

**Holy Trinity, Chesterton**  
**Charity Registration Number 1133972**

*Trustees Annual Report for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024*

**Aim and Purposes:**

Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend James Rosie, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Within this role the PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church hall which adjoins the church building of Holy Trinity, Chesterton.

**Objectives and Activities:**

The PCC has summarised its objectives in the following Mission and Vision Statements which have been reviewed and updated as necessary during this year:

This church exists:

To **Worship** God with its whole being, giving him praise and glory for all he is and all he has done.

To **Witness** to God's love, through the power of his Holy Spirit, that all may hear the Good News of Jesus and have the opportunity to respond.

To **Welcome** all who come to seek God with us. To be an open, sensitive, welcoming people through whom God's love touches the world around us.

**Vision Statement:**

We believe God is calling us and leading us into being a church in which we will:

**Draw closer to God through worship and prayer** – As we worship and pray together, valuing all ages and providing a variety of opportunities to encounter God, we will experience all he has in store for us. As we open ourselves to him he will move among us to touch us and draw us deeper into worship and into relationship with him.

**Grow in commitment to God through nurture** – As we engage with God's word and with each other, learning and experiencing together what it means to be Christ's body here, we will grow to maturity in him, both individually and corporately.

**Go to serve as Christ's body** – As we seek, as Christ's body, to live out his servant ministry we will find opportunities to show his compassion and love through our actions, and to be his hands and feet in our community and beyond.

**Go to witness as God's people** – As we go to serve, empowered by his Spirit, we will find opportunities to share the good news he has entrusted

to us. As we proclaim our faith and share our personal experiences of what God has done in us, for us and through us, he will be revealed among us.

**Draw others to join us in God's Church** – As we engage with our community, serving our neighbours, sharing and witnessing to God's love, we will find opportunities to encourage others to seek God with us, that they too might know his presence and his love, and be drawn by him into his body.

We are called to commit our lives to God. As we do so we will see him keeping his promise to be with us, to equip us by the power of his Spirit and to add miraculously to the work we do in his name, that he may be glorified.

### **Structure, governance and management:**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Holy Trinity the membership of the PCC consists of the Vicar, two churchwardens, three members of Deanery Synod and up to eighteen members elected by those on the Church Electoral Roll. Members are elected to serve for three years, six members standing down and available for re-election each year. All who attend the church regularly are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC if they are qualified to do so.

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.

To live out the above Mission and to work towards our Vision, the PCC is committed to encouraging as many people as possible to worship with us and to become part of the church community at Holy Trinity.

To ensure that every aspect of the church's life is maintained, the day to day running of the various activities of the church are delegated to a Leadership Team, authorised by the Bishop of Lichfield, which is made up of the clergy, the churchwardens and a co-ordinator.

This Leadership Team is responsible for planning and budgeting for activities throughout the year. The plans and budget are then scrutinised by the full PCC who give the final approval to the plans and delegate the routine supervision of these activities to the Leadership Team.

In its planning, the incumbent, PCC and Leadership Team have regard to the Commissions's guidelines on public benefit as they relate to charities for the advancement of religion. The trustees believe that public benefit is achieved by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers, and

- Promoting Christian values, and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

In particular we try and enable ordinary people who are members of the church to live out their Christian faith and, through care and service, to share the blessings we have received and to encourage other members of the local community to become part of the parish community. We do this through:

- Worship and prayer: providing acts of worship that enable people to worship through music and sacrament, explore the scriptures and thus develop in their knowledge of, commitment to and trust in Jesus.
- Evangelism and outreach: providing activities, events, courses etc. to enable people to learn about the Christian faith; encouraging church members in their involvement in the life of our community so that they can share God's love and serve the community in their daily lives.
- Pastoral care: providing resources for nurture, growth in faith and practical support for the people of the church to support them in living out their Christian faith in their everyday lives. Providing also pastoral services such as Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, etc. to the local community and being available to support local people in their needs.
- Justice and care: ensuring the church is aware of and involved in issues local, national and international where we should be working for justice and providing support, care and help to those in need in our community and beyond.
- Administration: providing proper supervision and control over our resources, financial and material. This includes providing suitable resources for our various ministry areas as well as planned care of our buildings to ensure that they are properly equipped, conserved and maintained for our current use and developed for the future.

### **Achievements and performance:**

**PCC:** PCC met on six occasions during the year to consider reports from the various Ministry Area Co-ordinators on the ongoing life of the church.

**Deanery Synod:** The Synod provides an important link between the PCC and the wider structures of the church. Three meetings were held during the year and all were well attended.

**Worship and Prayer:** The PCC offers a wide variety of worship services and prayer opportunities over the course of the year that our community finds beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. Our Sunday morning service caters for all ages and is accessible to visitors. On one Sunday in the month most of the children leave for part of the service for teaching and worship appropriate to their age groups but a family style 'Worship Together' service is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday morning of every month in which the whole family worships together and young people are positively included and involved.

Baptisms are held on Sunday mornings as part of our main service and we welcome many visitors and extended family members on these occasions.

This year saw a Confirmation service held in February at which two adults and one under eighteen year old were Confirmed by the bishop of Stafford. We also linked with the URC church locally to share in ministry to young people and share a joint Youth Alpha course which was well received.

Our Christmas Eve crib service was well attended and provided worship in a more informal setting.

**Evangelism and Outreach:** Throughout the year we planned and held a number of activities and events for the community.

We have a weekly Bible study, 'Ignite,' which is offered as a discipleship course. We average 10 members per session.

We offer a monthly youth group for those in school year 6 and above. We partner with Chesterton URC in this venture, attracting 6-8 young people every month. The evening involves food, craft, opportunities for discussion, games and a time of worship. Our young people enjoy this and see this as their monthly church service.

Our twice monthly 'Crafty Yarners' craft group attracts around ten people who enjoy a time of fellowship and crafting together.

There is a monthly men's breakfast group and this has led to a monthly ladies 'Gather' group forming in October. This has been very well received and both groups have attracted visitors from outside the usual church congregations.

**Pastoral care:** This is generally provided by the incumbent, working alongside others from the congregation. We keep in regular touch with the sick and the housebound, bringing communion at home.

We have around 9 church funerals a year, 2-3 weddings and approximately 10 baptisms.

**Financial review:** Please see the accounts that are attached. PCC have an agreed policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds of an average three months committed unrestricted giving to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time; this is equivalent to approximately £12,000.

**Administrative Information:** Holy Trinity Church is situated in Church Street, Chesterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs. It is part of the Diocese of Lichfield within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: The Vicarage, Church Street, Chesterton ST5 7HJ.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members are:

Incumbent: Rev. James Rosie

Churchwarden: Susan Dean (also Deanery Synod member)

Churchwarden: David Hollingsworth

PCC Secretary: Alison Towle (also Deanery Synod member)

Treasurer (Co-opted): Diane Williams

Elected member: Wendy Blantford

Elected member: Philip Burgess

Elected member: Fiona Hollingsworth

Elected member: John Malkin

Elected member: Sally Malkin

Elected member: Helen Morris

Elected member: Margaret Nixon

Elected member: Rebecca Rosie

**Holy Trinity Church, Chesterton****Receipts & Payments Account for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

	£	£
Plate Collections		5027.19
Envelopes		6528.00
Direct Contributions		21380.00
Sundry Other Donations		<u>1108.52</u>
		34043.71
Hall Hire	2740.00	
Banns & Funerals	2429.00	
Other Functions	<u>1037.37</u>	<u>6197.37</u>
		40241.08
HMRC Gift Aid		<u>6095.23</u>
		46336.31
Expenditure:		
Diocese	17644.00	
Clergy Expenses	675.30	
Verger	220.00	
Repairs & Maintenance	924.31	
Heating, Lighting & Water	10270.12	
Licences & Insurances	3952.07	
Copier & Stationery Costs	219.51	
Cleaning Costs	1541.62	
Website Maintenance	485.79	
Bank Charges	194.09	
Candles, Flowers & Miscellaneous	<u>224.98</u>	<u>36351.79</u>
		9984.52
Charity Giving		<u>4899.12</u>
		5085.40
Bank Interest Received		<u>314.79</u>
<u>Surplus of Income over Expenditure for the Year</u>		<u>5400.19</u>

The foregoing account has been prepared in accordance with the records presented & examined, bank statement & explanations given.

Kevin J Burke FCCA  
Chartered Certified Accountant  
30<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Holy Trinity Church, Chesterton.**

**To the trustees.**

**Notes Re: accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

A balance sheet has not been prepared & cannot meaningfully be prepared without preparing accounts for the earlier years. At the level of turnover a balance sheet does not appear to be a requirement of charitable, legal or diocesan necessity.

I will need to do some work to establish the position regarding restricted funds particularly in relation to the historic position. I have written to the Charity Commission to establish what may be needed to bring everything up to date including this aspect. If necessary I will advise further when a reply has been received.

Charity giving has included £860 to each of the following.

Action for Children

Care for the Family

Compassion

Macari Foundation

Newcastle-under-Lyme Foodbank

In my examination of the records presented I can confirm that I have found nothing untoward & have been satisfied with such as has been presented to me & explanations given.

Bank balances at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Current Account	£17729.02
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Deposit Account	£15977.18
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At the last valuation the land & buildings amounted to £285,000.