

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF BENGEO, HERTFORD

England & Wales · Charity number 1137534

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2010-08-17

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

Contact

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Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Activities: Regular public worship, pastoral work, visiting the sick and bereaved, teaching of Christianity, and supporting other charities

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£123,106	£136,322	-	-
2023-12-31	£113,294	£118,049	-	-
2022-12-31	£125,756	£126,518	-	-
2021-12-31	£110,142	£118,904	-	-
2020-12-31	£83,440	£122,307	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BRIDGET MARGARET ELIZABETH HERSANT		2012-07-29
David Cramphorn		2017-04-23
David Edward Charles Greely		2016-04-03
Diana Mary Freeman		2017-04-23
GRAHAM SQUIRES		2011-06-07
James Dutton		2021-05-02
Jo King		2019-04-28
John Howson		
PAM THAIN		
PETER RONALD SHILLITO		
Rev DAVID PEPPER		
Rev ROBERT CRAIG THOMPSON		

Accounts

PARISH OF BENGEO

Annual Report for 2024

General Information

This report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2024.

Bengeo is in the Diocese of St Albans and is situated mainly within the town of Hertford, but the parish also includes the rural areas of Chapmore End and Tonwell. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of maintaining two churches in the parish, Holy Trinity Church and St Leonard's Church. Holy Trinity Church, a Grade II listed building, is the main parish church and is situated in New Road, Bengeo. St Leonard's Church is a Grade I listed building dating from approximately 1120 and is situated in St Leonard's Road, Bengeo.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and appointments are made under the Church Representation Rules.

During the past year the following served as members of the PCC:

<i>Team Vicar:</i>	The Reverend Robert Thompson
<i>Associate Priest:</i>	The Reverend David Pepper
<i>Lay Readers:</i>	Mr Bob Kelly & Mrs Anne Sentance
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	Mrs Diana Howarth and Mr Graham Squires

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Vacant

Elected members:

Until APCM 2025	Mrs Joanne King Mr David Greely Mr Peter Shillito
Until APCM 2026	Mr David Cramphorn Mrs Bridget Hersant Mrs Anne Sentance
Until APCM 2027	Mrs Pam Thain Mr James Dutton

Aim and purposes

The primary objective of the PCC is to support Robert in the promotion in the parish of the gospel of Lord Jesus Christ. The actions the PCC continued to focus on in 2024 to support this objective were:

- The provision of a variety of regular and engaging worship services and activities in well maintained and accessible settings (including on-line) to meet the wishes and needs of the congregation – see Regular Worship and Church Buildings and Environs sections
- Support the delivery of a programme of mission activity in the local community to enrich the life of the community, offer engagement opportunities for some local vulnerable and potentially isolated groups and individuals and spread the word of God – see Community Activities section

Regular Worship

The arrangement of 9am and 10am Sunday modern language services with service booklets for each season continues to be well received. The 10am services continue to provide a range of musical offerings including regular appearances by the choir and the informal singing group, services featuring the worship band, as well as wonderful support by the two church organists. The 10am service continues to be live-streamed providing valuable access for those unable to attend in person. This is regularly viewed by 20 to 30+ worshippers.

In 2024 Holy Trinity introduced an initiative whereby a team led by Bob Kelly, Anne Sentance, Bridget Hersant and Moira Flindall provided a non-Eucharist 10am service from time to time. These services have been very well received adding to the rich variety of worship opportunities offered at Holy Trinity.

Services of Holy Communion in the traditional language from the Book of Common Prayer also provide a valued alternative weekly worship offering.

Quiet Time, the weekly prayer group, continued to provide a space for reflection and meditation, thanks to the dedication and stewardship of David Cramphorn and Moira Flindall. The Advent and Lent Bible discussion courses were again well received this year.

The average attendance each Sunday during October 2024 was 48 - compared with an average attendance of 52 for each Sunday in October 2023.

Electoral Roll - there were 95 people on the 2024 Electoral Roll. A complete renewal of the Electoral Roll was required for 2025 which Stella Saggars kindly undertook. The 2025 Electoral Roll for Holy Trinity totalling 81 people -

has been published for fourteen days continuously in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Church Buildings and Environs

Holy Trinity Church

Thanks to the generosity of Peter and Libby Shillito the Reredos and font have been cleaned and restored, in memory of their son, Tim. The transformation has been remarkable, bringing to life the wonderful carving.

The redecoration of the outer doors was completed in Spring 2024.

Work was undertaken in summer 2024 to repair and re-lead the church roof.

Plans have been put in place for the re-decoration of the inside of the church this summer when St Leonard's will be used for services. A contractor has been sourced to carry out the work and advice taken to ensure that the best and most appropriate paint and materials are used.

Rosie Freeland has kindly taken on the organisation of the volunteers who maintain the Memorial Garden. This work is now supplemented by professional help from Paul Cramphorn who has been contracted to mow and maintain the lawn and beds.

A second bench is being installed in the churchyard of Holy Trinity in memory of Roger Martin.

St Leonard's

A survey of the wall paintings at St Leonards has been undertaken. This found that there had been very little deterioration over the last 20 years since the last survey, but some conservation work is required to stabilise the flaking paint. This will be paid for by the Friends of St Leonard's with grant assistance and will take place in 2025.

Work to erect railings in St Leonard's churchyard to safeguard against a trip hazard will also be undertaken in 2025.

Church Hall

A defibrillator has now been installed.

Special thanks are extended to Wendy Celia and Heidi Dutton concerning their work in managing the bookings and taking care of the hall.

Community Activities

Holy Trinity church continues to play an active role in the local community delivering a rich and varied programme of mission activity in 2024. This included:

- Coffee Pot community project – providing a weekly opportunity for people to get together with others over tea and refreshments with all profits going to charity
- Bereavement Café initiative – providing fortnightly in person sessions with trained volunteers in a safe and welcoming environment – as well as an on-line community group
- Bean River View initiative – Robert visiting this closed dementia unit every fortnight to deliver a session involving a story, discussion, bible passage, poem and hymns. Very positively received
- ‘Open the Book’ initiative taking the gospel into local primary schools every month and bringing it to life with fun and engaging interactive sessions
- Bengo Magazine – this high-quality community-focused publication continues promote the activities of the church and position Holy Trinity and St Leonard’s at the very heart of Parish and local community life. Diana Howarth and the magazine team are to be commended for this tremendous contribution to church and local community life
- The Friends of St Leonard’s welcomed visitors on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer. A new Wild Worship service took place in June and September offering participants the opportunity to immerse themselves in the natural world. The Annual Pet Blessing Service took place at the beginning of July and was well attended. A Hymns and Pimms service celebrating the 40th Anniversary of setting up the Friends of St Leonard’s took place later in July. Music concerts also continued to draw people to into the church through the summer months
- Music plays an important part in church and local community life at Holy Trinity. The Worship Band, Choir and Singing Group continue to provide a range of quality church music at our regular services. Regular, high-quality concerts at the church also continue to draw in crowds of local people as well as music lovers from further afield
- Book Club – continues to meet once a month in what has developed into a strong friendship group

- Craft Club – continues to meet once a month in the Church Hall to enable local people to get together and develop their craft skills in a warm and friendly environment

Once again, the PCC would like to thank the indefatigable efforts of the volunteers who support the services and events at Holy Trinity and St Leonards including the coffee team, cleaning team and flower arrangers, as well as everyone involved in raising funds for the church and for the charities the church supports.

Safeguarding

The Parish is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and to supporting those who have been victims of abuse, as well as providing a safe environment from those who may present a risk to others. The PCC continues to comply with their duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. DBS checks are renewed every three years for these individuals as well as all members of the PCC. All appropriate safeguarding training has also been undertaken within the last 3 years.

The PCC adopted a revised Photography and Live Stream Policy in January 2025. This policy together with the Safeguarding Children's Policy, the Safeguarding Policy for Adults and the Domestic Abuse Policy are being tabled for approval at the 2025 APCM.

If you wish to obtain advice or raise concerns, please contact Anne Sentence, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, or any member of the PCC. There were no issues of safeguarding concern reported during 2024.

Hertford Team Ministry

The Diocese has issued proposals which return arrangements for Hertford churches to the same system as before the Team Ministry model was initiated. On a day-to-day basis these changes would not impact the Parish – with a collaborative ministry between all Hertford churches being put in place. The proposals would mean the Rector would be officially titled as 'Rector' and Ralph Abel Smith would return as the patron of the parish. The PCC voted to adopt these proposals in November.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met three times during 2024.

March – The Deanery of the Future Synod looked at some of the realities of the life of our deanery and began to consider possible futures. It was noted

that only two of the benefices contribute (through their Parish Share) the full cost of placing a priest in post, and these effectively subsidise the rest of the parishes (whose full share request falls short of the total cost of ministry). It was observed that some parishes are paying their share by dipping into reserves and that many were being funded by donations from generous ageing congregations. If current trends were to continue, it would not be long before the diocese would need to consider further amalgamations. The challenge for the deanery was how to be ready with suitable answers to any such proposals. The following questions were discussed in groups: What would your reaction be to the suggestion that your parish be united with [a parish adjacent to yours] when the next minister resigns (yours or theirs)? What would be gained? What would be lost? What don't you know that you think you need to know? The increase in the governance burden on churches and the simultaneous volunteer-crisis were also discussed. Much important ministry is carried out by lay people, but it is getting harder to fill the posts of warden, treasurer, secretary and PSO. Members were asked: What do you think could be done about filling this need? What is your own parish situation with regard to filling vacancies for posts like churchwarden and treasurer? Synod will return to these matters later.

July – Social Function and Elections to Diocesan Synod. All five vacancies in the House of Clergy were filled without election. Our representatives are Ysmena Pentelow, John Hookway, Alan Stewart, Sarah Forrest and Mark Dunstan. Five of the six vacancies in the house of laity were filled without election. Our representatives are Liz Horner (St Mary the Virgin, Ware), Tim Crowther (St Mary the Virgin, Ware), Janet Bird (All Saints, Hertford), Colin Bird (All Saints, Hertford) and Bob Barker (Christ Church, Ware). This Synod was followed by a relaxed and enjoyable BBQ, giving members an opportunity to deepen friendships and share ideas, issues and best practices.
www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk

November - Generous Giving The Diocesan Giving Officer, Kate Ford, has been in post for about two years. Her role is sponsored by funds from the National Church. She is helping parishes to grow generous giving by advising on giving mechanisms and communications and through running giving campaigns. She gave a thorough and encouraging presentation. Questions and comments from the floor related to a wide range of topics including: legacies; the benefits, costs and use of card readers; the positives of using the National Parish Giving Scheme and Gift Aid. After the plenary, Synod members were given the opportunity to look at template documentation resources and two card readers. The vacancy in the House of Laity for Diocesan Synod was filled by Shirley Taylor from Hertford, St Andrew's (unopposed). All the meetings also included other reports from Diocesan Synod. Deanery Collaboration

Financial Review (to be read in conjunction with the Honorary Treasurer's Report in the 2024 Annual Accounts)

The 2024 Annual Accounts for Holy Trinity show that our annual expenditure (£136,322) exceeded our income (£123,106). Overall, the accounts show a deficit on unrestricted funds of £9,283. This is compared with a deficit of £7,235 in 2023. These annual deficits are sustainable because of the value of unrestricted funds held by the PCC.

Investment values increased in the year with an unrealised gain of £19,714 compared with a gain of £74,660 in 2023. The value of investments held at 31 December 2024 was £881,057 compared to £861,342 at the end of 2023. Income from these investments in 2024 totalled £23,910.

Whilst the deficits of recent years are small in comparison to the funds held by the PCC they are resulting in a gradual deterioration the values of the funds as they are used to offset the deficits. Reducing the annual General Fund deficit is a key area of financial focus during 2025.

End of year cash holdings for 2024 were £95,068 (2023: £101,616).

Unrestricted funds now stand at £822,924

Restricted funds now stand at £46,940

Endowment funds now stand at £127,475

Meaning total funds now stand at **£997,333** (2023: £990,841).

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to hold, in current assets, unrestricted fund balances equivalent of between six and nine months' of unrestricted expenditure. This ensures there are funds immediately accessible to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The target is between £64,000 and £95,000. The year-end unrestricted fund balance held in current assets was £69,342.

D Greely
Hon Secretary
Holy Trinity Church
Bengeo

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY WITH CHRIST CHURCH AND
ST. LEONARD, BENGEO**

(Registered charity no. 1137534)

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024**

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The notes on pages 6 to 11 are an integral parts of the accounts

Honorary Treasurer's Report

This report should be read in conjunction with other Annual Reports produced for circulation at the Annual General Meeting which summarise the main activities of the parish during 2024.

The format of the accounts is the same as last year, as required by the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The Statement of Financial Activities on page 4 summarises the income and expenditure for the year (separately detailed in Notes 2 and 3 respectively). The balance sheet on page 5 shows the assets and liabilities of the PCC and these apportion between various funds.

Key points to note:

- Total incoming resources were £123,106. Of this, £117,896 was unrestricted (2023: £101,315) and £5,210 was restricted (£11,979).
- Planned giving increased by 1%. Cash collections increased 17%. There were no legacies received in 2024 (2023 none). Income from investments was similar to the prior year. Hall income increased from £15,878 to £16,434.
- Total outgoing resources were £136,322. Of this £127,179 was unrestricted (2023: £108,550) and £9,143 was restricted (2023: £9,499).
- The Parish Share was £69,332 (2023: £70,047). Depreciation charges were similar to 2023. Church running expenses, including maintenance, utilities and insurance, show an increase from £11,679 to £27,269. The main reasons for the increase: reredos cleaning (£7,651); higher utility costs; painting (£2,760); roof (£1,400); heating (£884); doors (£1,191).
- Overall, the accounts show a deficit on unrestricted funds of £9,283 (2023: deficit of £7,235). These annual deficits are sustainable because of the value of unrestricted funds held by the PCC.
- Included in 2024 expenditure, are payments to FOSL of £1,150. These amounts were included in income in 2023. If these had been included in expenditure in 2023, the overall deficit on unrestricted funds in 2024 would be very similar to 2024.
- Investment values increased in the year with an unrealised gain of £19,714 (2023: gain of £74,660). The value of investments held at 31 December 2024 was £881,057 (2023: £861,342). The volatility in investment values over the last few years would appear set to continue. Income from these investments in 2024 totalled £23,910 (2023: £23,544).
- The accounts show cash holdings of £95,068 at the year-end (2023: £101,616).
- In addition to the unrestricted general fund there are two unrestricted designated funds:
 - Legacy fund £31,352 (2023: £31,346) - The PCC has a policy that legacies, unless otherwise restricted by the testator, are held in a fund and used for significant projects.
 - Hall fund £25,606 (2023: £19,836) – This fund holds monies generated from the hall, put aside for any specific work required on the hall in the future.
- There are also several restricted funds totalling £46,940 (2023: £50,873). These represent income given to the PCC for specific purposes. Of this, £17,036 has supported the acquisition of specific assets (eg lectern, AV equipment). Details of all restricted funds is shown in Note 10b.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to hold, in current assets, unrestricted fund balances equivalent of between six and nine months' of unrestricted expenditure. This ensures there are funds immediately accessible to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The target is between £64,000 and £95,000. The year-end unrestricted fund balance held in current assets was £69,342.

Nick Sharman, FCA

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity with Christ Church and St. Leonard, Bengoe

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 4 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Curtis Juman, FCPFA

111 Riddlesdown Road, Surrey CR81DH

15 April 2025

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Resources from donors	2a	73,531	1,010	-	74,541	<i>64,173</i>
Other voluntary income	2b	4,405	900	-	5,305	<i>4,942</i>
Trading income	2c	1,387	-	-	1,387	<i>2,473</i>
Investment income	2d	38,573	3,300	-	41,873	<i>41,706</i>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		117,896	5,210	-	123,106	113,294
RESOURCES USED						
Grants - Charitable giving	3a	5,095	-	-	5,095	<i>3,636</i>
Work of the Church	3b	116,555	2,284	-	118,839	<i>102,368</i>
Fundraising costs	3c	3,143	394	-	3,537	<i>2,899</i>
Management & Admin	3d	2,386	6,465	-	8,851	<i>9,146</i>
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		127,179	9,143	-	136,322	118,049
NET (RESOURCES USED) / INCOMING RESOURCES		(9,283)	(3,933)	-	(13,216)	(4,755)
UNREALISED GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	10	16,862	-	2,852	19,714	<i>74,660</i>
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS		7,579	(3,933)	2,852	6,498	<i>69,905</i>
BALANCES 1 JANUARY		815,345	50,873	124,623	990,841	<i>920,936</i>
BALANCES 31 DECEMBER		822,924	46,940	127,475	997,339	<i>990,841</i>

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

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

			2024	2023
	Note	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets	5	17,036		23,501
Investments	6	881,057		861,342
			898,093	884,843
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	7	6,552		5,248
Deposits (at Central Board of Finance)		57,231		52,657
Cash and bank balances		37,837		48,959
			101,620	106,864
LIABILITIES: amounts falling due within one year	8		(2,374)	(866)
NET CURRENT ASSETS			99,246	105,998
NET ASSETS			997,339	990,841
FUNDS				
Unrestricted - General			765,966	764,163
- Designated			56,958	51,182
- Total	10a		822,924	815,345
Restricted	10b		46,940	50,873
Endowment	10c		127,475	124,623
			997,339	990,841

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

The Reverend Robert Thompson (Chairman)

The notes on pages 5 to 11 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the accounts

1) Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of fixed asset investments, which are shown at market value.

General funds represent the funds of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by fête, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Team Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory which can be inspected by arrangement with the Churchwardens. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items costing more than £500 acquired since 1 January 2000 are capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life. The cost of the organ and other items are depreciated over ten years.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £500 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of less than £500 are written off when the asset is acquired.

Amounts owing to the PCC as at 31 December in respect of tax reclaimable under Gift Aid, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or with the Diocese.

Investments are valued at market value as at 31 December.

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments as at 31 December.

Notes to the accounts continued

2) Incoming resources

	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>
	General	Designated	Total	Total	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2a Resources from donos:						
Planned giving (BACS and envelope scheme)	31,204	-	31,204	-	31,204	30,891
Collections	11,993	-	11,993	-	11,993	10,260
Donations (including occasional envelopes)	18,653	-	18,653	1,010	19,663	13,871
Tax reclaimed	11,681	-	11,681	-	11,681	9,151
	73,531	-	73,531	1,010	74,541	64,173
2b Other voluntary income:						
Fundraising	4,059	-	4,059	900	4,959	4,942
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	346	-	346	-	346	-
	4,405	-	4,405	900	5,305	4,942
2c Trading income:						
Fees	1,387	-	1,387	-	1,387	2,473
	1,387	-	1,387	-	1,387	2,473
2d Investment income:						
Dividends and interest	22,133	6	22,139	3,300	25,439	25,828
Rent from Church Hall	-	16,434	16,434	-	16,434	15,878
	22,133	16,439	38,573	3,300	41,873	41,706
Total incoming resources	101,456	16,440	117,896	5,210	123,106	113,294

Dividends earned by the repair fund (£3,300) are restricted for use in maintaining and running the church and are therefore included in restricted funds above.

The PCC has a policy that legacies, unless otherwise restricted by the testator, are held in a designated fund and used for significant projects. No legacies were received in the year (2023: nil).

Notes to the accounts continued

3) Resources used

		<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>
		<u>General</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
		£	£	£	£	£	£
3a	Charitable giving	5,095	-	5,095	-	5,095	<i>3,636</i>
		5,095	-	5,095	-	5,095	<i>3,636</i>
3b	Work of the church:						
	Parish Share	69,332	-	69,332	-	69,332	<i>70,047</i>
	Clergy and training expenses	2,522	-	2,522	-	2,522	<i>1,986</i>
	Church running expenses (including minor repairs) *	27,269	-	27,269	-	27,269	<i>11,679</i>
	Upkeep of services	1,166	-	1,166	1,024	2,190	<i>3,832</i>
	Churchyard and Memorial Garden	-	-	-	1,260	1,260	<i>130</i>
	Church Hall running costs	-	10,664	10,664	-	10,664	<i>9,829</i>
	Website & publicity	338	-	338	-	338	<i>816</i>
	Salaries and fees	5,264	-	5,264	-	5,264	<i>4,049</i>
		105,891	10,664	116,555	2,284	118,839	<i>102,368</i>
3c	Fundraising and trading costs:						
	Fundraising	3,143	-	3,143	394	3,537	<i>2,899</i>
	Magazine	-	-	-	-	-	<i>-</i>
		3,143	-	3,143	394	3,537	<i>2,899</i>
3d	Management and Administration:						
	Admin costs	2,386	-	2,386	-	2,386	<i>2,532</i>
	Depreciation	-	-	-	6,465	6,465	<i>6,614</i>
		2,386	-	2,386	6,465	8,851	<i>9,146</i>
	Total outgoing resources	116,515	10,664	127,179	9,143	136,322	<i>118,049</i>

* The church running costs for 2024 include the cost of reredos cleaning (£7,651).

Notes to the accounts continued

4) Staff costs and members' interests

During 2024, the PCC employed Mr W Sarjeant as organist who was paid £2,560 for services (£2,260 in 2023). There were no payments in respect of National Insurance or pensions.

Any payments to Trustees (members of the PCC) were for the reimbursement of expenses only, supported by receipts.

5) Tangible fixed assets

	Lighting System £	Organ & furniture £	Hall furniture & equipment £	Audio-visual equipment £	Total £
Cost b/f	30,287	83,474	5,176	10,499	129,436
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Cost c/f	30,287	83,474	5,176	10,499	129,436
Depreciation b/f	(15,145)	(82,137)	(5,176)	(3,477)	(105,935)
Charge for the year	(3,028)	(1,337)	-	(2,100)	(6,465)
Depreciation c/f	(18,173)	(83,474)	(5,176)	(5,577)	(112,400)
NBV 1 January 2023	15,142	1,337	-	7,022	23,501
NBV 31 December 2024	12,114	-	-	4,922	17,036

The organ was bought with a grant from The Friends of St Leonards in 2003 and is held in a restricted fund. Various items of furniture have been bought since with money donated specifically for the purpose. Depreciation, which represents 10% of the cost of each item, is charged against this fund. Audio-visual equipment is depreciated over 5 years.

6) Investments

	Units	Market Value 2024 £	Market Value 2023 £
Endowment funds:			
Holy Trinity with Christ Church Repair Fund	3,929	90,849	88,816
Expendable endowment funds:			
Bengeo Holy Trinity Church Hall	1,584	36,626	35,807
		127,475	124,623
Unrestricted funds:			
PCC account	1,962	45,367	44,352
Proceeds from sale of Cowper Crescent	30,628.54	708,215	692,367
		753,582	736,719
		881,057	861,342

The investments are part of the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. This Fund aims to provide a long-term total return comprising growth in capital and income. The Fund is an actively managed, diversified portfolio of assets designed to help protect both present and future beneficiaries from the effects of inflation. It has an emphasis on equities but also includes property, bonds and other asset classes. The Fund is managed in accordance with the policies of the Church of England's Ethical Investment Advisory Group.

In 2024, the Fund has provided an investment income of £23,910 (2023: £23,544). Market values of these investment has been volatile over recent years. In 2024 there was an investment gain of £19,714. This compares with a gain of £74,660 in 2023, a loss of £106,746 in 2022 and a gain of £114,830 in 2021. The PCC continually reviews its investment portfolio recognising that there will be market fluctuations. The investments are held for the long term.

7) Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gift Aid amounts due from HMRC	4,630	3,860
Deferred income	1,922	1,388
	6,552	5,248

8) Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Creditors	2,374	866
	2,374	866

9) Analysis of assets and liabilities by fund

	Unrestricted funds			Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	General	Hall	Legacy			2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Fixed assets:</i>							
Investments (note 6)	753,582	-	-	-	127,475	881,057	861,342
Tangible fixed assets (note 5)	-	-	-	17,036	-	17,036	23,501
<i>Current assets:</i>							
Debtors (note 7)	6,552	-	-	-	-	6,552	5,248
CBF deposits	33,319	5,610	117	18,185	-	57,231	52,657
Cash and bank	(25,113)	19,996	31,235	11,719	-	37,837	48,959
Creditors (note 8)	(2,374)	-	-	-	-	(2,374)	(866)
	765,966	25,606	31,352	46,940	127,475	997,339	990,841

Notes to the accounts continued

10) Fund details

	Brought forward £	Net increase / (decrease) before unrealised gains/(losses) £	Unrealised gains / (losses) £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
a) Unrestricted funds:					
General fund	764,163	(15,059)	16,862	-	765,966
Designated:					
Legacy fund	31,346	6	-	-	31,352
Hall fund	19,836	5,770	-	-	25,606
	<u>815,345</u>	<u>(9,283)</u>	<u>16,862</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>822,924</u>
b) Restricted funds:					
Lighting system fixed assets fund	15,142	(3,028)	-	-	12,114
Organ & furniture fixed assets fund	1,337	(1,337)	-	-	-
Audio-visual fixed assets fund	7,022	(2,100)	-	-	4,922
Bereavement café	423	506	-	-	929
Roof & fabric fund	3,061	-	-	-	3,061
Holy Trinity with Christ Church Repair	15,096	3,300	-	-	18,396
Memorial Garden	7,926	(1,010)	-	-	6,916
Flower fund	866	(264)	-	-	602
	<u>50,873</u>	<u>(3,933)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,940</u>
c) Endowment funds:					
CBF units (note 6)	124,623	-	2,852	-	127,475
	<u>990,841</u>	<u>(13,216)</u>	<u>19,714</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>997,333</u>

11) Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year (2023: none).

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY WITH CHRIST CHURCH AND
ST. LEONARD, BENGEO**

(Registered charity no. 1137534)

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024**

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	Independent Examiner's report	page 3
	Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024	page 4
	Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024	page 5
	Notes to the accounts	page 6

The notes on pages 6 to 11 are an integral parts of the accounts

Honorary Treasurer's Report

This report should be read in conjunction with other Annual Reports produced for circulation at the Annual General Meeting which summarise the main activities of the parish during 2024.

The format of the accounts is the same as last year, as required by the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The Statement of Financial Activities on page 4 summarises the income and expenditure for the year (separately detailed in Notes 2 and 3 respectively). The balance sheet on page 5 shows the assets and liabilities of the PCC and these apportion between various funds.

Key points to note:

- Total incoming resources were £123,106. Of this, £117,896 was unrestricted (2023: £101,315) and £5,210 was restricted (£11,979).
- Planned giving increased by 1%. Cash collections increased 17%. There were no legacies received in 2024 (2023 none). Income from investments was similar to the prior year. Hall income increased from £15,878 to £16,434.
- Total outgoing resources were £136,322. Of this £127,179 was unrestricted (2023: £108,550) and £9,143 was restricted (2023: £9,499).
- The Parish Share was £69,332 (2023: £70,047). Depreciation charges were similar to 2023. Church running expenses, including maintenance, utilities and insurance, show an increase from £11,679 to £27,269. The main reasons for the increase: reredos cleaning (£7,651); higher utility costs; painting (£2,760); roof (£1,400); heating (£884); doors (£1,191).
- Overall, the accounts show a deficit on unrestricted funds of £9,283 (2023: deficit of £7,235). These annual deficits are sustainable because of the value of unrestricted funds held by the PCC.
- Included in 2024 expenditure, are payments to FOSL of £1,150. These amounts were included in income in 2023. If these had been included in expenditure in 2023, the overall deficit on unrestricted funds in 2024 would be very similar to 2024.
- Investment values increased in the year with an unrealised gain of £19,714 (2023: gain of £74,660). The value of investments held at 31 December 2024 was £881,057 (2023: £861,342). The volatility in investment values over the last few years would appear set to continue. Income from these investments in 2024 totalled £23,910 (2023: £23,544).
- The accounts show cash holdings of £95,068 at the year-end (2023: £101,616).
- In addition to the unrestricted general fund there are two unrestricted designated funds:
 - Legacy fund £31,352 (2023: £31,346) - The PCC has a policy that legacies, unless otherwise restricted by the testator, are held in a fund and used for significant projects.
 - Hall fund £25,606 (2023: £19,836) – This fund holds monies generated from the hall, put aside for any specific work required on the hall in the future.
- There are also several restricted funds totalling £46,940 (2023: £50,873). These represent income given to the PCC for specific purposes. Of this, £17,036 has supported the acquisition of specific assets (eg lectern, AV equipment). Details of all restricted funds is shown in Note 10b.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to hold, in current assets, unrestricted fund balances equivalent of between six and nine months' of unrestricted expenditure. This ensures there are funds immediately accessible to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The target is between £64,000 and £95,000. The year-end unrestricted fund balance held in current assets was £69,342.

Nick Sharman, FCA

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity with Christ Church and St. Leonard, Bengoe

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 4 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Curtis Juman, FCPFA

111 Riddlesdown Road, Surrey CR81DH

15 April 2025

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Resources from donors	2a	73,531	1,010	-	74,541	<i>64,173</i>
Other voluntary income	2b	4,405	900	-	5,305	<i>4,942</i>
Trading income	2c	1,387	-	-	1,387	<i>2,473</i>
Investment income	2d	38,573	3,300	-	41,873	<i>41,706</i>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		117,896	5,210	-	123,106	113,294
RESOURCES USED						
Grants - Charitable giving	3a	5,095	-	-	5,095	<i>3,636</i>
Work of the Church	3b	116,555	2,284	-	118,839	<i>102,368</i>
Fundraising costs	3c	3,143	394	-	3,537	<i>2,899</i>
Management & Admin	3d	2,386	6,465	-	8,851	<i>9,146</i>
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		127,179	9,143	-	136,322	118,049
NET (RESOURCES USED) / INCOMING RESOURCES		(9,283)	(3,933)	-	(13,216)	(4,755)
UNREALISED GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	10	16,862	-	2,852	19,714	<i>74,660</i>
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS		7,579	(3,933)	2,852	6,498	<i>69,905</i>
BALANCES 1 JANUARY		815,345	50,873	124,623	990,841	<i>920,936</i>
BALANCES 31 DECEMBER		822,924	46,940	127,475	997,339	<i>990,841</i>

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

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

			2024	2023
	Note	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets	5	17,036		23,501
Investments	6	881,057		861,342
			898,093	884,843
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	7	6,552		5,248
Deposits (at Central Board of Finance)		57,231		52,657
Cash and bank balances		37,837		48,959
			101,620	106,864
LIABILITIES: amounts falling due within one year	8		(2,374)	(866)
NET CURRENT ASSETS			99,246	105,998
NET ASSETS			997,339	990,841
FUNDS				
Unrestricted - General			765,966	764,163
- Designated			56,958	51,182
- Total	10a		822,924	815,345
Restricted	10b		46,940	50,873
Endowment	10c		127,475	124,623
			997,339	990,841

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

The Reverend Robert Thompson (Chairman)

The notes on pages 5 to 11 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the accounts

1) Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of fixed asset investments, which are shown at market value.

General funds represent the funds of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by fête, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Team Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory which can be inspected by arrangement with the Churchwardens. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items costing more than £500 acquired since 1 January 2000 are capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life. The cost of the organ and other items are depreciated over ten years.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £500 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of less than £500 are written off when the asset is acquired.

Amounts owing to the PCC as at 31 December in respect of tax reclaimable under Gift Aid, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or with the Diocese.

Investments are valued at market value as at 31 December.

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments as at 31 December.

Notes to the accounts continued

2) Incoming resources

	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>		<u>Restricted funds</u>		<u>Total funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>
	General	Designated	Total	Total	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2a Resources from donos:						
Planned giving (BACS and envelope scheme)	31,204	-	31,204	-	31,204	30,891
Collections	11,993	-	11,993	-	11,993	10,260
Donations (including occasional envelopes)	18,653	-	18,653	1,010	19,663	13,871
Tax reclaimed	11,681	-	11,681	-	11,681	9,151
	73,531	-	73,531	1,010	74,541	64,173
2b Other voluntary income:						
Fundraising	4,059	-	4,059	900	4,959	4,942
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	346	-	346	-	346	-
	4,405	-	4,405	900	5,305	4,942
2c Trading income:						
Fees	1,387	-	1,387	-	1,387	2,473
	1,387	-	1,387	-	1,387	2,473
2d Investment income:						
Dividends and interest	22,133	6	22,139	3,300	25,439	25,828
Rent from Church Hall	-	16,434	16,434	-	16,434	15,878
	22,133	16,439	38,573	3,300	41,873	41,706
Total incoming resources	101,456	16,440	117,896	5,210	123,106	113,294

Dividends earned by the repair fund (£3,300) are restricted for use in maintaining and running the church and are therefore included in restricted funds above.

The PCC has a policy that legacies, unless otherwise restricted by the testator, are held in a designated fund and used for significant projects. No legacies were received in the year (2023: nil).

Notes to the accounts continued

3) Resources used

		<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>
		<u>General</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
		£	£	£	£	£	£
3a	Charitable giving	5,095	-	5,095	-	5,095	<i>3,636</i>
		5,095	-	5,095	-	5,095	<i>3,636</i>
3b	Work of the church:						
	Parish Share	69,332	-	69,332	-	69,332	<i>70,047</i>
	Clergy and training expenses	2,522	-	2,522	-	2,522	<i>1,986</i>
	Church running expenses (including minor repairs) *	27,269	-	27,269	-	27,269	<i>11,679</i>
	Upkeep of services	1,166	-	1,166	1,024	2,190	<i>3,832</i>
	Churchyard and Memorial Garden	-	-	-	1,260	1,260	<i>130</i>
	Church Hall running costs	-	10,664	10,664	-	10,664	<i>9,829</i>
	Website & publicity	338	-	338	-	338	<i>816</i>
	Salaries and fees	5,264	-	5,264	-	5,264	<i>4,049</i>
		105,891	10,664	116,555	2,284	118,839	<i>102,368</i>
3c	Fundraising and trading costs:						
	Fundraising	3,143	-	3,143	394	3,537	<i>2,899</i>
	Magazine	-	-	-	-	-	<i>-</i>
		3,143	-	3,143	394	3,537	<i>2,899</i>
3d	Management and Administration:						
	Admin costs	2,386	-	2,386	-	2,386	<i>2,532</i>
	Depreciation	-	-	-	6,465	6,465	<i>6,614</i>
		2,386	-	2,386	6,465	8,851	<i>9,146</i>
	Total outgoing resources	116,515	10,664	127,179	9,143	136,322	<i>118,049</i>

* The church running costs for 2024 include the cost of reredos cleaning (£7,651).

Notes to the accounts continued

4) Staff costs and members' interests

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Any payments to Trustees (members of the PCC) were for the reimbursement of expenses only, supported by receipts.

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	Lighting System £	Organ & furniture £	Hall furniture & equipment £	Audio-visual equipment £	Total £
Cost b/f	30,287	83,474	5,176	10,499	129,436
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Cost c/f	30,287	83,474	5,176	10,499	129,436
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	Units	Market Value 2024 £	Market Value 2023 £
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Expendable endowment funds:			
Bengeo Holy Trinity Church Hall	1,584	36,626	35,807
		127,475	124,623
Unrestricted funds:			
PCC account	1,962	45,367	44,352
Proceeds from sale of Cowper Crescent	30,628.54	708,215	692,367
		753,582	736,719
		881,057	861,342

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In 2024, the Fund has provided an investment income of £23,910 (2023: £23,544). Market values of these investment has been volatile over recent years. In 2024 there was an investment gain of £19,714. This compares with a gain of £74,660 in 2023, a loss of £106,746 in 2022 and a gain of £114,830 in 2021. The PCC continually reviews its investment portfolio recognising that there will be market fluctuations. The investments are held for the long term.

7) Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gift Aid amounts due from HMRC	4,630	3,860
Deferred income	1,922	1,388
	<u>6,552</u>	<u>5,248</u>

8) Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Creditors	2,374	866
	<u>2,374</u>	<u>866</u>

9) Analysis of assets and liabilities by fund

	Unrestricted funds			Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	General	Hall	Legacy			2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Fixed assets:</i>							
Investments (note 6)	753,582	-	-	-	127,475	881,057	861,342
Tangible fixed assets (note 5)	-	-	-	17,036	-	17,036	23,501
<i>Current assets:</i>							
Debtors (note 7)	6,552	-	-	-	-	6,552	5,248
CBF deposits	33,319	5,610	117	18,185	-	57,231	52,657
Cash and bank	(25,113)	19,996	31,235	11,719	-	37,837	48,959
Creditors (note 8)	(2,374)	-	-	-	-	(2,374)	(866)
	<u>765,966</u>	<u>25,606</u>	<u>31,352</u>	<u>46,940</u>	<u>127,475</u>	<u>997,339</u>	<u>990,841</u>

Notes to the accounts continued

10) Fund details

	Brought forward £	Net increase / (decrease) before unrealised gains/(losses) £	Unrealised gains / (losses) £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
a) Unrestricted funds:					
General fund	764,163	(15,059)	16,862	-	765,966
Designated:					
Legacy fund	31,346	6	-	-	31,352
Hall fund	19,836	5,770	-	-	25,606
	815,345	(9,283)	16,862	-	822,924
b) Restricted funds:					
Lighting system fixed assets fund	15,142	(3,028)	-	-	12,114
Organ & furniture fixed assets fund	1,337	(1,337)	-	-	-
Audio-visual fixed assets fund	7,022	(2,100)	-	-	4,922
Bereavement café	423	506	-	-	929
Roof & fabric fund	3,061	-	-	-	3,061
Holy Trinity with Christ Church Repair	15,096	3,300	-	-	18,396
Memorial Garden	7,926	(1,010)	-	-	6,916
Flower fund	866	(264)	-	-	602
	50,873	(3,933)	-	-	46,940
c) Endowment funds:					
CBF units (note 6)	124,623	-	2,852	-	127,475
	990,841	(13,216)	19,714	-	997,333

11) Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year (2023: none).

Accounts

PARISH OF BENGEO

Annual Report for 2023

General Information

This report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2023.

Bengeo is in the Diocese of St Albans and is situated mainly within the town of Hertford, but the parish also includes the rural areas of Chapmore End and Tonwell. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of maintaining two churches in the parish, Holy Trinity Church and St Leonard's Church. Holy Trinity Church, a Grade II listed building, is the main parish church and is situated in New Road, Bengeo. St Leonard's Church is a Grade I listed building dating from approximately 1120 and is situated in St Leonard's Road, Bengeo.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and appointments are made under the Church Representation Rules.

During the past year the following served as members of the PCC:

<i>Team Vicar:</i>	The Reverend Robert Thompson
<i>Associate Priest:</i>	The Reverend David Pepper
<i>Lay Readers:</i>	Mr Bob Kelly & Mrs Anne Sentance
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	Mrs Diana Howarth and Mr Graham Squires

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Vacant

Elected members:

Until APCM 2024	Mrs Pam Thain Mr John Howson Mr James Dutton
Until APCM 2025	Mrs Joanne King Mr David Greely Mr Peter Shillito
Until APCM 2026	Mr David Cramphorn Mrs Bridget Hersant Mrs Anne Sentance

Regular Worship

The arrangement of 9am and 10am Sunday modern language services with service booklets for each season continues to be well received. The 10am services continue to provide a range of musical offerings including regular appearances by the choir, services led by the worship band, as well as wonderful support by the two church organists.

Services of Holy Communion in the traditional language from the Book of Common Prayer also provide a valued alternative weekly worship offering.

Quiet Time, the weekly prayer group, continued to provide a space for reflection and meditation, thanks to the dedication and stewardship of David Cramphorn and Moira Flindall. The Advent Bible discussion course was again well received again this year.

To support and encourage youth worship at Holy Trinity new activity bags have been introduced and prepared resources made available upstairs for children for use when supervised by their parents.

The bell ringing team at Holy Trinity has now operated for two years and is well established – welcoming the local community to worship every Sunday morning.

In 2024 Holy Trinity will be introducing an initiative whereby a lay team will take a non-Eucharist 10am service from time to time – taking advantage of the wealth of lay people we have at Holy Trinity and the gifts they have to offer.

The average attendance each Sunday during October 2023 was 52 - compared with an average attendance of 50 for each Sunday in October 2022.

2023 Electoral Roll & changes to the Roll

There were 94 people on the 2023 Electoral Roll. In 2024 there were 95 people on the Electoral Roll prepared by Stella Saggars. This has been published for fourteen days continuously in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Community Activities

Holy Trinity church continues to play an active role in the local community delivering a rich and varied programme of mission activity in 2023. This included:

- Coffee Pot community project – providing a weekly opportunity for people to get together with others over tea and refreshments with all profits going to charity
- Bereavement Café initiative – providing fortnightly in person sessions with trained volunteers in a safe and welcoming environment – as well as an on-line community group
- Bean River View initiative – Robert visiting this closed dementia unit every fortnight to deliver a session involving a story, discussion, bible passage, poem and hymns. Very positively received
- ‘Open the Book’ initiative taking the gospel into local primary schools every month and bringing it to life with fun and engaging interactive sessions
- The Friends of St Leonard’s welcomed nearly one thousand visitors to St Leonard’s in 2023 - for afternoon tea, for concerts, one-off events like the Children’s Art Day and just for a look around. Hosted the Harvest Songs of Praise service in September
- The Annual Pet Blessing Service - took place at the beginning of July at St Leonard’s church and was well attended
- Holy Trinity church celebrated the coronation of King Charles III with a special Coronation Service on Sunday 7 May followed by the Parish Tea in the church hall
- Music plays an important part in church and local community life at Holy Trinity. The Worship Band and Choir continue to provide a range of quality church music at our regular services. Regular, high-quality concerts at the church also continue to draw in crowds of local people as well as music lovers from further afield
- Book Club – continues to meet once a month in what has developed into a strong friendship group
- Craft Club – continues to meet once a month in the Church Hall to enable local people to get together and develop their craft skills in a warm and friendly environment

Church Buildings and Environs (the churchwardens annual fabric report)

All urgent items detailed in the Quinquennial Report relating to Holy Trinity were addressed in January – with the remaining repairs carried out in May.

Plans to erect railings in S Leonard's churchyard to safeguard against a trip hazard are progressing with the Friends of St Leonard's agreeing funding. This work is subject to approvals being obtained.

Similarly, the Friends of St Leonard's are also fully supportive of the initiative to erect an outbuilding at St Leonard's for storage and practical purposes. Final plans and approvals are in the process of being obtained.

The Ros Squires memorial lectern was unveiled in Spring.

The lighting in the church hall was upgraded to LEDs in Summer.

New bell ropes were installed at Holy Trinity in Autumn.

The proposals for the restoration and cleaning of the Reredos (and the cleaning of the Font) – made possible by the generous contribution of Peter and Libby Shillito - were approved by the DAC in October – with the work scheduled to be undertaken in early 2024.

The redecoration of the outer doors of Holy Trinity church has been scheduled for Spring 2024.

Safeguarding

The Parish is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and to supporting those who have been victims of abuse, as well as those who may present a risk to others. The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The PCC have adopted all the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance, as well as "Promoting a Safer Church" (child protection and vulnerable adults' policy) and the Domestic Abuse statement, at their meeting on 16 April 2023.

Anne Sentance has now been appointed as the Parish Safeguarding Officer with Bob Kelly becoming her deputy after many years of dedicated service in leading our Safeguarding activity. Those who work with vulnerable groups in the Parish are subject to the Practice Guidance Safer Recruitment July 2021. DBS checks are renewed every three years for these individuals as well as all members of the PCC. All appropriate safeguarding training has also been undertaken within the last 3 years.

If you wish to obtain advice or raise concerns, please do contact Anne or any member of the PCC. There were no issues of safeguarding concern reported during 2023.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met three times during 2023:

- March – to receive reports on Environmental Action from each parish
There were reports from 15 parishes detailing projects and activities being undertaken in their parishes to protect and maintain the environment. Much of the focus was related to heating, lighting and maintaining church buildings and encouraging wildlife in churchyards. There was a useful exchange of good ideas and helpful contacts, and much discussion on how to take ideas and best practices and turn them into positive action.
- July – Racial Justice Action Group
There was a presentation from Revd Jonathan Gordon, who recounted his own personal journey and explained the aims and objectives of the group. The group has developed a three-year action plan including listening, education, reading, acknowledging privilege and speaking out to challenge racism. He took Synod through some of the changing language, helping people to be inclusive and non-offensive. Parishes were encouraged to take and use the handouts and to participate in the “Listening Experience” to discuss what individual congregations might do to encourage diversity.
- November - Growing Younger and More Diverse
Revd Dan Drew’s presentation explored the problems of the diminishing number of young adults and children participating in church activities and shared the findings of the Diocesan report from 2020 which observed that if the current trajectory continued, we would have no younger people or children in parishes by 2030. The three ages where church attendance drops off are 11, 15 and 18 years old. How do we stop this? The Diocese is training 100 people to expand the involvement of children and young people with a pilot scheme started with funding from the Church Commissioners. The aim is to train leaders spiritually as well as practically so they have longevity. Synod members were challenged to consider what they could do. It was recommended that parishes start with small steps and set simple, achievable targets. The meeting was given an example of four church members (80+) who were amazingly supportive and were great with the children.

Financial Review (to be read in conjunction with the Honorary Treasurer’s Report in the 2023 Annual Accounts)

The 2023 Annual Accounts for Holy Trinity show that our annual expenditure (£118,049) exceeded our income (£113,294) by £4,755. This is compared with a deficit of £762 in 2022.

Income was down from 2022. Planned giving dropped in 2023 while cash collections increased. There were no legacies in 2023 compared to a legacy of £3,470 in 2022. Expenditure was also down from 2022.

Whilst the deficits of recent years are small in comparison to the funds held by the PCC they are resulting in a gradual deterioration the values of the funds as they are used to offset the deficits. Reducing the annual General Fund deficit is a key area of financial focus during 2024. There will also be a focus on developing a strategy for greater utilisation of restricted funds for appropriate initiatives and investment in the fabric of the church.

In 2023 investment values increased with an unrealised gain of £74,660. This partly offsets the unrealised loss in 2022 of £106,746. The value of investments held at 31 December 2023 was £861,342 (£786,682 in 2022). Income from these investments in 2023 totalled £23,544.

End of year cash holdings for 2023 were £101,616 (2022: £104,549).

Unrestricted funds now stand at £815,345 including:

- Legacy fund was £31,346 for 2023 (2022: £31,346)
- Hall fund was £19,836 for 2023 (2022: £13,787).

Restricted funds now stand at £50,873

Endowment funds now stand at £124,623.

Meaning total funds now stand at **£990,841** (2022: £920,936).

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to hold, in current assets, unrestricted fund balances equivalent of between six and nine months of unrestricted expenditure. This ensures there are funds immediately accessible to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The target is between £55,000 and £83,000. The year-end unrestricted fund balance held in current assets was £78,626.

D Greely
Hon Secretary
Holy Trinity Church
Bengeo

Accounts

PARISH OF BENGEO

Annual Report for 2022

General Information

This report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2022.

Bengeo is in the Diocese of St Albans and is situated mainly within the town of Hertford, but the parish also includes the rural areas of Chapmore End and Tonwell. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of maintaining two churches in the parish, Holy Trinity Church and St Leonard's Church. Holy Trinity Church, a Grade II listed building, is the main parish church and is situated in New Road, Bengeo. St Leonard's Church is a Grade I listed building dating from approximately 1120 and is situated in St Leonard's Road, Bengeo.

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Regular Worship

The arrangement of 9am and 10am Sunday modern language services with service booklets for each season continues to be well received. The 10am services continue to provide a range of musical offerings including regular appearances by the choir and the worship band as well as wonderful support by the two church organists.

Services of Holy Communion in the traditional language from the Book of Common Prayer also provide a valued alternative weekly worship offering.

Quiet Time, the weekly prayer group, continued to provide a space for reflection and meditation, thanks to the dedication and stewardship of David Cramphorn and Moira Flindall. The introduction of an Advent Bible discussion course was also very well received.

A new bell ringing team at Holy Trinity has been established – welcoming the local community to worship every Sunday morning.

The average attendance each Sunday during October 2022 was 50 - compared with an average attendance of 51 for each Sunday in October 2021.

2022 Electoral Roll

There were 94 people on the 2022 Electoral Roll prepared by Stella Saggars. The 2023 Electoral Roll has been published for fourteen days continuously in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Community Activities

Holy Trinity church continues to play an active role in the local community delivering a rich and varied programme of mission activity in 2022. This included:

- Coffee Pot community project – providing a weekly opportunity for people to get together with others over tea and refreshments with all profits going to charity
- ‘Subjects of interest’ initiative at Beane River View residential home, with fortnightly sessions focused on subjects ranging from memories to books, baking, dancing and music - all designed to stimulate active resident engagement.
- Bereavement Café initiative – providing fortnightly sessions with trained volunteers in a safe and welcoming environment

- 'Open the Book' initiative taking the gospel into local primary schools every month and bringing it to life with fun and engaging interactive sessions. Over Christmas 700 children heard the Christmas story thanks to 'Open the Book'
- 'Stillness and quiet reflection' lunchtime sessions for all children at Tonwell primary school – every child receiving one session each half term – increasing active engagement of families at Tonwell with Holy Trinity including recent baptisms
- The Friends of St. Leonard's continued to open the doors to our historic church over the summer months, with a new programme of tours, exhibitions and open days planned for 2023
- Music plays an important part in church and local community life at Holy Trinity. The Worship Band and Choir continued to provide a range of quality church music at our regular services. Regular, high quality concerts at the church also continue to draw in crowds of local people as well as music lovers from further afield
- A newly established bell ringing team further enhanced our musical offering in 2022 – not only bringing practitioners into our church every Sunday morning but announcing the 10 o'clock service to local residents
- Collectors Fayre – popular annual initiative bringing local people into the church and raising money for charity
- Craft Club – continued to meet once a month in the Church Hall to enable local people to get together and develop their craft skills in a warm and friendly environment
- Book Club – continued to meet once a month in what has developed into a strong friendship group

Church Buildings and Environs

The 2022 Quinquennial Reports for Holy Trinity and St Leonard's allowed the PCC to identify those items that needed to be addressed by 2024. These included:

Holy Trinity

- Nave roof – weed clearance
- Lead flashing
- Maintenance to South Vestry including replacement of missing tiles
- Lead downpipe coming away from wall
- Maintenance to East End bay stonework

- Boiler room steps maintenance
- Belfry maintenance
- Cracks in reredos at high altar
- Children's room – new carbon monoxide detector required

St Leonard's

- Health and safety issue – steps on west side by new extension – no handrail. Robert said blacksmith will provide quote
- Roof of new extension – 2 year life expectancy, 20 tiles damaged
- Few roof tiles missing

All urgent items have been addressed – with remaining repairs scheduled in for May 2023 during better weather.

Safeguarding

Bob Kelly, Safeguarding Officer for Holy Trinity church:

I am pleased to report that no safeguarding issues have been reported. The Policies for Safeguarding Children, vulnerable adults, domestic abuse and photographs/live streaming are submitted for approval. They are a continuation of current policies.

The biggest challenge of this past year has been in implementing the “Learning and Development Practice Guidelines” which came into effect at the beginning of 2022.

These are Church of England designed and can be found on the Church of England training portal. They are delivered on-line. There are two levels, Basic Awareness Module (CO) and Foundation Module (C1), both of which take around one hour to complete.

These compulsory courses are for anyone appointed by or on behalf of the church to any post or role which involves working with children or vulnerable adults. This includes any paid or unpaid post, including P.C.C members, Church Wardens and anyone holding the Bishop's Licence or other authorisation. Those in leadership positions, for example Sunday School lead, must also complete the leadership course which is run by the Diocese on-line.

A further important course is how to respond well to Domestic Abuse. This course is open to anyone but must be completed by Clergy, Readers and Church Wardens. There are other specialist courses such as safe recruitment, please speak to me if you need any further information. I am pleased to report that over the last 12 months the P.C.C have completed the Basic Awareness and Foundation Course which is valid for 3 years.

The completion of a Confidential Declaration Form is an on-going requirement for anyone involved in a church role. Those in a more sensitive or leadership

role will need to complete a DBS check. We have established a parish direct debit to enable this to be a quick process. I can guide those needing a DBS check through the process.

I am happy to report that all PCC members have a current DBS certificate. Our success in the past in ensuring Church Wardens, Sunday School and Open the Book participants are fully checked has resulted in renewals being required over the next 12 months. This is in hand. In future DBS checks will have a shelf life of 3 years and all applicants are asked to agree to join the update service. This will mean that annual checks are completed automatically without the need for fresh submissions. My role is to verify any changes in the confidential declaration or identity details, which is an in-house matter.

An aid to parishes is the computerised Parish Dashboard. This is a voluntary requirement which enables the Diocese to monitor our progress. We are registered and our DBS and training commitment is fulfilled. There is a facility to undertake risk assessments on a variety of our activities. As and when these are developed I can update the dashboard.

Currently there is a vacancy for a Deputy Safeguarding Officer. For the sake of continuity it would be helpful if this position is filled this coming year. I am able to guide any would be volunteer.

In particular I would like to thank all members of the PCC for completing DBS checks and training which is yet another drain on personal time. I would also like to thank Diana and Graham for their support in encouraging us all to adhere to the safeguarding guidance. Bridget has kindly agreed to ensure Sunday School leaders renew DBS checks and complete the new 3 year cycle of Basic and Foundation training. This additional support has been much appreciated.

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met three times during 2022.

March – the Role of the Diocese with the Deaneries and Parishes.

Synod met the new Diocesan Secretary David White, who gave an insight into his own life of faith and experience of worshipping in the Church of England. He outlined his vision for the diocesan office as existing for the purpose of serving the life of the diocese in its parishes, schools and chaplaincies. David also noted some of the challenges facing deaneries and the way in which deaneries are working together to support one another.

July – Waterways Chaplaincy & Social Action.

There was a presentation from Lorraine Newman, a local Waterways Chaplain. The chaplain's role is to be a visible presence along the waterways and to work in partnership with the boaters, the waterways authorities and outside agencies. Lorraine explained how she helped those in need living on

the waterways with finding medical treatment and mental health support and linking them to food banks and other assistance.

There were also reports from the remaining Project Teams.

November – Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust & Net Zero

William Masterton from the *Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Historic Churches Trust* spoke about their fundraising via membership and the 'Bike & Hike' and how churches and parishes could apply for grants. Every parish and individuals were encouraged to join and support this organisation.

Mrs Emma Critchley, Diocesan Pastoral & Advisory Secretary spoke on church buildings and taking steps towards Net-Zero. She outlined the support and advice available from the Diocese and from the Church of England website.

Financial Review

For HTB 2022 Annual Report

Financial Review

The 2022 Annual Accounts for Holy Trinity show that our annual expenditure (£126,518) exceeded our income (£125,756) by £762. This is an improvement from 2021 when there was a deficit of £8,762.

The 2022 overall deficit includes:

- a deficit of £3,169 on our unrestricted funds (General Fund and Designated Funds) compared to a surplus of £1,088 in 2021; and
- a surplus of £2,407 on our restricted funds compared to a deficit of £9,850 in 2021.

The £3,169 deficit on unrestricted funds includes a £10,337 deficit on the General Fund which is offset by designated fund surpluses: Legacy Fund £3,470 (which the PCC hold for significant projects) and Hall Fund of £3,698 (reflecting much higher hall usage and hence rental income in 2022).

The £10,337 deficit on the General Fund (which covers the main running costs of the parish) is higher than 2021 when it was £5,487. Whilst fundraising income and investment income increased, these were more than offset by a small reduction in income received from donors and cost increases in church running expenses. Reducing the annual General Fund deficit remains a key area of financial focus during 2023.

In 2022, our investments and cash holdings provided an investment income of £24,846 compared to £23,216 in 2021. Whilst investment returns have been maintained, the drop in market values during 2022 has resulted in unrealised investment losses of £106,746 in 2021; this has offset a similar level of unrealised investment gains in 2021 (£114,830). The PCC continually monitors its portfolio recognising that there will be market fluctuations. The investments are held for the long term.

Whilst our investment portfolio, held in the Church of England Investment Fund, saw a reduction in value during the year, our balance sheet remains healthy with total assets of £920,926 at the end of the year.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to hold, in current assets, unrestricted fund balances equivalent of between six and nine months' of unrestricted expenditure. This ensures there are funds immediately accessible to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The target is between £57,000 and £85,000. The year-end unrestricted fund balance held in current assets was £85,861.

D Greely
Hon Secretary
Holy Trinity Church
Bengeo

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY WITH CHRIST CHURCH AND
ST. LEONARD, BENGEO**

(Registered charity no. 1137534)

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2022**

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	Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022	page 1
	Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022	page 2
	Notes to the accounts	page 3

Notes 1 to 8 are integral parts of the accounts

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity with Christ Church and St. Leonard, Bengoe

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

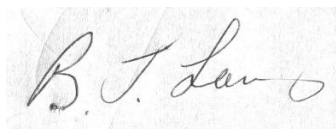
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Brian Laming
Ware
Hertfordshire

12 April 2023

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Resources from donors	2a	54,950	14,768	-	69,718	<i>62,048</i>
Other voluntary income	2b	10,874	420	-	11,294	<i>15,035</i>
Trading income	2c	4,856	-	-	4,856	<i>5,715</i>
Investment income	2d	37,328	2,560	-	39,888	<i>27,344</i>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		108,008	17,748	-	125,756	110,142
RESOURCES USED						
Grants - Charitable giving	3a	3,412	497	-	3,909	<i>1,011</i>
Work of the Church	3b	101,075	1,340	-	102,415	<i>102,363</i>
Fundraising costs	3c	2,312	1,197	-	3,509	<i>950</i>
Management & Admin	3d	6,937	9,748	-	16,685	<i>14,580</i>
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		113,736	12,782	-	126,518	118,904
NET (RESOURCES USED) / INCOMING RESOURCES		(5,728)	4,966	-	(762)	(8,762)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		2,559	(2,559)	-	-	-
		(3,169)	2,407	-	(762)	(8,762)
UNREALISED GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	10	(91,636)	-	(15,110)	(106,746)	<i>114,830</i>
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS		(94,805)	2,407	(15,110)	(107,508)	<i>106,068</i>
BALANCES 1 JANUARY		853,527	45,986	128,931	1,028,444	<i>922,376</i>
BALANCES 31 DECEMBER		758,722	48,393	113,821	920,926	<i>1,028,444</i>

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

			2022	2021
	Note	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets	5	25,018		26,392
Investments	6	786,682		913,428
			811,700	939,822
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	7	5,391		4,595
Deposits (at Central Board of Finance)		47,987		44,960
Cash and bank balances		56,562		39,067
			109,940	88,622
LIABILITIES: amounts falling due within one year	8		(704)	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS			109,236	84,009
NET ASSETS			920,936	1,028,444
FUNDS				
Unrestricted - General			713,589	815,561
- Designated			45,133	37,966
- Total	10a		758,722	853,527
Restricted	10b		48,393	45,986
Endowment	10c		113,821	128,931
			920,936	1,028,444

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

The Reverend Robert Thompson (Chairman)

The notes on pages 3 to 8 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the accounts

1) Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of fixed asset investments, which are shown at market value.

General funds represent the funds of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the general purposes of the PCC. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by the fête, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Team Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory which can be inspected by arrangement with the Churchwardens. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items costing more than £500 acquired since 1 January 2000 are capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life. The cost of the organ and other items are depreciated over ten years.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £500 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of less than £500 are written off when the asset is acquired.

Amounts owing to the PCC as at 31 December in respect of tax reclaimable under Gift Aid, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or with the Diocese.

Investments are valued at market value as at 31 December.

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments as at 31 December.

Notes to the accounts continued

2) Incoming resources

	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2a Resources from donors:						
Planned giving (BACS and envelope scheme)	32,368	-	32,368	497	32,865	32,745
Tax reclaimed	9,666	-	9,666	-	9,666	11,562
Collections	3,229	-	3,229	-	3,229	3,421
Donations (including occasional envelopes)	9,687	-	9,687	14,271	23,958	14,320
	54,950	-	54,950	14,768	69,718	62,048
2b Other voluntary income:						
Fund raising	7,404	-	7,404	420	7,824	2,345
Legacies	-	3,470	3,470	-	3,470	12,690
	7,404	3,470	10,874	420	11,294	15,035
2c Trading income:						
Magazines etc	114	-	114	-	114	78
Fees	4,742	-	4,742	-	4,742	5,637
	4,856	-	4,856	-	4,856	5,715
2d Investment income:						
Dividends and interest	21,725	1,042	22,767	2,560	25,327	23,235
Rent from Church Hall	-	14,561	14,561	-	14,561	4,109
	21,725	15,603	37,328	2,560	39,888	27,344
Total incoming resources	88,935	19,073	108,008	17,748	125,756	110,142

Dividends earned by the repair fund (£2,560) are restricted for use in maintaining and running the church and are therefore included in restricted funds above.

The PCC has a policy that legacies, unless otherwise restricted by the testator, are held in a designated fund and used for significant projects. One such legacy for £3,470 was received in the year (one legacy for £10,000 in 2021).

Donations received to cover the cost of the new audio-visual equipment (£6,887) and lectern (£1,485) are classified as restricted.

Notes to the accounts continued

3) Resources used

		<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>
		<u>General</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
		£	£	£	£	£	£
3a	Charitable giving	3,412	-	3,412	497	3,909	<i>1,011</i>
		3,412	-	3,412	497	3,909	<i>1,011</i>
3b	Work of the church:						
	Parish Share	69,161	-	69,161	-	69,161	<i>69,943</i>
	Clergy and training expenses	1,452	-	1,452	-	1,452	<i>1,192</i>
	Church running expenses (including minor repairs)	11,811	-	11,811	-	11,811	<i>10,137</i>
	Upkeep of services	2,049	-	2,049	-	2,049	<i>4,469</i>
	Churchyard and Memorial Garden	-	-	-	1,340	1,340	<i>6,440</i>
	Church Hall running costs	-	11,905	11,905	-	11,905	<i>7,254</i>
	Website & publicity	120	-	120	-	120	<i>178</i>
	Salaries and fees	4,577	-	4,577	-	4,577	<i>2,750</i>
		89,170	11,905	101,075	1,340	102,415	<i>102,363</i>
3c	Fundraising and trading costs:						
	Fundraising	2,312	-	2,312	1,197	3,509	<i>872</i>
	Magazine	-	-	-	-	-	<i>78</i>
		2,312	-	2,312	1,197	3,509	<i>950</i>
3d	Management and Administration:						
	Admin costs	6,937	-	6,937	-	6,937	<i>3,218</i>
	Depreciation	-	-	-	9,748	9,748	<i>11,362</i>
		6,937	-	6,937	9,748	16,685	<i>14,580</i>
	Total outgoing resources	101,831	11,905	113,736	12,782	126,518	<i>118,904</i>

The church hall running costs for 2022 include the cost of a new boiler (£2,274).

Notes to the accounts continued

4) Staff costs and members' interests

During 2022, the PCC employed Mr W Sarjeant as organist who was paid £2,060 for services, including weddings (£2,220 in 2021). There were no payments in respect of National Insurance or pensions.

5) Tangible fixed assets

	Lighting System £	Organ & furniture £	Hall furniture & equipment £	Audio-visual equipment £	Total £
Cost b/f	30,287	80,504	5,176	-	115,967
Additions	-	1,485	-	6,887	8,372
Cost c/f	30,287	81,989	5,176	6,887	124,339
Depreciation b/f	(9,087)	(75,310)	(5,176)	-	(89,573)
Charge for the year	(3,029)	(5,342)	-	(1,377)	(9,748)
Depreciation c/f	(12,116)	(80,652)	(5,176)	(1,377)	(99,321)
NBV 1 January 2021	21,200	5,194	-	-	26,394
NBV 31 December 2021	18,171	1,337	-	5,510	25,018

The organ was bought with a grant from The Friends of St Leonards in 2003 and is held in a restricted fund. Various items of furniture have been bought since with money donated specifically for the purpose. Depreciation, which represents 10% of the cost of each item, is charged against this fund.

6) Investments

	Units	MV 2022 £	MV 2021 £
Endowment funds:			
Holy Trinity with Christ Church Repair Fund	3,929	81,118	91,886
Expendable endowment funds:			
Bengeo Holy Trinity Church Hall	1,584	32,703	37,045
		<u>113,821</u>	<u>128,931</u>
Unrestricted funds:			
PCC account	1,962	40,507	45,885
Proceeds from sale of Cowper Crescent	30,628.54	632,354	738,612
		<u>672,861</u>	<u>784,497</u>
		786,682	913,428

The investments are part of the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. This Fund aims to provide a long-term total return comprising growth in capital and income. The Fund is an actively managed, diversified portfolio of assets designed to help protect both present and future beneficiaries from the effects of inflation. It has an emphasis on equities but also includes property, bonds and other asset classes. The Fund is managed in accordance with the policies of the Church of England's Ethical Investment Advisory Group.

In 2022, the Fund has provided an investment income of £24,846 (£23,216 in 2021). Whilst investment returns have been maintained, the drop in market values during 2022 has meant the unrealised investment losses of £106,746 have offset a similar level of investment gains in 2021 (£114,830). The PCC continually reviews its investment portfolio recognising that there will be market fluctuations. The investments are held for the long term.

7) Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Gift Aid amounts due from HMRC	4,536	4,595
Deferred income	855	-
	5,391	4,595

8) Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Creditors	704	-
	704	-

9) Analysis of assets and liabilities by fund

	Unrestricted funds			Restricted funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	General £	Hall £	Legacy £	£	2022 £	2021 £
<i>Fixed assets:</i>						
Investments (note 6)	672,861	-	-	-	672,861	784,497
Tangible fixed assets (note 5)	-	-	-	25,018	25,018	26,394
<i>Current assets:</i>						
Debtors (note 7)	5,391	-	-	-	5,391	4,595
CBF deposits	30,657	5,162	108	12,060	47,987	44,960
Cash and bank	5,384	8,625	31,238	11,315	56,562	39,067
Creditors (note 8)	(704)	-	-	-	(704)	-
	713,589	13,787	31,346	48,393	807,115	899,513

Notes to the accounts continued

10) Fund details

	Brought forward £	Net increase / (decrease) before unrealised gains/(losses) £	Unrealised gains / (losses) £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
a) Unrestricted funds:					
General fund	815,562	(12,896)	(91,636)	2,559	713,589
Designated:					
Legacy fund	27,876	3,470	-	-	31,346
Hall fund	10,089	3,698	-	-	13,787
	853,527	(5,728)	(91,636)	2,559	758,722
b) Restricted funds:					
Lighting system fixed assets fund	21,200	(3,029)	-	-	18,171
Organ & furniture fixed assets fund	5,194	(3,857)	-	-	1,337
Audio-visual fixed assets fund	-	5,510	-	-	5,510
Energy grant	-	2,559	-	(2,559)	-
Bereavement café	-	603	-	-	603
Roof & fabric fund	3,061	-	-	-	3,061
Holy Trinity with Christ Church Repair	9,500	2,560	-	-	12,060
Memorial Garden	5,625	1,180	-	-	6,805
Flower fund	1,406	(560)	-	-	846
	45,986	4,966	-	(2,559)	48,393
c) Endowment funds:					
CBF units (note 6)	128,931	-	(15,110)	-	113,821
	1,028,444	(762)	(106,746)	-	920,936

In 2022 The PCC received an energy grant from St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance for £2,559. This Restricted Fund has been transferred to the General Fund to off-set the cost of energy incurred in 2022.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY WITH CHRIST CHURCH AND
ST. LEONARD, BENGEO**

(Registered charity no. 1137534)

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2022**

Contents:	Independent Examiner's report	page <i>i</i>
	Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022	page 1
	Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022	page 2
	Notes to the accounts	page 3

Notes 1 to 8 are integral parts of the accounts

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity with Christ Church and St. Leonard, Bengoe

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

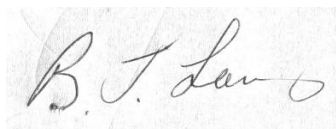
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Brian Laming
Ware
Hertfordshire

12 April 2023

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Resources from donors	2a	54,950	14,768	-	69,718	62,048
Other voluntary income	2b	10,874	420	-	11,294	15,035
Trading income	2c	4,856	-	-	4,856	5,715
Investment income	2d	37,328	2,560	-	39,888	27,344
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		108,008	17,748	-	125,756	110,142
RESOURCES USED						
Grants - Charitable giving	3a	3,412	497	-	3,909	1,011
Work of the Church	3b	101,075	1,340	-	102,415	102,363
Fundraising costs	3c	2,312	1,197	-	3,509	950
Management & Admin	3d	6,937	9,748	-	16,685	14,580
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		113,736	12,782	-	126,518	118,904
NET (RESOURCES USED) / INCOMING RESOURCES		(5,728)	4,966	-	(762)	(8,762)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		2,559	(2,559)	-	-	-
		(3,169)	2,407	-	(762)	(8,762)
UNREALISED GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	10	(91,636)	-	(15,110)	(106,746)	114,830
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS		(94,805)	2,407	(15,110)	(107,508)	106,068
BALANCES 1 JANUARY		853,527	45,986	128,931	1,028,444	922,376
BALANCES 31 DECEMBER		758,722	48,393	113,821	920,926	1,028,444

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

			2022	2021
	Note	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets	5	25,018		26,392
Investments	6	786,682		913,428
			811,700	939,822
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	7	5,391		4,595
Deposits (at Central Board of Finance)		47,987		44,960
Cash and bank balances		56,562		39,067
			109,940	88,622
LIABILITIES: amounts falling due within one year	8		(704)	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS			109,236	84,009
NET ASSETS			920,936	1,028,444
FUNDS				
Unrestricted - General			713,589	815,561
- Designated			45,133	37,966
- Total	10a		758,722	853,527
Restricted	10b		48,393	45,986
Endowment	10c		113,821	128,931
			920,936	1,028,444

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

The Reverend Robert Thompson (Chairman)

The notes on pages 3 to 8 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the accounts

1) Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of fixed asset investments, which are shown at market value.

General funds represent the funds of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the general purposes of the PCC. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by the fête, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Team Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory which can be inspected by arrangement with the Churchwardens. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items costing more than £500 acquired since 1 January 2000 are capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life. The cost of the organ and other items are depreciated over ten years.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £500 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of less than £500 are written off when the asset is acquired.

Amounts owing to the PCC as at 31 December in respect of tax reclaimable under Gift Aid, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or with the Diocese.

Investments are valued at market value as at 31 December.

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments as at 31 December.

Notes to the accounts continued

2) Incoming resources

	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2a Resources from donors:						
Planned giving (BACS and envelope scheme)	32,368	-	32,368	497	32,865	32,745
Tax reclaimed	9,666	-	9,666	-	9,666	11,562
Collections	3,229	-	3,229	-	3,229	3,421
Donations (including occasional envelopes)	9,687	-	9,687	14,271	23,958	14,320
	54,950	-	54,950	14,768	69,718	62,048
2b Other voluntary income:						
Fund raising	7,404	-	7,404	420	7,824	2,345
Legacies	-	3,470	3,470	-	3,470	12,690
	7,404	3,470	10,874	420	11,294	15,035
2c Trading income:						
Magazines etc	114	-	114	-	114	78
Fees	4,742	-	4,742	-	4,742	5,637
	4,856	-	4,856	-	4,856	5,715
2d Investment income:						
Dividends and interest	21,725	1,042	22,767	2,560	25,327	23,235
Rent from Church Hall	-	14,561	14,561	-	14,561	4,109
	21,725	15,603	37,328	2,560	39,888	27,344
Total incoming resources	88,935	19,073	108,008	17,748	125,756	110,142

Dividends earned by the repair fund (£2,560) are restricted for use in maintaining and running the church and are therefore included in restricted funds above.

The PCC has a policy that legacies, unless otherwise restricted by the testator, are held in a designated fund and used for significant projects. One such legacy for £3,470 was received in the year (one legacy for £10,000 in 2021).

Donations received to cover the cost of the new audio-visual equipment (£6,887) and lectern (£1,485) are classified as restricted.

Notes to the accounts continued

3) Resources used

		<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>
		<u>General</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
		£	£	£	£	£	£
3a	Charitable giving	3,412	-	3,412	497	3,909	<i>1,011</i>
		3,412	-	3,412	497	3,909	<i>1,011</i>
3b	Work of the church:						
	Parish Share	69,161	-	69,161	-	69,161	<i>69,943</i>
	Clergy and training expenses	1,452	-	1,452	-	1,452	<i>1,192</i>
	Church running expenses (including minor repairs)	11,811	-	11,811	-	11,811	<i>10,137</i>
	Upkeep of services	2,049	-	2,049	-	2,049	<i>4,469</i>
	Churchyard and Memorial Garden	-	-	-	1,340	1,340	<i>6,440</i>
	Church Hall running costs	-	11,905	11,905	-	11,905	<i>7,254</i>
	Website & publicity	120	-	120	-	120	<i>178</i>
	Salaries and fees	4,577	-	4,577	-	4,577	<i>2,750</i>
		89,170	11,905	101,075	1,340	102,415	<i>102,363</i>
3c	Fundraising and trading costs:						
	Fundraising	2,312	-	2,312	1,197	3,509	<i>872</i>
	Magazine	-	-	-	-	-	<i>78</i>
		2,312	-	2,312	1,197	3,509	<i>950</i>
3d	Management and Administration:						
	Admin costs	6,937	-	6,937	-	6,937	<i>3,218</i>
	Depreciation	-	-	-	9,748	9,748	<i>11,362</i>
		6,937	-	6,937	9,748	16,685	<i>14,580</i>
	Total outgoing resources	101,831	11,905	113,736	12,782	126,518	<i>118,904</i>

The church hall running costs for 2022 include the cost of a new boiler (£2,274).

Notes to the accounts continued

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During 2022, the PCC employed Mr W Sarjeant as organist who was paid £2,060 for services, including weddings (£2,220 in 2021). There were no payments in respect of National Insurance or pensions.

5) Tangible fixed assets

	Lighting System £	Organ & furniture £	Hall furniture & equipment £	Audio-visual equipment £	Total £
Cost b/f	30,287	80,504	5,176	-	115,967
Additions	-	1,485	-	6,887	8,372
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Charge for the year	(3,029)	(5,342)	-	(1,377)	(9,748)
Depreciation c/f	(12,116)	(80,652)	(5,176)	(1,377)	(99,321)
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Expendable endowment funds:			
Bengeo Holy Trinity Church Hall	1,584	32,703	37,045
		<u>113,821</u>	<u>128,931</u>
Unrestricted funds:			
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		<u>672,861</u>	<u>784,497</u>
		786,682	913,428

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7) Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gift Aid amounts due from HMRC	4,536	4,595
Deferred income	855	-
	5,391	4,595

8) Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Creditors	704	-
	704	-

9) Analysis of assets and liabilities by fund

	Unrestricted funds			Restricted funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	General	Hall	Legacy		2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Fixed assets:</i>						
Investments (note 6)	672,861	-	-	-	672,861	784,497
Tangible fixed assets (note 5)	-	-	-	25,018	25,018	26,394
<i>Current assets:</i>						
Debtors (note 7)	5,391	-	-	-	5,391	4,595
CBF deposits	30,657	5,162	108	12,060	47,987	44,960
Cash and bank	5,384	8,625	31,238	11,315	56,562	39,067
Creditors (note 8)	(704)	-	-	-	(704)	-
	713,589	13,787	31,346	48,393	807,115	899,513

Notes to the accounts continued

10) Fund details

	Brought forward £	Net increase / (decrease) before unrealised gains/(losses) £	Unrealised gains / (losses) £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
a) Unrestricted funds:					
General fund	815,562	(12,896)	(91,636)	2,559	713,589
Designated:					
Legacy fund	27,876	3,470	-	-	31,346
Hall fund	10,089	3,698	-	-	13,787
	853,527	(5,728)	(91,636)	2,559	758,722
b) Restricted funds:					
Lighting system fixed assets fund	21,200	(3,029)	-	-	18,171
Organ & furniture fixed assets fund	5,194	(3,857)	-	-	1,337
Audio-visual fixed assets fund	-	5,510	-	-	5,510
Energy grant	-	2,559	-	(2,559)	-
Bereavement café	-	603	-	-	603
Roof & fabric fund	3,061	-	-	-	3,061
Holy Trinity with Christ Church Repair	9,500	2,560	-	-	12,060
Memorial Garden	5,625	1,180	-	-	6,805
Flower fund	1,406	(560)	-	-	846
	45,986	4,966	-	(2,559)	48,393
c) Endowment funds:					
CBF units (note 6)	128,931	-	(15,110)	-	113,821
	1,028,444	(762)	(106,746)	-	920,936

In 2022 The PCC received an energy grant from St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance for £2,559. This Restricted Fund has been transferred to the General Fund to off-set the cost of energy incurred in 2022.

Accounts

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY WITH CHRIST CHURCH AND
ST. LEONARD, BENGEO**

(Registered charity no. 1137534)

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2021**

Contents: Independent Examiner's report	page i
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Notes to the accounts	page 3

Notes 1 to 7 are integral parts of the accounts

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity with Christ Church and St. Leonard, Bengoe

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Brian Laming
49, Cowper Crescent
Hertford
SG14 3DZ

April 2022

Notes to the accounts continued

3) Resources used

		<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	
		General	Designated	Total		2021	2020
		£			£	£	£
3a	Charitable giving	1,011	-	1,011	-	1,011	919
		1,011	-	1,011	-	1,011	919
3b	Work of the church:						
	Parish Share	69,943	-	69,943	-	69,943	71,666
	Clergy and training expenses	1,192	-	1,192	-	1,192	1,427
	Church running expenses (including minor repairs)	10,137	-	10,137	-	10,137	11,065
	Upkeep of services	1,779	-	1,779	2,690	4,469	2,387
	Churchyard and Memorial garden	-	-	-	6,440	6,440	2,349
	Church Hall running costs	-	7,254	7,254	-	7,254	8,089
	Website & publicity	178	-	178	-	178	120
	Salaries and fees	2,750	-	2,750	-	2,750	1,380
		85,979	7,254	93,233	9,130	102,363	98,483
3c	Fundraising and trading costs:						
	Fundraising	34	-	34	838	872	472
	Magazine etc	78	-	78	-	78	38
		112	-	112	838	950	510
3d	Management and Administration:						
	Professional fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Admin costs	3,218	-	3,218	-	3,218	224
	Depreciation	-	283	283	11,079	11,362	11,597
		3,218	283	3,501	11,079	14,580	11,821
3e	Major works and other items						
	Work at Church Hall	-	-	-	-	-	10,574
		-	-	-	-	-	10,574
	Total outgoing resources	90,320	7,537	97,857	21,047	118,904	122,307

Major works were undertaken at the Church Hall during 2020 for flooring and redecoration.

Notes to the accounts continued

4) Staff costs and Members' interests

During 2021, the PCC employed Mr W Sarjeant as organist who was paid £2,220 for services, including weddings. There were no payments in respect of National Insurance or pensions. Mr W Sarjeant was not employed as organist in 2020.

5a) Tangible fixed assets

	Lighting System	Organ & furniture	Hall furniture & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost b/f	30,287	80,504	5,176	115,967
Additions	-	-	-	-
Total	30,287	80,504	5,176	115,967
Depreciation b/f	(6,058)	(67,260)	(4,893)	(78,211)
Depreciation charge for the year	(3,029)	(8,050)	(283)	(11,362)
	(9,087)	(75,310)	(5,176)	(89,573)
NBV 1 January 2021	24,229	13,244	283	37,756
NBV 31 December 2021	21,200	5,194	-	26,394

The organ was bought with a grant from The Friends of St Leonards in 2003 and is held in a restricted fund. Various items of furniture have been bought since with money donated specifically for the purpose. Depreciation, which represents 10% of the cost of each item, is charged against this fund.

5b) Investments

	Units	MV 2021 £	MV 2020 £
Endowment funds:			
Holy Trinity with Christ Church Repair Fund	3,929	91,886	80,335
Expendable endowment funds:			
Bengeo Holy Trinity Church Hall	1,584	37,045	32,388
		128,931	112,723
Unrestricted funds:			
PCC account	1,962	45,885	40,116
Proceeds from sale of Cowper Crescent	31,582.57	738,612	645,759
		784,497	685,875
		913,428	798,598

The investments are part of the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. This Fund aims to provide a long-term total return comprising growth in capital and income. The Fund is an actively managed, diversified portfolio of assets designed to help protect both present and future beneficiaries from the effects of inflation. It has an emphasis on equities but also includes property, bonds and other asset classes. The Fund is managed in accordance with the policies of the Church of England's Ethical Investment Advisory Group.

In 2021, the Fund has provided an investment income of over £27k and unrealised gains on the investment portfolio of £114,830. With an increasingly uncertain outlook for investment returns, and potentially lower yields, the PCC's financial position remains vulnerable. As a result, the PCC will be reviewing the investment portfolio and considering opportunities to mitigate this risk and to secure some of the unrealised investment gains made in recent years.

Notes to the accounts continued

6) Analysis of current assets and liabilities by fund

	Unrestricted			Restricted	Total	2020
	General	Hall	Legacy			
Debtors	4,595	-	-	-	4,595	3,744
CBF deposits	20,259	5,095	10,106	9,500	44,960	42,603
Cash and bank	6,211	4,994	17,770	10,092	39,067	39,675
Creditors	-	-	-	-	-	-
	31,065	10,089	27,876	19,592	88,622	86,022

The debtor in 2020 and 2021 represents amounts receivable from HMRC in relation to Gift Aid. There were no creditors or accruals in 2020 or 2021.

7) Fund details

	Brought forward	Net increase / (decrease) before transfers and gains	Transfers and unrealised gains	Carried forward
Unrestricted funds:				
CBF units shown at Note 5b	685,875	-	98,622	784,497
General fund net current assets at Note 6	36,552	(5,487)	-	31,065
Designated				
Legacy fund	17,876	10,000	-	27,876
Hall fixed assets as shown at Note 5a	283	(283)	-	-
Hall current assets at Note 6	13,231	(3,142)	-	10,089
	<u>753,817</u>	<u>1,088</u>	<u>98,622</u>	<u>853,527</u>
Restricted funds – fixed assets:				
Lighting System as shown at Note 5a	24,229	(3,029)	-	21,200
Organ & furniture as shown at Note 5a	13,244	(8,050)	-	5,194
Restricted funds – current assets:				
Roof & fabric fund	3,061	-	-	3,061
Holy Trinity with Christ Church Repair	7,161	2,339	-	9,500
Memorial Garden and other restricted funds	6,372	(747)	-	5,625
Flower fund	1,769	(363)	-	1,406
	<u>55,836</u>	<u>(9,850)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,986</u>
Endowment funds				
CBF units as shown at Note 5b	<u>112,723</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,208</u>	<u>128,931</u>
	<u>922,376</u>	<u>(8,762)</u>	<u>114,830</u>	<u>1,028,444</u>

Internal - Official - Sensitive

10th Apr. 1, 2022.

Notes to the accounts continued

2) Incoming resources

	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	
	General £	Designated	Total	£	2021 £	2020 £
2a Resources from donors						
Planned giving (BACS and envelope scheme)	32,745	-	32,745	-	32,745	35,820
Tax reclaimed	11,562	-	11,562	-	11,562	7,877
Collections	3,421	-	3,421	-	3,421	1,578
Donations (including occasional envelopes)	8,627	-	8,627	5,693	14,320	11,734
	<u>56,355</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56,355</u>	<u>5,693</u>	<u>62,048</u>	<u>57,009</u>
2b Other voluntary income						
Fund raising	1,870	-	1,870	475	2,345	657
Legacies	-	10,000	10,000	2,690	12,690	-
	<u>1,870</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>11,870</u>	<u>3,165</u>	<u>15,035</u>	<u>657</u>
2c Trading income						
Magazines etc	78	-	78	-	78	184
Fees	5,637	-	5,637	-	5,637	978
	<u>5,715</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,715</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,715</u>	<u>1,162</u>
2d Investment income						
Dividends and interest	19,951	945	20,896	2,339	23,235	22,589
Rent from Church Hall	-	4,109	4,109	-	4,109	5,767
	<u>19,951</u>	<u>5,054</u>	<u>25,005</u>	<u>2,339</u>	<u>27,344</u>	<u>28,356</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>83,891</u>	<u>15,054</u>	<u>98,945</u>	<u>11,197</u>	<u>110,142</u>	<u>87,184</u>

Dividends earned by the Hall endowment fund (see Note 5b) are restricted for use in maintaining and running the hall and are therefore included in restricted funds above.

The PCC has a policy that legacies, unless otherwise restricted by the testator, are held in a designated fund and used for significant projects. One such legacy for £10,000 was received in 2021.

Notes to the accounts

1) Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of fixed asset investments, which are shown at market value.

General funds represent the funds of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the general purposes of the PCC. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by the fête, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Team Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory which can be inspected by arrangement with the Churchwardens. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items costing more than £500 acquired since 1 January 2000 are capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life. The cost of the organ and other items are depreciated over ten years.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £500 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of less than £500 are written off when the asset is acquired.

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of tax reclaimable under Gift Aid, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or with the Diocese.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021

			2021	2020
	Note	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets	5a	26,394		37,756
Investments	5b	913,428		798,598
			939,822	836,354
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	6	4,595		3,744
Deposits (at Central Board of Finance)	6	44,960		42,603
Cash and bank balances	6	39,067		39,675
			88,622	86,022
LIABILITIES: amounts falling due within one year				
			-	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS			84,009	86,022
NET ASSETS			1,028,444	922,376
FUNDS				
Unrestricted - General			815,561	722,427
- Designated			37,966	31,390
- Total			853,527	753,817
Restricted			45,986	55,836
Endowment			128,931	112,723
			1,028,444	922,376

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 24 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

The Reverend Robert Thompson (Chairman)

The notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these accounts.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	<u>Total Funds</u>	
	Note				2021 £	2020 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Resources from donors	2a	56,355	5,693	-	62,048	57,009
Other voluntary income	2b	11,870	3,165	-	15,035	657
Trading income	2c	5,715	-	-	5,715	1,162
Investment income	2d	25,005	2,339	-	27,344	28,356
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		98,945	11,197	-	110,142	87,184
RESOURCES USED						
Grants - Charitable giving	3a	1,011	-	-	1,011	919
Work of the Church	3b	93,233	9,130	-	102,363	98,483
Fundraising costs	3c	102	838	-	950	510
Management & Admin	3d	3,501	11,079	-	14,580	11,821
Major works	3e	-	-	-	-	10,574
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		97,857	21,047	-	118,904	122,307
NET (RESOURCES USED) /						
INCOMING RESOURCES		1,088	(9,850)	-	(8,762)	(35,123)
UNREALISED GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	5b	98,622	-	16,208	114,830	51,583
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS						
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS		99,710	(9,850)	16,208	106,068	16,460
BALANCES 1 JANUARY		753,817	55,836	112,723	922,376	905,916
BALANCES 31 DECEMBER		853,527	45,986	128,931	1,028,444	922,376

PARISH OF BENGEO

Annual Report for 2021

General Information

This report covers the period 1st January to 31st December 2021.

Bengeo is in the Diocese of St Albans and is situated mainly within the town of Hertford, but the parish also includes the rural areas of Chapmore End and Tonwell. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of maintaining two churches in the parish, Holy Trinity Church and St Leonard's Church. Holy Trinity Church, a Grade II listed building, is the main parish church and is situated in New Road, Bengeo. St Leonard's Church is a Grade I listed building dating from approximately 1120 and is situated in St Leonard's Road, Bengeo.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and appointments are made under the Church Representation Rules.

During the past year the following served as members of the PCC:

<i>Team Vicar:</i>	The Reverend Robert Thompson
<i>Associate Priest:</i>	The Reverend David Pepper
<i>Lay Reader:</i>	Mr Bob Kelly
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	Mrs Diana Howarth and Mr Graham Squires

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Vacant

Elected members:

Until APCM 2022	Mrs Joanne King Mr David Greely Mr Peter Shillito
Until APCM 2022	Mr David Cramphorn Mrs Bridget Hersant
Until APCM 2022	Mrs Penny Andrew Mrs Pam Thain Mr John Howson Mr James Dutton

Regular Worship

The coronavirus pandemic continued to impact parish and church life during 2021 with in-person services briefly ceasing in January and February, in line with Government guidance.

However, the Ministry, PCC and congregation continued to provide alternative activities and means of worship when required, as well as ensuring that core worship and mission activities continued to be developed and delivered as we moved into different phases of the pandemic.

The new pattern of 9am and 10am Sunday modern language services with service booklets for each season continue to be well received. These services have been developed through the course of the year with the reintroduction of music through the worship band and the choir/organ as well as greater participation from the congregation with the restart of the reading and intercessions rotas.

Services of Holy Communion in the traditional language from the Book of Common Prayer also provide a valued alternative weekly worship offering.

Quiet Time, the weekly prayer group, continued to provide a space for reflection and meditation, thanks to the dedication and stewardship of David Cramphorn and Moira Flindall.

Although the pandemic again had an impact on church attendances during 2021 – by way of benchmarking the average attendance each Sunday during October 2021 was 51 compared with an average attendance of 50 for each Sunday in October 2020.

2021 Electoral Roll

There were 97 people on the 2021 Electoral Roll prepared by Stella Saggars. There are 94 people on the 2022 Electoral Roll which has been published for fourteen days continuously in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Community Activities

Despite the ongoing pandemic Holy Trinity church reactivated much of its community and mission activity in 2021. This included:

- Coffee Pot community project
- Monday Lunch Club community project
- 'Open the Book' initiative taking the gospel into local primary schools and bringing it to life with fun and engaging interactive sessions.

The Open the Book programme has been impacted by the pandemic. The team has managed to present the Lion StoryTeller Bible to Tonwell and Bengoe Schools since the last AGM but regular presentations have become difficult. However, the situation is improving. The team presented the Easter Story at Tonwell in March. Plans are also being progressing to return to Bengoe School in the summer term together with a first presentation at Duncombe School.

We are incredibly grateful for the dedicated team who act out each story. In order to extend the programme to other schools and establish more regular presentations more volunteers are required so please do contact Bob Kelly if you are interested.

- 'Good Books' initiative at Beane River View residential home designed to stimulate active resident engagement
- Bereavement Café initiative
- Collectors Fayre – a great success with new friends made and over £400 raised
- Music concerts in Holy Trinity church

Further community and mission activity planned for 2022 includes:

- Restart of 'Living Classroom' initiative at St Leonard's
- Relaxation sessions for children at Tonwell School
- Focus on increasing community use of church buildings – including usage of church hall
- Develop plans for Junior Church

Church Buildings and Environs

Work undertaken in 2021 to ensure the upkeep of church buildings included:

- replacement of tiles at St Leonard's and repair work on roof at Holy Trinity including the removal of vegetation and netting from the bell tower
- refurbishment and redesign of the external display board at Holy Trinity
- design prepared and agreed for new candelabras at St Leonard's to be fitted in 2022 – part funded by Freeland family in memory of Tony

Safeguarding Policy

There were no safeguarding issues reported in 2021. The 2022 policies for safeguarding children, vulnerable adults and responding to domestic abuse were approved by the PCC on 24 March 2022 and are displayed in the Church porch.

The biggest change over the last 12 months has been in how training is delivered. The Learning and Development Practice Guidelines 2021 came into effect at the beginning of this year. Training is now primarily delivered on-line. Initially there are two levels, Basic Awareness Module (CO) and Foundation Module (C1).

The Basic Awareness course is for anyone appointed by or on behalf of the church to any post or role, whether they are ordained or lay, paid or unpaid.

The Foundation Course is for anyone in a role which involves work with children, vulnerable adults. This includes PCC members, Church Wardens and anyone holding the Bishop's Licence or other authorisation.

As the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Bob Kelly has completed the Leadership Course (C2) and the Safer Recruitment and People Management Course. Over the last 12 months the majority of the PCC have completed the Basic Awareness Course and arrangements are in hand to have all trained. Other courses available include Responding well to Domestic Abuse which will be completed by the Church Wardens and the Safeguarding Officer in 2022.

The completion of a Confidential Declaration Form is an on-going requirement for anyone involved in a church role. Covid has, as expected, restricted our activities and hopefully as we come out of the threat of the various strains additional volunteers will be asked to complete the form. Those in a more sensitive or leadership role will need to complete a DBS check. We have recently renewed our direct debit to enable this to be a quick process, and Bob Kelly is on hand to guide those needing a DBS check through the process.

Other specialist courses are in development. Members of the congregation are encouraged to speak to Bob for further details and information.

Further administrative support recently accessed is provided by the Parish Dashboard – which we are using on a voluntary basis. This lets us know if we are fulfilling our requirements. We are currently around 85% compliant. An objective for the coming year is the annual review of church activities and training with a Parish Action plan being agreed if appropriate.

Currently there is a vacancy for a Deputy Safeguarding Officer. This is not an arduous role and support is readily available. However, for the sake of continuity it would be helpful if this position was filled.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met four times during 2021:

- **February: Clergy Well-Being**

In February the main discussion was a reflection on the General Synod Measure on Clergy Well-being and was led by The Revd Ysmena Pentelow, The Revd David Sheppard and Katy Little, an Ordinand.

- **March: Where are we now? Seeking the way ahead (post Covid)**

The Synod considered the bishop's document on recovering from Covid disruptions to worship – "Where are we now? Seeking the Way ahead." The discussion was led by the Rural Dean and considered the following questions: How do we regain our confidence and hope after the virus has pulled us apart and caused wide disruption to church and society? What have we learnt from our experience of isolation, including our online presence, pastoral care and need for togetherness? What opportunities (other than restoring vital shared worship) look most important in your parish context?

- **May: Faith in Young People**

Christian Cole, the Diocesan Youth Missioner, addressed Synod with the findings of a major piece of research conducted in the Diocese by *Youthscape Centre for Research*. The research was carried out in early 2020, before Covid. The report identified trends in young people's engagement with our churches, presenting us with positive stories and a serious challenge. It was evident that the pandemic had had a significant effect on the extent to which young people were involved in the life of our churches, and therefore the report's recommendations are all the more urgent. Many Christians report coming to faith as young people and part of our calling is to ensure that today's young people get to hear about Jesus. To make that happen, we need to understand our context and look hard at what we can offer. Everyone is encouraged to read the report, "Faith in Young People", available on the Deanery website under "General Papers" in the "Documents" section.

- **September: Deanery Vision - Facilitating Mission across 23 Parishes.**

After celebrating our first in-building gathering for two years with an extended time of worship, the two main items of business of the September Synod meeting were the elections of the new Standing Committee and the new Rural Dean's presentation of the Deanery Vision which included some of the steps that would need taking in the short term to see this vision realised. The newly elected Standing Committee was given the task of identifying and building the administrative structure in the Deanery which would enable these steps to be taken. www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk

Financial Review

The 2021 Annual Accounts for Holy Trinity show that our annual expenditure (£118,904) exceeded our income (£110,142) by £8,762. This reflects a small surplus of £1,088 on our unrestricted funds (General Fund and Designated Funds) being off-set by a deficit of £9,850 on our restricted funds.

A key area of financial focus during 2022 will be to explore ways to ensure that we can deliver a surplus on our General Fund. In 2021, our General Fund (which covers the main running costs of the parish) made a deficit of £5,487. This was an improved position from 2020 (deficit on General Fund of £13,363) and reflects an increase in church giving, which includes planned giving, collections and donations, as well as an increase in fee income.

We shall continue to look at ways to increase giving still further. Trading income also provides a growth opportunity including increasing usage of the church hall (income from the church hall dropped in 2021).

Our balance sheet remains healthy with total assets of £1,028,444 at the end of the year.

The Church Commissioners continued to successfully manage our investment portfolio in 2021, providing an investment income of over £27k and unrealised gains on the investment portfolio of £114,830. With an increasingly uncertain outlook for investment returns, and potentially lower yields, over the coming year the PCC will be reviewing the investment portfolio and considering opportunities to secure some of the unrealised investment gains made in recent years.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to hold a balance of between six and nine months' running costs in current assets in the General Fund in order to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The target is between £49,000 and £73,000. Following a further deficit on the General Fund in 2021, the year-end balance was £31,065. Therefore, the PCC will be looking to increase the amount of the General Fund held as current assets.

D Greely
Hon Secretary
Holy Trinity Church
Bengeo

Accounts

PARISH OF BENGEO

Annual Report for 2020

General Information

This report covers the period 1st January to 31st December 2020.

Bengeo is in the Diocese of St Albans and is situated mainly within the town of Hertford, but the parish also includes the rural areas of Chapmore End and Tonwell. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of maintaining two churches in the parish, Holy Trinity Church and St Leonard's Church. Holy Trinity Church, a Grade II listed building, is the main parish church and is situated in New Road, Bengeo. St Leonard's Church is a Grade I listed building dating from approximately 1120 and is situated in St Leonard's Road, Bengeo.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and appointments are made under the Church Representation Rules.

During the past year the following served as members of the PCC:

<i>Team Vicar:</i>	The Reverend Robert Thompson
<i>Associate Priest:</i>	The Reverend David Pepper
<i>Lay Reader:</i>	Mr Bob Kelly
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	Mrs Diana Howarth and Mr Graham Squires

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Vacant

Elected members:

Until APCM 2021	Mrs Jennifer Newton Mrs Penny Andrew Mrs Pam Thain Mr John Howson
Until APCM 2022	Mrs Joanne King Mr David Greely Mr Peter Shillito
Until APCM 2023	Mr David Cramphorn Mrs Bridget Hersant

Response to coronavirus

The coronavirus pandemic made 2020 a year of unprecedented challenge.

Whilst the PCC's mission priorities remained the same – reconciliation, justice, beauty, wholeness and healing - the way that Holy Trinity church has been able to deliver activities in support of those priorities has been severely restricted.

However, the need to support people's faith and help bring qualities such as reconciliation, wholeness and healing into people's lives has never been more important.

In response to this challenge many members of the PCC and congregation have worked hard to deliver some truly inspiring activities that have proved popular and been highly valued by the congregation and many people in the wider community.

These activities have included:

- A new pattern of Sunday services at Holy Trinity has been developed and delivered as and when allowed for by national restrictions.

Although some of the format and content of these services has been dictated by national guidance (no singing, distancing rules limiting numbers etc), other new elements have been very well received. As we follow the 'roadmap' out of lockdown in 2021 the PCC will review services to ensure that improvements are retained in any new fixed arrangements.

Safe and secure services could not have taken place at Holy Trinity in 2020 without the hard work of the church wardens.

- For much of the year restrictions meant that the congregation could not come together at Holy Trinity for services in person. However, some superb work has resulted in some wonderful on-line offerings including a redesigned and upgraded website and a series of outstanding podcasts.

Thanks and gratitude go to John Howson for the excellent new website and Mike Howarth who has brought his professional expertise to producing some truly high quality podcasts and films.

Robert and the team have delivered some thoughtful, comforting and inspiring content which has been source of strength and healing for all.

Anne Sentance has also delivered a series of fantastic films for our Junior Church.

Regular Worship

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship.

Although attendance at church was restricted during 2020 due to the pandemic everything possible was done to enable people to worship safely together at Holy Trinity as and when permitted by national guidance.

This included a new pattern of services on Sundays comprising a 9am and 10am Holy Communion. Distancing and safety measures were introduced to minimise risk.

When restrictions meant that services could not be held in person a weekly podcast was made available online. This proved extremely popular with approximately 100 people listening to each edition.

Videos for our Junior Church were also produced and made available online.

Although unique circumstances mean that it is not particularly useful or meaningful to look at average church attendances during 2020 – during October 2020 when church services were being held at Holy Trinity the average attendance each Sunday was 50. In 2019 the average attendance each Sunday was 78.

2020 Electoral Roll

There were 99 people on the 2020 Electoral Roll prepared by Stella Saggars. The 2020 Electoral Roll has been published for fourteen days continuously in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Our Churches

Although scope to undertake significant building and improvement works in our churches and church estates was limited in 2020, St. Leonard's Church was redecorated with thanks to the Friends of St Leonards. There has also been an upgrade of the vestry toilets in Holy Trinity Church.

Safeguarding Policy

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and ensured that:

- The policy statement is promoted and publicised
- The Church's safeguarding message is communicated

After several years of valuable service as safeguarding officer, Bridget Hersant has stood down from the position with thanks from the PCC. At the PCC meeting on 18 March 2021 it was proposed and agreed that Bob Kelly would take up the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer with Juliet Whitehead as deputy.

Bengeo's policy concerning safeguarding Children, Vulnerable adults, and Domestic Abuse has been published and is displayed on our web site and at the entrance to the church, together with contact numbers. It has been signed off by Bob (Safeguarding Officer), Fr. Robert (as incumbent) and Graham/Diana (church wardens). Details of the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Mr Jeremy Hirst on 01727 818107/07867 350886, is also shown. Further information can be obtained from the Diocesan/Church websites.

Any advice please speak to Bob in confidence. Any concerns must be reported and can be brought to the attention of either the Safeguarding Officer, Vicar, Church Wardens or direct to the Diocesan safeguarding team. Emergency matters will be reported immediately to the police. Remember safety of the vulnerable is imperative and must remain confidential at all times.

The current position is that anyone performing a church role involving children or vulnerable adults, either in a supervisory capacity or alone, will require a basic or enhanced disclosure/barring check (DBS). This is normal procedure in all other organisations and is Church of England policy. Due to the restrictions over the last year there has been no applications. As lockdown eases this hopefully will change as more become involved. Please speak to Bob who will help with on-line applications.

Parish training has developed over recent months and basic on-line training is now available. This will form a safeguarding action plan to be discussed at the next PCC meeting on 15th July. On-line training takes approximately 1 hour. Any queries, again, please speak to Bob.

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod exists to connect parishes to one another and to the Diocese, supporting one another and sharing in issues of Ministry and Mission.

2020 has obviously been an exceptional year in our nation and the Deanery Synod was only able to meet twice in 2020.

The first meeting took place on 8 February, with the prelude of seeing/experiencing the Forgiveness Project at Christ Church, Ware and the stories and photographs displayed around the church spoke of radical and costly forgiveness in both the spiritual and secular realm.

Having met in Christ Church, the other main topic of the meeting was how the church had been physically transformed in the last year. The Revd John Hookway spoke about the changes, inc heating, lighting, new floor, electrical wiring, energy efficiency, comfortable seats, living out the Christian calling. He challenged Synod members that we can have a narrative of hope or decline.

The Synod also met on Zoom on 12 November, with a session on Enabling our churches to flourish in the 'New Normal'. It was led and facilitated by the Revd Harry Steele, Church Growth Officer for Hertfordshire and Associate Director of Leading your Church into Growth. He gave Seven Steps to consider when looking at growth in the current context of the pandemic:

1. Create a prayerful culture of growth Matthew 13.31 Mustard Seed. Pray specifically for growth
2. Implement an effective strategy. Matthew 6.10 Kingdom Come
3. Practice fruitful evangelism. Mark 1.17 Catching fish/people. You may feel anxious, but there's no other way than to have a go. We need to be able to tell people our story
4. Develop engaging worship Exodus 3.5 Holy Ground. What matters is doing the worship in a planned and thoughtful way, not the churchmanship, etc. Do people see a Christian community at prayer, engaged in worship? It's what we invite people to. So it isn't about what we personally prefer but what will engage new people
5. Becoming an inviting and Welcoming church. Luke 14.21 Banquet. We should make sure all people are welcome. Make sure the service also gives a welcome. e.g highchairs and snacks for young children. Young families began to attend when this was done
6. Create a pathway for seekers to become disciples. Matthew 28.19 Make Disciples. The journey of faith is like stepping stones, not a big jump from one bank of the river to another. Ask: How do you make disciples? Is it working? We could have people invited, seeking even - but they need to grow
7. Begin a planned journey of growth Acts 5.14 The Early Church. Churches that plan to grow are much more likely to grow. A plan not mentioning growth will be more difficult. Collaboration is needed within the church, keep updating. The MAP can be a standing item on the PCC; what are our goals and how are they going?

Parish Share and the Diocesan Board of Finance

Colin Bird now chairs the DBF. In this time of lockdown, many parishes are having varying issues re fundraising, e.g. letting halls, sales etc. Some have historic reserves, some have run out. Others have everyone on giving schemes which weather the storm. We are currently 10% behind across the

Diocese (£1.5m). Parishes are making efforts to pay, which is excellent. Next year, we know that all of us will be financially weaker, making it very difficult to budget.

The Parish Share should not rise significantly next year due to the challenges. It is a tough situation, although we are in a better position than many other Dioceses.

The Deanery Synod will continue to act as a conduit between the parishes and the wider church. The co-ordination of Parish Share payment, concerns about staffing of the parishes, considering strategy for Christian care in the area and participating in the wider Church of England are all part of the Deanery's work. We always encourage that relevant information is taken back to be shared more widely among our parishioners.

The Deanery Synod also provides a website for local information about parishes and churches. Find the Deanery website at www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk

Financial Review

The pandemic had a significant impact on the Holy Trinity's income in 2020 despite several generous donations from key donors helping to keep the parish financially solvent during this difficult time. Overall, the realised loss for the year was £39k, compared to a £14k surplus in 2019.

Taking account of the income for St Leonards toilets in 2019, incoming resources were down almost 40% at £83k.

The Parish Share was paid in full in 2020, but overall cash levels were significantly lower than at 31 Dec 2019 (down £28k or over 40%).

However, 2020 saw an increase in the value of investments. Even though the investments fell in the months following the pandemic, they rose as the Equity markets rallied in Q4, when Covid-19 vaccines started to be approved, and in fact ended the year being over £51k higher than 31 Dec 2019.

As a result, net assets were 1.4% higher overall (£12,716) than one year earlier. The General Fund showed an increase of approximately £13k for the year.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to hold a balance of between six and nine months' running costs in current assets in the General Fund in order to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The target is between £59,000 and £88,000 and the year-end balance was £39,675.

D Greely
Hon Secretary
Holy Trinity Church
Bengeo

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY WITH CHRIST CHURCH AND
ST. LEONARD, BENGEO**

(Registered charity no. 1137534)

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2020**

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Notes 1 to 7 are integral parts of the accounts

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity with Christ Church and St. Leonard, Bengoe

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

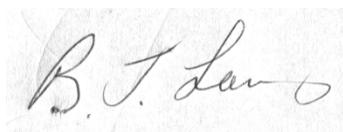
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Brian Laming
49, Cowper Crescent
Hertford
SG14 3DZ

29 April 2021

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	<u>Total Funds</u>	
					2020 £	2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Resources from donors	2a	54,037	2,972	-	57,009	148,565
Other voluntary income	2b	375	282	-	657	4,732
Trading income	2c	1,162	-	-	1,162	6,955
Investment income	2d	26,077	2,279	-	28,356	39,112
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		81,651	5,533	-	87,184	199,364
RESOURCES USED						
Grants - Charitable giving	3a	919	-	-	919	73,107
Work of the Church	3b	96,134	2,349	-	98,483	97,346
Fundraising costs	3c	38	472	-	510	3,011
Management & Admin	3d	742	11,079	-	11,821	11,708
Major works	3e	10,574	-	-	10,574	-
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		108,407	13,900	-	122,307	185,172
NET (RESOURCES USED) /						
INCOMING RESOURCES		(26,756)	(8,367)	-	(35,123)	14,192
UNREALISED GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	5b	44,302	-	7,281	51,583	117,813
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS		17,546	(8,367)	7,281	16,460	132,005
BALANCES 1 JANUARY		736,271	64,203	105,442	905,916	773,911
BALANCES 31 DECEMBER		753,817	55,836	112,723	922,376	905,916

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2020

	Note		2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets	5a	37,756		49,353
Investments	5b	798,598		747,015
			836,354	796,368
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	6	3,744		3,064
Deposits (at Central Board of Finance)	6	42,603		40,174
Cash and bank balances	6	39,675		67,970
			86,022	111,208
LIABILITIES : amounts falling due within one year			-	(1,660)
NET CURRENT ASSETS			86,022	109,548
NET ASSETS			922,376	905,916
FUNDS				
Unrestricted - General			722,427	681,488
- Designated			31,390	54,783
Unrestricted - Total			753,817	736,271
Restricted			55,836	64,203
Endowment			112,723	105,442
			922,376	905,916

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

April 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

The Reverend Robert Thompson (Chairman)

The notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the accounts

1) Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of fixed asset investments, which are shown at market value.

General funds represent the funds of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the general purposes of the PCC. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by the fête, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Priest-in Charge and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory which can be inspected by arrangement with the Churchwardens. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items costing more than £500 acquired since 1 January 2000 are capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life. The cost of the organ and other items are depreciated over ten years.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £500 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of less than £500 are written off when the asset is acquired. Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of tax reclaimable under Gift Aid, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or with the Diocese.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Notes to the accounts continued

2) Incoming resources

	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	
	General £	Designated	Total	£	2020 £	2019 £
2a Resources from donors						
Planned giving (BACS and envelope scheme)	35,820	-	35,820	-	35,820	28,275
Tax reclaimed	7,877	-	7,877	-	7,877	20,578
Collections	1,578	-	1,578	-	1,578	6,222
Donations (including occasional envelopes)	8,762	-	8,762	2,972	11,734	93,490
	54,037	-	54,037	2,972	57,009	148,565
2b Other voluntary income						
Fund raising	375	-	375	282	657	4,732
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
	375	-	375	282	657	4,732
2c Trading income						
Magazines etc	184	-	184	-	184	1,409
Fees	978	-	978	-	978	5,546
	1,162	-	1,162	-	1,162	6,955
2d Investment income						
Dividends and interest	19,379	931	20,310	2,279	22,589	22,054
Rent from Church Hall	-	5,767	5,767	-	5,767	17,058
	19,379	6,698	26,077	2,279	28,356	39,112
Total incoming resources	74,953	6,698	81,651	5,533	87,184	199,364

Dividends earned by the Hall endowment fund (see Note 5b) are restricted for use in maintaining and running the hall and are therefore included in restricted funds above.

The PCC has a policy that legacies, unless otherwise restricted by the testator, are held in a designated fund and used for significant projects.

Notes to the accounts continued

3) Resources used

		<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	
		General £	Designated	Total	£	2020 £	2019 £
3a	Charitable giving	919	-	919	-	919	73,107
		919	-	919	-	919	73,107
3b	Work of the church						
	Parish Share	71,666	-	71,666	-	71,666	70,336
	Clergy and training expenses	1,427	-	1,427	-	1,427	-
	Church running expenses (including minor repairs)	11,065	-	11,065	-	11,065	10,495
	Upkeep of services	2,387	-	2,387	-	2,387	2,645
	Churchyard and Memorial garden	-	-	-	2,349	2,349	386
	Church Hall running costs	-	8,089	8,089	-	8,089	7,627
	Website & publicity	120	-	120	-	120	972
	Salaries and fees	1,380	-	1,380	-	1,380	4,885
	Sunday School and other activities	-	-	-	-	-	-
		88,045	8,089	96,134	2,349	98,483	97,346
3c	Fundraising and trading costs:						
	Fundraising	-	-	-	472	472	936
	Magazine etc	38	-	38	-	38	2,075
		38	-	38	472	510	3,011
3d	Management and Administration						
	Professional fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Admin costs	224	-	224	-	224	111
	Depreciation	-	518	518	11,079	11,597	11,597
		224	518	742	11,079	11,821	11,708
3e	Major works and other items						
	Work at Church Hall	-	10,574	10,574	-	10,574	-
		-	10,574	10,574	-	10,574	-
	Total outgoing resources	89,226	19,181	108,407	13,900	122,307	185,172

The amount of £68,798 of charitable giving from the Restricted fund shown in Note 3a in the 2019 accounts represents payments made to contractors in respect of the one-off project to build toilets at St Leonard's Church, Bengoe. This was funded by an equal amount of restricted income during 2019 from the Friends of St Leonards. The work was completed by 31 December 2019.

Major works at the Church Hall during the year related to flooring and redecoration.

Notes to the accounts continued

4) Staff costs and Members' interests

During 2019, the PCC employed Mrs J Newton, who is a member of the PCC, as organist. She was paid £320. There were no payments in respect of National Insurance or pensions. Mrs J. Newton was not employed as organist in 2020.

5a) Tangible fixed assets

	Lighting System	Organ & furniture	Hall furniture & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost b/f	30,287	80,504	5,176	115,967
Additions	-	-	-	-
Total	30,287	80,504	5,176	115,967
Depreciation b/f	(3,029)	(59,210)	(4,375)	(66,614)
Depreciation charge for the year	(3,029)	(8,050)	(518)	(11,597)
	(6,058)	(67,260)	(4,893)	(78,211)
NBV 1 January 2020	27,258	21,294	801	49,353
NBV 31 December 2020	24,229	13,244	283	37,756

The organ was bought with a grant from The Friends of St Leonards in 2003 and is held in a restricted fund. Various items of furniture have been bought since with money donated specifically for the purpose. Depreciation, which represents 10% of the cost of each item, is charged against this fund.

5b) Investments

	Units	MV 2020 £	MV 2019 £
Endowment funds			
Holy Trinity with Christ Church Repair Fund	3,929	80,335	75,146
Expendable endowment funds			
Bengeo Holy Trinity Church Hall	1,584	32,388	30,296
		112,723	105,442
Unrestricted funds:			
PCC account	1,962	40,116	37,525
Proceeds from sale of Cowper Crescent	31,582.57	645,759	604,048
		685,875	641,573
		798,598	747,015

Notes to the accounts continued

6) Analysis of current assets and liabilities by fund

	Unrestricted			Restricted	Total	2019
	General	Hall	Legacy			
Debtors	3,744	-	-	-	3,744	3,064
CBF deposits	20,243	5,093	10,106	7,161	42,603	40,174
Cash and bank	12,565	8,138	7,770	11,202	39,675	67,970
Creditors	-	-	-	-	-	(1,066)
	36,552	13,231	17,876	18,363	86,022	109,548

The debtor in 2019 represents amounts receivable from HMRC in relation to Gift Aid. The creditor in 2019 represents trade creditors and accruals. The debtor in 2020 represents amounts receivable from HMRC in relation to Gift Aid

7) Fund details

	Brought forward	Net increase / (decrease) before transfers and gains	Transfers and unrealised gains	Carried forward
Unrestricted funds:				
CBF units shown at Note 5b	641,573	-	44,302	685,875
General fund net current assets at Note 6	39,915	(13,363)	10,000	36,552
Legacy fund	17,876	-	-	17,876
Hall fixed assets as shown at Note 5a	801	(518)	-	283
Hall current assets at Note 6	36,106	(12,875)	(10,000)	13,231
	736,271	(26,756)	44,302	753,817
Restricted funds – fixed assets:				
Lighting System as shown at Note 5a	27,258	(3,029)	-	24,229
Organ & furniture as shown at Note 5a	21,294	(8,050)	-	13,244
Restricted funds – current assets:				
Roof & fabric fund	3,061	-	-	3,061
Holy Trinity with Christ Church Repair	4,882	2,279	-	7,161
Memorial Garden and other restricted funds	5,749	623	-	6,372
Flower fund	1,959	(190)	-	1,769
	68,911	(8,367)	-	55,836
Endowment funds				
CBF units as shown at Note 5b	105,442	-	7,281	112,723
	905,916	(35,123)	51,583	922,376

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY WITH CHRIST CHURCH AND
ST. LEONARD, BENGEO**

(Registered charity no. 1137534)

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2020**

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Notes 1 to 7 are integral parts of the accounts

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity with Christ Church and St. Leonard, Bengoe

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Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

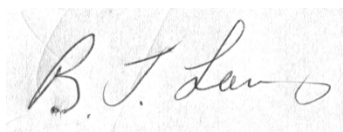
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Brian Laming
49, Cowper Crescent
Hertford
SG14 3DZ

29 April 2021

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

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Management & Admin	3d	742	11,079	-	11,821	11,708
Major works	3e	10,574	-	-	10,574	-
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		108,407	13,900	-	122,307	185,172
NET (RESOURCES USED) /						
INCOMING RESOURCES		(26,756)	(8,367)	-	(35,123)	14,192
UNREALISED GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	5b	44,302	-	7,281	51,583	117,813
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS		17,546	(8,367)	7,281	16,460	132,005
BALANCES 1 JANUARY		736,271	64,203	105,442	905,916	773,911
BALANCES 31 DECEMBER		753,817	55,836	112,723	922,376	905,916

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2020

	Note		2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets	5a	37,756		49,353
Investments	5b	798,598		747,015
			836,354	796,368
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	6	3,744		3,064
Deposits (at Central Board of Finance)	6	42,603		40,174
Cash and bank balances	6	39,675		67,970
			86,022	111,208
LIABILITIES : amounts falling due within one year			-	(1,660)
NET CURRENT ASSETS			86,022	109,548
NET ASSETS			922,376	905,916
FUNDS				
Unrestricted - General			722,427	681,488
- Designated			31,390	54,783
Unrestricted - Total			753,817	736,271
Restricted			55,836	64,203
Endowment			112,723	105,442
			922,376	905,916

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

April 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

The Reverend Robert Thompson (Chairman)

The notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the accounts

1) Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of fixed asset investments, which are shown at market value.

General funds represent the funds of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the general purposes of the PCC. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by the fête, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Priest-in Charge and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory which can be inspected by arrangement with the Churchwardens. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items costing more than £500 acquired since 1 January 2000 are capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life. The cost of the organ and other items are depreciated over ten years.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £500 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of less than £500 are written off when the asset is acquired. Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of tax reclaimable under Gift Aid, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or with the Diocese.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Notes to the accounts continued

2) Incoming resources

	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	
	General £	Designated	Total	£	2020 £	2019 £
2a Resources from donors						
Planned giving (BACS and envelope scheme)	35,820	-	35,820	-	35,820	28,275
Tax reclaimed	7,877	-	7,877	-	7,877	20,578
Collections	1,578	-	1,578	-	1,578	6,222
Donations (including occasional envelopes)	8,762	-	8,762	2,972	11,734	93,490
	54,037	-	54,037	2,972	57,009	148,565
2b Other voluntary income						
Fund raising	375	-	375	282	657	4,732
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
	375	-	375	282	657	4,732
2c Trading income						
Magazines etc	184	-	184	-	184	1,409
Fees	978	-	978	-	978	5,546
	1,162	-	1,162	-	1,162	6,955
2d Investment income						
Dividends and interest	19,379	931	20,310	2,279	22,589	22,054
Rent from Church Hall	-	5,767	5,767	-	5,767	17,058
	19,379	6,698	26,077	2,279	28,356	39,112
Total incoming resources	74,953	6,698	81,651	5,533	87,184	199,364

Dividends earned by the Hall endowment fund (see Note 5b) are restricted for use in maintaining and running the hall and are therefore included in restricted funds above.

The PCC has a policy that legacies, unless otherwise restricted by the testator, are held in a designated fund and used for significant projects.

Notes to the accounts continued

3) Resources used

		<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	
		General £	Designated	Total	£	2020 £	2019 £
3a	Charitable giving	919	-	919	-	919	73,107
		919	-	919	-	919	73,107
3b	Work of the church						
	Parish Share	71,666	-	71,666	-	71,666	70,336
	Clergy and training expenses	1,427	-	1,427	-	1,427	-
	Church running expenses (including minor repairs)	11,065	-	11,065	-	11,065	10,495
	Upkeep of services	2,387	-	2,387	-	2,387	2,645
	Churchyard and Memorial garden	-	-	-	2,349	2,349	386
	Church Hall running costs	-	8,089	8,089	-	8,089	7,627
	Website & publicity	120	-	120	-	120	972
	Salaries and fees	1,380	-	1,380	-	1,380	4,885
	Sunday School and other activities	-	-	-	-	-	-
		88,045	8,089	96,134	2,349	98,483	97,346
3c	Fundraising and trading costs:						
	Fundraising	-	-	-	472	472	936
	Magazine etc	38	-	38	-	38	2,075
		38	-	38	472	510	3,011
3d	Management and Administration						
	Professional fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Admin costs	224	-	224	-	224	111
	Depreciation	-	518	518	11,079	11,597	11,597
		224	518	742	11,079	11,821	11,708
3e	Major works and other items						
	Work at Church Hall	-	10,574	10,574	-	10,574	-
		-	10,574	10,574	-	10,574	-
	Total outgoing resources	89,226	19,181	108,407	13,900	122,307	185,172

The amount of £68,798 of charitable giving from the Restricted fund shown in Note 3a in the 2019 accounts represents payments made to contractors in respect of the one-off project to build toilets at St Leonard's Church, Bengoe. This was funded by an equal amount of restricted income during 2019 from the Friends of St Leonards. The work was completed by 31 December 2019.

Major works at the Church Hall during the year related to flooring and redecoration.

Notes to the accounts continued

4) Staff costs and Members' interests

During 2019, the PCC employed Mrs J Newton, who is a member of the PCC, as organist. She was paid £320. There were no payments in respect of National Insurance or pensions. Mrs J. Newton was not employed as organist in 2020.

5a) Tangible fixed assets

	Lighting System £	Organ & furniture £	Hall furniture & equipment £	Total £
Cost b/f	30,287	80,504	5,176	115,967
Additions	-	-	-	-
Total	30,287	80,504	5,176	115,967
Depreciation b/f	(3,029)	(59,210)	(4,375)	(66,614)
Depreciation charge for the year	(3,029)	(8,050)	(518)	(11,597)
	(6,058)	(67,260)	(4,893)	(78,211)
NBV 1 January 2020	27,258	21,294	801	49,353
NBV 31 December 2020	24,229	13,244	283	37,756

The organ was bought with a grant from The Friends of St Leonards in 2003 and is held in a restricted fund. Various items of furniture have been bought since with money donated specifically for the purpose. Depreciation, which represents 10% of the cost of each item, is charged against this fund.

5b) Investments

	Units	MV 2020 £	MV 2019 £
Endowment funds			
Holy Trinity with Christ Church Repair Fund	3,929	80,335	75,146
Expendable endowment funds			
Bengeo Holy Trinity Church Hall	1,584	32,388	30,296
		112,723	105,442
Unrestricted funds:			
PCC account	1,962	40,116	37,525
Proceeds from sale of Cowper Crescent	31,582.57	645,759	604,048
		685,875	641,573
		798,598	747,015

Notes to the accounts continued

6) Analysis of current assets and liabilities by fund

	Unrestricted			Restricted	Total	2019
	General	Hall	Legacy			
Debtors	3,744	-	-	-	3,744	3,064
CBF deposits	20,243	5,093	10,106	7,161	42,603	40,174
Cash and bank	12,565	8,138	7,770	11,202	39,675	67,970
Creditors	-	-	-	-	-	(1,066)
	36,552	13,231	17,876	18,363	86,022	109,548

The debtor in 2019 represents amounts receivable from HMRC in relation to Gift Aid. The creditor in 2019 represents trade creditors and accruals. The debtor in 2020 represents amounts receivable from HMRC in relation to Gift Aid

7) Fund details

	Brought forward	Net increase / (decrease) before transfers and gains	Transfers and unrealised gains	Carried forward
Unrestricted funds:				
CBF units shown at Note 5b	641,573	-	44,302	685,875
General fund net current assets at Note 6	39,915	(13,363)	10,000	36,552
Legacy fund	17,876	-	-	17,876
Hall fixed assets as shown at Note 5a	801	(518)	-	283
Hall current assets at Note 6	36,106	(12,875)	(10,000)	13,231
	736,271	(26,756)	44,302	753,817
Restricted funds – fixed assets:				
Lighting System as shown at Note 5a	27,258	(3,029)	-	24,229
Organ & furniture as shown at Note 5a	21,294	(8,050)	-	13,244
Restricted funds – current assets:				
Roof & fabric fund	3,061	-	-	3,061
Holy Trinity with Christ Church Repair	4,882	2,279	-	7,161
Memorial Garden and other restricted funds	5,749	623	-	6,372
Flower fund	1,959	(190)	-	1,769
	68,911	(8,367)	-	55,836
Endowment funds				
CBF units as shown at Note 5b	105,442	-	7,281	112,723
	905,916	(35,123)	51,583	922,376