

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF THE CHURCH
OF THE ASCENSION
HALL GREEN
BIRMINGHAM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021
CHARITY NUMBER 1133810**

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ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Address of Charity	93b School Road Hall Green Birmingham B28 8JQ	
Charity number	1133810	
Trustees	Revd. N Boumenjel Mr. J H Meadows Mr D Chellingworth (decd 05/02/2021) Mrs. C Dixon Ms Moha Hob shoar Mrs. P Wagg Mrs P Price Mr. CB Jones Mrs A Tinline Mr F Elia Mrs J Cove (retd 15/05/2021) Mr M Townsend (resigned 25/05/2021)	Mr J Mobasher Mr N Fahmi Mrs. M E Hyde Mrs. S Barnes Mrs. J M Whittington Mrs J C Payne
Treasurer	Mr. J Meadows	
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 248 Stratford Road Shirley Solihull B90 3AE	
Reporting Accountants	Flint and Thompson Limited 2-6 Manor Way Solihull B91 3PX	

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council of the Ascension, Hall Green

Aim and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) along with the vicar, Reverend Canon Nejib Boumenjel, share the responsibility of promoting the mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the parish of The Ascension, Hall Green.

Objectives

Our site brings people together for Christian worship, education and fellowship as well as providing multiple opportunities for service to wider community. Anyone is welcome to worship here and to become part of our parish community.

Our Vision:

At The Church of The Ascension, we seek to be a friendly and welcoming church with a passion for loving service to the local community where people of all ages can experience the love of God, grow in faith and receive the spiritual and pastoral support they need.

Our Mission Statement:

The Church of The Ascension exists to love God, love People and to make disciples of Jesus who will make a difference in our community and beyond.

When planning our activities, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our Christian community through:

- Worship, prayer, and education in the gospel;
- Provision of community spaces;
- Mission and outreach work;
- Partnership initiatives with other local charities, hall users, fellow churches and others.
- Pastoral care for people living in the parish; and
- Stewardship of the Ascension's physical, financial and human resources.

This Annual Report is the story of the period between our Annual Parish Meetings on 16th May 2021 and 15th May 2022. During this time, we started to find ways of living with Covid, resumed activities and fellowship that we had to suspend in the light of Covid restrictions and found some new ways of being missional, responding to the needs that we see around us.

Our People

We acknowledge those continuing to give their time and talents in God's service. We would especially like to thank Revd. Canon Nejib Boumenjel for his leadership and continuing dedication to God's service. He has continued to lead worship, mission and outreach and to give pastoral care to all who need it. We were especially pleased to see Nejib made an honorary Canon of Birmingham Cathedral in November 2021.

Faris Elia completed his training and was licensed as a lay Reader in January 2022; we were delighted to welcome him to our talented and dedicated team of lay Readers.

We thank Pauline Price, our churchwarden, for her work over the past year and Clive Jones, deputy warden, for his work in relation to the churchyard wall and the Quinquennial Inspection repairs. We also acknowledge the vital contributions made by lay Readers, church officers, those who coordinate aspects of our mission and outreach work and all who perform less visible but still important tasks. We would also like to thank Martine Whitmore, our Parish Administrator, for her contribution to the life of our church.

The number of persons on the 2021 electoral Roll was 99, one more than last year: 26 were resident within the parish boundary and 73 non - resident.

The past year has sadly seen the passing of several long-standing members of our Church family including Bob Toy, Ted Holt, Cyril Beavor and June Hobbs. They were faithful servants of our church and made a major contribution to its life over many decades. We miss them all and would like to pay tribute to them and to express our sympathy to their loved ones.

Bob was a past Churchwarden and retained the desire to serve others, including being an ever present at foodbank from 2016 to the onset of the Covid Pandemic in 2020. Ted was twice Churchwarden and a stalwart of many activities over the years, including chairing the Fundraising and Fellowship Committee. June organised the flower arranging for many years as well as faithfully undertaking other tasks, including helping at the Child Contact Centre, church cleaning and keeping the churchyard clean and tidy.

We also want to acknowledge the contribution of Brian and Jane Cove who moved to Scotland in November 2021. Jane was twice Churchwarden and helped in many other roles, Brian was the driving force in the establishment of the foodbank and both were key figures for the Job Marston Centre.

Worship and Prayer

Services are held at 10am and 4pm on Sundays plus a mid-week service at 10.30am on Wednesdays. In October 2021, we also reintroduced a service at 8.30am on Sunday and this is presently being held twice a month on the second and fourth Sundays. We also have occasional services at 6pm, including a service of remembrance for those we love who have died and a carol service on the Sunday before Christmas.

In September 2021, Sunday School and creche was re-introduced at the 10am service on the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month to give our children the opportunity to learn more about our faith.

The service of Holy Communion each Sunday afternoon continues to be well supported and the 4pm congregation is an integral part of our Church life. The service is in Arabic on the first three Sundays of the month and in English on the fourth and fifth Sundays of the month.

The audio-visual system in church is used every Sunday at 10am and 4pm services to display the order of service, play hymns and worship songs and to illustrate sermons / talks.

The past year has seen a resumption of musical activities. Recorded music has gradually been replaced by the organ and Cantors at our 10am service on a Sunday and anthems have been reintroduced. We would like to thank our Director of Music Clive Jones and the Cantors for their contribution to our worship.

There are fortnightly Monday prayer meetings where we share and pray for those things for which we would like to seek God's guidance as well as things for which we would like to give thanks. Bible Study also takes place on alternate Mondays. Prayer meetings and bible study are also held on Tuesday evenings in Arabic.

We were able to resume Messy Church with a Light Party on 7th November 2021, a session themed around the Parable of the Mustard Seed on 6th March 2022 and an Easter themed Messy Church on Good Friday, 15th April 2022. It has been good to reconnect with a number of families who came to Messy Church prior to the Pandemic and we have also connected with some new families in the recent sessions. This is an important ministry, planting seeds of faith in our 'Messy' community, and we want to continue to grow it, guided by the values of being Christ-centred for all ages, creativity, hospitality and celebration. The size of our volunteer team has reduced post Covid and there is a need for more help with organising the activities, although there are some encouraging signs of new volunteers coming forward.

Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The vicar and lay pastoral team endeavour to provide pastoral support to those who are sick or otherwise in need. Where the ability to visit people was curtailed by the pandemic, we stayed in touch via telephone and through doorstep visits. Our continued thanks to the small, dedicated team involved in this vital ministry.

A new initiative over the past year was the introduction in February 2022 of a bereavement support group on the first and third Mondays of the month led by Ros Powell, a trained counsellor, and the vicar.

The Place of Welcome has continued on a Monday morning and been able to resume meeting in person. This provides a place where everyone can see a friendly face and have a chat.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. In November 2021, the PCC reviewed its safeguarding policy; a copy of this can be found on our website <http://www.ascensionhallgreen.uk/>.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need – both at home and further afield - is a demonstration of our faith.

Our satellite centre of Sparkhill Foodbank continues to operate out of the Church Hall every Friday afternoon. In the 12 months to 31st March, we served 1229 clients and provided food for some 2,800 people (1,750 adults and 1,050 children).

Apart from helping clients we have for some time now been sorting and dating the incoming donations collected at the Waitrose stores in Hall Green and Solihull, as well as donations that come in through Church or are dropped off to us by members of the public on a Friday. These are then collected and taken to the main depot 'Narthex' - in Tyseley to be sorted into the various food parcels. It is notable that the amount of food being donated has reduced in the last few months. Unfortunately, the demand across the 5 satellite centres has increased and Tyseley are running out of some types of stock, even while they currently spend £700 a week buying supplies.

We are fortunate to have a team of 24 volunteers who between them operate two teams working on Friday afternoons, another team who get everything setup on a Friday morning and another team of drivers who collect the food parcels from Tyseley, often in excess of 75 bags of food.

In response to need further afield, a box is placed at the back of the church every Sunday for charity donations. In 2020, we collected for the following charities: Birmingham City Mission, St Mary's Hospice, Mission to Seafarers, Summerfield Stables, the Intercontinental Church Society and R.N.I.B, Bible Society, Church Missionary Society and Malawi. We also held a collection for Christian Aid in the autumn and for the Children's Society at the Christingle service. Charitable donations were lower than previous years, so we decided in January 2022 to collect for the same charities again this year and to match funds raised with Church funds, up to a limit to be decided.

Partnerships

In the 2021 Annual Report, we reported the decision of the Job Marston Centre (JMC) Board to close and surrender their lease back to the PCC. The process was concluded as planned by 31 May 2021 and there was a smooth handover to new arrangements, with thanks to all.

A service was held in June 2021 to thank JMC Trustees, past and present, together with members of staff for their tremendous service to the JMC, and through that to the community of Hall Green and around. The money advice service the JMC commissioned from Narthex has continued to operate alongside the foodbank on a Friday afternoon and a Skills Club has been developed at St Michael's Church.

Activities undertaken by organisations with strong links to The Ascension are described below.

Hall Green Churches Child Contact Centre

With the removal of Covid restrictions by the Government earlier this year, both Hall Green and Smith's Wood Child Contact Centres have reverted to near normal operating conditions. Some light touch restrictions such as hand washing and use of sanitizer are still in place and the use of masks is advisory. At Hall Green Centre child contact sessions have now reverted to two hours. The number of families is limited to six for each session but the Centre can now also accommodate weekly contact sessions for some families.

There are 17 families currently using the Centre and the number of enquiries and referrals received is increasing. During the last 12 months numbers have been on the low side and it is thought this is partly due to CAFCASS (the Family Courts' independent advisory service) adopting a Prioritisation Protocol in July 2021 for managing unsustainable caseloads in several areas in the Midlands including Birmingham. The Court have been triaging new cases on the basis of risk and capacity so that the more complex and urgent cases have been prioritised over less urgent cases, the latter being delayed. This has meant there has been an increase in demand for supervised contact with a reduction in cases needing supported contact. There are currently 27 active volunteers at Hall Green and 5 at Smith's Wood. Sadly, one of our volunteers at Hall Green, Mark Morris, passed away in late January 2022 following treatment for cancer. Recently 12 parcels of equipment including toys and craft materials have been donated to the Centres by a charity called Arthur's Angels. It has been set up by Bernie Dixon following the tragic death in 2020 of her cousin, six-year-old Arthur Labinjo-Hughes who lived in Shirley. His father has recently been convicted of his manslaughter and his partner of murder. This generous gesture is very much appreciated.

In the financial year 2021/22 grants were awarded by Yardley Great Trust of £10,000, CAFCASS totalling £5,000 and We Are All Making A Difference Charity of £1,000. In addition, there is income from donations and registration fees. The contract of Sarah Ali, our part time salaried Coordinator, has been extended for a further year running to 31st March 2023.

Grateful thanks are due to my colleague Coordinators, Frances Hooper (Operations and Volunteer Recruitment), Angela Feenan (Smith's Wood Centre Manager) and Sarah Ali (Referrals Coordinator) for all the work they do. The Centres could not operate without the commitment of our Team Leaders and volunteer support workers; they are a fantastic team – many thanks to them for all they do. In December 2021 Tina Pickering resigned as a Director and Trustee of our charity. She was a founder member and was Treasurer from 2011 – 2019. We very much appreciate all the work she has done over these years. Finally, my personal thanks to my colleague Trustees – Revd. Canon Nejib Boumenjel, David Andrews and Frances Hooper and also to Patrick Hooper who is now assisting with the financial affairs of the charity.

Clive Jones, Chair of Directors and Trustees and Joint Coordinator

Hall Green Youth

Hall Green Youth was formed in 2006, building on a long history of interest in youth work through Churches Together in Hall Green. Its mission is to connect with, and meet the needs of, young people.

In early 2021, we re-evaluated how we can best support young people, taking into consideration the effects of the Covid pandemic. We engaged with the young people with whom

we have previously worked, pastoral staff at the two local secondary schools, the Hall Green Families early help network, churches and other community organisations. The feedback we received is that there is a great need for support for young people's emotional wellbeing going forward. We have begun to respond to this need.

We reshaped our 'Just Chill' community youth group, which operated as an open drop-in youth club pre-Covid, into an invited support group and have continued to run it throughout 2021 at the Ascension on a Thursday afternoon with 5-6 young people attending each week.

We were able to re-establish contact with Hall Green Secondary School to discuss how we could best support their young people's emotional wellbeing. They identified a need for one-to-one mentoring and, in May and June 2021, we undertook a 6-week pilot where we provided weekly one to one mentoring for 6 young people with social, emotional and mental health needs identified by pastoral staff.

We evaluated the pilot and both young people and the pastoral staff told us that the mentoring was helpful and that they wanted it to continue. Young people said that they had found it valuable to have the space to talk and to express their feelings. One said that they had gained the ability to talk to someone and a bit of confidence. Another said that they had learned to focus on themselves, rather than other people. We were invited back into Hall Green School in November 2021 to work with a further batch of young people.

We were also invited back into Ninestiles School to restart an afterschool club for identified vulnerable pupils. This restarted at the beginning of December 2021.

Overall, in 2021, we helped 20 young people who are vulnerable and / or have additional needs to make up time lost during Covid and improve their future prospects by supporting their mental health and helping them to build constructive social networks.

Sarah Barnes, Company Secretary, Hall Green Youth

Beechcroft Tennis and Multi Sports Community Club

Beechcroft now accommodates an extensive range of sporting activities. The two leading sports are Tennis and Walking Football, but Table Tennis, Netball (including Walking Netball), Hockey, Controlled Adult Football, Junior and Toddler Football and Fitness Classes are also offered.

The Club has now resumed all of its indoor and outdoor activities. More information can be found on its website – search against BeechcroftTC/Home.

During the winter months the Club has sometimes been using the church's halls on Saturday mornings for their junior sections' activities during bad weather.

Clive Jones

Fellowship

We were able to resume various fellowship activities once Covid restrictions were eased. We enjoyed refreshments after the 10am and 4pm services and marking special occasions such as Chris and Marilyn Kent's golden wedding anniversary.

On Saturday 18 September 2021, we held an open morning as part of national Heritage Open Day and Birmingham Heritage Week. Church was open for people to look around and find out about its history and we also provided refreshments and a display about activities past and present in the Chatterton Hall. We had over 30 visitors, including a number with past connections to the Church.

The Ascension Coffee Shop was finally able to resume in September 2021 in slightly adapted form on Wednesdays in the Church Hall and Coffee Lounge. The aim is to provide a low-cost

snack and friendship for members of our local community. The coffee shop team has reduced in size and volunteers are needed.

Monday Club started meeting again in November 2021 and had three meetings, including Armchair Aerobics with Mike Midgely and a visit from Northern Star Arts Ukulele Group. It was good to be able to be back at The Home Guard Club for our Christmas Lunch, which was well attended by members and friends.

We thought of those of our number whom we had lost since closing at the start of the Covid Pandemic and, as well at the start of 2022, of June Hobbs.

Although we have fewer Members now, we have a varied programme planned for 2022 (Covid permitting) having started back on 7th March. Arranged is musical entertainment (including The Gilbert and Sullivan Savoyards, and Ukuleles again), talks from charities – such as The Children's Society, Birmingham City Mission and The Donkey Sanctuary; Summer and Christmas lunches, and various 'in house' sessions like Bring and Buys, a Cream Tea in the summer and a Christmas Tea at the end of the year. Already this year we have played bingo, had talks about Newfoundland and Labrador, listened to Nejib's 'Thoughts for Lent', and crafted Easter egg swans.

We would be very pleased to welcome anyone as a new member to come and join us and enjoy a relaxed time of fellowship, entertainment, and refreshments.

Anthea Tinline

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity (1133810). The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, two licensed Readers, members of the Deanery Synod and members elected by members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The Ascension is entitled to nominate 3 representatives to sit on the Deanery Synod which provides an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. At the APCM in October 2020, Anthea Tinline and Margaret Hyde were elected to represent The Ascension for a 3 year term.

In 2021, the PCC had a total of 15 members (8 directly elected, 2 elected to the Deanery Synod and 5 ex-officio). The PCC then met 5 times between June 2020 and April 2021.

The Church of the Ascension Parish Hall is a separate charity (charity number 1187634) with the PCC as its Trustee. As a separate charity, it is required to produce a report of its activities.

Sarah Barnes, PCC Secretary

Financial Review *(figures are provisional)*

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £73,520 which includes £39,400 from regular planned giving and other voluntary contributions and a further £9,000 from Gift Aid.

£69,000 was spent from unrestricted funds towards our Christian ministry, including £39,830 towards the Diocesan Parish Share Request, which once again was paid in full.

We were also in receipt of a number of very generous Bequests totalling £123,740 all of which were unrestricted. At a meeting of the PCC on 20th January 2022 it was decided to designate

£50,000 towards growing our mission with children, young people and families. A further £70,000 was designated to our Fabric Fund to help with the upcoming cost of the Quinquennial repair works.

At the end of the year General (unrestricted) funds stood at £80,547.

Reserves Policy

The PCC maintains a Reserve Policy; the cash balances held in unrestricted funds more than satisfy the target amount of £52,500. The Policy was reviewed by the PCC on 17th February 2022.

Jon Meadows, Treasurer

Church of the Ascension Annual Property Report 2021/22

This report covers the period between our Annual Parish Meetings on 16th May 2021 and 15th May 2022.

The Church

In July the bell rope snapped. Anthea Tinline was able to arrange for Simon Adams to carry out the repair using a new rope pull which Anthea provided. A letter of thanks was sent to Simon for volunteering his services.

Justice Security carried out a routine service on the roof alarms on 8th September. The sensors, bell and keypad were all checked and the backup battery replaced.

Andrew Coleman (Fodens Electricals) replaced a bulb and starter motor in the south transept and made some adjustments to the circuit boards as part of an ongoing process to identify the cause of one circuit board occasionally tripping out. All the trip switches were found to be at the correct level of sensitivity.

Some of the bulbs in the wall lamp holders needed replacing, however, we were advised by Andrew Coleman that such bulbs are no longer available. Two units have now been converted to take soft LED light sources at a cost of £142.50. per unit. Having viewed these the PCC have agreed to continue updating the remaining wall lamp holders. The total cost of the works is estimated to be £1,950 plus VAT.

The Churchyard

Work has been undertaken this year to improve the appearance of the churchyard. In June, Nathan (Gemstone Tree Surgeons) removed two small dead trees, some problematic self-seeded saplings and undergrowth. The crown of some trees was raised, the millennium yew reshaped and the laurel hedge reduced to wall height to improve visibility and security around the site. All material, including some accumulated in the corner of the churchyard, was removed at a total cost of £735. In October the same company carried out maintenance work on 21 of the lime trees. All re-growth around the trunks was removed to the crown of each tree and the base growth cut back as tightly as possible. The density of the growth meant the work took three days at a total cost of £2,800.

Unfortunately, in late August, the Victorian tomb of the Roberts family of Greet began to collapse into the grave space below and the area had to be fenced off. With guidance from the church surveyor Midland Conservation Ltd lifted and made safe the stonework. Their investigation and report cost £598. Following their recommendation that the brickwork was too insubstantial to safely rebuild the structure a faculty was sought to infill the tomb with layers of sand, hardcore and topsoil without disturbance to any human remains. An interim faculty to make safe the tomb was granted on 14th February. In March the tomb was filled, the supporting stones repaired and the tombstone carefully replaced. The company charged their quoted £2,352 though the volume of material and work required was greater than anticipated.

A section of footpath is now always puddled. The church architect has recommended that on grounds of cost any investigation into the cause should be undertaken when other earthwork is being planned.

Signage across the site

New signage for all the halls and carpark has been designed by Rob Mainwaring. The new signs are clearer while also giving a strong church identity. Aurora Graphics & Display Ltd. refaced the old signs at a cost of £375. We are grateful to Rob and to Richard Hyde for removing and replacing the signboards.

General

The fire safety inspection was completed in November and, separately, all fire extinguishers across the site were checked. In December Gas safety certificates were issued by Warmington Plumbing and Heating Ltd. for all four boilers. PAT testing of all electrical equipment was carried out by Testsafe Ltd. in October 2021.

Quinquennial Works

Churchyard Wall Repairs

A faculty application for the repairs to the section of churchyard wall fronting to Fox Hollies Road and the installation of 13 reverse buttresses immediately behind the wall (attached to it to provide reinforcement) was submitted to the Birmingham Diocesan Office as long ago as 8th July 2020. The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) recommended the application be granted, but subject to 8 conditions. The most significant of these were that the works were accompanied by archaeological observation and supervision when trial holes were excavated at the proposed reverse buttress locations to assess whether any burials are affected. The PCC also had to apply for planning consent for the works; this together with listed building consent was obtained on 16th April 2021. Conditions apply which for the most part are similar to those to be imposed upon the grant of the faculty. The works have to be carried out within three years. The Chancellor of the Diocese eventually granted this faculty on 21st June 2021.

Further difficulties then ensued following an inspection of the trees on the site and particularly the five limes and the holly tree immediately behind the wall. It was carried out by Andrew Woodward, a consultant arboriculturist on 31st August 2021. He advised that the extent of the excavations and foundations for the reverse buttresses would cause considerable damage to the roots of the trees immediately behind the wall; they were likely to wither and die within two years. In these circumstances it would be justifiable to fell the trees, repair the wall and install the reverse buttresses. Enquiries were made to the DAC to see whether the felling of the trees could be authorised by a variation to the existing faculty, none of the trees being subject to a tree preservation order. The DAC advised a new faculty application would be required and that if the trees were to be felled they should be replaced by new trees planted in the churchyard.

A site meeting of the professionals (architect, structural engineer and arboriculturist) with Clive Jones present took place on 14th January 2022 to consider all possible options for dealing with the wall repairs. The only option available that would allow the trees to be retained was to rebuild the wall using screw piles but this would cost nearly £100,000 more than the reverse buttress option. The PCC had considered this but had decided such additional expense could not be justified or afforded. At the site meeting the building of reverse buttresses with felling the trees beforehand and the planting of new trees emerged as the most practical and cost-effective option. The stumps of the trees will need to be left in the ground to minimise damage to the wall during the felling process; graves prevent the 'new' trees being replanted close to the wall, so the new trees will be planted throughout the churchyard. A new faculty application for

this option, authorised by the PCC was submitted on 17th January 2022. Whilst waiting for the application to be processed Clive Jones and Pauline Price met with the arboriculturist on site on 18th March 2022 to discuss a replacement tree planting scheme. He subsequently produced a report with a location plan which recommended six trees of different species for planting; his recommendations have been approved by the PCC.

The faculty for the repair works, the felling of the trees behind the wall and the planting of the replacement trees was granted by the Chancellor on 12th April 2022 and is subject to only two conditions: -

- a) The trees to be replaced during the first planting season, within 12 months and any that die within 3 years to be replaced
- b) The work to be subject to archaeological observation

For the purpose of the new faculty application the previous cost estimate for the work had to be reviewed. Building costs have escalated considerably since the last estimate in 2020 and the new estimate needed to include the cost of felling the six trees and the planting of six replacements. The figures are now £76,280 and £15,091 VAT (£91,371). The area of the wall around one of the trees (shown as tree 5 on the plan) continues to be monitored for any signs of stress. If, before the main works could be carried out, it became necessary to repair that section of the wall by taking down and rebuilding a small section of it, the additional cost would be £3,233 plus £647 VAT. This would increase the revised estimate to £95,251.

Quinquennial Part 2 Repairs

These works on the church building were described in last year's property report and include repairing or renewing high level stone dressings, mouldings and balusters, repair and decoration of the roof access door, re-decorating the cast iron gutters, renewing missing brick corbels to the tower, repointing open joints to the tower brickwork, repairing and redecorating the south transept door, repairing and redecorating the sundial and repairing impact damage to the boundary wall. The most substantial items within this work are the high-level stone dressings, mouldings and balusters, the replacement of the missing brick corbels to the tower and the repointing of open joints to the tower brickwork. The works (less the impact damage to the boundary wall) were previously costed in 2020 by a quantity surveyor, Paul Daniels of Worcester, and came in at £78,080 plus VAT of £15,616. With professional fees (architects and quantity surveyor) and building control fees added, the total was increased to c.£90,000 plus VAT of c.£18,000; the VAT element should be recoverable. As with the churchyard wall repairs these costs will have increased significantly due to the effects of inflation and will need to be recalculated by the Quantity Surveyor.

A List B application for consent was submitted on 18th January 2021. It was not until the 6th July 2021 that the consent was granted by the Archdeacon. Although the Quantity Surveyor's costs schedules were submitted with the application, the DAC caseworker required a detailed specification of the works to be provided. This was prepared by our architect and submitted. The consent is subject to several standard conditions. The work to restore the sundial will be subject to a separate faculty application. An initial report from the restorer has been considered by the PCC and a formal report will be obtained and submitted with a faculty application in due course.

These Part 2 Works have had to be put on hold because of the delays that have occurred with the churchyard wall repairs. Further fundraising will need to take place before they can be undertaken and this will include applications for grant funding. It remains to be seen whether they can take place in 2023.

Pauline Price and Clive Jones

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION,
HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM
CHARITY NUMBER 1133810
31 DECEMBER 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Income & endowments from:	Note	Unrestricted (£)	Designated (£)	Restricted (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)	Total Funds 2020 (£)
Donations & legacies	2	178,725	1,040	7,778	187,543	156,364
Charitable activities	3	1,904	-	349	2,253	639
Other trading activities	4	1,169	-	19,743	20,912	6,869
Investments		15,462	-	-	15,462	12,128
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total income & endowments		197,260	1,040	27,870	226,170	176,000
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	554	-	-	554	33
Charitable activities	7	69,033	6,866	28,302	104,201	130,071
Other	8	1,225	-	289	1,514	319
Total expenditure		70,812	6,866	28,591	106,269	130,423
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	4,436	-	25,804	30,240	(239)
Net income/(expenditure)		130,884	(5,826)	25,083	150,141	45,338
Transfers between funds		(120,000)	120,000	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		10,884	114,174	25,083	150,141	45,338
Reconciliation of funds:						
		69,662	18,622	255,343	343,627	298,289
Total funds brought forward						
Total funds carried forward	11	80,546	132,796	280,426	493,768	343,627

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM
CHARITY NUMBER 1133810,
31 DECEMBER 2021**

BALANCE SHEET

	note	2021(£)	2020(£)
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	10		-
Investments	11	270,032	239,792
		<u>270,032</u>	<u>239,792</u>
Current Assets			
Lloyds Current Account		35,712	24,623
Lloyds Deposit Account		141,854	22,645
CCLA (CBF) deposit Account		47,003	46,979
Cash and Cheques in hand		-	406
Debtors and prepayments	12	7,315	10,522
		<u>231,884</u>	<u>105,175</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors and accruals	13	8,148	1,340
Net current assets		<u>223,736</u>	<u>103,835</u>
Net Assets		<u>493,768</u>	<u>343,627</u>
Total Net Assets			
Funds Unrestricted	14	80,546	69,662
Designated	14	132,796	18,622
Restricted	14	280,426	255,343
Total		<u>493,768</u>	<u>343,627</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 15 September 2022

Approved by the trustees on 15 September 2022

And signed on its behalf by:



Mr J H Meadows, Trustee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

The Ecclesiastical Parish of the Church of the Ascension is a Parochial Church Council in England. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 2 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are for the advancement of the Church of England through worship and prayer, provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish, missionary and outreach work.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity. For example, the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Where practicable, gifts in kind donated for distribution to the beneficiaries of the charity are included in stock and donations in the financial statements upon receipt. If it is impracticable to assess the fair value at receipt or if the costs to undertake such a valuation outweigh any benefits, then the fair value is recognised as a component of donations when it is distributed and an equivalent amount recognised as charitable expenditure.

Gifts in kind donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. Where estimating the fair value is practicable upon receipt it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impracticable to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value. They are not deferred over the life of the asset.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

Other income includes the conversion of endowment funds into income which arises when capital funds are released to an income fund from expendable endowments or when a charity has authority to adopt a total return approach to its permanent endowment fund. It also includes other income such as gains on disposals of tangible fixed assets.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes expenses relating to fundraising events
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes diocesan fees, worship costs and church upkeep
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Grants payable to third parties are within the charitable objectives. Where unconditional grants are offered, this is accrued as soon as the recipient is notified of the grant, as this gives rise to a reasonable expectation that the recipient will receive the grants. Where grants are conditional relating to performance then the grant is only accrued when any unfulfilled conditions are outside of the control of the PCC.

(e) Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the PCC.

Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

(f) Fixed assets

Consecrated property and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the account by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2001 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2001 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (usually 4 years unless otherwise stated) on a straight-line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £2000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2001 is written off.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £10,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

(g) Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Current asset investments are short term highly liquid investments and are held at fair value. These include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity of less than one year.

(h) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing stock to its present location and condition. Cost is calculated using the first-in, first-out formula. Provision is made for damaged, obsolete and slow-moving stock where appropriate.

(i) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(j) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable entity for UK corporation tax purposes

(k) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure are sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM
CHARITY NUMBER 1133810
31 DECEMBER 2021

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Unrestrict ed (£)	Designated (£)	Restricted (£)	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
2. Income from Donations and legacies					
Gift Aided – Envelopes	1,808	-	-	1,808	3,113
Gift Aided – BGC	27,821	-	-	27,821	28,288
NTE Envelopes	828	-	-	828	325
NTE BGC	3,820	-	-	3,820	5,114
Cash Collections	5,131	-	-	5,131	3,680
Contactless Donations	644	-	-	644	316
Donations – In Memoriam	592	-	558	1,150	388
Sundry Donations	265	-	4	269	170
Christmas Gift to the Church	10	-	1,200	1,210	18,928
Flowers Fund Donations	-	-	624	624	196
Coffee Shop	-	-	281	281	770
Monday Club	-	-	-	-	158
Other (unrestricted) Donations	401	-	50	451	700
Other Donations – Restricted	-	-	1,761	1,761	8,500
Exceptional One-Off Gifts	-	-	-	-	33,680
Monthly Charity Gift Aided	-	-	1,168	1,168	1,725
Monthly Charity Not Gift Aided	-	-	100	100	-
Gift Aid Recovered	9,078	-	760	9,838	15,932
Legacies	123,740	-	-	123,740	5,000
Recurring Grants	4,587	-	-	4,587	4,497
Non-recurring One-off Grants	-	1,040	1,272	2,312	24,884
	178,725	1,040	7,778	187,543	156,364

3. Income from Charitable activities				2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Retained Fees for Weddings and Funerals	1,904	-	255	2,159	747
Choir Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Diocesan Fees	-	-	94	94	(108)
	1,904	-	349	2,253	639

4. Income from other trading activities				2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Food Bank income	-	-	-	-	20
Bible Reading Fellowship/Bookstall	167	-	-	167	170
Magazine Sales	677	-	-	677	656
Magazine Advertising	325	-	-	325	216
Church Hall Lettings	-	-	5,208	5,208	5,807
Chatterton Hall & House lettings	-	-	14,535	14,535	-
	1,169		19,743	20,912	6,869

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5. Income from Investments	Unrestrict ed (£)	Designated (£)	Restricted (£)	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Interest & Dividends	9,837	-	-	9,837	10,253
Rent from Lank & Building	5,625	-	-	5,625	1,875
	15,462	-	-	15,462	12,128

Other Income	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Insurance claims	-	-
	-	-

6. Raising funds	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Funding Raising Costs	-	-
Publicity	554	-
Giving Envelopes	-	33
	554	33

7. Analysis of expenditure on Charitable Activities	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Church Mission Society	-	200
Mission to Seafarers	-	301
Malawi Fund	-	194
Bible Society	-	225
Children's Society	-	153
Birmingham City Mission	-	88
Other Charities	-	400
JMC Subsidy Refunds	-	-
Diocesan Parish Share	39,830	39,830
Support Staff Costs	4,200	4,200
Parish Administrator Salary & Pension	-	6,752
Parish Administration	-	114
Incumbent Expenses	355	-
Vicarage Upkeep	1,342	-
Pastoral Staff & Youth Worker	3,500	-
Mission & Outreach	99	-
Food Bank (Expenses)	-	346
Coffee Shop (Expenses)	-	174
Church Insurance	3,030	-
Church – General Maintenance	2,632	-
Cost of Services (Worship)	1,086	-
Church Office Expenses	1,803	-
Bank Charges	316	9
Church Flowers	-	486
Upkeep of churchyard	7,627	-
Visiting Speakers / Locums	-	-
Carried forward	65,820	6,866

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM
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31 DECEMBER 2021**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

				2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Brought forward	65,820	6,866	3,849	76,535	73,726
Church Utilities - Gas	1,597	-	-	1,597	1,828
Church Utilities - Electric	1,083	-	-	1,083	652
Church Utilities - Water	120	-	-	120	248
Magazine Printing	981	-	-	981	1,006
Editorial Expenses	46	-	-	46	91
Bookstall & Bible Reading	231	-	-	231	229
Fellowship					
Magazine Postage	28	-	-	28	285
Hall Utilities - Gas	-	-	2,600	2,600	2,492
Hall Utilities - Electricity	(1,811)	-	2,394	583	3,611
Hall Utilities - Water	-	-	235	235	99
Halls Cleaning	-	-	2,518	2,518	3,498
Halls Repair & Maintenance	-	-	2,186	2,186	876
Hall running - Insurance	-	-	1,513	1,513	1,603
Chatterton Hall Maintenance	242	-	560	802	618
Chatterton Hall & House Cleaning	-	-	4,546	4,546	-
Chatterton Hall & House	-	-	368	368	-
Accounts Inspection Fee	696	-	-	696	696
Major Works to Church	-	-	-	-	7,633
Major Repairs to Church Hall	-	-	2,147	2,147	25,775
Major Repairs – Church Yard	-	-	5,386	5,386	5,105
	69,033	6,866	28,302	104,201	130,071

8. Analysis of Other Costs

				2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Miscellaneous Other	1,225	-	30	1,255	319
Professional Fees	-	-	259	259	-
	1,225	-	289	1,514	319

All support costs relate to the principal activities of the PCC

9. Net Gains/(losses) on Investment

Unrealised					
Movement on CCLA funds					
Fixed interest income	(1,884)				
Property income	19,116				
UK Equity income	6,137				
Global Equity	6,871				
				30,240	

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION,
HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. Fixed Assets					2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Assisted clergy house at cost					-	-
11. Investments					2021 (£)	2020 (£)
CCLA Fixed Interest Income					26,668	28,552
CCLA Property Income					153,161	134,045
CCLA UK Equity Income					40,924	34,786
CCLA Global Equity Income					49,279	42,409
					<u>270,032</u>	<u>239,792</u>
12. Debtors and prepayments					2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Gift Aid recoverable					2,847	7,139
Prepayments					4,468	3,383
Grants					-	-
					<u>7,315</u>	<u>10,522</u>
13. Creditors and accruals					2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Accounts payable on account					8,148	1,340
					<u>8,149</u>	<u>1,340</u>
14. Funds	Balance 01/01/21 (£)	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Valuations (£)	Transfers (£)	Balance 31/12/21 (£)
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	69,662	197,260	70,812	4,436	(120,000)	80,546
Designated funds						
Fay Lord Legacy	18,622	1,040	6,866	-	-	12,795
Fabric Repair	-	-	-	-	70,000	70,000
Parish Mission Support	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
	<u>88,283</u>	<u>198,300</u>	<u>77,677</u>	<u>4,436</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,796</u>
Restricted funds						
Assisted clergy house fund	194,642	-	-	25,804	-	220,446
Choir fund	453	-	-	-	-	453
Coffee shop	-	281	173	-	-	108
Monday club	1,964	-	-	-	-	1,964
Fabric Repair	57,392	4,954	5,684	-	-	56,662
Flower fund	-	768	486	-	-	282
Foodbank	1,000	470	346	-	-	1,124
Charity giving	-	1,560	1,560	-	-	-
Diocese fees	(108)	94	-	-	-	(14)
Hall Repair Fund *	-	19,743	20,342	-	-	(599)
	<u>255,343</u>	<u>27,870</u>	<u>28,591</u>	<u>25,804</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>280,426</u>
Total	<u>343,627</u>	<u>226,170</u>	<u>106,269</u>	<u>30,240</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>493,768</u>

*The Hall Repair fund represents the activities of an independent charity "The Church of Ascension Parish Hall Charity Hall Green Birmingham". The directive from the Charities Commission for England and Wales dated 6 March 2013 stated that the PCC and the Parish Hall Charity were to be administered as one single charity

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION,
HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

15. Staff costs and members remuneration	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages, salaries and fees	<u>12,225</u>	<u>10,062</u>
The average weekly number of employees during the year calculated on a full-time equivalent was	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 during the year.

Mr. Clive Jones, a trustee, was paid a stipend of £4,200 as Church Organist during the year. There were no other salaries or expenses paid to trustees during the year.

16. Related Party transactions

Sarah J Barnes is a trustee of Hall Green Youth Charity which paid £341 during the year to contribute to the running of the Halls.

Revd. N Boumenjel is a trustee of Hall Green Churches Child Contact Centre which paid £1,573 during the year to contribute to the running of the Halls.

17. Independent Examiners	2021	2020
	£	£
Amounts paid to independent examiner	<u>696</u>	<u>696</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Ecclesiastical Parish of the Church of the Ascension Hall Green.

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 3 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

P Georgiades BA FCA
Flint and Thompson
Chartered Accountants
2-6 Manor Way
Solihull
B91 3PX

30 August 2022.