

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

The Parochial Church Council
of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
Chester, Christ Church

Parish Report and Financial statements
for the year ended 31st December 2022

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Statement of Parochial Church Council's Responsibilities

We are required under the Charities Act 2011 to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC and its surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those financial statements we are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the PCC will continue.

We are also responsible for:

- keeping proper accounting records;
- safeguarding the PCC's assets;
- taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.

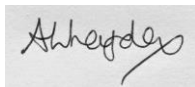
Public Benefit

The PCC 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 church.

The PCC believes that by promoting the Christian faith it provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual development, both for existing church members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the church offers.
- 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.

Signed on behalf of the PCC:



Anna Leyden (Chair) 27 March 2023

Annual Report

Background of the PCC

Christ Church Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent and other clergy in promoting the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities of our church building and Mission House.

Membership of PCC

Membership of the PCC is ex-officio, co-opted or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules. The following people served for all or part of 2022:

Vicar	Rev'd Anna Leyden (from 2 October 2022)
Associate Vicar	Rev'd Ralph Kemp (until 3 rd April 2022)
Associate Minister	Rev'd Glyn Jones
Curate	Rev'd Anna Leyden (until 2 October 2022)
Vice Chair of the PCC	David Chirgwin
Churchwardens	Wendy Peto Andrew Wigglesworth
Parish Reader Representative	Veronica Johnston (until 22 nd May 2022)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Simon Schumann-Davies (until 29 th January 2022) Susan Ibrahim (from 22 nd May 2022) David Jones (from 22 nd May 2022)
Elected PCC Members	James Cox (until 22 nd May 2022) David Chirgwin Thomas Cobb Hannah Giddings Laura Hale (from 22 nd May 2022) Veronica Johnston (from 22 nd May 2022) Pauline Jones Rosie Jones Teresa Irwin (from 22 nd May 2022) Timothy Longman Eli Mitchell (until 17 th November 2022) Edward Newman Helen Parker (until 22 nd May 2022) Will Steel (until 22 nd May 2022) Janet Thorp
Secretary	Wendy Peto
Electoral Roll Officer	Janet Thorp
Treasurer	Tom Cobb (until 22 nd May 2022) Laura Hale (from 17 th October 2022)
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Pauline Jones

Standing Committee

This has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings (subject to directions given by the council) and consists of Vicar/Chairman, two Churchwardens, the Treasurer, and one other PCC member elected by the PCC (currently Susan Ibrahim). Our standing committee met a week before monthly PCC meetings until October 2022. Thereafter, Standing Committee has met on an 'ad hoc' basis to consider Generosity Fund applications and carry out essential PCC business, with the approval of the PCC, between meetings.

Church Attendance

In common with many churches, 2021 typical weekly attendance was below that of pre-pandemic services. This trend continued into 2022, with the vacancy process likely also having an impact on congregation numbers. A number of individuals, couples and families said goodbye to Christ Church due to moving house to other parts of the country and a small number also relocated to other local churches. However, alongside this, it was a joy to welcome a significant number of new people to the Christ Church community.

Christ Church was open for 'in person' services every Sunday in 2022. Until Summer 2022 the 10.30am service was also livestreamed via Facebook most weeks. The figures below do not include people who joined services online.

Average October	2022		2021		2020	
	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults
9am / 9.30am	0	25	1	29	1	17
10:30am / 11am	18	53	17*	59*	11*	57*
2pm	-	-	-	-	20	20
Total Attendance	18	78	18	88	32	94

The figures for 2022 above do not include Sunday 2 October where the pattern of services was different due to the Induction of Rev Anna Leyden.

Special Services	2022		2021		2020	
	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults
Easter	25	105	25*	99*	(online)	(online)
Baptism & Confirmation	7	84	-	-	-	-
Induction of Vicar	15	106	-	-	-	-
Community Carols	28	106	35	122	40**	120**
Candlelight Carols	7	91	3	88	-	-
Christingle	25	45	19	39	21	43
Midnight	0	35	1	37	1	28
Christmas Day	13	67	17*	45*	17*	47*

* These services were both streamed online and held in person. The figures here record only the numbers of those attending in person.

** Due to national lockdown restrictions, our carol service in 2020 was held on the grass outside the church building.

Church Membership

Membership of the electoral roll stood at 108 in May 2022 (of which 89% live outside the parish). The PCC met every month during 2022 except for April, August and December.

Overview of the year

There were a number of important events in the life of Christ Church in 2022. Final legal UK COVID restrictions were lifted early in the year and we were able to return to offering Holy Communion in two forms. Taking an abundance of caution, we now use the system of intinction. However, as confidence has been returning, the polycarbonate screen was removed during the summer and has not been needed since.

In April, we were sorry to say goodbye to our Assistant Vicar Ralph Kemp. He had been an integral part of Christ Church's leadership team since 2011, regularly preaching and leading services, being instrumental in securing several upgrades to the church building and Mission House, and overseeing our valuable and vibrant intern programme for many years. We wish him well.

Another change was that our baptisms were not held in the river Dee. Instead, in June, our then Curate, Anna led two completely different adult baptismal services - first a beautiful and profoundly moving liturgical service using our Victorian font; and second a service of Baptism and Confirmation with Bishop Mark where an Iranian member of our congregation was baptised by full immersion in a borrowed tank, and seven church members were confirmed.

In July we also said goodbye to our intern Hannah Derbyshire as she travelled to Romania to start her teaching job at Bucharest Christian Academy. Her quiz and curry fund raising evening was much appreciated and Christ Church is committed to sponsoring her in Romania for the next year.

Finally, on 2nd October, following a thorough advertising and interview process, we were able to celebrate the induction of our new vicar Rev'd Anna Leyden.

Anna has encouraged us to join the 'Warm Welcome Space' scheme and since November our Mission House has been open on a Monday for this purpose. This has been appreciated by various church members and local guests.

It only remains to be said that after the success of last year's joint outdoor Carol Service with The Salvation Army, we decided to repeat this. Carols were joyfully sung – with hot drinks & mince pies to warm a chilly evening. A week later the interior of the church was festooned with candles for our more traditional Carols by Candlelight service, before services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day celebrating what was true throughout 2022 and will be true in 2023 too: that Jesus is Emmanuel: 'God with us'.



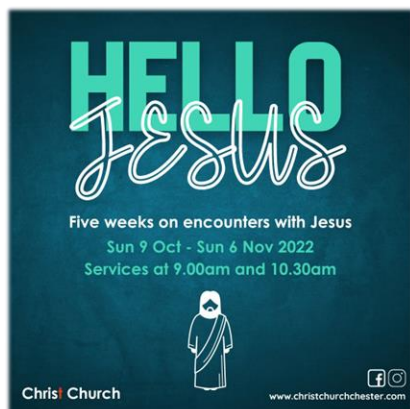
Wendy Peto (Churchwarden)

Worship Services

Coordinator: Anna Leyden

Worshipping God, our creator, sustainer and redeemer, is at the heart of our life together as a church so it was great to have some sort of 'normality' in our services of worship after so many disruptions caused by Covid.

- Our usual pattern of services was a 9.00am more formal service (with Holy Communion each week except the third Sunday of the month) and a more informal 10.30am service (with Holy Communion on the third Sunday of the month).
- The 10.30am service was live-streamed on Facebook for the first half of the year. The decision was made in the Autumn to cease live-streaming due to a depleted team and a decrease in the number of views as people were now back in church. We remain enormously thankful to the team who made live-streaming services possible, and all those who continue to look after the PC and other tech for church services.
- After a number of comments from people about missing the 'Worship@7' evening service which ran in termly six-week blocks before Covid, the service was re-introduced with a slightly different format from March-July. Those who attended expressed gratitude for the space to worship in an informal way, with lots of sung worship and space for prayer.



Our first service focused on prayer for Ukraine and was particularly moving. Unfortunately, 'Worship@7' was not as well attended as hoped and as the team looking after the service were already stretched it was decided not to continue after the Summer. This decision may be reviewed in due course.

- Night Prayer (online on Wednesdays) drew to a close after most of those who attended regularly had now moved away from Chester and were no longer able to attend.
- Over the course of the year, we worked through a number of sermon series including: 'Colossians: Christ over all'; 'On your marks: the Five Marks of Mission'; a series on Acts after Easter; 'Habakkuk: Confident in Chaos'; 'Summer Psalms'; and 'Hello Jesus: Five weeks on encounters with Jesus.'
- A number of special services took place throughout 2022 including baptisms, a service to mark the Queen's Jubilee; 'Celebrate & Remember' (a service to remember those we love who have died); along with services for Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost and Remembrance Sunday.



- The service of Baptism and Confirmation in June, for which we were joined by Bishop Mark, was a joyful celebration. It was fantastic to hear testimonies from some of the candidates about the work God had been doing in their lives.



- Our Christmas services were another highlight and received lots of positive feedback. It was a delight to work with the Salvation Army again for the outdoor service of 'Community Carols' and despite sub-zero temperatures there was a warm and worshipful atmosphere. Carols by Candlelight was also well-received and well-attended, with a large number of people who don't regularly come to church, having the opportunity to hear about God's love for them in Christ.



9.00am Musical Worship*Coordinator: Tonya Chirgwin*

Purpose: To lead people in worship through music, predominantly at our 9.00am congregation.

Report:

- This has been a year of comings and goings for the 9am Worship Team, so rather than focusing on the music itself our report focuses on the much-valued team members who make this possible.
- In September we said a bitter-sweet goodbye to Andrew Love as he began his new life as a member of British Airways Cabin Crew. We were delighted that he had landed his dream job, but knew we, and all the congregation, would miss him greatly. As well as playing the organ and singing, he was also responsible for bringing the Air Cadets' annual Carol Service and Enrolment Ceremony to Christ Church and, of course, playing for it. This year Tonya found it a little daunting to take his place, but all went well, helped especially by organ tuning which had taken place earlier in the day! However, we were thrilled to welcome him back to play for the Midnight Service on Christmas Eve and we look forward to seeing him back at the organ when his flight duties allow.
- In October we said a very sad 'Adieu' to Ray Thorp, a loyal member of the Christ Church Composers Guild for many years, and a much-loved contributor to the worship in singing groups both small and large. He was particularly involved in helping plan – and occasionally conducting – the music of the Christmas Choir during Andrew Buchanan's tenure. He was a lifelong music lover and Tonya felt very privileged to play for his funeral.
- Happier notes were sounded when the organ was included in the instruments used to celebrate Anna's Institution and Induction; it was lovely to work with the 10.30am Worship Team to support the huge congregation in welcoming her to Christ Church, and we were happy to hear that the balance of traditional and more modern worship styles had been appreciated.
- We have also been delighted to welcome Ruth, who has been helping out on the piano for some time, and is now a regular contributor to our worship on Sundays. A huge thank you is owed to her for saving the day by playing (at very short notice) for the Christingle Service. The lack of notice was due to Tonya undergoing emergency surgery – just a week after beautifully leading the congregational worship at our Carols by Candlelight service! *(Tonya did not write this!)* Happily, Tonya is now making a good recovery.
- Special thanks are also due to Stella, not least for her contributions to the group during Holy Week and Easter, culminating in her arrangement of 'Thine be the Glory' for 6-handed piano and 'superband', which enabled the two Worship Groups to combine to end the Easter Day service with a real zing!

10.30am Worship Ministry*Coordinator: Rich Jones (until Oct 2022) / Hannah Thompson (from Oct 2022)*

Purpose: To lead people in worship through music, predominantly at our 2nd morning service.

Report:

- After a long period of not being able to meet together in person for much of 2020/2021, it was a blessing to worship together in church every week in 2022, and for the congregation to join in singing God's praises (and without masks!).
- Hannah Thompson began leading the 10.30am Worship team in October, taking over from Rich Jones. Huge thanks to both Rich and Hannah!
- In addition to Sunday morning worship, the 10.30am team also took a leading role in 'Worship@7 services' in the first half of 2022, the baptism/confirmation service in June, Anna's induction in July, and the Christmas services, including the Christmas choir led by Hannah. It's been busy!
- The team was looking a little depleted after a number of people moved away from Chester in 2021. Unfortunately, we are still short of worship leaders which means the current team are quite stretched. Your continued prayers that God would be enriching the worship life of our church, including raising up new worship leaders and musicians, would be appreciated.
- In 2023, we plan to start regular worship gatherings for all musicians to meet to spend time together in reflection, planning and worship as we continue to seek God for the new year.



Childrens' Ministry Overview

Coordinator: Hannah Giddings

Purpose: To facilitate an environment where children can grow in their relationship with God, predominately through Sunday morning groups during the 10.30am service. Our children are in church for the morning tea and coffee break between the services and stay for the welcome, notices and first two or three songs of the 10.30am service, before heading out to their groups.

Crèche: under 2s

Report:

- We have an unsupervised creche for under 2s in the vestry. It has a livestream of the service and is a space for parents to sit with young children during service if they'd like to. There are also sofas at the side of church for parents (and others) to sit more comfortably during the service if they prefer.



Kids Group: 2-11s

Coordinator: Hannah Giddings

Report:

- We've seen some big changes in children's ministry this year yet we know that God is faithful. Several families have moved away for various reasons,

meaning we've had a reduction in children and lost parents who were leaders and helpers as well.

- It has made me reflect on children's ministry as a whole and think back to all the changes we have seen and how God has really grown the ministry over time from a small seed, which gives hope and encouragement going forward. We continued focusing on the five areas of mission: discipleship, worship, ministry, fellowship and evangelism, which we encourage all the groups to incorporate at various points over the year.
- We enjoyed a kids ministry BBQ during the summer months, a time for families to come together and for children to play.
- Over August and September we joined the two younger groups (Gems and Rock Solid) together to learn about parables of Jesus which went well and has now become a pattern going forward after further leaders stepped down towards the end of the year.

Crypt Youth Group: 11+yrs

Coordinator: Ben Bernard-Smith (until September 2022)

Report:

- Crypt met for games, Bible study and fellowship a few times a month for the first half of 2022, mostly during the 10.30am service.
- After Crypt leaders stepped down, sadly it was not possible to relaunch the group after the summer holidays.
- Towards the end of the year, the young people were invited to the Vicarage for pizza and to think together about what they'd like to do with Crypt in 2023. Michael Leyden has volunteered to coordinate the group next year, and assemble a team of leaders.



Tots & Tinies: 0-5s

Coordinator: Anna Leyden

Purpose: To provide a welcoming and nurturing space where young children and their parents/carers can be cared for, make new friends, and be introduced to the Christian faith. Tots & Tinies serves both the church congregation and wider local community.

Report:

- 'Tots & Tinies' continued to grow and flourish in 2022, with many new families coming along and new volunteers joining the team too. Most of those attending belong to Christ Church or other local churches, but leaflets were delivered to houses in the parish to spread the word and a few local residents not affiliated to a church have come along. It is a privilege to see the children growing and gaining confidence week-by-week, and to help them engage with the Bible story, prayer and worship in a toddler friendly way. It is also good to be able to offer parents/carers a coffee, a listening ear or just space to catch up or meet new people. Each session includes play time, a Bible story, song, the 'prayer parachute', craft, tea and toast.



Messy Church

Coordinators: Jodie Spencer / Lizzie Cobb (until late 2022)

Purpose: To encourage the discipleship of children and families (both those who already attend church and those who do not) through creative and fun ways of exploring the Bible and Christian faith.

Report:

- After re-launching post-Covid in August 2021, Messy Church met every other month throughout 2022.
- Numbers have varied from month-to-month but have been steadily increasing before a surge at the end of 2022 when we only just managed to feed everyone! It has been great to welcome a significant number of families from 'Tots & Tinies', along with their parents/carers/siblings. We are mostly reaching younger children and their families so have adapted the activities offered to make sure they are suitable.
- Each session begins with a variety of crafts, games and activities based on a Bible theme, followed by an interactive Bible story, a song and a prayer.
- Lizzie decided to step down to take some maternity leave at the end of 2022, but Jodie continues to lead into 2023, with support from Anna and a team of volunteers who help lead the craft tables and prepare food.

Student Work

Coordinator: James Thompson

Purpose: To invest in the next generation of Christians through welcoming, pastoring, equipping, and sending out our university students.

Report:

- 2022 was an encouraging year for student ministry at Christ Church. Praise God!
- We went into the 21/22 academic year with only a handful of students regularly attending - many third years left Chester and there was barely any intake of students into Christ Church over the years of the pandemic.
- In Jan 2022 we started regular student lunches after Sunday morning services. These were much appreciated - with around 8-10 students attending.
- From Sept 2022 we have been hosting student lunches every other Sunday during term time. There are now 12-15 students coming to enjoy food & fellowship.
- Our student community is currently very diverse. We do have a few undergraduate students. However, postgraduate students outnumber our undergrads. Most postgraduates are doing Masters degrees, though we do have a couple of PhD students! Consequently, our student community encompasses quite a wide age range. We have also welcomed a number of international students to Christ Church.



- Recent graduates and young people in other situations, e.g. sixth form or college students, are also welcome to join our student community.
- We have a good relationship with the Christian Union at Chester University and one of our undergraduate students is currently on the committee with the CU. Our involvement has also included occasional visits from our team to speak at their weekly meetings.
- We have a link to the University chaplaincy through Michael Mills, a retired vicar in our congregation, and a number of students have come to Christ Church as a result of conversations with Michael.

Voluntary Internship Programme

Purpose: To develop young people in leadership in the context of church ministry.

Report:

Due to staffing changes and the period of vacancy at Christ Church, the internship programme has been suspended for this year. The PCC will review this in 2023.

Connect Groups (and Re-Connect Groups)

Coordinator: Anna Leyden

Purpose: To provide regular gatherings of small groups, outside of a Sunday service context, where members of Christ Church can connect with God, connect with other church members and connect with their wider communities.

Report:

- Connect Groups continued to meet in 2022, although some were still struggling the effects of Covid.
- Four Connect Groups were meeting at the beginning of 2022, but one ceased to meet in the Autumn. Plans were in place for this group to re-launch, after some re-envisioning in January 2023.
- A new group, led by Shirley Krakowski, started in July and has grown and flourished.
- 'Reconnect Groups': one-off social gatherings to help the church community re-connect after being forced apart by Covid, continued in the first half of 2022 with individual congregation members offering to host and organise a variety of events. The Wednesday Walk, organised by Ruth Southall, has since become a regular monthly event.
- Connect Groups remain an important part of life at Christ Church with those who are members appreciating the opportunity for learning and studying the Bible alongside others and for the supportive relationships that are built through the groups.

Connect Groups

Drop In

Coordinator: Sue Ibrahim

Purpose: To open up our church space to provide a warm and welcoming environment on a Sunday afternoon for any homeless and/or vulnerable people.

Report:

- As the cost-of-living crisis hits the whole country, at Drop In we are seeing an ever-increasing number of vulnerable and homeless people attending our session. Up to 35-40 people attend each week.
- Christmas dinner saw a massive increase in guests with 59 people enjoying a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. Due to donations from the Christ Church congregation we were able once again to give each guest a gift containing chocolate and toiletries.
- Drop In has been able to accommodate the increase of guests due to the commitment and dedication of each and every volunteer who gives their time to serve each week. Our expanded soup rota has allowed flexibility to serve, enabling volunteers to try new things.
- In 2022 we welcomed Teresa and Neil as new leaders to the session taking on the supervision of the session on a rota basis. They have been volunteering with us for over 5 years and are a true blessing to Christ Church Drop In.



- We have also welcomed new volunteers Mark, Paddy, Liz, Steve, Magdelene, Jack, Claire, and soup makers, Brigid, Andy, Claire, Teresa I, Liz M, Sarah.
- As we continue into 2023 normal service will resume: we will continue to serve our guests and keep them as our number one priority planning BBQs, breakfasts and due to our donations, we are looking forward to being able to offer more services within the community.
- We are the only service provider in Chester to serve hot/cold food and drinks on a Sunday. Our continued service is enabling us to see lives restored through Jesus and focus on making this happen in the Lord's house as we serve our guests with kindness, good conversation and warmth.
- Our WhatsApp group continues to be a great source of communication for the entire Drop In Volunteer team. It enables us to give good advice and guidance when required from volunteers or guests.
- All this would not be possible without the gift of giving from a fabulous team of volunteers.

Warm Welcome Space

Coordinator: Anna Leyden

Purpose: To share the love of Jesus in a practical way by providing a warm and welcoming space for the whole community during the winter months.

Report:

- To support the local community and church members during the cost of the living crisis of 2022, Christ Church opened a 'Warm Welcome Space' from

10am-2pm on Mondays from the start of November. The plan was to offer a warm space to anyone who needed it every Monday until the end of February 2023.

- A team of volunteers was easily assembled to welcome people, make tea and toast, and offer conversation and support. People came along for company, warmth, food, or simply a change of scenery when working from home.
- Parish residents received a leaflet about the Warm Welcome Space through their letterboxes and expressed gratitude that the Mission House was open for this purpose. The number of people attending from outside the church community was small, although it did grow and those who came along spoke highly of the warm welcome they received.
- It was also a blessing for volunteers and church members who had opportunity to make new friends and build relationships.
- We were very pleased to receive funding from the local council and a private donor to help fund the Warm Welcome Space.



Visiting Ministry

Coordinator: Veronica Johnston

Purpose: To enfold within the family of Christ Church the sick and housebound, through regular visits and the opportunity to share Holy Communion at home or in hospital.

Report:

- Visiting which had been suspended during the periods of lockdown was resumed in 2022, although booking was still needed at some care homes and visitors were required to mask and wear protective aprons. The most significant aspect of visiting this year has been a faithful team of drivers who ensured that one of our younger members was never without a visit throughout his six weeks in Liverpool Heart and Lung Hospital.
- It was with sadness that in 2022 we said farewell to members of the Christ Church family: Irene Owen, an established member of this community brought up worshipping at Christ Church; and Edna Maughn who had been sharing communion with us at home after she became too frail to attend church.
- We are all grieving with Janet Thorp, the death of her devoted husband of 50 years, Ray. Throughout that time, Ray served Christ Church faithfully in a variety of ways, particularly in the 9am music team. We miss his smile, his mischievous wit, and his presence at Janet's side in the front pew.

Maintenance

Coordinators: Andrew Wigglesworth, Chris Giddings, Rob Peto

Purpose: To maintain the fabric of our buildings.

Report:

- 2022 was a quiet year in the life of maintaining the fabric of the church with no major projects undertaken. The focus was instead on performing the various regular duties we do to keep the church building healthy.
- These were primarily done through the three maintenance days we had in the year where church members were encouraged to come along and assist with various jobs including: clearing gutters of leaves, fixing floor blocks and many other smaller jobs.
- The excellent deputy wardens have been working hard in between maintenance days, answering the calls from any tired parts of the church buildings that needed tending to.



- Unfortunately, we've been down on numbers attending maintenance days this year which has reduced our capacity, so we are always keen to get new people coming along to help out. These days are a great way to meet new people, they are always good fun and there are jobs suitable for people of all ages and abilities. Plus they're always fuelled by numerous bacon butties, biscuits, teas and coffees!
- The main focus in September was readying Christ Church ahead of Anna's induction. Thanks to a good turn out, we were able to make the church look very presentable - cleaning some areas that hadn't been touched in years! Particular thanks go to Nellie for organising the repainting of the ceiling above the baptistry.
- Finally I'd just like to put out an official thank you to James Cox who left Christ Church to move to Cumbria this year with his family. He was a maintenance team stalwart for many years and always kept spirits up with his hard work and his humour. We miss him, Hannah and the rest of his family greatly!

Safeguarding

Coordinator: Pauline Jones

Purpose: To ensure measures are in place at Christ Church to protect everyone, but particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults, and to promote their health and wellbeing.

Report:

- At Christ Church we seek to promote a safe environment, culture and activities in order to include a wide range of children, young people and

adults. Everyone at Christ Church shares this responsibility, but not everyone is responsible for everything!

- We believe safeguarding is about how we treat each other and the quality of our relationships but we also seek to fulfil our responsibilities as laid down by the Church of England and Chester Diocese Safeguarding team. We believe and trust that safeguarding supports ministry and outreach rather than preventing or constraining it.
- I can confirm that Christ Church Chester PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance'. As Parish Safeguarding Officer, I have regularly reported on safeguarding in the parish and safeguarding has been a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting. The following is Christ Church PCC's statement, which reports on progress as required:

- Regular safeguarding meetings were held involving Wendy Peto in her capacity as a Churchwarden during a vacancy period, and Rev. Anna Leyden in her capacity as Curate and subsequently Incumbent, and myself as Parish Safeguarding Officer.
- The Safeguarding Action Plan was approved by PCC in June 2022 and progress against the plan was reported at subsequent PCC meetings
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks were completed for eleven individuals, including one who was checked twice (for two different roles). With one exception, all PCC members are now checked at Enhanced Level. We piloted use of a Basic check for one individual on the Drop-in rota.
- A Volunteer Driver Agreement was approved by PCC at the March meeting.
- A designated safeguarding folder was established on Christ Church Share Point, which is now used for storage of password protected confidential files. A designated filing cabinet was identified for storage of confidential declaration forms and registration documents for children and family groups.
- Person Specifications and Role Descriptions were drawn up for 15 Volunteer roles. They will be taken to the February 2023 PCC meeting to be approved as part of a 'light touch' safer recruitment process.

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 24 to 32.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave 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.



L M Howson MAAT
Independent Examiner

Dated: 6th April 2023

Finansure Limited, 2 Sheppard Street, Brymbo, Wrexham, LL11 5FF

Financial Review of the year

The finance team consisted of seven members of the congregation, managing donations, book-keeping, payroll, general banking and treasury tasks. The team aims to provide transparency of figures for both PCC and the congregation, an efficient and simple giving programme and accurate budgeting information to the PCC to enable them to make decisions.

Related Party Transactions

Glyn Jones (Evangelist) and David Chirgwin (PCC member) are directors/trustees of The Light Project, a Christian charity based in Chester. During the year, the PCC made payments to The Light Project totalling £200. All relevant payments are discussed and authorised without input from the related parties concerned.

New Restricted Funds

No new restricted funds were created in 2022.

Designated Funds

One new designated fund was created in 2022. This fund is specifically to support parishioners during the Cost of Living Crisis and is named as such. This was created in response to a donation of £2000 late in 2022 and has not been used yet.

Income excluding new Designated Fund

During 2022, income was generated from individual giving, church fees and rental of rooms. Net giving from the congregation during the year was £73,350 a 13% decrease on 2021 (£84,148) this is also a significant decrease from pre Covid 2019 (£84,415).

The Gift Aid reclaimable on giving in 2022 was £14,097 (£16,008 in 2021), which includes the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme.

Grants were received from the following bodies in 2022 (see Note 1 in 'Notes to the Accounts') and are hereby gratefully acknowledged:

- Dr Robert Oldfield Charity
- Chester Diocese Energy Grant

Expenditure

Expenditure was £109,053 (£107,724 in 2021). The largest item of expense was the Parish Share, which was £63,032 (£61,643 in 2021).

Other than running costs, the further main areas of expenditure were on employee costs, insurance and maintenance for our buildings.

Outward Giving

In 2022, £5,150 (£5,050 in 2021) was set aside for Outward Giving and donated to several recipient charities. The following were all recipients in 2022.

- Teach Beyond
- The Salvation Army
- Chester University Christian Union
- Spider Project CIC
- The Light Project t/a The Light College and Collective
- West Cheshire Foodbank
- Night Church Chester
- Congo Churches Association
- Ukrainian support charities

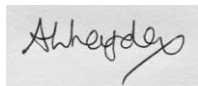
Requested grants to individuals (£1,342) was higher than in 2021 (£1,068).

This Outward Giving is intended to bless what God is doing beyond our ministries, but in line with our values and goals. This money has supported several projects and individuals during the year.

The budget for 2023 has been set by the PCC and agreed at the February 2023 meeting.



Laura Hale (Treasurer) 27th March 2023



Anna Leyden (Chair) 27th March 2023

Accounting Policies

Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP (effective January 2019).

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, to which the PCC is responsible by law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

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

Restricted funds represent (a) Income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object. The funds may be expended on the specific object for which they are given. Any balances remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance of that fund.

Designated funds represent income which has been set aside for use for a specific purpose but are not legally restricted to be used for that purpose. Amounts identified as designated funds which are held in the general current account at the year-end were:

Vicarage Fund	£1,305
Renewed Space 3 Seed Funding (for Capital Building Projects)	£39,527
Cost of Living	£2,500

Unrestricted funds are general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming Reserves

Planned giving collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised on an accruals basis at the end of the financial year and the appropriate amount is subsequently reclaimed from HM Revenue & Customs.

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.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church 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 £1,500 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

No cost information is available for the Vicar's house as it is deemed the property of the diocese.

All investments are valued at market value at 31st December 2021.

Reserves Policy

The PCC have agreed on a reserves policy that is reviewed annually.

The reserves policy at the end of 2022 was set as follows:

- It is the policy of the church to hold in reserves the equivalent of three months' basic running costs which includes any salaries and contractual payments to staff.
- It is also our policy to hold £5000 in reserves as a contingency against unexpected building-related expenses for the Mission House and the church building.

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31st December 2022

**The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of
Chester, Christ Church**

Statement of Financial Activities		Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
For the year ending 31st December 2021				2022	2021
	Note	Funds £	Funds £	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>					
Voluntary income	1	88,675	0	88,675	106,109
Investment income	2	1,331	65	1,396	784
Incoming resources from charitable activities	3	4,824	0	4,824	7,559
Other incoming resources		0	0	0	316
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		94,830	65	94,895	114,768
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Parish Share	4	(63,032)	0	(63,032)	(61,643)
Church Activities	5	(41,629)	0	(41,629)	(42,663)
Grants payable	6	(3,050)	(1,342)	(4,392)	(3,418)
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		(107,711)	(1,342)	(109,053)	(107,724)
Transfers between funds		(183)	183	0	0
NET INCOME/OUTGOINGS BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS / (LOSSES)		(13,064)	(1,094)	(14,158)	7,044
Gains/(losses) on Investment Assets		(3,251)	0	(3,251)	3,379
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(16,315)	(1,094)	(17,409)	10,423
BALANCES B/FWD 1st JANUARY	11	105,409	6,274	111,683	101,260
BALANCES C/FWD 31st DECEMBER		89,094	5,180	94,274	111,683

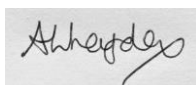
Balance sheet at 31st December 2022

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of Chester, Christ Church

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2021	Note	General Fund £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	8	24,842	0	24,842	27,367
		<u>24,842</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>24,842</u>	<u>27,367</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	20,836	0	20,836	20,355
Cash at bank and in hand		47,952	5,180	53,132	65,932
		<u>68,788</u>	<u>5,180</u>	<u>73,968</u>	<u>86,287</u>
LIABILITIES					
Creditors - Amounts falling due in one year	10	(4,536)	0	(4,536)	1,971
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>64,252</u>	<u>5,180</u>	<u>69,432</u>	<u>84,316</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>89,094</u>	<u>5,180</u>	<u>94,274</u>	<u>111,683</u>
PARISH FUNDS					
Unrestricted					
General Fund (Bank accounts etc.)	12	20,920		20,920	37,107
General Fund (CCLA Investment Shares)	12	24,842		24,842	27,367
Designated Cost of Living Fund	12	2,500		2,500	0
Designated COVID-19 Fund	12	0		0	(1,253)
Designated RS3 Seed Fund	12	39,527		39,527	39,127
Designated Vicarage Fund	12	1,305		1,305	3,061
Restricted					
Congo Fund	13		50	50	50
Generosity Fund	13		0	0	1,159
Music and Worship Fund	13		553	553	553
Renovation Fund	13		4,577	4,577	4,512
		<u>89,094</u>	<u>5,180</u>	<u>94,274</u>	<u>111,683</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27th March 2023

and signed on behalf by:



Anna Leyden (Chair)

Notes for the Financial Statements for the Year ending 31st December 2022

NOTE 1 - VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
Voluntary Income				
Individual Giving	73,350		73,350	84,148
Tax Recoverable	14,097		14,097	16,009
Legacies			0	5,000
Other Sundry Donations	30		30	0
Grants				
Robert Oldfield Charity - Children's work	108		108	109
Chester DBF - Energy grant	1,090		1,090	0
Congo link			0	-300
Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme			0	1,143
	<u>88,675</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>88,675</u>	<u>106,109</u>

NOTE 2 - INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
Bank interest receivable	605	65	670	101
Dividends from CCLA Investment Share Fund	726		726	683
	<u>1,331</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>1,396</u>	<u>784</u>

NOTE 3 - INCOMING RESOURCES
FROM
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
Church Fees	1,853		1,853	2,315
Church Hire			0	173
Mission House Room Hire	2,971		2,971	5,071
	<u>4,824</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,824</u>	<u>7,559</u>

NOTE 4 - Parish Share Paid

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
Parish Share	63,032		63,032	61,643
	63,032	0	63,032	61,643

NOTE 5 - CHURCH ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
Church				
- Utilities	6,578		6,578	2,999
- Repairs & Maintenance	1,355		1,355	820
- Building improvement			0	600
- Insurance (also covers MH)	4,340		4,340	4,097
- Altar & Service Resources	578		578	438
- Music including organ costs	1,591		1,591	869
- Clergy Expenses	424		424	302
- Sunday Refreshments	756		756	332
- Children & Youth Work	594		594	526
- Training and conferences	671		671	408
- Internship Programme			0	2,009
- Fees Payable	536		536	1,216
- Miscellaneous Costs (see note 8)	2,902		2,902	5,128
Administration				
- Administration Wages	8,695		8,695	8,627
- Software / Web	1,505		1,505	1,368
- Bank charges	374		374	493
- Administration Sundries	376		376	170
- Telephone & Internet	425		425	1,064
- Independent Examiner's Fee (current year)	750		750	725
- Independent Examiner's Fee (prior year)	725		725	250
Vicarage				
- Council Tax	-64		-64	2,216
- Utilities	24		24	776
- Maintenance	1,757		1,757	0
Curate				
- Housing Allowance	3,646		3,646	4,747
Mission House				
- Utilities	1,227		1,227	692
- Repairs & Maintenance	20		20	0
- Cleaning Wages	221		221	1,145
Community Work				
- Drop-In expenses	1,256		1,256	534
- Other Community Work expenses	294		294	106
Parochial Work				
- Student work expenses	73		73	6
Total Church Activities	41,629	0	41,629	42,663

NOTE 6 - GRANTS PAYABLE

Christ Church has an Outward Giving policy to bless what God is doing beyond our ministries by donating to projects in line with our values and goals. This includes the "Generosity Fund" which helps individuals with a specific need.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£	£	£
Grants to other charities:				
Donations to the Congo	600		600	1,250
Donations to the Ukraine	600		600	0
Teach Beyond	600		600	0
Friends of the Earth			0	200
Spider Project CIC Chester	200		200	200
The Light Project	200		200	200
Chester University CU	200		200	100
West Cheshire Foodbank	200		200	400
Salvation Army	200		200	0
Night Church	200		200	0
Leyland Methodist Church	50		50	0
Grants to individuals:				
Other small confidential donations made		1,342	1,342	1,068
	3,050	1,342	4,392	3,418

NOTE 7 - MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£	£	£
Books and Resources	96		96	151
COVID-related (including streaming)			0	422
Publicity	1,241		1,241	349
Special Events (e.g. Alpha, Banquet)			0	4,026
Subscriptions (e.g. Link Up, Churches Together, Deanery Synod)	250		250	180
Cleaning supplies, gifts and sundries	130		130	0
Equipment (e.g. for Office, Kitchen)	338		338	0
Other expenses	847		847	0
	2,902	0	2,902	5,128

NOTE 8 - INVESTMENTS**Unrestricted**

CCLA Investment Share Fund

2022 £	2021 £
24,842	27,367
24,842	27,367

NOTE 9 - DEBTORS**Unrestricted**

Gift Aid receivable

Prepayments

2022 £	2021 £
14,097	15,346
6,739	3,542
20,836	19,692

Restricted

Gift Aid receivable Team
Building/Thank You Fund
Gift Aid receivable Shaws Leaving
Fund

2022 £	2021 £
0	300
0	363
0	663
20,836	20,355

NOTE 10 - CREDITORS**Unrestricted**

Gas/Electricity/Water/Rates
Independent Examiner fee
Other accruals

2022 £	2021 £
2,586	1,146
750	725
1,200	100
4,536	1,971

NOTE 11 - OPENING BALANCES ON FUNDS**Unrestricted**

General Fund (Bank accounts etc.)
General Fund (CCLA Investment Shares)
Designated COVID-19 fund
Designated RS3 Seed Fund
Designated Vicarage Fund

Unrestricted
Funds
£

Restricted
Funds
£

Endowment
Funds
£

TOTAL
01/01/2022
£

Restricted

Generosity Fund
Congo Fund
Music and Worship Fund
Renovation Fund

37,107			37,107
27,367			27,367
(1,253)			(1,253)
39,127			39,127
3,061			3,061
	1,159		1,159
	50		50
	553		553
	4,512		4,512
105,409	6,274	0	111,683

NOTE 12 - MOVEMENT ON UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**General Fund Bank Accounts etc.**

	2022 £	2021 £
Balance brought Forward	37,107	29,684
Money paid in during the year (incl. interest)	91,930	110,387
Money taken out during the year	(106,681)	(100,457)
Transfers (to)/from other funds	1,070	(2,507)
Balance at 31st December	23,426	37,107

General Fund CCLA Investment Shares

Balance at 1st January	27,367	23,305
Increase/(decrease) in value of total Shares	-2,525	4,062
Balance at 31st December	24,842	27,367

Designated Cost of living support Fund

Balance at 1st January	0	0
Money paid in during the year	2,500	0
Money taken out during the year	0	0
Transfers (to)/from other funds	0	0
Balance at 31st December	2,500	0

Designated COVID-19 Fund

Balance at 1st January	(1,253)	(830)
Money paid in during the year	0	0
Money taken out during the year		(423)
Transfers (to)/from other funds	1,253	0
Balance at 31st December	0	(1,253)

Designated RS3 Seed Fund

Balance at 1st January	39,127	39,127
Money paid in during the year	400	0
Money taken out during the year	0	0
Receipt - Interest received during the year.	0	0
Balance at 31st December	39,527	39,127

Designated Vicarage Fund (created 2019)

Balance at 1st January (as created)	3,061	2,650
Money paid in during the year	0	0
Money taken out during the year	(1,756)	0
Transfers from general funds		411
Balance at 31st December	1,305	3,061

Total Unrestricted Funds

91,600	105,409
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NOTE 13 - MOVEMENT ON RESTRICTED FUNDS**Renovation Fund****Balance at 1st January**

Voluntary income received

Gift Aid received

Receipt - Interest received during the year.

Expenditure

- Repairs and Renovation etc.

Balance at 31st December

Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations

Balance at 31st December**Community Work Fund****Balance at 1st January**

Voluntary income received

Grants received

Expenditure

- Expenses for Drop-In food etc.

- Other community work exps

Plus : Transfer from General Fund

Balance at 31st December

Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations

Balance at 31st December**Student Work Fund****Balance at 1st January**

Voluntary income received

Expenditure

- Expenses (e.g. Student BBQ, weekend away)

Plus : Transfer from General Fund

Balance at 31st December

Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations

Balance at 31st December**Music and Worship Fund****Balance at 1st January**

Voluntary income received

Less: Expenditure

Balance at 31st December

Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations

Balance at 31st December

2022	2021
£	£
4,512	5,112
65	0
0	0
0	0
0	0
0	(600)
4,577	4,512
0	0
4,577	4,512
2022	2021
£	£
0	0
0	0
0	0
(976)	(424)
(294)	(106)
1,270	530
0	0
0	0
0	0
2022	2021
£	£
0	0
0	0
(73)	(6)
73	6
0	0
0	0
0	0
2022	2021
£	£
553	553
0	0
0	0
553	553
0	0
553	553

NOTE 14 - MOVEMENT ON RESTRICTED FUNDS (contd.)

	2022	2021
	£	£
Generosity Fund		
Balance at 1st January	1,159	1,159
Voluntary income received	0	0
Less : Outward Giving	(1,342)	0
Plus : Transfer from general fund	183	0
Balance at 31st December	0	1,159
Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations	0	0
Balance at 31st December	0	1,159
	2022	2021
	£	£
Congo Fund		
Balance at 1st January	50	0
Voluntary income received		50
Less : Outward Giving	0	0
Balance at 31st December	50	50
Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations	0	0
Balance at 31st December	50	50
	2022	2021
	£	£
Shaw Leave Fund		
Balance at 1st January	0	0
Voluntary income received		1,785
Less: Expenditure		(2,219)
Plus : Transfer from General Fund		71
Balance at 31st December	0	(363)
Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations		363
Balance at 31st December	0	0
	2022	2021
	£	£
Team Thanks Fund		
Balance at 1st January	0	0
Voluntary income received		1,200
Less : Outward Giving		(1,072)
Less : Transfer to General Fund		(428)
Balance at 31st December	0	(300)
Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations		300
Balance at 31st December	0	0
Total Restricted Funds	5,180	6,274