THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST STEPHEN'S, BARBOURNE

England & Wales · Charity number 1137099

Details

Other names	ST STEPHENS COE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-07-27
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	25 Whinfield Road Worcester WR3 7HF
Phone	01905451142
Email	richard.hemmings211@btinternet.com
Website	www.barbourne-ststephen.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship open to allProvision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplationPastoral work, including visiting sick and bereavedTeaching of Christianity through sermons, courses + small groupsTaking of religious assemblies in schoolsPromoting the whole mission of the Church through activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special need groups

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£152,154	£138,387	-	-
2024-12-31	£140,448	£142,108	-	-
2023-12-31	£149,982	£134,118	-	-
2022-12-31	£149,982	£134,118	-	-
2021-12-31	£101,174	£98,334	-	-
2020-12-31	£101,174	£98,339	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Lindsey Joanne Coulthard	Chair	2024-02-04
Angela Joy Poppleton		2026-05-17
Carol Amos		2015-04-17
Christine Allen		2026-05-17
Colin Patrick Magee		2025-05-18
Judith Gerrard		2024-07-24
Kevin Stephen Maltby		2022-05-22
Kirstie June Anwyl-Hughes		2025-05-18
Lynda Margaret Niccolls		2025-05-18
NIGEL STANLEY WAKE		2015-04-17
PAUL KENNETT		
Patrica Kendall		2023-05-14
Philippa Jane Boulter		2025-05-18
Rev Robert Drewry Holdsworth		2023-05-14
Richard Mark Poppleton		2024-05-12
Ruth Janice Scotson		2020-11-29
William Courtney Harwood		2023-05-14

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST STEPHEN'S, BARBOUR

England & Wales - Charity number 1137099

Accounts

PARISH CHURCH OF BARBOURNE ST STEPHEN

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



(Left) Eco-Champions Lynda & Chris showing our Bronze and Silver Eco Awards
(Right) Our Eco-Team at work creating the raised beds

Michelle Walsh - Parish Administrator & PCC Secretary
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1137099

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The Parochial Church Council of Barbourne St Stephen

Annual Report for the year ending December 31st 2025

The PCC presents its annual report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities Act 2022 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Reference and Administration details

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Barbourne, St Stephens, (also known as St Stephens PCC), St Stephens Church, St Stephens Street, Worcester, WR3 7HS is registered with the Charity Commissioners, number: 1137099.

Current PCC members (until 2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

Ex officio:

Chair/ Priest in Charge: Revd Lindsey Coulthard*
Churchwardens: Ruth Scotson & Kevin Maltby (Elected May 2025)

Deanery Synod

Paul Kennet, William Harwood & Nigel Wake (to APCM 2026)

Elected Officers, Members and Representatives of the PCC

Elected Officers:

Lay Vice Chair: William Harwood
PCC Treasurer: Richard Hemmings
Electoral Roll Officer: Paul Kennett
Safeguarding Officer: Carol Amos*
Health & Safety Officer: Pat Kendall (with Nigel Wake supporting).

Elected Members (with varying terms of office)

Richard Hemmings (to APCM 2026), Rob Holdsworth (to APCM 2026), Pat Kendall (to APCM 2026), Judith Gerrard (to APCM 2026), Carol Amos (to APCM 2027), Richard Poppleton (to APCM 2027), Beryl Thorp - resigned from post April 2025: Replaced by Colin Magee (to APCM 2027), Kirstie-Anwyl Hughes (to APCM 2028), Phillipa Boulter (to APCM 2028).

Representatives of the PCC:

PCC Secretary: Michelle Walsh**

Independent Examiner: M K Skellum FCA (Ballards LLP, 11c Kingswood Road, Hampton Lovett, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 0QH)

*Trustees to whom responsibility has been delegated for the reporting of serious safeguarding and other incidents to the Charity Commission.
** Appointed Officer not PCC Member

Structure, Governance and Management

The appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and may stand for election to the PCC.

The work of the PCC is carried out at regular meetings, throughout the year. We met seven times during 2025. The work of the PCC was also undertaken through meetings of various sub-groups:
Standing Committee: Revd Lindsey Coulthard, Kevin Maltby, Ruth Scotson, William Harwood & Richard Hemmings.
Community Support Group: Revd Lindsey Coulthard, Richard Poppleton, William Harwood, Ruth Scotson, Kevin Maltby and Adrian Everett.
Joint Oversight Committee for Children Youth and Families (combined with Claines & St George's churches)
Representing St Stephens: Sarah Smith & Robyn Rooney.
When they have met, these groups have provided reports to the full PCC meetings. These are in addition to regular reports and updates to PCC in relation to; Fabric, Family, Children & Youth, Safeguarding, Health & Safety and Finance. Regular reports are also received from our Deanery Synod representatives.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

We began 2025 with a full PCC and we are very lucky to be blessed with experienced and committed members who collectively ensure St Stephen's runs efficiently with much thought and care. I would particularly like to mention all those who's duties go beyond PCC meetings and who dedicate much time behind the scenes; In particular I would like to thank: Carol our Safeguarding officer, Richard our Treasurer, Paul our Electoral Roll Officer and Ruth and Kevin our wonderful Churchwardens. This year in particular our Community Support Group have worked tirelessly to progress our Health & Sustainability priorities regarding Compassionate Church and this would not happen without the great efforts given by Revd Lindsey, Richard (P), William, Ruth, Kevin, and also Adrian Everett, who as our Fabric Lead gives so many hours to the safe keeping of the church overseeing fabric matters. Thanks also to our marvellous ministry team, led by Lindsey and ably assisted by an ever-growing team of clergy, readers and trainees. We really appreciate your hard work and efforts in making St Stephen's such friendly and welcoming church.

In April 2025 Beryl Thorp made the decision it was time for her to step down from PCC duties. Beryl has been one of our longest ever serving members, serving 12 years on PCC and before this as churchwarden. Beryl had given it much thought before making this difficult decision, but she felt she could not fulfil her duties as she wanted. I would like to thank Beryl for the dedicated service she has given to PCC over so many years. Beryl having served a one year of a three-year term left a casual vacancy of 2 years. Colin Magee was elected to PCC to fill this 2-year post during May's APCM.

During the PCC meeting in May, Margaret Mandrell position on PCC was evaluated. Margaret was originally asked by Stuart Currie to join PCC in 2011 as an Ex-Officio member and after 13 years on PCC Margaret requested to be relieved from PCC duties. (Church Representation Rule - M15(h) states that Readers do not have to be on PCC but can be elected if the annual meeting decides they should be. PCC fully supported Margaret's request to step down from PCC duties, with there being no obligation that she remains on PCC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Margaret or her many faithful years service to PCC.

During July's PCC meeting a change was made to how we discuss fabric matters at PCC. The fabric of the church is such a huge part of PCC decisions and with much time being taking up with Fabric matters during PCC meetings, it was agreed that we implement new and dedicated meetings purely for fabric issues. New

fabric meetings would take place bi-annually in October and April and our first PCC Fabric meeting was held on 22nd October.

On 6th September we had a much-needed Away Day, which was a wonderful day spent at St. Nicholas Barn including a homemade lunch and walks around the historic St. Nicholas Church and grounds. The theme of the day was Pause, Clarify & Connect which held many discussions, activities, thoughts and the sharing of ideas including the direction of Our Health & Sustainability plan. We also asked questions including; Where do we see God at work in our church? and Why does the PCC exist? These discussions moved us to create and agree our first PCC Code of Conduct. We had a very enjoyable and productive time together.

I am so very grateful to Rev, Lindsey and all members of the PCC for their continued help and support over that past year.

Michelle Walsh
PCC Secretary

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

We entered the Year 2025 with an Electoral Roll numbering 154.

2025 saw the complete rebuild of the Roll in accordance with the C of E rules which happens every 6 years. This took effect for the 2025 APCM.

After the rebuild and with further revisions during 2025 we left 2025 with a Roll of 143 people.

It is interesting to note that still more than 47% of members of the Roll live outside the Parish Boundaries!

It is only Electoral Roll members who are eligible to vote for and stand for election to the PCC and other offices within the Parish.

The Roll complies with Data Protection Regulations as they stood at the APCM in 2025 and will be updated to any new Data Protection standards as necessary.

Access to the Electoral Roll is restricted on a “need to know” basis and is controlled by the Roll Officer and the Priest-in-Charge to who any queries should be addressed.

The Roll is for Church purposes only.

Paul Kennett
Electoral Roll Officer

The Parochial Church Council of Barbourne St Stephen PCC Decisions 2025

Meeting Date	Decisions made
22nd January	**Present:** Lindsey Coulthard, Ruth Scotson, Richard Poppleton, Paul Kennett, William Harwood, David Anwyl-Hughes, Lynda Niccolls, Margaret Mandrell, Beryl Thorp, Carol Amos, Kevin Maltby, Nigel Wake, Richard Hemmings, Pat Kendall, Judith Gerrard, Michelle Walsh, Adrian Everett. **Agreed:** To pay an outside contractor (quoted c£500) to tackle the much overgrown and out of control hedges before the birds begin nesting. **Agreed:** To move the 9 Lesson & Carols Service from the (extremely busy) 2nd week in December to the 3rd week in December; to commit more energy and with the hope of also serving refreshments afterwards. **Approved:** Safeguarding and Vulnerable Adults policies.
26th March	**Present:** Lindsey Coulthard, Ruth Scotson, Richard Poppleton, Paul Kennett, William Harwood, David Anwyl-Hughes, Lynda Niccolls, Robert Holdsworth, Beryl Thorp, Carol Amos, Kevin Maltby, Nigel Wake, Richard Hemmings, Pat Kendall, Judith Gerrard, Michelle Walsh, Adrian Everett, Heather Murphy, Brother Michael of Mucknell Abbey. **Approved:** South Porch repairs to proceed under CWC contractors. Starting mid-August to finish by end October. Proposed by Rob Holdsworth and seconded by Carol Amos. **Approved:** (Unanimously). For a Baby changing facility to be placed in the North porch including curtain and light. Approximate costs c£300. **Agreed:** To replace the old and small Open church sign on Droitwich Rd, replacing with tall fabric banner(s) successfully used before. Cost c£100.
APCM 18th May	**Present:** Revd. Lindsey Coulthard (Chairman), 52 parishioners plus 1 Zoom attendee. **Elected:** Churchwardens: Ruth Scotson, Kevin Maltby **Elected to PCC:** Kirstie Anwyl-Hughes & Phillipa Boulter (3-year term) Colin Magee (Casual Vacancy/2-year term) **Reports Received:** Clergy, Secretary, Churchwarden, Electoral Roll, Treasurer, Safeguarding, Fabric, Deanery Synod, Serving Team, Family, Youth & Children, Good Companions, Sunday Morning Refreshments, Open Church, Craft and Chatter, Bell Ringers, Pastoral Visitors, Sunday Stars, Little Stars, Bishop Allenby Hall, Home Groups (x2).
28th May	**Present:** Lindsey Coulthard, William Harwood, Kevin Maltby, Richard Hemmings, Richard Poppleton, Paul Kennett, Rob Holdsworth, Pat Kendall, Judith Gerrard, Carol Amos, Kirstie Anwyl-Hughes, Philippa Boulter, Colin Magee, Michelle Walsh. **Election of officers** Election of Lay Chair William Harwood was proposed by Richard Poppleton and seconded by Richard Hemmings. Election of Secretary Michelle Walsh was proposed by Kirstie Anwyl-Hughes and Seconded by Richard Hemmings. Election of Treasurer Richard Hemmings was proposed by Judith Gerrard and seconded by Paul Kennett. Election of Electoral Roll Officer Paul Kennett was proposed by Richard Hemmings and seconded by Philippa Boulter. Election of Standing Committee Lindsey Coulthard, Kevin Maltby, Ruth Scotson, William Harwood & Richard Hemmings. Richard Hemmings was proposed by Kevin Maltby and seconded by Richard Poppleton

	William Harwood was proposed by Philippa Boulter and seconded by Pat Kendall. **Agreed:** Margaret Mandrell, after 13 years on PCC had requested to be relieved from PCC duties. (CRR- M15(h) states that Readers do not have to be on PCC and Margaret was fully supported by PCC to step down. **Approved:** Phase 1 - Compassionate Church - Access and inclusion. PCC discussed and approved the updated to the Health and Sustainability plan, including returning the iron gates to the porch. **Agreed:** (unanimously) To present Organist Nick Dunster with an Honorarium gift. **Approved:** Updated Fire Evacuation Procedure **Approved:** The use of (Diocesan approved) Online Dashboard to keep track of volunteers, DBS checks and training.
23rd July	**Present:** Lindsey Coulthard, William Harwood, Rob Holdsworth, Pat Kendall, Judith Gerrard, Carol Amos, Nigel Wake, Kirstie Anwyl-Hughes, Philippa Boulter, Colin Magee, Michelle Walsh. **Agreed:** (Unanimous) To buy a brand-new dishwasher which could be left unattended whilst mid-cycle. The risk of anything untoward happening mid-cycle whilst unattended would be extremely rare. **Agreed:** Wrist alarms to be purchased and worn for each individual keyholder for additional safety when opening the North door, especially when dark. Cost £7.50 each. **Agreed:** The following 6 charities were agreed (unanimously) - To split the annual 3K of charitable giving funds equally between: Our Partner Parish - St Mark's, Mafisa in Tanzania, Worcester Snoezelen Project, Acorns Trust, Behind the Smile, Magg Day Centre and the Woodland Trust. **Approved:** (Unanimously) New worshiping group – Forest church, to be 'based' at St Stephen's, 4-5 times per year and to alternate with Messy church at St George's. **Approved***:* Safeguarding Annual Approval. Path of God (POG) based at St Stephens, three-church group. **Approved:** St Stephen's privacy notice was approved subject to amending the contact details from Judy Hood to Michelle Walsh. **Agreed:** New PCC meetings, purely for Fabric issues - To take place bi-annually in October and April. First Fabric Meeting will take place Wednesday 22nd October. **Approved:** (Unanimously) To employ a part-time cleaner; to advertise a paid cleaning position, in-house to begin with.
24th September	**Present:** Lindsey Coulthard, William Harwood, Ruth Scotson, Kevin Maltby, Richard Poppleton, Paul Kennett, Pat Kendall, Judith Gerrard, Carol Amos, Nigel Wake, Kirstie Anwyl-Hughes, Philippa Boulter, Colin Magee, Michelle Walsh. **Agreed:** Lone Working Policy. The policy was agreed in principle with Risk Assessments to follow. **Agreed:** (Majority) (Michelle Walsh not present) to increase Michelle Walsh's rate of pay for her duties as Parish Administrator - To take effect from 1st October.
22nd October Fabric Meeting	**Present:** Lindsey Coulthard, William Harwood, Ruth Scotson, Kevin Maltby, Richard Poppleton, Paul Kennett, Pat Kendall, Judith Gerrard, Carol Amos, Richard Hemmings, Philippa Boulter, Colin Magee, Kirstie Anwyl-Hughes, Adrian Everett, Michelle Walsh (MW). **Agreed:** Ecclesiastical Risk Management Report - Hot Works. Any worker/contractor completing hot works will need to remain on-site for 30 minutes following completion, the following 60 minutes of recommended watch time would be completed by someone 'trained' on-site and to be agreed beforehand. **Agreed:** A new proposal plan and architect drawings had been created with some modifications. The PCC were happy with the proposed modifications and agreed we send the plans to the DAC as they currently stand, with comments for preliminary approval.

	Agreed: (Majority) QI Report – Summary of recommendations. To focus our attention on priorities 1,2 & 3, only looking at priority 4 (currently) if works happen to coincide with other high priority work that would save on future costs. It was also agreed we would exclude priority 3 works on the pinnacles as this would coincide with a National Lottery Heritage funding application that would include the Phase 1 works.
26th November	**Present:** Lindsey Coulthard, William Harwood, Ruth Scotson, Kevin Maltby, Rob Holdsworth, Paul Kennett, Pat Kendall, Judith Gerrard, Carol Amos, Kirstie Anwyl-Hughes, Colin Magee, Michelle Walsh, Lynda Niccolls. **Agreed:** PCC agreed numerous changing of wording to the proposed Environmental policy. **Agreed:** (Unanimously) The Clearly Simpler Safeguarding Hubs Service Agreement was reviewed. All voted in favour to adopt the policy. **Approved:** (Unanimously) PCC voted on a resolution to agree the location, model and dimensions of new bicycle racks**.** Proposed by Carol Amos and seconded by Rob Holdsworth.

Michelle Walsh – PCC Secretary

CLERGY REPORT

Dear friends,

As we gather for this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, I want to begin by offering my heartfelt thanks for the love, faithfulness, resilience, and generosity that continue to characterise our life together at St Stephens. Our APCM is not simply a legal requirement; it's a moment to pause, to look honestly at where we have been, and to discern where God is calling us next. This past year has brought its share of joys and challenges, but through it all, I have been continually encouraged by the depth of commitment within this parish and the quiet, steady ways in which God's grace has been at work among us. We continue to live up to our strapline: '*Praising God and Serving the Community'* and we do this in so many wonderful ways.

Our worship remains the beating heart of our common life. Sunday by Sunday, Thursday by Thursday, in person and online, we gather to offer praise and to be nourished by God's word and Holy Sacrament in the Eucharist. Attendance has been steady with the usual increase at major festivals. Christmas and Easter were particularly uplifting this year, not only because of the numbers present but because of the palpable sense of reverence and joy that filled the church. My grateful thanks to Pete Scotson and Michelle Walsh for enabling our Zoom community to worship with us.

We also took the opportunity at Christmas to introduce donations via a QR Code which was well received and got our fundraising for accessible toilet facilities off to a good start. Our Daily Office of Morning and Evening Prayer continues to be the steady pattern that enables us to come together with our neighbouring churches to pray for the world, the Church and for each other's communities; so my grateful thanks to all who share in the leadership of this too.

I want to express my gratitude to Nick Dunster our organist, our choir and other musicians, whose ministry enriches our worship immeasurably. Their dedication helps us lift our hearts to God. Likewise, our altar party, servers, readers, intercessors, welcome team and those who prepare the church week by week all contribute to the beauty and dignity of our worship. Thank you for your faithfulness.

This year we have continued to deepen our commitment to discipleship. Our joint Lent and Advent courses were well attended and sparked thoughtful conversation, and the two thriving home groups that meet

throughout the year have provided space for prayer, fellowship, and honest exploration of faith. I am most grateful to those who host and lead these groups.

Our presence in the community remains strong and our twice weekly Open Church continues to be a much-loved place of welcome and companionship, particularly for those who live alone along with Craft and Chatter on the fourth Saturday of each month. Good Companions also draws folk in from all walks of life to enjoy wonderful speakers and trips out together. All of these expressions of love for one another and especially for the lonely and vulnerable are part of our wonderful identity in Christ.

Whilst it's important that we draw people into church I'm aware of the many ways in which a great number of you serve our community beyond the walls of our worship space – again, a true reflection of our strapline – '*Praising God and Serving the Community'*. At risk of missing some folk out, I won't name any names here but I do include just some of the charities and organisations that I know some of you champion or volunteer at: Worcester Talking News for the Visually Impaired, Christians Against Poverty, Christian Aid, Worcester Repair Café, Worcester Wheels Community Transport, The Good Soil Trust, Behind the Smile, Worcester Cathedral Volunteer Guides and Stewards, Worcester Street Café and Worcester Foodbank.

Our links with our local schools continue to flourish and I'm immensely grateful to those that share in this ministry either through Godly Play, Open the Book or assisting with large school visits for 'Experience Church' Events – all of which provide the opportunity to introduce young people to the love of Jesus. We also have a wonderful team of volunteers for joint Children, Youth and Family events so my thanks also to those of you that give your time to Messy Church, Junior Stars and Path of God Youth Group.

The care of our church building is both a privilege and a responsibility. This year has seen significant progress on essential maintenance, including the installation of an accessible ramp outside the West Porch Door and the restoration of the stonework to the South Porch. I want to thank our fabric lead, Adrian Everett and team for their tireless work in ensuring that our building remains safe, welcoming, and fit for purpose. I also wish to thank Richard Poppleton, William Harwood, Adrian Everett, Ruth and Kevin who form the Community Support Group and give of their time and expertise in helping to keep us on track with each phase of our vision for Compassionate Church.

Financially, we are stable, but we don't have huge reserves so will need to embark on some serious fundraising to assure any grant making bodies of our commitment to Compassionate Church. Rising costs, particularly for utilities, have affected us, as they have affected all households across the country. I want to thank our treasurer Richard Hemmings for his careful stewardship and clear reporting. A special thanks to Richard who is stepping down at this APCM after many years faithful service. I also want to express my gratitude to all of you who give so generously of your talents, time and finance; whether through regular planned giving, one-off donations, or fundraising efforts. Your generosity sustains our ministry and enables us to serve our community. As we look ahead, I encourage us all to reflect prayerfully on our giving; since stewardship is not simply about meeting budgets, it's an expression of our gratitude to God, and our commitment to the mission of the church.

We've been blessed with so many good things this past year not least, a gloriously long, hot summer which enabled us to gather outdoors for Strawberries and Wine at Meriel's and for Hymns and Pimms in the churchyard where we sang our top ten favourites; there was even a Christmas Carol in the mix! We also enjoyed another wonderful Autumn Fayre in collaboration with Sticky Fingers which brought many faces, old and new to the church and grounds. One of the best highlights for me, personally, was the acquisition of our Silver ECO Church Award so my very grateful thanks to Lynda Niccolls and Chris Allen for driving this agenda forward and keeping us focused on creation care.

The year ahead will bring further opportunities for collaboration with our neighbours at Claines and St Georges Churches, and for growth, renewal, and deeper engagement with our community as we move forward with our reordering and development. We will continue to review our Health and Sustainability Plan on a regular basis to ensure that we remain focused on our priorities whilst continuing to be rooted in prayer and open to the Spirit.

Finally, I want to express my deep gratitude to Michelle Walsh, our Parish Administrator and PCC Secretary, each member of the PCC, Ruth and Kevin our churchwardens, Revd. Ann, Revd. Stephen, Revd. Rob, Margaret Mandrell and all who serve in leadership roles. Your ministry, wisdom, patience, and commitment make my ministry possible. To everyone who contributes in ways large and small—through leading worship, prayer, practical help, or simply by being present—thank you. You are the body of Christ in this place, and it is a privilege to serve alongside you.

As we move forward, let's do so with hope, trusting that the God who has been faithful in the past will continue to guide and sustain us. May we be a community shaped by love, committed to sharing the light of Christ with all whom we encounter – '*Praising God and Serving the Community*'.

Revd. Lindsey Coulthard
Priest-in-Charge

TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE APCM
(YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025)

The Accounts show that we managed a small surplus of £719 in respect of the unrestricted (or the general) funds of the Church and excluding the unrealised surplus in the year on the value of the investments. We managed to pay the full sum of the Ministry Share during the year. The small surplus was after writing off the full cost of £4,605 for the changes to the porch ramp and the full reimbursed costs by the insurance company for the roof repairs. Turning to the Accounts and starting at page 17 which gives details of the items of income and expenditure:

a) The total money received under planned giving (that is the money paid by standing order or under the Parish Giving Scheme) has shown a slightly movement from the previous year of £71,605 to £70,348. The move to use the Parish Giving Scheme helps to reduce the administration time dealing with the monthly receipts and to automatically recover the gift aid on a monthly basis without having to do the work ourselves.

b) The grants and donations in the main relate to monies received for specific purposes.

Whilst the accounts appear to show a healthy position, but they do not account for potential substantial quotations for works to the buildings to carry out basic repairs, particularly from the Quinquennial review and the PCC is prioritising the works with the funds available.

If you have any questions on the accounts, please ask me or e-mail your question to Richard.hemmings211@btinternet.com

Richard Hemmings
Treasurer

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

The one thing you can rely on being a Churchwarden is that life is never dull. In addition to our regular duties at services, compiling daily prayers and devising rotas and displays, we have enjoyed a wide variety of activities this year. They have ranged from inspecting wasp infestations in the tower, to participating in Church Huddles with our Mission Accompanier and in discussions with Worcester City Council about the maintenance of the Churchyard.

The other thing we are certain of is that it is a privilege to work alongside so many talented, dedicated and willing volunteers. Painting the Church railings under the guidance of George Cummings and assisting at the Autumn Church fete were two of the highlights of the year. Our thanks to all the team: welcomers, tea and coffee makers, cake bakers, church cleaners, eco-church flower growers and arrangers, bell ringers - and any others we may have forgotten who make our lives so much easier! We are aware of the vast amount of time and effort and resource that goes into the maintenance of our Church and its fabric. The projects involving improving access via the ramp outside the West Door and the repair of the Church porch are testament to the skill and dedication of the Community Support Group and our fabric team. Thank you!

We are pleased to note that in both the 'traditional' and 'Connect' services congregation numbers are healthy and consistent, It has been a delight to work alongside the young people of the parish whether at events in Church, or in activities at our local school through the 'Open the Book' programme. We feel blessed for all the work of Heather Murphy and for the direction and energy she has provided.

We are also enjoying our developing links with St George's and St John the Baptist at Claines and to have the opportunity to participate in worship at a different Church is something from which we can all benefit and enjoy. There have been so many special services at St Stephen's this year that have enriched our pattern of worship, from our Easter Vigil to the visit of the Bishop of Morogoro.

There have been many personal challenges, and we are aware that new issues will emerge as we seek to welcome new office holders and develop our Church buildings in the year ahead. However, through prayer, continued support for each other and by keeping our eyes fixed on our ultimate goals of praising God and serving the community, we remain very optimistic and look forward to the year ahead with confidence.

Kevin Maltby and Ruth Scotson

SERVING TEAM REPORT

We are most fortunate at St. Stephen's to have a small team of experienced versatile individuals who undertake serving, sacristan, verging and training duties.

Members of the team are involved with virtually all services during the course of the year They robe and assist clergy by being part of the altar party either as deacon or sub-deacon. The team regularly provides a crucifer at services and when needed a thurifer.

In addition, several members of the team are authorised to assist with the administration of the Eucharist.

Much of the team's work is undertaken before and after a service takes place. Ensuring that the church altars are correctly dressed for the liturgical season, supplies of wine, wafers, linen/purificators and candles are available along with laundry work and looking after church silver and vestments, are all part of a very varied workload.

Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Advent and Christmas are all busy times with several services and liturgical colour changes. Thankfully, the pace is somewhat slower at other times of the year.

I am extremely grateful to all the team for their continued support and commitment not just at the busy times but throughout the year.

David Anwyl-Hughes
20th April 2026

CHURCH FABRIC REPORT

Another interesting year with two big repair projects and one new facility project successfully completed.

We fixed the Nave roof damage (the aftermath of December 2024's Storm Darrah), the repair requiring 1245 new tiles that were double pinned to their batons: this technique appears to be coping with the recent storms to date.

The new ramp to the West Porch approach has made a massive improvement to our accessibility and emergency egress facilities.

The South Porch stonework repairs has put smiles on everyone seeing its rejuvenation.

The Fabric Team have also supported a number of Eco-Church Team's initiatives.

As part of the Community Support Group, Fabric Team members are helping with the development of our Church to meet the current and future needs of our congregation and the local community, and throughout the year we have been looking at improving the Church's facilities further and the much-needed repairs to the Tower as a major project in the near future.

The main works and surveys undertaken this year included:

- January: Hedgerow trimmed along St Stephen's Street. Lady Chapel lighting changed to all new LED lamps.
- February/March: Church Nave Roof repairs undertaken fitting 1245 new tiles plus 6m of new guttering. Raised beds installed along east wall of churchyard.
- March: New glass panes installed in Tower staircase. New carpet fitting extended to Church North Aisle pew platform.
- May: Baby Changing unit installed outside Church toilet.
- May/June: West Porch Ramp installed with handrailing using local contractors. Walkway roof gap with church was closed.
- July/August: HB Room - New dishwasher installation. New larder fridge installed on worktop.
- August: Hall Kitchen walls / window frame repainted. Churchyard wall iron railings painted.
- September: South Porch Iron Gates re-instated. Water Butt installed. HB Room - new water heater installed replacing leaking unit.
- October: Church West Porch temporary Air Curtain installed.
- Oct/Nov/December: South Porch stonework refurbished.
- November: Bike Stand installed
- December: South Porch Gutters refurbished.

Other works undertaken through the year include: servicing/testing of gas boilers, Church clock, PAT Testing, Annual Fire & Emergency Equipment Inspection, replacing failing lights/batteries, minor plumbing maintenance, clearing gutters and roofs, rodent control measures, Churchyard maintenance. The Hall's toilets have required numerous minor repairs throughout the year highlighting the need to refurbish these in the near future.

We have not been able to secure funding for Net Zero Carbon projects as yet; our plans are to make some small changes with noteworthy advances towards this goal.

My sincere thanks go to those who have assisted me in the above undertakings through the year, particularly Richard Poppleton and Paul Kennett.

Adrian Everett
Fabric Lead

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP REPORT

The Community Support Group has been meeting regularly to ensure the Compassionate Church Project progresses as laid out in the vision statements provided to the congregation over the past few years. Compassionate Church you may recall was part of our Health and Sustainability Plan – to make our church fit for the future and broaden our usage for the wider community - a repurposing and reordering if you like.

The main focus over the last year has been the building works to help get St Stephen's towards a more flexible and welcoming community space as well as a strong focus for worship. We feel that we have achieved 3 major milestones this year and have a further vision for additional works.

1) The West Door Ramp - The steps on the West Door were successfully updated to a ramp in Summer 2025, thus improving access between the Bishop Allenby Hall and St Stephen's as well as providing a better access point for all comers. With additional railing installed, it has been deemed a great success in keeping with the rest of the building.

2) The South Porch Renewal - This has been the work to repair the stonemasonry, secure the flooring and re-install the gates (to reduce anti-social behaviour). This work was completed in December 2025 in time for the major Christmas services and it has been really good to see the South Porch be a better welcoming entrance for our church.

3) The Permanent Faculty for the North and South Aisle pew removal - This application is currently with DAC to finalise the removal of the church pews to enable a more flexible space for the many groups that use the church and to better communicate the next phase of works. The Temporary Faculty for just the North Aisle pews has been deemed a major success with a further improvement of the North Aisle space with new tables and chairs facilitated (as well as new additions to the children's area) to help bring the space to life. It is seeing a significant amount of use.

Next Steps: Our attention now turns to the Tower Project. This has become an amalgamation of the Quinquennial Report recommendations for the tower alongside the Compassionate Church plan to improved the facilities. This project is likely to be an extended project due to the scope and scale of the works. More information will be displayed in the South Aisle once the Faculty is approved, but we now have an early preliminary figure of £250,000 for the full program of works including:-

1) Additional of new toilet facilities inside the Tower

2) New storage above the toilets to store equipment

3) Addressing the exterior of the tower, including stonework, repointing, and pinnacles

A programme of fundraising is now being considered so any ideas are welcome. Full details (including plans, example images and further ideas) are to be provided to the congregation after the Permanent Faculty is approved and implemented, but we have included a copy of the update from March 2026 regarding the Faculty.

Please speak to William Harwood, Ruth Scotson, Kevin Maltby, Richard Poppleton, Adrian Everett or any PCC member if you have any questions.

William Harwood

ECO-CHURCH REPORT

2025 was a wonderful year for Eco Church and with support from many people we made great progress.

Two raised beds have been established with the intention of supporting Barbara's aim to be more self sufficient with church flowers. They have the added bonus of brightening things up for people waiting at the bus stop. We marked off a corner of the churchyard to have a no mow meadow area which struggled due to the hot dry summer, but this will be an ongoing project. A compost bin helps to retain green waste on site and increase recycling while a water butt collects rainwater from the church hall and can be used for the raised beds and memorial flowers. Cycle racks have been installed by the church hall, while within the church we aim to use Fairtrade tea and coffee, environmentally friendly cleaning products and avoid use of disposables for church functions wherever possible.

We are grateful to the fabric team for their commitment to work with consideration for the environment wherever possible. At regular intervals we meet with members from Claines and St George's for a joint approach to working towards the Church of England's goal of net zero by 2030.

The high spot of the year was of course the achievement of our A Rocha Silver Award and we thank everyone for their support in this. We hope that the whole congregation will make caring for God's Creation part of their lives.

Lynda Niccolls

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Currently St Stephen's is at 95% compliance with safeguarding requirements which, in comparison with 76% across The Diocese means that we are doing well.

All volunteers at St Stephen's have relevant the DBS clearance where appropriate including those who took on new roles during the last year for Open the Book and Messy Church.

From May 2025 I have started using The Parish Hub in conjunction with the Parish Dashboard. Apart from it being a much more secure way of holding data, it is a much easier and efficient way for me to keep track of volunteers' DBS and training status. My thanks go to The PCC for approving my use of it. Up to now 28% of PSOs across The Diocese are using The Hub and with the very positive feedback received from those of us who are, that is likely to increase over time.

After a safeguarding talk given to the congregation in July, stressing among other things the mandatory requirement for all volunteers, whatever their role, to complete safeguarding training, I was very encouraged to find that several people contacted me to ask how they could access the Basic Awareness Safeguarding Course. Thank you to those of you who took the time to do this.

I encourage anyone who hasn't completed the training to get in touch, and I'll send you the link. I would be very happy to provide any support necessary to help with this.

Safeguarding remains a standing item on The PCC agenda.

My Thanks go to Lindsey and The PCC for their continued support.

Carol Amos
Parish Safeguarding Officer

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILES REPORT

2025 was a year of significant growth, deepening relationships, and creative mission across the Children, Youth & Families Ministry. Serving across Claines, St Stephen's, and St George's, the ministry continued to build bridges between church, school, and community life, offering spaces where children, young people, and families encountered faith, experienced belonging, and grew in confidence and connection. The following reflects the breadth and depth of that work over the past year.

Partnerships with local schools flourished throughout 2025, becoming one of the most fruitful and consistent areas of ministry. We worked particularly closely with six primary schools—St George's, Riversides, Tudor Grange, Northwick Manor, Claines CofE, and North Worcester Primary—as well as Sticky Fingers Nursery. These relationships grew in trust, visibility, and mutual support. Regular assemblies, RE lessons, Godly Play sessions, and Experience events offered children opportunities to explore Christian stories and values in creative and reflective ways. Many schools requested multiple visits each half term, and several invited us to support Harvest, Remembrance, and Christmas services. The reintroduction and expansion of Open the Book was a particular highlight. A new team was trained at St Stephen's, supported by volunteers from across the churches and the wider community, and a second Claines team was trained with the hope of taking Open the Book into North Worcester Primary Academy. Thanks to everyone involved in our school ministry, with particular appreciation for all Open the Book volunteers; to Gill Parkin and Rachel Cramp for delivering Godly Play; to our school governors; to everyone involved in our Experience Days; and of course, to Rev Lindsey and Rev Sarah.

POG developed into a vibrant and stable youth community made up of young people from across our three churches and parishes. Meeting fortnightly during term time, the group settled at St Stephen's Church Hall, a venue that offered consistency and accessibility. With a mixture of fellowship, food, games, and Bible study, attendance grew, with many young people returning regularly and new faces joining through outreach events such as the Bring a Friend Quiz Night. A committed volunteer team emerged, offering reliable leadership and pastoral support. The sense of community and belonging within POG continued to grow throughout the year. Special thanks go to Rev Lindsey, Rev Sarah, Becky, Colin, Naomi, Elisabeth, and Rachel.

Seasonal events played a significant role in strengthening visibility and offering accessible entry points into church life. These gatherings drew families from across the parishes and beyond, often through school and nursery promotion. Easter Trails were set up across the three churches, signalling to passersby and the wider community that our churches value children and provide for them. Holy Week activities—including an Easter

Craft Morning and Sensory Stations of the Cross—welcomed around 50 people. Thank you to everyone involved in volunteering as part of this outreach throughout the year.

Our partnerships with the uniformed organisations continued to strengthen throughout 2025, with Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorer Scouts engaging with our churches in a variety of meaningful ways. We are grateful that Rev Lindsey continues her chaplaincy role with the cadets, strengthening our pastoral presence among young people in the wider community. These relationships remain an important part of our ministry, helping young people encounter the church in positive and memorable ways.

Messy Church continued to be a joyful expression of cross-church collaboration throughout 2025, offering creative, hands-on worship for families from across the community. Sessions earlier in the year welcomed over 40 attendees and created opportunities for children and adults to explore faith together through craft, story, and shared hospitality.

Communication improved with the development of a monthly CY&F round-up, which reached a growing mailing list of almost 200 people and included resources such as *Your Baptism Journey* and *Thrive*. This helped families stay connected and informed, even if they were not regular Sunday attenders.

The year laid strong foundations for the future: strengthening school partnerships, discerning the future of early-years groups, and continuing to nurture a culture where children and families were not only welcomed but celebrated as part of our shared life of faith. Thank you again to everyone involved in all ways and thank you for all your prayers.

Heather Murphy

SUNDAY STARS REPORT

Sunday Stars, the monthly toddler church, continued to offer simple worship, story, and play for young children and their families. Attendance fluctuated, particularly over the summer, and the widening age range prompted reflection about the group's future shape. Towards the end of the year, it was proposed that Sunday Stars would be replaced by **Junior Stars**, a new Sunday School scheduled for the fourth Sunday of each month. We said goodbye to Sunday Stars in November and began building a volunteer team for Junior Stars, led by Lindsey, Heather, and Robyn. Many thanks to Rev Lindsey, Robyn, Dot, Catherine, Michelle, Rob, and Julia for all you did for Sunday Stars during 2025.

Heather Murphy

LITTLE STARS REPORT

The early-years groups across our three-churches (Little Stars/ Little Fish & Little Friends) remained a vital point of connection for families across the parishes. Each group has its own character and routine, and together they formed a network of welcome, pastoral care, and gentle faith exploration. Little Stars navigated natural transitions as children moved into school and nursery but welcomed several new babies and continued to be a warm and welcoming group offering free play, toys, crafts, activities, singing, stories, and snacks free of charge. A particular highlight was our teddy bears' picnic to mark the end of the academic year and wish our older children farewell. Special thanks to Michelle, Angela, Margaret, Poppy, Jean, Chris, and Rev Lindsey. If joining our team of volunteers at Little Stars is something that interests you, please get in touch with Lindsey or Michelle at any time.

Heather Murphy

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Worcester Area Deanery met for three Synods during 2025, with an average attendance of around 39 members, alongside a well-supported Ascension Day service and a widely attended Deanery Prayer Event. The year has been marked by strong participation, thoughtful learning and a shared commitment to prayer, mission and mutual encouragement across our churches.

Our March Synod focused on ministry with children and young people, with contributions from Simon Hill (iSingPOP), local youth leaders and parents, highlighting the importance of creativity, partnership and realistic expectations across the Deanery. In July, hosted at Martley, we welcomed our new Area Dean, Revd Kalantha Brewis, and explored Climate Justice and the Diocese's Net Carbon Zero commitment, with input from Revd Sue Adeney (Eco Church) and practical discussion about sustainable buildings and lifestyles. Our November Saturday gathering centred on the themes of Fellowship, Discipleship and Stewardship, with contributions from parish leaders and Chris Ottershaw, Diocesan Stewardship Officer, introducing the Cornerstone resources to support financial sustainability. Throughout the year we also received diocesan updates on safeguarding, racial justice and ministry share, with parishes contributing over 71% of the requested total. We give thanks for a year of collaboration, leadership transition and renewed vision as we continue to grow together in faith and service.

Paul Fulbrook

PRAYING TOGETHER REPORT

This first started in June 2025 and has taken place on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month ever since, from 9.30-10.10am. We met in the Church during the hot Summer but otherwise we group in the Hartley Brown room – entering through the back door of the Church. Its purpose is for each of us to journey together in our prayer life, provide a foundation to our Church life, and collectively support concerns about wider issues on our hearts. There are no experts in prayer which involves listening as much as talking, and silence is an essential element so we can hear God's "still, small voice". So there is not only an opportunity for open prayer (and no pressure to do so) but also for silent praying. Different people have come at different times, and it would be lovely to welcome more people, so please consider coming and growing together in our prayer life.

Diana Fulbrook

OPEN CHURCH REPORT

Hebrews13v2
Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Open Church happens every Thursday and every Saturday from 10:30am – 12:30pm. Our Church doors are open wide, to welcome anyone who would like to come in, to enjoy refreshments and a chat. Some people prefer to sit quietly on their own, in the pews, or go to the Lady Chapel, to light a candle and, of course, are welcome to do so.

We have 17 enthusiastic "Sitters" (i.e. welcomers/refreshment servers), with three or four on duty at each session. We are very pleased that we now have a dishwasher in the Hartley Brown room – this has meant less time spent on washing up and more time to sit with our visitors.

Thursdays are usually very busy, partly due to people staying on after the 10 o'clock Service. The number on Saturdays varies, depending on weather, holidays, etc but there are always enough people to provide a welcoming, friendly atmosphere. Conversation topics vary greatly, depending on the mix of people and there is much laughter.

Since the removal of pews in the North Aisle, we have had more room, which has been very welcome. We tried having separate small tables (as in a café), but found that, generally, people wanted to continue sharing one table. With more space we've been able to make the table bigger and it's usually filled.

It's been lovely to see friendships formed round the table and people helping each other by, for example, offering lifts to hospital appointments. As a result of coming to Open Church, some people now attend Church Services.

Open Church has enabled regular members of our congregation to get to know each other better. As well as talking to the person we are on duty with, other regular worshippers quite often call in, sometimes just for a chat and sometimes to do a "job" and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee. All this has drawn us closer together and made Church seem even friendlier and happier.

In October we had a "Sitters Lunch" in Church. This was preceded by talks from Lindsey and Carol covering subjects such as personal safety, fire evacuation and safeguarding. We all enjoyed a delicious lunch, at which we were kindly waited on by Lindsey. There was a warm and friendly atmosphere, and it was lovely to have the time to sit and chat to each other.

We really need more people to help with Open Church – so if you are at all interested in joining us, please talk to Lindsey or Sue. You can do as little or as much as you want. Many of the Sitters just do one "session" a month.

I am extremely grateful to all our Sitters, who give their time, so happily and willingly, to keep our Church open and welcoming. Many thanks, too, to the cake makers and biscuit providers. "A great team" – as one of our visitors said!

Sue Gething

CRAFT & CHATTER REPORT

Craft and Chat continues to be well attended from within and outside the church. Ladies bring their own projects and enjoy the company of like-minded people. (We have yet to have a gentleman join us but they would be most welcome). It is open to all ages and all crafts so if you have thought about coming along for a look, please do and you can always bring a friend. And just as a reminder we meet on the **fourth** Saturday of the month.

Kim Neale

SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHEMENTS REPORT

Serving Sunday tea and coffee in Church after the 10 am service is a lovely way to get to know worshippers better, whether they are regulars to Church or are visiting us for the first time. Over the past year we have also served refreshments in the hall for special birthdays, joint Church services and special events, such as the visit from the Bishop of Morogoro.

Having additional cups in storage boxes has meant that we are more flexible and it is easier to move crockery from one venue to another. Our tasks have also been made easier by the purchase of both a dishwasher for the Hartley Brown room and two new lever action drink dispensers.

We are really grateful to our regular band of sixteen dedicated volunteers and to additional helpers who have stepped in, often at quite short notice. Special mention and thanks must also go to Iris Crittenden who has finally decided to hang up her apron after numerous years of loyal service.

If you might be interested in joining our rota and serving refreshments approximately once every eight weeks, please do have a word or send a message to ruth.scotson@gmail.com

Ruth Scotson

ST STEPHEN'S VISITORS /PASTORAL CARE GROUP REPORT

The members of the team have continued our work throughout the year, and we have been very well supported by Lindsey in all that we do. It's a privilege to be part of this team, and we're all conscious of how important it is for everyone still to feel connected to St Stephen's when they are unable to come to church.

There are two main areas for us: visiting individuals, and taking communion to our Care Homes.

Visits to an individual may be needed on a long-term basis or just for a brief period of time, and either is fine for us; we bring communion, but equally if what's needed is only a chat, that's fine too.

Our Care Home visits with communion happen on Thursdays once a month, and two of us lead a service in one of the Home's main rooms, with a hymn, a bible reading and a short 'thought for the day', followed by communion, using wafers already consecrated at church. We are also happy to repeat this for an individual in their room if they can't come to the main room.

It's also right that we have regularly met together as a team with Lindsey, for mutual support, to pray together, and to have a catch-up.

I know it's been in the weekly news sheet, but if you are ever aware of someone in need of a visit, do let one of the clergy know and they'll make sure that the request is answered.

Rob Holdsworth

A team of five visit Noele Court, the flats for "older people", next to the Church. They provide a monthly Afternoon Tea in the lounge, for any residents who would like to attend. It gives those who come, an opportunity to chat to each other and to the visitors from Church, while enjoying light refreshments. Lindsey usually comes too, and the afternoon ends with a short reflection, hymns and prayers. In December there was a special Christmas Tea and Carol Singers from St. Stephen's, Claines and St. George's Churches joined the festivities. The residents really enjoy these visits and the Manager is very supportive. She encourages new residents to join the "Tea Timers" (the name suggested by a former resident).

"Open Church" on Thursdays and Saturdays provides a welcome to anyone who would like to come in for refreshments and a chat or just sit quietly in the pews.

Sue Gething

GOOD COMPANIONS REPORT

Looking Back over 2025…

It has been a privilege and delight to arrange an interesting programme of the events which we all enjoyed. We continue to attract in the region of 24 folks. Looking back over 2025, it was another busy year.

So here is a reminder of the highlights. There were -

10 talks; 6 outings; theatre visits to Dirty Rotten Scoundrels by WODs then Shine by WMTC; and at least 3 socials such as board games and cream tea.

Thanks to Rick driving a minibus we had 3 outings to Leominster; Wythall Transport Museum; Hop Shed;

Then a shared car trips to Swan pub at Wychbold; Bonnies at Grimley and not forgetting our tour around the Cathedral with Margaret, who pointed out many special features.

I'm hoping to make the focus for 2026 advertising our group to recruit new members. Now the parish wide Messenger has finished, we need new ideas of how to promote the group. Thanks to Michelle for adding our meetings to the Notice sheet each week.

Christine Allen

FLOWER REPORT

Thank you to all who supplied lovely flowers to enhance our Worship during 2025, all your efforts are really appreciated by the congregation. We do endeavour to arrange in a sustainable way, we ditched the use of floral foam a number of years ago now and we appreciate the use of local flowers and foliage. The Church yard has a number of shrubs which can be pruned for use in your arrangements and two raised beds were installed in the Church yard for growing our own flowers. I nurtured Paperwhite Narcissus bulbs which kindly flowered for the Christmas season and remained in flower until the middle of January.



A number of members of the team and congregation attended a very informative and helpful demonstration held in St George's Church, demonstrator, "Kathryn Hurst, Camomile Cornflowers" and a founding member of The Sustainable Church Flowers Support Group.
She demonstrated using foliage, branches, seed heads and berries reflecting the late Autumn / Winter season, offering to the Lord what is seasonal and available.

We do have a number of vacant weeks on the rota for 2026 and if you feel this is something you are called to do either speak to me or pencil your name in a vacant week on the rota.

Barbara Everett

MUSIC REPORT

"It has been such a joy to support the music at St Stephen's this year. The choir has gone from strength to strength, enthusiastically taking on new hymns (with 'I saw the grass' becoming a firm favourite) and supporting the consolidation of two musical settings of the eucharist, meaning we can switch between them with confidence at different times in the liturgical year.

Musical variety is brought by having lively and engaging Connect services at the start of each month.

Choral highlights this year include an unaccompanied rendition of 'In the Bleak Midwinter' for our Nine Carols and Lessons service and many poignant moments singing the hymns at communion around the piano.

Future challenges include adding to the number of settings and further extending the repertoire by gradually introducing new hymns."

Nick Dunster

HOME GROUP REPORT – MONDAY EVENING

The house group has continued to meet faithfully over the past year, and it has been a real joy to journey together through some challenging and thought-provoking studies. We've explored Revelation, Ezekiel, 1 & 2 Peter, Jude, and the Apostles' Creed, all of which have helped deepen our faith and broaden our understanding of Scripture. One of the highlights of the year has been celebrating with Rob as he was ordained deacon, and we look forward with great excitement to his priesting in the coming months. The group remains a place of prayer, learning and fellowship, and we are grateful for all who take part.

Colin Magee

HOME GROUP REPORT- FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The Friday House Group meets for tea, coffee, cake and good-humoured chat; prayer, fellowship, serious reflection, discussion and exploration of Scripture – this year we have looked at the Parables and are currently studying Paul's epistle to the Ephesians.

You are very welcome to join us.

Kevin Maltby

BELL RINGERS REPORT

We have an enthusiastic friendly group who meet evert Thursday to practice and every Sunday to ring for the 10am service. We are a group of 11 dedicated bellringers.

More experienced ringers from other towers often join us and share their knowledge with us as well as offer encouragement. Several of our band go to practice at other towers and are sometimes asked to make up numbers for weddings etc.

We always ring for special occasions such as Christmas and half muffled for Remembrance Sunday.

The bells at St. Stephen are popular with visitors and we have to limit the number who come as we are aware of our neighbours.

We have our own bell fund for expenses such as the annual maintenance of the bells, new ropes etc. and raise money by selling homemade marmalade and jam and at Christmas we donate to St Richards instead of giving Christmas cards.

We are all supportive of each other and are pleased to be part of St Stephen's church and do our part to welcome people to church. We enjoy having visitors and everyone is welcome to come and see us so long as they can climb up the tower steps!

Beryl Thorp
Tower Captain

BISHOP ALLENBY HALL REPORT

The BA Hall, as ever continues to be busy with mulpiple weekday evening activity throughout the year. Chess Club and Brownies continue to hire the hall on a weekly basis. Somers Folk-club and Camera Club continue their hire on a fortnightly basis, whilst Camera Club are beginning to add in more sessions. WI continue on a monthly basis with Cubs still continuing to use our hall as a 'temporary home' on the other available Wednesday evenings as their own Scout hut continues its structural repair.

Sticky Fingers Pre-School have had another strong year as they remain a very popular setting providing exceptional care and education to local young people. We are extremely fortunate to have a great realtionship with Sticky Fingers and work so closely with them, sharing many things together.

Sunday Stars has gone from stength to strengh at the BA hall; on the first Sunday of each month where the space provides the perfect setting for the young children and families who attend, I am sure this will continue as Sunday Stars evloves into Junior Stars next year. It was great to see the POG Youth group settle at the BA Hall this year beginning fortnightly meetings on a Sunday evening. We wish them all the best using the hall space as they continue to grow.

Weekend single bookings and party hire were solid this year, with multiple people using us again and again. We saw muliple weekend bookings for a local 'ladies' days group and also and for 'all day' board game events. The hall was also used for multiplle fundraising sales for both St Stephen's and other local charities, and yet again was used to make our Autumn Fayre the best it can be for the local community. It is great to see our church hall being used so diversly.

The hall and kitchen are still in need of a refurburbishmet and we await for approval and plans from PCC to move these forwards. Thanks to Claire Thomas for her continued care of the hall each week and also to Adrian Everett and Paul Kennett for their much-valued hall maintenance.

Michelle Walsh







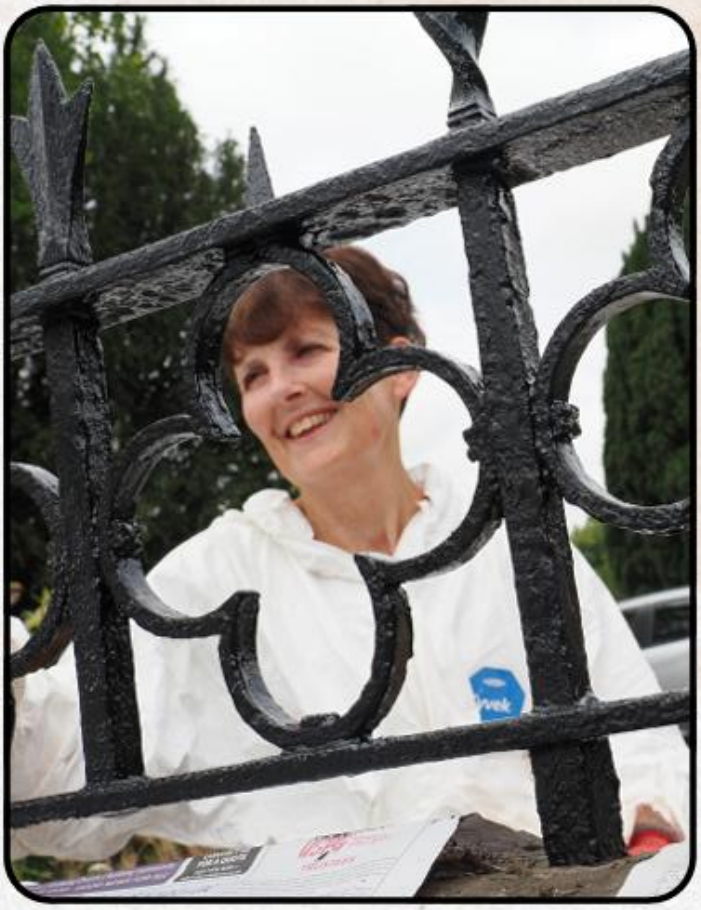














































Charity registration number: 1137099

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Mr R Hemmings Mr P Kennett Mrs K Anwyl-Hughes Mrs C Amos Mr N S Wake Mrs R J Scotson Mrs S Gething Mr K Maltby Rev R D Holdsworth Mr W C Harwood Mrs P Kendall Mr R M Poppleton Rev L J Coulthard Mrs J Gerrard Mr C P Magee Mrs P J Boulter
Principal Office	c/o Mr R Hemmings 25 Whinfield Road Worcester WR3 7HF
Charity Registration Number	1137099
Independent Examiner	M A Skellum FCA Ballards LLP 11c Kingswood Road Hampton Lovett Droitwich Worcestershire WR9 0QH

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The primary objective of the charity is the promotion in the ecclesiastical parish of the whole mission of the church.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales by carrying out its normal activities.

Reference and Administrative Details

Members of the PCC

Members of the PCC, who are also trustees, are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

COVID-19

Covid-19 is now having little effect on the Church, although some families did not return after the closure of the Church Buildings but the introduction of Zoom to circulate the 10.00am Sunday Service has brought others to the service.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing documents, trusts distilled from the United Reform Church Arts of Parliament (1971 and 1982) and the Scheme of Union (1972).

Day to day management of the charity is carried out by the members of the PCC, all of whom are also trustees.

22 April 2026

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on ..... and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

22 April 2026

Approved by the trustees of the charity on ..... and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Stephens PCC Barbourne for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne 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 St Stephens PCC Barbourne'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of St Stephens PCC Barbourne as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.



.....
M A Skellum FCA

Ballards LLP
11c Kingswood Road
Hampton Lovett
Droitwich
Worcestershire
WR9 0QH

Date: 22 May 2026

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	102,860	23,131	-	125,991
Charitable activities	3	17,704	-	-	17,704
Other trading activities	4	6,516	-	-	6,516
Investment income	5	1,895	-	48	1,943
Total Income		128,975	23,131	48	152,154
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(584)	-	-	(584)
Charitable activities		(127,720)	(10,083)	-	(137,803)
Total Expenditure		(128,304)	(10,083)	-	(138,387)
Gains/losses on investment assets		1,534	-	(9)	1,525
Net income		2,205	13,048	39	15,292
Gross transfers between funds		48	-	(48)	-
Net movement in funds		2,253	13,048	(9)	15,292
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		45,402	84,734	1,833	131,969
Total funds carried forward	12	47,655	97,782	1,824	147,261

The notes on pages 8 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	101,569	3,125	-	104,694
Charitable activities	3	25,307	-	-	25,307
Other trading activities	4	7,434	-	-	7,434
Investment income	5	2,965	-	48	3,013
Total Income		137,275	3,125	48	140,448
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(798)	-	-	(798)
Charitable activities		(137,550)	(3,760)	-	(141,310)
Total Expenditure		(138,348)	(3,760)	-	(142,108)
Gains/losses on investment assets		(1,220)	-	48	(1,172)
Net (expenditure)/income		(2,293)	(635)	96	(2,832)
Gross transfers between funds		48	-	(48)	-
Net movement in funds		(2,245)	(635)	48	(2,832)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		47,647	85,369	1,785	134,801
Total funds carried forward	12	45,402	84,734	1,833	131,969

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 12.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

(Registration number: 1137099)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	9	21,915	20,390
Current assets			
Debtors	10	10,254	9,493
Cash at bank and in hand		130,624	119,056
		140,878	128,549
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(15,532)	(16,970)
Net current assets		125,346	111,579
Net assets		147,261	131,969
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds		1,824	1,833
Restricted funds		97,782	84,734
Unrestricted funds		47,655	45,402
Total funds	12	147,261	131,969

22 April 2026

The financial statements on pages 5 to 18 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ..... and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a "true and fair" view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a "true and fair" view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 6 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Basis of preparation
St Stephens PCC Barbourne meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement
The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments
Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs
These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Government grants
Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation
The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets
Individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture and equipment	20% on cost

Fixed asset investments
Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	7,470	-	7,470
Gift aid reclaimed	17,246	6,227	23,473
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	7,796	16,904	24,700
Regular giving and capital donations	70,348	-	70,348
Total for 2025	102,860	23,131	125,991
Total for 2024	101,569	3,125	104,694

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Hall Hire	14,412	14,412
Fees	3,292	3,292
Total for 2025	17,704	17,704
Total for 2024	25,307	25,307

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Events income;		
Other events income	6,516	6,516
Total for 2025	6,516	6,516
Total for 2024	7,434	7,434

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Endowment funds Expendable £	Total funds £
Other income from fixed asset investments	1,895	48	1,943
Total for 2025	1,895	48	1,943
Total for 2024	2,965	48	3,013

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

7 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2025	1,800	1,800
Disposals	(1,800)	(1,800)
At 31 December 2025	-	-
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2025	1,800	1,800
Eliminated on disposals	(1,800)	(1,800)
At 31 December 2025	-	-
Net book value		
At 31 December 2025	-	-
At 31 December 2024	-	-

9 Fixed asset investments

Other investments

	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2025	20,391	20,391
Revaluation	1,524	1,524
At 31 December 2025	21,915	21,915
Net book value		
At 31 December 2025	21,915	21,915
At 31 December 2024	20,391	20,391

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

10 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments	7,456	7,261
Other debtors	2,798	2,232
	10,254	9,493

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors	14,532	16,270
Accruals	1,000	700
	15,532	16,970

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

12 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Unrestricted fund	45,402	128,975	(128,304)	48	1,534	47,655
Restricted funds						
Restricted fund	84,734	23,131	(10,083)	-	-	97,782
Endowment funds						
Expendable						
Endowment fund	1,833	48	-	(48)	(9)	1,824
	1,833	48	-	(48)	(9)	1,824
Total funds	131,969	152,154	(138,387)	-	1,525	147,261

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Unrestricted fund	47,647	137,275	(138,348)	48	(1,220)	45,402
Restricted						
Restricted fund	85,369	3,125	(3,760)	-	-	84,734
Endowment funds						
Expendable						
Endowment fund	1,785	48	-	(48)	48	1,833
	1,785	48	-	(48)	48	1,833
Total funds	134,801	140,448	(142,108)	-	(1,172)	131,969

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds Expendable £	Total funds at 31 December 2025 £
Fixed asset investments	20,090	-	1,825	21,915
Current assets	43,096	97,782	-	140,878
Current liabilities	(15,532)	-	-	(15,532)
Total net assets	47,654	97,782	1,825	147,261

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds Expendable £	Total funds at 31 December 2024 £
Fixed asset investments	18,557	-	1,833	20,390
Current assets	43,817	84,732	-	128,549
Current liabilities	(16,970)	-	-	(16,970)
Total net assets	45,404	84,732	1,833	131,969

14 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Planned giving	70,348	71,605
Appeals and donations	7,470	8,835
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	17,246	17,984
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	6,227	359
Grants and donations	7,796	3,145
Grants received	16,904	2,766
Use of hall	14,412	14,740
Fees and supplies	3,292	10,567
Social events	6,516	7,434
Income from listed investments	1,895	2,965
Income from listed investments	48	48
Total Income	152,154	140,448
Expenditure on:		
Social event costs	(584)	(798)
Grants payable - missionary societies	(2,500)	(3,600)
Parish Share	(71,199)	(70,424)
Service costs, music and choir	(2,572)	(3,029)
Service costs, music and choir	(114)	(566)
Grants payable - individuals	-	(336)
Fees passed to Diocese	(3,174)	(5,257)
Junior support costs	(8,355)	(2,858)
Refugees	(1,614)	-
Light, heat and power	(15,764)	(15,990)
Insurance	(7,303)	(7,264)
Repairs and maintenance	(12,405)	(20,009)
Printing, postage and stationery	(2,085)	(1,824)
Sundry expenses	278	(175)
Cleaning	(2,424)	(2,107)
Accountancy fees	(960)	(730)
Legal and professional fees	(7,612)	(7,141)
Total Expenditure	(138,387)	(142,108)
Gains/losses on investment assets	1,525	(1,172)
Net movement in funds	15,292	(2,832)
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	131,969	134,801

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Total funds carried forward	147,261	131,969

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Stephens PCC Barbourne for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne 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 St Stephens PCC Barbourne'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of St Stephens PCC Barbourne as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.

.....
M A Skellum FCA

Ballards LLP
11c Kingswood Road
Hampton Lovett
Droitwich
Worcestershire
WR9 0QH

Date: 22 May 2026

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST STEPHEN'S, BARBOUR

England & Wales - Charity number 1137099

Accounts

TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE APGM
YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Accounts show that we managed a small deficit of £1,073 in respect of the unrestricted (or the general) funds of the Church and excluding the unrealised loss in the year on the value of the investments. We managed to pay the full sum of the Ministry Share during the year. The small loss was after writing off the full cost od repairs to the bell tower of £13,822.

Turning to the Accounts and starting at page 17 which gives details of the items of income and expenditure:

a) The total money received under planned giving (that is the money paid by standing order or under the Parish Giving Scheme) has shown a slightl movement from the previous year of £71,528 to £71,605. The move to use the Parish Giving Scheme helps to reduce the administration time dealing with the monthly receipts and to automatically recover the gift aid on a monthly basis without having to do the work ourselves.
b) The grants and donations in the main relate to monies received for specific purposes.
c) We have also benefitted from the increase in bank interest rates on the funds we hold pending the anticipated building works

Whilst the accounts appear to show a healthy position but they do not account for potential substantial quotations for works to the buildings to carry out basic repairs, particularly from the Quinquennial review and the PCC is prioritising the works with the funds available.

If you have any questions on the accounts, please ask me or e-mail your question to Richard.hemmings211@btinternet.com

Richard Hemmings

Charity registration number: 1137099

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Contents

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Mr R Hemmings Mr P Kennett Mrs B Thorp Mrs M Mandrell Mrs C Amos Mr N S Wake Mrs R J Scotson Mrs S Gething Mr D Anwyl-Hughes Mrs L Niccolls Mr K Maltby Mr R D Holdsworth Mr W C Harwood Mrs P Kendall Mr R M Poppleton Rev L J Coulthard Mrs J Gerrard
Principal Office	c/o Mr R Hemmings 25 Whinfield Road Worcester WR3 7HF
Charity Registration Number	1137099
Independent Examiner	M A Skellum FCA Ballards LLP 11c Kingswood Road Hampton Lovett Droitwich Worcestershire WR9 0QH

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The primary objective of the charity is the promotion in the ecclesiastical parish of the whole mission of the church.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales by carrying out its normal activities.

Reference and Administrative Details

Members of the PCC

Members of the PCC, who are also trustees, are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Impact of COVID-19

In common with many Churches, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities and financial position of St Stephen's has been significant. The necessity either to close the Church buildings, or to restrict the attendance, has substantially reduced the income from lettings, weekly collections and fundraising in particular. This has not affected the Trustees' assessment that the Church remains a going concern, but the longer-term impact of the pandemic remains to be seen.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing documents, trusts distilled from the United Reform Church Arts of Parliament (1971 and 1982) and the Scheme of Union (1972).

Day to day management of the charity is carried out by the members of the PCC, all of whom are also trustees.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 26/3/25 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 26/8/14 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Stephens PCC Barbourne for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne 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 St Stephens PCC Barbourne'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of St Stephens PCC Barbourne as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.

.....
M A Skellum FCA

Ballards LLP
11c Kingswood Road
Hampton Lovett
Droitwich
Worcestershire
WR9 0QH

Date: 1/4/2025

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	101,569	3,125	-	104,694
Charitable activities	3	25,307	-	-	25,307
Other trading activities	4	7,434	-	-	7,434
Investment income	5	2,965	-	48	3,013
Total Income		137,275	3,125	48	140,448
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(798)	-	-	(798)
Charitable activities		(137,550)	(3,760)	-	(141,310)
Total Expenditure		(138,348)	(3,760)	-	(142,108)
Gains/losses on investment assets		(1,220)	-	48	(1,172)
Net (expenditure)/income		(2,293)	(635)	96	(2,832)
Gross transfers between funds		48	-	(48)	-
Net movement in funds		(2,245)	(635)	48	(2,832)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		47,647	85,369	1,785	134,801
Total funds carried forward	12	45,402	84,734	1,833	131,969

The notes on pages 8 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	106,535	2,488	-	109,023
Charitable activities	3	25,685	-	-	25,685
Other trading activities	4	5,852	-	-	5,852
Investment income	5	1,799	-	43	1,842
Other income		130	-	-	130
Total Income		140,001	2,488	43	142,532
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(414)	-	-	(414)
Charitable activities		(124,526)	(4,754)	-	(129,280)
Total Expenditure		(124,940)	(4,754)	-	(129,694)
Gains/losses on investment assets		2,082	-	124	2,206
Net income/(expenditure)		17,143	(2,266)	167	15,044
Gross transfers between funds		(13,457)	13,500	(43)	-
Net movement in funds		3,686	11,234	124	15,044
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		43,961	74,135	1,661	119,757
Total funds carried forward	12	47,647	85,369	1,785	134,801

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 12.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

(Registration number: 1137099)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	9	20,390	21,562
Current assets			
Debtors	10	9,493	9,856
Cash at bank and in hand		119,056	134,752
		128,549	144,608
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(16,970)	(31,369)
Net current assets		111,579	113,239
Net assets		131,969	134,801
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds		1,833	1,785
Restricted funds		84,734	85,369
Unrestricted funds		45,402	47,647
Total funds	12	131,969	134,801

The financial statements on pages 5 to 18 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 24/8/26 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a "true and fair" view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a "true and fair" view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 6 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Basis of preparation
St Stephens PCC Barbourne meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement
The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments
Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs
These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Government grants
Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation
The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets
Individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture and equipment	20% on cost

Fixed asset investments
Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	8,835	-	8,835
Gift aid reclaimed	17,984	359	18,343
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	3,145	2,766	5,911
Regular giving and capital donations	71,605	-	71,605
Total for 2024	101,569	3,125	104,694
Total for 2023	106,535	2,488	109,023

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Hall Hire	14,740	14,740
Fees	10,567	10,567
Total for 2024	25,307	25,307
Total for 2023	25,685	25,685

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Events income;		
Other events income	7,434	7,434
Total for 2024	7,434	7,434
Total for 2023	5,852	5,852

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Endowment funds Expendable £	Total funds £
Other income from fixed asset investments	2,965	48	3,013
Total for 2024	2,965	48	3,013
Total for 2023	1,799	43	1,842

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

7 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2024	1,800	1,800
At 31 December 2024	1,800	1,800
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2024	1,800	1,800
At 31 December 2024	1,800	1,800
Net book value		
At 31 December 2024	-	-
At 31 December 2023	-	-

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

9 Fixed asset investments

Other investments

	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2024	21,562	21,562
Revaluation	(1,172)	(1,172)
At 31 December 2024	20,390	20,390
Net book value		
At 31 December 2024	20,390	20,390
At 31 December 2023	21,562	21,562

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

10 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments	7,261	7,121
Other debtors	2,232	2,735
	9,493	9,856

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Parish share creditor	-	14,400
Other creditors	16,270	16,369
Accruals	700	600
	16,970	31,369

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

12 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Unrestricted fund	47,647	137,275	(138,348)	48	(1,220)	45,402
Restricted funds						
Restricted fund	85,369	3,125	(3,760)	-	-	84,734
Endowment funds						
Expendable						
Endowment fund	1,785	48	-	(48)	48	1,833
	1,785	48	-	(48)	48	1,833
Total funds	134,801	140,448	(142,108)	-	(1,172)	131,969

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Unrestricted fund	43,961	140,001	(124,940)	(13,457)	2,082	47,647
Restricted						
Restricted fund	74,135	2,488	(4,754)	13,500	-	85,369
Endowment funds						
Expendable						
Endowment fund	1,661	43	-	(43)	124	1,785
	1,661	43	-	(43)	124	1,785
Total funds	119,757	142,532	(129,694)	-	2,206	134,801

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds Expendable £	Total funds at 31 December 2024 £
Fixed asset investments	18,557	-	1,833	20,390
Current assets	43,817	84,732	-	128,549
Current liabilities	(16,970)	-	-	(16,970)
Total net assets	45,404	84,732	1,833	131,969

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds Expendable £	Total funds at 31 December 2023 £
Fixed asset investments	19,778	-	1,785	21,563
Current assets	59,239	85,369	-	144,608
Current liabilities	(31,370)	-	-	(31,370)
Total net assets	47,647	85,369	1,785	134,801

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

14 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Planned giving	71,605	71,528
Appeals and donations	8,835	12,248
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	17,984	18,751
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	359	152
Grants and donations	3,145	4,008
Grants received	2,766	2,336
Use of hall	14,740	15,287
Fees and supplies	10,567	10,398
Social events	7,434	5,852
Income from listed investments	2,965	1,799
Income from listed investments	48	43
Commission received	-	130
Total Income	140,448	142,532
Expenditure on:		
Social event costs	(798)	(414)
Grants payable - missionary societies	(3,600)	(3,500)
Parish Share	(70,424)	(66,470)
Service costs, music and choir	(3,029)	(2,544)
Service costs, music and choir	(566)	(203)
Grants payable - individuals	(336)	(331)
Fees passed to Diocese	(5,257)	(5,508)
Junior support costs	(2,858)	(4,220)
Light, heat and power	(15,990)	(15,884)
Insurance	(7,264)	(6,601)
Repairs and maintenance	(20,009)	(16,062)
Printing, postage and stationery	(1,824)	(1,718)
Sundry expenses	(175)	(82)
Cleaning	(2,107)	(1,588)
Accountancy fees	(730)	(650)
Legal and professional fees	(7,141)	(3,919)
Total Expenditure	(142,108)	(129,694)
Gains/losses on investment assets	(1,172)	2,206
Net movement in funds	(2,832)	15,044
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	134,801	119,757

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Total funds carried forward	131,969	134,801

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Stephens PCC Barbourne for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne 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 St Stephens PCC Barbourne'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of St Stephens PCC Barbourne as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.

.....

M A Skellum FCA

Ballards LLP
11c Kingswood Road
Hampton Lovett
Droitwich
Worcestershire
WR9 0QH

Date: 1/4/2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST STEPHEN'S, BARBOUR

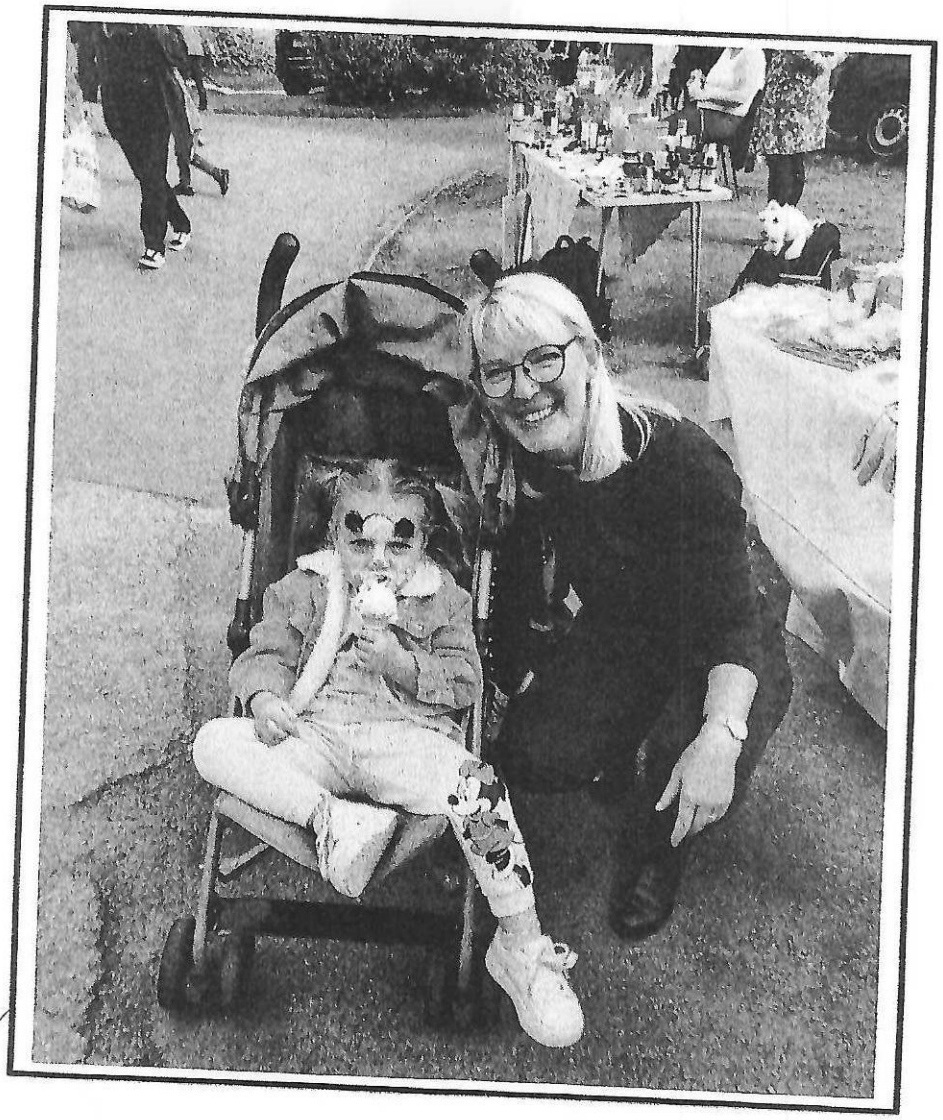
England & Wales - Charity number 1137099

Accounts

PARISH CHURCH OF BARBOURNE ST STEPHEN

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



The Autumn Fayre 2023

Michelle Walsh - Parish Administrator

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1137099

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PRIEST IN CHARGE
CLERGY REPORT

2023 - what a year it's been! I have to begin by acknowledging the enormous amount of change we have been through together since our last APCM and with all that has happened I find myself returning to the comfort of these words from Ecclesiastes:

'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven;.....
.....a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;.....
.....a time to break down, and a time to build up;.....'

Many of you will recognise these verses but I draw your attention to them because the writer of the passage also understands he has a God he can trust absolutely; a God who 'endures forever' and has 'made everything suitable for its time.' That, I believe is a fitting reflection of the past twelve months here at St. Stephen's - we bid fond farewells to some significant people and we welcomed some new ones. There were some groups that came to a natural end and there are some new things beginning. Along with those changes we've been acutely aware of the cycle of life, death and life.

The Church went into vacancy at the end of June and the process of finding a new priest began. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our Church Wardens Ruth Scotson and Kevin Maltby who managed the process wonderfully whilst also acting as joint Vice Chairs to the PCC. Huge thanks are also extended to Margaret Mandrell, Stephen Malkinson and Ann Waizeneker who covered many services prior to my licensing and installation as your new priest in charge. And what a warm and wonderful celebration that was! My thanks again for making it such a memorable occasion.

It would be impossible to acknowledge everything that has occurred over the past year during this report so my focus will be on a few of our priorities.

Over the summer months we successfully applied for shared funding from the Diocesan Health and Sustainability Fund and jointly employed our Children, Youth and Families Worker Helen who has already made an enormous difference to the three churches she is attached to in the short time she has been with us. Her work at St. Stephen's has been most noticeable with our new worshipping community Sunday Stars which celebrated its first birthday this month. She has also been instrumental in our collaborative work with Claines and Saint George's Church on a number of initiatives such as Path of God (POG) Youth Group which moves around the churches and other one-off outreach events. We maintain our good relationships with Northwick Manor Primary School and Perdiswell Primary Academy Trust and we continue to minister to the students at Bishop Perowne Church of England College through our role as chaplains.

Later in the year we hosted our annual Autumn Fair and were really blessed by the good weather which brought many people into the church and its grounds. Virtually all of you here, helped in some way or other, whether behind the scenes, in practical ways or by supporting on the day. This is one of the hallmarks of St. Stephen's – a body of people that pulls together when there is a job to be done. That sense of community is something we continue to build on through focussed attention to our Health and Sustainability Plan put together last year by the PCC. This work was supported by our Diocesan Mission Accompanier Victoria who will be with us for a few more months helping us to initiate some of the things we'd like to see happen. By worshipping God, sharing hope with new worshipping communities and making new disciples we hope to transform our community by our continued outreach and by making the church building even more accessible.

Hospitality is great witness to our faith and something we excel at here. I couldn't begin to count the many lives that are so touched by the hospitality received here through Open Church, Little Stars, Good Companions, our new Craft and Chatter initiative and of course the faithful team who provide refreshments for us every Sunday after worship. Huge thanks are extended to all who coordinate these sessions and all who

volunteer. None of it would be possible without your time, your care and your commitment. Thanks also to all of you who commit to giving of your resources so generously in other ways. From a financial perspective (and since our payment was reduced under the new ministry share scheme) we were able to pay our share in full *and* reserve some funds for some much-needed maintenance works.

As I write, there are contractors on site attending to repairs in our bell tower and church building. None of this would be possible without your continued financial support and I thank you again for your generosity. Many of you now contribute through the Parish Giving Scheme and it would be good to see even more of you commit to this more streamlined method of giving if you were able to. As always, our contractors are always under the careful supervision of Adrian Everett who along with Paul Kennett and others maintain and repair our place of worship when small (and not so small!) works are required. Grateful thanks to you both for the long hours you put in.

Looking to the future I return to the place I began. We've been through a lot of change and further change is inevitable. One of the things I'm most looking forward to is working more collaboratively with our neighbours at St. John Baptist and Saint George's Church. This will open up even more opportunities and will herald in a new season for all of us. We are almost ready to begin a new Home Group, work towards our next Eco Award has already begun and the redesigned children's area is in hand now that the North Aisle space is completely flexible.

My thanks to all the various groups, teams, working parties and individuals that do so much to keep the church building and its mission and ministry thriving. It would be impossible to name you all but my very grateful thanks to Nick Dunster, the choir and our musicians. To the bell ringers and brass polishers, to David Anwyl-Hughes and all the altar team. To the flower arrangers the cleaners and the cake makers. To the linen and the light bulb changers, to the readers and the welcomers. To Michelle, our fabulous Parish Administrator who quietly contributes in so many ways. Your skills are many and your presence always a joy. And finally, to all of you, the welcoming, loving hospitable body of Christ here at St. Stephen's.

We have so much to be thankful for because we know we can trust in our God who is faithful and endures; who makes everything suitable for its time. It's a privilege to serve both Him and you.

Revd. Lindsey Coulthard
Priest-in-Charge
April 2024

TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE APCM
(YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023)

The Accounts show that we managed to make a surplus of £15,061 in respect of the unrestricted (or the general) funds of the Church and excluding the unrealised gain in the year, value of the investments. This was because the PCC did not make a token contribution to the Diocesan Fund for other parishes following the recalculation of the Parish Share in 2020. PCC agreed to transfer £13,000 to the fabric fund towards the costs to be incurred in 2024.

Turning to the Accounts and starting at page 17 which gives details of the items of income and expenditure:

a) The total money received under planned giving (that is the money paid by standing order or under the Parish Giving Scheme) has risen slightly from the previous year of £63,288 to £71,528. The move to use the Parish Giving Scheme helps to reduce the administration time dealing with the monthly receipts and to automatically recover the gift aid on a monthly basis without having to do the work ourselves.
b) The grants and donations in the main relate to monies received for specific purposes.
c) We have also benefitted from the increase in bank interest rates on the funds we hold pending the anticipated building works.

Whilst the accounts appear to show a healthy position, they do not account for potential substantial quotations for works to the buildings to carry out basic repairs, particularly from the Quinquennial review and the PCC is prioritising the works with the funds available.
If you have any questions on the accounts, please ask me or e-mail your question to
Richard.hemmings211@btinternet.com

Richard *Hemmings*

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

It is hard to believe that so much change has occurred during the year and just as we were beginning to settle into our relatively new roles as churchwardens, we learned that there was going to be a time of vacancy. This has been a steep learning curve, with new responsibilities including jointly chairing the PCC meetings and updating the parish profile.

However, the period of vacancy has also provided us all the opportunity to reflect on what we hope to achieve at St Stephen's and the consultation that we carried out with members of the congregation and the wider community has been invaluable and will be referred to regularly in the months ahead. We are also incredibly grateful to Lindsey, Margaret and Stephen who ensured that all services were planned and covered during the vacancy and to Andy who has continued to look after the vicarage.

On a weekly basis It has been lovely to meet worshippers each week and to hear about your news. We have also valued taking our role in the services, whether as readers or Eucharistic assistants. This is a real privilege and also to have the opportunity to support visitors who are not as familiar with the format of our worship, especially at Baptisms, Funerals and at Christmas services.

In between the work there have been many times of fun. A highlight was in helping with the Autumn Fayre in September 2023. How we managed to cause Lidl, the Coop and Sainsbury's to run out of burgers was truly amazing! We are also particularly humbled by the talent and skills of so many of our congregation who make our role easier. In particular we should highlight the work that is so skilfully carried out by Adrian Everett and Paul Kennett and others on the fabric of the building.

Please do have a word if you are aware of things we should be doing but aren't – all advice is gratefully received.

Kevin Maltby and Ruth Scotson

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Worcester Area Deanery Synod has been established for three years. In the year 2023 there were three formal meetings of the Deanery Synod and one gathering of members for the Ascension Day Service (18th May) which was at Hallow. The first meeting was held at the parish church of St Philip and St James in Hallow in March. Area Dean, Revd Diane Cooksey, asked the outgoing Archdeacon, Robert Jones to lead us in worship. Revd Kalantha Brewis the Vicar at Hallow gave an overview of the four churches that make up the West Worcester Beacon Group of churches with Hallow being the largest, but also including Grimley, Holt, and Lower Broadheath. The (then) Lay Chair, Robert Pearce, gave an update on vacancies – particularly the Saltway Team which is to be provided with an extra 50% diocesan post to make it up to a full-time post – and the position of retired, Revd David Sherwin's position to be filled as a 'House for Duty'. Feedback was given from the Diocesan Synod and a copy of that summary later circulated for PCC members and Parish Secretaries. If you as a Parishioner did not get a copy of that and want to in the future, then ask your Deanery Representative or PCC Secretary.

A question from the floor of the Meeting why we did not 'as a Deanery' discuss the 'Living in Love and Faith'. Revd. Diane Cooksey explained that it had not been a matter for Synods except General Synod although people were encouraged to engage with the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process. She said that there had been extensive advertising of Diocesan LLF Courses and also as a Deanery we too had provided an online course too so that people could discuss the issues. It had not been well attended. About 'Kingdom People' and priorities. Diane Cooksey spoke about the vision for doubling the number of children and young people attending. The intention to fund 'at least' two children/youth workers per Deanery. Regarding 'New Housing Communities' we were told that money may be available for new building development. Mention was made of 'Faith at Work'.

New and returning Synod Members attended the 1st Session of the 2nd Worcester Area Deanery Synod at Broadwas Village Hall in July. The Area Dean reminded the meeting that our Deanery currently has 42 church buildings not including the Cathedral; 12 Benefices; 31 Parishes; 14 stipendiary Clergy; 6 stipendiary Curates; an unknown amount of PTO's (as some live within or without the Deanery...); 2 self-supporting Curates; 13 LLM's (and some in training); 27 ALM's (last year!) of differing vocations.

Synod Representatives were asked to consider what: 1) Joys; 2) Challenges; that we thought our individual Parishes represented. Diane explained that following the retirement of Revd David Sherwin 18 months ago, it had been agreed that the Northwest parishes of Clifton, The Shelsleys and Harpley will be transferred to the Kidderminster and Stourport Deanery where they will form part of what will be a 'Rural Mission Area' with three priests sharing a responsibility for them all. It was hoped that the Rev'd Julia Curtis will be licensed to these parishes in the Autumn.

Sarah Northall spoke on Mainly Music – Anne Potter spoke about 'Forest Church', Lindsey Coulthard told us of a 'Sunday Stars'. Money is available (up to £1000 initially) to 'kickstart' a project from the Kingdom People fund.

Diane declared Sue Rowlands – Lay Chair; Paul Fulbrook – Secretary; Robert Pearce – Treasurer. Diane appointed Revd's Paul Wilcox and Anne Potter to the Deanery Leadership Team.

Prayer cards obtained from The Diocese relating to 'Vision' and 'Growth' were distributed for members to take back to their PCC's.

The final meeting took place on Tuesday 14th November 2023 at St Helen's, Worcester.

Rev'd Dr Rich Johnson gave Synod some information about the restoration of St Helen's Church, including a brief history of St Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine. The meeting was told about the long-term plan for installing a door in the church directly onto the High Street.
Sue Rowlands, the Lay Chair, gave a brief introduction to herself and said that she would like to be invited to parishes to come and find out more about them. She introduced the three priorities that should be the focus over the next 3 years of this current synod. They are: Praying for one another, Communicating more effectively, Working more Collaboratively where appropriate.
The date of future meetings was given out including the intention to hold the November 2024 one on a Saturday morning saving the need to travel on a dark night and to allow for a more innovative discussion platform.

Paul Fulbrook

CHURCH FABRIC REPORT

Undertaking Fabric Works on our Church, Tower, Hall and Churchyard has a dash of This, That and Whatever-Next type activities. We handle simple repairs/upgrades and servicing of existing equipment, manage contractors and then there are the challenges, like "let us take out the North Aisle Pews and magic them away!" So, things are never dull.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WORKS UNDERTAKEN THIS YEAR:

Church: Toilet foul drain blockage, serious and costly repair (good start to the year!) – January

Churchyard: Resurfacing of driveways, parking areas and footpaths – March.

Hall: Room swap with Sticky Fingers Storeroom and Print Room - April.

Hall: Print Room, Sticky Fingers Storeroom and Kitchen: new LED Ceiling Lights fitted – April.

Hall: Underside of Stage: cleared out debris from under Stage filling a 7yd skip – April.

Hall: Cleaner's Cupboard: water heater replaced - June.

Church: Nave Pendant Lights uprated with new corn-shaped LED light bulbs doubly light output - June.

Church: North Aisle: 4off pews removed from here plus 2off pews previously remove (electronic organ install) and stored (flat-pack style) under the Hall Stage. Ramp added at front edge of higher pew flooring. - July.

Churchyard: Bench refurbished (paintwork/wooden slats) – July.

Hall: Kitchen Extract Fan fitted - September.

Church: New Convector Heater MCB installed (to remove old switch with ACM fuse backing) - September

Church/Tower/Hall: 5-yearly Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) was conducted in June with noted failures in three areas. These were later resolved in September.

Church: Install new Hearing Loop Amplifier and rewire Chancel Lights on to separate power supply (after losing lights when old Hearing Loop Amplifier blew-up) – November.

Churchyard: Trees, shrubs and bushes cut back to an expected standard removing possible dangerous branches – December.

Church and Hall: Additional external PIR Lights installed around the buildings – throughout the year.

(Church: Remaining pews removed from north aisle and stored (flat-pack style) under the Hall Stage – Jan'24.)

Annual checks completed on Portable Appliances (PAT test), Gas Boilers, Clock, Bells, Fire & Emergency Equipment – Spring.

Church: General fabric condition was reviewed with our Architect in May to assess the most urgent works required to reduce the risk of serious deterioration of the building that would cause the building's closure and inability to use it. This enabled us to develop a scope of works to cost and expedite asap; this work starts during Spring-2024.

My sincere thanks to Paul Kennett for his support to me during the last years with the many "little jobs" we have undertaken ourselves to improve the quality of the presence, safety and experience for all Church, Tower, Hall and Churchyard users.

Adrian Everett – Fabric Coordinator

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The PCC have adopted and follow the Parish Safeguarding Policy and the Parish Safeguarding Handbook. Our recruitment processes for staff and volunteers are consistent with Diocesan guidance.

Following this safer recruitment guidance and in order to be compliant with it, there are now role descriptions for all church volunteer activities and you are encouraged to read the ones which apply to your particular role/roles. They are to be found in a named folder in The Hartley Brown Room.

The PCC, Andy Todd and Lindsey Coulthard have worked hard to ensure that St Stephen's is safer through regard for policy, safer recruitment and training.

The aim is that all staff and volunteers are safely recruited, have the correct level of DBS and up to date training.

There is now a requirement that clergy, lay ministers and safeguarding officers will also complete training in domestic abuse, following The Church of England's commitment to supporting those who are victims and survivors.

St Stephen's is currently around 94% compliant with Diocesan, guidance on safeguarding. Your commitment to contributing to this in order to make our church safe for all is greatly appreciated.

Carol Amos - Parish Safeguarding Officer

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

We entered the Year 2023 with an Electoral Roll numbering 146.

The Roll was gradually revised during 2023 and we left 2023 with a Roll of 154 people.

It is interesting to note that still more than 52% of members of the Roll live outside the Parish Boundaries!

It is only Electoral Roll members who are eligible to vote for and stand for election to the PCC and other offices within the Parish.

The Roll complies with Data Protection Regulations as they stood at the APCM in 2023 and will be updated to any new Data Protection standards as necessary.

Access to the Electoral Roll is restricted on a "need to know" basis and is controlled by the Roll Officer and the Priest-in-Charge to who any queries should be addressed. The Roll is for Church purposes only.

Paul Kennett – Electoral Roll Officer

SUNDAY STARS REPORT

This month (May) Sunday Stars celebrated its first birthday with coffee, croissants and cake! I can hardly believe it's been a whole year since our new worshipping community first gathered and in that time we have celebrated some big church festivals and looked at stories of Jesus. We have a number of regular families for whom this is 'church' which is exactly the reason for its existence and we're supported by a regular team of talented volunteers whose creative skills enable even the smallest of family members to engage in worship. My grateful thanks to Robyn, Helen, Dot and Stephen whose passion for children and families make this offering possible.

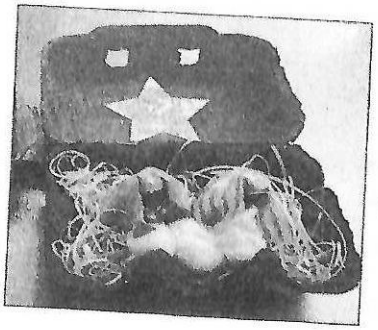
If you've ever wondered what we do and how we do it – you'd be most welcome to come and join us though I should warn you we begin with a rather energetic song called 'Jumping for God' – and yes we do jump, and skip and clap and wave so bring your energy with you! There is always room for more volunteers too so if you have a spare hour or so a month, do please consider joining the team.

Revd. Lindsey.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILES REPORT

I started work for St Stephens, St Georges and Claines at the end of September 2023. After a period of induction, I have been getting to know the three churches and some of the local schools.

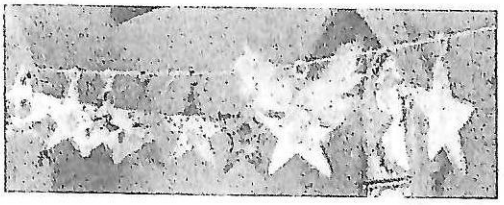
The church has plans to revamp the children's area within the church. I am providing photocopied age-appropriate resources that follow the lectionary, for the children to engage with during the service or while they visit open church on a Saturday.



Sunday Stars – We have several regular families that appreciate this family focussed 30 minute service. The session is advertised on Facebook and at Little stars on a Thursday. I helped lead the session in December. In advance I created the egg-box nativities for each family, which they helped to finish during the session.

POG (Path of God) The joint churches youth group is attended by around 14 young people, with a team of leaders from each of the churches. POG is a faith-based group, that always has a message wrapped up in a great deal of fun. POG meets each month, around the 3rd Sunday 4:00 – 6:00. The session usually starts with board games as they arrive, then a fun activity to link in with the theme, then the 'talk' which could be presented via a story, a quiz, a game or a discussion, we then break for food and end with high energy games. Much fun is had by the young people and leaders.

Schools



Northwick Manor - Plans were in place for me to go into school at harvest but was cancelled due to illness. In December each child in KS1 was provided with a star to decorate, these along with ones also provided by Little Stars and Sticky fingers were used to decorate the church.

Tudor Grange Primary Academy - Lindsey and Helen visited for their all-school Harvest assembly.

Bishop Perowne – although not in our parish, our primary schools feed into the high school. Both Lindsey and Helen are a part of the chaplain team, which provides assemblies and service for the students.

Air-Cadets – Along with Lindsey I visited a session and joined them selling poppies in November.

Vision – My vision is to see the three churches working together across the whole community, creating accessible ways that children and their families can find a route to their loving God. Not every event will suite every family so we will need a wide provision and this will take volunteers, I would love to see volunteers engaging with this mission from across the churches no matter where the activity is taking place – we are stronger together.

Volunteers – If you would like to volunteer for either Sunday stars or POG, or other one-off events, please contact Helen Laird cypfwr3@gmail.com or speak to Lindsey.

Helen Laird

OPEN CHURCH REPORT

Open Church happens every Thursday and every Saturday from 10:30am – 12:30pm. Our Church doors are open wide, to welcome anyone who would like to come in, to enjoy refreshments and a chat. Some people prefer to sit quietly on their own, in the pews or go to the Lady Chapel, to light a candle and, of course, are welcome to do so.

We have 18 enthusiastic "Sitters" (i.e. welcomers/refreshment servers), with three on duty at each session.

Thursdays are usually very busy, partly due to people staying on after the 10 o'clock Service. The numbers on Saturdays vary, depending on weather, holidays, etc but there are always enough people to provide a welcoming, friendly atmosphere. Conversation topics vary greatly, depending on the mix of people and there is much laughter.

Since the removal of pews in the North Aisle, we have had more room, which has been very welcome. We tried having separate small tables (as in a café), but found that, generally, people wanted to continue sharing one table. With more space we've been able to make the table bigger and it's usually filled.

It's been lovely to see friendships formed round the table and, as a result of coming to Open Church, some people now attend Church Services.

I am extremely grateful to all our Sitters, who give their time, so happily and willingly, to keep our Church open and welcoming. Many thanks, too, to the cake makers and biscuit providers. "A great team" – as one of our visitors said!

Sue Gething

SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHEMENTS REPORT

Serving Sunday tea and coffee in Church after the 10 am service is a lovely way to get to know worshippers better. We are really grateful to our band of dedicated volunteers who have provided a warm drink, biscuits and cheery conversation.

If you might be interested in joining our rota and serving refreshments approximately once every eight weeks, please do have a word or send a message to ruth.scotson@gmail.com.

Ruth Scotson

GOOD COMPANIONS REPORT

Looking Back over 2023. Once again this group has been richly blessed as St Stephen's handymen have been busy so we have gained some extra room in the North aisle for tables and chairs, which will be useful.
As we look over the past year, there were 14 indoor meetings plus several trips and an opportunity to go to the theatre together.
Highlights include a trip to Bonnie's café at Wildgoose Rural Training for afternoon tea and cake; a visit to Tewkesbury in a rain storm followed by another rainy afternoon when we were invited to share a sumptuous tea at Alan and Pat's home fortunately indoors.
Theatre visits included Kays Pantomime, Alice in Wonderland; WODS The Sound of Music and then in November we went to WMTC for their revue 'Movin' on Up'.
Charitable giving has been generous as always to Salvation Army, and British Heart Foundation via Banjo Brian.
I would like to clarify how our group works. There is no joining fee or subscription. Everyone is welcome whether one attends St Stephen's or not, this is an inclusive club with a warm heart. There are just two requirements - £2.00 per session as we need to pay for heat and speakers and the second is contact details if you are coming to the theatre or on minibus trips. This is in case any unforeseen things happen and you need to be advised.
Everyone helps each other here but I must thank especially Margaret for making tea and Christmas fruit cake as well as giving us talks; Lynda for ably looking after our accounts, and David for helping and being my memory aid. My grateful thanks too to anyone, who has helped with the refreshments and washing up.
This year 2024 we are looking forward to more fun, party and fellowship at Good Companions.

Christine Allen

ST STEPHEN'S VISITORS /PASTORAL CARE GROUP REPORT

The Pastoral group has been running now for just over a year. Our aim is to offer support to the lonely and vulnerable in our community and to take communion once a month to St Stephen's Care Home, The Willows Care Home and Eastbank Court.
Various members of the group visit or telephone individuals on a regular basis to provide company, support and sometimes practical help. This has been well received so far and the intention is to expand this service if required.

We have allocated a team for each monthly visit to the two Care Homes and Eastbank Court. This has established continuity and enabled a relationship to develop, both between individuals within the homes and with the Care Home staff.
In addition to the above, a separate team of five visit Noele Court, the flats for "older people" next to the church. They provide a monthly Afternoon Tea in the lounge, for any residents who would like to attend. It gives those who come, an opportunity to chat to each other and to the visitors from church, while enjoying light refreshments. Lindsey usually comes too and the afternoon ends with a short reflection, hymns and prayers. In December there was a special Christmas Tea and Carol Singers from church joined the festivities. The residents really enjoy these visits and the Manager is very supportive. She encourages new residents to join the "Tea Timers" (the name suggested by a former resident).

Pippa Curtis & Sue Gething

LITTLE STARS REPORT

Our Thursday afternoon group for pre-schoolers and their parents/carers continues to be popular, with a core group who attend most weeks. We were sad to lose quite a few to school in September but the new term saw them replaced with numerous new mums and babies. We again find ourselves with few children over three, which does at times limit scope for craft activities and storytelling, although the adults are generally keen to get involved!

Our parents and carers seem to enjoy the informal approach and the loose structure of craft, singing/story and refreshments, leaving plenty of time for free play and chat. It's been lovely to see new friendships develop especially those bringing younger children and babies.

Towards the end of the year, we welcomed Helen Laird (our new children's and young peoples worker) to Little Stars who has been a hit with everyone, helpers and parent alike.

Many thanks to whole team who make the group possible each week; Rosie, Jean, Margaret & Poppy, and to our newer helpers, Dot and Chris. Your help and support have been amazing, especially whilst transitioning during Andy & Viv's departure in July and being without a priest during the winter months. We are very much looking forward to the new term in 2024 with Lindsey at the helm!

There is always room for more helpers if you would like to volunteer, and it doesn't necessarily need to be every week. In this is something you would be interested in, do get in touch.

Michelle Walsh

BISHOP ALLENBY HALL REPORT

The BA Hall is still busy with high levels of evening activity throughout the year. Chess club, Brownies and Cheerdance continue to hire the hall on a weekly basis. Somers Folk-club and Camera club continue their hire on a fortnightly basis and WI on a monthly basis.

Roger Nall and his Messenger team have now left the hall and no longer use the premises for printing and collating 'The Messenger'. Roger has found new printers at The Blue Roof centre in Perdiswell, which has allowed him to take a step back from printing duties. The new local print is now called 'The Magazine' and no longer associated with the BA hall or St Stephen's.

Sticky Fingers Pre School have had a great year, gaining an Outstanding Ofsted rating and also a 5 Star food hygiene rating. They continue to go from strength to strength and remain one of the most popular pre-schools in the area.

In May, Sunday Stars began using the BA hall on the first Sunday (morning) of each month. The halls large and open space allows for informal, relaxed worship with the young children and families who attend.

Weekend single bookings and party hire remains steady, however bookings have begun to slow a little. This I have put down to the hall and kitchen feeling a little tired with their being some 'smarter' competition around. The hall would benefit from kitchen refurb, though funding may not currently be available for this, a spruce up/paint job to keep the hall looking fresh and appealing would be beneficial.

Thanks to Claire Thomas for her continued care of the hall and also to Adrian Everett and Paul Kennett for their much-valued hall maintenance.

Michelle Walsh

BELL RINGERS REPORT

We have a band of 10 bell ringers who meet for practice every Thursday evening and ring for the Sunday 10am service as well as for special occasions such as weddings and the Coronation. One new person joined us in the summer and learnt fairly quickly and now also rings on a Sunday morning.

Bell ringers are always willing to help other towers and we often get a request for some of us to help ring for a wedding elsewhere.

Once again we entered the Association's striking competition and this year, we look forward to hosting the event at St Stephen's.

Our bells are popular with ringers - both in sound and ease in ringing. For this reason, we limit the number of visitors to avoid upsetting our neighbours.

On a Sunday morning it is gratifying to be told by members of the congregation how much they enjoy this welcome to church.

We are grateful for the help and encouragement we receive from more experienced ringers and are always happy if anyone visiting the area joins us.

Beryl Thorp
Tower Captain

EASTBANK DRIVE - HOME GROUP REPORT

This has been a tricky year for the group, and due to health problems, personal circumstances and transport difficulties it was accepted that the group had run its course, and so ended at Christmas. It has been a source of joy to have been a member for so long. It is good to know there are other groups going, however.

During the year we mostly studied the weekly Bible readings, as scheduled in the Lectionary. These were preceded by refreshments, social catch-up and prayer support. We also looked at the hymn *Amazing Grace* and its history, which led us at Advent to look at other appropriate hymns and ended with a study of the origins and meaning of the Advent wreath and candles.

We had a summer outing to Tewkesbury Abbey with lunch at a nearby pub, and a final Christmas lunch at The Nightingale.

Joy and Geoff Hill

TUESDAY EVENING - HOME GROUP REPORT

We've continued to meet on Tuesday evenings, in each other's homes and with refreshments to start with. There are usually six or so of us there, as not everyone can come every week. We have worked our way through study books week by week (alternating between Old Testament, New Testament and a Biblical theme) with occasional forays into home-made materials prepared by someone in the group, and it has remained a wonderful opportunity for those in the group to form a strong bond of fellowship, with occasional meals in each other's homes. Most recently we have used the previous Sunday's readings and reflection as the basis for an evening's further study and are very grateful to those who have offered us notes in addition to their reflections. During Advent and Lent we have joined the St Stephen's, Claines and St George's joint meetings.

On reflection, it's been a real blessing to meet together, to study together, to pray together, (and to eat together!), and by the time you read this we'll have started again after Easter. Life being what it is, several members of the group have been through tricky times since we started, but we are blessed and thankful that meeting in a supportive space provides us with opportunity to encourage each other.

Rob Holdsworth

Charity registration number: 1137099

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Mr R Hemmings Mr P Kennett Mrs B Thorp Mrs M Mandrell Mrs C Amos Mr N S Wake Mrs R J Scotson Mrs S Gething Mr D Anwyl-Hughes Mrs L Niccolls Mr K Maltby Mr R D Holdsworth Mr W C Harwood Mrs P Kendall
Principal Office	c/o Mr R Hemmings 25 Whinfield Road Worcester WR3 7HF
Charity Registration Number	1137099
Independent Examiner	M A Skellum FCA Ballards LLP 11c Kingswood Road Hampton Lovett Droitwich Worcestershire WR9 0QH

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The primary objective of the charity is the promotion in the ecclesiastical parish of the whole mission of the church.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales by carrying out its normal activities.

Reference and Administrative Details

Members of the PCC

Members of the PCC, who are also trustees, are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Impact of COVID-19

In common with many Churches, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities and financial position of St Stephen's has been significant. The necessity either to close the Church buildings, or to restrict the attendance, has substantially reduced the income from lettings, weekly collections and fundraising in particular. This has not affected the Trustees' assessment that the Church remains a going concern, but the longer-term impact of the pandemic remains to be seen.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing documents, trusts distilled from the United Reform Church Arts of Parliament (1971 and 1982) and the Scheme of Union (1972).

Day to day management of the charity is carried out by the members of the PCC, all of whom are also trustees.

18 Mar 2024

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on ..... and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

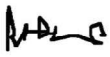
The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 18 Mar 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Stephens PCC Barbourne for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne 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 St Stephens PCC Barbourne'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of St Stephens PCC Barbourne as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.

.....
M A Skellum FCA

Ballards LLP
11c Kingswood Road
Hampton Lovett
Droitwich
Worcestershire
WR9 0QH

Date: 18 March 2024

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	106,535	2,488	-	109,023
Charitable activities	3	25,685	-	-	25,685
Other trading activities	4	5,852	-	-	5,852
Investment income	5	1,799	-	43	1,842
Other income		130	-	-	130
Total Income		140,001	2,488	43	142,532
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(414)	-	-	(414)
Charitable activities		(124,526)	(4,754)	-	(129,280)
Total Expenditure		(124,940)	(4,754)	-	(129,694)
Gains/losses on investment assets		2,082	-	124	2,206
Net income/(expenditure)		17,143	(2,266)	167	15,044
Gross transfers between funds		(13,457)	13,500	(43)	-
Net movement in funds		3,686	11,234	124	15,044
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		43,961	74,135	1,661	119,757
Total funds carried forward	12	47,647	85,369	1,785	134,801

The notes on pages 8 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	96,787	18,347	-	115,134
Charitable activities	3	28,398	-	-	28,398
Other trading activities	4	5,649	-	-	5,649
Investment income	5	622	-	49	671
Other income		130	-	-	130
Total Income		131,586	18,347	49	149,982
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(837)	-	-	(837)
Charitable activities		(123,094)	(10,187)	-	(133,281)
Total Expenditure		(123,931)	(10,187)	-	(134,118)
Gains/losses on investment assets		1,739	-	(246)	1,493
Net income/(expenditure)		9,394	8,160	(197)	17,357
Gross transfers between funds		(5,251)	5,300	(49)	-
Net movement in funds		4,143	13,460	(246)	17,357
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		39,818	60,674	1,908	102,400
Total funds carried forward	12	43,961	74,134	1,662	119,757

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 12.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

(Registration number: 1137099)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	9	21,562	19,357
Current assets			
Debtors	10	9,856	11,017
Cash at bank and in hand		134,752	123,160
		144,608	134,177
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(31,369)	(33,777)
Net current assets		113,239	100,400
Net assets		134,801	119,757
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds		1,785	1,661
Restricted funds		85,369	74,135
Unrestricted funds		47,647	43,961
Total funds	12	134,801	119,757

The financial statements on pages 5 to 17 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 18 Mar 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a "true and fair" view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a "true and fair" view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 6 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Basis of preparation

St Stephens PCC Barbourne meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs
These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Government grants
Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation
The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets
Individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture and equipment	20% on cost

Fixed asset investments
Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	12,248	-	12,248
Gift aid reclaimed	18,751	152	18,903
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	4,008	2,336	6,344
Regular giving and capital donations	71,528	-	71,528
Total for 2023	106,535	2,488	109,023
Total for 2022	96,787	18,347	115,134

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Hall Hire	15,287	15,287
Fees	10,398	10,398
Total for 2023	25,685	25,685
Total for 2022	28,398	28,398

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Events income;		
Other events income	5,852	5,852
Total for 2023	5,852	5,852
Total for 2022	5,649	5,649

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Endowment funds Expendable £	Total funds £
Other income from fixed asset investments	1,799	43	1,842
Total for 2023	1,799	43	1,842
Total for 2022	622	49	671

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

7 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2023	1,800	1,800
At 31 December 2023	1,800	1,800
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2023	1,800	1,800
At 31 December 2023	1,800	1,800
Net book value		
At 31 December 2023	-	-
At 31 December 2022	-	-

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

9 Fixed asset investments

Other investments

	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2023	19,357	19,357
Revaluation	2,205	2,205
At 31 December 2023	21,562	21,562
Net book value		
At 31 December 2023	21,562	21,562
At 31 December 2022	19,357	19,357

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

10 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments	7,121	8,086
Other debtors	2,735	2,931
	9,856	11,017

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Parish share creditor	14,400	16,000
Other creditors	16,369	17,227
Accruals	600	550
	31,369	33,777

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

12 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Unrestricted fund	43,961	140,001	(124,940)	(13,457)	2,082	47,647
Restricted funds						
Restricted fund	74,135	2,488	(4,754)	13,500	-	85,369
Endowment funds						
Expendable						
Endowment fund	1,661	43	-	(43)	124	1,785
	1,661	43	-	(43)	124	1,785
Total funds	119,757	142,532	(129,694)	-	2,206	134,801

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Unrestricted fund	39,818	134,009	(126,355)	(5,251)	1,740	43,961
Restricted						
Restricted fund	60,674	18,347	(10,187)	5,300	-	74,134
Endowment funds						
Expendable						
Endowment fund	1,908	49	-	(49)	(246)	1,662
	1,908	49	-	(49)	(246)	1,662
Total funds	102,400	152,405	(136,542)	-	1,494	119,757

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds Expendable £	Total funds at 31 December 2023 £
Fixed asset investments	19,778	-	1,785	21,563
Current assets	59,239	85,369	-	144,608
Current liabilities	(31,370)	-	-	(31,370)
Total net assets	47,647	85,369	1,785	134,801

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds Expendable £	Total funds at 31 December 2022 £
Fixed asset investments	17,696	-	1,661	19,357
Current assets	96,322	37,855	-	134,177
Current liabilities	(33,777)	-	-	(33,777)
Total net assets	80,241	37,855	1,661	119,757

14 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Planned giving	71,528	63,288
Appeals and donations	12,248	13,248
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	18,751	16,674
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	152	203
Grants and donations	4,008	3,577
Grants received	2,336	18,144
Use of hall	15,287	15,371
Fees and supplies	10,398	13,027
Social events	5,852	5,649
Income from listed investments	1,799	622
Income from listed investments	43	49
Commission received	130	130
Total Income	142,532	149,982
Expenditure on:		
Social event costs	(414)	(837)
Grants payable - missionary societies	(3,500)	(1,176)
Parish Share	(66,470)	(83,424)
Service costs, music and choir	(2,544)	(1,503)
Service costs, music and choir	(203)	(64)
Grants payable - individuals	(331)	(693)
Fees passed to Diocese	(5,508)	(7,548)
Junior support costs	(4,220)	(8,789)
Refugees	-	(641)
Light, heat and power	(15,884)	(10,699)
Insurance	(6,601)	(5,945)
Repairs and maintenance	(16,062)	(5,749)
Printing, postage and stationery	(1,718)	(1,522)
Sundry expenses	(82)	(6)
Cleaning	(1,588)	(1,713)
Accountancy fees	(650)	(571)
Legal and professional fees	(3,919)	(3,238)
Total Expenditure	(129,694)	(134,118)
Gains/losses on investment assets	2,206	1,493
Net movement in funds	15,044	17,357

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	119,757	102,400
Total funds carried forward	134,801	119,757

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Stephens PCC Barbourne for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne 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 St Stephens PCC Barbourne'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of St Stephens PCC Barbourne as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.

.....
M A Skellum FCA

Ballards LLP
11c Kingswood Road
Hampton Lovett
Droitwich
Worcestershire
WR9 0QH

Date: 18 March 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST STEPHEN'S, BARBOUR

England & Wales - Charity number 1137099

Accounts

TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE APGM
YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Accounts show that we managed to make a surplus of £2,655 in respect of the unrestricted (or the general) funds of the Church and excluding the unrealised gain in the value of the investments, This was because the PCC only made a token contribution to the Diocesan Fund for other parishes as the ministry share reduced to £65,755 from nearly £92,885 in 2020. PCC agreed to transfer £5,000 to the fabric fund.

Turning to the Accounts and starting at page 17 which gives details of the items of income and expenditure:

a) The total money received under planned giving (that is the money paid by standing order or under the Parish Giving Scheme) has risen slightly from the previous year of £61,191 to £63,288. The move to use the Parish Giving Scheme helps to reduce the administration time dealing with the monthly receipts and to automatically recover the gift aid on a monthly basis without having to do the work ourselves.
b) The grants and donations in the main relate to monies received for specific purposes.
c) We also bebefited from being able to hold an Autumn Fair this year.

Whilst the accounts appear to show a healthy position but they do not account for potential substantial quotations for works to the buildings to carry out basic repairs, particularly from th Quinquennial review and the PCC is prioritising the works with the funds available.

If you have any questions on the accounts, please ask me or e-mail your question to Richard.hemmings211@btinternet.com

Richard Hemmings

Charity registration number: 1137099

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Rev A G Todd Mr M Bunn Mr R Hemmings Mr P Kennett Mrs B Thorp Mrs M Mandrell Mrs D Fulbrook Mrs C Amos Mr N S Wake Mrs R J Scotson Mrs S Gething Mr D Anwyl-Hughes Mrs L Niccolls Mr K Maltby
Principal Office	c/o Mr R Hemmings 25 Whinfield Road Worcester WR3 7HF
Charity Registration Number	1137099
Independent Examiner	M A Skelium FCA Ballards LLP 11c Kingswood Road Hampton Lovett Droitwich Worcestershire WR9 0QH

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The primary objective of the charity is the promotion in the ecclesiastical parish of the whole mission of the church.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales by carrying out its normal activities.

Reference and Administrative Details

Members of the PCC

Members of the PCC, who are also trustees, are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Impact of COVID-19

In common with many Churches, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities and financial position of St Stephen's has been significant. The necessity either to close the Church buildings, or to restrict the attendance, has substantially reduced the income from lettings, weekly collections and fundraising in particular. This has not affected the Trustees' assessment that the Church remains a going concern, but the longer-term impact of the pandemic remains to be seen.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing documents, trusts distilled from the United Reform Church Arts of Parliament (1971 and 1982) and the Scheme of Union (1972).

Day to day management of the charity is carried out by the members of the PCC, all of whom are also trustees.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 22/3/23 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 22/3/23 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Stephens PCC Barbourne for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne 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 St Stephens PCC Barbourne'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of St Stephens PCC Barbourne as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.



.....

M A Skellum FCA

Ballards LLP
11c Kingswood Road
Hampton Lovett
Droitwich
Worcestershire
WR9 0QH

Date: 22/03/2023

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	96,787	18,347	-	115,134
Charitable activities	3	28,398	-	-	28,398
Other trading activities	4	5,649	-	-	5,649
Investment income	5	622	-	49	671
Other income		130	-	-	130
Total Income		131,586	18,347	49	149,982
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(837)	-	-	(837)
Charitable activities		(123,094)	(10,187)	-	(133,281)
Total Expenditure		(123,931)	(10,187)	-	(134,118)
Gains/losses on investment assets		1,739	-	(246)	1,493
Net income/(expenditure)		9,394	8,160	(197)	17,357
Gross transfers between funds		(5,251)	5,300	(49)	-
Net movement in funds		4,143	13,460	(246)	17,357
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		39,818	60,674	1,908	102,400
Total funds carried forward	12	43,961	74,134	1,662	119,757

The notes on pages 8 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	87,940	13,518	-	101,458
Charitable activities	3	18,259	-	-	18,259
Other trading activities	4	54	-	-	54
Investment income	5	466	-	51	517
Total Income		106,719	13,518	51	120,288
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(20)	-	-	(20)
Charitable activities		(100,500)	(3,472)	-	(103,972)
Total Expenditure		(100,520)	(3,472)	-	(103,992)
Gains/losses on investment assets		3,009	-	29	3,038
Net income		9,208	10,046	80	19,334
Gross transfers between funds		(6,249)	6,300	(51)	-
Net movement in funds		2,959	16,346	29	19,334
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		36,859	44,328	1,879	83,066
Total funds carried forward	12	39,818	60,674	1,908	102,400

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2021 is shown in note 12.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

(Registration number: 1137099)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	9	19,357	17,864
Current assets			
Debtors	10	11,017	8,992
Cash at bank and in hand		123,160	109,089
		134,177	118,081
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(33,777)	(33,545)
Net current assets		100,400	84,536
Net assets		119,757	102,400
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds		1,661	1,908
Restricted funds		74,135	60,674
Unrestricted funds		43,961	39,818
Total funds	12	119,757	102,400

The financial statements on pages 5 to 18 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 23/3/23 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a "true and fair" view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a "true and fair" view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 6 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Basis of preparation
St Stephens PCC Barbourne meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement
The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments
Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs
These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Government grants
Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation
The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets
Individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture and equipment	20% on cost

Fixed asset investments
Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	13,248	-	13,248
Gift aid reclaimed	16,674	203	16,877
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	3,577	18,144	21,721
Regular giving and capital donations	63,288	-	63,288
Total for 2022	96,787	18,347	115,134
Total for 2021	87,940	13,518	101,458

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Hall Hire	15,371	15,371
Fees	13,027	13,027
Total for 2022	28,398	28,398
Total for 2021	18,259	18,259

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Events income;		
Other events income	5,649	5,649
Total for 2022	5,649	5,649
Total for 2021	54	54

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Endowment funds Expendable £	Total funds £
Other income from fixed asset investments	622	49	671
Total for 2022	622	49	671
Total for 2021	466	51	517

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

7 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2022	1,800	1,800
At 31 December 2022	1,800	1,800
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2022	1,800	1,800
At 31 December 2022	1,800	1,800
Net book value		
At 31 December 2022	-	-
At 31 December 2021	-	-

9 Fixed asset investments

Other investments

	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2022	17,864	17,864
Revaluation	1,493	1,493
At 31 December 2022	19,357	19,357
Net book value		
At 31 December 2022	19,357	19,357
At 31 December 2021	17,864	17,864

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

10 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments	8,086	5,909
Other debtors	2,931	3,083
	11,017	8,992

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Parish share creditor	16,000	17,500
Other creditors	17,227	15,520
Accruals	550	525
	33,777	33,545

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

12 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Unrestricted fund	39,818	134,009	(126,355)	(5,251)	1,740	43,961
Restricted funds						
Restricted fund	60,674	18,347	(10,187)	5,300	-	74,134
Endowment funds						
Expendable						
Endowment fund	1,908	49	-	(49)	(246)	1,662
	1,908	49	-	(49)	(246)	1,662
Total funds	102,400	152,405	(136,542)	-	1,494	119,757

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Unrestricted fund	36,859	106,719	(100,520)	(6,249)	3,009	39,818
Restricted						
Restricted fund	44,328	13,518	(3,471)	6,300	-	60,675
Endowment funds						
Expendable						
Endowment fund	1,879	51	-	(51)	28	1,907
	1,879	51	-	(51)	28	1,907
Total funds	83,066	120,288	(103,991)	-	3,037	102,400

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 December 2022
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	17,696	-	1,661	19,357
Current assets	96,322	37,855	-	134,177
Current liabilities	(33,777)	-	-	(33,777)
Total net assets	80,241	37,855	1,661	119,757

	Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Endowment funds Permanent	Total funds at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	15,956	-	1,908	17,864
Current assets	57,407	60,673	-	118,080
Current liabilities	(33,544)	-	-	(33,544)
Total net assets	39,819	60,673	1,908	102,400

14 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Planned giving	63,288	61,191
Appeals and donations	13,248	7,094
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	16,674	14,542
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	203	985
Grants and donations	3,577	5,113
Grants received	18,144	12,533
Use of hall	15,371	10,529
Fees and supplies	13,027	7,730
Social events	5,649	54
Income from listed investments	622	466
Income from listed investments	49	51
Commission received	130	-
Total Income	149,982	120,288
Expenditure on:		
Social event costs	(837)	(20)
Grants payable - missionary societies	(1,176)	(3,500)
Parish Share	(83,424)	(67,500)
Service costs, music and choir	(1,503)	(1,625)
Service costs, music and choir	(64)	(138)
Grants payable - individuals	(693)	(1,899)
Fees passed to Diocese	(7,548)	(4,165)
Junior support costs	(8,789)	-
Curate	-	(680)
Refugees	(641)	(755)
Light, heat and power	(10,699)	(6,144)
Insurance	(5,945)	(5,446)
Repairs and maintenance	(5,749)	(7,318)
Printing, postage and stationery	(1,522)	(891)
Sundry expenses	(6)	(24)
Cleaning	(1,713)	(1,424)
Accountancy fees	(571)	(547)
Legal and professional fees	(3,238)	(1,916)
Total Expenditure	(134,118)	(103,992)
Gains/losses on investment assets	1,493	3,038
Net movement in funds	17,357	19,334

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	102,400	83,066
Total funds carried forward	119,757	102,400

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Stephens PCC Barbourne for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne 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 St Stephens PCC Barbourne'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of St Stephens PCC Barbourne as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.



.....
M A Skellum FCA

Ballards LLP
11c Kingswood Road
Hampton Lovett
Droitwich
Worcestershire
WR9 0QH

Date: 22/03/2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST STEPHEN'S, BARBOUR

England & Wales - Charity number 1137099

Accounts

PARISH CHURCH OF BARBOURNE ST STEPHEN

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



Chloe's Baptism – used with permission

Michelle Walsh - Parish Administrator

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1137099

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PREIST IN CHARGE

From the Vicar

"Our soul waits longingly for the Lord:
He is our help and our shield.
Indeed, our heart rejoices in him;
in his holy name have we put our trust.
Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us,
as we have set our hope on you."

Psalm 33:20-22

Not a few times in the past two years, as I have reflected on the way in which events have unfolded, the image of a roller-coaster ride has come to mind. It has been near-impossible to guess what twists and turns lay ahead.

If you cast your mind back 12 months, last year's APCM was conducted largely by Zoom, and the pandemic restrictions were having a considerable impact on the shape of our life as a Church: in fact they have continued to do so well into 2022. In passing I want to say I believe it is hugely important that we should – both as individuals, as Church and as a community – recognise and mark all that has been lost, in terms of loved ones no longer with us, illnesses suffered, diminished confidence and increased anxiety levels for many, and relationships disrupted. Perhaps the ongoing caution in things like the distribution of Communion will serve as valuable reminders of all this.

And yet, gradually and tentatively, through early 2022 some of what we previously regarded as "normal" has returned. It has been a joy to see **Open Church**, **Good Companions**, and **Little Stars** for example, all restarting and thriving. The same – but different! Perhaps that is how things will, and should, feel, because we are not the same people who entered the pandemic, and the world has changed. We give thanks that God has "brought us safe thus far" (in the words of the great hymn), and look with hope and trust to the future.

It would be impossible in a short report to mention everything that has happened in the year, and to thank by name all those who should be thanked, so I will limit myself to drawing your attention to a couple of areas.

The Church (building) is still standing – despite the best efforts of Storm Arwen and others! I'm incredibly grateful to Adrian Everett, Paul Kennett and Paul Amos in particular for ensuring that week-to-week maintenance has been carried out, and that a programme of more significant repairs on the fabric is being done. The available funds seriously limit what we can do, but at least there is now an understanding of the cost of what needs doing.

Your generosity in giving financially has kept the Church going. I am so grateful to <u>everyone</u> who contributes whether in cash or by planned giving, but it was very noticeable during the past two years that those churches where a significant proportion of giving was by standing order or direct debit were able to weather the storms far better than others. For that reason I continue to commend to you the Parish Giving Scheme. Having said that, as our Treasurer's Report makes clear, we have for the past two years only managed to balance the books by significantly under-paying our Parish Share, which means we have not contributed to the welfare of other churches in the Diocese as much as we might have hoped. From 2022, the new Ministry Share system (which replaces Parish Share) makes much more explicit the link between the cost of ministry in a parish and

the Share requested. As the cost of living increases bite, I can only ask you to continue to assess prayerfully what you give, and to follow the principle: "First to the Lord."

Looking forward… we continue to focus – as I am sure you all do – on wanting St Stephen's to be a safe, welcoming and inclusive place for all, where the transforming power of God's love is at work in real lives. I expect that our **services** will continue to offer a variety of styles of worship, not least reflecting the specific skills and strengths of those who contribute to leading them. We need to be realistic about what we can do. For example, we no longer have a large serving team, and we are not always able to find people willing to read or to lead intercessions. The reasons for this are completely understandable, but it is important to appreciate that there is an impact on the format and feel of our worship. Other changes feel more invigorating: many people have also remarked on how much they have enjoyed having refreshments in Church, rather than in the hall, after the Sunday service, and I have personally loved the 'buzz' it has brought.

One of the most difficult aspects of the pandemic for me and I know for many others has been how difficult it has proved for us, as for many churches, to maintain contact with our **young families.** We will continue to do what we can to engage, and hope to try some new approaches. In that connection, it has been wonderful to see so many children being brought for baptism – hence the cover picture to this report!

Following some very enjoyable Lent Groups, we are hoping in the coming months to pilot **two new home groups**, with a focus on Bible Study and prayer, to add to the existing group kindly hosted by Geoff and Joy Hill.

So a massive "Thank you" to everyone who has contributed to the life of the Church during 2021: readers and intercessors, musicians, bell-ringers, layers-on of refreshments, givers of money, flower providers, Church decorators and cleaners, Zoom attenders, garden tidyers, faithful pray-ers … the list goes on and on! And I must also mention by name Stephen Malkinson, Margaret Mandrell, and Lindsey Coulthard for all they have done, as well of course as our wonderful Parish Administrator and Zoom host Michelle Walsh. But whatever you have done or given, perhaps especially the unsung contributions, are so valuable (as Jesus knew) and very much appreciated!

Finally, a seed to plant in your minds. A number of people have remarked that they feel the life of St Stephen's is entering a new phase post-pandemic. It will be vitally important that we think, dream and pray **together** in the coming months about what shape this new era should take, for our collective worship, for our reaching-out to those not currently part of the Church family, and for our role in the community. What will it look like for us to be a healthy and sustainable Church in the years ahead? All views are important, and need to be listened to. So watch this space as the year progresses for thoughts on how this can best be achieved. I would ask for your partnership in one key area, perhaps above all else: in **holding the Church and our communities to God in prayer**. I am hoping that the following prayer will become something of a theme for us as we chart a path through the uncertain times ahead, confident in the trustworthiness of God who honours those who seek to honour Him.

Faithful and loving God, our strength and our hope,
thank you for the promised gift of your Holy Spirit
to be our Comforter and Guide.

We ask you to bless and lead the people of this
church of St Stephen's as we seek to discern and to
do your will.
Through our worship, our fellowship, and our service,
may we both know in ourselves
and share with others
the reality of your abundant life
in Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen***

Revd Andy Todd
Priest-in-Charge

TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE APCM
(YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2021)

The Accounts show that we managed to make a small surplus of £50 in respect of the unrestricted (or the general) funds of the Church and excluding the unrealised gain in the value of the investments, but this was a result of the PCC deciding not to pay the requested parish share by £23,564. The PCC agreed to transfer £5,000 to the fabric fund.

It should be noted that Parish Share was replaced with Ministry Share and the basic request for 2022 is £65,755, although we are encouraged to increase the amount paid to near to the old Parish Share calculation of £92,885 to cover the shortfall that are anticipated from other parishes who have suffered an increased demand under the Ministry Share scheme.

Turning to the Accounts and starting at page 17 which gives details of the items of income and expenditure:

a) The total money received under planned giving (that is the money paid by standing order or under the Parish Giving Scheme) has risen slightly from the previous year of £59,809 to £61,191. The move to use the Parish Giving Scheme helps to reduce the administration time dealing with the monthly receipts and to automatically recover the gift aid on a monthly basis without having to do the work ourselves.
b) The grants and donations in the main relate to monies received for specific purposes.

Whilst the accounts appear to show a healthy position because we underpaid the requested parish share, the amount held in the fabric fund is to only £29,768 with which to pay any call for urgent repairs at any time. We have received substantial quotations for works to the buildings to carry out basic repairs and the PCC is prioritising the works with the funds available.

If you have any questions on the accounts, please ask me or e-mail your question to Richard.hemmings211@btinternet.com

Richard Hemmings

CHURCH FABRIC REPORT 2021

Due to the pandemic lockdowns, a lot of what we expected to do was put on hold due to lack of availability of contractors and materials. The Quinquennial Report of October 2019 had identified some major works that we had hoped to undertake but didn't, however, the year ended with Storm Arwen ripping tiles off the south Nave Roof (mainly) and forced us to act rapidly to undertake the repairs as soon as possible to prevent further deterioration of the building.

However, we have made some minor inroads into improving the buildings' facilities and safety, although the larger works are still under consideration. A summary of the more significant works undertaken are as follows:-

Annual Servicing:
Church & Hall gas boilers, PAT Testing portable appliances, Church Clock.

Church:
Broadband Cable & Router installation. Repairs to south roofs of Nave and Aisle following Storm Arwen damage (~120 tiles replaced).

Tower:
Fly infestation required an Insect-o-cutor installation to help prevent future invasions. Church Clock timing system replaced for an optic unit. Faulty electrics repaired. New safety measures installed to prevent unauthorised access to dangerous areas and check the tower is clear before ringing commences.

Hall:
Repaired the dip in the car park. Repairs to the Covered Pathway guttering and walls, wooden uprights painted. New LED Baton lights installed into the ladies & gents toilets and replace extractor fan in the gents toilets. Front Door & Lock repairs following a break-in in July. Repairs to roof gulley. Repairs to damaged power sockets in main hall.

Grounds/Graveyard:
Droitwich Road entrance pillar repaired. Underground Services undertaken; electrics, gas, drains, etc.

I wish to thank Paul Kennett, Geoff Hill and Claire & Lee Thomas (Sticky Fingers) for their support in assisting with and/or undertaking some of the above works, along with the everyday repairs that keep the buildings in a useable state for us all.

Adrian Everett – Fabric Coordinator

SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2021

I would like to start by saying a big thank you to all our volunteers. It is great that church activities are able to take place again and of course to remember how important it is to keep us all safe.
If anyone is thinking of becoming a volunteer, all that is required in most cases is for you to sign a form to say that you have read and agree with our safeguarding policy, copies of which can be found in the porch and on our website and to complete basic awareness online training – designed to raise awareness of safeguarding issues and what do with any concerns.

I would also like to thank everyone who has undertaken the training so far. Safeguarding is such a vital part of our church life and because of this, training is mandatory for all volunteers. Unfortunately, take up is low, so I would encourage everyone to undertake the training and to let me know when they have completed it so that

I can update my records. It only takes forty minutes or so, is easily accessed and all who do it find it to be interesting and informative. My contact details are below, please do get in touch with any questions.

For a small number of volunteers, with more complex roles and those involving close contact with children or vulnerable adults, more advanced training is required and a DBS check. We are now required to renew DBS certificates every three years as opposed to every five years. We will be implementing this over the next couple of years so I will be getting in touch with the relevant people over the coming months.

I have been attending regular Parish Safeguarding Network meetings which are always very helpful. It's good to meet with safeguarding officers from other parishes and the Diocesan Safeguarding team who remain very supportive. Currently we are the only diocese in the country with every parish signed up to the dashboard method. This means that we can do everything online. It is easier to access information and record how we're getting on with our compliances. And of course, it is paperless so more eco-friendly too!

Please feel free to contact me at any time, whether it be for help with accessing the online training, applying for a DBS certificate or, even more importantly, getting in touch with any concerns you may have, no matter how trivial they might seem. Or of course contact Andy if you would prefer.

Also, thank you to those of you who have been brave enough to come to me or Andy with their concerns, we are aware that it is not an easy thing to do. Please know that if you do have any worries they will be dealt with respectfully and confidentially and remember that if you're worried it's worth mentioning!

Finally, thank you to Andy and the PCC for their continued support.

Carol Amos PSO

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT 2021

Due to the COVID pandemic no revision or report was made for 2020 as it was felt that we should wait and see what happened to our Congregation during the year.
Therefore we entered the Year 2021 with an Electoral Roll numbering 146 (as at the end of 2019).

The Roll was gradually revised during 2021 and we left 2021 with a Roll of 137 people.

The drop in numbers was due to a number of factors, people had moved away and not asked to be removed from the Roll, some had gone to care homes out of reach of the Parish, some had unfortunately passed away and some had just not returned to Church for whatever reason.

It is interesting to note that more than 55% of members of the Roll live outside the Parish Boundaries!

It is only Electoral Roll members who are eligible to vote for and stand for election to the PCC and other offices within the Parish.

The Roll complies with Data Protection Regulations as they stood at the APCM in 2021 and will be updated to any new Data Protection standards as necessary.

Access to the Electoral Roll is restricted on a "need to know" basis and is controlled by the Roll Officer and the Priest-in-Charge to who any queries should be addressed.

The Roll is for Church purposes only.

Paul Kennett – Electoral Roll Officer

OPEN CHURCH REPORT

Due, mainly, to Covid restrictions, we were not able to have Open Church, as we did prior to the Pandemic.

We did phone a couple of our regular visitors. Unfortunately, we could not keep in touch with more than this, because we did not have contact details for them. We hope to remedy this in 2022.

We are looking forward to having Open Church in 2022 and, once again, being able to welcome people for refreshments and chat or, if they prefer, just a quiet time, on their own.

It has been missed by those who are welcomed and those who do the welcoming.

Sue Gething

SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHEMENTS REPORT

After our on-line Sunday morning services on Zoom, the popularity of the break out rooms proved how much we valued meeting and supporting each other. It has therefore been lovely to be able to resume refreshments in person in Church from November 2021 onwards. We are really grateful to our group of dedicated volunteers who have welcomed visitors and regular worshippers to our Church community with a warm drink, biscuits and cheery conversation.

If you might be interested in joining our rota and serving refreshments approximately once every eight weeks, please do have a word or send a message to ruth.scotson@gmail.com

Ruth Scotson

GOOD COMPANIONS REPORT

In July 2021, we began to meet again in the grounds of the Church to have a tentative social gathering. This was very successful but very hot on one occasion.

Indoor meetings began again on 6th September when Lindsay talked to us about her love of motorbiking. From then until December we met as usual with 4 indoor meetings and 3 trips out to Worcester Art Gallery, The Cathedral to see the Undercroft and for lunch at the Cob House Mayfly Cafe.

This year we have continued with indoor meetings plus two lunch trips. It is difficult to beat the visit of beautiful well trained dogs which Merleen from Hearing Dogs brought to us.

From now on our indoor meetings will take place in Church, so a change for us. We look forward to meeting you at any of our future events.

Committee - Christine Allen, Margaret Mandrell and Lynda Niccolls

LITTLE STARS REPORT

It was with great excitement but also some anxiety that we reopened the doors of Little Stars in November 2021. We weren't sure if anyone we already knew would come back, or whether new people would be drawn in, after so long with groups like this not taking place. We were pleasantly surprised on both counts! Old friends swiftly returned, together with lots of new faces, some of whom soon became part of our regular crowd. We've usually had 15 to 20 children each week, so bigger numbers than pre-pandemic. Many thanks to the small team who make this group possible week by week, both in person and behind the scenes.

Viv Todd

BISHOP ALLENBY HALL REPORT

The hall has resumed more activity as this year has progressed, with many Covid restrictions still in place during the first half of the year, both Good Companions and Brownies made use of our outside space, holding picnics and meetings around the hall and church grounds. Somers Folk club resumed weekly hall hire from July, WI in August and Good Companions, Brownies & Chess Club resuming hall use from September. Sticky Fingers have continued their hall use throughout the 2021 Covid restrictions and continue to be a popular and successful pre-school. We have unfortunately lost a few hirers due the pandemic and Camera Club continue to hold the hall until they hope to return next year. In September we gained a new hirer, Cheerdance, on Tuesday evenings and we look forward to the prospect of new hirers joining us as we return more to normality.

Thanks to Claire Thomas for her continued care and extensive cleaning of the hall during a very difficult time where cleaning has sanitation has been paramount. Thanks also to Paul Kennett, and Adrian Everett for the valued maintenance they provide at the hall.

Michelle Walsh

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2021

This report is a synopsis of the work of the re-formed Deanery Synod for the Worcester Area for the year 2021. Our first meeting was on the 9th March and after being opened by the new Area Dean, Revd. Diane Cooksey our zoom meeting showed 63 active screens including members from the former Deaneries of Martley and Worcester West, Worcester East, and the Saltway Team part of the Droitwich Deanery. We were given instruction by the two Archdeacons and Bishop Martin as to their expectations. Diane Cooksey stated who she intended to appoint as her Leadership Team of six and she was then commissioned. Three further meetings for 2021 were planned and announced those being, June, September, and November. Our June meeting was again held on Zoom with Alison Maddocks in her new role as 'Dean of Smaller Churches' speaking to us. We were told that the current definition of a 'smaller church' is based on an Electoral Roll of 20 or less. The 2018 figures are in use at this moment. The September meeting was supposed to be 'face to face' and incorporate a Deanery Service to be held at All Saints in the Deansway. Unfortunately, some people did not appreciate that it was an actual meeting and not a voluntary attendance, misunderstood the instructions given, were worried about the then lack of motor fuel available in the UK or the several other reasons that were given. As it was, those few that attended, enjoyed the experience. November's meeting was again back on Zoom with darker nights and a reoccurrence of Covid surging in the area. John Preston

the Diocesan Secretary dealt with the financial health of the Diocese and explained in detail why certain decisions are being taken on our behalf. Whilst the details are not always pleasant to hear, I am sure that your appointed Deanery Synod Representative has already passed on to you, via your PCC's, the salient points. On a more positive note, A Deanery Questionnaire was prepared by the Leadership Team and most churches, though not all, have replied to that. Analysis of those answers is taking place at the time of writing this summary and some of that evidence and examples will be used at the Diocesan 'Open Conversations 3' due to be held throughout 2022. Deanery synod always used to be referred to something along the lines of a 'group of people in a meeting waiting to go home' and many felt that it had lost its way in the greater scheme of things. By reducing the number of Deaneries and increasing the sizes to now include both Rural and Urban Churches there is a strong chance that your church can by using the stronger voice of an expanded group have a meaningful input into the Worcester Diocese. I urge you to make sure that your Representatives regularly report back to you and that you also ensure that your views and wishes go back, via them into the melting pot.

Paul Fulbrook (Worcester Area Deanery Secretary – February 2022)

Charity registration number: 1137099

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Rev A G Todd Mr M Bunn Mr R Hemmings Mr G Hill Mr G Gething Mr P Kennett Mrs B Thorp Mrs M Mandrell Mrs D Fulbrook Mrs C Amos Mr N S Wake Mrs R J Scotson Miss H L Lems
Principal Office	c/o Mr R Hemmings 25 Whinfield Road Worcester WR3 7HF
Charity Registration Number	1137099
Independent Examiner	M A Skellum FCA Ballards LLP 11c Kingswood Road Hampton Lovett Droitwich Worcestershire WR9 0QH

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The primary objective of the charity is the promotion in the ecclesiastical parish of the whole mission of the church.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales by carrying out its normal activities.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing documents, trusts distilled from the United Reform Church Arts of Parliament (1971 and 1982) and the Scheme of Union (1972).

Day to day management of the charity is carried out by the members of the PCC, all of whom are also trustees.

Reference and Administrative Details

Members of the PCC

Members of the PCC, who are also trustees, are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Impact of COVID-19

In common with many Churches, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities and financial position of St Stephen's has been significant. The necessity either to close the Church buildings, or to restrict the attendance, has substantially reduced the income from lettings, weekly collections and fundraising in particular. This has not affected the Trustees' assessment that the Church remains a going concern, but the longer-term impact of the pandemic remains to be seen.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 04 Apr 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 04 Apr 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 5 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne 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 St Stephens PCC Barbourne'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of St Stephens PCC Barbourne as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.

.....

M A Skellum FCA

Ballards LLP
11c Kingswood Road
Hampton Lovett
Droitwich
Worcestershire
WR9 0QH

Date 7 April 2022

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	87,940	13,518	-	101,458
Charitable activities	3	18,259	-	-	18,259
Other trading activities	4	54	-	-	54
Investment income	5	466	-	51	517
Total Income		106,719	13,518	51	120,288
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(20)	-	-	(20)
Charitable activities		(100,500)	(3,472)	-	(103,972)
Total Expenditure		(100,520)	(3,472)	-	(103,992)
Gains/losses on investment assets		3,009	-	29	3,038
Net income		9,208	10,046	80	19,334
Gross transfers between funds		(6,249)	6,300	(51)	-
Net movement in funds		2,959	16,346	29	19,334
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		36,859	44,328	1,879	83,066
Total funds carried forward	12	39,818	60,674	1,908	102,400

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	80,615	804	-	81,419
Charitable activities	3	19,062	-	-	19,062
Other trading activities	4	346	-	-	346
Investment income	5	289	-	58	347
Total Income		100,312	804	58	101,174
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(20)	-	-	(20)
Charitable activities		(94,923)	(3,396)	-	(98,319)
Total Expenditure		(94,943)	(3,396)	-	(98,339)
Gains/losses on investment assets		(3,407)	-	86	(3,321)
Net income/(expenditure)		1,962	(2,592)	144	(486)
Gross transfers between funds		(5,243)	5,301	(58)	-
Net movement in funds		(3,281)	2,709	86	(486)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		40,140	41,619	1,793	83,552
Total funds carried forward	12	36,859	44,328	1,879	83,066

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2020 is shown in note 12.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

(Registration number: 1137099)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	-	-
Investments	9	17,864	14,827
		17,864	14,827
Current assets			
Debtors	10	8,992	9,895
Cash at bank and in hand		109,089	84,879
		118,081	94,774
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(33,545)	(26,535)
Net current assets		84,536	68,239
Net assets		102,400	83,066
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment		1,908	1,879
Restricted		60,674	44,328
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted		39,818	36,859
Total funds	12	102,400	83,066

The financial statements on pages 5 to 18 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 4 April 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Mr R Hemmings
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a "true and fair" view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a "true and fair" view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 6 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Basis of preparation
St Stephens PCC Barbourne meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement
The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments
Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs
These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Government grants
Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation
The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets
Individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture and equipment	20% on cost

Fixed asset investments
Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	7,094	-	7,094	3,997
Gift aid reclaimed	14,542	985	15,527	13,317
Grants, including capital grants;				
Government grants	5,113	12,533	17,646	4,296
Regular giving and capital donations	61,191	-	61,191	59,809
	87,940	13,518	101,458	81,419

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Hall Hire	10,529	10,529	8,653
Fees	7,730	7,730	10,409
	18,259	18,259	19,062

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Events income;			
Other events income	54	54	346
	54	54	346

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Endowment funds Expendable £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Other income from fixed asset investments	466	51	517	347

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

7 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2021	1,800	1,800
At 31 December 2021	1,800	1,800
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2021	1,800	1,800
At 31 December 2021	1,800	1,800
Net book value		
At 31 December 2021	-	-
At 31 December 2020	-	-

9 Fixed asset investments

Other investments	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2021	14,827	14,827
Revaluation	3,037	3,037
At 31 December 2021	17,864	17,864
Net book value		
At 31 December 2021	17,864	17,864
At 31 December 2020	14,827	14,827

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

10 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Prepayments	5,909	7,167
Other debtors	3,083	2,728
	8,992	9,895

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Parish share creditor	17,500	10,000
Other creditors	15,520	16,035
Accruals	525	500
	33,545	26,535

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

12 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted						
General						
Unrestricted fund	36,859	106,719	(100,520)	(6,249)	3,009	39,818
Restricted						
Restricted fund	44,328	13,518	(3,471)	6,300	-	60,675
Endowment						
Expendable						
Endowment fund	1,879	50	-	(51)	29	1,907
	1,879	50	-	(51)	29	1,907
Total funds	83,066	120,287	(103,991)	-	3,038	102,400

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Unrestricted fund	40,140	100,312	(94,943)	(5,243)	(3,407)	36,859
Restricted funds						
Restricted fund	41,619	804	(3,396)	5,301	-	44,328
Endowment funds						
Expendable						
Endowment fund	1,793	58	-	(58)	86	1,879
	1,793	58	-	(58)	86	1,879
Total funds	83,552	101,174	(98,339)	-	(3,321)	83,066

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds Permanent £	Total funds 2021 £
Fixed asset investments	15,956	-	1,908	17,864
Current assets	57,407	60,674	-	118,081
Current liabilities	(33,544)	-	-	(33,544)
Total net assets	39,819	60,674	1,908	102,401

14 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Planned giving	61,191	59,809
Appeals and donations	7,094	3,997
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	14,542	13,254
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	985	63
Grants and donations	5,113	3,555
Grants received	12,533	741
Use of hall	10,529	8,653
Fees and supplies	7,730	10,409
Social events	54	346
Income from listed investments	466	289
Income from listed investments	51	58
Total Income	120,288	101,174
Expenditure on:		
Social event costs	(20)	(20)
Grants payable - missionary societies	(3,500)	(3,000)
Grants payable - missionary societies	-	(3,200)
Parish Share	(67,500)	(65,000)
Clergy expenses	-	(500)
Service costs, music and choir	(1,625)	(1,617)
Service costs, music and choir	(138)	-
Grants payable - individuals	(1,899)	(64)
Fees passed to Diocese	(4,165)	(6,976)
Curate	(680)	-
Refugees	(755)	-
Light, heat and power	(6,144)	(5,055)
Insurance	(5,446)	(5,603)
Repairs and maintenance	(7,318)	(2,838)
Repairs and maintenance	-	(132)
Printing, postage and stationery	(891)	(369)
Sundry expenses	(24)	(4)
Cleaning	(1,424)	(1,666)
Accountancy fees	(547)	(510)
Legal and professional fees	(1,916)	(1,785)
Total Expenditure	(103,992)	(98,339)
Gains/losses on investment assets	3,038	(3,321)
Net movement in funds	19,334	(486)

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	83,066	83,552
Total funds carried forward	102,400	83,066

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 5 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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I report in respect of my examination of the St Stephens PCC Barbourne'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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Date 7 April 2022

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST STEPHEN'S, BARBOUR

England & Wales - Charity number 1137099

Accounts

PARISH CHURCH OF BARBOURNE ST STEPHEN

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



Michelle Walsh - Parish Administrator

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1137099

From the Vicar

Welcome to what may be the shortest annual report in the recent history of St Stephen's!

The year that was…

2020 was a year unlike any other. Who reading this could say that their life has been untouched by the Covid-19 pandemic? For many (perhaps most) people the impact has been profound, and very difficult. We have been separated from friends and family; we have lost loved ones, and in many cases have been unable to mourn their passing in the usual ways; many have struggled with illness, without the usual supports which might have made things a little more bearable; and throughout there has been the constant sense of anxiety and isolation. It is right that we mark and remember all this.

So much of life has been "on hold". One of the newspaper cartoons I remember from the year is of a man and his wife at their computer. He is saying to her, "The round robin note is easy this year", as he types on the screen: "2020. We've been nowhere. We've done nothing." Those same restrictions have profoundly affected our life as a Church community, too. The usual pattern of weekly services and fellowship in Church was at times impossible, at others much reduced. Many have felt this loss very keenly.

And yet ….

It was Geoff Hill who observed to me during the pandemic: "We have stopped thinking of Church as somewhere we go, and started thinking of it as something we do." He was absolutely right. We were forced to think of Church as far more than simply a building where we gather. Church continued, even when the doors had to be kept closed. I might go further, and say that, as the year progressed, we realised that Church is something we **are**.



Through the wonders of technology we were able, first to distribute "At Home" services, then to begin meeting on Zoom. People kept in touch with old friends and made new friends over the phone. Flowers and packs containing strange assortments of objects were delivered. Doorstep conversations were enjoyed. Despite the strangeness and difficulty of the times, a sense of still being a family emerged. And we reached out to the wider community, stitching PPE, baking cakes, singing carols ….

We did what we could, and I would like to celebrate that, and thank everyone who joined in in any way in being that Church family during 2020.

And the year that will be…

I suspect you will immediately understand what I mean if I say that the world has changed in the past year. But we have also changed as people. For some, there has been a re-evaluation of priorities, and a rediscovery of what is important. For others, there is a nervousness about gathering in the ways which used to feel quite natural.

I believe we can be hopeful that the restrictions which have governed our lives during the past year will have been largely lifted by September: but that does not mean that we can – or should – simply go back to doing what we used to do. There will rightly be a time ahead for asking some important questions:

- *What things have been lost to which we might need to say 'goodbye'?*
- *What new discoveries made in the past year might we want to explore further?*
- *What priorities should direct our course in the coming months?*

Above all, we should cultivate a sense of looking to God for His direction, and His priorities for our lives and our Church. I commend to you this prayer, which we have used in the past, but which seems especially relevant as we chart a path together into the future:

Gracious and loving God,
Thank you for the promised gift of your Holy Spirit
to be our comforter and Guide;
we ask you to bless and guide the people of this church of St Stephen
as we seek to discern and to do your will.
Inspire our worship, our fellowship and our service.
Where we are fearful, give us courage;
where we are complacent, challenge us;
and so make us ready for Christ to be formed in us.
We ask this in his name and for his sake. ***Amen***

In the rest of this short report, I highlight just a few important areas in relation to the Church's life.

Finances

With this report, you will have received a copy of the 2020 Financial Statements. Although they show a fair amount in reserves at the year end, it is really important to understand two things. Firstly, this was achieved by under-paying our Parish Share for the year by a full **£26,000**. Clearly, such a shortfall is not sustainable: Parish Share pays for parish ministry. Secondly, the reason this was done is that there are some sizeable repairs needed to the fabric of the building in the short-term.

I'm extremely grateful to everyone who supported the Church financially during the pandemic. Some have put aside money during the year; others have seen that their expenses had decreased in the year and have increased their giving accordingly; others have continued to give faithfully through planned giving. May I please encourage anyone who has not yet signed up for the Parish Giving Scheme to consider doing so? It has made an amazing difference to our Church and others this past year.

I would also like to thank Richard Hemmings for his continued faithful support of St Stephen's as Treasurer this past year.

Churchwardens

As you will be aware, we have been unable to elect a Churchwarden this year. (We should have two.) We are extremely grateful to Geoff Hill for his massive contribution through to February 2021, when he stepped down. In the absence of a Churchwarden, the PCC has taken on responsibility for ensuring that the tasks which would have been performed *are* performed: but they cannot and should not be expected to do these tasks themselves, and we are very grateful to all who are considering sharing some of the Churchwarden duties, from welcoming at services to keeping an eye on the maintenance of the land and buildings.

In that connection, I would like to thank especially Adrian Everett, Paul Kennett, and …. Geoff Hill (!), who have given so generously of their time and energy to keep on top of urgent maintenance; and also Gordon Gething, who as Lay Chair of the PCC has been leading on coordinating the work to fulfil the various Churchwarden tasks.

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll remains at 146 at the year end. There will be a need to review it as we emerge fully from Lockdown. Thanks to Paul Kennett for keeping on top of this.

Safeguarding (= Keeping one another safe)

Churches, as well as all organisations, have been reminded this year of the importance of taking appropriate steps to keep everyone safe. The PCC is rightly clear that we should not begin any activities for which appropriate safeguarding procedures are in place, so, if you are asked to complete a form or do some online training, the request will not have been made lightly or carelessly, and please do not take it as a slur on your good character! It is purely and simply a case of doing the right thing. A huge thank you to Carol Amos for continuing to coordinate this area.

Thank you!

I end by repeating a massive "Thank you" to everyone who contributed to the life of the Church during 2020: distribution teams, givers of money, flower providers, Church decorators and cleaners, Zoom readers and attenders, Nativity figure painters, garden tidyers, faithful pray-ers … the list goes on and on! Please do not think that, if your contribution is not prominent, that means it is not important: it absolutely is – and has been very much appreciated!



Revd Andy Todd
Priest-in-Charge
May 2021

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Stephen's, Barbourne

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Stephens PCC Barbourne

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M A Skellum FCA

Ballards LLP
11c Kingswood Road
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WR9 0QH

Date: 27/4/2021