in 2021). This is some 17.1% of the church's total income for the year (excluding legacies) (was 16.7% in 2021), a satisfactory result given the circumstances.

Sincere thanks must go to all those who make their gift to St Oswald's and to those who take the trouble to complete the minimal paperwork required for the Gift Aid scheme. There is always space for more donors; anyone who would like to make their gift "tax efficient" should contact the Gift Aid Secretary, Alison Vincent on 07541 056235 or alisonvincent43@btinternet.com or simply approach her in church.

Finance committee

The Finance Committee met three times during 2022. Its members are the Vicar, Andrew Clarke, Eric Evans, Michael Donkin, Mike Peters Secretary and myself as Chairman. During the year John Abram as Churchwarden joined the Committee.
As always, our first meeting of the year spends much of its time reviewing the accounts which I prepare for the previous year so that the PCC does not have to spend too much time reviewing these figures.

During the year we discussed our responsibilities to our paid employees and that as an employer we are conducting ourselves appropriately. The property at 14 Lower Brook Street is managed by JJ Dell & Co, but we have decisions to make on appropriate expenditure which this year included improvements to the property whilst it was empty between tenants. As a listed building it is important that we keep it in a good state.

We again looked at the cost of Audio & Video Technology required by the Church and whether we should introduce a credit card reader into Church. You will all see that both are installed in early 2023.

We reviewed the expected legacy from the estate of the late JWR Lockley amongst other routine financial matters. As always, the Committee keeps a watchful eye on the financial progress during the year.

The Committee can be pleased with the state of the PCC finances, which over the recent years have shown a strong and healthy balance sheet.

My thanks go to my fellow members of the Committee, and especially to Mike Peters our secretary who keeps me in order.

Treasurer

The year 2022 like so many other years had its peaks and troughs, eventually we were able to show a surplus. Again, the Lichfield Board of Finance reduced our parish share by £14,749 which together with the underspend on fabric ensured we showed a healthy surplus. There are some expensive fabric projects on the horizon which we will be able to undertake, thanks in part to the surplus which has been achieved.

Again, this year Christine Abram organised the sale of Christmas cards which raised £6,127 for the many local charities and contributed £356 towards church expenditure.
I am very grateful to our congregation for their generous giving whether by payment straight into the PCC bank account or on the weekly plate, the total was £95,258 which includes the gift aid claim. This is an increase of £966.

With so much turmoil in the financial market, it was no surprise that our investments lost £48,192 which means that over the last sixteen years our overall gain on investment is £37,743. We were advised by J.J. Dell & Co who manage our Lower Brook Street property to increase the value to £220,000 to reflect the increase in value of property since we first introduced the asset on to our accounts.

The figures for the year ended 31st December 2022 are fully explained in the PCC Financial Statements included in the Annual Report. As always, I could not and would not attempt to act as Treasurer without the assistance of the staff from Garner Pugh & Sinclair, who are paid as outlined in the accounts for this service. In addition, I would like to thank Irene Gull and her Monday morning team of counters, together with our administrator Carron, and their backroom helpers Diane Dawson and Ann Sagar.
This year's report cannot finish without a big thank you to Mike Peters for his many years of service as Parish Recorder and Gift Aid Secretary.

Bell ringers

It was good to have sufficient ringers to ring at least six, and frequently all eight bells for Sunday worship. It was noted that Oswestry has one of the strongest Sunday morning ringing bands in the Shropshire Association.

There were good numbers on practice evenings, [sometimes as many as 12 ringers] to improve ringing and support our young ringers and new ringers. Tony Freemont returned to ringing having spent 41 days in intensive care with Covid in March. Ben and Isla Rothera continued to make excellent progress with method ringing. Gordon Hodgson continued to lead us in prayer each Sunday before we made our way up to the ringing room.

It was noted that a lot of the activity in the Shropshire Association seemed to be in the South and East of the county. With the centenary of the SACBR coming up in 2026 it was a good opportunity to see what Oswestry could offer and whether becoming a training hub would give a chance to develop ringing in the north of the county, with perhaps a link with the North Wales training hub.

Peter Woollam continued to lead Thursday practices and Cordelia Warr and Pete Neal, organised the Sunday evening Quarter Peal programme. Peter Woollam also repaired 2 sides of the netting in the belfry and will do the other two in due course. This will prevent bird ingress.

20 Quarter Peals were rung, including those to celebrate 1000th Quarter Peal for Tony Freemont; the 96th Anniversary of the formation of the Shropshire Association of Church Bell Ringers; to welcome Revd Jassica Burley as Associate Minister; the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Additionally, following the Queen's death, two Quarters were rung, alongside ringing fully muffled bells on three consecutive days. Fully muffled bells are only rung for the death of a monarch so it was a first for many ringers. A Quarter Peal and open bell ringing were also rung for the proclamation of King Charles III.

On 26th December a 'teddy bear zip wire' event was again held. 112 adults and children enjoyed seeing our bells and views from the tower, including the Mayor with his wife and son. Visitors came non-stop over the 4 hours of the event. A variety of teddies flew with some repeat flyers including Big Puppy and Puss in Boots. First timers with interesting names were Diego, Francois, Daffodil, Katie Carrot, Hannah Strawberry and the winner of most unusual name, Benji Broccoli (actually a cuddly broccoli with a face!). £173.86 was raised from donation for the bell fund.

In October the West Country Ringers Association– 18 ringers from across Wiltshire, Somerset and North Devon, had a successful ring and praised the bells. The Shropshire Association held its Monthly Practice Meeting in March 2022 and has been asked to host this meeting again in 2023. Brian Rothera organised a ringing tour in May with 6 towers on the Welsh borders included. All enjoyed the opportunity to ring different bells – none as good as ours.

Parish Centre

Committee members:

Chairman: Alan Neale
Elaine Leek
Jenni Holderness

This has been another year when the Parish Centre has been used mainly for church activities without many external groups. The basement has now become a temporary storage area, where items discovered around the church building are being sorted.

Failure of the heating before Christmas has led to a review of the whole system together with the energy efficiency of the whole building. This will be addressed during the next year. The leaks through the roof in several areas (main hall, kitchen and gents toilet ceilings) are continuing to be problematical and this will be included in the review mentioned above.

It is with regret that Jenni has decided to retire from her post as booking secretary, but has kindly agreed to continue for a few weeks with the booking system unchanged until further notice. Thank you for your hard work all these years!

The committee looks forward to establishing a much more 'user friendly' and energy efficient environment in the not too distant future!

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1133346

Report of the Parochial Church Council and Unaudited Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31st December 2022 for

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

R Harvey-Robson F.C.C.A.
Azets
5-7 Beatrice Street
Oswestry
SY11 1QE

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

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Balance Sheet	5
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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

The Parochial Church Council present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2022. The Parochial Church Council have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in 2015.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number
1133346

Principal address
The Parish Church of St Oswald, King and Martyr
Church Street
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 2SY

Parochial Church Council

Rev H Gibbons (Chairman)	
Mr D P Evison	
Miss E J Williams	
Mr P R Crosby	
Mr M W Donkin	
Mrs L Clarke	
Mrs F Major	
Mr A Neale	
Mrs J Chesworth	
Mrs A Boulton	Retired 23rd May 2022
Mrs M Jones	
Mrs F Pearson	
Mrs S Best	Retired 23rd May 2022
Ms C Boulton	
Mrs MC Crosby	
Miss F Parker	Retired 31st August 2022
Mr K Ellis-Anderson	Retired 23rd May 2022
Mr J Abram	Appointed 23rd May 2022
Mr J Abbatt	Appointed 23rd May 2022
Rev Yin-An Chen	Appointed 1st September 2022
Rev J Castillo-Burley	Appointed 4th October 2022

Independent Examiner
R. Harvey-Robson F.C.C.A.
Azets
5-7 Beatrice Street
Oswestry
SY11 1QE

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document
Parochial Church Council powers measure (1956) as amended and church representation rules.

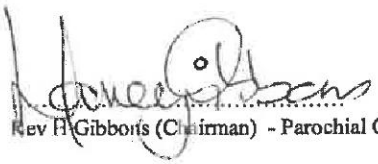
Risk management
The Parochial Church Council have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Safeguarding
The Parochial Church Council has adopted the Diocesan and Church of England policies in this regard.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



Rev H Gibbons (Chairman) - Parochial Church Council member

20th March 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE P.C.C. OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

This report on the financial statements of the P.C.C. for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 4 to 15 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE P.C.C. AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The members of the P.C.C are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
   - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

R Harvey-Robson F.C.C.A.
Azets
5-7 Beatrice Street
Oswestry
SY11 1QE

20th March 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £ *
Incoming Resources					
Donations and Legacies	2a	109,873	1,853	111,726	116,467
Charitable Activities	2b	17,535	4,616	22,151	20,141
Other Trading Activities	2c	11,051	-	11,051	9,012
Investments	2d	19,373	-	19,373	18,797
Total		157,832	6,469	164,301	164,417
Resources Expended					
Raising Funds	3a	-	9,453	9,453	2,615
Charitable Activities	3b	135,455	5,186	140,641	158,919
Total		135,455	14,639	150,094	161,534
Net gain/(losses) on investment		(4,999)	-	(4,999)	50,077
Net Income/(Expenditure)		17,378	(8,170)	9,208	52,960
Transfer between funds		(2,186)	2,186	-	-
Net movement in funds		15,192	(5,984)	9,208	52,960
Total funds brought forward (1st Jan)		660,534	77,279	737,813	684,853
Total funds carried forward (31st Dec)		675,726	71,295	747,021	737,813

* See note 10 for full comparatives

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Balance Sheet
At 31st December 2022

	Notes	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	5a	-	-
Investment Assets	5b	656,335	657,246
		656,335	657,246
Current Assets			
Bank current accounts		5,602	-
Bank deposit accounts		65,868	69,857
CBF deposit fund		20,443	15,251
Cash		257	419
Stocks		195	195
Debtors		11,685	8,377
		104,050	94,099
Liabilities due in one year			
Bank current accounts		-	(432)
Creditors	6	(13,364)	(13,100)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		90,686	80,567
TOTAL NET ASSETS		747,021	737,813
Parish Funds	8		
Unrestricted funds		675,726	660,534
Restricted funds		71,295	77,279
TOTAL FUNDS		747,021	737,813

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 20th March 2023 and were signed on it's behalf by:

.....
Rev H Gibbons (Chairman) - Parochial Church Council member

.....
D P Evison FCA - Chairman of Finance Committee and Treasurer

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

1 **Accounting Policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP) and applicable accounting standard FRS102.

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

Cash Flow Statement

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that the income does not exceed £500,000.

Description of Funds

Restricted funds comprise of two elements:-

a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest

b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and Benefice Property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10 (2) (a) & (C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value on 31st December.

Investment property

Investment property is shown at the most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in the market value is transferred to a revaluation reserve.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
2a	**Donations and Legacies** *Voluntary Income/Receipts*				
1	Tax efficient planned giving	60,163	-	60,163	63,878
	Other planned giving	5,392	-	5,392	4,591
2	Collections at services	12,926	-	12,926	7,469
3	All other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals	11,863	1,853	13,716	18,412
	Gift Aid Recovered	19,029	-	19,029	18,938
	Legacies received	500	-	500	500
	JRS Grant	-	-	-	2,679
		109,873	1,853	111,726	116,467

1) Analysis of Tax efficient planned giving

	£
Bank Donations	35,010
Regular Envelopes	25,153
	60,163

2) Analysis of Collections at services

	£
White Envelopes	5,030
Loose plate collections	5,644
Collections - Baptisms	712
Collections - Home Communions	249
Collections - Weddings	66
Collections - Special	1,225
	12,926

3) Analysis of all other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals

	£
Donations - Church	5,288
Donations - Charities	1,704
Donations - Organ Fund - Restricted	1,853
Donations - Organ Fund - Unrestricted	990
Donations - Flower Fund	585
Wall safes	1,954
Donations - Funerals	905
Donations - Place of Welcome	437
	13,716

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS CONTINUED:

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
2b	**Charitable Activities**				
	Church Activities				
	Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)	11,783	1,200	12,983	10,782
	Summer Fete	-	-	-	-
	Fundraising Activities	5,752	3,416	9,168	9,359
		17,535	4,616	22,151	20,141
2c	**Other Trading Activities**				
	Activities for Generating Funds				
	Church Hall Hire	299	-	299	90
	Church Lettings	2,400	-	2,400	980
	Lower Brook Street Rent	7,108	-	7,108	6,600
	Lichfield Diocesan - Decorator's Scheme	-	-	-	-
	Parish Magazine & Bookstall	1,244	-	1,244	1,342
		11,051	-	11,051	9,012
2d	**Investments**				
	Dividends	19,077	-	19,077	18,783
	Bank Interest	296	-	296	14
		19,373	-	19,373	18,797
TOTAL		157,832	6,469	164,301	164,417

EXPENDITURE ON:

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
3a	**Raising Funds**				
	Costs of Generating Income				
	Fetes & Fundraising	-	9,453	9,453	2,615
		-	9,453	9,453	2,615
3b	**Charitable Activities**				
	Church Activities				
	Mission giving and donations	6,584	645	7,229	4,829
	Diocesan Parish Share	45,757	-	45,757	55,464
	Salaries/Wages	23,475	660	24,135	20,089
	Clergy and Staff Expenses	6,565	-	6,565	6,017
	Church Expenses				
	Church running expenses	8,211	-	8,211	14,787
	Church utility bills	19,447	-	19,447	17,231
	Cost of trading	18,520	3,881	22,401	22,554
	Major Capital Expenditure				
	Major Repairs to the Church	3,381	-	3,381	14,588
	Governance Costs	3,515	-	3,515	3,360
		135,455	5,186	140,641	158,919
TOTAL		135,455	14,639	150,094	161,534

4a STAFF COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries	24,135	20,089

During the year the PCC employed the following members of the PCC:

	31.12.22	31.12.21
	£	£
Mrs F Major	-	2,721
Mr M Donkin	5,394	5,270
Ms C Boulton	6,240	1,920
	11,634	9,911

There were no other transactions made in respect of PCC Members, no PCC Member received benefit, or reimbursement of travelling or other expenses.

5a FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Buildings	Church Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
At Cost			
As at 1st January 2022	-	27,836	27,836
Additions in the Year	-	-	-
Disposals in the Year	-	-	-
Value at 31st December 2022	-	27,836	27,836
Accumulated Depreciation			
As at 1st January 2022	-	27,836	27,836
Charge for the Year	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31st December 2022	-	27,836	27,836
Net Book Value at 31st December 2022	-	-	-
Net Book Value at 31st December 2021	-	-	-

5b INVESTMENT ASSETS

	At 1.1.22	Additions	Disposals	Transfers	Change in Market Value	At 31.12.22
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
Investments	442,637	-	-	(20,141)	(48,192)	374,304
Investment Property - 14 Lower Brook Street	172,719	4,088	-	-	43,193	220,000
Restricted funds						
Investments	41,890	-	-	20,141	-	62,031
Total	657,246	4,088	-	-	(4,999)	656,335

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

The unlisted investments are made up of the following:

	31.12.22	31.12.21
	£	£
Church of England Investment Fund	143,162	162,264
Church of England Fixed Interest Fund	24,044	27,771
M&G Charifund	188,366	199,477
Lichfield Diocesan Trust	80,763	95,016
	436,335	484,528

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
MARKET VALUE	
At 1st January 2022	172,719
Additional Expenditure	4,088
Change in Market Value	43,193
At 31st December 2022	220,000
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2022	220,000
At 31st December 2021	172,719

During 2011 the deeds at 14 Lower Brook Street were discovered to have been transferred into The PCC's name.
In light of this, the property has been brought into the accounts in 2011 at the then current market value of £160,000.00.

6 LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due in one year	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals of Utilities	2,252	1,779
Other Creditors	11,112	11,321
	13,364	13,100

7 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	General Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Investments Assets	594,304	62,031	656,335
Current Assets	94,786	9,264	104,050
Current Liabilities	(13,364)	-	(13,364)
	675,726	71,295	747,021

STOCKS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Stocks (Prayer Cards & Notelets etc)	195	195

DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Prepayments	1,279	1,671
Dividend Income	4,154	665
Gift Aid	4,976	5,308
Other debtors	1,276	733
	11,685	8,377

8 FUNDS RECONCILIATION

		Reserves at 1.1.22	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Investment Gain/Losses	Transfer between funds	Reserves at 31.12.22
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds							
General Fund		660,534	157,832	(135,455)	(4,999)	(2,186)	675,726
Restricted Funds							
Organ Fund	1	1,081	1,853	-	-	39	2,973
Flower Fund	2	1,033	-	-	-	36	1,069
Morris Fund	3	145	-	-	-	-	145
Wilfred Owen Fund	4	728	-	-	-	25	753
Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People in Need	5	1,022	-	(455)	-	-	567
For the Assistance of the Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund	6	9,157	-	(190)	-	323	9,290
Oswestry St Ann's Fund	7	12,007	-	-	-	423	12,430
Sunday School Fund	8	492	-	-	-		492
Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund	9	2,974	-	-	-	105	3,079
Boulton Trust Fund	10	14,907	-	-	-	525	15,432
Friends of Music / Choral Foundation	11	6,556	2,742	(8,293)	-	-	1,005
Bellringers	12	3,038	1,434	(1,236)	-	-	3,236
Bellringers - Bell Training	13	937	-	-	-	-	937
Ladies Group	14	2,121	440	(584)	-	-	1,977
Christmas Day Lunch	15	905	-	-	-	-	905
Morda School House Trust	16	20,176	-	(3,881)	-	710	17,005
		77,279	6,469	(14,639)	-	2,186	71,295
TOTAL FUNDS		737,813	164,301	(150,094)	(4,999)	-	747,021

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains and Losses £	Movement in Funds £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	157,832	(135,455)	(4,999)	17,378
Restricted Funds				
Organ Fund	1,853	-	-	1,853
Flower Fund	-	-	-	-
Morris Fund	-	-	-	-
Wilfred Owen Fund	-	-	-	-
Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People in Need	-	(455)	-	(455)
For the Assistance of the Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund	-	(190)	-	(190)
Oswestry St Ann's Fund	-	-	-	-
Sunday School Fund	-	-	-	-
Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund	-	-	-	-
Boulton Trust Fund	-	-	-	-
Friends of Music/Choral Foundation	2,742	(8,293)	-	(5,551)
Bellringers	1,434	(1,236)	-	198
Bellringers - Bell Training	-	-	-	-
Ladies Group	440	(584)	-	(144)
Morda School House Trust	-	(3,881)	-	(3,881)
	6,469	(14,639)	-	(8,170)
TOTAL NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	164,301	(150,094)	(4,999)	9,208

NOTES TO THE FUNDS
Restricted Funds

1) Organ Fund
This is used to maintain the organ in St Oswald's church.

2) Flower Fund
This fund is held to enable flowers to be purchased for the church throughout the year.

3) Morris Fund
This fund is used for the upkeep of a memorial.

4) Wilfred Owen Fund
This fund is held for the upkeep of the Wilfred Owen memorial.

5) Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People In Need
This fund is for small gifts for people in need at Vicar's discretion.

6) Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund
This fund is to be used to assist parishioners of St Oswald's in times of poor health and hardship. The funds were given to St Oswald's in a fellow parishioner's will.

7) Oswestry St Ann's Fund
This was generated from the sale of St Ann's chapel at Morda and is held to be used for capital projects.

8) Sunday School Fund
This fund is held to support the Sunday School at St Oswald's church.

9) Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund
This fund is held for capital projects.

10) Boulton Trust Fund
This fund is held for capital projects.

11) Friends of Music / Choral Foundation Fund
This fund is used for the Friends of Music Group.

12) Bellringers Fund
This fund is used for the Bellringers group.

13) Bellringers - Bell Training Fund
This fund was established to assist Bellringers training.

14) Ladies Group
This fund is used for the ladies fellowship group.

15) Christmas Day Lunch
This fund was established to provide funds for the Christmas Day Lunch Project.

16) Morda School House Trust
This fund is to be used for youth and family work within our Parish.

9 **RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**
Mr D. P. Evison, F.C.A. is a partner in Garner Pugh & Sinclair who are paid £2,729 plus VAT (£3,275) for Accounting and Administration services.

10 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES COMPARATIVES (PREVIOUS YEAR)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £
Incoming Resources			
Donations and Legacies	116,460	7	116,467
Charitable Activities	14,909	5,232	20,141
Other Trading Activities	9,012	-	9,012
Investments	18,797	-	18,797
Total	159,178	5,239	164,417
Resources Expended			
Raising Funds	-	2,615	2,615
Charitable Activities	148,325	10,594	158,919
Total	148,325	13,209	161,534
Net gain/(losses) on investment	50,077	-	50,077
Net Income/(Expenditure)	60,930	(7,970)	52,960
Transfer between funds	(2,526)	2,526	-
Net movement in funds	58,404	(5,444)	52,960
Total funds brought forward (1st Jan)	602,130	82,723	684,853
Total funds carried forward (31st Dec)	660,534	77,279	737,813

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND M

England & Wales - Charity number 1133346

Accounts

THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST OSWALD, KING & MARTYR, OSWESTRY

The Parish Office, Church Street, Oswestry, SY11 2SY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2021

The PCC cooperates with the Incumbent in the whole mission of the church according to the call of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. As part of the Synodical structure of the Church of England, the PCC makes known and puts into effect any provision made by the Diocesan or Deanery Synods and gives advice to these synods on any matters the PCC considers appropriate. The PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the church; the PCC draws up a budget and has the responsibility with the Incumbent of appointing, paying and dismissing paid officers of the parish. The PCC is responsible for the care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric of the Parish Church and the adjacent Parish Centre; a house at 14 Lower Brook Street, Oswestry is in the beneficial ownership of the Parochial Church Council, vested in the Diocesan Trust and is normally let to tenants. The Vicar and Churchwardens passed on the School House at Morda Church of England Primary School in the parish to the school Morda School House Trust and received the sum of £25,000, which is being used to fund our new Youth and Families officer.

As a parish within the Diocese of Lichfield, it follows the Bishop's Three Primary Tasks of Discipleship, Evangelism and Vocation.

Membership of the PCC is as follows:
(a) Ex-Officio

Incumbent ***Vicar of St Oswald, King & Martyr, Oswestry****: – Rev'd H L Gibbons, M.A.*

Churchwardens:- MR D P EVISON MISS E J WILLIAMS MRS M JONES AND MR A NEALE

Deanery Synod Representatives (elected in 2021 to service until 2024)
Includes ex-officio membership of the PCC
MRS L CLARKE MRS M CROSBY

(b) Elected Representatives under arrangements in force since the late 1980's and Modified in 2002, three people are elected each year, for a term of three years.

To serve until 2022	MRS S BEST	MRS F A BOULTON	MRS F PEARSON
To serve until 2023	MS C BOULTON	MRS J CHESWORTH	MRS F MAJOR
To serve until 2024	MR P CROSBY	MR M DONKIN	MR K ELLIS-ANDERSON

Co-options

At the first meeting of the Council following the APCM of 16th May 2021, Miss Felicity Parker, St. Oswalds Youth and Family worker and Ms C Boulton were co-opted with full voting rights, Ms C Boulton was appointed as Hon Secretary.

Officers of the Council
The VICAR, as Incumbent is the legal Chairman of the Council
The Lay-co Chairman of the Council is MR D P EVISON
The Hon. Secretary to the Council is MS CARRON BOULTON
The Hon. Treasurer to the Council is MR D P EVISON
The Electoral Roll Officer is MRS M CROSBY

Sub Committees of the Council
The Vicar is ex officio on all sub committees listed below:

(a) Standing Committee (the sole statutory Sub Committee)
The Vicar, Two Churchwardens; Lay Co-chairman; Hon. Secretary; Hon. Treasurer – all ex officio; MR P CROSBY, MRS L CLARKE

Other sub committees include representatives appointed by the PCC from among their number, normally including one Churchwarden (at least) signified by *

Building and Fabric Committee – the full terms of reference is available on request and the membership is as follows: MR P CROSBY (CHAIR), MR P EVISON*, MR C TANSLEY MR A NEALE*, MR M CLARKE, MR M BRENNAN, MR P WALLEY, MR GERRY HOWE.

Finance Committee – the full terms of reference is available on request and the membership is as follows: MR P EVISON*(CHAIR), MR M DONKIN, CDR M PETERS (GIFT AID), MR A CLARKE

Parish Centre Management Committee to manage the daily running of the Centre and its staff. **Mr A Neale* (Chairman),** MRS J HOLDERNESS (Booking Secretary), MRS E LEEK, MR MATTHEW WILSON.

Social Committee to encourage activities and functions within the church to bring people together outside worship. Did not meet during 2020 or 2021 – MR C LEWIS (chair) MRS J WILLIAMS*, MS C BOULTON (*others to be co-opted as required*)

Mission and Giving Group – MRS A PILSBURY, MR H JONES

Mission and Ministry Team –MRS L CLARKE, MRS J CHESWORTH, MRS G EVISON, MRS E LEEK, MR I DAVIES, MISS S WRIGHT, MRS F STOCKING

Sick and Needy Fund - MR P CROSBY, MRS M JONES

The PCC appoints representatives to the local ecumenical body **Churches Together in Oswestry and District.** A total of two including the clergy are allowed according to the revised constitution of Churches Together adopted in 2012. Those nominated at the annual Meeting were THE VICAR, MRS A PILSBURY AND MR I DAVIES who agreed to fill in when called upon to do so.

The Parish

The population of Oswestry according to the 2011 census was 18,700 of which 10,700 live in the parochial parish of St Oswald, King & Martyr. The Electoral Roll at 29 April 2021 stood at 248. Average Sunday Adult attendance for the year stood at 100 and in addition 10 under the age of 16 years. Thanks are due to Mrs Maureen Crosby for encouraging membership of the electoral roll.

Mission and Giving

£4,000 was allocated for charitable giving over and above the various special collections and fundraising efforts supporting emergency appeals and those we traditionally support.

The £4,000 was shared as follows:

UNHCR	£500
Kiwoko Teaching Hospital	£500
British Red Cross: Afghanistan Appeal	£500
Mind	£500
Designs in mind	£500
BEAM	£500
Oswestry and District Foodbank	£500
Morda Primary School (Pastoral)	£500

Public Benefit

The Trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that by promoting the work of the Church of England in the ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald, King & Martyr, Oswestry it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively within the ecclesiastical Parish and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:-

Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers: and promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Health & Safety and Risk Management

We are required to make adequate arrangements for Health and Safety and to carry some understanding of the risks that are perceived, together with a strategy for risk management.

In implementing these policies, it has proved to be effective in ensuring that we conduct all our activities in a safe manner whilst maintaining the dignity of our worship and protecting the fabric of our ancient grade 2* listed building.

The policies are reviewed, amended and discussed by the PCC on a regular basis. Our Health and Safety Officer is Mr M Donkin. Outside organisations using the Church, Parish Centre or Tower are provided with a statement of the procedures and their responsibilities when using the Church.

We will continue to be diligent in providing for the safety of our congregation, employees, volunteers and visitors according to the policy and regulations which can be requested from the Parish Office.

The principal risks fall under the following headings:

Accidents and First Aid, Fire safety, Electrical safety, Gas Safety, Control of hazardous substances, Plant and machinery, Slips, trips and falls, Lighting, Falls from a height, Food hygiene, Manual handling, Display screen equipment, Hazardous buildings/glazing, Child protection, Personal safety, Activities and other hazards.

We continue to develop understanding of, training in, and adherence to, these policies and take reasonable and necessary steps to prevent accidents occurring. The Health and Safety policy and Fire Safety policy were reviewed during 2016 and copy is available on request from the Hon. Secretary to the PCC.

Safeguarding

There has been considerable attention given to the Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults nationally and not least by the Church of England. During 2020 the PCC reviewed our parish policies and procedures to make sure that we bring DBS checks up to date for those required to have them. We have adopted the Diocesan and Church of England policies in this regard.

The Parish Sick and Needy Fund:

The fund was set up some years ago formerly known as the Vicar's Discretionary Fund to help people within the parish who are suffering with hardship and is administered by a small committee under the chairmanship of the Vicar. If any member of the congregation is aware of any such case they should contact the Vicar for the case to be discussed with the committee.

Altar Guild

We have had a very strange two and a half years with covid. We have been very lucky in managing to get a team together to keep the Church up to scratch, our grateful thanks to all who have turned up week after week to carry out their duties. We would like to thank all who have retired from the role after many years, our grateful thanks to you all. We have now got a team together to clean the brasses in Church. Our thanks go to Mike Peters and Matt Wilson who joined the ladies on Monday mornings and will turn their hand to anything. (Keeping us on our toes) With numerous visitors through our doors, it has been commented many times how well kept and clean the church is. If anyone is interested in helping at any time, please contact Natasha or Muriel.

MURIEL JONES AND NATASHA BELL

Bell Ringers

In 2021 we had opportunities to ring via Zoom during 'lockdowns' locally and also, as members of the Shropshire Association, ringers 'attended' Association-wide Zoom practices, Quarterly and AGM meetings. It was good to ring in reality when actual ringing recommenced. The

positive effects of 'seeing' and being able to talk to each other and being able to hear the bells was a real boost to morale. We had sufficient to ring at least six, and frequently all eight bells for Sunday worship, and good numbers on practice evenings. Gordon Hodgson continued to lead us in prayer each Sunday before we made our way up to the ringing room. Covid 19 rules have been maintained throughout on hand and surface sanitising and enabling air flow, even in the depths of the cold weather!! and include installing a $C0^2$ monitor.

We have been joined by Chris and Jenny Hoare, both experienced ringers, and the return of Andy Harris, adding to the band's ability to ring advanced methods, improve ringing and support our three young ringers. Two ringers have not yet returned, but hope to return when Covid safety is further assured. Currently we have 20 ringers listed although not everyone attends when other commitments clash. Peter Woollam continued to lead Thursday practices and Cordelia Warr to organise the return of the Sunday evening Quarter Peal programme and to lead Sunday ringing. Quarter Peals were rung to celebrate the life of Archbishop Desmond Tutu on the day of his funeral, for the 60th anniversary of the ordination of Gordon Hodson, in memory of the murdered politician Sir David Amess, and the first day of COP 26. On 27th December a 'teddy bear zip wire' event was held, having missed this opportunity in 2020. It was the best ever event with 91 adults and children enjoying seeing our bells and the view from the top of the tower. Visitors came non-stop over the 4 hours of the event. A variety of 'teddies', including dogs, cats, dinosaurs and a toy pineapple called Pina zipped from the tower to the churchyard and £143.23 was raised from donations.

JAN SNOWBALL
SECRETARY

Building And Fabric Committee Report

The committee has been very active throughout the year and much has been achieved.

The church was successful in obtaining an £11,000 grant from Historic England Covid Recovery Fund for the conservation of the Yale memorial. It should be noted that the grant was for conservation (to stop the memorial deteriorating further) not a restoration to its former glory, as if a museum piece.

Following the damage to the clock motor caused by a buddleia growing through the clock face (mentioned in last year's report), Wallwalkers, a roped access company, returned to repoint the holes. During the initial conservator's survey of the Yale memorial, dampness from vegetation growth on the outside wall near the memorial which had penetrated through the wall was said to have contributed to the deterioration. After the tower repointing, the vegetation around the Yale Memorial was also removed. There was an under-spend on the conservation work. The grantor kindly agreed that the balance of the grant could part fund the vegetation removal work.

The glass in the window hoppers in the large window near the south (main) door of the church had been reported by the architect in both the 2011 and 2016 Quinquennial Inspections (5-yearly surveys) as being in need of attention. Other major works had taken priority for the available funding. The repair of these windows and other stained glass repairs have now been completed.

Mindless vandalism damaged the lead over the cloister connecting the Church to the Parish Centre. They also disconnected the lightning conductor. The lightning conductor was reconnected and tested soon afterwards. Investigation prior to repair of the cloister damage identified that the mineral felt covering the top of the cloister needed attention. The felt roof has now been replaced but, at the time of this report, the lead work has still to be completed. The insurance company paid out for the lead damage against the quotation.

Better weather in the Spring enabled the repaired window frames in the cloister to be painted by Colin Tansley and Peter Walley. Colin and Peter also improved the look of the outside of the Parish Centre by painting the window frames and the concrete surrounding the Centre around the basement windows.

A Faculty has been granted for signage to be displayed in and at the entrances to the Car Park by Horizon Parking enabling them to impose fines for unauthorised parking. Thanks go Colin Tansley and Peter Walley for painting the lamp posts before the signs were fitted and to Alan Neale for liaising with Horizon Parking. The Car Park has never been so available for church users. The church does not benefit from the fines but neither does it pay Horizon for the monitoring service.

A Faculty has also been granted to create bookcases on each side of the Yale Memorial for a Reading Area. After removal of two short pews, two architect-designed bookcases will be built by a professional woodworker. These improvements will be funded by Mr Nick Richards of David Davies and Sons and his siblings in memory of Bill and Gwen Richards, their parents.

The Garden of Remembrance is almost full so a Faculty has been granted to extend the existing area almost doubling its size.

Gerry Howe and Colin Tansley have fitted new taps to the wash hand basins in both the Male and Female toilets. They have also fitted a water-saving automatic flush system to the urinals in the gents' toilet.

Following the move of the tenant of Morda School House into a Care Home, The School House, which St Oswald's have had responsibility for under a Trust Deed since the school was build, has been transferred to Shropshire Council for use by the school.

The proposal to add 16 turned-spindle lights with shades within the choir stalls has made only slow progress. The Diocesan Advisory Committee were unhappy about the visual impact of the lights so 16 simulated light stands have been produced by Gerry Howe adorned with mock-up shades created by the Vicar, to assess views for the PCC and the wider congregation.

Young people have been seen climbing drainpipes up to the roof. To avoid damage to the building and potential serious injury the drainpipes have been painted with anti-climb paint above 8 feet high to avoid damaging clothing.

As gas and electricity costs have risen throughout the year St Oswald's has benefitted from being locked into contracts with big suppliers until February 2025 for Gas and November 2023 for Electricity.

VAT totalling £1,478, which had already been paid on eligible work, has been reclaimed under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. The scheme has now been extended until 31 March 2025.

New contracts have been negotiated for servicing of the Fire Appliances and the Parish Centre Lift. Organ and Clock servicing has been completed and the boilers in the church and the parish centre have also been serviced. All portable appliances in the church have been tested (PAT testing) and are safe to use.

Though thanks are due to the whole committee, particular thanks must go to Colin Tansley, Peter Walley and Gerry Howe who have undertaken 'self-help' works and on-going maintenance throughout the year.

PAUL CROSBY

Childrens Society

Unfortunately we were not able to hold a Christingle Service this year due to the pandemic but House Boxes are being collected again. Despite many people no longer using cash and so having little change to put into their box, over £1,000 has been donated to the society from 2020.

LIZ GIBBONS

St. Oswald's Church Choir

Due to the ongoing restrictions because of Covid the choir did not resume singing until after Easter and then only for the 10.30am Eucharist and with only 6 singers located in St. George's Chapel. This was unsatisfactory but, at least, we managed to offer some music for the service. During this period we introduced the singing of the Alleluia verse at the Gospel Acclamation. We hope to continue this and would like the congregation to join in if possible.

We did not return to the chancel until September and even then numbers were restricted to 6 trebles and 6 adults. This eased in November when all the trebles were allowed back and for the Advent and Christmas services the full choir returned.

The choir has sung 31 services between September and December and we were delighted that we saw the return of the Advent Carol Service and Nine Lessons and Carols.

In the evening of Remembrance Sunday the Choir gave a performance of the Fauré 'Requiem' with the movements interspersed with bible readings and poetry; thanks to Michael and Muriel Jones who read for us on this occasion. The service was well received.

In October 3 choir members were confirmed by the Bishop of Lichfield

The full choir has since returned but, inevitably, some members did not feel able to do so either because they were isolating or close family members were in Covid at risk categories.

As a result the choir numbers are as follows:-

10 Trebles
5 Altos
3 Tenors and
5 Basses.

Some of the boys are now nearing the time when their voices will begin to change and they will move to other sections of the Choir, so it is important that we recruit more children to fill up the treble line. I can take some adult singers as well. If anyone is interested please contact me.

During the year Spencer Williamson took on the role of Assistant Choir Trainer. Alice Williams became Head Chorister in her place and Eleri Roberts was appointed as Deputy Head Chorister. All three are doing excellent work in supporting and encouraging the juniors in their singing.

MIKE DONKIN
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Churches Together in Oswestry District (CTOD)

CTOD did not meet physically due to the pandemic. However, a committee of clergy and executive members did meet, initially online, and latterly face to face to discern a new way of working together. The result was a document called 'A New Vision for CTOD'. The group, chaired by Rev Chris Densham, Ecumenical Mission Enabler Telford & Shropshire, consisted of three clergy, Rev Harvey Gibbons, Rev Russell Howes and Rev Jassica Castillo-Burley and three members of the Executive, Val Knowles, Sarah Dudley and Oriel Horner.

CTOD continues to play a vital role in uniting Christians despite huge differences in points of view and styles of worship. It reminds us that we are one Body in Christ and promotes fellowship and understanding between us. CTOD was responsible for the emergence of the Foodbank and the Schools Christian Worker Project which are now autonomous. It has encouraged Christian Aid through bucket collections, events and house to house collections. It has also encouraged smaller groups and projects such as the Community Outreach Group which provides a Christian presence in Oswestry Market, Kiwoko hospital, a thriving teaching hospital in Uganda.

HARVEY GIBBONS & ANNE PILSBURY

Churchwarden's report

Last year's report ended with the words that we 'look forward to more relaxed times ahead'. Another year on and the relaxed times were still a mirage! Thanks to the stewards, Mat and all the members of St. Oswald's church, we have successfully manoeuvred another year of wading through treacle! We have all worked well together and made some difficult decisions to enable the smooth and safe running of our church for which we thank God.

When we return to normality, we would all welcome your thoughts and prayers to guide others into considering a future role as a St Oswald's church warden.

ALAN NEALE

Deanery Synod

Most of the business of the Deanery Synod in 2021 was to do with Shaping for Mission. A tremendous amount of work went into canvassing all the churches in the deanery and collating information, the idea being to gain a picture of strengths and weaknesses and to find out what help we could be to one another within a common vision of mission and service. We started the year having to meet via Zoom but were able to finally see each other face to face in November when each parish gave a presentation which laid out their three top mission priorities and their three top strengths. It became clear that across the deanery each parish had resources, skills and expertise to share and Deanery Synod will build on this good foundation during 2022. An extra Zoom meeting was held in September to outline the Finance Consultation for the Deanery which would then go to the Diocesan Synod.

LINDSAY CLARKE

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee was able to hold its full complement of four meetings during 2021. Its members are the Vicar, Andrew Clarke, Eric Evans, Michael Donkin, Mike Peters Secretary and myself as Chairman.

As always our first meeting of the year spends much of its time reviewing the accounts I prepare for the previous year so that the PCC does not have to spend too much time reviewing these figures.

We discussed our responsibilities to our paid employees and that as an employer we are conducting ourselves appropriately. The property at 14 Lower Brook Street is managed by JJ Dell & Co, but we have decisions to make on appropriate expenditure which this year included engaging a Consultant regarding the Energy Performance Standard required by the local authority. As a listed building it is important that we keep it in a good state.

The proposed Deanery Hub was discussed as to how it would impact on our finances. The proposals were not pursued by the Deanery. We looked at and are still looking at the cost of Audio & Video Technology required by the Church, but like so many initiatives we have to proceed through the appropriate channels laid down by the Church of England which slows down the implementations of many of our decisions. The Committee can be pleased with the state of the PCC finances, which over the recent years have shown a strong and healthy balance sheet.

My thanks go to my fellow members of the Committee, and especially to Mike Peters our secretary who keeps me in order.

PAUL EVISON

Guild of server's report.

The last two years have been challenging for all with a number of our acolyte team self-isolating or being unwell however as things began to get as near as normal with our church worship I decided to make an effort and try what one might call a recruitment drive to attract more young people to our dwindling list this would not only be to get them involved in the church but would also help them on their spiritual journey. Just before Christmas after the Eucharist a number of girls from Oswestry school had popped into church to buy cards (but not a card day) I chatted to them and asked if any of them would be interested in acting as acolyte's if so to let Felicity know and to my great pleasure these young people decided that they would like to do it with the lead being Katja who every Sunday in term time has found a team for me which I am so grateful to her for her effort, It now means that as some of our regular team are returning and that hopefully we will have a full team every Sunday I am still looking for more people !

Garry has settled down well as Crucifer and is getting a lot spiritually from this roll.
A prayer for servers.

Grant we beseech thee Almighty God to us thy servants the spirit of holy fear that we following the example of thy holy child Samuel may faithfully minister before thee in thy sanctuary through Jesus Christ thy son our Lord. Amen.

MIKE JONES.

Incumbent's Review of the Year

I summed up the year 2020 in one word... extraordinary. If 2020 was extraordinary, 2021 was 'evolutionary' as we gently felt our way into resuming church activities bit by bit.

It is easy to forget that the year began with another lockdown, this time lasting until 21st March during which we streamed Sunday worship from church. Worship was restricted to Sunday's

only, until the 1st of July when the Thursday service of Holy Communion returned. With no further lockdowns during the year, face masks, hand sanitiser and social distancing remained the order of the day.

Thankfully we were able to have at least some of Holy Week with a Good Friday Stations with socially distanced drama and outdoor activities in the morning followed by a final hour at the cross in the afternoon. The Easter fire was lit in the vicarage garden with the new flame carried down to church on Easter morning. Mid-week resources and Bible studies remained online, as did PCC meetings, Sunday coffee, and Messy Church for a considerable time after.

Pastoral care of church members and non-members alike continued to be challenging with home visiting strongly discouraged by national church and many care homes remaining closed to all but a few family members. The Foodbank box on the vicarage drive was very generously supported by a wide range of people from across Oswestry and during the year, St. Oswalds became the largest continuous source of donations to the Foodbank.

The church Facebook page was put to good use throughout the year as Sunday services and daily Morning Prayer were live streamed enabling us to continue to reach out to existing church members and attract new people.

Towards the middle of the year, church life slowly opened up, funerals and weddings slowly opened up with increasing numbers able to attend, and congregational singing finally returned albeit with face masks worn. St. Oswalds was very pleased to host the annual Archdeacon's visitation in June and the first baptism since March 2020 took place on 11th July.

It was a joy to be joined by members of the Orthodox community form Shrewsbury for a walk of pilgrimage to, and blessing of, St. Oswalds well on 7th August which was followed by a service of orthodox vespers in church. We also hosted Oswestry Deanery Synod in September, and a confirmation with Bishop Michael of Lichfield in October.

The new 4 O'clock services pilot started in September and from October, PCC meetings and Place of Welcome returned to the Parish Centre, with church wardens and Building and Fabric committee meetings taking place in the church office and parish centre, The Finance Committee met once again in Paul's home.

As usual, Advent and Christmas brought the year to an end but unlike 2020, we were able to come together physically for services of Advent and Christmas lessons and carols, a nativity service and Midnight Mass in addition to Christmas Day. My personal year ended with a wedding at Kinnerley on 31st December when I stood in for a colleague suffering with COVID. We also said goodbye and offered our gratitude to two faithful servants to St. Oswald's as we marked the end of Bill's ministry as a reader as he became 'reader emeritus' and Frances as she stepped down after many years as church administrator.

It has been another year of moving gently forwards whilst looking over one's shoulder and once again I wish to state my personal thanks to everyone who has worked so hard during the past twelve months. To my clergy colleagues who like me spent another twelve months struggling with pastoral care by phone, working through face coverings, face shields and latex gloves; to the Church Wardens, caretaker and stewards who went above and beyond what was expected to keep the wheels turning and ensure that everyone using St. Oswalds could do so safely; to the PCC and to the choir who have had to adapt the way that they operate. Once again, it has been a huge team effort and collectively we have risen to the challenge.

As I wrote last year, rebuilding St. Oswald's post-Covid will require energy, commitment and patience, it will be a long and sometimes challenging road. However, building on the ideas arising from Oswald's Tree in 2020, and using the skills and gifts we possess as individuals

and as a worshipping community, I believe we will rediscover some of the old ways as we discover new ways to love God and serve our neighbour.

As ever, I look forward to the next twelve months with great enthusiasm and hope.

THE REV'D HARVEY GIBBONS

Ladies Group Report for 2021

After many months of not being able to meet, we got together in October for a chat and a cuppa, it was so good seeing each other in person again. We met again in November and then a Christmas lunch in December.

We look forward now to meeting in the afternoon. Ladies continue to support the church and each other.

JUNE WILLIAMS

Mission and Ministry

The Mission and Ministry team met three times in 2021, once via Zoom and twice in person. Initial discussions were reviewing points raised by Shaping for Mission:

- What should the future church look like?
- Problems to be overcome
- Working with other churches in the Deanery
- What do we have to offer?

The next meeting discussed the responses to the 'pink paper' given out at the APCM. There had been plenty of engagement with this and it gave rise to discussions on:

- Confidence in talking about our faith,
- Our branding and publicity: how do those outside the church know what we stand for?
- New ways of worship including the 4 o'clock services beginning in September
- Signage and the use of the churchyard
- Hospitality

The final meeting of the year discussed our three top mission priorities to be taken forward to Deanery Synod in response to Shaping for Mission.:

1. To renew and reanimate current church membership, enabling the members to grow in confidence and be willing and able to communicate their faith to others.
2. To create a consistent branding which underpins all our communications, both digital and non-digital, enabling us to share the Gospel with all generations.
3. St Oswald's will intentionally include third parties of all ages in preserving the environment, increasing biodiversity and reducing our carbon footprint.

Insights gained from Lead Academy fed into discussions throughout the year. Many plans had to be put on hold because of the continuing covid situation, or would have to be reshaped, but we had a solid base for moving forward.

LINDSAY CLARKE

Parish Centre committee

Activity in the Parish Centre has continued to be very limited this year due to the COVID Pandemic and the restrictions imposed on the use of public buildings.

With the lifting of Government restrictions, we have rightly taken a cautious view with regard to our own interpretation and implementation of safety measures.

However, the limited use of the parish centre as a socially distanced meeting area for small church groups/committees has highlighted a few issues which we need to address in the near future.

It is apparent that we have no suitable areas in the church building to sensibly hold small meetings. The committee is looking at the possibilities of dividing the basement area into smaller meeting rooms and storage space.

The second main issue has been the extremely noisy 'fan' distribution system of heat to the main room. This has been so bad that smaller meetings have transferred to areas of the church building to enable the participants to hear what is being said and allow quiet time, for example, during prayer and contemplation.

The Building and Fabric committee have been commissioned to investigate possible improved heating systems to make the building 'fit for purpose'

ALAN NEALE

PCC Secretary

Having been appointed to the role in October 2021 after the stepping down of Sue Tansley, it has been a rather interesting ride.

Quarterly meetings have taken place the first of which were via Zoom then latterly to in person meetings in the Parish Hall. Overall attendance has been very good with those unable to make the meetings generally due to Covid related reasons. For those not able to make it in person, Zoom log in's were provided and the meeting was joined remotely.
We have discussed many issues this year, with the memorial works, renovation works, finances and Covid strategies etc. The church has reopened with a strict social distancing policy being in place and we have maintained the advice of remaining to wear face coverings whilst in the building and refraining from removing ones masks. Communion has been dealt with effectively with sanitising of communicant's hands before and after communion.

Wedding bookings have been re-established and we have seen a number of baptisms taking place with more booked for the remainder of 2022.

CARRON BOULTON

Prayer And Care

During 2020, the Prayer and Care group continued to pray in their homes and sharing news the sick by phone. In the autumn, after many years of prayerful service, Gordon stepped decided to step aside from running the prayer and care team and it became part of the 4pm service provision with 'prayers for healing' taking place on the second Sunday of the month. We are grateful for the many years of service Gordan has given to this important ministry.

HARVEY GIBBONS

Safeguarding

Taking on this new role, has been a challenge particularly as training was not easy to do due to Covid restrictions.

As far as I am aware, the Clergy and PCC are up to date with safeguarding training. I do still have to complete the updated notice regarding safeguarding officer here at St Oswalds.

Our Parish policy was updated in the first meeting of 2022. I am not aware of any issues which have required my attention.

CARRON BOULTON

Social Media

The church website continues to keep parishioners and visitors informed of what is happening. Please continue to tell me about new events and also changes to existing events so that the site is kept up to date. http://www.stoswaldsoswestry.org.uk/

Thanks go to Ann Sagar for the weekly Pew Sheet and to Diane Dawson for the monthly Parish News. Thanks also to Harvey for maintaining our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/stoswaldsoswestry/

ANNE PILSBURY

Stewardship

This year was the second restricted by Covid-19 and the rules introduced to deal with its effects. Congregations were smaller, markedly so in some instances, and hence the opportunities for donations to the church and its activities were similarly reduced. Total donations were 7.7% lower than 2020; there was an increase in donations through the bank but other sources showed reductions. Tax-efficient income from all sources was £71,347 (£68,018 in 2020).

Stewardship envelopes. 49 members used their coloured envelopes during the year, reducing to 46 in December. (53 in 2019). The total donated this way was £32,191 (£31,674 in 2020), an average of £645 from each donor, (£502 in 2020), and £608. per week (£609 in 2019). Over 93% of donations were "tax-efficient". During the year some members changed from using these envelopes to making their donation through the bank

Payments through the bank. During the year 80 gave this way (67 in 2020) including those who changed from using regular envelopes. The total given for the year was £36,278 (£33,978 in 2020) and over 93% was "tax-efficient". This is an average of £453 per donor (£507 in 2020).

"Casual" Donors. Donations made in the blue envelopes totalled £2239 in 2021 (£3,100 in 2020) thus demonstrating the increasing reduction as one of the effects of the lock-downs. Some of these are from members of the congregation who make their tax-efficient donations this way. Others are visitors or who attend occasionally on Sundays and for weddings, funerals or special services; there were very few of these.

Anonymous donations. Under the scheme introduced in 2013, the equivalent of gift aid can be recovered from anonymous donations in cash, and up to £20 at a time, up to a maximum of £8,000 in any financial year, giving a possible return to the church of £2,000. In 2021 the

total donated was £5,230, below the maximum claim limit for the second year. In 2020 we received £3,171

General. The total tax recovered from HMRC was £18,938 (£16,923 in 2020), an encouraging increase. This is some 16.7% of the church's total income for the year (excluding legacies and the Government's Job Retention Scheme) (was 11.7% in 2020), a very satisfactory result given the circumstances.

Sincere thanks must go to all those who make their gift via St Oswald's and to those who take the trouble to complete the minimal paperwork required for the Gift Aid scheme. There is always space for more donors; anyone who would like to make their gift "tax efficient" should contact the Gift Aid Secretary, Mike Peters, 01691 676091 or mike.aylestone@tiscali.co.uk or simply approach him in church.

MIKE PETERS

Treasurer

The year 2021 like so many other years had its peaks and troughs, eventually we were able to show a surplus. Again, the Lichfield Board of Finance reduced our parish share by £5,042 one month's payment.

As always, I am grateful for the effort of Paul Crosby in obtaining yet a further grant. This year we received £10,916 towards the conservation of the Yale Memorial fully covering the expenditure. In addition, we received a generous donation from Commander Brian Gresham covering the choir's expenditure on processional candles.

This year Christine Abram organised the sale of Christmas cards which raised £5,668 for the many local charities and contributed £461 towards church expenditure.

I am very grateful to our congregation for their generous giving whether by payment straight into the PCC bank account or on the weekly plate, the total was £94,292 which includes the gift aid claim. This is an increase of nearly £5,500.

The replacement of the organ humidifier at a cost of £4,307 was covered by the funds in the organ repair fund, and likewise our contribution to the Families and Youth Worker of £5,085 was covered from the Morda School House Trust fund.

Over the last two years, we have received hardly any income from the letting of the Parish Hall, as a result we had to cease employment of our cleaner.
I was pleasantly surprised, as I was last year, that we have been able to hold our head above the water level over these last two years during the Pandemic.

The investments recovered from the loss of £41,994 in 2020 showing a profit of £50,077 for the year. Over the last fifteen years the overall gain on our investments has been £85,935.
The figures for the year ended 31st December 2021 are fully explained in the PCC Financial Statements included in the Annual Report.

As always, I could not and would not attempt to act as Treasurer without the assistance of the staff from Garner Pugh & Sinclair, who are paid as outlined in the accounts for this service. In addition, I would like to thank Irene Gull and her Monday morning team of counters, together with the administrators Frances and Carron, and their backroom helpers Diane Dawson and Ann Sagar.

PAUL EVISON

Youth and Families Activities

Under 5s

Under 5s stay and play group restarted on 16th June 2021 and has run every week since then, with the exceptions of school holidays and one week in February due to staff illness. The highlight of the year was the Christmas party, featuring music, Nativity-themed colouring in and a guest appearance from Father Christmas with gifts for the children in addition to the usual wide variety of toys.

Covid as well as the normal range of childhood (and parental) illnesses, other commitments, sleepless nights etc has meant that attendance has been variable. At time of writing (March 2022) the peak this term was eight children from seven families, and last term's was eight children from six families. New families join us every few weeks - five new families have started coming this term - so we are growing slowly.

Since reopening in June we have offered hot drinks to adults, but asked families to bring their own snacks. We have asked adults to wear masks during periods when that is the national advice, but since those rules were relaxed, it has been a matter of personal choice. Some families have had brief spells of non-attendance due to contracting or being exposed to Covid (or other illnesses), but no outbreaks or transmission of cases have been linked to Under 5s. We will look at reintroducing food if there is an appetite for this among our regular attendees.

My thanks to Peter Walley and Mat Wilson for setting out and putting away the toys and equipment every week, and to Elaine Leek and Jane Wilkinson for stepping in to help run the sessions.

Messy Church

Messy Church has been held each month since February 2021, with the exception of August (due to the school holiday), September (when a planning meeting to determine the future course and viability of Messy Church was held instead) and February 2022 (due to staff absence/illness). Since September, the date for each month's session has been fixed as the third Sunday of the month. At that time the time of the sessions was also moved to the later time of 4-6pm. This brought us into keeping with the other 4pm Sunday services then restarting at St Oswald's, and enabled us to offer families a proper meal at teatime as part of our act of fellowship. The highlight of the year was the end-of-school-year barbecue and water fight in the vicarage garden in July.

There is a core of three or four families that come as often as they are able, but Covid outbreaks in the various schools represented, friends' parties, family engagements and so forth have kept numbers of attendees generally low. The peak was in October (seven adults and nine children from four families, not counting staff/helpers) and November (six adults and eight children from five families). A Messy Church spin-off lunchtime club at Bellan House is growing very slowly and plans are afoot to publicise Messy Church at other local schools.

The first three Messy Church sessions after reopening (December 2020, February 2021 and March 2021) were held over Zoom; we returned to in-person gatherings in April 2021. When lateral flow tests were freely available, all helpers and adult attendees were requested to test themselves for Covid before coming to Messy Church; some parents also tested their children. Meals have gradually moved from pre-prepared, individually-wrapped food to that prepared on site. Food preparation activities have featured twice in in-person sessions, and both times were a success and very well received. On occasion we have felt it safer to change the style of the gathering, such that each family had their own table with their own set of craft supplies and food was brought to them, rather than allowing families to mix indoors. As at Under 5s,

over-12s have been asked to wear masks indoors during times when that was the national guidance or when local rates of infection were especially high. There has been one instance of a Messy Church attendee testing positive for Covid after attending a session; all other attendees were notified swiftly and issued with guidance, and no other positive cases were identified among the group.

Thanks are due to Richard Ali, Ann and Mark Davis, Fiona and Gary Edwards, Glenda Evison, Harvey Gibbons, Brian and Karen Hainsworth, Rosie Rodenhurst and Anne and Peter Walley for their support.

Schools work

I take assembly on Biblical or Christian themes regularly at two primary schools - Morda CE Primary School and Bellan House - as well as at Oswestry School. I assist in and occasionally take Religious Studies lessons at Oswestry School for Years 7-9, and earlier this term brought Year 7 RS pupils from that school to St Oswald's for their lessons. As mentioned above I run a lunchtime club based on Messy Church at Bellan House once a fortnight.

Creche/Sunday morning groups

These are not currently held.

FELICITY PARKER

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1133346

Report of the Parochial Church Council and Unaudited Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31st December 2021 for

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

R Harvey-Robson F.C.C.A.
Azets
61 King Street
Wrexham
LL11 1HR

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

The Parochial Church Council present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2021. The Parochial Church Council have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in 2015.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number
1133346

Principal address
The Parish Church of St Oswald, King and Martyr
Church Street
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 2SY

Parochial Church Council

Rev H Gibbons (Chairman)	
Mr D P Evison	
Miss E J Williams	
Mr C W J Lewis	Retired May 2021
Mrs S Tansley	Retired May 2021
Mr P R Crosby	
Mr M W Donkin	
Mrs L Clarke	
Mrs F Major	
Mr A Neale	
Mrs J Chesworth	
Mrs A Boulton	
Mrs M Jones	
Mrs F Pearson	
Mrs S Best	
Ms C Boulton	
Mrs MC Crosby	
Miss F Parker	Appointed May 2021
Mr K Ellis-Anderson	Appointed May 2021

Independent Examiner
R. Harvey-Robson F.C.C.A.
Azets
61 King Street
Wrexham
LL11 1HR

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document
Parochial Church Council powers measure (1956) as amended and church representation rules.

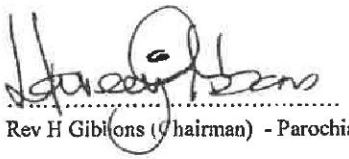
Risk management
The Parochial Church Council have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Safeguarding
The Parochial Church Council has adopted the Diocesan and Church of England policies in this regard.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



Rev H Gibbons (Chairman) - Parochial Church Council member

28th March 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE P.C.C. OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

This report on the financial statements of the P.C.C. for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages 4 to 15 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE P.C.C. AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The members of the P.C.C are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
   - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



R Harvey-Robson F.C.C.A.
Azets
61 King Street
Wrexham
LL11 1HR

28th March 2022

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £ *
Incoming Resources					
Donations and Legacies	2a	116,460	7	116,467	135,624
Charitable Activities	2b	14,909	5,232	20,141	15,035
Other Trading Activities	2c	9,012	-	9,012	8,846
Investments	2d	18,797	-	18,797	13,474
Total		159,178	5,239	164,417	172,979
Resources Expended					
Raising Funds	3a	-	2,615	2,615	2,248
Charitable Activities	3b	148,325	10,594	158,919	128,469
Total		148,325	13,209	161,534	130,717
Net gain/(losses) on investment		50,077	-	50,077	(41,994)
Net Income/(Expenditure)		60,930	(7,970)	52,960	268
Transfer between funds		(2,526)	2,526	-	-
Net movement in funds		58,404	(5,444)	52,960	268
Total funds brought forward (1st Jan)		602,130	82,723	684,853	684,585
Total funds carried forward (31st Dec)		660,534	77,279	737,813	684,853

* See note 10 for full comparatives

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Balance Sheet
At 31st December 2021

	Notes	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	5a	-	-
Investment Assets	5b	657,246	547,169
		657,246	547,169
Current Assets			
Bank current accounts		-	5,994
Bank deposit accounts		69,857	120,626
CBF deposit fund		15,251	10,651
Cash		419	151
Stocks		195	195
Debtors		8,377	10,378
		94,099	147,995
Liabilities due in one year			
Bank current accounts		(432)	-
Creditors	6	(13,100)	(10,311)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		80,567	137,684
TOTAL NET ASSETS		737,813	684,853
Parish Funds	8		
Unrestricted funds		660,534	602,130
Restricted funds		77,279	82,723
TOTAL FUNDS		737,813	684,853

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 28th March 2022 and were signed on it's behalf by:

.....
Rev I Gibbons (Chairman) - Parochial Church Council member

.....
D P Evison FCA - Chairman of Finance Committee and Treasurer

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

1 **Accounting Policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP) and applicable accounting standard FRS102.

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

Cash Flow Statement

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that the income does not exceed £500,000.

Description of Funds

Restricted funds comprise of two elements:-

a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest

b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and Benefice Property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10 (2) (a) & (C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value on 31st December.

Investment property

Investment property is shown at the most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in the market value is transferred to a revaluation reserve.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
2a	**Donations and Legacies** *Voluntary Income/Receipts*				
1	Tax efficient planned giving	63,878	-	63,878	61,747
	Other planned giving	4,591	-	4,591	3,905
2	Collections at services	7,469	-	7,469	6,463
3	All other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals	18,405	7	18,412	40,116
	Gift Aid Recovered	18,938	-	18,938	16,923
	Legacies received	500	-	500	500
	JRS Grant	2,679	-	2,679	5,970
		116,460	7	116,467	135,624

1) Analysis of Tax efficient planned giving

	£
Bank Donations	33,555
Regular Envelopes	30,323
	63,878

2) Analysis of Collections at services

	£
White Envelopes	2,239
Loose plate collections	4,646
Collections - Baptisms	451
Collections - Home Communions	82
Collections - Weddings	51
Collections - Special	-
	7,469

3) Analysis of all other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals

	£
Donations - Church	15,749
Donations - Charities	339
Donations - Organ Fund - Restricted	7
Donations - Organ Fund - Unrestricted	1,033
Donations - Flower Fund	85
Wall safes	734
Donations - Funerals	400
Donations - Place of Welcome	65
	18,412

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS CONTINUED:

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
2b	**Charitable Activities**				
	Church Activities				
	Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)	9,782	1,000	10,782	8,451
	Summer Fete	-	-	-	-
	Fundraising Activities	5,127	4,232	9,359	6,584
		14,909	5,232	20,141	15,035
2c	**Other Trading Activities**				
	Activities for Generating Funds				
	Church Hall Hire	90	-	90	604
	Church Lettings	980	-	980	280
	Lower Brook Street Rent	6,600	-	6,600	6,762
	Lichfield Diocesan - Decorator's Scheme	-	-	-	-
	Parish Magazine & Bookstall	1,342	-	1,342	1,200
		9,012	-	9,012	8,846
2d	**Investments**				
	Dividends	18,783	-	18,783	13,377
	Bank Interest	14	-	14	97
		18,797	-	18,797	13,474
TOTAL		159,178	5,239	164,417	172,979

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

EXPENDITURE ON:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
3a Raising Funds				
Costs of Generating Income				
Fetes & Fundraising	-	2,615	2,615	2,248
	-	2,615	2,615	2,248
3b Charitable Activities				
Church Activities				
Mission giving and donations	4,434	395	4,829	4,563
Diocesan Parish Share	55,464	-	55,464	52,943
Salaries/Wages	19,339	750	20,089	15,171
Clergy and Staff Expenses	6,017	-	6,017	5,454
Church Expenses				
Church running expenses	14,787	-	14,787	12,614
Church utility bills	17,231	-	17,231	14,690
Cost of trading	17,412	5,142	22,554	12,955
Major Capital Expenditure				
Major Repairs to the Church	10,281	4,307	14,588	7,175
Governance Costs	3,360	-	3,360	2,904
	148,325	10,594	158,919	128,469
TOTAL	148,325	13,209	161,534	130,717

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

4a STAFF COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Salaries	20,089	15,171

During the year the PCC employed the following members of the PCC:

	31.12.21	31.12.20
	£	£
Mrs F Major	2,721	3,501
Mr M Donkin	5,270	5,144
Ms C Boulton	1,920	-
	9,911	8,645

There were no other transactions made in respect of PCC Members, no PCC Member received benefit, or reimbursement of travelling or other expenses.

5a FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Buildings	Church Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
At Cost			
As at 1st January 2021	-	27,836	27,836
Additions in the Year	-	-	-
Disposals in the Year	-	-	-
Value at 31st December 2021	-	27,836	27,836
Accumulated Depreciation			
As at 1st January 2021	-	27,836	27,836
Charge for the Year	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31st December 2021	-	27,836	27,836
Net Book Value at 31st December 2021	-	-	-
Net Book Value at 31st December 2020	-	-	-

5b INVESTMENT ASSETS

	At 1.1.21	Additions	Disposals	Transfers	Change in Market Value	At 31.12.21
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
Investments	329,563	60,000	-	2,997	50,077	442,637
Investment Property - 14 Lower Brook Street	172,719	-	-	-	-	172,719
Restricted funds						
Investments	44,887	-	-	(2,997)	-	41,890
Total	547,169	60,000	-	-	50,077	657,246

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

The unlisted investments are made up of the following:

	31.12.21	31.12.20
	£	£
Church of England Investment Fund	162,264	121,883
Church of England Fixed Interest Fund	27,771	8,860
M&G Charifund	199,477	157,193
Lichfield Diocesan Trust	95,016	86,514
	484,528	374,450

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
MARKET VALUE	
At 1st January 2021	172,719
Additional Expenditure	-
At 31st December 2021	172,719
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2021	172,719
At 31st December 2020	172,719

During 2011 the deeds at 14 Lower Brook Street were discovered to have been transferred into The PCC's name.
In light of this, the property has been brought into the accounts in 2011 at the then current market value of £160,000.00.

6 LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due in one year	2021	2020
	£	£
Accruals of Utilities	1,779	1,088
Other Creditors	11,321	9,223
	13,100	10,311

7 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	General Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Investments Assets	615,356	41,890	657,246
Current Assets	58,710	35,389	94,099
Current Liabilities	(13,532)	-	(13,532)
	660,534	77,279	737,813

STOCKS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Stocks (Prayer Cards & Notelets etc)	195	195

DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Prepayments	1,671	1,008
Dividend Income	665	4,200
Gift Aid	5,308	4,015
Other debtors	733	1,155
	8,377	10,378

8 FUNDS RECONCILIATION

		Reserves at 1.1.21	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Investment Gain/Losses	Transfer between funds	Reserves at 31.12.21
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds							
General Fund		602,130	159,178	(148,325)	50,077	(2,526)	660,534
Restricted Funds							
Organ Fund	1	5,185	7	(4,307)	-	196	1,081
Flower Fund	2	996	-	-	-	37	1,033
Morris Fund	3	145	-	-	-	-	145
Wilfred Owen Fund	4	702	-	-	-	26	728
Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People in Need	5	500	522	-	-	-	1,022
For the Assistance of the Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund	6	9,204	-	(395)	-	348	9,157
Oswestry St Ann's Fund	7	11,569	-	-	-	438	12,007
Sunday School Fund	8	492	-	-	-	-	492
Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund	9	2,866	-	-	-	108	2,974
Boulton Trust Fund	10	14,363	-	-	-	544	14,907
Friends of Music / Choral Foundation	11	4,748	3,550	(1,742)	-	-	6,556
Bellringers	12	3,548	1,160	(1,670)	-	-	3,038
Bellringers - Bell Training	13	937	-	-	-	-	937
Ladies Group	14	2,131	-	(10)	-	-	2,121
Christmas Day Lunch	15	905	-	-	-	-	905
Morda School House Trust	16	24,432	-	(5,085)	-	829	20,176
		82,723	5,239	(13,209)	-	2,526	77,279
TOTAL FUNDS		684,853	164,417	(161,534)	50,077	-	737,813

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains and Losses £	Movement in Funds £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	159,178	(148,325)	50,077	60,930
Restricted Funds				
Organ Fund	7	(4,307)	-	(4,300)
Flower Fund	-	-	-	-
Morris Fund	-	-	-	-
Wilfred Owen Fund	-	-	-	-
Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People in Need	522	-	-	522
For the Assistance of the Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund	-	(395)	-	(395)
Oswestry St Ann's Fund	-	-	-	-
Sunday School Fund	-	-	-	-
Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund	-	-	-	-
Boulton Trust Fund	-	-	-	-
Friends of Music/Choral Foundation	3,550	(1,742)	-	1,808
Bellringers	1,160	(1,670)	-	(510)
Bellringers - Bell Training	-	-	-	-
Ladies Group	-	(10)	-	(10)
Morda School House Trust	-	(5,085)	-	(5,085)
	5,239	(13,209)	-	(7,970)
TOTAL NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	164,417	(161,534)	50,077	52,960

NOTES TO THE FUNDS
Restricted Funds

1) Organ Fund
This is used to maintain the organ in St Oswald's church.

2) Flower Fund
This fund is held to enable flowers to be purchased for the church throughout the year.

3) Morris Fund
This fund is used for the upkeep of a memorial.

4) Wilfred Owen Fund
This fund is held for the upkeep of the Wilfred Owen memorial.

5) Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People In Need
This fund is for small gifts for people in need at Vicar's discretion.

6) Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund
This fund is to be used to assist parishioners of St Oswald's in times of poor health and hardship. The funds were given to St Oswald's in a fellow parishioner's will.

7) Oswestry St Ann's Fund
This was generated from the sale of St Ann's chapel at Morda and is held to be used for capital projects.

8) Sunday School Fund
This fund is held to support the Sunday School at St Oswald's church.

9) Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund
This fund is held for capital projects.

10) Boulton Trust Fund
This fund is held for capital projects.

11) Friends of Music / Choral Foundation Fund
This fund is used for the Friends of Music Group.

12) Bellringers Fund
This fund is used for the Bellringers group.

13) Bellringers - Bell Training Fund
This fund was established to assist Bellringers training.

14) Ladies Group
This fund is used for the ladies fellowship group.

15) Christmas Day Lunch
This fund was established to provide funds for the Christmas Day Lunch Project.

16) Morda School House Trust
This fund is to be used for youth and family work within our Parish.

9 **RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**
Mr D. P. Evison, F.C.A. is a partner in Garner Pugh & Sinclair who are paid £2,600.00 plus VAT (£3,120.00) for Accounting and Administration services.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

10 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES COMPARATIVES (PREVIOUS YEAR)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £
Incoming Resources			
Donations and Legacies	109,832	25,792	135,624
Charitable Activities	12,733	2,302	15,035
Other Trading Activities	8,846	-	8,846
Investments	13,474	-	13,474
Total	144,885	28,094	172,979
Resources Expended			
Raising Funds	-	2,248	2,248
Charitable Activities	126,828	1,641	128,469
Total	126,828	3,889	130,717
Net gain/(losses) on investment	(41,994)	-	(41,994)
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(23,937)	24,205	268
Transfer between funds	(1,183)	1,183	-
Net movement in funds	(25,120)	25,388	268
Total funds brought forward (1st Jan)	627,250	57,335	684,585
Total funds carried forward (31st Dec)	602,130	82,723	684,853

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND M

England & Wales - Charity number 1133346

Accounts

THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST OSWALD, KING & MARTYR, OSWESTRY

The Parish Office, Church Street, Oswestry, SY11 2SY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2020

The PCC cooperates with the Incumbent in the whole mission of the church according to the call of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. As part of the Synodical structure of the Church of England, the PCC makes known and puts into effect any provision made by the Diocesan or Deanery Synods and gives advice to these synods on any matters the PCC considers appropriate. The PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the church; the paying and dismissing paid officers of the parish. The PCC is responsible for the care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric of the Parish Church and the adjacent Parish Centre; a house at 14 Lower Brook Street, Oswestry is in the beneficial ownership of the Parochial Church Council, vested in the Diocesan Trust and is normally let to tenants. The Vicar and Churchwardens have passed on the School House at Morda Church of England Primary School in the parish to the school and have received the sum of £25,000, this will help fund our new Youth and Families officer.

As a parish within the Diocese of Lichfield, it follows the Bishop's Three Primary Tasks of Discipleship, Evangelism and Vocation.

Membership of the PCC is as follows:

(a) Ex-Officio

Incumbent *Vicar of St Oswald, King & Martyr, Oswestry – Rev'd H L Gibbons, M.A.*

Churchwardens Mr D P Evison Miss E J Williams Mrs M Jones Mr A Neale

Deanery Synod Representatives (elected 2020 to serve until 2023)
Includes ex-officio membership of the PCC
Mrs L Clarke Mrs M Crosby

(b) Elected Representatives under arrangements in force since the late 1980's and modified in 2002, three people are elected each year, for a term of three years.

To serve until 2021	Mr P Crosby	Mr M Donkin	Mr C Lewis
To serve until 2022	Mrs S Best	Mrs F A Boulton	Mrs F Pearson
To serve until 2023	Ms C Boulton	Mrs J Chesworth	Mrs F Major

Co-options

At the first meeting of the Council following the APCM on 18 October 2020 (moved from 29/4/2020) Mrs S Tansley was re-appointed as Hon. Secretary and co-opted with full voting rights.

Officers of the Council
The Vicar, as Incumbent is the legal Chairman of the Council
The Lay-co Chairman of the Council is Mr D P Evison
The Hon. Secretary to the Council is Mrs Susan Tansley
The Hon. Treasurer to the Council is Mr D P Evison
The Electoral Roll Officer is Mrs M Crosby

Sub Committees of the Council
The Vicar is ex officio on all sub committees listed below:

Standing Committee (the sole statutory Sub Committee)
The Vicar, Two Churchwardens; Lay co-Chairman;
Hon. Secretary; Hon. Treasurer – all ex-officio
Mr P Crosby Mrs L Clarke
Other sub committees include representatives appointed by the PCC from among their number, normally including one Churchwarden (at least) signified by *

Building and Fabric Committee – the full terms of reference is available on request and the membership is as follows: **Mr P Crosby (Chair), Mr P Evison*, Mr C Tansley, Mr A Neale*, Mr M Clarke, Mr M Brennan and Mr P Walley**

Finance Committee – the full terms of reference is available on request and the membership is as follows: **Mr P Evison* (Chair), Mr M Donkin, Cdr M Peters (Gift Aid), Mr A Clarke**

Parish Centre Management Committee to manage the daily running of the Centre and its staff. **Mr A Neale* (Chairman), Mrs J Holderness (Booking Secretary), Mrs E Leek and Mr W Bowen BEM.**

Social Committee to encourage activities and functions within the church to bring people together outside worship. This Committee was disbanded in 2019 but is in the process of finding new members and a new outlook.

Mission and Giving Group – Mrs A Pilsbury, Mr H Jones

Mission and Ministry Team – this is in the process of being reformed but the following people are still involved: **Mrs L Clarke, Mrs J Chesworth, Mrs G Evison, Mrs E Leek Mr Bryan Evans, Mr I Davies, Mrs F Stocking and Miss S Wright.**

Sick and Needy Fund
Mr P Crosby Mrs M Jones

The PCC appoints representatives to the local ecumenical body **Churches Together in Oswestry and District.** A total of two including the clergy are allowed according to the revised constitution of Churches Together adopted in 2012. Those nominated at the Annual Meeting were **The Vicar, Mrs A Pilsbury and Mr I Davies** who agreed to fill in when called upon to do so.

The Parish
The population of Oswestry according to the 2011 census was 18,700 of which 10,700 live in the parochial parish of St Oswald, King & Martyr. The Electoral Roll at 29 April 2020 stood at 244. Thanks are due to Mrs Maureen Crosby for encouraging membership of the electoral roll.
January – March – average Sunday Adult attendance for the year stood at 130.
Under the age of 16 years – 10.
Lockdown March – July: Average Sunday on-line figures 295 views.
July – December: Average Sunday attendance 83 Adults, 1 under 16, average on-line views 336.
Morning Worship – 95 views over 10 months. These include Christmas and Easter but we don't know how many opened it then went away.

Mission and Giving
£4,000 was allocated for charitable giving over and above the various special collections and fundraising efforts supporting emergency appeals and those we traditionally support. The £4,000 was shared as follows:

Action Aid UK	£500.00
Kiwoko Teaching Hospital	£500.00
Christian Aid Lebanon Appeal	£500.00
National	
Mind	£500.00
	£2,000.00
Local	
Designs in Mind	£500.00
Beam	£500.00
Oswestry & Borders Food Bank	£500.00
Morda Primary School	£250.00
Oswestry Rural Youth Church	£250.00
Total	£4,000.00

Public Benefit
The Trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that by promoting the work of the Church of England in the ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald, King & Martyr, Oswestry it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively within the ecclesiastical Parish and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:-
Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers: and promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Health & Safety and Risk Management
We are required to make adequate arrangements for Health and Safety and to carry some understanding of the risks that are perceived, together with a strategy for risk management.
In implementing these policies, it has proved to be effective in ensuring that we conduct all our activities in a safe manner whilst maintaining the dignity of our worship and protecting the fabric of our ancient grade 2* listed building.
The policies are reviewed, amended and discussed by the PCC on a regular basis. Our Health and Safety Officer is Mr M Donkin. Outside organisations using the Church, Parish Centre or Tower are provided with a statement of the procedures and their responsibilities when using the Church.

We will continue to be diligent in providing for the safety of our congregation, employees, volunteers and visitors according to the policy and regulations which can be requested from the Parish Office.

The principal risks fall under the following headings:
Accidents and First Aid, Fire safety, Electrical safety, Gas safety, Control of hazardous substances, Plant and machinery, Slips, trips and falls, Lighting, Falls from a height, Food hygiene, Manual handling, Display screen equipment, Hazardous buildings/glazing, Child protection, Personal safety, Activities and other hazards.

We continue to develop understanding of, training in and adherence to these policies and take reasonable and necessary steps to prevent accidents occurring. The Health and Safety policy and Fire Safety policy were reviewed during 2016 and copy is available on request from the Hon. Secretary to the PCC.

Safeguarding
There has been considerable attention given to the Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults nationally and not least by the Church of England. During 2020 we reviewed our parish policies and procedures to make sure that we bring DBS checks up to date for those required to have them. We have adopted the Diocesan and Church of England policies in this regard.

The Parish Sick and Needy Fund:
The fund was set up some years ago formerly known as the Vicar's Discretionary Fund to help people within the parish who are suffering with hardship and is administered by a small committee under the chairmanship of the Vicar. If any member of the congregation is aware of any such case they should contact the Vicar for the case to be discussed with the committee.

Incumbent's Review of the Year

One word sums up the past twelve months … extraordinary. Yet it all began so normally with the usual mechanics of parish life continuing as they had always done. Sunday and mid-week worship, PCC and sub-committee meetings, funerals and pastoral visits, Ladies' Group, Place of Welcome, school assemblies and Governor meetings, prayer and study groups, planning for VE Day. Despite increasing concerns about Coronavirus, we held 'Oswald's Tree' on March 14th.

Then everything changed. On March 23rd we entered the first of two national lockdowns. Given the seriousness of the situation, all churches closed for worship on Saturday 21st. The church building was closed to everyone except the incumbent and officers for everything except essential business.

This meant that our usual Mothering Sunday service had to be held online with a hastily produced video. Thankfully, the church Facebook page had been remodelled and relaunched in 2020. It was to be put to very good use throughout the year as it and the church website became the shop window into the church and its life, enabling us to reach out to existing church members and attract new people.

Initially, considerable time was spent creating videos for Lent, Holy Week and Easter until available resources enabled me to live stream Sunday worship from my study in the vicarage. Mid-week resources and Bible studies also went online, as in time did PCC meetings, Sunday coffee, Messy Church and the APCM streamed from church in October.

Caring for members and non-members alike was a significant concern and the pastoral groups were resuscitated, and a telephone support network put in place. These provided important fellowship and pastoral support and enabled people to feel connected, especially those who were unable to join us online. The Foodbank box was relocated to the vicarage drive and was very generously supported by a wide range of people from across Oswestry.

The church reopened for private prayer and devotion on 22nd June; Sunday worship returned on July 12th, the 5th Sunday after Trinity with a 10:30 Parish Eucharist under strict COVID guidelines. The service as all Sunday services since, was live streamed. During the course of the summer, funerals and weddings were allowed with reduced numbers attending and singing was slowly reintroduced to worship. As communal singing was not allowed, solo voices were used and on 13th September, a choir of 6 voices sang from St. George's Chapel.

Church life was again restricted by a second national lockdown from 2nd November which meant Remembrance Sunday at the gates was much curtailed and Sunday worship returned to a livestream only. Whilst Sundays returned in Advent, the Lessons and Carols service, the Christmas Nine Lessons and Carols service and Christmas Eve Nativity were streamed to enable people to join in with the hymns and carols at home. Thankfully we were able to gather face to face on Christmas Day though our last act of worship in 2020 was streamed Parish Eucharist on December 27th which had been recorded during the previous week.

It has been an extraordinary year and I wish to state here my personal thanks to everyone who has worked so hard during the past twelve months. To my clergy colleagues who like me have struggled with pastoral care by phone, working through face coverings, face shields and latex gloves; to the Church Wardens who have gone above and beyond what has been expected of them not only to keep the wheels turning, but to ensure that everyone using St Oswalds could do so safely, to the PCC and to the choir who have had to significantly change the way that they operate. Also to two new members of the team at St. Oswald's, Matthew Wilson and Felicity Parker; Caretaker/Verger and Families and Youth worker respectively. It has been a huge team effort and collectively we have risen to the challenge.

So to end on a positive note, although as I write this we are still in lockdown, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Rebuilding St. Oswald's post-COVID will require energy, commitment and patience; it will be a long and sometimes challenging road. However, building on the ideas arising from Oswald's Tree, our participation in LEAD Academy, and using the skills and gifts we possess as a worshipping community, I believe we can discover anew what God has in store for us., both as individuals and as a worshipping community seeking to love God and serve our neighbour.

As ever, I look forward to the next twelve months with great enthusiasm and hope.

Rev'd Harvey Gibbons

Secretary's Report on the business of the Parochial Church Council

Everyone will agree that 2020 has been a strange year. Our first meetings in January and March took place in the Parish Centre and 13 out of 18 people attended each. The following meetings in July, September and November took place on Zoom and were attended by all members unless they were indisposed at the time.

During most of the year unless informed by our Diocese of Lichfield to close, the church has been open for private prayer on Mondays and Thursdays for 2 hours in accordance with all Covid 19 implementations in place and with the Caretaker stewarding.

We are most grateful for the hard work of our Vicar, Rev'd Harvey Gibbons and the Churchwardens for enabling this and putting in all the risk assessments. This also applied to the opening of the Church for Sunday Worship which was extremely well attended with three persons per pew (or family members) socially distanced and with liberal use of hand sanitiser, masks were mandatory.

Our grateful thanks also go to our Assistant Clergy and Readers and others who, when on Facebook, took services throughout the week and supplied sermons and prayers on Sundays.

The PCC advertised for a Youth and Families worker and the successful applicant Felicity Parker was employed, she is shared between St Oswald's and Oswestry School where she is accommodated.

See the Building and Fabric report for all works having been completed or to do in the future within the church.

The Annual Church Meeting took place after a shortened Eucharist on Sunday 18 October, having been re-arranged from 27 April.

Susan Tansley
Hon. Secretary to the PCC

CHURCHWARDENS

It will come as no surprise to you that the Church Wardens have been kept very busy during 2020.

In response to the Covid pandemic we were required to put in place measures that would protect our employees, the church community, other users of the buildings, the wider community and visitors.

As with many others, we had to research, plan and implement a safe environment for all. We purchased all the appropriate PPE that was necessary and configured the church building for Sunday worship (when allowed), private prayer, weddings and funerals.

We were delighted that Mat was available to join us as 'caretaker' and his help throughout the year has been invaluable. We are also grateful to the group of 'stewards' who came forward to assist with caring for the congregation on Sundays.

The wardens will continue to carry out their duties to the best of their abilities in these difficult times and look forward to more relaxed times ahead.

Alan, June, Paul and Muriel

TREASURER'S REPORT

Well, what a year! At the end of March 2020 I forecast a short term loss as we went into lockdown for what I thought would be a short period. Both predictions were wrong.

I am grateful to those members of our congregation who make their financial gift direct into the bank, as well as those who ensured that their weekly envelopes were posted into the church office. Our income from these sources was £65,652 – only down by £1,554 on the previous year. The fee income of £8,316 was only down by £2,087, because our fees for January, February and March were not far short of the fee income for the six months to June in 2019. We were grateful for a government grant in the form of furlough receipts which meant our total income for the year was down by £34,773.

The expenditure for the year was down by £25,954 helped by the generous gesture by Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance reducing our parish share by £7,563.

As I reported in the November church magazine we were showing a surplus of £12,230 for the nine months to 30th September 2020. I suggested then that I could not predict the figures for the year end.

I was pleasantly surprised when I came to prepare the year end accounts, how well we had eventually done. I know the investments showed a loss of £41,994,but in 2019 we showed a profit of £59,605. Over the last fourteen years the overall gain on our investments has been £35,858.

We just need to reflect that 2020 has been a momentous period.
The figures for the year ended 31st December 2020 are fully explained in the PCC Financial Statements included in the Annual Report.

As always I could not and would not attempt to act as Treasurer without the assistance of the staff from Garner, Pugh and Sinclair, who are paid as outlined in the accounts for this service. In addition, I would like to thank Irene Gull and her Monday morning team of counters, together with the administrator Frances and her backroom helpers Diane Dawson and Ann Sagar.

Paul Evison

BELL RINGERS

2020 offered opportunities to learn completely new ringing skills!!

A number of ringers met 'virtually' via Zoom and Ringing Room to ring every Thursday (*our normal practice night)* since the first lockdown in March / April. Most Thursdays we've managed to ring Call Changes on at least 8 bells and, with some of our more experienced ringers taking 2 bells, we have rung more advanced methods on 6/8/10 bells, getting to grips with new technology and progressing slowly. Tony Freemont managed the Zoom log-ins and Peter Woollam managed the actual ringing supported by Brian Rothera and Richard Major.

During the summer relaxing of restrictions we rang for 15 minutes for Sunday morning services. This was approved by our vicar, Harvey Gibbons, since we are lucky to have a large ringing room (*measurements between ropes meeting the 2 metre distance rule providing the 3 and 4 and the 7 and 8 were rung by ringers from the same household, Brian Rothera and his son and Richard and Frances Major).* This meant that we could ring at least 5 bells most Sundays and sometimes 6 bells. Other Covid 19 rules were maintained on hand and surface sanitising, ropes being allocated permanently to the same ringer every week, enabling air flow, and maintaining a register for 'world beating bell ringers track and trace.' Gordon Hodson led us in prayer each Sunday before we made our way up to the ringing room.

Richard and Frances Major and Jan Snowball rang handbells, alternating gardens, during the relaxations of restrictions between July to October and then again, virtually via Ringing Room once or twice weekly.

The positive effects of 'seeing' and being able to talk to other people, learning new digital skills, and being able to hear bells were a real boost to morale especially for those in single households.

Jan Snowball, Secretary

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Wednesday lunchtime bible study group finished studying a series of USPG study courses with titles such as *Faith in a changing climate, The prophetic voice of the church* and *All things are possible.* We finished on a Wednesday in March, spread out around tables in the Parish Centre and said our goodbyes. We weren't to know that it would be at least a year before we could meet there again but in September we agreed that we were missing our study and started off with a course on the Psalms over zoom. Then we launched into Ecclesiastes which proved to be the starting point for many a discussion. We now meet on Tuesday mornings and we don't bring our lunch but do bring a mug of coffee.

Lent was looming on the horizon so after a bit of delving into the internet we found on the 'Churches Together in Britain and Ireland' website, their Lent Course for 2020 - *'Opening the Scriptures: Setting our hearts on fire.'*
This is the course that St Oswald's is using as I write, for the Lent course.

Bible study via zoom is not the same of course but has given us contact with each other, support in difficult times and some food for thought as we continue with our journey of discipleship at St Oswald's.

Jan Chesworth

BUILDING AND FABRIC COMMITTEE

Though the committee has only met once this year, before the first lockdown, a lot of work has been completed during the year.

Work to complete the drains and the wet rot in the floorboards and joists which had been identified in the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection was completed towards the end of 2019. However, the committee felt it was worthwhile to have the floor boards further along the length of the west wall, towards the Yale Memorial, checked whilst the architect and contractors were on site. Further wet rot was found in floor boards and joists in this area and these were replaced. The joists had not been new wood when installed and were thought to have been reclaimed ship's timber. It would appear that up-cycling is not a new concept!

Colin Tansley and Mike Peters spent time during the first lockdown treating the wood and painting the iron work on all the exterior oak doors to the church which has resulted in much favourable comment from members of the congregation. Thanks to both Colin and Mike for such a splendid job.

In the summer the Tower Clock stopped. The clock maintenance team came to investigate and found a buddleia growing through the clock face which was preventing the hands from turning.

We recognise that periodically vegetation has to be removed from the tower walls so WallWalkers, a roped access team, cleared all the vegetation, including the buddleia. It was too late in the year to repoint with lime mortar so they will return in the spring to point the gaps where the vegetation has been removed.

Unfortunately even after the buddleia had been removed the clock would not restart. Another visit by the clock maintenance team found that the buddleia had caused the electric motor driving the clock to burn out. After replacement of the motor the “iconic church clock” (as the Advertizer described it) proclaimed the time over Oswestry once again.

When the contractor assessed the work needed to replace a broken window in the cloister leading to the Parish Centre it was found that a totally new window frame was required on the Broadwalk side and a partial new frame was needed on the Church side of the cloister. The rotten areas of both frames have been replaced and all the glass in the cloister now meets current safety requirements.

Following the decision to block the secluded area between church and the parish centre after an attempted murder in the area, the temporary barrier kindly loaned free of charge for the whole period by local contractor, Phillips and Curry, was replaced by a wrought iron barrier with gated access made by an Ellesmere blacksmith. Despite a wide search for funding to support the project, with the exception of a generous donation of £1,000 from a member of the congregation no other external funding was obtained.

The proposal by a member of the congregation to add turned-spindle lighting with shades within the choir stalls, as a memorial gift, has made only slow progress. Photographs showing a mock-up of the proposal has now been passed to the DAC at Lichfield for consideration before the required faculty is sought.

We became aware of an emergency grant scheme from Heritage England which may have been suitable for urgent conservation work on the Yale Memorial. The application timescales were tight but I’m pleased to say that in the first days of January 2021 we heard that we had been successful in obtaining a grant of almost £11,000 for the total cost of the conservation work. A faculty for the work has now been sought.

The four year gas contract with British Gas has been extended for a further year, on the same advantageous terms, until February 2025. The electricity contract with Total Gas and Power is still until November 2023.

VAT totalling £3,872 which had already been paid on eligible work, has been reclaimed under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. Another claim will be made before the current scheme will end on 31 March 2021.

Contract servicing of the Fire Appliances, Organ and Clock have been completed and the boilers in the church and the parish centre have also been serviced.

Though thanks are due to the whole committee, particular thanks must go to Colin Tansley, Peter Walley, Gerry Howe and Mike Peters who have undertaken ‘self-help’ works and on-going maintenance.

Paul Crosby, Chairman

CHURCH CHOIR

This year has been dominated by the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic with the result that the Choir has not sung as a full choir since the first lockdown began in March.

The Choir was not able to resume until September but, at that time, the 'Rule of 6' meant that only 6 singers could take part in services at any one time and they were moved to the St. George's Chapel, a necessary move in terms of safety but less than satisfactory from the point of view of the music.

Almost immediately the virus swept through Oswestry School and our 5 chorister scholars were forced to isolate although, thankfully, none had caught the virus. No sooner did they return than the Welsh lockdown came into force which meant that another 5 choir members could not travel into Oswestry.

We just managed to record the Advent Carol Service before another month off and this was broadcast on the First Sunday of Advent. My thanks to Gerry and the Choir who pulled off a very fine service with minimal time to rehearse.

The lockdowns ended in early December which left us with just 3 weeks to produce all the Christmas music. We were not able to live stream the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols but instead put out a recording made in 2016 when Radio Shropshire broadcast from the church. This was very well received. Our last service was Christmas morning which was beautifully sung.

During the times when the church was open for worship but before the Choir could return, Gerry continued to provide music on the organ and at times Samantha Lewis and Chelsea Morris were able to offer solos and during the 2nd English lockdown, Lauren Williamson, Eleri Roberts and Alice Williams sang hymns; all these contributions were greatly appreciated and my thanks to all of them.

At the time the lockdowns started the Choir comprised:-

- 14 Trebles
- 5 Altos
- 5 Tenors and
- 6 Basses

The Choir has not sung since Christmas but, now that vaccinations are available, is looking forward to reconvening.

Mike Donkin
Director of Music

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, the Children's Society suspended the collection of household boxes. After many years of service to the Children's Society, Jennifer Cederholm stepped down as church representative and was replaced by Liz Gibbons. Everyone at St Oswald's extends their appreciation for the many years of service Jennifer has given.

L Gibbons

DEANERY SYNOD

Deanery Synod met on 3rd March 2020 at Kinnerley and gave the Deanery Synod members the chance to meet and get to know the new Bishop of Shrewsbury, the Rt Rev'd Sarah Bullock. Bishop Sarah gave us some of her personal background. She encouraged us to consider our callings, acknowledging that these can change at different times in our lives. God is always calling us into new life. She asked us to tell her what had changed in our churches over the last ten years; more lay involvement, less formality, new initiatives such as Messy Church. There was plenty to work with here and we need to think how we can move things forward by involving our communities differently.

Lindsay Clarke

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee only met twice in 2020. Our first meeting was in February before lockdown. It reviewed the accounts for 2019 and accepted the figures subject to the examination by our Independent Examiner. The projected May meeting was cancelled as the country was in lockdown and the church was closed.

The final meeting in November reviewed the Budget for 2021 and the Treasurer brought the Committee up to date with the financial position in what had become a most unusual year.

Even in November it was difficult to predict the outcome for the year, but we knew that the overall position would not be as bad as it had been predicted originally.

My thanks go to my fellow members of the Committee, and especially to Mike Peters for his work as Secretary.

Paul Evison, Chairman

HOME COMMUNION

As a result of the pandemic we have not been able to take out the sacraments since the end of March so in order to maintain contact and assure people that we are thinking of them they have been phoned on a monthly basis. During the year we have lost a residential home with the closure of Heatherdene but have gained two extra contacts.

Keith Musson

LADIES' GROUP

Ladies group were only able to meet three times in 2020. Then in early March for our AGM.

Members try to keep in touch informally by phone or the internet. It is always good when you come across a member when shopping or exercising when you can have a socially distanced chat.

We look forward to when we are able to meet again.

June Williams (Chairman)

MISSION AND MINISTRY TEAM – JANUARY – MARCH 2020

The MMT met on February 11th. Subjects under discussion were:

- The Quiet Day on 29th February
- Lent Groups using the 'Operation Noah' resource
- Lent midday reflections
- Oswald's Tree Day on March 14th, our last event before the first lockdown
- Proposals for Thy Kingdom Come in May which sadly had to be cancelled although resources were made available online
- Proposed PCC Away Weekend to report on Oswald's Tree and Lead Academy which also had to be cancelled for the time being.

Lindsay Clarke

MOTHERS' UNION FELLOWSHIP GROUP

January 2020 a small group met to discuss the way forward for the Mothers' Union in St Oswald's; the result led to our first meeting in February which we opened to any Church member. Fourteen people showed interest, two of these had not previously been members.
It was planned to hold a monthly meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 2 – 4 pm in the Parish Centre.

The March meeting was planned around a Lady Day Service when the 2 new people would be enrolled by Rev'd Harvey. Covid however, intervened and we still have the membership service to look forward to.

Many members heard I was knitting 9 inch squares for charity and have been occupied this year by joining me in this project, amounting to over 10 large blankets.

I have been able via the internet to be in touch with Central Mothers' Union & Lichfield Diocese Mothers' Union for services, A.G.M. & newsletters. I have regularly contacted all members by phone.

Pam Musson

PARISH CENTRE COMMITTEE

Obviously, the main thrust of this report is to confirm the inactivity within the Parish Centre during the pandemic. The main room was used a few times only for socially distanced choir practice with a maximum of 18 choristers, during the short periods that this was allowed. Provision of heating highlighted the inadequacies of the existing system in that it blows heated air through the room (not appropriate to reduce the spread of the virus).

Where possible, pipe work has been drained of water and before the Parish Centre is used in the future, appropriate actions must be taken to avoid the possible incidence of Legionnaire's disease. (The disabled toilet hand basin taps have been regularly run during lockdown).

Due to the length of time involved, the fridge/freezer has been emptied, cleaned and switched off and tins of biscuits have been removed. When opening is allowed, the supplies of tea/coffee/sugar etc., should be checked to ensure their quality.

Thanks to Colin and Peter who made use of the 'empty' time by cleaning and polishing the main room floor.

I am also very grateful to Mat for his diligence on making regular visual checks of the Centre and applying masonry paint to the external concrete 'skirt' around the building and repainting the external hand rail.

Alan Neale (Chairman, Parish Centre Committee)

PLACE OF WELCOME

Place of Welcome began the year opening as usual on every Tuesday morning and continued to welcome guests from the community and from our church family. We closed with heavy hearts on Tuesday 17 March 2020, but no one foresaw then that no further sessions would be held for more than 12 months.

The surplus of funds we had accrued at that time, £105, was given to the Food Bank.

We look forward to a time in 2021 when we will be able to resume. Social contact and face-to-face conversation will be more needed than ever in the aftermath of the enforced isolation caused by the coronavirus restrictions.

Elaine Leek, on behalf of The Place of Welcome Team

PRAYER AND CARE

A year since we last met together on the first Monday of each month – for a short Office, a sharing of news of sick people, and fellowship.

However, we have not stopped praying: and Praying the Office in our homes, by phone, sharing news of sick people and daily praying.

If you would like to join us or would like us to pray for someone, please contact one of the team or me.

We hope and pray to get back to normal.

Gordon Hodson

SOCIAL MEDIA

This has been a very busy year for social media. In fact it's been a steep and quite stressful learning curve for several people.
As we know, Harvey has worked extremely hard to keep things going at St Oswald's, starting with the social media point of view with the setting up of the Church Facebook page to provide information about what was happening. During the first lockdown he ran the Sunday services from the vicarage and I copied them from YouTube into the website. When the church was reopened he live streamed the socially distanced services onto Facebook with the help of Paul Crosby and Alan Neale so that those who could not be present could take part and again I embedded them into the church website.

When the church was closed again at Christmas, Sunday services continued to be held in the church by one celebrant with music by Gerry Howe, and have continued to be streamed onto the website.
Meanwhile we started the 'Virtual' St Oswald's Facebook page to try to keep people in touch with each other. Morning Prayer has also continued to be live streamed and transferred to the website every weekday, and is now taken by the associate clergy and Bill Bowen and Felicity Parker. The services have been a lifeline for many people, not only our regular churchgoers but people who rarely or never step into a church. In fact we appear to be acquiring a whole new online congregation. Facebook's viewing figures for the special services at Easter, All Souls and Christmas were amazingly high. Funerals are also streamed for those unable to attend.
Throughout the lockdown Zoom has become invaluable, hosting Bible Study and Lent Groups, after church coffee groups and of course PCC and other meetings.
The website continues to keep people informed of what is going on in church, as well as being the place where those who don't have Facebook can see the streamed services. While the congregation is unable to pick up the weekly pew slip and the monthly Parish News in person, it is especially valuable that these are available on the website's Weekly News page. On the services pages there are links to the liturgy, prayers and readings as well as the services themselves. Keeping it up to date has been a lot of work and I would like to thank Fiona Pearson for her help.

Anne Pilsbury

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

It will come as no surprise to anyone that the precautions we had to take to meet the Covid-19 have had a marked effect on donations to the church. In 2020, total donations to St Oswald's were lower than in 2019 (by about 14.3%). Receipts from stewardship envelopes, blue envelopes and 'loose cash' were lower: donations through the bank showed a slight increase. Tax-efficient Income from these four sources was £68,018 (£83,894 in 2019).

Stewardship envelopes. 63 members used their coloured envelopes during the year, reducing to 53 in December, (55 in 2019). The total donated this way was £31,674 (£36,198 in 2019), an average of £502 from each donor, (£658 in 2019), and £609 per week (£696 in 2019). Over 93% of donations were "tax-efficient". During the year some members changed from using these envelopes to making their donation through the bank.

Payments through the bank. During the year 67 gave this way (64 in 2019) including a number who changed from regular envelopes. The total given for the year was £33,978 (£28,865 in 2019) and over 97% was "tax-efficient". This is an average of £507 per donor (£451 in 2019).

"Casual" Donors. Donations made in the blue envelopes totalled £3,100 in 2020 (£6,682 in 2019) vividly demonstrating one of the effects of the lock-downs. Some of these are from members of the congregation who make regular donations. Others are visitors or who attend occasionally on Sundays and for weddings, funerals or special services.

Anonymous donations. Under the scheme introduced in 2013, the equivalent of gift aid can be recovered from anonymous donations in cash, and up to £20 at a time, up to a maximum of £8,000 in any financial year, giving a possible return to the church of £2,000. In 2020 the total donated was £3,171, the first year we were below the maximum claim. In 2019 we received £11,318. If some of these donors were able to declare their donation for Gift Aid the return to the church would increase at no cost to individual donors.

General. The total tax recovered from HMRC was £16,923, (£20,586 in 2019) reflecting the reduced attendance and donations. Nevertheless, this is some 11.7% of the church's total income for the year (excluding legacies) (was 11.5% in 2019), a very satisfactory result given the circumstances.

Sincere thanks must go to all those who make their gift via St Oswald's and to those who take the trouble to complete the minimal paperwork required for the Gift Aid scheme. There is always space for more donors; anyone who would like to make their gift "tax-efficient" should contact the Gift Aid Secretary, Mike Peters, 01691 676091 or mike.aylestone@tiscali.co.uk or simply approach him in church.

D C Banks, Chairman
Stewardship Committees

UNDER 5's

The Under 5's met during the first three months of the year. However, since the beginning of the first national lockdown in March, the group has been in abeyance.

L Gibbons

The following groups did1 not meet in 2020 and have not submitted a report: Altar Guild; Messy Church; Ministry of Welcome; Social Committee (which was disbanded in 2019)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1133346

Report of the Parochial Church Council and Unaudited Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31st December 2020 for

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

J. M. Ollier, F.C.A.
Azets
5-7 Beatrice Street
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 1QE

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

The Parochial Church Council present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2020. The Parochial Church Council have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in 2015.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number
1133346

Principal address
The Parish Church of St Oswald, King and Martyr
Church Street
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 2SY

Parochial Church Council

Rev H Gibbons (Chairman)	
Mr D P Evison	
Miss E J Williams	
Mr C W J Lewis	
Mrs S Tansley	
Mr W E Bowen	Retired October 2020
Mr P R Crosby	
Mr M W Donkin	
Mrs E J Leek	Retired October 2020
Mrs L Clarke	
Mrs F Major	
Mr I Davies	Retired October 2020
Mr A Neale	
Mrs J Chesworth	
Mrs A Boulton	
Mrs M Jones	
Mrs F Pearson	
Mrs S Best	
Ms C Boulton	Appointed October 2020
Mrs MC Crosby	Appointed October 2020

Independent Examiner
J. M. Ollier, F.C.A.
Azets
5-7 Beatrice Street
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 1QE

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document
Parochial Church Council powers measure (1956) as amended and church representation rules.

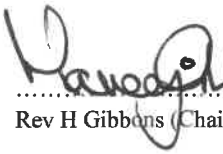
Risk management
The Parochial Church Council have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Safeguarding
The Parochial Church Council has adopted the Diocesan and Church of England policies in this regard.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



.....

Rev H Gibbons (Chairman) - Parochial Church Council member

22nd March 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE P.C.C. OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

This report on the financial statements of the P.C.C. for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 4 to 15 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE P.C.C. AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The members of the P.C.C are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
   - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

J. M. Ollier, F.C.A.
Azets
5-7 Beatrice Street
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 1QE

22nd March 2021

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £ *
Incoming Resources					
Donations and Legacies	2a	109,832	25,792	135,624	129,658
Charitable Activities	2b	12,733	2,302	15,035	28,589
Other Trading Activities	2c	8,846	-	8,846	15,118
Investments	2d	13,474	-	13,474	17,420
Total		144,885	28,094	172,979	190,785
Resources Expended					
Raising Funds	3a	-	2,248	2,248	9,297
Charitable Activities	3b	126,828	1,641	128,469	155,250
Total		126,828	3,889	130,717	164,547
Net gain/(losses) on investment		(41,994)	-	(41,994)	59,605
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(23,937)	24,205	268	85,843
Transfer between funds		(1,183)	1,183	-	-
Net movement in funds		(25,120)	25,388	268	85,843
Total funds brought forward (1st Jan)		627,250	57,335	684,585	598,742
Total funds carried forward (31st Dec)		602,130	82,723	684,853	684,585

* See note 10 for full comparatives

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Balance Sheet
At 31st December 2020

	Notes	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	5a	-	-
Investment Assets	5b	547,169	589,163
		547,169	589,163
Current Assets			
Bank current accounts		5,994	5,903
Bank deposit accounts		120,626	86,060
CBF deposit fund		10,651	6,912
Cash		151	175
Stocks		195	195
Debtors		10,378	11,686
		147,995	110,931
Liabilities due in one year	6		
Creditors		(10,311)	(15,509)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		137,684	95,422
TOTAL NET ASSETS		684,853	684,585
Parish Funds	8		
Unrestricted funds		602,130	627,250
Restricted funds		82,723	57,335
TOTAL FUNDS		684,853	684,585

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 22nd March 2021 and were signed on it's behalf by:

.....
Rev H Gibbons (Chairman) - Parochial Church Council member

.....
D R Evison FCA - Chairman of Finance Committee and Treasurer

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

1 **Accounting Policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP) and applicable accounting standard FRS102.

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

Cash Flow Statement

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that the income does not exceed £500,000.

Description of Funds

Restricted funds comprise of two elements:-

a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest

b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and Benefice Property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10 (2) (a) & (C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value on 31st December.

Investment property

Investment property is shown at the most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in the market value is transferred to a revaluation reserve.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
2a	**Donations and Legacies** *Voluntary Income/Receipts*				
1	Tax efficient planned giving	61,747	-	61,747	63,447
	Other planned giving	3,905	-	3,905	3,828
2	Collections at services	6,463	-	6,463	19,334
3	All other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals	14,324	25,792	40,116	22,263
	Gift Aid Recovered	16,923	-	16,923	20,586
	Legacies received	500	-	500	200
	JRS Grant	5,970	-	5,970	-
		109,832	25,792	135,624	129,658

1) Analysis of Tax efficient planned giving

	£
Bank Donations	32,493
Regular Envelopes	29,254
Collections - USPG	-
	61,747

2) Analysis of Collections at services

	£
White Envelopes	3,100
Loose plate collections	3,171
Collections - Baptisms	97
Collections - Home Communions	95
Collections - Weddings	-
Collections - Special	-
	6,463

3) Analysis of all other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals

	£
Donations - Church	12,255
Donations - Charities	135
Donations - Organ Fund - Restricted	317
Donations - Organ Fund - Unrestricted	684
Donations - Flower Fund	165
Wall safes	352
Donations - Funerals	705
Donations - Place of Welcome	28
Donations - Morda School House Trust - Restricted	25,475
	40,116

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS CONTINUED:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
2b Charitable Activities				
Church Activities				
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)	8,316	135	8,451	11,348
Summer Fete	-	-	-	1,222
Fundraising Activities	4,417	2,167	6,584	16,019
	12,733	2,302	15,035	28,589
2c Other Trading Activities				
Activities for Generating Funds				
Church Hall Hire	604	-	604	2,744
Church Lettings	280	-	280	2,195
Lower Brook Street Rent	6,762	-	6,762	7,800
Lichfield Diocesan - Decorator's Scheme	-	-	-	-
Parish Magazine & Bookstall	1,200	-	1,200	2,379
	8,846	-	8,846	15,118
2d Investments				
Dividends	13,377	-	13,377	17,242
Bank Interest	97	-	97	178
	13,474	-	13,474	17,420
TOTAL	144,885	28,094	172,979	190,785

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

EXPENDITURE ON:

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
3a	**Raising Funds**				
	Costs of Generating Income				
	Fetes & Fundraising	-	2,248	2,248	9,297
		-	2,248	2,248	9,297
3b	**Charitable Activities**				
	Church Activities				
	Mission giving and donations	4,175	388	4,563	9,227
	Diocesan Parish Share	52,943	-	52,943	59,759
	Salaries/Wages	15,171	-	15,171	13,003
	Clergy and Staff Expenses	5,454	-	5,454	5,730
	Church Expenses				
	Church running expenses	12,614	-	12,614	11,253
	Church utility bills	14,690	-	14,690	20,606
	Cost of trading	11,702	1,253	12,955	20,259
	Major Capital Expenditure				
	Major Repairs to the Church	7,175	-	7,175	12,773
	Governance Costs	2,904	-	2,904	2,640
		126,828	1,641	128,469	155,250
TOTAL		126,828	3,889	130,717	164,547

4a STAFF COSTS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Salaries	15,171	13,003

During the year the PCC employed the following members of the PCC:

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Mrs F Major	3,501	3,429
Mr M Donkin	5,144	5,021
	8,645	8,450

There were no other transactions made in respect of PCC Members, no PCC Member received benefit, or reimbursement of travelling or other expenses.

5a FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Buildings	Church Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
At Cost			
As at 1st January 2020	-	27,836	27,836
Additions in the Year	-	-	-
Disposals in the Year	-	-	-
Value at 31st December 2020	-	27,836	27,836
Accumulated Depreciation			
As at 1st January 2020	-	27,836	27,836
Charge for the Year	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31st December 2020	-	27,836	27,836
Net Book Value at 31st December 2020	-	-	-
Net Book Value at 31st December 2019	-	-	-

5b INVESTMENT ASSETS

	At 1.1.20	Additions	Disposals	Transfers	Change in Market Value	At 31.12.20
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
Investments	364,654	-	-	6,903	(41,994)	329,563
Investment Property - 14 Lower Brook Street	172,719	-	-	-	-	172,719
Restricted funds						
Investments	51,790	-	-	(6,903)	-	44,887
Total	589,163	-	-	-	(41,994)	547,169

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

The unlisted investments are made up of the following:

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Church of England Investment Fund	121,883	114,041
Church of England Fixed Interest Fund	8,860	8,558
M&G Charifund	157,193	190,190
Lichfield Diocesan Trust	86,514	103,655
	374,450	416,444

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
MARKET VALUE	
At 1st January 2020	172,719
Additional Expenditure	-
At 31st December 2020	172,719
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2020	172,719
At 31st December 2019	172,719

During 2011 the deeds at 14 Lower Brook Street were discovered to have been transferred into The PCC's name.
In light of this, the property has been brought into the accounts in 2011 at the then current market value of £160,000.00.

6 LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due in one year	2020	2019
	£	£
Accruals of Utilities	1,088	5,000
Other Creditors	9,223	10,509
	10,311	15,509

7 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	General Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Investments Assets	502,283	44,887	547,170
Current Assets	110,158	37,836	147,994
Current Liabilities	(10,311)	-	(10,311)
	602,130	82,723	684,853

STOCKS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Stocks (Prayer Cards & Notelets etc)	195	195

DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	£	£
Prepayments	1,008	1,428
Dividend Income	4,200	2,200
Gift Aid	4,015	5,621
Other debtors	1,155	2,437
	10,378	11,686

8 FUNDS RECONCILIATION

		Reserves at 1.1.20	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Investment Gain/Losses	Transfer between funds	Reserves at 31.12.20
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds							
General Fund		627,250	144,885	(126,828)	(41,994)	(1,183)	602,130
Restricted Funds							
Organ Fund	1	4,739	317	-	-	129	5,185
Flower Fund	2	970	-	-	-	26	996
Morris Fund	3	145	-	-	-	-	145
Wilfred Owen Fund	4	684	-	-	-	18	702
Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People in Need	5	500	-		-	-	500
For the Assistance of the Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund	6	9,339	-	(388)	-	253	9,204
Oswestry St Ann's Fund	7	11,265	-	-	-	304	11,569
Sunday School Fund	8	492	-	-	-	-	492
Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund	9	2,791	-	-	-	75	2,866
Boulton Trust Fund	10	13,985	-	-	-	378	14,363
Friends of Music / Choral Foundation	11	5,036	1,734	(2,022)	-	-	4,748
Bellringers	12	3,677	257	(386)	-	-	3,548
Bellringers - Bell Training	13	937	-	-	-	-	937
Ladies Group	14	1,870	311	(50)	-	-	2,131
USPG	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Christmas Day Lunch	16	905	-	-	-	-	905
Morda School House Trust	17	-	25,475	(1,043)	-	-	24,432
		57,335	28,094	(3,889)	-	1,183	82,723
TOTAL FUNDS		684,585	172,979	(130,717)	(41,994)	-	684,853

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains and Losses £	Movement in Funds £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	144,885	(126,828)	(41,994)	(23,937)
Restricted Funds				
Organ Fund	317	-	-	317
Flower Fund	-	-	-	-
Morris Fund	-	-	-	-
Wilfred Owen Fund	-	-	-	-
Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People in Need	-	-	-	-
For the Assistance of the Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund	-	(388)	-	(388)
Oswestry St Ann's Fund	-	-	-	-
Sunday School Fund	-	-	-	-
Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund	-	-	-	-
Boulton Trust Fund	-	-	-	-
Friends of Music/Choral Foundation	1,734	(2,022)	-	(288)
Bellringers	257	(386)	-	(129)
Bellringers - Bell Training	-	-	-	-
Ladies Group	311	(50)	-	261
USPG	-	-	-	-
Morda School House Trust	25,475	(1,043)	-	24,432
	28,094	(3,889)	-	24,205
TOTAL NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	172,979	(130,717)	(41,994)	268

NOTES TO THE FUNDS
Restricted Funds

1) Organ Fund
This is used to maintain the organ in St Oswald's church.

2) Flower Fund
This fund is held to enable flowers to be purchased for the church throughout the year.

3) Morris Fund
This fund is used for the upkeep of a memorial.

4) Wilfred Owen Fund
This fund is held for the upkeep of the Wilfred Owen memorial.

5) Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People In Need
This fund is for small gifts for people in need at Vicar's discretion.

6) Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund
This fund is to be used to assist parishioners of St Oswald's in times of poor health and hardship. The funds were given to St Oswald's in a fellow parishioner's will.

7) Oswestry St Ann's Fund
This was generated from the sale of St Ann's chapel at Morda and is held to be used for capital projects.

8) Sunday School Fund
This fund is held to support the Sunday School at St Oswald's church.

9) Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund
This fund is held for capital projects.

10) Boulton Trust Fund
This fund is held for capital projects.

11) Friends of Music / Choral Foundation Fund
This fund is used for the Friends of Music Group.

12) Bellringers Fund
This fund is used for the Bellringers group.

13) Bellringers - Bell Training Fund
This fund was established to assist Bellringers training.

14) Ladies Group
This fund is used for the ladies fellowship group.

15) USPG
This fund is used for the society for the propagation of the gospel.

16) Christmas Day Lunch
This fund was established to provide funds for the Christmas Day Lunch Project.

17) Morda School House Trust
This fund is to be used for youth and family work within our Parish.

9 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES
Mr D. P. Evison, F.C.A. is a partner in Garner Pugh & Sinclair who are paid £2,420.00 plus VAT (£2,904.00) for Accounting and Administration services.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

10 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES COMPARATIVES (PREVIOUS YEAR)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2019 Total funds £
Incoming Resources			
Donations and Legacies	128,063	1,595	129,658
Charitable Activities	19,057	9,532	28,589
Other Trading Activities	15,118	-	15,118
Investments	17,420	-	17,420
Total	179,658	11,127	190,785
Resources Expended			
Raising Funds	-	9,297	9,297
Charitable Activities	152,782	2,468	155,250
Total	152,782	11,765	164,547
Net gain/(losses) on investment	59,605	-	59,605
Net Income/(Expenditure)	86,481	(638)	85,843
Transfer between funds	(1,735)	1,735	-
Net movement in funds	84,746	1,097	85,843
Total funds brought forward (1st Jan)	542,504	56,238	598,742
Total funds carried forward (31st Dec)	627,250	57,335	684,585

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1133346

Report of the Parochial Church Council and Unaudited Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31st December 2020 for

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

J. M. Ollier, F.C.A.
Azets
5-7 Beatrice Street
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 1QE

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

	Page
Report of the Parochial Church Council	1 to 2
Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 15

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

The Parochial Church Council present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2020. The Parochial Church Council have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in 2015.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number
1133346

Principal address
The Parish Church of St Oswald, King and Martyr
Church Street
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 2SY

Parochial Church Council

Rev H Gibbons (Chairman)	
Mr D P Evison	
Miss E J Williams	
Mr C W J Lewis	
Mrs S Tansley	
Mr W E Bowen	Retired October 2020
Mr P R Crosby	
Mr M W Donkin	
Mrs E J Leek	Retired October 2020
Mrs L Clarke	
Mrs F Major	
Mr I Davies	Retired October 2020
Mr A Neale	
Mrs J Chesworth	
Mrs A Boulton	
Mrs M Jones	
Mrs F Pearson	
Mrs S Best	
Ms C Boulton	Appointed October 2020
Mrs MC Crosby	Appointed October 2020

Independent Examiner
J. M. Ollier, F.C.A.
Azets
5-7 Beatrice Street
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Shropshire
SY11 1QE

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document
Parochial Church Council powers measure (1956) as amended and church representation rules.

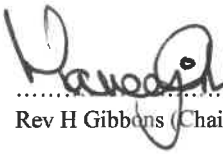
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The Parochial Church Council have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Safeguarding
The Parochial Church Council has adopted the Diocesan and Church of England policies in this regard.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



.....

Rev H Gibbons (Chairman) - Parochial Church Council member

22nd March 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE P.C.C. OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

This report on the financial statements of the P.C.C. for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 4 to 15 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE P.C.C. AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The members of the P.C.C are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
   - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

J. M. Ollier, F.C.A.
Azets
5-7 Beatrice Street
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 1QE

22nd March 2021

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £ *
Incoming Resources					
Donations and Legacies	2a	109,832	25,792	135,624	129,658
Charitable Activities	2b	12,733	2,302	15,035	28,589
Other Trading Activities	2c	8,846	-	8,846	15,118
Investments	2d	13,474	-	13,474	17,420
Total		144,885	28,094	172,979	190,785
Resources Expended					
Raising Funds	3a	-	2,248	2,248	9,297
Charitable Activities	3b	126,828	1,641	128,469	155,250
Total		126,828	3,889	130,717	164,547
Net gain/(losses) on investment		(41,994)	-	(41,994)	59,605
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(23,937)	24,205	268	85,843
Transfer between funds		(1,183)	1,183	-	-
Net movement in funds		(25,120)	25,388	268	85,843
Total funds brought forward (1st Jan)		627,250	57,335	684,585	598,742
Total funds carried forward (31st Dec)		602,130	82,723	684,853	684,585

* See note 10 for full comparatives

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Balance Sheet
At 31st December 2020

	Notes	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	5a	-	-
Investment Assets	5b	547,169	589,163
		547,169	589,163
Current Assets			
Bank current accounts		5,994	5,903
Bank deposit accounts		120,626	86,060
CBF deposit fund		10,651	6,912
Cash		151	175
Stocks		195	195
Debtors		10,378	11,686
		147,995	110,931
Liabilities due in one year	6		
Creditors		(10,311)	(15,509)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		137,684	95,422
TOTAL NET ASSETS		684,853	684,585
Parish Funds	8		
Unrestricted funds		602,130	627,250
Restricted funds		82,723	57,335
TOTAL FUNDS		684,853	684,585

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 22nd March 2021 and were signed on it's behalf by:

.....
Rev H Gibbons (Chairman) - Parochial Church Council member

.....
D R Evison FCA - Chairman of Finance Committee and Treasurer

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR, OSWESTRY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

1 **Accounting Policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP) and applicable accounting standard FRS102.

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

Cash Flow Statement

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that the income does not exceed £500,000.

Description of Funds

Restricted funds comprise of two elements:-

a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest

b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and Benefice Property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10 (2) (a) & (C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value on 31st December.

Investment property

Investment property is shown at the most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in the market value is transferred to a revaluation reserve.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
2a	**Donations and Legacies** *Voluntary Income/Receipts*				
1	Tax efficient planned giving	61,747	-	61,747	63,447
	Other planned giving	3,905	-	3,905	3,828
2	Collections at services	6,463	-	6,463	19,334
3	All other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals	14,324	25,792	40,116	22,263
	Gift Aid Recovered	16,923	-	16,923	20,586
	Legacies received	500	-	500	200
	JRS Grant	5,970	-	5,970	-
		109,832	25,792	135,624	129,658

1) Analysis of Tax efficient planned giving

	£
Bank Donations	32,493
Regular Envelopes	29,254
Collections - USPG	-
	61,747

2) Analysis of Collections at services

	£
White Envelopes	3,100
Loose plate collections	3,171
Collections - Baptisms	97
Collections - Home Communions	95
Collections - Weddings	-
Collections - Special	-
	6,463

3) Analysis of all other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals

	£
Donations - Church	12,255
Donations - Charities	135
Donations - Organ Fund - Restricted	317
Donations - Organ Fund - Unrestricted	684
Donations - Flower Fund	165
Wall safes	352
Donations - Funerals	705
Donations - Place of Welcome	28
Donations - Morda School House Trust - Restricted	25,475
	40,116

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS CONTINUED:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
2b Charitable Activities				
Church Activities				
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)	8,316	135	8,451	11,348
Summer Fete	-	-	-	1,222
Fundraising Activities	4,417	2,167	6,584	16,019
	12,733	2,302	15,035	28,589
2c Other Trading Activities				
Activities for Generating Funds				
Church Hall Hire	604	-	604	2,744
Church Lettings	280	-	280	2,195
Lower Brook Street Rent	6,762	-	6,762	7,800
Lichfield Diocesan - Decorator's Scheme	-	-	-	-
Parish Magazine & Bookstall	1,200	-	1,200	2,379
	8,846	-	8,846	15,118
2d Investments				
Dividends	13,377	-	13,377	17,242
Bank Interest	97	-	97	178
	13,474	-	13,474	17,420
TOTAL	144,885	28,094	172,979	190,785

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

EXPENDITURE ON:

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
3a	**Raising Funds**				
	Costs of Generating Income				
	Fetes & Fundraising	-	2,248	2,248	9,297
		-	2,248	2,248	9,297
3b	**Charitable Activities**				
	Church Activities				
	Mission giving and donations	4,175	388	4,563	9,227
	Diocesan Parish Share	52,943	-	52,943	59,759
	Salaries/Wages	15,171	-	15,171	13,003
	Clergy and Staff Expenses	5,454	-	5,454	5,730
	Church Expenses				
	Church running expenses	12,614	-	12,614	11,253
	Church utility bills	14,690	-	14,690	20,606
	Cost of trading	11,702	1,253	12,955	20,259
	Major Capital Expenditure				
	Major Repairs to the Church	7,175	-	7,175	12,773
	Governance Costs	2,904	-	2,904	2,640
		126,828	1,641	128,469	155,250
TOTAL		126,828	3,889	130,717	164,547

4a STAFF COSTS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Salaries	15,171	13,003

During the year the PCC employed the following members of the PCC:

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Mrs F Major	3,501	3,429
Mr M Donkin	5,144	5,021
	8,645	8,450

There were no other transactions made in respect of PCC Members, no PCC Member received benefit, or reimbursement of travelling or other expenses.

5a FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Buildings	Church Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
At Cost			
As at 1st January 2020	-	27,836	27,836
Additions in the Year	-	-	-
Disposals in the Year	-	-	-
Value at 31st December 2020	-	27,836	27,836
Accumulated Depreciation			
As at 1st January 2020	-	27,836	27,836
Charge for the Year	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31st December 2020	-	27,836	27,836
Net Book Value at 31st December 2020	-	-	-
Net Book Value at 31st December 2019	-	-	-

5b INVESTMENT ASSETS

	At 1.1.20	Additions	Disposals	Transfers	Change in Market Value	At 31.12.20
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
Investments	364,654	-	-	6,903	(41,994)	329,563
Investment Property - 14 Lower Brook Street	172,719	-	-	-	-	172,719
Restricted funds						
Investments	51,790	-	-	(6,903)	-	44,887
Total	589,163	-	-	-	(41,994)	547,169

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

The unlisted investments are made up of the following:

	31.12.20	31.12.19
	£	£
Church of England Investment Fund	121,883	114,041
Church of England Fixed Interest Fund	8,860	8,558
M&G Charifund	157,193	190,190
Lichfield Diocesan Trust	86,514	103,655
	374,450	416,444

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
MARKET VALUE	
At 1st January 2020	172,719
Additional Expenditure	-
At 31st December 2020	172,719
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2020	172,719
At 31st December 2019	172,719

During 2011 the deeds at 14 Lower Brook Street were discovered to have been transferred into The PCC's name.
In light of this, the property has been brought into the accounts in 2011 at the then current market value of £160,000.00.

6 LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due in one year	2020	2019
	£	£
Accruals of Utilities	1,088	5,000
Other Creditors	9,223	10,509
	10,311	15,509

7 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	General Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Investments Assets	502,283	44,887	547,170
Current Assets	110,158	37,836	147,994
Current Liabilities	(10,311)	-	(10,311)
	602,130	82,723	684,853

STOCKS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Stocks (Prayer Cards & Notelets etc)	195	195

DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	£	£
Prepayments	1,008	1,428
Dividend Income	4,200	2,200
Gift Aid	4,015	5,621
Other debtors	1,155	2,437
	10,378	11,686

8 FUNDS RECONCILIATION

		Reserves at 1.1.20	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Investment Gain/Losses	Transfer between funds	Reserves at 31.12.20
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds							
General Fund		627,250	144,885	(126,828)	(41,994)	(1,183)	602,130
Restricted Funds							
Organ Fund	1	4,739	317	-	-	129	5,185
Flower Fund	2	970	-	-	-	26	996
Morris Fund	3	145	-	-	-	-	145
Wilfred Owen Fund	4	684	-	-	-	18	702
Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People in Need	5	500	-		-	-	500
For the Assistance of the Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund	6	9,339	-	(388)	-	253	9,204
Oswestry St Ann's Fund	7	11,265	-	-	-	304	11,569
Sunday School Fund	8	492	-	-	-	-	492
Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund	9	2,791	-	-	-	75	2,866
Boulton Trust Fund	10	13,985	-	-	-	378	14,363
Friends of Music / Choral Foundation	11	5,036	1,734	(2,022)	-	-	4,748
Bellringers	12	3,677	257	(386)	-	-	3,548
Bellringers - Bell Training	13	937	-	-	-	-	937
Ladies Group	14	1,870	311	(50)	-	-	2,131
USPG	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Christmas Day Lunch	16	905	-	-	-	-	905
Morda School House Trust	17	-	25,475	(1,043)	-	-	24,432
		57,335	28,094	(3,889)	-	1,183	82,723
TOTAL FUNDS		684,585	172,979	(130,717)	(41,994)	-	684,853

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains and Losses £	Movement in Funds £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	144,885	(126,828)	(41,994)	(23,937)
Restricted Funds				
Organ Fund	317	-	-	317
Flower Fund	-	-	-	-
Morris Fund	-	-	-	-
Wilfred Owen Fund	-	-	-	-
Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People in Need	-	-	-	-
For the Assistance of the Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund	-	(388)	-	(388)
Oswestry St Ann's Fund	-	-	-	-
Sunday School Fund	-	-	-	-
Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund	-	-	-	-
Boulton Trust Fund	-	-	-	-
Friends of Music/Choral Foundation	1,734	(2,022)	-	(288)
Bellringers	257	(386)	-	(129)
Bellringers - Bell Training	-	-	-	-
Ladies Group	311	(50)	-	261
USPG	-	-	-	-
Morda School House Trust	25,475	(1,043)	-	24,432
	28,094	(3,889)	-	24,205
TOTAL NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	172,979	(130,717)	(41,994)	268

NOTES TO THE FUNDS
Restricted Funds

1) Organ Fund
This is used to maintain the organ in St Oswald's church.

2) Flower Fund
This fund is held to enable flowers to be purchased for the church throughout the year.

3) Morris Fund
This fund is used for the upkeep of a memorial.

4) Wilfred Owen Fund
This fund is held for the upkeep of the Wilfred Owen memorial.

5) Vicar's Discretionary Fund for People In Need
This fund is for small gifts for people in need at Vicar's discretion.

6) Sick or Needy Parishioners Fund
This fund is to be used to assist parishioners of St Oswald's in times of poor health and hardship. The funds were given to St Oswald's in a fellow parishioner's will.

7) Oswestry St Ann's Fund
This was generated from the sale of St Ann's chapel at Morda and is held to be used for capital projects.

8) Sunday School Fund
This fund is held to support the Sunday School at St Oswald's church.

9) Vicar's Discretionary Beautification Fund
This fund is held for capital projects.

10) Boulton Trust Fund
This fund is held for capital projects.

11) Friends of Music / Choral Foundation Fund
This fund is used for the Friends of Music Group.

12) Bellringers Fund
This fund is used for the Bellringers group.

13) Bellringers - Bell Training Fund
This fund was established to assist Bellringers training.

14) Ladies Group
This fund is used for the ladies fellowship group.

15) USPG
This fund is used for the society for the propagation of the gospel.

16) Christmas Day Lunch
This fund was established to provide funds for the Christmas Day Lunch Project.

17) Morda School House Trust
This fund is to be used for youth and family work within our Parish.

9 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES
Mr D. P. Evison, F.C.A. is a partner in Garner Pugh & Sinclair who are paid £2,420.00 plus VAT (£2,904.00) for Accounting and Administration services.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

10 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES COMPARATIVES (PREVIOUS YEAR)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2019 Total funds £
Incoming Resources			
Donations and Legacies	128,063	1,595	129,658
Charitable Activities	19,057	9,532	28,589
Other Trading Activities	15,118	-	15,118
Investments	17,420	-	17,420
Total	179,658	11,127	190,785
Resources Expended			
Raising Funds	-	9,297	9,297
Charitable Activities	152,782	2,468	155,250
Total	152,782	11,765	164,547
Net gain/(losses) on investment	59,605	-	59,605
Net Income/(Expenditure)	86,481	(638)	85,843
Transfer between funds	(1,735)	1,735	-
Net movement in funds	84,746	1,097	85,843
Total funds brought forward (1st Jan)	542,504	56,238	598,742
Total funds carried forward (31st Dec)	627,250	57,335	684,585