

**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 who 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**

	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 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 Chcsworth

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.

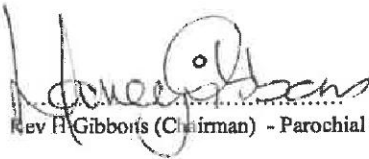
Safeguarding

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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Gibbons', written over a dotted line.

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 £	* See note 10 for full comparatives
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	

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

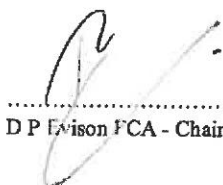
**Balance Sheet
At 31st December 2022**

	Notes	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	5a	-	-
Investment Assets	5b	656,335	657,246
		<u>656,335</u>	<u>657,246</u>
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
		<u>104,050</u>	<u>94,099</u>
Liabilities due in one year			
Bank current accounts		-	(432)
Creditors	6	(13,364)	(13,100)
		<u>(13,364)</u>	<u>(13,100)</u>
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		<u>90,686</u>	<u>80,567</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>747,021</u></u>	<u><u>737,813</u></u>
Parish Funds	8		
Unrestricted funds		675,726	660,534
Restricted funds		71,295	77,279
		<u>747,021</u>	<u>737,813</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>747,021</u></u>	<u><u>737,813</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 20th March 2023 and were signed on its 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.

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

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				
<i>Voluntary Income/Receipts</i>				
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
	<u>109,873</u>	<u>1,853</u>	<u>111,726</u>	<u>116,467</u>

1) Analysis of Tax efficient planned giving

	£
Bank Donations	35,010
Regular Envelopes	<u>25,153</u>
	<u>60,163</u>

2) Analysis of Collections at services

	£
White Envelopes	5,030
Loose plate collections	5,644
Collections - Baptisms	712
Collections - Home Communion	249
Collections - Weddings	66
Collections - Special	<u>1,225</u>
	<u>12,926</u>

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	<u>437</u>
	<u>13,716</u>

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

**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				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
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
	<u>17,535</u>	<u>4,616</u>	<u>22,151</u>	<u>20,141</u>
2c Other Trading Activities				
<i>Activities for Generating Funds</i>				
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
	<u>11,051</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,051</u>	<u>9,012</u>
2d Investments				
Dividends	19,077	-	19,077	18,783
Bank Interest	296	-	296	14
	<u>19,373</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,373</u>	<u>18,797</u>
TOTAL	<u>157,832</u>	<u>6,469</u>	<u>164,301</u>	<u>164,417</u>

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

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

EXPENDITURE ON:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
3a Raising Funds				
<i>Costs of Generating Income</i>				
Fetes & Fundraising	-	9,453	9,453	2,615
	<u>-</u>	<u>9,453</u>	<u>9,453</u>	<u>2,615</u>
3b Charitable Activities				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
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
<i>Church Expenses</i>				
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
<i>Major Capital Expenditure</i>				
Major Repairs to the Church	3,381	-	3,381	14,588
<i>Governance Costs</i>	<u>3,515</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,515</u>	<u>3,360</u>
	<u>135,455</u>	<u>5,186</u>	<u>140,641</u>	<u>158,919</u>
TOTAL	<u>135,455</u>	<u>14,639</u>	<u>150,094</u>	<u>161,534</u>

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

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

4a STAFF COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries	<u>24,135</u>	<u>20,089</u>

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	<u>6,240</u>	<u>1,920</u>
	<u>11,634</u>	<u>9,911</u>

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	<u>-</u>	<u>27,836</u>	<u>27,836</u>
Accumulated Depreciation			
As at 1st January 2022	-	27,836	27,836
Charge for the Year	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31st December 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>27,836</u>	<u>27,836</u>
Net Book Value at 31st December 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Book Value at 31st December 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

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

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

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	<u>657,246</u>	<u>4,088</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,999)</u>	<u>656,335</u>

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
	<u>436,335</u>	<u>484,528</u>

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

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

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
	<u>13,364</u>	<u>13,100</u>

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

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

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)
	<u>675,726</u>	<u>71,295</u>	<u>747,021</u>

STOCKS

	2022 £	2021 £
Stocks (Prayer Cards & Notelets etc)	<u>195</u>	<u>195</u>

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	<u>1,276</u>	<u>733</u>
	<u>11,685</u>	<u>8,377</u>

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
	<u>77,279</u>	<u>6,469</u>	<u>(14,639)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,186</u>	<u>71,295</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>737,813</u>	<u>164,301</u>	<u>(150,094)</u>	<u>(4,999)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>747,021</u>

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

**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)
	<u>6,469</u>	<u>(14,639)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,170)</u>
TOTAL NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	<u>164,301</u>	<u>(150,094)</u>	<u>(4,999)</u>	<u>9,208</u>

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.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

