

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JAMES THE GREAT, AUDLEY IN THE DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD

England & Wales · Charity number 1134853

Details

Other names ST JAMES' PCC, AUDLEY

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-03-11

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Audley Parish Office
14-16 Church Street
Audley
Stoke-On-Trent
ST7 8DE

Phone 01782722146

Email office@jmj.org.uk

Website www.jmj.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: We are committed to proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord through teaching the Bible. Public worship is open to all. Pastoral work includes visiting the sick and bereaved and helping couples prepare for weddings and baptisms. We run Christian activities for children and young people, and courses for those investigating the Christian faith. We support those promoting the gospel in the UK and overseas.

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£104,291	£99,184	-	-
2023-12-31	£100,164	£97,304	-	-
2022-12-31	£167,077	£195,634	-	-
2021-12-31	£93,092	£128,161	-	-
2020-12-31	£104,838	£91,261	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Richard John Reeve	Chair	2025-09-03
David Thorley		2025-01-20
Diana Elizabeth Thorley		2025-01-20
Donna Marjorie Wilcox BA NNEB		2020-10-18
Dr JANICE MARGARET EATOUGH		2017-05-11
Dr JONATHAN PAUL EATOUGH		2024-04-21
Ian Massey		2025-01-20
JOSIE KNIGHT		2018-04-29
Kerry Jayne Boughey		2024-04-21
Paivi Lyidia Pratt		2026-04-26
SHAYNE VICTOR CHARLES TRINDER		2022-04-10
Susan Taylor		2021-04-21

Accounts



**The Parish of St James the Great, Audley
Diocese of Lichfield**

Address for correspondence

The Benefice Office, 14 Church Street, Audley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 8DE

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements**

of the Parochial Church Council

**For the year ended
31st December 2024**

Vicar
Vacancy

Bankers:
National Westminster Bank
Crewe (A) Branch
The Square, Crewe

Independent examiner:
Kathleen Lovatt
10 Sadlers Walk
Burslem
Stoke-on-Trent
ST6 4GT

*Website: www.jmj.org.uk/
The Parochial Church Council is a registered charity no: 1134853*

Aim and Purpose

St James Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent (currently in vacancy), in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building and the Church Hall on Church Street, Audley.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to prayer and the promotion of the gospel of Jesus Christ, encouraging as many people as possible to put their faith in Jesus, and equipping them to live out that faith day by day.

When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and particularly the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We meet together at our worship services, for courses, and in small groups to hear the Bible taught and to pray. Our services and groups are open to all.

For the pre-school children we run a mother and toddler group.

Pastoral work includes visiting the sick and bereaved and helping couples prepare for marriage and baptisms.

We support those promoting the gospel in the UK and overseas.

To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of both the Church and the Hall.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

For the whole of 2024 we have been in vacancy with no Vicar. We have been able to maintain our regular pattern of worship through the support of local clergy and a dedicated team who lead services and preach including Rev Stephen Pratt, and army chaplain and member of our congregation.

There are two services held on a Sunday with different styles to meet the needs of different people across our community. All are welcome at either service. The 9.00 service is a small, friendly and reflective service and uses the Book of Common Prayer. The 10.30 Family Service is livelier and more contemporary. We enjoy being a church family meeting together around God's Word to pray and worship. Our worship includes different types of music (from traditional hymns to more modern choruses and songs). About once a month we hold an All-Age Service. At both the 9.00 and 10.30 services we listen to the Bible being read and preached, and, for those who would like to, there's a chance to join in saying a statement of faith together. Once a month at each service we celebrate Holy Communion together. Each Friday morning, a group led by staff and congregation members meets for an online Morning prayer service with time to sing, pray, hear the Bible read and taught, and to share news and

encouragements. Many of the congregation take part in helping the service to run smoothly, such as welcomers and stewards, musicians, the tech team to operate a PowerPoint that is shown on a big screen, and coffee makers to enable us to share fellowship afterwards in the church hall. There is a rota for people to lead us in prayer, lead us in the bible readings.

At the APCM in April 2024 we had 118 parishioners on the Church electoral roll.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Through this year, we have celebrated 2 baptisms, 1 wedding and led 10 funerals and 3 interment of ashes.

Community Events



We feel the privilege and responsibility of our role in the community. We were delighted that again this year we were able to host the Remembrance Day service with Audley Methodist Church and Audley Brass Band and the uniformed organisations. Our annual Christmas Carol Service was well attended by the village. We were fortunate enough to be able to organise a gospel concert with The Jake Leg Jug Band playing for us and Luke Cawley speaking. This was well attended by people of the village and the feedback was encouraging.

At Easter we held a Maundy Thursday supper and communion, which is a bring-and-share meal with all three churches in the benefice invited. We did a walk of witness from the church hall to the top of the village where we joined with the local Methodist church in an open-air service on Good Friday.

At harvest we collected a substantial amount of non-perishable food which was taken to the local foodbank. The flowers from church were taken out to some of the housebound in the village.

On Christmas eve, the midnight communion service was a joint service for the village and was well attended. All the services over Christmas were covered despite currently not having a vicar, made possible by the fact that we have an army chaplain in our congregation who gave communion. The crib service was moved from Christmas Eve to the Thursday before Christmas during the Tots regular meeting time. This was successful in that all 26+ children and 30+ adults attended and found it uplifting.

Monthly services in the local nursing homes are at present not happening, but we hope to reinstate this in 2025 if there are enough people to do this. A small group of residents from Wilbraham House attend the coffee morning each week in the church hall due to its proximity to the home.



Courses

Although we have not run any enquirers courses this year for those wanting to learn more about the Christian faith, there will be opportunities early in the 2025. These will be very much aimed at non-church folk and is very low-key and informal.

Small Groups

Our small groups this year have continued to meet online and in person to pray together, study the Bible, and share the joys and pressures of life together.

Staffing

We are very grateful for the work of Mrs Donna Wilcox as Benefice administrator.

We are also very grateful for Mrs Sarah Salmon who had responsibility for keeping the church hall and church building clean week-to-week. Sadly, we had the tragic news that she had passed away after a very brief illness in November and so until a new cleaner is appointed a few volunteers have taken on that role between them.

This year without a vicar has allowed the Diocese to consider pastoral reorganisation. Plans are in place to move from the current 3 parish with Alsagers Bank and Talke, to a 2 parish benefice. Advertisements for a new vicar will hopefully go out in early 2025.

Children and Young People

We are delighted that St James Tots, our parent and toddler group which meets each week, is thriving and is always very well attended. Very few of the families who come along are regular worshippers at St James and it is therefore of benefit to many outside our Church family. There is a Christian message given each week either in the form of stories or songs. This group is flourishing, and all mums and toddlers came to the crib service in church during their last meeting of the year.



St James Tots at the Crib Service, Dec 2024

Other Activities

There is a healthy and active Mothers Union affiliated to St James, who hold their regular monthly meetings in the Church Hall and a Friday morning coffee morning. We are grateful for their encouragement and support to more isolated members of the Church family and the financial gifts they have made to support the mission of the church and the upkeep of the hall.

At Harvest we now send all of our non-perishable food collected to the local food bank, and flowers are distributed among the housebound and sick in the village.

We also deliver handwritten Christmas cards for each of the residents in the two local care homes.

Deanery Synod

Three members of our PCC sit on the Newcastle Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC a link with the Churches around us, in the diocese as a whole and the Church of England nationally.

Church Buildings

Over the course of the year, the Church normally receives visits from local school children for special services and hosts the Village Service of Remembrance in November. We were grateful that Ravensmead School were able to visit for their Easter, harvest and Christmas services. A fitness class uses the Church Hall building during the week, and it is hired out for the occasional party. There has been ongoing refurbishment of the Church Hall including new fire doors. The Office is now much brighter and more welcoming after the Mothers Union arranged for the redecoration of this after water damage.

Mission and Evangelism

We continue to prayerfully and financially support those sharing the gospel at home and overseas. We maintain active links with mission partners in Crosslinks, Chrysolis, UCCF and UFM as they work in Africa, Eastern Europe and the UK. Additionally, we support Relume who work with women involved in the sex industry in Stoke and have links with Newcastle Foodbank.

Pastoral Care

Members of the church family try to visit the sick and bereaved regularly. This has become more difficult not having a vicar or curate in post. Stephen Pratt has taken communion out on one or two occasions as his time allowed. Mothers Union have a good grasp of the very elderly in the village and so use their pastoral gifts in that way.

Ecumenical relationships

Many of us enjoy close personal friendships with members of Audley Methodist Church, and the church warden and minister have met to plan and pray together. In January 2018, the Bishop of Lichfield agreed to the request made to him by St James PCC for extended episcopal oversight from the Bishop of Maidstone. In January 2023 the PCC re-affirmed this request and now receive extended episcopal oversight from the Bishop of Maidstone's successor, the Bishop of Ebbsfleet.

Confirmation and Ordination

There have been no confirmations this year.

Financial Review

Overview

The total income for the year was a little over £104,000 and total expenditure just under £99,200.

Total cash funds at the year-end were £57,074 compared with £51,966 at the end of 2023. Unrestricted funds accounted for £39,296 compared with £35,261 in 2023, and the total of Restricted Funds has risen slightly from £16,703 to £17,778.

We are making regular repayments of the Diocesan loan which was taken out to fund the repairs to the Church Hall and following a Gift Day to outstanding capital has reduced from £13,714 to £6,241.

For the whole of 2024 we have been without full time clergy. For many years the Christian Workers Trust (CWT) has employed a Benefice Administrator for the benefit of the Benefice. In April 2024 this post was transferred to St James PCC under TUPE and the PCC now receive a monthly grant from the CWT to cover all the administrator employment expenses.

Unrestricted Funds

Income to Unrestricted Funds totalled £92,667. As in previous years most of our income comes from the regular generous gifts of the Church family whether through standing order or envelopes placed in the offering on a Sunday. We encourage those who are able, to Gift Aid their giving and in total this year we were able to reclaim £12,370 from HMRC on these gifts and through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme.

Mother's Union now regularly hire the Church Hall for their activities in line with our objectives, and the final work on the hall is close to completion, so we hope to be able to get more regular hirings. Our tenant in the Hall flat moved out in October. There is some significant work required to update the flat and so there are no immediate plans to relet it until this can be completed.

In other income we received a little over £4,600 in refunds on the Church and Hall water bills after we challenged a significant increase in the Church water rates, and in doing so we discovered we were also entitled to reduced rates on the Hall. This was backdated over several years.

The largest single regular expense from unrestricted funds remains the Common Fund (previously known as the Parish Share) paid to Lichfield Diocese. In response to decisions taken in General Synod which we believe depart from the biblical and historic Anglican Christian doctrine, and with the support of our Bishops, the PCC now pay this through the Ephesian Fund. The *fabric fund* monies have been used to install fire doors in the Hall as planned

In addition to the costs of running the Church and maintaining our buildings, we have continued financial support of Christian organisations, and our Mission partners working locally, nationally, in Europe, and in Africa. Details can be found at the end of the report.

Staff salaries cover our Administrator (from April) and our cleaner (until November).

As we are part of a benefice, there are some expenses which are shared across the 3 parishes. As the largest parish, St James took responsibility for 75% of these costs with the other 25% shared between St Martin's and St John's. For administrative purposes, St James usually pays the full amount of expenses (which therefore appear as a payment in our accounts) and then reclaims the 25% from the other parishes on a regular basis.

The PCC were not charged fees for the Jake Leg Band due to the generosity of folk within the Church family, and to whom we extend our thanks.

We also express our thanks to Mothers' Union who arranged for the redecoration of the Church Office and the exterior paintwork of the Church Hall on Church Street.

Restricted Funds

Total income to our restricted funds this year was £11,499 with total payments of £6,407.

Following the major works of the last few years the *Church Hall fund* has had a quieter year with monies retained in it to cover the final fees due on final sign-off of the building works. We now receive some regular gifts to this fund.

The *CYP fund* has been used to support the Children's and young people's work. Any costs of this ministry are currently funded from unrestricted funds.

The *Flower fund* received gifts from the Church family to cover the Easter and Harvest flowers.

From time-to-time various needs and opportunities to provide financial support to folk and organisations involved in Christian service and mission arise, which the PCC commend to the Church family. Where a specific offering is taken, it is recorded in the *PCC Special Offerings Fund* so that it is easily identified for that purpose. The nature of this fund is that over the course of a year money will pass through it but that its opening and closing balance should be zero. This year our Gift Day offerings were used to pay off part of the capital on the LDBF loan for the Church Hall refurbishments.

The *Refurbishment fund* restricted fund which receives regular donations and covers refurbishment, non-routine maintenance, and upkeep of the main Church building. This year's expenditure included replacing some of the lighting in the chancel.

St James Tots Fund continues to thrive and received generous gifts from Mothers' Union and other individuals this year in addition to weekly subscriptions. Expenditure included a summer trip, and Christmas and Easter gifts and activities.

The *Vacancy Support Fund* to hold funds provided by the Diocese to cover some of the expenses incurred in our time without an incumbent.

The *Tower Fund* bequest continues to cover the cost of routine maintenance for the Church clock.

The *Weekend Away Fund* was used to fund our Away Day in October.

The *Church Building Fund Scheme* and the *Interior Decorating Scheme* are funds held with Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance for the Church building quinquennial report and decoration of the Vicarage respectively.

Plans for Future Periods

As part of the appointment process for a new vicar, there will be some reorganisation of the benefice, and over the next few years we anticipate we will need to pay an increased contribution to the Common Fund. We are also aware that without new folk becoming part of our Church family and with an aging congregation, our income may fall. Nevertheless, it has been our experience over the last few years that even when we have had unexpected change in income, we have still been able to meet our expenditure.

Reserves Policy

We do not believe that it is desirable to build up large reserves. However, we recognise that it is prudent to establish reserve funds sufficient to enable us to survive a period of unexpected expenditure or sudden loss of income.

We are also aware that with a Church building and Hall as old as ours, we need to be prepared for unexpected expenses. The Church Refurbishment and Hall Restricted Funds are available to help cover such unexpected expenditure, but additional funds may be required.

It is the policy of the PCC to hold 3 months general running costs (including staff salaries covered by a grant) in reserve and an additional £10,000 to cover unexpected expenditure on our buildings.

At present the general fund has sufficient funds to meet this reserve (£33,750). The PCC will review the small surplus to determine how this might best be used.

Structure, Governance and Management

St James is part of a benefice with St Martins Talke and St Johns Alsagers Bank which was established in August 2015.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St James, the membership of the PCC comprises the incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to Deanery Synod and General Synod and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll and encouraged to consider standing 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 spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average attendance of 69%. The standing committee, comprising the incumbent, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and a representative of the PCC also meets six times a year between full PCC meetings to consider urgent business.

Phil Wootton acts as our architect has been employed by the PCC for the Hall roof project.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

PCC Membership

Ex-Officio members

Mrs Josie Knight Churchwarden

Co-opted

Dr Janice Eatough Hon Treasurer / Acting Chair

Deanery Synod Representatives elected APCM 2023 for 3 years

Dr Jonathan Eatough (Elected APCM 2024 following vacancy)

Mr John Slade

Mr Mark Smith

Resigned at APCM 2024

Mrs Donna Wilcox

Elected Members

Mrs Kerry Boughey

Elected APCM 2024

Mrs Jane Brant

Elected November 2023 resigned 18/11/24

Dr Chik Kaw Tan

Elected APCM 2023 resigned 22/08/24

Mrs Susan Taylor

Elected APCM 2024

Mr Shayne Trinder

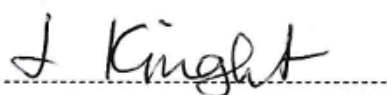
Elected APCM 2022

Mr Phil Wootton

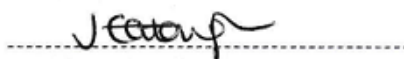
Elected APCM 2019 resigned 09/09/24

PCC minute-taker: Ann McCabe

Approved by the PCC on 17th March 2025 and signed on its behalf



Mrs Josie Knight (Warden)



Dr Janice Eatough (Acting Chair)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Parish of Saint James, Audley

On accounts for the year ended

2024

Charity no
(if any)

1134853

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2024**.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

15 March 2025

Name:

Kathleen Marie Lovatt

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

AATQB

Address:

10 Sadlers Walk

Burslem, Stoke On Trent, Staffordshire, England

ST6 4GT

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Financial Statements

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	£78,146	—	£10,502	—	£88,648	£87,726
Income from charitable activities	£5,368	—	£790	—	£6,158	£4,422
Other trading activities	£5,468	—	—	—	£5,468	£3,344
Investments	£3,157	—	£207	—	£3,365	£3,779
Other income	£653	—	—	—	£653	£893
Total receipts	£92,792	—	£11,499	—	£104,291	£100,164
Payments						
Raising funds	£14	—	—	—	£14	£20
Expenditure on charitable activities	£86,568	£7,509	£5,093	—	£99,170	£97,285
Total payments	£86,583	£7,509	£5,093	—	£99,184	£97,305
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	£6,209	(£7,509)	£6,407	—	£5,107	£2,859
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	£5,333	—	—	—	£5,333	£4,682
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	(£5,333)	—	(£5,333)	(£4,682)
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains / losses	£11,542	(£7,509)	£1,074	—	£5,107	£2,859
Net movement in funds	£11,542	(£7,509)	£1,074	—	£5,107	£2,859
All assets at 01 January 2024	£27,754	£7,509	£16,704	—	£51,966	£49,107
All assets at 31 December 2024	£39,296	—	£17,778	—	£57,074	£51,966
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	£39,296	—	—	—	£39,296	£27,754
Designated						
Fabric Projects	—	—	—	—	—	£7,509
Restricted						
Children and Young People's Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Building Fund Scheme	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Hall	—	—	£4,104	—	£4,104	£5,065
Interior Decorating Scheme	—	—	£586	—	£586	£586
Refurbishment	—	—	£11,259	—	£11,259	£8,882
St James Tots	—	—	£430	—	£430	£122
Tower Fund	—	—	£503	—	£503	£683
Vacancy Support Fund	—	—	£120	—	£120	£438
Weekend away	—	—	£777	—	£777	£927

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
Bank current and reserve account -	£41,337	—	£17,234	—	£58,572	£62,568
Interior Decorating Scheme -	—	—	£586	—	£586	£586
Church Building Fund Scheme -						
Cash in hand -	£50	—	£50	—	£100	£100
Totals	£41,387	—	£17,870	—	£59,258	£63,254
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	£5,697	—	£449	—	£6,146	£4,564
Totals	£5,697	—	£449	—	£6,146	£4,564
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	£541	—	£541	£300
Totals	—	—	£541	—	£541	£300
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year						
Loans received -	£6,241	—	—	—	£6,241	£13,714
Totals	£6,241	—	—	—	£6,241	£13,714
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Accounts Payable -	£1,548	—	—	—	£1,548	£1,838
Totals	£1,548	—	—	—	£1,548	£1,838
Grand total	£39,296	—	£17,778	—	£57,074	£51,966

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Closing
General fund					
Unrestricted					
Sub-total for General	£27,754	£92,792	£86,583	£5,333	£39,296
	£27,754	£92,792	£86,867	£5,333	£39,296
Fabric Projects					
Designated					
Sub-total for FabProj	£7,509	—	£7,509	—	—
	£7,509	—	£7,509	—	—
Church Hall					
Restricted	£5,065	£1,795	£2,757	—	£4,104
Sub-total for Hall	£5,065	£1,795	£2,757	—	£4,104
Children and Young People					
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for CYP	—	—	—	—	—
Flower					
Restricted	—	£94	£94	—	—
Sub-total for Flower	—	£94	£94	—	—
PCC Special Offering					
Restricted	—	£5,188	—	(£5,188)	—
Sub-total for PCCSpO	—	£5,188	—	(£5,188)	—
Refurbishment					
Restricted	£8,882	£2,575	£199	—	£11,259
Sub-total for Refurb	£8,882	£2,575	£199	—	£11,259
St James Tots					
Restricted	£122	£1,812	£1,359	(£145)	£430
Sub-total for Tots	£122	£1,812	£1,359	(£145)	£430
Tower Fund					
Restricted	£683	£36	£216	—	£503
Sub-total for Tower	£683	£36	£216	—	£503
Vacancy Support Fund					
Restricted	£438	—	£318	—	£120
Sub-total for VSF	£438	—	£318	—	£120
Weekend away					
Restricted	£927	—	£150	—	£777
Sub-total for WEaway	£927	—	£150	—	£777
Church Building Fund Scheme					
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for CBFS	—	—	—	—	—
Interior decorating Scheme					
Restricted	£586	—	—	—	£586
Sub-total for IDS	£586	—	—	—	£586
Grand total	£51,966	£104,291	£99,184	—	£57,074

Analysis of receipts and payments

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies						
Planned Giving - Bank (Gift Aid)	£45,772	—	£2,810	—	£48,582	£51,517
Planned Giving - envelopes (GA/GASDS)	£2,215	—	—	—	£2,215	£1,945
Planned Giving - Bank (no Gift Aid)	£2,110	—	£150	—	£2,260	£4,680
Planned Giving - envelopes (no GA/GASDS)	£750	—	—	—	£750	£435
Loose plate collections (GA & GASDS)	£1,481	—	—	—	£1,481	£1,091
Loose plate collections (no GA/GASDS)	£190	—	—	—	£190	£390
Gift days	—	—	£4,235	—	£4,235	£7,156
Other gifts	£116	—	£700	—	£816	£1,765
One-off Tax efficient gifts	£101	—	£332	—	£433	£3,239
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	£11,443	—	£1,682	—	£13,125	£13,483
Tax recoverable on GASDS	£927	—	£57	—	£984	£805
Legacies	—	—	£500	—	£500	—
Recurring grants	£12,790	—	—	—	£12,790	—
Non-recurring one-off grants	£250	—	£36	—	£286	£1,220
Total	£78,146	—	£10,502	—	£88,648	£87,726
Income from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	£1,884	—	—	—	£1,884	£3,010
Refreshments	£292	—	—	—	£292	£286
Bookstall sales	£117	—	£10	—	£127	£279
Church hall lettings - objectives	£1,725	—	—	—	£1,725	£338
Events income	£1,351	—	£780	—	£2,131	£509
Total	£5,368	—	£790	—	£6,158	£4,422
Other trading activities						
Church hall lettings - fund-raising	£827	—	—	—	£827	£1,303
Other Income	£4,642	—	—	—	£4,642	£2,041
Total	£5,468	—	—	—	£5,468	£3,344
Investments						
Bank and building society interest	£723	—	£207	—	£930	£779
Rent from flat	£2,434	—	—	—	£2,434	£3,000
Total	£3,157	—	£207	—	£3,365	£3,779
Other income						
Benefice expenses	£653	—	—	—	£653	£893
Total	£653	—	—	—	£653	£893
INCOME TOTAL	£92,792	—	£11,499	—	£104,291	£100,164

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds

Costs of giving	£7	—	—	—	£7	£7
Other fundraising costs	£7	—	—	—	£7	£13
Total	£14	—	—	—	£14	£20

Expenditure on charitable activities

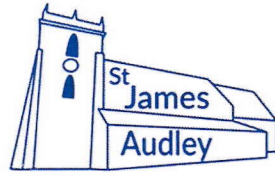
Regular Mission Giving	£9,000	—	—	—	£9,000	£9,000
One-off Mission Giving	—	—	—	—	—	£954
Other Giving	£100	—	—	—	£100	—
Common Fund (Parish Share)	£33,843	—	—	—	£33,843	£32,231
Common Fund Additional	—	—	—	—	—	£3,019
Payments						
Staff salaries	£17,567	—	—	—	£17,567	£5,814
Working expenses of incumbent	—	—	—	—	—	£124
Working expenses Curate	—	—	—	—	—	£352
Staff courses and training	—	—	—	—	—	£288
Training and outreach - materials	£96	—	£540	—	£635	£513
Training and outreach - catering	—	—	£410	—	£410	£303
Training and outreach - speaker	£100	—	£75	—	£175	£114
Training and outreach - accommodation	—	—	£75	—	£75	—
Training and outreach -subsidised places	—	—	£200	—	£200	—
Church running - insurance	£3,943	—	—	—	£3,943	£3,749
Church office - telephone	£526	—	—	—	£526	£500
Church - purchase of equipment	£140	—	£18	—	£158	£2,222
Church maintenance	£1,793	—	£397	—	£2,190	£7,022
Upkeep of services	£307	—	£96	—	£403	£406
Administration	£2,172	—	—	—	£2,172	£2,648
Visiting preachers	£632	—	£120	—	£752	£280
Other Running Costs	£992	—	—	—	£992	£181
Church utilities - electric	£2,441	—	—	—	£2,441	£1,631
Church utilities - gas	£3,081	—	—	—	£3,081	£5,890
Church utilities- water	£462	—	—	—	£462	£416
Catering expenses	£174	—	—	—	£174	£358
Bookstall costs	£63	—	—	—	£63	£237
Hall running - purchase of equipment	£58	—	£232	—	£290	£864
Hall utilities - electricity	£1,093	—	—	—	£1,093	£949
Hall utilities - gas	£1,533	—	—	—	£1,533	£1,801
Hall insurance	£1,967	—	—	—	£1,967	£1,875
Hall maintenance	£1,824	—	£1,635	—	£3,459	£2,198
Hall utilities - water	(£462)	—	—	—	(£462)	£404
Flat/Vicarage utilities	£194	—	£195	—	£390	—
Governance costs - examination fee	£150	—	—	—	£150	£150
Hall + major repairs - structure	£258	£385	—	—	£643	£696
Hall + major repairs - installation	£2,521	£7,124	£1,100	—	£10,745	—
Hall + decorating	—	—	—	—	—	£560
Other PCC property upkeep	—	—	—	—	—	£9,536
Total	£86,568	£7,509	£5,093	—	£99,170	£97,285
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	£86,583	£7,509	£5,093	—	£99,184	£97,305
GRAND TOTAL	£6,209	(£7,509)	£6,407	—	£5,107	£2,859

MISSION AND OTHER GIVING

Mission Giving - Regular	This Year	Last Year
Chrysolis (Luke Cawley)	£ 1,980	£ 1,980
Crosslinks (DeRoemers)	£ 1,980	£ 1,980
Evangelical Alliance	£ 100	£ 100
North West Gospel Partnership	£ 100	£ 100
UCCF (Matthew Leung)	£ 1,200	£ 1,200
UFM (Chelashaws)	£ 2,500	£ 2,500
Relume (formally known as Yasha)	£ 1,140	£ 1,140
total	£ 9,000	£ 9,000
 Mission Giving - Special Offerings		
Chelashaw family	£ -	£ 954
total	£ -	£ 954
 Other Giving		
St James Churchyard Volunteers	£ 100	£ -
total	£ 100	£ -

(There may be minor rounding discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown)

Accounts



The Parish of St James the Great, Audley Diocese of Lichfield

Address for correspondence

The Benefice Office, 14 Church Street, Audley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 8DE

Annual Report and Financial Statements

of the Parochial Church Council

**For the year ended
31st December 2023**

Vicar

The Reverend Simon Tomkins
(to September 2023)

Vacancy
(from October 2023)

Bankers:

National Westminster Bank
Crewe (A) Branch
The Square, Crewe

Independent examiner:

Mrs. Kathy Lovatt
2 Colenso Way
Bradwell
Newcastle under Lyme
ST5 8SJ

Website: www.jmj.org.uk/

The Parochial Church Council is a registered charity no: 1134853

Aim and Purpose

St James Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Simon Tomkins, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building and the Church Hall on Church Street, Audley.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to prayer and the promotion of the gospel of Jesus Christ, encouraging as many people as possible to put their faith in Jesus, and equipping them to live out that faith day by day.

When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and particularly the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We meet together at our worship services, for courses, and in small groups to hear the Bible taught and to pray. Our services and groups are open to all.

We run Christian activities for children and young people and are involved in outreach work in local schools. For the pre-school children we run a mother and toddler group.

Pastoral work includes visiting the sick and bereaved and helping couples prepare for marriage and baptisms.

We support those promoting the gospel in the UK and overseas.

To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of both the Church and the Hall.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Under normal circumstances, there are two services held on a Sunday with different styles to meet the needs of different people across our community. All are welcome at either service. The 9.00 service is a small, friendly and reflective service and uses the Book of Common Prayer. The 10.30 Family Service is livelier. We enjoy being a church family meeting together around God's Word to pray and worship. There's a huge range of ages (from tiny to very senior) and different types of music (from traditional hymns to more modern choruses and songs). There's a crèche for little ones and for much of the year our Sunday school, The Mix, ran for children in primary school through to Year 9. Unfortunately following the departure of our Youth and Families Minister this has lapsed, but we hope as more children come to church, we can start this up again. About once a month we hold an All-Age Service. At both the 9.00 and 10.30 services we listen to the Bible being read and preached, and, for those who would like to, there's a chance to join in saying a statement of faith together. Once a month at each service we celebrate Holy Communion together. Each weekday morning, a group led by staff and congregation members meets for an online Morning prayer service with time to sing, pray, hear the Bible read and taught, and to share news and encouragements. Many of the congregation take part in helping the service to run smoothly,

such as welcomers and stewards, musicians, the tech team to operate a PowerPoint that is shown on a big screen, and coffee makers to enable us to share fellowship afterwards in the church hall.

At the APCM in April 2023 we had 122 parishioners on the Church electoral roll.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Through this year, we have celebrated 3 baptisms, 4 thanksgiving services and 1 wedding and 1 wedding renewal of vows. We have also led 12 funerals and 1 interment of ashes.

Community Events

We feel the privilege and responsibility of our role in the community. We were delighted that again this year we were able to host the Remembrance Day service with Audley Methodist Church and Audley Brass Band and the uniformed organisations. Our annual Christmas Carol Service was well attended by the village.

At harvest we collected a substantial amount of non-perishable food which was taken to the local foodbank. The flowers from church were taken out to the housebound in the village.

We held our biennial Christmas tree festival with over thirty-five village groups taking part. We were grateful to Mothers Union for their help organising this. Each group provided a tree on a theme of their choice, and St James provided a prayer tree for anyone to add their prayers; these prayers were then used at a prayer meeting, and it was quite a moving experience. Over six hundred people came through the doors during the week that it was open. This number included many children who attended a singalong service on the Thursday evening. Most who attended were not church family and it was good to include the local scouts' groups to hand out awards and to enrol new cubs and a new leader.

On Christmas eve, the midnight communion service was a joint service for the village and was. All the services over Christmas were covered despite currently not having a vicar.

Monthly services in the local nursing homes are at present not happening, but we hope to reinstate this in 2024 if there are enough people to do this.

Courses

We have continued to run relaxed and friendly courses for those investigating the Christian faith.

Small Groups

Our small groups this year have continued to meet online and in person to pray together, study the Bible, and share the joys and pressures of life together.

Staffing

This year has been a year of change in the staffing. Revd Simon Tomkins served as our Vicar until September 2023 when he left the Church of England to take up a new role within a Christian Youth Holidays ministry. We are grateful for his faithful biblical preaching and pastoral care over the last 7 years.

Revd Scott Seivewright who came as out Youth and Families minister in 2018 and more latterly has been our curate, also left Audley and the Church of England in September to take up a position as a pastor in an independent evangelical church in Yorkshire.

We miss Simon, Scott and their families and wish them well in their new ministries.

We are very grateful for the work of Mrs Donna Wilcox as Benefice administrator.

We are also very grateful for Mrs Mary-Ellen Williams who had responsibility for keeping the church hall and church building clean week-to-week. She had to finish due to family commitments and was replaced by Mrs Sarah Salmon.

Children and Young People

In addition to our children's groups on a Sunday morning, we had an evening group for young people at Secondary school. This is paused for now until we can reinstate hopefully next year.

We were delighted that St James Tots, our parent and toddler group which meets each week, was able to restart after a longer break than planned for Covid. Very few of the families who come along are regular worshippers at St James and it is therefore of benefit to many outside our Church family. This group is flourishing, and all mums and toddlers came to the crib service in church during their last meeting of the year.

During the course of the year, our Vicar and Youth and Families Minister have had the opportunity to go into our local schools to lead assemblies and support teaching staff.

Other Activities

There is a healthy and active Mothers Union affiliated to St James, who hold their regular meetings in the Church Hall and Friday morning coffee in the Pensioners Hall. We are grateful for their encouragement and support to more isolated members of the Church family and the financial gifts they have made to support the mission of the church.

For details of other groups and activities, please see the document the PCC compiles for the APCM and is available through the Benefice office.

Synod

Three members of our PCC sit on the Newcastle Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC a link with the Churches around us, in the diocese as a whole and the Church of England nationally.

Church Buildings

Over the course of the year, the Church normally receives visits from local school children for special services and hosts the Village Service of Remembrance in November. We were really grateful that Ravensmead School were able to visit for their Easter, harvest and Christmas services. In November, Audley Male Voice Choir held their Charity concert in the Church, supported by Audley Ladies Choir and kindly donated their proceeds to the PCC.

The church hall returned to action late 2022 and was fully redecorated and reopened by Spring 2023. As well as church activities and after service coffee, a fitness class has returned to using the building during the week.

Mission and Evangelism

We continue to prayerfully and financially support those sharing the gospel at home and overseas. We maintain active links with mission partners in Crosslinks, Chrysolis, UCCF and UFM as they work in Africa, Eastern Europe and the UK. Additionally, we support Relume who work with women involved in the sex industry in Stoke, and have links with Newcastle Foodbank.

Pastoral Care

The clergy and others in the church family try to visit the sick and bereaved regularly and try to take Communion to housebound who request it (particularly at Christmas and Easter). This has become more difficult not having a vicar or curate in post.

Ecumenical relationships

Many of us enjoy close personal friendships with members of Audley Methodist Church, and the vicar and minister have met to plan and pray together. In January 2018, the Bishop of Lichfield agreed to the request made to him by St James PCC for extended episcopal oversight from the Bishop of Maidstone. In January 2023 the PCC re-affirmed this request and now receive extended episcopal oversight from the Bishop of Maidstone's successor, the Bishop of Ebbsfleet.

Confirmation and Ordination

There have been no confirmations this year.

Financial Review

Overview

The total income for the year was a little over £100,000 and total expenditure just over £97,300.

Total cash funds at the year-end were £51,966 compared with £49,107 at the end of 2022. Unrestricted funds accounted for £35,261 compared with £30,074 in 2022, and the total of Restricted Funds has fallen from £19,031 to £16,703.

We have started to make regular repayments of the Diocesan loan which was taken out to fund the repairs to the Church Hall and £13,714 is still outstanding.

In line with good financial governance, this year we have combined closed three unused bank accounts, retaining our main current and reserve accounts.

Unrestricted Funds

Income to Unrestricted Funds totalled £92,667. As in previous years most of our income comes from the regular generous gifts of the Church family whether through standing order or envelopes placed in the offering on a Sunday. Decisions made in General Synod have resulted in some loss of income in the second half of the year as some of our Church family have left to join Churches outside the Church of England. We encourage those who are able

to Gift Aid their giving and in total this year we were able to reclaim £14,287 from HMRC on these gifts and through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme.

In July we held our annual Giving Review Day where those who consider St James their Church family had an opportunity to review their giving. We sought to raise £6000 in one-off gifts with the PCC agreeing to set aside the first £4,500 to ensure that we could honour our financial commitments to our Mission Partners for the second half of the year. Accordingly when £7,156 including reclaimed gift aid was generously given £4,500 was moved to the PCC Special Offerings fund and used to support our Mission Partners.

Although the take up of contactless giving continues to be slow the associated SumUp software has proved useful for sending invoices for hall hire and bookstall.

As we are part of a benefice, there are some expenses which are shared across the 3 parishes. As the largest parish, St James took responsibility for 75% of these costs with the other 25% shared between St Martin's and St John's. For administrative purposes, St James usually pays the full amount of expenses (which therefore appear as a payment in our accounts) and then reclaims the 25% from the other parishes on a regular basis.

The largest single regular expense from unrestricted funds remains the Common Fund (previously known as the Parish Share) paid to Lichfield Diocese. This year we have covered a quarter the Common Fund paid by our sister church St Martin's Talke, as we feel this more realistically reflects the ministry split of the Benefice. Other significant expenditure included further work on the Church flat including improving the heating and ventilation. The *fabric fund* monies have been set aside to complete the final works on the hall following the gift day in 2022.

In addition to the costs of running the Church and maintaining our buildings, we have continued financial support of Christian organisations, and our Mission partners working locally, nationally, in Europe, and in Africa. Details can be found at the end of the report.

Staff salaries cover our cleaner, as the salaries of our Youth and Families minister and Administrator are paid by the Christian Worker's Trust. Our Vicar's stipend and other associated employment costs are paid by the diocese, covered in part by our common share contributions.

Restricted Funds

Total income to our restricted funds this year was £7,496 with total payments of £14,274.

Following the major works of the last few years the *Church Hall fund* has had a quieter year with monies retained in it to cover the final fees due on final sign off of the building works.

The *CYP fund* has been used to support the Children's and young people's work. Future costs of this ministry are now funded from unrestricted funds.

The *Flower fund* received gifts from the Church family to cover the Easter and Harvest flowers.

From time to time various needs and opportunities to provide financial support to folk and organisations involved in Christian service and mission arise, which the PCC commend to the

Church family. Where a specific offering is taken, it is recorded in the *PCC Special Offerings Fund* so that it is easily identified for that purpose. The nature of this fund is that over the course of a year money will pass through it but that its opening and closing balance should be zero. This year offerings were made for additional support of our mission partners in Kenya, the Chelashaws. Following our gift day funds were also set aside to ensure we could honour our financial commitments to all our regular mission partners.

The *Refurbishment fund* restricted fund which receives regular donations and covers refurbishment, non-routine maintenance, and upkeep of the main Church building. This year's expenditure included significant repair work to the boiler and a quinquennial inspection.

We were delighted that St James Tots was able to relaunch this year. *St James Tots Fund* received very generous funding from Audley Parochial Council, Audley Community Gospel Choir and St James Mothers' Union to support them.

As we moved to an interregnum in October, the Diocese required that we set up a *Vacancy Support Fund* to hold funds provided by them to cover some of the expenses we will incur in our time without an incumbent.

The *Tower Fund* bequest continues to cover the cost of routine maintenance for the Church clock. This year we have also replaced the bell ropes with income from the bellringers being used to help cover the cost.

The *Weekend Away Fund* has had no activity this year.

The *Church Building Fund Scheme* and the *Interior Decorating Scheme* are funds held with Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance for the Church building quinquennial report and decoration of the Vicarage respectively.

Plans for Future Periods

Whilst recognising the financial pressures on both the PCC and the individuals who provide much of our income we are continuing to maintain a reserve above the recommended minimum of 3 months running costs of £20,000.

We are also aware that with a Church building as old as ours, we need to be prepared for unexpected expense and we believe it to be essential to build up a significant reserve in the Church Refurbishment Restricted Fund to cover such unexpected expenditure.

Reserves Policy

We do not believe that it is desirable to build up large reserves. However, we recognise that it is prudent to establish reserve funds sufficient to enable us to survive a period of unexpected expenditure or sudden loss of income.

It has therefore been the long-term objective of the PCC to build up a reserve of funding to permit operations to continue for 6 months following a total cessation of income. At current rates of expenditure, this requires a sum of approximately £40,000 in unrestricted funds. The six-month period is believed to be long enough for the PCC to manage the closure of our ministry in the parish, should this ever become necessary.

Structure, Governance and Management

St James is part of a benefice with St Martins Talke and St Johns Alsagers Bank which was established in August 2015.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St James, the membership of the PCC comprises the incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to Deanery Synod and General Synod and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll and encouraged to consider standing 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 spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average attendance of 77%. The standing committee, comprising the incumbent, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and a representative of the PCC also meets six times a year between full PCC meetings to consider urgent business.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

PCC Membership

Ex-Officio members

Rev Simon Tomkins	Vicar until September 2023
Rev Scott Seivewright,	Curate until September 2023
Mr Malcolm Stoves	Churchwarden
Mrs Josie Knight	Churchwarden elected APCM 2023
Dr Janice Eatough	Hon Treasurer

Deanery Synod Representatives elected APCM 2023 for 3 years

Mr John Slade
Mr Mark Smith
Mrs Donna Wilcox

Elected Members

Mrs Jane Brant	Elected November 2023
Mr Gerry Harvey	Elected APCM 2020
Mrs Josie Knight	Until APCM 2023
Mr John Maher	Elected APCM 2022 resigned October 2023
Mrs Anu Noble	Elected APCM 2022 resigned March 2023
Mrs Ruth Smith	Elected APCM 2023 resigned November 2023
Mr Stefan Spain	Elected APCM 2021
Dr Chik Kaw Tan	Elected APCM 2023
Mr Shayne Trinder	Elected APCM 2022
Mr Phil Wootton	Re-elected APCM 2019

PCC minute-taker: Mrs Ann McCabe

Approved by the PCC on 18th March 2024 and signed on its behalf



Mr Malcolm Stoves (Warden)



Mrs Josie Knight (Warden)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Parish of Saint James the Great, Audley

On accounts for the year
ended

2023

Charity no
(if any)

1134853

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/ 12 / 2023**.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

Signed:

Date:

12/11/2023

Name:

Kathleen Marie Lovatt

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

AATQB

Address:

2 Colenso Way, Bradwell

Newcastle Under Lyme

ST5 8SJ

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A

Financial Statements

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	£82,846	—	£4,880	—	£87,726	£158,663
Income from charitable activities	£3,912	—	£509	—	£4,421	£3,046
Other trading activities	£1,509	—	£1,835	—	£3,344	£1,292
Investments	£3,506	—	£272	—	£3,779	£3,241
Other income	£892	—	—	—	£892	£832
Total receipts	£92,667	—	£7,496	—	£100,164	£167,077
Payments						
Raising funds	£15	—	£5	—	£20	£19
Expenditure on charitable activities	£82,289	£725	£14,269	—	£97,284	£195,615
Total payments	£82,304	£725	£14,274	—	£97,304	£195,634
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	£10,362	(£725)	(£6,778)	—	£2,859	(£28,557)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	£115	—	£4,565	—	£4,681	£116,720
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£4,565)	—	(£115)	—	(£4,681)	(£116,720)
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains / losses	£5,912	(£725)	(£2,328)	—	£2,859	(£28,557)
Net movement in funds	£5,912	(£725)	(£2,328)	—	£2,859	(£28,557)
All assets at 01 January 2023	£21,841	£8,233	£19,031	—	£49,107	£77,664
All assets at 31 December 2023	£27,753	£7,508	£16,703	—	£51,966	£49,107
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	£27,753	—	—	—	£27,753	£21,841
Designated						
Fabric Projects	—	£7,508	—	—	£7,508	£8,233
Restricted						
Children and Young People's Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Building Fund Scheme	—	—	—	—	—	£220
Church Hall	—	—	£5,065	—	£5,065	£4,313
Interior Decorating Scheme	—	—	£586	—	£586	£586
Refurbishment	—	—	£8,882	—	£8,882	£11,839
St James Tots	—	—	£122	—	£122	£283
Tower Fund	—	—	£682	—	£682	£862
Vacancy Support Fund	—	—	£438	—	£438	—
Weekend away	—	—	£927	—	£927	£927

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted Endowment	This year	Last year	
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
Bank current and reserve account -	£39,372	£7,508	£15,687	—	£62,568	£65,367
Interior Decorating Scheme -	—	—	£586	—	£586	£586
Church Building Fund Scheme -	—	—	—	—	—	£220
Cash in hand -	£50	—	£50	—	£100	£50
Totals	£39,422	£7,508	£16,323	—	£63,254	£66,223
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	£3,884	—	£680	—	£4,564	£3,956
Totals	£3,884	—	£680	—	£4,564	£3,956
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	£300	—	£300	£619
Totals	—	—	£300	—	£300	£619
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year						
Loans received -	£13,714	—	—	—	£13,714	£16,000
Totals	£13,714	—	—	—	£13,714	£16,000
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Accounts Payable -	£1,837	—	—	—	£1,837	£4,453
Totals	£1,837	—	—	—	£1,837	£4,453
Grand total	£27,753	£7,508	£16,703	—	£51,966	£49,107

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Closing
General fund					
Unrestricted	£21,841	£92,667	£82,304	(£4,450)	£27,753
Sub-total for General	£21,841	£92,667	£82,304	(£4,450)	£27,753
Fabric Projects					
Designated	£8,233	—	£725	—	£7,508
Sub-total for FabProj	£8,233	—	£725	—	£7,508
Church Hall					
Restricted	£4,313	£1,163	£411	—	£5,065
Sub-total for Hall	£4,313	£1,163	£411	—	£5,065
Children and Young People					
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for CYP	—	—	—	—	—
Flower					
Restricted	—	£94	£94	—	—
Sub-total for Flower	—	£94	£94	—	—
PCC Special Offering					
Restricted	—	£958	£5,458	£4,500	—
Sub-total for PCCSpO	—	£958	£5,458	£4,500	—
Refurbishment					
Restricted	£11,839	£2,286	£5,243	—	£8,882
Sub-total for Refurb	£11,839	£2,286	£5,243	—	£8,882
St James Tots					
Restricted	£283	£863	£975	(£50)	£122
Sub-total for Tots	£283	£863	£975	(£50)	£122
Tower Fund					
Restricted	£862	£1,629	£1,809	—	£682
Sub-total for Tower	£862	£1,629	£1,809	—	£682
Vacancy Support Fund					
Restricted	—	£500	£61	—	£438
Sub-total for VSF	—	£500	£61	—	£438
Weekend away					
Restricted	£927	—	—	—	£927
Sub-total for WEaway	£927	—	—	—	£927
Church Building Fund Scheme					
Restricted	£220	—	£220	—	—
Sub-total for CBFS	£220	—	£220	—	—
Interior decorating Scheme					
Restricted	£586	—	—	—	£586
Sub-total for IDS	£586	—	—	—	£586
Grand total	£49,107	£100,164	£97,304	—	£51,966

Analysis of receipts and payments

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies						
Planned Giving - Bank (Gift Aid)	£50,632	—	£885	—	£51,517	£54,339
Planned Giving - envelopes (GA/GASDS)	£1,945	—	—	—	£1,945	£2,020
Planned Giving - Bank (no Gift Aid)	£4,420	—	£260	—	£4,680	£4,743
Planned Giving - envelopes (no GA/GASDS)	£435	—	—	—	£435	£490
Loose plate collections (GA & GASDS)	£1,090	—	—	—	£1,090	£1,173
Loose plate collections (no GA/GASDS)	£390	—	—	—	£390	£50
Gift days	£7,156	—	—	—	£7,156	£13,105
Other gifts	£1,355	—	£410	—	£1,765	£1,838
One-off Tax efficient gifts	£1,541	—	£1,697	—	£3,238	£2,373
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	£12,865	—	£618	—	£13,483	£17,723
Tax recoverable on GASDS	£787	—	£17	—	£804	£777
Recurring grants	—	—	—	—	—	£56
Non-recurring one-off grants	£228	—	£992	—	£1,220	£59,975
Total	£82,846	—	£4,880	—	£87,726	£158,663
Income from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	£3,010	—	—	—	£3,010	£2,501
Refreshments	£286	—	—	—	£286	£275
Bookstall sales to promote objectives	£279	—	—	—	£279	£269
Church hall lettings - objectives	£337	—	—	—	£337	—
Events income	—	—	£509	—	£509	—
Total	£3,912	—	£509	—	£4,421	£3,046
Other trading activities						
Church hall lettings - fund-raising	£1,303	—	—	—	£1,303	£450
Other Income	£205	—	£1,835	—	£2,040	£842
Total	£1,509	—	£1,835	—	£3,344	£1,292
Investments						
Bank and building society interest	£506	—	£272	—	£779	£241
Rent from flat	£2,999	—	—	—	£2,999	£2,999
Total	£3,506	—	£272	—	£3,779	£3,241
Other income						
Benefice expenses	£892	—	—	—	£892	£832
Total	£892	—	—	—	£892	£832
INCOME TOTAL	£92,667	—	£7,496	—	£100,164	£167,077

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds

Costs of giving	£1	—	£5	—	£7	£19
Other fundraising costs	£13	—	—	—	£13	—
Total	£15	—	£5	—	£20	£19

Expenditure on charitable activities

Regular Mission Giving	£4,500	—	£4,500	—	£9,000	£9,000
One-off Mission Giving	—	—	£954	—	£954	£654
Common Fund (Parish Share)	£32,231	—	—	—	£32,231	£28,546
Common Fund Additional	£3,019	—	—	—	£3,019	£6,779
Payments						
Staff salaries	£5,813	—	—	—	£5,813	£5,662
Working expenses of incumbent	£124	—	—	—	£124	£308
Working expenses Curate	£352	—	—	—	£352	£335
Staff courses and training	£288	—	—	—	£288	£256
Training and outreach - materials	£134	—	£378	—	£513	£1,602
Training and outreach - catering	£37	—	£266	—	£303	£272
Training and outreach - speaker	£113	—	—	—	£113	£831
Training and outreach - accommodation	—	—	—	—	—	£50
Church running - insurance	£3,749	—	—	—	£3,749	£3,528
Church office - telephone	£500	—	—	—	£500	£502
Church - purchase of equipment	£89	—	£2,132	—	£2,221	£7,499
Church maintenance	£1,876	—	£5,145	—	£7,021	£2,725
Upkeep of services	£311	—	£93	—	£405	£1,540
Administration	£2,644	—	£3	—	£2,648	£3,795
Visiting preachers	£250	—	£29	—	£279	£108
Other Running Costs	£154	—	£26	—	£180	£386
Church utilities - electric	£1,631	—	—	—	£1,631	£1,221
Church utilities - gas	£5,889	—	—	—	£5,889	£4,504
Church utilities- water	£416	—	—	—	£416	£297
Catering expenses	£357	—	—	—	£357	£221
Bookstall costs	£236	—	—	—	£236	£293
Hall running - purchase of equipment	£564	—	£299	—	£864	£252
Hall utilities - electricity	£949	—	—	—	£949	£641
Hall utilities - gas	£1,800	—	—	—	£1,800	£1,385
Hall insurance	£1,874	—	—	—	£1,874	£1,755
Hall maintenance	£1,790	—	£407	—	£2,198	£1,439
Hall utilities - water	£403	—	—	—	£403	£530
Governance costs	£150	—	—	—	£150	£150
examination/audit fee						
Church major repairs - installation	—	—	—	—	—	£2,117
Hall + major repairs - structure	£696	—	—	—	£696	£89,239
Hall + major repairs - installation	—	—	—	—	—	£5,050
Hall + interior and exterior decorating	£560	—	—	—	£560	£5,808
Other PCC property upkeep	£8,778	£725	£32	—	£9,536	£6,323
Total	£82,289	£725	£14,269	—	£97,284	£195,615
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	£82,304	£725	£14,274	—	£97,304	£195,634
GRAND TOTAL	£10,362	(£725)	(£6,778)	—	£2,859	(£28,557)

MISSION GIVING

Mission Giving - Regular	This Year	Last Year
Chrysolis (Luke Cawley)	£ 1,980	£ 1,980
Crosslinks (Algeos)	£	£ 1,320
Crosslinks (DeRoemers)	£ 1,980	£ 660
Evangelical Alliance	£ 100	£ 100
North West Gospel Partnership	£ 100	£ 100
UCCF (Matthew Leung)	£ 1,200	£ 1,200
UFM (Chelashaws)	£ 2,500	£ 2,500
Relume (formally known as Yasha)	£ 1,140	£ 1,140
total	£ 9,000	£ 9,000
 Mission Giving - One off		
Keele University Christian Union	£	£ 200
Newcastle Foodbank	£	£ 75
Newcastle Foodbank (closure of Community Support Fund)	£	£ 99
total	£ -	£ 374
 Mission Giving - Special Offerings		
Keele University Christian Union	£	£ 155
Newcastle Foodbank (Scouts Carol Service Offering)	£	£ 125
Chelashaw family	£ 954	
total	£ 954	£ 280

(There may be minor rounding discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown)

Accounts



**The Parish of St James the Great, Audley
Diocese of Lichfield**

Address for correspondence

The Benefice Office, 14 Church Street, Audley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 8DE

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements**

of the Parochial Church Council

**For the year ended
31st December 2022**

Vicar

The Reverend Simon Tomkins

Bankers:

National Westminster Bank
Crewe (A) Branch
The Square, Crewe

Independent examiner:

Mrs. Kathy Lovatt
2 Colenso Way
Bradwell
Newcastle
ST5 8SJ

Website:

www.jmj.org.uk/

The Parochial Church Council is a registered charity no: 1134853

Aim and Purpose

St James Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Simon Tomkins, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building and the Church Hall on Church Street, Audley.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to prayer and the promotion of the gospel of Jesus Christ, encouraging as many people as possible to put their faith in Jesus, and equipping them to live out that faith day by day.

When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We meet together at our worship services, for courses, and in small groups to hear the Bible taught and to pray. Our services and groups are open to all.

We run Christian activities for children and young people and are involved in outreach work in local schools. With lockdown and the issues with the church hall roof, we haven't been able to run our normal activities for parents and toddlers, but we hope they will restart soon.

Pastoral work includes visiting the sick and bereaved and helping couples prepare for marriage and baptisms.

We support those promoting the gospel in the UK and overseas.

To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of both the Church and the Hall.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Under normal circumstances, there are two services held on a Sunday with different styles to meet the needs of different people across our community. All are welcome at either service. The 9.00 service is a small, friendly and reflective service. We normally follow the traditional words of the Book of Common Prayer Service for Morning Prayer. The 10.30 Family Service is livelier. We enjoy being a church family meeting together around God's Word to pray and worship. There's a huge range of ages (from tiny to very senior) and different types of music (from traditional hymns to more modern choruses and songs). There's a crèche for little ones



and our Sunday school, The Mix, runs for children in primary school through to Year 9. About once a month we hold an All-Age Service. At both the 9.00 and 10.30 services we listen to the Bible being read and preached, and, for those who would like to, there's a chance to join in saying a statement of faith together. Once a month at each service we celebrate Holy Communion together. Each weekday morning, a group led by staff and congregation members meets for an online Morning prayer service with time to sing, pray, hear the Bible read and taught, and to share news and encouragements.

At the APCM in April 2022 we had 120 parishioners on the Church electoral roll.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Through this year, we have celebrated 2 baptisms, 3 thanksgiving services and 2 weddings. We have also led 8 funerals and 5 interment of ashes.

Community Events

We feel the privilege and responsibility of our role in the community. We were delighted that this year we were able to host the Remembrance Day service with Audley Methodist Church and Audley Brass Band and the uniformed organisations. It was wonderful to be able to hold our annual Christmas Carol Service without Covid restrictions.

We put on a week of talks in Bignall End Cricket Club on how Christianity makes a difference to mental health struggles. This was towards the end of the final large outbreak of Covid and numbers were low, but the videos from the evenings have been made publicly available on our YouTube channel.

We continue to engage with the village through social media, and the sheep in the churchyard became village celebrities through the summer of 2022.



Looking up...
...when you're
feeling down

**Five talks on how the living
God meets us in our struggles**
28th March- 1st April
Bignall End Cricket Club
7.30-8.45pm
www.jmj.org.uk

Courses

We have continued to run relaxed and friendly courses for those investigating the Christian faith. We ran the Hope Explored Course twice in the year.

Small Groups

Our small groups this year have continued to meet online and in person to pray together, study the Bible, and share the joys and pressures of life together.

Staffing

The Staff team is led by the Revd Simon Tomkins as Vicar.

Since September 2018, the St James Christian Workers Trust has employed Revd Scott Seivewright as our Youth and Families minister to support outreach to young people, their families, and to support pastoral ministry in all its forms around the benefice.

We are very grateful for the work of Mrs Donna Wilcox as Benefice administrator.

We are also very grateful for Mrs Mary-Ellen Williams who has responsibility for keeping the church hall and church building clean week-to-week.

Children and Young People

In addition to our children's groups on a Sunday morning, we have an evening group for young people at Secondary school.

St James Tots (formerly Prampushers) was our parent and toddler group which met each week until the first lockdown. Very few of the families who came along were regular worshippers at St James and it was therefore of benefit to many outside our Church family. We hope to be able to restart this in a new format in 2023 once building work on the church hall is completed.

During the course of the year, our Vicar and Youth and Families Minister have had the opportunity to go into our local schools to lead assemblies on Microsoft Teams and support teaching staff.

It was a delight to host and lead a well-attended Christmas Carol Service for all the Scout, Cub, and Beaver groups in the area.

Other Activities

There is a healthy and active Mothers Union affiliated to St James, who continued to meet online, and resumed their regular meetings and Friday morning coffee in the Pensioners Hall, and to provide valuable encouragement and support to their more isolated members.

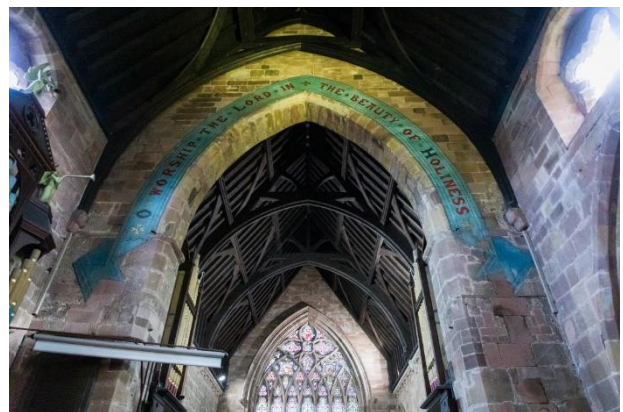
For details of other groups and activities, please see the document the PCC compiles for the APCM and is available through the Benefice office.

Synod

Three members of our PCC sit on the Newcastle Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC a link with the Churches around us, in the diocese as a whole and the Church of England nationally.

Church Buildings

Over the course of the year, the Church normally receives visits from local school children for special services, and hosts the Village Service of Remembrance in November. We were really grateful that Ravensmead School were able to visit for their Christmas services. The church hall has been returning to action from the Autumn, and it should be fully redecorated and reopened by Spring 2023. We hope to make the building safe and structurally sound to secure its long-term use by the congregation and community.



Mission and Evangelism

We continue to prayerfully and financially support those sharing the gospel at home and overseas. We maintain active links with mission partners in Crosslinks, Chrysolis, UCCF and UFM as they work in Africa, Eastern Europe and the UK. Additionally, we support Newcastle Foodbank and Yasha who work with women involved in the sex industry in Stoke.

Pastoral Care

The clergy and others in the church family try to visit the sick and bereaved regularly and try to take Communion to housebound who request it (particularly at Christmas and Easter).

Ecumenical relationships

Many of us enjoy close personal friendships with members of Audley Methodist Church, and the vicar and minister meet to plan and pray together. In January 2018, the Bishop of Lichfield agreed to the request made to him by St James PCC for episcopal oversight from the Bishop of Maidstone.

Confirmation and Ordination

We had held a joint confirmation with St Martin's Talke, where the Bishop of Maidstone confirmed 5 candidates and in the same evening also ordained Rev Scott Seivewright Presbyterian.



Financial Review

Overview

The total income for the year was a little over £158,600 boosted by generous grants towards the repairs on the Church Hall and total expenditure just over £195,600 reflecting the extensive works completed on the Hall.

Total cash funds at the year-end were £49,107 compared with £77,664 at the end of 2021. Unrestricted funds accounted for £30,074 compared with £59,170 in 2021, and the total of Restricted Funds rose slightly from £18,494 to £19,031.

Unrestricted Funds

Income to Unrestricted Funds totalled £94,664. As in previous years most of our income comes from the regular generous gifts of the Church family whether through standing order or envelopes placed in the offering on a Sunday. Overall our regular giving has remained stable compared to 2021. The take up of contactless giving has been slow, but contactless and online payment have proved useful for bookstall payments. We encourage those who are able to Gift Aid their giving and in total this year we were able to reclaim £17,744 from HMRC on these gifts and through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme.

In July we held our annual Giving Review Day where those who consider St James their Church family had an opportunity to review their giving. We sought to raise £8000 in one-off gifts with any additional gifts used to allow us to reduce the capital outstanding on the hall loan (see later in the report). We were blown away by the generosity of the Church family, and after HMRC added their contribution through Gift Aid and Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme reclaims, we were able to use more of our reserves to reduce the loan, putting aside the £8,233 into the reinstated Fabric Projects fund for completing works on the Hall and flat.

Other gifts included £315 given as a leaving gift for Brian and Annette Dodd as they moved away to be closer to their family, and £294 from Mothers' Union for wedding and baptism bibles.

Planned building work on the Hall has again significantly limited the income from Hall hiring this year. We look forward to this building back up again from the beginning of 2023.

As we are part of a benefice, there are some expenses which are shared across the 3 parishes. In 2021 these came to £2,320. As the largest parish, St James took responsibility for 75% of these costs with the other 25% shared between St Martin's and St John's. For administrative purposes, St James usually pays the full amount of expenses (which therefore appear as a payment in our accounts) and then reclaims the 25% from the other parishes on a regular basis.

Payments from unrestricted funds were up approximately £20,000 on 2021 totalling £85,550. The largest single regular expense remains the Common Fund (previously known as the Parish Share) paid to Lichfield Diocese. We have agreed to cover half the Common Fund paid by our sister church St Martin's Talke, as we feel this more realistically reflects the ministry split of the Benefice. Other significant expenditure included increased utility costs for the Church building and repairs on the flat above the Church Office have also been paid from this fund. In addition to the costs of running the Church and maintaining our buildings, we have continued financial support of Christian organisations, and our Mission partners working locally, nationally, in Europe, and in Africa. Details can be found at the end of the report.

Closer to home, at the beginning of the year, the PCC allocated £1,000 to the Mission Fund for the “Looking Up” outreach in March.

The unrestricted fund has needed to transfer £46,561 to the Hall Fund during the year to cover the costs of the significant Hall building works. Additional funding for the Hall came through a loan of £50,000 secured from Lichfield Diocese. Due to the generosity of the Church family, we have been able to repay all but £16,000 by the end of the year retaining some funds to complete works on the Hall.

Staff salaries cover our cleaner, as the salaries of our Youth and Families minister and Administrator are paid by the Christian Worker’s Trust. Our Vicar’s stipend and other associated employment costs are paid by the diocese, covered in part by our common share contributions.

Restricted Funds

Total income to our restricted funds this year was £64,058 with total payments of £110,082.

The *Refurbishment fund* is the only restricted fund which receives regular donations and covers refurbishment, non-routine maintenance, and upkeep of the main Church building. This year we were grateful for a grant from the Benefact Trust and an anonymous donor which has resulted in improved quality of our streamed services. For those attending in person essential electrical work on lighting and a new projector has been completed.

Whilst the *Hall fund* receives no regular income, this year we were blessed with grants totalling £51,500 from FCC Communities Foundation Trust and £5 000 Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council towards our Hall roof repairs. Work on the roof has now been completed, and additional painting and decorating is still ongoing. The main boiler in the hall was condemned and a new boiler has been installed.

The *CYP fund* has been used to support the Children’s and young people’s work. By the end of the year it was empty, so the work will continue to be funded from unrestricted funds.

The *Tower Fund* bequest continues to cover the cost of routine maintenance for the Church clock.

The *Flower fund* received gifts from the Church family to cover the Easter and Harvest flowers.

From time to time various needs and opportunities to provide financial support to folk and organisations involved in Christian service and mission arise, which the PCC commend to the Church family. Where a specific offering is taken, it is recorded in the *PCC Special Offerings Fund* so that it is easily identified for that purpose. The nature of this fund is that over the course of a year money will pass through it but that its opening and closing balance should be zero. This year offerings have been taken for Keele University Christian Union and Newcastle Food Bank.

Along with the *Weekend Away Fund* the *St James Tots Fund* has had no activity in 2022.

The *Community Support Fund* was set up to channel donations specifically to support the village response to the first Covid lockdown. In line with the purpose, it has been closed this year and the balance given to the Newcastle Foodbank.

The *Church Building Fund Scheme* and the *Interior Decorating Scheme* are funds held with Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance for the Church building quinquennial report and decoration of the Vicarage respectively.

Plans for Future Periods

The significant expenditure on the Church Hall has meant that this year the reserves built up over the last 5-6 years have now been depleted. We are looking at ways to use the Church Hall as a community resource as the maintenance work is completed. The cost-of-living rises have impacted particularly our utility bills and bring uncertainties around future giving. However, we would still look to maintain a reserve above the recommended minimum of 3 months running costs of £20,000.

We are also aware that with a Church building as old as ours, we need to be prepared for unexpected expense and we believe it to be essential to build up a significant reserve in the Church Refurbishment Restricted Fund to cover such unexpected expenditure.

Reserves Policy

We do not believe that it is desirable to build up large reserves. However, we recognise that it is prudent to establish reserve funds sufficient to enable us to survive a period of unexpected expenditure or sudden loss of income.

It has therefore been the long-term objective of the PCC to build up a reserve of funding to permit operations to continue for 6 months following a total cessation of income. At current rates of expenditure, this requires a sum of approximately £40,000 in unrestricted funds. The six-month period is believed to be long enough for the PCC to manage the closure of our ministry in the parish, should this ever become necessary.

Structure, Governance and Management

St James is part of a benefice with St Martins Talke and St Johns Alsagers Bank which was established in August 2015.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St James, the membership of the PCC comprises the incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to Deanery Synod and General Synod and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll and encouraged to consider standing 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 spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average attendance of 64%. The standing committee, comprising the incumbent, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and a representative of the PCC also meets six times a year between full PCC meetings to consider urgent business.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

PCC Membership

Ex-Officio members

Rev Simon Tomkins	Vicar
Rev Scott Seivewright,	Curate
Mr Malcolm Stoves	Churchwarden
Dr Janice Eatough	Hon Treasurer

Deanery Synod Representatives elected APCM 2020 for 3 years

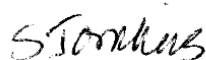
Mr John Slade
Mr Mark Smith
Mrs Donna Wilcox

Elected Members

Mr Gerry Harvey	Elected APCM 2020
Mrs Josie Knight	Re-elected APCM 2022
Mr John Maher	Elected APCM 2022
Mrs Ruth Nix	Until APCM 2021
Mrs Anu Noble	Elected APCM 2022
Mr Stefan Spain	Elected APCM 2021
Mr Shayne Trinder	Elected APCM 2022
Mr Phil Wootton	Re-elected APCM 2019

PCC minute-taker: Mrs Ann McCabe

Approved by the PCC on 20th March 2023 and signed on its behalf



Rev'd Simon Tomkins (Chair)



Mr Malcolm Stoves (Warden)

Financial Statements

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	91,287	3,377	63,998	—	158,663	83,958
Income from charitable activities	3,046	—	—	—	3,046	4,603
Other trading activities	1,292	—	—	—	1,292	793
Investments	3,181	—	59	—	3,241	3,009
Other income	832	—	—	—	832	727
Total receipts	99,641	3,377	64,058	—	167,077	93,091
Payments						
Raising funds	6	—	12	—	19	111
Expenditure on charitable activities	84,267	1,277	110,070	—	195,615	128,049
Total payments	84,273	1,277	110,082	—	195,634	128,161
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	15,367	2,099	(46,024)	—	(28,557)	(35,069)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	32,012	6,133	78,574	—	116,720	51,590
Gross transfers between funds - out	(84,708)	—	(32,012)	—	(116,720)	(51,590)
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains / losses	(37,328)	8,233	537	—	(28,557)	(35,069)
Net movement in funds	(37,328)	8,233	537	—	(28,557)	(35,069)
All assets at 01 January 2022	59,170	—	18,494	—	77,664	112,733
All assets at 31 December 2022	21,841	8,233	19,031	—	49,107	77,664
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	21,841	—	—	—	21,841	59,170
Designated						
Fabric Projects	—	8,233	—	—	8,233	—
Mission	—	—	—	—	—	—
Restricted						
Children and Young People's Fund	—	—	—	—	—	111
Church Building Fund Scheme	—	—	220	—	220	200
Church Hall	—	—	4,313	—	4,313	—
Community Support	—	—	—	—	—	99
Flower	—	—	—	—	—	17
Interior Decorating Scheme	—	—	586	—	586	586
PCC Special Offerings	—	—	—	—	—	—
Refurbishment	—	—	11,839	—	11,839	15,226
St James Tots	—	—	283	—	283	283
Tower Fund	—	—	862	—	862	1,042
Weekend away	—	—	927	—	927	927

Statement of assets and liabilities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
Bank current and reserve account -	38,421	8,233	18,712	—	65,367	72,254
Bank Current and reserve account 2 -	—	—	—	—	—	2,367
Interior Decorating Scheme -	—	—	586	—	586	586
Church Building Fund Scheme -	—	—	220	—	220	200
Cash in hand -	50	—	—	—	50	80
Totals	38,471	8,233	19,518	—	66,223	75,488
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	3,823	—	132	—	3,956	3,773
Totals	3,823	—	132	—	3,956	3,773
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	619	—	619	—
Totals	—	—	619	—	619	—
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Loans received -	16,000	—	—	—	16,000	—
Accounts Payable -	4,453	—	—	—	4,453	1,597
Totals	20,453	—	—	—	20,453	1,597
Grand total	21,841	8,233	19,031	—	49,107	77,664

Fund movement by type

		Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
General fund							
Unrestricted		59,170	99,641	84,273	(52,696)		21,841
Sub-total for General		59,170	99,641	84,273	(52,696)		21,841
Children and Young People							
Restricted		111	—	111	—		—
Sub-total for CYP		111	—	111	—		—
Church Hall							
Restricted		—	57,500	99,748	46,561		4,313
Sub-total for Hall		—	57,500	99,748	46,561		4,313
Community Support							
Restricted		99	—	99	—		—
Sub-total for CommSupp		99	—	99	—		—
Flower							
Restricted		17	100	118	0		—
Sub-total for Flower		17	100	118	0		—
PCC Special Offering							
Restricted		—	281	281	—		—
Sub-total for PCCSpO		—	281	281	—		—
St James Tots							
Restricted		283	—	—	—		283
Sub-total for Tots		283	—	—	—		283
Tower Fund							
Restricted		1,042	36	216	—		862
Sub-total for Tower		1,042	36	216	—		862
Refurbishment							
Restricted		15,226	6,120	9,507	—		11,839
Sub-total for Refurb		15,226	6,120	9,507	—		11,839
Weekend away							
Restricted		927	—	—	—		927
Sub-total for WEaway		927	—	—	—		927
Fabric Projects							
Designated		—	3,128	—	5,105		8,233
Sub-total for FabProj		—	3,128	—	5,105		8,233
Mission							
Designated		—	248	1,277	1,028		—
Sub-total for Mission		—	248	1,277	1,028		—
Church Building Fund							
Restricted		200	20	—	—		220
Sub-total for CBFS		200	20	—	—		220
Interior decorating							
Restricted		586	—	—	—		586
Sub-total for IDS		586	—	—	—		586
Grand total		77,664	167,077	195,634	—		49,107

Analysis of receipts and payments

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies						
Planned giving - Bank (Gift Aid)	53,474	—	865	—	54,339	52,126
Planned giving - envelopes (GA/GASDS)	2,020	—	—	—	2,020	1,740
Planned giving - Bank (no Gift Aid)	4,395	—	348	—	4,743	7,118
Planned giving - envelopes (no GA/GASDS)	490	—	—	—	490	890
Loose plate collections (GA & GASDS)	1,052	—	121	—	1,173	1,185
Loose plate collections (no GA/GASDS)	50	—	—	—	50	50
Gift days	13,105	—	—	—	13,105	—
Other gifts	733	55	1,050	—	1,838	1,411
One-off Tax efficient gifts	48	155	2,170	—	2,373	927
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	13,820	3,161	741	—	17,723	14,180
Tax recoverable on GASDS	757	6	13	—	777	716
Legacies	—	—	—	—	—	2,250
Recurring grants	56	—	—	—	56	56
Non-recurring one-off grants	1,286	—	58,688	—	59,975	1,306
Total	91,287	3,377	63,998	—	158,663	83,958
Income from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	2,501	—	—	—	2,501	3,996
Refreshments	275	—	—	—	275	131
Bookstall sales to promote objectives	269	—	—	—	269	475
Total	3,046	—	—	—	3,046	4,603
Other trading activities						
Church hall lettings - fund-raising	450	—	—	—	450	770
Other Income	842	—	—	—	842	23
Total	1,292	—	—	—	1,292	793
Investments						
Bank and building society interest	182	—	59	—	241	9
Rent from flat	2,999	—	—	—	2,999	2,999
Total	3,181	—	59	—	3,241	3,009
Other income						
Benefice expenses	832	—	—	—	832	727
Total	832	—	—	—	832	727
INCOME TOTAL	99,641	3,377	64,058	—	167,077	93,091

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds

Costs of giving	6	—	12	—	19	111
Total	6	—	12	—	19	111

Expenditure on charitable activities

Regular Mission Giving	9,000	—	—	—	9,000	9,000
One-off Mission Giving	275	—	379	—	654	100
Common Fund (Parish Share)	28,546	—	—	—	28,546	27,248
Common Fund Additional	6,779	—	—	—	6,779	—
Payments						
Staff salaries	5,662	—	—	—	5,662	6,197
Working expenses of incumbent	270	38	—	—	308	144
Working expenses of curate	329	—	5	—	335	309
Staff courses and training	246	—	10	—	256	242
Training and outreach - materials	1,217	349	35	—	1,602	753
Training and outreach - catering	86	162	23	—	272	210
Training and outreach - speaker	104	727	—	—	831	75
Training and outreach - accommodation	50	—	—	—	50	—
Church running - insurance	3,528	—	—	—	3,528	3,422
Church office - telephone	502	—	—	—	502	548
Church - purchase of equipment	167	—	7,332	—	7,499	475
Church maintenance	2,451	—	273	—	2,725	3,075
Upkeep of services	1,385	—	154	—	1,540	995
Administration	3,795	—	—	—	3,795	3,942
Visiting preachers	108	—	—	—	108	—
Other Running Costs	386	—	—	—	386	417
Church utilities - electric	1,221	—	—	—	1,221	815
Church utilities - gas	4,504	—	—	—	4,504	2,672
Church utilities- water	297	—	—	—	297	40
Catering expenses	221	—	—	—	221	239
Bookstall costs	293	—	—	—	293	652
Hall running - purchase of equipment	182	—	70	—	252	690
Hall utilities - electricity	641	—	—	—	641	420
Hall utilities - gas	1,385	—	—	—	1,385	1,010
Hall insurance	1,755	—	—	—	1,755	1,685
Hall maintenance	1,256	—	182	—	1,439	435
Hall utilities - water	530	—	—	—	530	512
Governance costs examination fee	150	—	—	—	150	150
Church major repairs - installation	—	—	2,117	—	2,117	7,896
Hall + major repairs - structure	612	—	88,626	—	89,239	53,605
Hall + major repairs - installation	—	—	5,050	—	5,050	—
Hall + interior and exterior decorating	—	—	5,808	—	5,808	—
Other PCC property upkeep	6,323	—	—	—	6,323	64
Total	84,267	1,277	110,070	—	195,615	128,049
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	84,273	1,277	110,082	—	195,634	128,161
GRAND TOTAL	15,367	2,099	(46,024)	—	(28,557)	(35,069)

MISSION GIVING

Mission Giving - Regular	This Year	Last Year
Chrysolis (Luke Cawley)	£ 1,980	£ 1,980
Crosslinks (Algeos)	£ 1,320	£ 1,980
Crosslinks (DeRoemers)	£ 660	£ -
Evangelical Alliance	£ 100	£ 100
North West Gospel Partnership	£ 100	£ 100
UCCF (Matthew Leung)	£ 1,200	£ 1,200
UFM (Chelashaws)	£ 2,500	£ 2,500
Yasha	£ 1,140	£ 1,140
total	£ 9,000	£ 9,000
Mission Giving - One off		
Home for Good	£ -	£ 100
Keele University Christian Union	£ 200	£ -
Newcastle Foodbank	£ 75	£ -
Newcastle Foodbank (closure of Community Support Fund)	£ 99	£ -
total	£ 374	£ 100
	£ -	£ -
Mission Giving - Special Offerings		
Keele University Christian Union	£ 155	£ -
Newcastle Foodbank (Scouts Carol Service Offering)	£ 125	£ -
total	£ 280	£ -

(There may be minor rounding discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown)



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Parish of St James the Great, Audley

**On accounts for the year
ended**

2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1134853

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2022**

**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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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

Signed:

Kathleen M Lovatt

Date:

15 March 2023

Name:

Kathleen M Lovatt

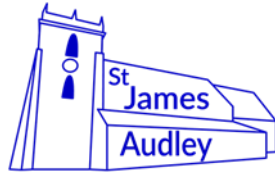
**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

AATQB

Address:

2 Colenso Way, Bradwell, Newcastle Under Lyme ST5 8SJ

Accounts



**The Parish of St James the Great, Audley
Diocese of Lichfield**

Address for correspondence

The Benefice Office, 14 Church Street, Audley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 8DE

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements

of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended
31st December 2021**

Vicar

The Reverend Simon Tomkins

Bankers:

National Westminster Bank
Crewe (A) Branch
The Square, Crewe

Independent examiner:

Mrs. Kathy Lovatt
2 Colenso Way
Bradwell
Newcastle
ST5 8SJ

Website:

www.jmj.org.uk/

The Parochial Church Council is a registered charity no: 1134853

Aim and Purpose

St James Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Simon Tomkins, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building and the Church Hall on Church Street, Audley.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to prayer and the promotion of the gospel of Jesus Christ, encouraging as many people as possible to put their faith in Jesus, and equipping them to live out that faith day by day.

When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We meet together at our worship services, for courses, and in small groups to hear the Bible taught and to pray. Our services and groups are open to all.

We run Christian activities for children and young people and are involved in outreach work in local schools. With lockdown and the issues with the church hall roof, we haven't been able to run our normal activities for parents and toddlers, but we hope they will restart soon.

Pastoral work includes visiting the sick and bereaved and helping couples prepare for marriage and baptisms.

We support those promoting the gospel in the UK and overseas.

To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of both the Church and the Hall.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Under normal circumstances, there are two services held on a Sunday with different styles to meet the needs of different people across our community. All are welcome at either service. The 9.00 service is a small, friendly and reflective service. We normally follow the traditional words of the Book of Common Prayer Service for Morning Prayer. The 10.30 Family Service is livelier. We enjoy being a church family meeting together around God's Word to pray and worship. There's a huge range of ages (from tiny to very senior) and different types of music (from traditional hymns to more modern choruses and songs). There's a crèche for little ones and our Sunday school, The Mix, runs for children in primary school through to Year 9. About once a month we hold an All-Age Service. At both the 9.00 and 10.30 services we listen to the Bible being read and preached, and, for those who would like to, there's a chance to join in saying a statement of faith together. Once a month at each service we celebrate Holy Communion together. Each weekday morning, a group led by staff and congregation members meets for an online Morning prayer service with time to sing, pray, hear the Bible read and taught, and to share news and encouragements

At the APCM in April 2021 121 parishioners on the Church electoral roll.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Through this year, we have only been able to conduct 5 marriages, 1 wedding blessing, 1 baptism, 1 thanksgiving service. We have led 16 funerals and 4 interments of ashes.

Community Events

We feel the privilege and responsibility of our role in the community. We were delighted that this year we were able to host the Remembrance Day service with Audley Methodist Church and Audley Brass Band and the uniformed organisations. Our Christmas Carol Services were slightly smaller than normal with increased fears around the omicron virus, but a trial of an earlier child-friendly carol service seemed well received.

We were glad to have been able to coordinate local support, particularly through the first lockdown, by setting up a 'parish helpline' and a team of volunteers to deliver shopping and prescriptions to those who are self-isolating. We started to wind this down from June 2021 as the need was, thankfully, greatly reduced.

The 2021 Christmas Tree Festival took place in the midst of renewed uncertainty over COVID, but it was wonderful to see community groups come together to decorate trees and for many in the village to enjoy the displays.



Christmas Tree Festival 2021.

Courses

Over the course of the lockdown, we have held informal online courses for those investigating the Christian faith. We ran a Simply Christianity course in-person and online in September 2021.

Small Groups

Our small groups this year have continued to meet online to pray together, study the Bible, and share the joys and pressures of life together.

Staffing

The Staff team is led by the Revd Simon Tomkins as Vicar.

Since September 2018, the St James Christian Workers Trust has employed Revd Scott Seivewright as our Youth and Families minister to support outreach to young people, their families, and to support pastoral ministry in all its forms around the benefice.

We are very grateful for the work of Mrs Donna Wilcox as Benefice administrator.

We are also very grateful for Mrs Mary-Ellen Williams who has responsibility for keeping the church hall and church building clean week-to-week.

Children and Young People

Like all our activities, our work with children and young people has been affected by the government lockdown and other Covid restrictions this year.

In addition to our children's groups on a Sunday morning, we now have an evening group for young people at Secondary school, which has continued online. We hope to be able to restart a regular after-school club in our local primary school.

St James Tots (formerly Prampushers) was our parent and toddler group which met each week until the first lockdown. Very few of the families who came along were regular worshippers at St James and it was therefore of benefit to many outside our Church family. We hope to be able to restart this in a new format once lockdown conditions ease and the church hall reopens.

During the course of the year, our Vicar and Youth and Families Minister have had the opportunity to go into our local schools to lead assemblies on Microsoft Teams and support teaching staff.

Weekend Away 'at home'

We enjoyed an online weekend 'away' at home in February with St John's, Alsagers Bank and St Martin's Talke, and Ste Casey's talks on the strength of weakness were much appreciated – as were the home baked cookies and the quiz!

Other Activities

There is a healthy and active Mothers Union affiliated to St James, who continued to meet online, and resumed their regular meetings and Friday morning coffee in the Pensioners Hall, and to provide valuable encouragement and support to their more isolated members.

For details of other groups and activities, please see the document the PCC compiles for the APCM and is available through the Benefice office.

Synod

Three members of our PCC sit on the Newcastle Deanery Synod, and another one also sits on General Synod. This provides the PCC a link with the Churches around us, in the diocese as a whole and the Church of England nationally.

Church Buildings

Over the course of the year, the Church normally receives visits from local school children for special services, and hosts the Village Service of Remembrance in November. We were really grateful that Ravensmead School were able to visit for their Christmas services. The church hall has been out of action for most of the year while work on the roof has been progressing (or stalled due to the need to apply for grants when we discovered the roof was in a much worse state than we'd realised). We hope to make the building safe and structurally sound to secure its long-term use by the congregation and community.



St James Church Hall - For much of 2021 the Hall has been surrounded in scaffolding

Mission and Evangelism

We continue to prayerfully and financially support those sharing the gospel at home and overseas. We maintain active links with mission partners in Crosslinks, Chrysolis, UCCF and UFM as they work in Africa, Eastern Europe and the UK. Additionally, we support Yasha who work with women involved in the sex industry in Stoke.

Pastoral Care

The clergy and others in the church family would normally try to visit the sick and bereaved regularly, and try to take Communion to those who request it who are housebound (particularly at Christmas and Easter). Where possible, this has happened in person, but much has had to be done over the phone.

Ecumenical relationships

Many of us enjoy close personal friendships with members of Audley Methodist Church, and the vicar and minister meet to plan and pray together. In January 2018, the Bishop of Lichfield agreed to the request made to him by St James PCC for episcopal oversight from the Bishop of Maidstone.

Financial Review

Overview

The total income for the year was a little over £93,000 and total expenditure just over £128,100

Total cash funds at the year-end were £77,664 compared with £112,734 at the end of 2020. Unrestricted funds accounted for £59,170 compared with £88,995 in 2020, and the total of Restricted Funds also fell from £23,738 to £18,494.

Unrestricted Funds

Income to Unrestricted Funds totalled £78,348. As in previous years most of our income comes from the regular generous gifts of the Church family whether through standing order

or envelopes placed in the offering on a Sunday. In addition, at the end of the year we added contactless giving as an option on a Sunday. We encourage those who are able to Gift Aid their giving and in total this year we were able to reclaim £14,181 from HMRC on these gifts and through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. For the first time since before the pandemic we held a Giving Review Day where those who consider St James their Church family have an opportunity to review their giving. Many existing donors as well as some new folk took advantage of this to give to both the general work of St James and towards the Hall roof project.

We have been pleased to be able to host several weddings this year after the Covid cancellations in 2020, which along with fees from funerals has increased the income from Parochial fees. Planned building work on the Hall has significantly limited the income from Hall hiring this year just as the Covid restrictions were lifting. With the hall roof works still uncompleted, we expect this to continue in the first half of 2022.

Payments from unrestricted funds were a little down on 2020 totalling £65,755. The largest single expense remains the Parish Share. In addition to the costs of running the Church and maintaining our buildings, we have continued financial support of Christian organisations, and our Mission partners working locally, nationally, in Europe, and in Africa. Details can be found at the end of the report.

Staff salaries cover our cleaner, as the salaries of our Youth and Families minister and Administrator are paid by the Christian Worker's Trust.

Although with relatively few in person services this year some of our costs have reduced, these have been largely outweighed but the cost of additional licenses and tech equipment as we have moved online with Zoom and started streaming services. In addition, regular updates have been mailed out to those members of our congregation not on line, and so our postage costs have been higher than in previous years.

As we are part of a benefice, there are some expenses which are shared across the 3 parishes. In 2021 these came to £2,320. As the largest parish, St James took responsibility for 75% of these costs with the other 25% shared between St Martin's and St John's. For administrative purposes, St James usually pays the full amount of expenses (which therefore appear as a payment in our accounts) and then reclaims the 25% from the other parishes on a regular basis.

Following the installation of the new Church Gate, the Fabric projects designated fund was closed.

Restricted Funds

Total income to our restricted funds this year was £5,611 with total payments of £62,351.

The *Refurbishment fund* is the only fund which receives regular donations and covers refurbishment, non-routine maintenance and upkeep of the main Church building. There were no major projects or notable expense from this fund in 2021.

Whilst the *Hall fund* receives no regular income, this year we have received a legacy and some gifts from the giving review day. The major expenditure from this fund has been on the roof repairs. After the work started the roof was found to have significant additional structural problems and whilst these were investigated further the work was put on hold, and the grant we have been awarded, not claimed until it was clear we should progress with the works. Having secured a loan from Lichfield Diocese, and an extension to the Grant, the PCC have

now instructed the works to continue, and we are hopeful that this will be completed by the Summer. The unrestricted fund has needed to transfer £51,295 during the year to cover the costs of the initial works and ongoing scaffolding costs.

The *CYP fund* has had no income and limited expenditure this year due to the mainly online format of children and youth work.

The *Weekend Away Fund* had a small amount of expenditure to cover the Zoom awayday held in February 21

The *St James Tots Fund* has had no activity as it has not restarted after the Covid lockdown,

We were grateful to Mothers' Union for their gifts to the *Flower fund* to cover the Harvest flowers this year.

The *Community Support Fund* was set up to channel donations specifically to support the village response to the first Covid lockdown.

The main expenditure from the *Tower Fund* this year is both visible and audible in the village as the Church clock is now automated and chiming!

The *Church Building Fund Scheme* and the *Interior Decorating Scheme* are funds held with Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance for the Church building quinquennial report and decoration of the Vicarage respectively.

Plans for Future Periods

The significant expenditure on the Church Hall has meant that this year we depleted some of the reserves built up over the last 5-6 years. The financial pressures in the coming year with the ongoing works on the Church Hall and changes in the Parish Share are not underestimated. However we would still look to maintain a reserve above the recommended minimum of 3 months running costs of £20,000.

We are also aware that with a Church building as old as ours, we need to be prepared for unexpected expense and we believe it to be essential to build up a significant reserve in the Church Refurbishment Restricted Fund to cover such unexpected expenditure.

Reserves Policy

We do not believe that it is desirable to build up large reserves. However, we recognise that it is prudent to establish reserve funds sufficient to enable us to survive a period of unexpected expenditure or sudden loss of income.

It has therefore been the long-term objective of the PCC to build up a reserve of funding to permit operations to continue for 6 months following a total cessation of income. At current rates of expenditure, this requires a sum of approximately £40,000 in unrestricted funds. The six-month period is believed to be long enough for the PCC to manage the closure of our ministry in the parish, should this ever become necessary.

Structure, Governance and Management

St James is part of a benefice with St Martins Talke and St Johns Alsagers Bank which was established in August 2015.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St James, the membership of the PCC comprises the incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to Deanery Synod and General Synod and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll and encouraged to consider standing 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 spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average attendance of 75%. The standing committee, comprising the incumbent, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and a representative of the PCC also meets six times a year between full PCC meetings to consider urgent business.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

PCC Membership

Ex-Officio members

Rev Simon Tomkins	Vicar
Rev Scott Seivewright,	Clergy licensed to the Benefice
Mr Malcolm Stoves	Churchwarden
Mr Paul Morgan	Churchwarden (resigned December 2021)
Dr Chik Kaw Tan	General Synod Representative (until November 2021)
Dr Janice Eatough	Hon Treasurer

Deanery Synod Representatives elected APCM 2020 for 3 years

Mr John Slade
Mr Mark Smith
Mrs Donna Wilcox

Elected Members

Mrs Annette Dodd	(resigned November 2021)
Mrs Katharine Dumbill	Re-Elected APCM 2020 (resigned October 2021)
Mr Gerry Harvey	Elected APCM 2020
Mrs Josie Knight	Elected APCM 2019
Mrs Ruth Nix	Re-elected APCM 2019
Mr Stefan Spain	Elected APCM 2021
Mr Shayne Trinder	Until APCM 2021
Mr Phil Wootton	Elected APCM 2019

PCC minute-taker: Mrs Ann McCabe

Approved by the PCC on 21st March 2022 and signed on its behalf



Rev'd Simon Tomkins (Chair)



Mr Malcolm Stoves (Church Warden)

Financial Statements

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	78,348	—	5,611	—	83,959	96,060
Income from charitable activities	4,603	—	—	—	4,603	1,952
Other trading activities	793	—	—	—	793	2,325
Investments	3,008	—	1	—	3,009	3,286
Other income	727	—	—	—	727	1,215
Total receipts	87,480	—	5,612	—	93,092	104,838
Payments						
Raising funds	112	—	—	—	112	5,687
Expenditure on charitable activities	65,643	55	62,351	—	128,049	85,574
Total payments	65,755	55	62,351	—	128,161	91,261
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	21,725	(55)	(56,739)	—	(35,069)	13,577
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	95	—	51,495	—	51,591	18,036
Gross transfers between funds - out	(51,495)	(95)	—	—	(51,591)	(18,036)
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains / losses	(29,675)	(150)	(5,244)	—	(35,069)	13,577
Net movement in funds	(29,675)	(150)	(5,244)	—	(35,069)	13,577
All assets at 01 January 2021	88,845	150	23,738	—	112,734	99,157
All assets at 31 December 2021	59,170	—	18,494	—	77,664	112,734
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	59,170	—	—	—	59,170	88,845
Designated						
Fabric Projects	—	—	—	—	—	150
Restricted						
Children and Young People's Fund	—	—	112	—	112	244
Church Building Fund Scheme	—	—	200	—	200	—
Church Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—
Community Support	—	—	99	—	99	65
Flower	—	—	17	—	17	17
Interior decorating scheme	—	—	586	—	586	650
Refurbishment	—	—	15,226	—	15,226	14,112
St James Tots	—	—	284	—	284	284
Tower Fund	—	—	1,043	—	1,043	7,363
Weekend away	—	—	927	—	927	1,002

Statement of assets and liabilities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
Bank current and reserve account -	55,098	—	17,156	—	72,254	104,537
Bank Current and reserve account 2 -	1,923	—	445	—	2,368	2,343
Interior Decorating Scheme -	—	—	586	—	586	650
Church Building Fund Scheme -	—	—	200	—	200	—
Cash in hand -	50	—	30	—	80	80
Totals	57,071	—	18,417	—	75,488	107,610
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	3,697	—	77	—	3,774	5,093
Totals	3,697	—	77	—	3,774	5,093
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Accounts Payable -	1,597	—	—	—	1,597	(31)
Totals	1,597	—	—	—	1,597	(31)
Grand total	59,170	—	18,494	—	77,664	112,734

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	88,845	87,480	65,755	(51,400)	—	59,170
Sub-total for General	88,845	87,480	65,755	(51,400)	—	59,170
Hall - Church Hall						
Restricted	—	2,540	53,835	51,295	—	—
Sub-total for Hall	—	2,540	53,835	51,295	—	—
CYP - Children and Young People						
Restricted	244	—	133	—	—	112
Sub-total for CYP	244	—	133	—	—	112
CommSupp - Community Support						
Restricted	65	75	41	—	—	99
Sub-total for CommSupp	65	75	41	—	—	99
Flower - Flower						
Restricted	17	62	62	—	—	17
Sub-total for Flower	17	62	62	—	—	17
Tots - St James Tots						
Restricted	284	—	—	—	—	284
Sub-total for Tots	284	—	—	—	—	284
Tower - Tower Fund						
Restricted	7,363	1,264	7,584	—	—	1,043
Sub-total for Tower	7,363	1,264	7,584	—	—	1,043
Refurb - Refurbishment						
Restricted	14,112	1,671	557	—	—	15,226
Sub-total for Refurb	14,112	1,671	557	—	—	15,226
WEaway - Weekend away						
Restricted	1,002	—	75	—	—	927
Sub-total for WEaway	1,002	—	75	—	—	927
FabProj - Fabric Projects						
Designated	150	—	55	(95)	—	—
Sub-total for FabProj	150	—	55	(95)	—	—
CBFS - Church Building Fund Scheme						
Restricted	—	—	—	200	—	200
Sub-total for CBFS	—	—	—	200	—	200
IDS - Interior Decorating Scheme						
Restricted	650	—	64	—	—	586
Sub-total for IDS	650	—	64	—	—	586
Grand total	112,734	93,092	128,161	—	—	77,664

Analysis of receipts and payments

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies						
Planned Giving - Bank (Gift Aid)	51,156	—	970	—	52,126	57,379
Planned giving - envelopes (GA/GASDS)	1,740	—	—	—	1,740	1,370
Planned giving - Bank (no Gift Aid)	6,770	—	348	—	7,118	5,705
Planned Giving - envelopes (no GA/GASDS)	890	—	—	—	890	2,510
Loose plate collections (GA & GASDS)	1,185	—	—	—	1,185	1,401
Loose plate collections (no GA/GASDS)	50	—	—	—	50	510
Other gifts	310	—	1,102	—	1,412	1,310
One-off Tax efficient gifts	416	—	511	—	927	7,323
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	13,838	—	343	—	14,181	16,213
Tax recoverable on GASDS	686	—	30	—	717	636
Legacies	1,250	—	1,000	—	2,250	200
Recurring grants	56	—	—	—	56	56
Non-recurring one-off grants	—	—	1,307	—	1,307	1,446
Total	78,348	—	5,611	—	83,959	96,060
Income from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	3,996	—	—	—	3,996	2,458
Refreshments	132	—	—	—	132	61
Bookstall sales to promote objectives	475	—	—	—	475	282
Events income	—	—	—	—	—	(849)
Total	4,603	—	—	—	4,603	1,952
Other trading activities						
Church hall lettings - fund-raising	770	—	—	—	770	2,245
Other Income	23	—	—	—	23	80
Total	793	—	—	—	793	2,325
Investments						
Bank and building society interest	8	—	1	—	9	86
Rent from flat	3,000	—	—	—	3,000	3,200
Total	3,008	—	1	—	3,009	3,286
Other income						
Benefice expenses	727	—	—	—	727	1,215
Insurance claims	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	727	—	—	—	727	1,215
INCOME TOTAL	87,480	—	5,612	—	93,092	104,838

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds

Costs of applying for grants	—	—	—	—	—	5,536
Costs of reg.giving/stewardship campaign	112	—	—	—	112	151
Total	112	—	—	—	112	5,687

Expenditure on charitable activities

Regular Mission Giving	9,000	—	—	—	9,000	8,180
One-off Mission Giving	100	—	—	—	100	1,579
Secular charities	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Fund (Parish Share)	27,248	—	—	—	27,248	31,141
Common Fund Additional	—	—	—	—	—	—
Payments						
Staff salaries	6,198	—	—	—	6,198	6,378
Working expenses of incumbent	145	—	—	—	145	267
Working expenses CYP/Families worker	306	—	4	—	310	452
Staff courses and training	243	—	—	—	243	925
Training and outreach - materials	711	—	42	—	753	2,841
Training and outreach - catering	166	—	44	—	210	186
Training and outreach - speaker	—	—	75	—	75	235
Training and outreach - accommodation	—	—	—	—	—	690
Church running - insurance	3,423	—	—	—	3,423	3,230
Church office - telephone	549	—	—	—	549	487
Church - purchase of equipment	363	—	112	—	475	366
Church maintenance	2,888	—	188	—	3,076	2,874
Upkeep of services	891	—	104	—	996	1,424
Administration	3,901	—	41	—	3,942	2,630
Visiting preachers	—	—	—	—	—	108
Other Running Costs	418	—	—	—	418	1,644
Church utilities - electric	815	—	—	—	815	360
Church utilities - gas	2,672	—	—	—	2,672	1,324
Church utilities- water	40	—	—	—	40	40
Catering expenses	240	—	—	—	240	57
Bookstall costs	653	—	—	—	653	449
Hall running - purchase of equipment	561	—	129	—	690	215
Hall utilities - electricity	420	—	—	—	420	306
Hall utilities - gas	1,010	—	—	—	1,010	1,271
Hall insurance	1,686	—	—	—	1,686	1,731
Hall maintenance	335	—	100	—	436	4,383
Hall utilities - water	512	—	—	—	512	484
Governance costs	150	—	—	—	150	200
examination/audit fee	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church major repairs - structure	—	—	—	—	—	550
Church major repairs - installation	—	55	7,841	—	7,896	—
Hall + major repairs - structure	—	—	53,606	—	53,606	6,469
Hall + major repairs - installation	—	—	—	—	—	2,100
Other PCC property upkeep	—	—	64	—	64	—
Total	65,643	55	62,351	—	128,049	85,574
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	65,755	55	62,351	—	128,161	91,261
GRAND TOTAL	21,725	(55)	(56,739)	—	(35,069)	13,577

Mission Giving - Regular	This Year	Last Year
Betel Ministries	£ -	£ 315
Chrysolis (Luke Cawley)	£ 1,980	£ 1,875
Crosslinks (Algeos)	£ 1,980	£ 1,980
Evangelical Alliance	£ 100	£ 100
North West Gospel Partnership	£ 100	£ 100
UCCF (Liv Rigby)	£ -	£ 625
UCCF (Matthew Leung)	£ 1,200	£ 400
UFM (Chelashaws)	£ 2,500	£ 2,500
Yasha	£ 1,140	£ 285
total	£ 9,000	£ 8,180

Mission giving - One off		
Home for Good	£ 100	£ -
Keele University Christian Union	£ -	£ 200
Newcastle Foodbank	£ -	£ 220
North West Gospel Partnership	£ -	£ 300
Resourcing Mission Fund (Crosslinks)	£ -	£ 300
Cloverley Hall (Weekend away refunds gifted)	£ -	£ 558
total	£ 100	£ 1,578

(There may be minor rounding discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown)



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

Parish of Saint James the Great, Audley

On accounts for the year
ended

2021

Charity no
(if any)

1134853

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/ 12 / 2021.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

Signed:

Kathleen M. Lovatt

Date:

18 March 2022

Name:

Kathleen Marie Lovatt

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

AATQB

Address:

2 Colenso Way, Bradwell

Newcastle Under Lyme

ST5 8SJ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A

Accounts



**The Parish of St James the Great, Audley
Diocese of Lichfield**

Address for correspondence

The Benefice Office, 14 Church Street, Audley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 8DE

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements**

of the Parochial Church Council

**For the year ended
31st December 2020**

Vicar

The Reverend Simon Tomkins

Bankers:

National Westminster Bank
Crewe (A) Branch
The Square, Crewe

Independent examiner:

Mrs. Kathy Lovatt
2 Colenso Way
Bradwell
Newcastle
ST5 8SJ

Website:

www.jmj.org.uk/

The Parochial Church Council is a registered charity no: 1134853

Aim and Purpose

St James Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Simon Tomkins, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building and the Church Hall on Church Street, Audley.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to prayer and the promotion of the gospel of Jesus Christ, encouraging as many people as possible to put their faith in Jesus, and equipping them to live out that faith day by day.

When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We meet together at our worship services, for courses, and in small groups to hear the Bible taught and to pray. Our services and groups are open to all.

We run Christian activities for children and young people and are involved in outreach work in local schools. We also run activities for parents and toddlers.

Pastoral work includes visiting the sick and bereaved and helping couples prepare for marriage and baptisms.

We support those promoting the gospel in the UK and overseas.

To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of both the Church and the Hall.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Under normal circumstances, there are two services held on a Sunday with different styles to meet the needs of different people across our community. All are welcome at either service. The 08.15 service is a small, friendly and reflective service. We sit together at the front of the church building in the choir stalls. We normally follow the traditional words of the Book of Common Prayer Service for Morning Prayer. The 10.30 Family Service is livelier. We enjoy being a church family meeting together around God's Word to pray and worship. There's a huge range of ages (from tiny to very senior) and different types of music (from traditional hymns to more modern choruses and songs). There's a crèche for little ones and our Sunday school, The Mix, runs for children in primary school through to Year 9. About once a month we hold an All-Age Service. At both the 8.15 and 10.30 services we listen to the Bible being read and preached, and, for those who would like to, there's a chance to join in saying a statement of faith together. Once a month at each service we celebrate Holy Communion together. On a Friday morning at 9.45 there is a service normally using the Book of Common Prayer. Each Saturday a prayer breakfast is held, and once a month we join with the other Churches in the benefice for a Benefice prayer meeting.

Under lockdown conditions, we've continued to run a weekly service on Zoom, and tried to hold a 9.00am in-person service when government guidance has allowed it. We have held a daily Morning Prayer Service online through lockdown which normally has 10-15 attendees.

At the APCM in October 2020 there were 121 parishioners on the Church electoral roll. We estimate that on average over 120 people from across the Benefice (but primarily from St James) have been attending zoom services online.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Through this year, we have only been able to conduct 2 marriages, and no baptisms. We have hosted a marriage preparation course, and led 24 funerals.

Community Events

We feel the privilege and responsibility of our role in the community. Sadly, we were unable to host and lead our traditional Remembrance Day service this year, but recorded an online tribute with Audley Male Voice Choir and Audley Brass, Ravensmead School and Audley scouts, which was widely watched on Facebook, and a dramatic display of poppies from the church tower. We also recorded an online Christingle service which was well attended, and shared online. Prior to this service we put together Christingle 'kits' and distributed around 470 of these to local school children and the folk in the Church and village so that all could join in making a Christingle during the service.

We are glad to have been able to coordinate local support, particularly through the first lockdown, by setting up a 'parish helpline' and a team of volunteers to deliver shopping and prescriptions to those who are self-isolating.



*St James Church poppy display
November 2020*

Courses

Over the course of the lockdown, we have held informal online courses for those investigating the Christian faith.

Small Groups

We have rearranged our small groups this year have continued to meet online.

Staffing

The Staff team is led by the Revd Simon Tomkins as Vicar.

Since September 2018, the St James Christian Workers Trust has employed Revd Scott Seivewright as our Families minister to support outreach to young people, their families, and to support pastoral ministry in all its forms around the benefice.

We are very grateful for the work of Mrs Georgie Baldwin as benefice administrator, who is currently on maternity leave, and Mrs Donna Wilcox, covering for her in her absence.

We are also very grateful for Mrs Mary-Ellen Williams, who was appointed in February and who has responsibility for keeping the church hall and church building clean week-to-week.

Children and Young People

Like all our activities, our work with children and young people has been affected by the government lockdown and other Covid restrictions this year.

In addition to our children's groups on a Sunday morning, we now have an evening group for young people at Secondary school, which has continued online. We hope to be able to restart a regular after-school club in our local primary school.

St James Tots (formerly Prampushers) is our parent and toddler group which met each week until the first lockdown. Very few of the families who come along are regular worshippers at St James and it is therefore of benefit to many outside our Church family. We hope to be able to restart this in a new format once lockdown conditions ease.

During the course of the year, our Vicar and Families Minister have had the opportunity to go into our local schools to lead assemblies on Microsoft Teams and support teaching staff.

Weekend Away 'at home'

Sadly, this year's planned weekend away with St John's, Alsagers Bank and St Martin's Talke had to be cancelled at short notice in the first lockdown.

Other Activities

There is a healthy and active Mothers Union affiliated to St James, who have continued to meet online, and to provide valuable encouragement and support to their more isolated members.

For details of other groups and activities, please see the document the PCC compiles for the APCM and is available through the Benefice office.

Synod

Three members of our PCC sit on the Newcastle Deanery Synod, and another one also sits on General Synod. This provides the PCC a link with the Churches around us, in the diocese as a whole and the Church of England nationally.

Church Buildings

Under normal conditions, the Church is usually open for prayer when the Church office is open. Over the course of the year, the Church also normally receives visits from local school children for special services, and hosts the Village Service of Remembrance in November. On several occasions through the year, we aim to open the Church tower to visitors.

In addition to St James' Tots, and the Mothers' Union for their meetings, our Church hall is used regularly by other members of the community. Zumba classes and a dance school. Work to repair the damaged roof in the top hall has been hampered by lockdown and the need to apply for grants, but we hope to make the building safe and structurally sound to secure its long-term use by the congregation and community.



*St James Church Hall with 500 Christingle kits ready for distribution and 'Covid secure' floor markings to allow the dance classes to continue safely when they were allowed.
December 2020*

Mission and Evangelism

We continue to prayerfully and financially support those sharing the gospel at home and overseas. We maintain active links with mission partners in Crosslinks, Chrysolis, UCCF and UFM as they work in Africa, Eastern Europe and the UK. Additionally, we support Yasha who work with women involved in the sex industry in Stoke.

Pastoral Care

The clergy and others in the church family would normally try to visit the sick and bereaved regularly, and try to take Communion to those who request it who are housebound (particularly at Christmas and Easter). Much of this support now happens over the phone or online. Most of the church's visits to the housebound come informally from those in the church family who want to do something to support the needy in our community. Two teams who regularly visit Wilbraham's House Care Home in Audley and the Poplar's Care Home in Alsager's Bank have been unable to visit due to Covid restrictions.

Ecumenical relationships

Many of us enjoy close personal friendships with members of Audley Methodist Church, and the vicar and minister meet to plan and pray together. In January 2018, the Bishop of Lichfield agreed to the request made to him by St James PCC for episcopal oversight from the Bishop of Maidstone.

Financial Review

Overview

The total income for the year was a little over £104,800 and total expenditure just over £91,250.

Total cash funds at the year-end were £112,734 compared with £99,157 at the end of 2019. Unrestricted funds accounted for £88,995 compared with £83,409 in 2019, and the total of Restricted Funds also rose to £23,738 from £15,748.

Unrestricted Funds

Income to Unrestricted Funds totalled £94,552. Traditionally, our Church receives most of its offerings from collections made during Sunday services. We have been fortunate that much of our regular giving from members of the Church family is made by bank standing order, and therefore even though we have had very few services in person this year due to Covid restrictions, we have maintained much of our regular income. The pattern of our regular envelope donations has altered with some now choosing to give through the bank, and others by regular cheque. However, the reduction in loose offering and regular cash gifts on which we also reclaim tax under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme has been significantly affected. In total this year we were still able to reclaim £14,916 from HMRC on gifts to St James.

Covid restrictions have inevitably led to a significant reduction in income from Hall hirings. (Income this year also included arrears payments from 2019.) All but 2 of the planned weddings at St James were postponed due to Covid, and we followed the lead of the Church of England in waiving all funeral fees from the start of the first lockdown until 1st July 2020 which impacted on the expected Parochial Fees for weddings and funerals.

We were grateful to receive a government furlough grant to help cover our Church cleaner's salary during the first lockdown when we were uncertain of the effect of this on our finances.

Payments from unrestricted funds totalled £69,000. The largest single expense remains the Parish Share. In addition to the costs of running the Church and maintaining our buildings, we have continued financial support of Christian organisations, and our Mission partners working locally, nationally, in Europe, and in Africa. In the summer Matthew Leung replaced Liv Rigby as our local UCCF staff worked and so our giving transferred to him. In addition, we are delighted to start our partnership with Yasha, and to formalise our links with North West Gospel Partnership and Evangelical Alliance.

Staff salaries cover our cleaner, as the salaries of our Youth and Families minister and Administrator are paid by the Christian Worker's Trust.

Although with relatively few in person services this year some of our costs have reduced, these have been largely outweighed but the cost of additional licenses and tech equipment as we have moved online with Zoom and started streaming services. In addition, regular updates have been mailed out to those members of our congregation not on line, and so our postage costs have been higher than in previous years.

As we are part of a benefice, there are some expenses which are shared across the 3 parishes. In 2020 these came to £2,336. As the largest parish, St James is responsible for 60% of these costs with the other 40% shared between St Martin's and St John's. For administrative purposes, St James usually pays the full amount of expenses (which therefore appear as a

payment in our accounts) and then reclaims the 40% from the other parishes on a regular basis. The PCC agreed to waive St John's and St Martin's share for the first 6 months of the year, recognising that the closure of churches had a more significant impact on income than at St James.

Last year we established 3 designated funds. The Fabric projects fund contains the balance of the grant from Newcastle Borough Council for the new gate which, although delayed by Covid, has now been manufactured and is due to be fitted early in 2021. The PCC also put aside £2000 towards the Benefice weekend at Cloverley Hall in March 2020 and £2000 for the Mission Week planned for April 2020. Both of these events were cancelled due to Covid restrictions. From the Cloverley 20 fund we paid the cancellation fees due to Cloverley Hall, and at the end of the year closed the fund. Whilst there were some planning and preparation expenses paid from the Mission 20 fund, the PCC decided to use the balance to send out customized evangelistic books 'Four kinds of Christmas' to every household in the ST7 8 postcode area in December.

Restricted Funds

We started the year with 6 restricted funds in regular use, covering refurbishment, non-routine maintenance and upkeep of the Church and Church hall (Refurbishment and Church Hall funds respectively), Children and Young People's work (CYP), Prampushers, Weekend Away and Flower funds. During the year we added the Community Support Fund and the Tower Fund. The Interior Decorating Scheme Fund is held by the Diocese on our behalf. Total income to these funds this year was £10,286 with total payments of £19,021.

The *Refurbishment fund* is the only fund which receives regular donations. There were no major projects or notable expense from this fund in 2020.

Whilst the *Hall fund* receives no regular income, this year we have received a legacy and gift from the proceeds of the December 2019 village male voice and ladies choirs' concert. There has been major expenditure from this fund again this year, and £16,726 has been transferred from the general fund to cover this deficit. The gable end of the roof has been repaired, a new boiler for the office and Comfy Chair room fitted, significant electrical safety improvements undertaken and bathroom repairs made in the flat. The upper hall has remained out of action all year due to the structural roofing issues (with not insignificant accompanying scaffolding costs.) However, towards the end of 2020 we are very grateful to have secured a significant grant towards the replacement of the roof. We are therefore hoping that repairs will now be able to start late Spring/ early Summer 2021.

The *CYP fund* has had no income and limited expenditure this year due to the mainly online format of children and youth work.

Following the cancellation of the Benefice weekend away in March, it was agreed to refund all the booking fees which had been received. Some of these were received in Autumn 2019 and therefore the *Weekend Away Fund* shows a negative income. Many folk gifted part or all of their booking fees to Cloverley Hall (where we were due to stay), to the general fund or to be held to help fund future weekends away, and we are grateful for their generosity.

To reflect its new name, the *Prampushers Fund* was renamed *St James Tots Fund*. There has been little activity since March due to lockdown.

The *Flower fund* is usually used for ensuring the Church is appropriately decorated at Easter, Harvest and Advent, and so due to lockdown had no expenditure or income this year.

The *Community Support Fund* was set up to channel donations specifically to support the village response to the first Covid lockdown. Regular expenditure from this has covered the cost of the helpline and also on some occasions food for the housebound.

For some time the church tower clock has not been working as we recognised that the existing arrangements to wind the clock which have been in place for many decades (if not longer) were no longer considered safe. We are grateful to the St James Tower Bellringing Band who took the initiative in looking into how we could reinstate this missed village landmark. Further to this we received a very generous gift in memory of a member of the Church family so that the clock can be automated, and have established the *Tower Fund* for this purpose. We expect the work to be done in the early part of 2021.

Plans for Future Periods

Thanks to the generosity of the Church family and prudent management of expenditure, for the fifth year running, income significantly exceeded expenditure and maintained our longer term objective of having 6 months of reserves in our unrestricted fund. With the significant expenditure expected on the Church Hall in 2021 we are unlikely to maintain this, but would still look to maintain a reserve above the recommended minimum of 3 months running costs of £20,000.

We are also aware that with a Church building as old as ours, we need to be prepared for unexpected expense and we believe it to be essential to build up a significant reserve in the Church Refurbishment Restricted Fund to cover such unexpected expenditure. This Fund has increased over £1270 this year.

Reserves Policy

We do not believe that it is desirable to build up large reserves. However, we recognise that it is prudent to establish reserve funds sufficient to enable us to survive a period of unexpected expenditure or sudden loss of income.

It has therefore been the long-term objective of the PCC to build up a reserve of funding to permit operations to continue for 6 months following a total cessation of income. At current rates of expenditure, this requires a sum of approximately £40,000 in unrestricted funds. The six-month period is believed to be long enough for the PCC to manage the closure of our ministry in the parish, should this ever become necessary.

Structure, Governance and Management

St James is part of a benefice with St Martins Talke and St Johns Alsagers Bank which was established in August 2015.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St James, the membership of the PCC comprises the incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to Deanery Synod and General Synod and other

members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll and encouraged to consider standing 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 spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average attendance of 77%. The standing committee, comprising the incumbent, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and a representative of the PCC also meets six times a year between full PCC meetings to consider urgent business.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

PCC Membership

Ex-Officio members

Rev Simon Tomkins	Vicar
Rev Scott Seivewright,	Clergy licensed to the Benefice
Mr Malcolm Stoves	Churchwarden
Mr Paul Morgan	Churchwarden
Dr Chik Kaw Tan	General Synod Representative
Mrs Annette Dodd	Licensed Pastoral Assistant
Mrs Georgina Baldwin	PCC Secretary (Until July 2020)
Dr Janice Eatough	Hon Treasurer

Deanery Synod Representatives elected APCM 2020 for 3 years

Mr John Slade
Mr Mark Smith
Mrs Donna Wilcox

Elected Members

Mrs Katharine Dumbill	Re-Elected APCM 2020
Mrs Ruth Nix	Re-elected APCM 2019
Mr Shayne Trinder	Re-elected APCM 2018
Mrs Josie Knight	Elected APCM 2019
Mr Phil Wootton	Elected APCM 2019
Mr Gerry Harvey	Elected APCM 2020

PCC minute-taker: Mrs Ann McCabe

Approved by the PCC on 11th March 2020 and signed on its behalf



Rev'd Simon Tomkins (Chair)



Mr Malcolm Stoves (Warden)

Financial Statements

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	84,941	—	11,119	—	96,060	87,512
Income from charitable activities	2,801	—	(849)	—	1,952	6,948
Other trading activities	2,325	—	—	—	2,325	4,979
Investments	3,270	—	15	—	3,286	3,174
Other income	1,215	—	—	—	1,215	1,817
Total receipts	94,552	—	10,286	—	104,838	104,430
Payments						
Raising funds	151	—	5,536	—	5,687	8
Expenditure on charitable activities	68,849	3,240	13,485	—	85,574	78,616
Total payments	69,000	3,240	19,021	—	91,261	78,624
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	25,552	(3,240)	(8,736)	—	13,577	25,806
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	1,310	—	16,726	—	18,036	10,066
Gross transfers between funds - out	(16,726)	(1,310)	—	—	(18,036)	(10,066)
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains / losses	10,136	(4,550)	7,990	—	13,577	25,806
Net movement in funds	10,136	(4,550)	7,990	—	13,577	25,806
All assets at 01 January 2020	78,709	4,700	15,748	—	99,157	73,351
All assets at 31 December 2020	88,845	150	23,738	—	112,734	99,157
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	88,845	—	—	—	88,845	78,709
Designated						
Cloverley 2020	—	—	—	—	—	2,000
Fabric Projects	—	150	—	—	150	700
Mission 2020	—	—	—	—	—	2,000
Restricted						
Children and Young People's Fund	—	—	244	—	244	486
Church Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—
Community Support	—	—	65	—	65	—
Flower	—	—	17	—	17	17
Interior decorating scheme	—	—	650	—	650	650
Refurbishment	—	—	14,112	—	14,112	12,844
St James Tots	—	—	284	—	284	188
Tower Fund	—	—	7,363	—	7,363	—
Weekend away	—	—	1,002	—	1,002	1,562

Statement of assets and liabilities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted Endowment	This year	Last year
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand					
Bank current and reserve account -	81,866	119	22,551	—	104,537
Bank Current and reserve account 2 -	1,923	—	420	—	2,343
Interior Decorating Scheme -	—	—	650	—	650
Cash in hand -	50	—	30	—	80
Totals	83,839	119	23,651	—	107,610
Current assets - Debtors					
Accounts Receivable -	5,007	—	87	—	5,093
Totals	5,007	—	87	—	4,973
Liabilities - Agency accounts					
Agency collections -	—	—	—	—	13
Totals	—	—	—	—	13
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year					
Accounts Payable -	—	(31)	—	—	(31)
Totals	—	(31)	—	—	(31)
Grand total	88,845	150	23,738	—	99,157

Fund movement by type

		Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
General fund							
Unrestricted		78,709	94,552	69,000	(15,416)	—	88,845
	Sub-total for General	78,709	94,552	69,000	(15,416)	—	88,845
Church Hall							
Restricted		—	810	17,536	16,726	—	—
	Sub-total for Hall	—	810	17,536	16,726	—	—
Children and Young People							
Restricted		486	—	242	—	—	244
	Sub-total for CYP	486	—	242	—	—	244
Community Support							
Restricted		—	226	161	—	—	65
	Sub-total for CommSupp	—	226	161	—	—	65
Flower							
Restricted		17	—	—	—	—	17
	Sub-total for Flower	17	—	—	—	—	17
St James Tots							
Restricted		188	198	102	—	—	284
	Sub-total for Tots	188	198	102	—	—	284
Tower Fund							
Restricted		—	7,363	—	—	—	7,363
	Sub-total for Tower	—	7,363	—	—	—	7,363
Refurbishment							
Restricted		12,844	1,691	422	—	—	14,112
	Sub-total for Refurb	12,844	1,691	422	—	—	14,112
Weekend away							
Restricted		1,562	(1)	559	—	—	1,002
	Sub-total for WEaway	1,562	(1)	559	—	—	1,002
Cloverley 2020							
Designated		2,000	—	690	(1,310)	—	—
	Sub-total for Clov20	2,000	—	690	(1,310)	—	—
Mission 2020							
Designated		2,000	—	2,000	—	—	—
	Sub-total for Mission20	2,000	—	2,000	—	—	—
Fabric Projects							
Designated		700	—	550	—	—	150
	Sub-total for FabProj	700	—	550	—	—	150
Interior Decorating Scheme							
Restricted		650	—	—	—	—	650
	Sub-total for IDS	650	—	—	—	—	650
	Grand total	99,157	104,838	91,261	—	—	112,734

Analysis of receipts and payments

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies						
Planned Giving - Bank (Gift Aid)	56,411	—	968	—	57,379	46,361
Planned giving - envelopes (GA/GASDS)	1,370	—	—	—	1,370	6,271
Planned giving - Bank (no Gift Aid)	5,315	—	390	—	5,705	3,158
Planned Giving - envelopes (no GA/GASDS)	2,510	—	—	—	2,510	440
Loose plate collections (GA & GASDS)	1,344	—	57	—	1,401	3,890
Loose plate collections (no GA/GASDS)	510	—	—	—	510	1,300
Other gifts	430	—	880	—	1,310	1,784
One-off Tax efficient gifts	633	—	6,690	—	7,323	5,145
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	14,311	—	1,903	—	16,213	17,208
Tax recoverable on GASDS	605	—	32	—	636	1,899
Legacies	—	—	200	—	200	—
Recurring grants	56	—	—	—	56	56
Non-recurring one-off grants	1,446	—	—	—	1,446	—
Total	84,941	—	11,119	—	96,060	87,512
Income from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	2,458	—	—	—	2,458	4,615
Refreshments	61	—	—	—	61	329
Bookstall sales to promote objectives	282	—	—	—	282	406
Events income	—	—	(849)	—	(849)	1,598
Total	2,801	—	(849)	—	1,952	6,948
Other trading activities						
Church hall lettings - fund-raising	2,245	—	—	—	2,245	4,618
Other Income	80	—	—	—	80	360
Total	2,325	—	—	—	2,325	4,979
Investments						
Bank and building society interest	70	—	15	—	86	174
Rent from flat	3,200	—	—	—	3,200	3,000
Total	3,270	—	15	—	3,286	3,174
Other income						
Benefice expenses	1,215	—	—	—	1,215	1,817
Total	1,215	—	—	—	1,215	1,817
INCOME TOTAL	94,552	—	10,286	—	104,838	104,430

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds

Costs of applying for grants	—	—	5,536	—	5,536	—
Costs of regular giving	151	—	—	—	151	8
Total	151	—	5,536	—	5,687	8

Expenditure on charitable activities

Regular Mission Giving	8,180	—	—	—	8,180	8,850
One-off Mission Giving	1,020	—	559	—	1,579	200
Parish Share	31,141	—	—	—	31,141	30,568
Staff salaries	6,378	—	—	—	6,378	6,065
Working expenses of incumbent	267	—	—	—	267	250
Working expenses CYP/Families worker	448	—	4	—	452	583
Staff courses and training	745	—	180	—	925	1,316
Training and outreach - materials	794	1,950	98	—	2,841	797
Training and outreach - catering	117	50	18	—	186	441
Training and outreach - speaker	235	—	—	—	235	584
Training and outreach - accommodation	—	690	—	—	690	100
Training and outreach - subsidised place	—	—	—	—	—	300
Church running - insurance	3,230	—	—	—	3,230	2,866
Church office - telephone	487	—	—	—	487	447
Church - purchase of equipment	83	—	283	—	366	750
Church maintenance	2,734	—	140	—	2,874	2,777
Upkeep of services	1,403	—	21	—	1,424	1,361
Administration	2,550	—	80	—	2,630	3,059
Visiting preachers	108	—	—	—	108	338
Other Running Costs	1,564	—	81	—	1,644	309
Church utilities - electric	360	—	—	—	360	918
Church utilities - gas	1,324	—	—	—	1,324	1,495
Church utilities- water	40	—	—	—	40	25
Catering expenses	34	—	22	—	57	530
Bookstall costs	449	—	—	—	449	663
Hall running - purchase of equipment	101	—	114	—	215	263
Hall utilities - electricity	306	—	—	—	306	880
Hall utilities - gas	1,271	—	—	—	1,271	1,879
Hall insurance	1,731	—	—	—	1,731	1,834
Hall maintenance	1,066	—	3,317	—	4,383	1,054
Hall utilities - water	484	—	—	—	484	531
Governance costs - examination fee	200	—	—	—	200	200
Church major repairs - structure	—	550	—	—	550	300
Hall + major repairs - structure	—	—	6,469	—	6,469	1,704
Hall + major repairs - installation	—	—	2,100	—	2,100	4,378
Hall + interior and exterior decorating	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	68,849	3,240	13,485	—	85,574	78,616
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	69,000	3,240	19,021	—	91,261	78,624
GRAND TOTAL	25,552	(3,240)	(8,736)	—	13,577	25,806

Mission Giving - Regular	This Year	Last Year
Betel Ministries	£ 315	£ 420
Chrysolis (Luke Cawley)	£ 1,875	£ 1,800
Crosslinks (Algeos)	£ 1,980	£ 1,980
Evangelical Alliance	£ 100	£ -
North West Gospel Partnership	£ 100	£ -
UCCF (Liv Rigby)	£ 625	£ 900
UCCF (Matthew Leung)	£ 400	£ -
UFM (Chelashaws)	£ 2,500	£ 3,750
Yasha	£ 285	£ -
total	£ 8,180	£ 8,850

Mission giving - One off		
Explained and Proclaimed	£ -	£ 50
Keele University Christian Union	£ 200	£ 100
Newcastle Foodbank	£ 220	£ -
North West Gospel Partnership	£ 300	£ -
Resourcing Mission Fund (Crosslinks)	£ 300	£ -
Truth Youth Event	£ -	£ 50
Cloverley Hall (Weekend away refunds gifted)	£ 558	£ -
total	£ 1,578	£ 200

(There may be minor rounding discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown)



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Parish of Saint James the Great, Audley

On accounts for the year
ended

2020

Charity no
(if any)

1134853

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 December 2020**.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

5 April 2021

Name:

Kathleen M Lovatt

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

AAT

Address:

2 Colenso Way, Bradwell

Newcastle Under Lyme

ST5 8SJ

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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