

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF BILSTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1138955

Details

Other names BILSTON TEAM

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2010-11-11

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: promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also spiritually responsible for the maintenance of the Church complex

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.
- Wolverhampton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£78,812	£147,327	-	-
2024-12-31	£141,380	£141,540	-	-
2023-12-31	£180,235	£128,891	-	-
2022-12-31	£124,605	£85,161	-	-
2021-12-31	£95,165	£133,417	-	-
2020-12-31	£131,013	£141,989	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Spencer		2023-04-23
Chineze Okoye		2024-04-21
Christine Valerie Mills		2011-04-29
Elizabeth Giane Rice		2022-04-10
JANE MARY DOOLEY		2012-03-21
Joanne Helen Susan Bircher		2022-04-10
Kay Andrea Edwards		2022-04-10
Kerry Bircher		2014-01-01
Linda Pearson		2022-01-01
MARK LEONARD BIRCHER		2012-03-21
MATTHEW BIRCHER		2014-04-29
Mavis Heath		2023-04-23
PHILIP DOOLEY		2012-03-21
Peta Diane Woodberry		2019-04-29
Rev Adewole Foluso Adedipe		2025-06-28
Satwinder Peake		2024-04-21
Wendy Janice Hawkins		2022-04-10

Accounts

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston

For the year ended 31st December 2024

Registered Charity Number 1138955

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024

Charity registration number 1138955

Objectives and Activities

The Parochial Church Council of Bilston (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Acting incumbent, currently in vacancy, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also spiritually responsible for the maintenance of the church

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at all of our three Churches – St Leonards, St Chads and St Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament. Also, through non-sacramental activities of hospitality and fellowship we aim to reach non churched members of the community.

Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Bilston, it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers; and
- Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Activities and Performance

The Parish of Bilston - Vision, Mission Statements & MAP

Vision Statement

"We, the congregations of Bilston Parish, seek to grow as the family of God and the people of God."

Mission Statement

"We are committed to serving God, sharing the Gospel and serving our community to the very best of our ability day by day".

Mission Action Plan (MAP)

Discipleship

What we are doing now:

Weekly worship in all 3 churches.

A variety of types of worship across the parish meeting the needs of different groups of people.

Use of Readers and Churchwardens across all churches.

Weekly zoom Bible Study with extended prayer session.

Celebration of Patronal Services across the parish.

Special celebrations at Christmas/Easter/Harvest.

Services in Bushfield Court.
Confirmation/young people's group ongoing.
Fresh Expression bi-monthly (Fusion@4)
We join a monthly prayer meeting with Churches Together.
Fellowship after service in all churches each week.
Quarterly inSPIRE Praise services
Encourage involvement in services for readings/prayers etc.

What is planned for the next 12-month period:

Develop confidence in prayer across all congregations with training offered.
Develop an entry-level Bible Study Group.
Grow the parish youth group to be sustainable.
Develop a prayer diary that the whole parish can use confidently.

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

Baptism and Wedding families attending regular worship.
Parish teaching weekends – develop a culture of learning.
Establishing more daily reading material networking.

Evangelism

What we are doing now:

Baptism and Funeral ministry.
Jacob's Well Café which enables St Leonard's to be open 7 days per week.
Pastoral presence whilst church is open.
The Parish Centre at St Chad's providing community space.
Quarterly Memorial services following large number of funerals in the Parish.
Special services encouraging schools and community to take part – Christingle, Remembrance, Crib, Reclaiming Christmas, Midnight communions, Harvest, Patronals etc.
Parish social events including fund raisers and fetes etc.
Work with schools – Bilston CofE, Green Park, Villiers Primary, Tip-Top Nursery.
Monthly Service in Bushfield Court.
Place of Welcome at St Chad's.
Fresh Expression bi-monthly on a Saturday.
Heavily involved with Churches Together at Christmas, Easter & Summer.
Community Kitchen at St Mary's and encouragement of community engagement.

What is planned for the next 12-month period:

St Mary's - develop more outreach through events, social media and contact with the community.
St Chad's - More leafletting the estate with events going on, seek ways to engage new people.
St Leonard's - encourage more pastoral engagement in café
Establish a team equipped to lead Seeker courses.
Continue to develop and refresh memorial service and funeral follow-up.

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

Develop the evening service at St Leonard's.
Mission weekends within the parish.
Develop a Café Church.
Develop a Youth Choir.
A regular Parish Seeker Course with a team.
Having more presence outside of the church building.

Vocation

What we are doing now:

Encourage active participation in services and general church activities.
Develop the ministry of Lay Readers with regular leading of worship.
Offer regular bible study and prayer.
Encourage Confirmation and ongoing study.

Encouraging after-service hospitality at all services.
Encourage engagement with the Parish Pastoral Team.
Encourage open discussion about spiritual matters among the congregation.
Young People lead one service (café style) per month at St Leonard's
Plan for the future of the PCC by encouraging the interest of younger people and those more recent members of congregations.

What is planned for the next 12-month period:

Encourage on-going Stewardship.
Help people identify their own ministry.
Develop a youth service led by enabled young people.

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

Encourage and enable people to 'own' a ministry.
Encourage and enable the congregations to consider the future of each of the churches/services within the parish.
Seek to establish more ordained ministry in the Parish.

Since March 2024 the Parish has been in Vacancy following the departure of Rev Simon Skidmore. Advertising is underway to engage a Priest in Charge to undertake the necessary changes to the Parish Scheme.

Achievements and Performance

Despite being in Vacancy, we have continued with an altered and flexible pattern of services throughout the year, with the exception of St Chad's dropping their service on the 3rd Sunday of each month and continuing with a Fusion@4 service on the Saturday of that week bi-monthly for the time being. Readers and churchwardens have been crucial to this pattern as external support has been minimal.

Communion has been sparse in our new pattern, with St Leonard's initially getting priestly communion once per month thanks to Rev Glynne Watkin and Rev Foluso Adedipe, however this reduced to once every 2 months when Glynne was taken ill. St Mary's received Priestly Communion occasionally thanks to Fr Tony Hutchinson. St Chad's only received Priestly Communion from very occasional visitors.

All three churches have received Communion by Extension at a maximum of once per month.

The Pastoral Care Team have maintained contact with those members of the congregations who are housebound, visiting and taking Home Communion where requested.

The Bible study has continued on ZOOM tackling the books of Revelation and James amongst others.

Links with the schools have been maintained with more schools' services added this year as an academy trust and a Local Schools Confederation each brought their member schools together for carol services in St Leonard's. The local Baptist minister has agreed to take school assemblies on our behalf for the time being.

The young people's group has developed and has begun a Café Church service at St Leonard's once per month as part of the regular pattern of worship.

Jacob's Well Café continues to operate 6 days per week, enabling the church to be open to all.

St Mary's Community Kitchen has grown and developed and now caters for people from far and wide.

St Chad's have endeavoured to maintain their link with Tiptop Nursery, providing a story time at Christmas for the children to share the nativity story.

Funeral ministry has been busy and memorial services well attended.

St Chad's 'Place of Welcome' has continued on a weekly basis.

Fusion@4 has continued, albeit on a bi-monthly basis, with growing confidence amongst those organising and running the event.

Services at Bushfield Court Care Home have continued on a monthly basis with a Carol Service at Christmas also.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

The prebooked baptisms took place as planned, including a family group who were baptised at St Mary's on Easter Sunday by Simon. Others who came into book, decided that they would not go ahead because they could not have the date that they wanted! Our policy of preparation and attendance remains unchanged.

This year we have had 5 weddings, carried out by local ministers, and have a further 5 booked for 2025 in St Leonard's. There are still many people in and around Bilston who see St Leonard's as 'their church' as many family members have been baptised, married or had funerals in there.

Funerals in the parish are a major ministry. This year has been difficult as we have needed to outsource most of the 56 funerals that have taken place. The number of ministers from near and far that have helped us out are far too numerous to thank individually,

but we are indebted to each one. All of our bereaved families are invited to return for memorial services shortly after the funeral, and again for a service near to Christmas. Some attend a number of different memorial services.

Ministry in the Community

The parish takes part in a number of initiatives designed to minister the community including:

Jacob's Well Café which enables St Leonard's to be open 7 days per week and which offers affordable food and beverages, a warm space in which to relax with friends or take refuge, occasional food parcels for those in need and a listening ear for those in need of pastoral care. The opportunities to offer pastoral care have increased over the past year.

St Mary's Community Kitchen has gone from strength to strength and provides a quality home cooked meal for a very minimal price. A wide variety of people take advantage of this offer and come into contact with members of the church.

Services in Care homes. This was reduced to just one after two of the others closed down, but we hope to extend this to other homes within the parish boundary during 2025.

St Leonard's maintains a close connection with at least two local primary schools and a lesser connection with others. School choirs are invited to take part in several special services per year and individual classes come into church as part of their RE curriculum.

St Leonard's have a thriving 'knit'n'natter' craft group, offering friendship and activity to people of all ages and all abilities.

St Chad's has a 'Place of Welcome' which meets each week on a Thursday morning offering a warm space and an opportunity to make friends.

St Mary's host a group of gardeners who maintain the churchyard and tend the graves, making it a tranquil space which is open during the daytime, particularly for those who are bereaved.

St Leonard's has close link with the Bilston British Legion in the Community, hosting a service in September to dedicate their new flag. St Leonard's is usually involved in the planning and leading of the service at the War Memorial for Remembrance and other services.

Members of the parish are heavily involved with Churches Together in Bilston and Bradley and take a leading role in the planning and execution of the three main community events during the year—Carols in the Town, Easter Witness in the Town and 'HOPE in the PARK' - a large community service involving over a thousand people and at least 6 primary schools.

Several social events have taken place across the parish over the past year including a number of fetes and tabletop sales, a Christmas Tree Festival, food bank collection, community harvest service and lunch, Funeral Directors Carol service, etc.

Overall, community engagement within the parish has increased and continues to grow.

Deanery Synod Report 2024

Synod met on three occasions during the year.

Building upon the significant changes adopted in 2023 the following issues were considered.

On 7th February, Synod was held at St. John's in the Square. The Shaping for Mission project was finally concluded in its current form. Synod considered its response to the Diocesan Strategy Document to cover the next six years. A presentation event was held at the Regis School.

On 6th June, Synod was held on St. Stephen's Church, Hilton Street. The main business of the meeting was a presentation by Rev. Sarah Scofield relating to her role as Chaplain to Wolverhampton University. The complexity of her role surprised many Synod members. Two students from the University also spoke about the experience of being away from home for the first time. Many students are from other countries experiencing new customs and types of food and often arrive with unsuitable clothing for winter. Loneliness is a common experience and the benefit of belonging to a close community whilst away from home cannot be ignored. For some, finding a church for worship and fellowship suitable to their needs is a challenging task. Synod then broke into small groups to consider further, the issues raised.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Richard Merrick, announced that Sarah had agreed to become the Assistant Rural Dean.

The final meeting of the year took place at Holy Trinity Heath Town on 8th October. The agenda included funding Deanery Synod, the Living Faith project and the Diocesan Strategic Framework as it is now called, as mentioned above.

All Wolverhampton Deanery Synods conclude with members giving brief verbal reports about the state of their parishes. A notable report confirmed that St. Martins of Tours, Dixon Street, is in the process of closing.

Phil Dooley

Report on the proceedings of the P.C.C.2024

The Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in the mission of the Church. As with all churches in the Church of England, the parish is a charitable body and therefore P.C.C. members are also trustees and hold responsibility for the financial affairs in the parish and care for buildings.

The P.C.C. has met on six occasions during 2024. There has also been one Business by Correspondence, to decide an urgent matter when no ordinary meeting was imminent.

At every P.C.C. meeting in the Parish of Bilston, a number of routine matters are dealt with. These matters include minutes of the previous meeting and any matters arising, the state of the buildings, the financial position, any health and safety concerns or Safeguarding issues. Additional matters are addressed as they arise. Annually, the P.C.C. must approve the contents of the annual report and accounts to be presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (A.P.C.M.).

During 2024 the P.C.C. has considered the following additional matters.

The blessing of same sex marriages.

In connection with the current vacancy, the Suspension of Patronage and preparation of a Parish Profile.

The purchase of a parish Laptop and Zoom License to cope with tasks previously done by clergy.

Management of the Parish Centre.

Request to hire one of the Parish buildings.

Funding of a training course.

Philip Dooley, P.C.C. Secretary

St Leonard's Church Warden's Report.

2024 has been a difficult year! Early in the year Rev Simon Skidmore announced that he would be leaving us at Easter to take up a post at Halton, nr Runcorn in the Diocese of Chester.

As we had previously decided, through financial necessity, not to replace Rev Dave Wills and so become a Parish with only one priest, the departure of Simon meant that we were without anyone and so had to get by on our own. Rev. Glynne Watkin and Rev. Foluso Adedipe both agreed to continue to take a Communion Service alternately on the first Sundays of each month. This pattern enabled us to fulfil the commitments to Baptisms that had already been booked, with some minor alterations to the dates. Sadly, in August, Glynne suffered a heart attack and was unable to return for the rest of the year, we pray for Glynne and his wife Debbie who has also been unwell.

It quickly became evident that no further help was available within the area, though Rev. Chris Thorpe and one of his readers each did cover one evensong during the summer. A pattern of Service of the word, Café Church and Family Service took shape, and a few special guests were secured. In July Bishop Michael visited us, in August we joined together in a parish service at St Chad's with Rev. Treena Larkin, Bishop's Chaplain, and in September Fr. Tony Hutchinson took St Mary's Patronal Festival, with a visit from Rev. Christopher Landau from Telford at St Leonard's the following week. Our own Patronal Festival was taken by Rob Miles from CPAS who explained the role of CPAS as part of our patronage board and explained the more general work of CPAS, and we had a return visit from Rev. Treena Larkin in December. Although in writing and reading this it seems like a fair amount of support, there have been an awful lot of services in between which have had to be covered and securing this minimal level of support has been very hard work!

On a personal note, April became a month of learning to do lots of things that I did not think I could! Booking weddings, baptisms and funerals, having to find cover for funerals, taking services, choosing hymns, producing weekly notice sheets, keeping on top of finances, monthly service rotas for all three churches, producing the Parish Profile etc. The list goes on Churchwarden has become a full-time job and more. My personal thanks go to Phil, without him becoming an excellent 'house husband' I would not have been able to manage all of this.

Mark, like the other church warden, has taken the lead in looking after the building, dealing with builders, utility bills, repairs, quinquennials, electrical inspections etc. as well as taking on the chair of the DCC and PCC. Churchwarden for him has also become a full-time job and he has to be on the phone most days sorting something out!

Life at St Leonard's continued much as before. Diane Woodberry took over the Wednesday Communion service, assisted by Joyce Groucutt. Diane continued to lead the Pastoral Team, visiting and taking home communion to several parishioners.

Jacob's Well café continued to be open daily with a team of volunteers supporting the two paid workers. The knit'n'natter group continued to meet every Thursday and the slimmers on Fridays. In December Karl Green handed in his notice in the café and Kim Eglington took over his hours, giving her 20hrs of work (though she actually does many more!).

The young people's group continued to meet on Tuesday evening for a meal and games followed by some study and prayer. During this time, they planned and researched the topics for our Café church service once per month. This group took a break from September onward as life became too busy, but the young people continued to come along to help with the Café Church.

The Bible Study on ZOOM on a Tuesday evening continued with Phil Dooley taking the lead assisted by Shaheen, a brother from Birmingham.

Throughout this year we have said 'farewell' to a number of old friends, Joyce Highfield, Jean Carter, Irene Davies, Jeannie Ashworth, Dianne Morgan-Smith, Audrey Bull, Ivy Walker, Rudolph Kellingbeck, I hope that I haven't missed any.

We have also said 'hello' to several new friends at St Leonard's, with some of them completing a confirmation course and now awaiting confirmation when we finally get a date for this.

The major building work on the Chancel area was finally completed in February and our resident scaffolding finally disappeared! We were able to meet together in the main body of the church and able to use the screens again. The altar rail was also restored to its former Glory. However, within about a month of the workmen departing we had a small fall of plaster, but it turned out to be an unimportant area where the old and new were blended together. It did not warrant the expense of a new scaffold. However, following a torrential storm in July a further leak was found involving damaged roof tiles and rotted wooden louver doors, this will require dealing with in the near future. In addition to this, a leak in the tower became evident following a number of breakdowns on the clock; this will probably require a major scaffolding job and will almost definitely need additional funds raised by way of grants.

Funerals have been a major part of our work this year with about 59 funerals in the Parish, 46 in St Leonard's, each one of them needing a priest to be found. Funerals in church appear to be an important part of life and death in Bilston and a future incumbent will probably continue to need support with this ministry. In addition to the actual funerals all are invited back to memorial services. Joyce Groucutt has been a major support as vergers for all funerals and does an exceptional job of managing the event on the day. Spending so much time in church this year has highlighted the need for people to be around to interact with the public in a pastoral way. I have had the privilege of talking and praying with many people, most experiencing loss or pain. Just being alongside people day by day and engaging with their everyday lives, listening to their problems and joys, builds relationship which can then lead to openings to share faith with people. The strangest request that I have dealt with was to find a care home to take somebody on respite within the hour!

Members of St Leonard's have continued to be heavily involved with Churches Together in Bilston and Bradley. We have attended monthly prayer breakfasts and planning meetings three times per year. We have also been instrumental in the three events of the year – Easter Witness, Hope in the Park and Carols in the Town.

Though the summer trip had to go by the wayside this year due to being too busy to organise it, the McMillan Coffee Morning did go ahead as did a couple of Table Top Sales helping to raise much needed funds.

Ann Reaney organised a Community Harvest service which offered an opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate. It was a great success with the school choir taking part and parents sitting alongside invited guests to thank God for His goodness. A lunch was provided afterwards and was a good chance to get to know some of the parents. We were able to provide food parcels for some of the parents who were in need and details of some needs were passed on to a small charity which was able to fulfil these. The food collected for the harvest continues to provide food parcels for some of the needier folks of Bilston.

Both Villiers Primary and Bilston C of E Primary attended church for their Harvest services this year.

St Leonard's Patronal Festival was attended by Rob Miles from CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) who was able to share something about the work of CPAS in supporting churches in their evangelistic aims and providing training programs. He also attempted to explain the role of CPAS on the Patronage Board of the Parish.

The Christmas Tree Festival was in full swing again this year with the opening night being well attended. There were more trees this year than last, but less people seemed to come in to vote in the intervening time. However, the church looked lovely bedecked in trees.

Reclaiming Christmas at the beginning of December was hit by severe weather as one of the now familiar storms blew through but was still attended by two school choirs and more than 60 adults.

This year we hosted 4 schools Carol Services – Villiers Primary, Bilston C of E Primary, Shine Academies Trust (of which Villiers is a member) and the Local Schools Consortium (of which Bilston C of E is a member). All of the services had a buzz of excitement about them and were enjoyed by pupils, staff and parents alike. They offered the opportunity to about 750 children, about 150 staff and 350 parents to come in to church to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Christmas services were generally well attended this year despite some bad weather. The Parish Memorial Service, Carol Service and Midnight Communion were all attended by approaching 70 people with the Crib service being a slight disappointment this year as numbers fell a little.

Financially, whilst we are not in the ideal situation of being able to pay all of our bills, our income is up a little on last year. Having said that we are still, by my calculations, about £14,000 short of where we should be on annual income. We have reduced our Gas bills somewhat by fitting a Hive system which enables us to manage it more effectively, but we are still trying to identify places where we can cut costs more. The Hive system has demonstrated that to heat the church for each service costs around £40-£50, so we have made the decision to reduce evensong to every other week, and one morning service per month takes place in the lounge instead of in church.

We do need more people to get involved in the year to come. People able to work the technology – screens and sound desk, people willing to help with maintenance, cleaning the church, decorating the window ledges, helping with money raising ideas, maybe even working with the children on a Sunday morning. There are many other ways to get involved, why not have a word and see how you could help.

At the end of the year we began a monthly fellowship evening taking part in the quiz at the Bankfield Arms—preceded by a meal for those who wish to partake. All are welcome on the last Thursday of each month.

All in all, though it has been a difficult year it has been a good year and has put us in an appropriate place to welcome a new minister. We have learned new patterns of worship and have managed church life on our own, learning the new skills needed to support a

future incumbent. During this year our income has increased, our numbers have grown, and we have all grown in fellowship and in our relationship with God.

We look forward to next year with hope and excitement to see what God has in store for us, and continue to pray that the right person will be appointed to lead us into the future.

Our thanks go to Glynne Watkin and Foluso Adedipe for supporting us with Communion services, to Rev Kate Watson and all the numerous local clergy who have conducted funerals for us, and especially to Kim Benton who has been an invaluable source of knowledge and advice to keep us financially on the straight and narrow!

Jane Dooley, Mark Bircher

St Mary's Church Warden's Report

Although we have been in an Interregnum, which means we have not had a Vicar in the Parish since Easter Sunday last year, we have been extremely fortunate at St Mary's because we have maintained our regular congregation.

At present we currently have one extended Communion a month if we can arrange a lay reader, or Holy Communion if we are fortunate to have visiting Clergy.

Other Sundays there are Service of the Word conducted by the Church Warden.

Despite this our congregation has remained loyal to us throughout the year, even though this is not our preferred style of worship. We are very fortunate that our members are all very willing to help with Church cleaning and maintenance. Along with this, they also assist with gardening in our grounds and Columbarium in order to retain the immaculate condition for relatives to visit.

In May, we lost one of our oldest and a most loved member of our congregation, Marjorie Hill. Although she had been unable to attend church for some time she is very sadly missed by us all. Marj and her husband Jim had been pivotal members of St Mary's congregation for many many years with Jim serving as a lay reader until his death in 2011.

Unfortunately, we had a fall of plaster work over one of our external doors last year but we are glad to report that has now been renovated by Crofts builders.

Last Summer we held a very successful Summer Fete. This was advertised on St Mary's Facebook page. In addition, we distributed leaflets and posters to our community. This event was very well attended.

In September we held our annual Patronal service for the parish and this was conducted by Father Tony Hutchinson who also presided on Remembrance Sunday and accompanied the congregation to the service at the War Memorial.

Also, in this month, we organised a Coffee Morning to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Research and this was well supported.

During the year, we held Harvest and Christmas Lunches for members of our congregation and this gives everyone an opportunity to meet together, over a meal to enjoy each others' company.

Our Christmas Fayre was a resounding success attended by our extremely supportive local community. We are delighted to report it was the most successful event we have ever held.

The annual Christingle service raised money for The Children's Society and provided everyone present with Christingles to take away with them.

Once again, our Midnight Mass service was well attended and was appreciated by everyone present as a moving way to welcome in Christmas Day.

We would like to thank all who have supported us throughout the year, our congregation, members of our local community and visiting clergy. Your constant support is greatly appreciated.

Christine Mills & Eber Carter

St Chad's Churchwarden's Report

The loss of Rev Simon came as a great blow to the congregation of St Chad's, losing not only friends but also Kim and the children who were active and enthusiastic members of the church. Since they left nearly a year has gone by and there have been some ups and downs. As we move forward into the year ahead, we look in hope towards a year where we welcome new members, care for our present congregation and develop new ideas, always with a warm welcome.

We recognise that the state of our finances could be better. We have booked to have the damage to the roof around the bell tower repaired at the end of February, hopefully followed by the internal ceiling repairs. Once this is done, we will see if we can afford some of the other repairs that are needed. The area through the emergency exit has been cleared and a small play area was created. Community Payback has assisted us with clearing the grassed area and cutting back some of the bushes. We are hoping that they will continue to help us to manage this area.

We have looked closely at our heating bills and have attempted to trim this where we can. We continue to look for better and more cost-effective ways to manage the heating and make it more comfortable without costing the earth.

Our pattern of services has changed a little, with one Communion by Extension per month and two services of the word. We miss one service per month in favour of a Fusion@4 (messy) service on a Saturday which we run bi-monthly.

The 'Place of Welcome' on Thursday morning has continued slowly but is still going with a steady group. We are looking for ways to develop this and are exploring different themes in the months to come. One way in which we are hoping to expand is through the Gardening Club which we started last year but rested during the winter. We hope to start fresh in the spring with the wardens' planting seeds and looking towards developing the group.

Fusion@4 is our 'messy church' activity which we run bi-monthly on a Saturday afternoon. As Simon and Kim took the lead on this previously, leaders have had to create their own style of afternoon. We leaflet parts of the estate to try to encourage families to join in. A group from the congregation and leadership plan a theme and work out activities, songs, teaching and food around the theme. We have explored themes such as Creation, Pentecost, David and Goliath and Christingle, and numbers have varied from 33 one month to as few as 6 another. The emphasis is on learning together for the whole family and parents/carers are encouraged to join in with their children.

In August we had the pleasure of hosting a Parish service led by Bishop's chaplain Treena Larkin. The service was well received and enjoyed by all who attended, she shared something of her faith journey from NHS to Bishop's Office as well as presenting a challenging sermon. It was good to share in a full Holy Communion service.

We had a visit from the children from Tip Top Nursery at Christmas which was enjoyed by children and adults alike. There was storytelling, singing and activities with the children, who for their age group were well behaved.

We also had a visit from our local councillor who came to one of our services.

Finally, the long-awaited upgrade to our audio-visual system got underway with the purchase of a laptop and the ability to use a new system called iSing. Once we sorted out a few glitches with wifi this new system has proved to enhance our experience of worship immensely and we now look forward to the addition of a TV screen instead of needing to use the projector and screen system.

So, looking back it has been quite a busy year and at times we have felt the weight of responsibility that we bear. However, we look forward to the coming year with hope and determination.

On a sad note, we said goodbye to Jean Ralph as 2024 slipped away, Jean was a long-term member of our congregation.

Linda Pearson & Alison Spencer

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults, protecting them from abuse or maltreatment and preventing harm to their health or development. As a parish we want to ensure that the children and vulnerable adults in our community are protected and recognise the calling and duty to love and care for the vulnerable and protect all from abuse. For this reason, we have taken guidance from the Lichfield diocese on how best to protect those in our community. These are the following advisories that we have followed:

- Currently, we have a designated safeguarding team which is led by Kerry Bircher. The role of the Safeguarding Officer is to be the named person volunteers and church members would report any disclosures or child protection concerns to. If required, the Safeguarding Officer will refer on any disclosures or child protection concerns to the appropriate organisation e.g., The Local Authority in which the vulnerable person/child lives, social services or police.
- All parish members who may take responsibility within their church such as PCC/DCC members, church/parish wardens or those who are responsible for children or vulnerable adults as part of their role within the church MUST have a current DBS issued by the diocese which must be renewed every 3 years.
- All parish members who may take responsibility within their church such as PCC/DCC members, church/parish wardens or those who are responsible for children or vulnerable adults as part of their role within the church MUST have completed

basic awareness and foundation safeguarding training (previously C0 and C1.)

Kerry Bircher has continued to ensure all PCC/DCC members have current DBS certificates in line with our current safeguarding policy by becoming a diocesan verifier to streamline the process and avoid the need to rely on external verifiers.

Going forward into 2025, as a parish we need to be more aware of our communities and the challenges they face and take safeguarding more seriously due to the impact it can have on people's lives. We need to ensure that any concern is reported to a safeguard lead no matter how small we feel the issue is. We need to ensure that all members of the parish who are in these roles do hold a current DBS and have completed safeguarding training. It is now mandatory that any future member of PCC/DCC, church/Parish warden must complete basic awareness and foundation safeguarding training and hold a current DBS within 8 weeks of appointment. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Acting on your concerns or seeking advice is rarely a bad idea. People often question 'What if I'm wrong' but we have to ask ourselves 'what if I'm right'. We can't assume that someone else has seen what we may have seen or will pass on concerns.

*Proverbs 31v 8 says 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.'*

Kerry Bircher – Safeguarding officer

Jacobs Well Café Report

After a short Christmas break, we reopened in January 2024 offering a warm, safe, friendly place for people to come in, have a bite to eat and a drink while making new friends.

February 2024, we lost one of our best customers in Joyce Highfield, we provided a buffet for Joyce's wake, she has been sorely missed by customers and staff alike.

We only had a short break for Easter this year, we were sorry to say farewell to Simon and Kim, Jeremiah, Anna and Naomi.

We did a couple of Tabletop sales in the first half of the year. These fund-raising events help us to keep our prices low, enabling everyone to be able to come in and enjoy a cuppa.

In July we celebrated "Black Country Day" where we served Faggits, Mash 'n' paes, Gray Paes and Bearcon, Liver'n'onions, Bearcon doorsteps and plenty more. This was appreciated and enjoyed by many.

We hosted the Macmillan Coffee Morning once again in September, raising £240.00 pounds for this cause which is close to many hearts, it was a great turn out.

During October our lunch club sadly ended, due to a fall in numbers and many customers coming in to use the café as normal, this led to us making a loss on the food for the lunch club. The meals have been greatly missed by some for whom it was the only home cooked meal of the week, we hope to be able to make some 'specials' from time to time.

November brought the Christmas tree festival once again on the day that the lights were switched on in the town. The event turned out to be a great success. We staffed the kitchen for the refreshments and food on the opening night. Our entry in the tree competition was plagued by pesky Elves with a sign about "promoting your good Elf"!

In December Kim and Dee went to do their Food Safety Course, passed and received their Certificate's with flying colours. Dee and Alison also did their 'First Aid at Work' Course, passed and received their Certificate's also with flying colours. Kim, Dee and Rachel were dressed up as Elves for Christmas and our customers loved it so much and said that it was really nice to see staff enjoying and being involved at Christmas. Jane took our photos dressed up as Elves and put us on Facebook, customers came in to see us, and they had hot drinks with Christmas pudding and custard, they really enjoyed being served by Elves and would return.

Karl one of our employees left us on the 13th of December, we had a collection and a little buffet, and customers came in to say goodbye and to wish him good luck for the future.

We have received some reviews of some of our customers:

A group of pensioners who used to frequent another café in the town, came to ours to try and said "This is much better, friendlier and the food is good and a good price. Plus, the Atmosphere is great".

Another customer said she has been coming to Jacob's Well Café for a while, she stated "the volunteers are very pleasant, helpful and the food is lovely, there is a wide variety of food to choose from a good value prices".

One gentleman stated, "The staff are friendly, and I like the way the staff make time to sit down and have a chat".

This was a great end to finish 2024 and a good start to a New Year in 2025.

Kim, Dee, Alison, Kerry and Rachael

Young People's Confirmation Group

The Young People's group at St Leonard's continued throughout most of 2024.

We combined ongoing study with recapping on the confirmation material to assist the one young person who was still preparing. Some of the 'friends' that had initially attended with the young people dropped off, but others came and went at various times.

The one young person remaining who was yet to be confirmed decided that she did not wish to be confirmed alone in April at St Martin's, so she delayed in the hope that there would at least be some adults from Bilston accompanying her when the opportunity came around again.

The young people are getting very confident at asking for prayers for themselves and others as well as raising issues in the news that they feel we should pray about. They have not quite picked up the courage to pray aloud in front of each other but have begun to write prayers for the services.

In July we broke up for the summer. Unfortunately, due to the pressure of work within the parish we were unable to resume in September. However, the remaining young people were very keen to continue with the Café Church services that they had been conducting on a monthly basis.

The group began to lead Café Church services on a regular basis, starting in February by looking at the Glory of God, with Pentecost following in May where we looked at the fruits and the gifts of the spirit. We then decided to take the fruits of the spirit one by one to explore what is meant by each one. The group have been very enthusiastic about this, and even when we were not meeting regularly, they would do some research at home towards the service and would attend on the Saturday before the service to decide who would do what and to rehearse. In addition to those who were happy to lead and to read lessons, others were happy to make drinks or manage the sound system. After the same choice of final song for several months I had to suggest that we gave 'Shine, Jesus, Shine' a rest for a couple of months!

We will be resuming our weekly meetings in 2025, we have a great group of young people and are always open to others joining us.

Jane Dooley

St Mary's Church Community Kitchen

Our decision to hold a Community Kitchen for our local residents has proved a resounding success. We are proud to report that this venture has gone from strength to strength.

We started offering soup and sandwiches for £1 and now our customers have the choice from 6 homemade main courses, cakes and tea or coffee still for £1. We open the Community Kitchen twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. We originally thought we would cater for the local community, but our customers come now from all parts of Bilston most of them on a regular basis. It not only provides them with a hot nourishing meal but companionship also which they greatly appreciate.

In September we not only welcomed the members of Bilston Congregational Church for lunch, but also the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Linda Leach, joined us, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

At Christmas we provided a full Christmas lunch complete with crackers and chocolates for all.

We are very much looking forward to another successful year.

The Community Kitchen Team

Parish Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team is a Parish group set up by Rev Simon to maintain links between the ill, housebound and the Church.

Our main commitment is to visit members of the congregations at home to offer companionship and to take Home Communion to them. We give time for prayer whilst visiting too.

Another branch of our ministry is to visit Bushfield Court on a monthly basis. This is usually very well attended. We celebrate Christmas and commemorate the war dead with them.

If anyone feels they have something to offer the Parish through this group please contact me, or if you have knowledge of anyone who feels they need our services also get in touch.

Diane Woodberry

Place of Welcome.

A project set up by the Church Urban Fund and the Diocese to provide a safe space for the lonely and isolated.

Meeting every Thursday morning between 10am and 12 noon in Saint Chads, We give our folk free tea or coffee together with biscuits or sometimes cake. If anyone wants to bring their crafts with them or play board games or just have a natter that is up to them.

If you know anyone who would like to join us please let me know.

Diane Woodberry.

St Leonard's Service of the Word & Family Services

As a result of there being no Ordained Minister, by necessity the number of Service of the Word (S.O.W) services has increased. At St. Leonard's we have continued with a family service variant once per month, usually on the 4th Sunday of each month.

The format for Family Services remains adaptable to the theme of the month, a short introductory liturgy with confession is followed by between two or three readings with a reflection, prayer and song or hymn for each reading. The inclusion of the occasional bible quiz or other activity keeps people on their toes!

Themes this year have included, delivery (Christmas), Bible Sunday Special, what causes quarrels, places of worship, Olympic Games and other themes.

We have continued to mix the old with the new in terms of music. The removal of the scaffolding in February once again enabled the use of screens for the projection of words and illustrations.

Joanne, Mark and Kerry Bircher along with Dale Stroyde have continued to provide the "tech" expertise needed to put on such services.

We all look forward to growing and developing this service further in 2025.

Phil & Jane Dooley

Parish Adult Confirmation Preparation Report.

For 2024, Phil Dooley undertook the preparation. There were three candidates, two from St. Leonard's and one from St. Chad's.

The preparation takes the form of a six-session course which aims to provide a brief introduction to the essentials of the Christian faith. The sessions included lively discussions dealing with aspects of being a Christian in the world we live in, with each candidate demonstrating a keen interest in the topics discussed.

The course concluded in mid-June with the expectation of an autumn Confirmation Service. Unfortunately, due to the prolonged process of appointing the Bishop of Wolverhampton, at the time of writing no date for a Confirmation Service has been announced. However, we look forward to a joyous occasion later in the year when each candidate is able to publicly have their commitment acknowledged by the wider church.

Phil Dooley

Fusion@4

We meet every other month as our outreach on the third Saturday in Saint Chads between 4 and 6 pm. There have been anything from 6 to 35 people from the estate and further afield.

Our purpose is to introduce the love of the Lord Jesus to people who have never known of it before. There are folk aged from 1 to 70.

We do this through games, crafts and enjoying food together finishing with a short service.

We welcome anyone to our evenings, so if you're interested, please come along.

Diane Woodberry.

Parish Bible Study Report.

The current Parish Bible study established by Simon Skidmore has continued following his departure on Easter Sunday. Originally, there were two groups, one on Tuesday evening on Zoom, the other in person at St. Leonard's on Wednesday after Shoppers Communion service. Currently only the Tuesday Zoom course is in operation.

In order to continue, it was necessary to purchase a Parish Zoom licence or account. This done, the previously existing members quickly re-assembled and off we went. There were early 'tech' issues, but these have been resolved and a lively group meets each. We have breaks at opportune moments usually when a Bible book has been completed or over public holidays.

The study always ends with a short prayer time, where the needs of people known to group members are prayed for.

Those attending are parish members from St. Chad's and St. Leonard's with one member who lives in Solihull but found us following a 'tip-off' by a group member. Another former member of the Baptist church joins us from her Care Home. There are no members from St. Mary's yet. Hint Hint They would be very welcome to attend. There is no requirement to be a Bible expert and those attending are free to just sit and listen if that is their wish.

At the time of writing, the group has wrestled with the complexities of Revelation and is approaching the end of The Book of James which is full of practical advice for Christians. We have yet to decide which book to study next.

Phil Dooley.

The Trefoil Guild

The Trefoil Guild uses St Mary's facilities regularly for their meetings. It is Guiding for Adults and a source of fun and friendship, offering members personal and social opportunities while supporting Guiding and Scouting. Its' aims are to keep alive, among its members, the spirit of Guide and Scout promises.

Their activities have included visits to the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Boscobel House, Cosford Aerospace Museum and a Christmas meal.

The meetings have included craft activities and afternoon tea.

The Guild is a small group who would always welcome new members.

Wendy Hawkins

Churches Together In Bilston and Bradley

Bilston Parish remains heavily involved in Churches Together in Bilston and Bradley and in particular the three main events that are organised each year.

Easter Act of Witness – this takes place in the town centre on Good Friday and usually involves readings and songs. Congregations from a number of member churches join in and the large wooden cross from St Leonards is carried through the town at the beginning and end of this (usually with a few people following). This is followed by a snack lunch together and a quiet 'Last Hour' service at St Leonard's.

Hope In the Park – this is a large event which takes place in Hickman Park, usually on the last Sunday in June. In recent years this has involved having to raise funds via Emma Bussey Trust and James Beattie Trust due to having to hire a stage and large generator at a cost of about £2,000. The event is organised by a dedicated group from Churches Together and a topic is planned with suitable songs and activities. This is then backed up by a group who go into about 6 primary schools who all take part in the event, learning the songs, planning their own performance and usually encouraging every child to complete a task with something to bring along to the event. A band and speakers brought together from various churches share the gospel with over 1,000 children, parents and general public each year, with individual churches invited to have stalls with activities, prayer stations and games. In 2024 the topic was 'Superheroes' and the song the schools learned was 'Jesus you're my superhero, you're my star, my best friend' – every child in 6 different schools learned these words – probably about 3,000 local children! It's hard work but well worth the effort.

Christmas Carols in the town – this event proved to be somewhat challenging this year due to the market moving into the high st and taking 'our pitch'. We did manage to find a spot outside a closed down shop and met the challenges as best we could but this year's event did not have the same feel as usual.

Prayer Breakfast – Each month members from Churches Together meet on the Saturday nearest to the 15th, to pray together for our town, schools, events and anything else which needs our prayers. We meet at 9.00am at Wetherspoons to chat and pray for about an hour, and then those who can stay and eat breakfast together. It is a useful time of fellowship and support and a chance to share in prayer together. Once again members of the parish, mainly St Leonard's have been involved throughout the year, working and praying together with churches across Bilston, as they have also held us in prayer.

Jane Dooley & Mark Bircher

Bilston Church of England Primary School.

We said a sad farewell to Rev Simon last year and feel his absence around our school. Ben Haldane from the Baptist Church is supporting us every other Monday in leading whole school worship. We are thankful for his support. We have welcomed two new foundation Governors- Mrs Jane Dooley and Ms Chineze Okoye and look forward to working more closely with them.

Year 5 did the school proud when they shared their Harvest Around the World service at St Leonards in October 2024. Donations were shared between the Church and The Well – Wolverhampton Foodbank. Worship group support Worship daily in school and we have integrated Anglican rituals into our Worship.

We have a new Christian Distinctiveness advisor- Rebecca Nash – from Lichfield Diocese, who will be leading whole school CPD around Worship in February 2025.

Our School Choir have supported events at St Leonard's, such as Reclaiming Christmas and Bilston Christmas Light Switch on.

The new calendar year will see us develop our Worship Practice as well as review our teaching of RE across the school. We are also preparing for our next SIAMS Inspection which we expect will be sometime in 2026.



Jo Lewis

**Worship & RE Coordinator
Bilston CE Primary School**

Good Shepherd Relief In Need (Reg Charity No 1177783)

We exist to help families and individuals who are in material need, to access quality preloved items for themselves and their families. We are housed in Bilston Methodist Church, Bow Street, Bilston. WV14 7NB and operate Monday to Thursday 9.30 till 2.

Few people know that Wolverhampton is the 10th poorest city in the country with Bilston and East Park having the poorest families and the least services to support them. We have a 20% turnover of residents each year which is the highest in the city and a high number of female refugees with children. Our referrals for help come directly from social workers, housing officers and often churches in other areas too. At any one time we have over 400 families living in one room waiting for accommodation; once they achieve temporary accommodation, they will leave that room with just a set of keys - no beds, furniture or anything else to put in their new home.

We try our best in our one room project to provide what we can, even if that is just a pile of duvets to make beds on the floor. Some of our beneficiaries are care leavers, ex-prisoners, victims of domestic violence and many asylum seekers who have been granted status to stay.

We work tirelessly with Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary who visit us fortnightly and usually take away up to 100 items for those most in need in our city. From socks and pants to books and toys for their children, bedding, cutlery, crockery, curtains, clothes, we believe it is all part of our ministry to love our neighbour as ourselves. We always give items of preloved quality that we would use ourselves or give to our children, as we treat all our customers with the dignity God's family command.

Our chair, Rev Mark Hathorne is a retired vicar of our parish and understands well how necessary this service is. Mike Reaney, a pastoral team member from the Parish, is on the road each day, either collecting donations or delivering much needed clothing and bedding.

If you want to come and visit us, you are very welcome and if you want more information, please call Ann Reaney on 07845003656. We thank the Parish of Bilston for our partnership this year.

Ann Reaney, Project Manager City Homemaker.

Financial Review

Total Net Assets: £466,818 [£453,731 2023]

Deficit: (£160) 2024 Unrestricted Deficit: (£6,303) Restricted Excess: £6,142
[Excess £51,344 2023]

Parish and Parish Centre

Total Net Assets: £355,504 [£338,129 2023]

Excess: £10,680 Unrestricted excess £10,680
[Excess £4,507 2023]

The Parish account is to receive income from the three churches to pay the Common Fund and Parish Expenses. It also holds the proceeds of the sale of Curates house. In 2022 the investments were transferred from the General fund to Curate Endowment funds as this better reflects the situation. Whilst the income produced is unrestricted the capital cannot be spent. All income from the investments will be used for the Common fund and/or Parish expenses periodically to reduce the burden on the individual Churches. The income will be left to build up in the CCLA deposit account.

The Parish Centre is shown within these accounts. In 2022 the Parish Centre Building was moved from the Parish Centre Restricted to Parish Centre Building Endowment. Again, this better reflects the situation. Whilst the income in unrestricted the capital cannot be spent without selling the building. All of the income and expenditure is recorded under the Parish Centre Designated. It is the intention to build up a reserve fund for any work needed on the Parish Centre of £20,000 which would be shown separately as Parish Centre reserve. Along with this working capital of £5,000 retained. Once this figure has been reached then any surplus can be transferred and used to pay the Common fund and/or Parish expenses.

The Parish Centre has seen the Parish centre hire increase from £8,260 2023 to £13,600 2024. Tiptop Childcare continue to expand and have enquired about hiring the whole of the centre. They currently pay £1,100 per month and 75% of the utility bills. In 2024 they paid £4,658.

St Chads

Total Net Assets: £23,301 [£40,916 2023]

Deficit: (£17,615) – Unrestricted Deficit: (£16,296) Restricted Deficit: (£1,319)
[Excess: £34,884 2023]

St Chads income has reduced from £45,903 2023 to £3,647 2024. St Chad received a legacy in 2023 which is why there is such a difference. There have been reductions in 0101 Gift aid collections, 0201 non gift aid collections and 0550 donations. However 0301 Loose plate collections have increased.

Expenditure has Increased from £11,019 2023 to £21,262. The most notable differences being 1910 Common fund 2330 Church maintenance, 2350 Upkeep of Churchyard and 2440 heating and lighting when compared to 2401 and 2410.

St Mary's

Total Net Assets: £15,651 [£19,585 2023]

Deficit: (£3,933) 2024 – Unrestricted Deficit: (£3,933)
[Excess: £17,149 2023]

St Mary's income overall has reduced from £31,472 2023 to £13,942 2024. The main reason for this is the legacy left by the Late Brian Fellows in 2023. Whilst Gift aid collections 0101 has reduced slightly 0201 Non gift aid collections have increased slightly along with 0301 loose plate collections.

The expenditure has increased from £14,323 2023 to £17,876 2024. The main reason for this is St Mary's have paid in full their share of the Common fund £7,200 and an increase in 2330 Church maintenance.

St Leonards

Total Net Assets: £65,808 [£55,099 2023]

Excess: £10,708 2024 – Unrestricted Excess: £3,246 Restricted Excess: £7,462

[Deficit: (£5,196) 2023]

Overall income has increased from £89,088 2023 to £106,195 2024. This is mainly due to the receipt of insurance claims totalling £36,127 which of course has been spent on major repairs 2701. We have seen increases in 0101 Gift aid collections, 0201 Non gift aid collections, 0550 donations and two legacies were received totalling £10,551..

Expenditure overall has also increased from £94,284 2023 to £95,486 2024 which as previously documented is due to the major works 2701 expenditure. Other than all other areas are pretty static apart from 1910 LDBF Common fund.

Thanks go to Mark and Jane for their continued support and hard work throughout the year.

Kim Benton

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £28,216 2024 [£32,092 2023]. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the free reserves at the year end was £87,169 2024 [£121,867 2023] which is considerably higher than this target. In the uncertain economic climate, it is felt to have a healthy reserve is a good foundation for the future and will allow the charity to explore different outreach if identified and also be secure of having sufficient reserves if called upon in any unforeseen

Investment Policy

The charity is granted power to invest in suitable investments under the PCC Powers Measure 1956 and the Trustees Act 2000. As a charity, the Trustees have a duty of care to take such advice as is appropriate before investments are undertaken. This advice is sought from the Central Board of Finance (CCLA) in London.

The charity's investment policies are based on two key principles: -

- Ethical Investment – this includes ensuring that investments are held in companies which have high standards of corporate governance and act in a responsible way towards stakeholders.
- Long-term responsibilities – the trustees are aware of their long-term responsibilities in respect of the Restricted and Unrestricted reserves and as a result follow a prudent approach to investment decisions.

Investment policy for long-term funds is aimed primarily at generating a sustainable income, with due regard to the need for the preservation of capital value, and the possible need to realise investments to meet operational needs. The charity does not have a policy of generating income at excessive or high risk – known as “purchasing income”, where high returns are guaranteed at the expense of capital.

In summary, the charity has an overall policy to maximise income while preserving the real value of its funds. Due to the nature of the charity, an ethical investment policy is taken into consideration when investments are made:

The charity follows the Ethical Investment Advisory policy as recommended by the Lichfield Diocese which includes the following:

“We aim to invest in companies that:

- * will develop their business in the interests of shareholders;
- * demonstrate responsible employment practices;
- * are conscientious concerning issues of corporate governance, the environment and human rights;
- * are sensitive to the community in which they operate.”

Planned giving, collections and donations are the main sources of fund raising along with tax recoverable.

Safeguarding

The PCC believe they have fulfilled their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Reporting Serious Incidents

A Serious Incident is an adverse event, whether actual or alleged, which results in or risks significant harm to the charity's beneficiaries, employees, office holders, volunteers or to others who come into contact with the charity through its work, loss of the charity's money or assets, damage to the charity's property or harm to the charity's work or reputation.

The trustees are not aware of any Serious Incidents in the last year.

Fundraising

The PCC takes its fundraising responsibilities seriously and is very grateful to all donors – whether regular or occasional – for their support of the church and church events. PCC supporters are never taken for granted. The PCC takes full responsibility for fundraising and does not use commercial organisations or professional fundraisers. All money raised is either by donations, fundraising events, special appeals or legacies for which the PCC are most grateful.

Volunteers

The members of the PCC would like to thank all of the 45 volunteers who work so hard to make our Church a lively and vibrant community.

Risk Management

The Church Wardens carry out regular Health and Safety Reviews and regularly inspect premises for potential hazards. We have safeguarding policies in place for child protection and for work with vulnerable adults, including rigorous DBS checking of staff and volunteers. Our insurances are reviewed annually to ensure adequate cover. An informal review of any new risks which may impact the work of the Church in the Parish is ongoing.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a Body Corporate established by the Church of England and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission registration number 1138955. The PCC is governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended that came into effect on 2nd January 1957, and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. The PCC members receive training from courses run by the Diocese. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The PCC met 6 times in 2024.

Related Parties –

The PCC does not employ any related parties or give contracts for work on the church to any related parties.

Donations from Related Parties

Donations from related parties [9] during the year totalled £5,310 2024 [£5,192 2023]. All these donations were received without condition.

Remuneration paid to Trustees

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the PCC.

Expenses paid to Trustees

No Trustee was paid expenses in 2024 [£199] for travel and subsistence.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston

Other names the charity is known by: N/A

Registered Charity Number: 1138955

Charity's principal address: St Leonard's Church Walsall Street Bilston WV14 0AT

Correspondence address: St Leonard's Church Walsall Street Bilston WV14 0AT

Website address: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

PCC Members: Who Served from 1 January 2024 to the date this report was approved

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole period
Ex-Officio		
Revd. Simon Skidmore	Acting Team Rector - Chair.	Resigned 31/03/2024
Phil Dooley	Secretary/Lay Reader/Diocesan Synod/ Deanery Synod	
Diane Woodberry	Lay Reader/ Deanery Synod	
Alison Spencer	Church Warden St Chad's	
Mark Bircher	Church Warden St Leonard's/Parish Warden/Lay Chair/Deanery Synod.	
Jane Dooley	Church Warden St Leonard's /Parish Warden	
Christine Mills	Church Warden St Mary's	
Eber Carter	Church Warden St Mary's	
Elected Members		
Charlie Smith	Deputy Church Warden St Leonard's	
Kerry Bircher	St Leonard's (Safeguarding Co-ordinator)	
Matthew Bircher	St Leonard's	
Linda Pearson	St Chad's Church Warden (previously St. Leonard's member)	
Kay Edwards	St Leonard's	
Joanne Bircher	St Leonard's	
Elizabeth Rice	St Mary's	
Wendy Hawkins	St Mary's	
Mavis Heath	St Mary's	
Satwinder Peake	St Leonard's	21/04/2024
Chineze Okoye	St Leonard's	21/04/2024

Bank	Barclays Bank PLC – Queen Square Wolverhampton WV1 1DS
Investment Managers	CCLA 1 Angel Lane London EC4R 3AB
Independent Examiner	Jonathan Hill Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance St Marys House, The Close, Lichfield. WS13 7LD

Approved by the PCC on 10.04.2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr Philip Dooley

P.A. Dooley P.C.C. Secretary

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees/members of The PCC of The Parish of Bilston

Registered charity number, if applicable: 1138955

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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

Signed:



Jonathan Hill FCMA CGMA

Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance

St Mary's House, The Close, Lichfield WS13 7LD

Date: 22/05/2025

The Parish of Bilston
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2023

Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using Receipts and Payments basis.

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements 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 nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Cashflow Statement

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement on the grounds that the income does not exceed £500,000.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties relate to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Accounting Estimates and Prior Year Errors

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period.

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period

Description of Funds

Unrestricted funds are income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its "free reserves" as disclosed in the trustees' annual report.

An explanation of purpose of each Designated fund are as follows:

- Flower Fund – Flowers for St Leonards Church. Advise this account is closed and monies transferred to St Leonards account. Statement not received in 2022. PCC to consider in 2025.
- Flowers Fund – Flowers for St Chad's Church
- Jacobs Well – Takings for Jacobs Well [Formerly The Melting Pot] to identify excess/deficit – excess to be transferred to General fund when necessary.
- Building Fund – Ringfenced for work on St Leonards Building
- PCentre – To record income and expenditure of the Parish Centre. Excess can be transferred to Parish funds. Suggest a reserve is built up of £20,000 and retain working capital of £5,000. Any excess is transferred to Parish funds to help with the payment of the Common fund and/or Parish expenses.
- Choir – Funds set aside for the Choir – this fund has not been used for many years advise that the account is closed and transferred to St Leonards account along with transferring the funds to General fund. PCC to consider in 2024.

Restricted funds comprise of two elements :-

- a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest
- b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

An explanation of purpose of each Restricted fund are as follows:

- Décoration – This is the re-decoration scheme for the vicarage.
- Belfry – Specific donation for the upkeep of the Belfry
- Fair – This is a grant from Emma Bussey Charity to help with Summer and Christmas Fairs.
- Walford legacy – Is to be used for the upkeep of one of the graves in the Church yard.
- Mission Work at St Chad's – Donations specifically for Mission Work at St Chad's
- Project – Kitchen/Vestry/Toilets – Specific donations for the project work at St Chad's
- SoftPlay – Specific grant for the soft play area at St Chad's
- St Chads – For specific donations to St Chads
- Warmth – Specific grant for Places of Warmth at St Chad's
- Christmas festival – Specific grant for the Christmas festival
- Lighting – Specific donations for the lighting upgrade at St Leonard's
- Welcome – Grant for Warm Welcome

Endowment funds are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown in the notes to the accounts.

- Curate – Sale of the Curates House – Investments held in Diocesan Trust TN733. Transferred From PCentre restricted in 2022 to reflect the correct situation. The income is unrestricted, but the capital cannot be spent.
- PCentre Building – The Building at St Chad's. Transferred from PCentre restricted in 2022 to reflect the correct situation. The excess income can be used for Parish purposes, but the building cannot be sold and the capital used.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received or when the PCC becomes entitled to the resource and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Governance and Support Costs

Support costs should be allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources eg by allocating staff costs by time spent and other costs by their usage.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts by s.10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statement.

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

Other tangible fixed assets are valued at cost. The assets are depreciated where applicable at 50% per annum. The Parish Centre is revalued at 31 December annually using Nationwide house price calculator and show on page 39

Investments

Investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are valued initially at cost and subsequently at market value at the year end. Investments held for re-sale are treated as current asset investments.

Debtors

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount. Subsequently they are measured as cash expected to be received

Creditors and Accruals

Creditors are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts. Accruals are measured on best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Parish of Bilston year ended 2024

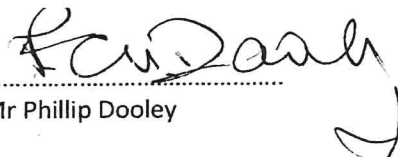
Statement of Receipts and Payments 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2024	2023
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	44,468	91	11,600	-	56,160	98,851
Income from charitable activities	11,910	19,573	-	-	31,483	15,157
Other trading activities	-	13,600	-	-	13,600	8,260
Investments	3,522	404	81	-	4,008	3,593
Other income	36,127	-	-	-	36,127	54,373
Total income	96,028	33,670	11,681	-	141,380	180,235
Payments						
Raising funds	89	50	-	-	140	471
Expenditure on charitable activities	110,882	20,283	5,539	-	136,704	120,977
Other expenditure	1,895	2,799	-	-	4,695	7,442
Total expenditure	112,867	23,133	5,539	-	141,540	128,891
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(16,840)	10,537	6,142	-	(160)	51,344
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	7,487
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	-	(1,000)	-	(1,000)	(7,488)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	2,863	2,863	6,189
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	10,384	10,384	(9,835)
Net movement in funds	(15,840)	10,537	5,142	13,247	13,087	47,698
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	103,008	18,861	14,793	317,067	453,731	406,032
Total funds carried forward	87,169	29,398	19,936	330,314	466,818	453,731

Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2024

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024	2023
Fixed Asset - Investments						
CB3008402: CCLA Bilston TN733 - 402	-	-	-	27,161	27,161	25,561
CB3008420: CCLA Bilston TN733 - 420	-	-	-	21,837	21,837	21,717
CB3008477: CCLA Bilston TN733 - 477	-	-	-	51,072	51,072	49,929
Total	-	-	-	100,071	100,071	97,208
Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets						
6430: 2 x Inspiron Laptops	531	-	-	-	531	1,061
6431: 1 x Aspire Lap Tops 50 depreciation in 2025 and 2026	371	-	-	-	371	-
6431: 2x Aspire Lap Tops purchased October 2024	743	-	-	-	743	-
CENTRE: Parish Centre	-	-	-	230,243	230,243	219,859
STOW: Stow Lawn Land	1	-	-	-	1	1
Total	1,647	-	-	230,243	231,890	220,921
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand						
20780901: St Mary's DCC Current Account	15,651	-	-	-	15,651	19,585
20956414: St Leonard's Flower Current Account	-	306	-	-	306	306
30027537: Parish Centre Account	(1,562)	13,960	(125)	-	12,274	5,135
40461474: PCC of The Parish of Bilston	10,799	(120)	(1,760)	-	8,921	13,103
63519228: St Chad's DCC Current account	18,268	683	3,977	-	22,929	40,916
70076899: St Leonard's Choir	-	21	-	-	21	21
70201782: The Melting Pot - St Leonards	2	(3)	-	-	-	903
90303410: St Leonard's Church Current Account	35,182	14,547	12,307	-	62,036	50,604
CB3008600: CCLA Bilston TN733 - 600	7,111	-	-	-	7,111	3,679
CB3027993: CCLA (CBF) St Leonards - Walford Legacy	27	-	2,141	-	2,168	2,059
IDSBILS011: IDS Decoration Scheme DOVER STREET	-	-	1,220	-	1,220	1,220
IDSBILS012: IDS Decoration Scheme CUMBERLAND	-	-	82	-	82	82
6591: Flowers - Cash in hand	-	-	-	-	-	142
Total	85,481	29,398	17,845	-	132,725	137,761
Current Asset - Debtors						
Z05: Accounts Receivable	40	-	3,560	-	3,600	4,143
Total	40	-	3,560	-	3,600	4,143
Liability - Agency Accounts						
6699: Agency collections	-	-	1,469	-	1,469	6,303
Total	-	-	1,469	-	1,469	6,303
Net total assets	87,169	29,398	19,936	330,314	466,818	453,731

Approved by the PCC on 10.04.2025 and signed on its behalf by:


Mr Phillip Dooley

Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
2 x Inspiron Laptops -	1,061	—	—	—	1,061	2,122
Parish Centre -	—	—	—	219,859	219,859	219,859
Stow Lawn Land -	1	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	1,062	—	—	219,859	220,921	221,982
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
St Mary's DCC Current Account -	19,585	—	—	—	19,585	2,435
St Leonard's Flower Current Account -	—	306	—	—	306	306
Parish Centre Account -	—	4,928	206	—	5,135	4,129
PCC of The Parish of Bilston -	10,902	—	2,200	—	13,103	11,729
St Chad's DCC Current account -	34,619	—	6,297	—	40,916	6,032
Flowers - Cash in hand -	—	142	—	—	142	142
Parish Centre Cash -	—	—	—	—	—	10
St Leonard's Choir -	—	21	—	—	21	21
The Melting Pot - St Leonards -	—	903	—	—	903	11,786
St Leonard's Church Current Account -	33,119	12,558	4,926	—	50,604	42,967
CCLA Bilston TN733 - 402 -	—	—	—	25,561	25,561	22,246
CCLA Bilston TN733 - 420 -	—	—	—	21,717	21,717	23,136
CCLA Bilston TN733 - 477 -	—	—	—	49,929	49,929	45,636
CCLA Bilston TN733 - 600 -	3,679	—	—	—	3,679	475
CCLA (CBF) St Leonards - Walford Legacy	—	—	2,059	—	2,059	1,995
IDS Decoration Scheme DOVER STREET -	—	—	1,220	—	1,220	1,220
IDS Decoration Scheme CUMBERLAND -	—	—	82	—	82	82
Totals	101,906	18,861	16,994	97,208	234,970	174,356
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	40	—	4,103	—	4,143	—
LDBF Common Fund 2022 -	—	—	—	—	—	1,133
Overpayment to P -	—	—	—	—	—	9,835
LDBF Common Fund 2022 Overpayment	—	—	—	—	—	9,835
Totals	40	—	4,103	—	4,143	10,968
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	6,303	—	6,303	1,275
Totals	—	—	6,303	—	6,303	1,275
Grand total	103,008	18,861	14,793	317,067	453,731	406,032

Analysis of receipts and payments 2024

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024	2023
RECEIPTS						
Donations and legacies						
0101 - Gift Aid Collections Bank/Envelopes	10,097	-	-	-	10,097	11,703
0201 - Non Gift Aid Collections	3,342	-	-	-	3,342	3,159
0301 - Loose Plate Collections	10,393	-	-	-	10,393	7,728
0410 - Votive Lights/Church Boxes	235	-	-	-	235	183
0550 - Donations appeals etc	9,611	91	1,000	-	10,703	6,502
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	5,920	-	-	-	5,920	4,563
0701 - Legacies	613	-	10,000	-	10,613	60,000
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	-	-	600	-	600	2,154
0901 - Other funds generated	4,254	-	-	-	4,254	2,855
Donations and legacies Totals	44,468	91	11,600	-	56,160	98,851
Income from charitable activities						
0902 - Heating Weddings&Funerals	3,758	-	-	-	3,758	1,480
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	8,112	-	-	-	8,112	4,683
1210 - Food Sales Melting Pot	-	18,773	-	-	18,773	8,964
1230 - Parish Centre - Hire of Hall	40	800	-	-	840	30
Income from charitable activities Totals	11,910	19,573	-	-	31,483	15,157
Other trading activities						
1230 - Parish Centre Hire	-	13,600	-	-	13,600	8,260
Other trading activities Totals	-	13,600	-	-	13,600	8,260
Investments						
1001 - Dividends	3,230	-	-	-	3,230	3,142
1020 - Bank and building society interest	231	4	81	-	318	131
1230 - Rent from lands or buildings&Melting Pot	60	400	-	-	460	320
Investments Totals	3,522	404	81	-	4,008	3,593
Other income						
1310 - Insurance claims	36,127	-	-	-	36,127	54,373
Other income Totals	36,127	-	-	-	36,127	54,373
Receipts Grand totals	96,028	33,670	11,681	-	141,380	180,235
PAYMENTS						
Raising funds						
1720 - Costs of stewardship campaign	89	-	-	-	89	-
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	-	-	-	-	-	305
1740 - Bank Charges	-	50	-	-	50	166
Raising funds Totals	89	50	-	-	140	471
Expenditure on charitable activities						
1801 - Giving to missionary societies	-	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
1910 - LDBF Common Fund	28,819	-	-	-	28,819	18,410
2001 - Salaries	-	11,632	-	-	11,632	4,515
2201 - Mission and Evangelism Costs	(241)	-	50	-	(190)	333
2301 - Church running insurance	10,956	-	-	-	10,956	9,277
2310 - Church office - telephone	390	-	-	-	390	710
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	285	-	-	-	285	626
2330 - Church maintenance	7,770	-	3,219	-	10,990	5,179
2331 - Cleaning	-	716	-	-	716	2,002
2340 - Upkeep of services	280	142	-	-	423	286
2350 - Upkeep of Church Yard	4,181	-	1,268	-	5,450	600
2360 - Administration	6,532	10	-	-	6,542	2,591
2361 - Parish Expenses	78	-	-	-	78	128
2401 - Church running - electric - Inactive 2024	-	-	-	-	-	3,136

2410 - Church running - gas - Inactive 2024	-	-	-	-	-	8,783
2420 - Church running - water	223	-	-	-	223	-
2440 - Heating & Lighting	19,022	-	-	-	19,022	74
2518 - Jacobs Well - Non Food Items	-	161	-	-	161	161
2519 - Melting Pot Supplies	-	5,731	-	-	5,731	4,748
2590 - Parish Centre - Heating and Lighting	-	1,888	-	-	1,888	1,822
2602 - Licences & Subscriptions	138	-	-	-	138	403
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	30,776	-	-	-	30,776	57,186
2710 - Church major repairs - installation	1,667	-	-	-	1,667	-
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	110,882	20,283	5,539	-	136,704	120,977
Other expenditure						
2310 - Church office - telephone	199	-	-	-	199	-
2330 - Church Maintenance	480	-	-	-	480	-
2333 - Cleaning	120	104	-	-	224	210
2360 - Administration	1,096	-	-	-	1,096	10
2540 - Parish Centre - Gas	-	-	-	-	-	791
2550 - Parish Centre - Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	335
2560 - Parish Centre - Maintenance	-	2,490	-	-	2,490	2,134
2570 - Parish Centre - telephone	-	799	-	-	799	2,327
2580 - Parish Centre - water	-	(596)	-	-	(596)	1,631
Other expenditure Totals	1,895	2,799	-	-	4,695	7,442
Payments Grand totals	112,867	23,133	5,539	-	141,540	128,891

Fund movement by type 2024

Fund	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Journals	Closing
AV Upgrade							
Restricted	-	1,000	115	-	-	-	884
Sub-totals	-	1,000	115	-	-	-	884
Belfry							
Restricted	125	-	210	-	-	-	(85)
Sub-totals	125	-	210	-	-	-	(85)
Building							
Designated	1,962	-	-	-	-	-	1,962
Sub-totals	1,962	-	-	-	-	-	1,962
Choir							
Designated	21	-	-	-	-	-	21
Sub-totals	21	-	-	-	-	-	21
Christmas							
Restricted	3,353	-	1,000	-	-	-	2,353
Sub-totals	3,353	-	1,000	-	-	-	2,353
Curate							
Endowment	97,208	-	-	-	2,863	-	100,071
Sub-totals	97,208	-	-	-	2,863	-	100,071
Decoration							
Restricted	1,303	-	-	-	-	-	1,303
Sub-totals	1,303	-	-	-	-	-	1,303
Fair							
Restricted	206	-	-	-	-	-	206
Sub-totals	206	-	-	-	-	-	206
Families							
Restricted	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Sub-totals	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Flower							
Designated	449	-	142	-	-	-	306
Sub-totals	449	-	142	-	-	-	306
Flowers							
Designated	-	800	116	-	-	-	683
Sub-totals	-	800	116	-	-	-	683
Harvest Lunch							
Restricted	-	600	-	-	-	-	600
Sub-totals	-	600	-	-	-	-	600
Jacobs Well							
Designated	11,499	19,270	18,186	-	-	-	12,583
Sub-totals	11,499	19,270	18,186	-	-	-	12,583
Lighting							

Restricted	1,447	-	2,893	-	-	-	(1,447)
Sub-totals	1,447	-	2,893	-	-	-	(1,447)
Mission							
Restricted	2,037	-	50	-	-	-	1,986
Sub-totals	2,037	-	50	-	-	-	1,986
PCentre							
Designated	4,928	13,600	4,687	-	-	-	13,841
Sub-totals	4,928	13,600	4,687	-	-	-	13,841
PCentreBuilding							
Endowment	219,859	-	-	-	10,384	-	230,243
Sub-totals	219,859	-	-	-	10,384	-	230,243
Project							
Restricted	500	-	-	-	-	-	500
Sub-totals	500	-	-	-	-	-	500
SoftPlay							
Restricted	1,268	-	1,268	-	-	-	-
Sub-totals	1,268	-	1,268	-	-	-	-
St Chads							
Restricted	163	-	-	-	-	-	163
Sub-totals	163	-	-	-	-	-	163
Walford							
Restricted	2,059	81	-	-	-	-	2,141
Sub-totals	2,059	81	-	-	-	-	2,141
Warmth							
Restricted	1,831	-	-	(1,000)	-	-	831
Sub-totals	1,831	-	-	(1,000)	-	-	831
Welcome							
Restricted	495	-	-	-	-	-	495
Sub-totals	495	-	-	-	-	-	495
General							
Unrestricted	103,008	96,028	112,867	1,000	-	-	87,169
Sub-totals	103,008	96,028	112,867	1,000	-	-	87,169
Totals	453,731	141,380	141,540	-	13,247	-	466,818

Fund movement by type 2023

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gain/loss	Closing
Belfry - Belfry						
Restricted	125	—	—	—	—	125
Sub-total for Belfry	125	—	—	—	—	125
Building - Building Fund						
Designated	1,962	—	—	—	—	1,962
Sub-total for Building	1,962	—	—	—	—	1,962
Choir - St Leonard's Choir						
Designated	21	—	—	—	—	21
Sub-total for Choir	21	—	—	—	—	21
Christmas - Christmas Festival						
Restricted	2,500	853	—	—	—	3,353
Sub-total for Christmas	2,500	853	—	—	—	3,353
Curate - Sale Of Curate House						
Endowment	91,019	—	—	—	6,189	97,208
Sub-total for Curate	91,019	—	—	—	6,189	97,208
Decor - Decoration Scheme						
Restricted	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Sub-total for Decor	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Fair - Summer Fair Parish C						
Restricted	206	—	—	—	—	206
Sub-total for Fair	206	—	—	—	—	206
Flower - Flower Fund						
Designated	449	—	—	—	—	449
Sub-total for Flower	449	—	—	—	—	449
Flowers - Flowers Fund						
Designated	186	—	948	762	—	—
Sub-total for Flowers	186	—	948	762	—	—
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	61,731	161,155	107,702	(3,762)	—	103,008
Sub-total for General	61,731	161,155	107,702	(3,762)	—	103,008
Lighting - Lighting At St Leona						
Restricted	1,447	—	—	—	—	1,447
Sub-total for Lighting	1,447	—	—	—	—	1,447
Manager - Manager Post						
Restricted	1,200	—	—	(1,200)	—	—
Sub-total for Manager	1,200	—	—	(1,200)	—	—
Melting Po - Melting Pot						
Designated	10,178	9,239	10,456	2,538	—	11,499
Restricted	1,593	—	254	(1,338)	—	—
Sub-total for Melting Po	11,771	9,239	10,711	1,200	—	11,499

Mission - Mission Work At St C						
Restricted	1,633	500	96	—	—	2,037
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Mission	1,633	500	96	—	—	2,037
PCentre - Parish Centre						
Designated	2,933	8,260	9,264	3,000	—	4,928
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for PCentre	2,933	8,260	9,264	3,000	—	4,928
PCentreBui - Parish Centre Buildi						
Endowment	219,859	—	—	—	—	219,859
Sub-total for PCentreBui	219,859	—	—	—	—	219,859
Project - Kitchen/Vestry/Toile						
Restricted	500	—	—	—	—	500
Sub-total for Project	500	—	—	—	—	500
SoftPlay - Soft Play Area						
Restricted	1,268	—	—	—	—	1,268
Sub-total for SoftPlay	1,268	—	—	—	—	1,268
St Chads - St Chads Fund						
Restricted	—	163	—	—	—	163
Sub-total for St Chads	—	163	—	—	—	163
Walford - Walford Legacy						
Restricted	1,995	63	—	—	—	2,059
Sub-total for Walford	1,995	63	—	—	—	2,059
Warmth - Places Of Warmth						
Restricted	2,000	—	168	—	—	1,831
Sub-total for Warmth	2,000	—	168	—	—	1,831
Welcome - Places Of Welcome						
Restricted	495	—	—	—	—	495
Sub-total for Welcome	495	—	—	—	—	495
Grand total	404,611	180,235	128,891	—	6,189	453,731

Staff Costs

	2024	2023
Wages & Salaries	£21,217	£4,590
Social Security costs	£0.00	£0.00
Average number of Employees	2	2

During the year the PCC employed two Café assistants in Jacobs Well [both part-time] and none of the payments were large enough to attract social security costs. One of the employees resigned on 13.12.24. One of the employees subsequently increased their hours to 20 hours per week. [Their contracts began 1 August 2023].

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the previous or current year.

The PCC uses the National Employment Savings Trust [Nest] via the Diocesan Payroll Scheme, for its pension payments. However, no pension payments are being made as neither employee qualifies automatically.

Trustees' Remuneration & Expenses

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the PCC

No Trustee was paid expenses in 2024 [£199] for travel and subsistence

Related Parties

No other expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

Donations from related parties [9 PCC members] totalled £5,310 2024 [£5,192 2023]

Fees for the examination of the accounts

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent Examiner's fees	150	150
Other fees: Bookkeeping: St Chad	160	Nil
Other fees: Bookkeeping: St Leonard's	450	Nil
Other fees: Bookkeeping: St Mary's	210	Nil
Other fees: Bookkeeping: Parish	130	620
Total	1,100	770

Analysis of Transfer between Funds 2024

Debit	Credit	Description	Fund	Fund Type
-	1,000.00	Tfr from Places of Warmth to General - to help with heating costs as per letter from D Woodberry dated 09/04/2024	Warmth	Res
1,000.00	-	Tfr from Places of Warmth to General - to help with heating costs as per letter from D Woodberry dated 09/04/2024	General	Unr

Analysis of Transfer between Funds 2023

	Debit	Credit	Description	Fund	
	2,000.00	—	Per 40461474	P Centre	Des
	—	2,000.00	To 30027537	General	Unr
	—	1,000.00	Tfr from General to Parish Centre KB tidy up	General	Unr
	1,000.00	—	Tfr from General to Parish Centre KB tidy up	P Centre	Des
	—	762.08	Tfr from General to Flowers to bring to nil	General	Unr
	762.08	—	Tfr from General to Flowers to bring to nil	Flowers	Des
	593.62	—	Tfr from Melting pot des to General KB tidy up	General	Unr
	—	838.56	Tfr from Melting Pot restricted to designated to close fund	Melting Po	Res
	—	593.62	Tfr from Melting pot des to General KB tidy up	Melting Po	Des
	1,200.00	—	Tfr from Managers post to Melting Pot Designated as salaries paid Aug/Sept/Oct/Nov totalling £3,677.24	Melting Po	Des
	838.56	—	Tfr from Melting Pot restricted to designated to close fund	Melting Po	Des
	—	1,200.00	Tfr from Managers post to Melting Pot Designated as salaries paid Aug/Sept/Oct/Nov totalling £3,677.24	Manager	Res
	—	593.62	Tfr from General to Melting Pot KB tidy up	General	Unr
	—	500.00	Tfr from Melting pot restricted to designated KB tidy up	Melting Po	Res
	593.62	—	Tfr from General to Melting Pot KB tidy up	Melting Po	Des
	500.00	—	Tfr from Melting pot restricted to designated KB tidy up	Melting Po	Des

Fixed Assets

	Freehold Buildings £	Church Equipment £	Total Assets
Cost or Valuation			
As at 1 Jan	219,860	1,061	220,921
Additions in the Year	-	1,115	1,115
Disposal in the Year	-	-	-
Revaluation [if any]	10,384	-	10,384
Value at 31 Dec	230,244	2,176	226,162

a) Tangible Fixed Assets

Accumulated Depreciation		219,860	1,061	232,420
As at 1 Jan		-	-	-
Charge for the Year		-	530	530
Disposals		-	-	-
Value at 31 Dec		219,860	531	220,391
Net Book Value at 1 Jan 2024		219,860	1,061	214,663
Net Book Value at 31 Dec 2024		230,244	1,646	231,890

Freehold Buildings

Parish Centre: £230,243 2024 [£219,859 2023] – The Parish Church Centre is revalued at 31 December annually using Nationwide house price calculator referred to on page 27

Stow Lawn Land: £1.00 – a nominal figure the land has not been formally valued

2 X Inspiron computers purchased in 2022 depreciation 50% per annum

1 X Inspiron computer purchased in 2024 depreciation 50% per annum

b) Fixed Asset Investments

	At 1 Jan £	Additions £	Disposals £	Transfers £	Change in Market Value	At 31 Dec £
Endowment Fund						
Investments	97,208	-	-	-	2,863	100,071
Total	97,208	-	-	-	2,863	100,071

CCLA (CBF) Lichfield CB3008402 TN733 – £27,161 2024 [£25,561 2023]

CCLA (CBF) Lichfield CB3008420 TN733 - £21,837 2024 [£21,717 2023]

CCLA (CBF) Lichfield CB3008477 TN733 - £51,072 2024 [£49,929 2023]

Summary of Assets by Fund 2024

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024	2023
Restricted - AV Upgrade	-	-	884	-	884	-
Restricted - Belfry	-	-	(85)	-	(85)	125
Designated - Building	-	1,962	-	-	1,962	1,962
Designated - Choir	-	21	-	-	21	21
Restricted - Christmas	-	-	2,353	-	2,353	3,353
Endowment - Curate	-	-	-	100,071	100,071	97,208
Restricted - Decor	-	-	1,303	-	1,303	1,303
Restricted - Fair	-	-	206	-	206	206
Restricted - Families	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Designated - Flower	-	306	-	-	306	449
Designated - Flowers	-	683	-	-	683	-
Unrestricted - General	87,169	-	-	-	87,169	103,008

Restricted - Harvest Lunch	-	-	600	-	600	-
Designated - Jacobs Well	-	12,583	-	-	12,583	11,499
Restricted - Lighting	-	-	(1,447)	-	(1,447)	1,447
Restricted - Mission	-	-	1,986	-	1,986	2,037
Designated - PCentre	-	13,841	-	-	13,841	4,928
Endowment - PCentreBuilding	-	-	-	230,243	230,243	219,859
Restricted - Project	-	-	500	-	500	500
Restricted - SoftPlay	-	-	-	-	-	1,268
Restricted - St Chads	-	-	163	-	163	163
Restricted - Walford	-	-	2,141	-	2,141	2,059
Restricted - Warmth	-	-	831	-	831	1,831
Restricted - Welcome	-	-	495	-	495	495
Total	87,169	29,398	19,936	330,314	466,818	453,731

Summary of Assets by Fund 2023

Unrestricted						
General fund		103,008	—	—	103,008	61,731
Designated						
Building Fund		1,962	—	—	1,962	1,962
Flower Fund		449	—	—	449	449
Flowers Fund		—	—	—	—	186
Melting Pot		11,499	—	—	11,499	10,178
Parish Centre		4,928	—	—	4,928	2,933
St Leonard's Choir		21	—	—	21	21
Restricted						
Agency collection		—	—	—	—	1,421
Belfry		—	125	—	125	125
Christmas Festival		—	3,353	—	3,353	2,500
Decoration Scheme		—	1,303	—	1,303	1,303
Kitchen/Vestry/Toilets		—	500	—	500	500
Lighting At St Leonards		—	1,447	—	1,447	1,447
Manager Post		—	—	—	—	1,200
Melting Pot		—	—	—	—	1,593
Mission Work At St Chads		—	2,037	—	2,037	1,633
Places Of Warmth		—	1,831	—	1,831	2,000
Places Of Welcome		—	495	—	495	495
Soft Play Area		—	1,268	—	1,268	1,268
St Chads Fund		—	163	—	163	—
Summer Fair Parish Centre grant from Bussey		—	206	—	206	206
Walford Legacy		—	2,059	—	2,059	1,995
Endowment						
Parish Centre Building		—	—	219,859	219,859	219,859
Sale Of Curate House TN733		—	—	97,208	97,208	91,019
Total		121,867	14,787	317,067	453,721	406,024

Receipts & Payments Comparatives

Previous Year 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Receipts:					
Donations and legacies	97,333	1,517	—	98,851	98,595
Receipts from charitable activities	15,157	—	—	15,157	13,823
Other trading activities	8,260	—	—	8,260	9,231
Investments	3,530	63	—	3,593	1,337
Other receipts	54,373	—	—	54,373	1,617
Total receipts	178,654	1,581	—	180,235	124,605
Payments:					
Raising funds	454	17	—	471	1,067
Payments on charitable activities	118,653	501	—	119,155	74,493
Other payments	9,264	—	—	9,264	9,600
Total payments	128,372	519	—	128,891	85,161
Net receipts / (payments) resources before transfer	50,282	1,062	—	51,344	39,443
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	7,487	—	—	7,487	316,491
Gross transfers between funds - out	(4,949)	(2,538)	—	(7,487)	(316,491)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	6,189	6,189	(12,796)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	(8,413)	(1,421)	—	(9,835)	12,723
Net movement in funds	44,406	(2,897)	6,189	47,698	39,370
Total funds brought forward	77,463	17,691	310,878	406,032	366,662
Total funds carried forward	121,870	14,793	317,067	453,731	406,032

Accounts

<Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston

For the year ended 31st December 2023

Registered Charity Number 1138955

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2023

Charity registration number 1138955

Objectives and Activities

The Parochial Church Council of Bilston (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Acting incumbent, the Reverend Simon Skidmore, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also spiritually responsible for the maintenance of the church

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at all of our three Churches – St Leonards, St Chads and St Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament. Also, through non-sacramental activities of hospitality and fellowship we aim to reach non churched members of the community.

Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Bilston, it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers; and
- Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Vision Statement

"We, the congregations of Bilston Parish, seek to grow as the family of God and the people of God."

Mission Statement

"We are committed to serving God and our community to the very best of our ability day by day".

Mission Action Plan (MAP)

Discipleship

What we are doing now:

- Weekly Sunday worship in all 3 churches.
- A variety of types of worship across the parish.
- Use of Clergy and Readers across all churches.
- 2 weekly Bible Studies with prayer.
- Celebration of Patronal Services across the parish.
- Special celebrations at Christmas/Easter/Harvest.
- Services in Bushfield Court, The Elms and Glenthorne House.
- Sunday School in 2 of our churches.
- Confirmation Group
- Fresh Expression once a month (Fusion@4)
- Developing the preparation and follow-up of Baptism and Wedding families.
- We join a monthly prayer meeting with Churches Together.

What was planned for the 12-month period:

- Develop a Youth program for the parish following the confirmation group.
- To start a regular time for prayer - either morning/evening office or a prayer meeting with a virtual option.
- Develop confidence in prayer across all congregations with training offered.
- Grow and encourage bible study within the parish.
- Local prayer walks.
- Develop an entry-level Bible Study Group.
- Rebuilding regular fellowship.
- Restart Inspire Praise.

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

- Develop a flourishing and sustainable parish youth group.
- Develop a prayer diary that the whole parish can use confidently.
- Baptism and Wedding families attending regular worship.
- Parish teaching weekends – develop a culture of learning.
- Create a Bilston Daily Prayer Facebook page.
- Establishing more daily reading material networking.

Evangelism

What we are doing now:

- Wedding, Baptism and Funeral ministry.
- Jacob's Well Café which enables St Leonard's to be open 7 days per week.
- The Parish Centre at St Chad's providing community space.
- Monthly Memorial services following large number of funerals in the Parish.
- Special services encouraging schools and community to take part – Christingle, Remembrance, Crib, Reclaiming Christmas, Midnight communions, Harvest, Patronals etc.
- Parish social events including fund raisers and fetes etc.
- Work within schools – Bilston CoFE, Green Park, Villiers Primary, Tip-Top Nursery.
- Monthly Services in Care homes - The Elm's, Bushfield Court, Glenthorne House.
- Toddler group at St Chad's.
- Places of Welcome.
- Fresh Expression once a month on a Saturday.

- Heavily involved with Churches Together at Christmas, Easter & Summer.
- Develop and refresh memorial service and funeral follow-up.
- Develop a daytime bible study group.
- St Mary's is actively working with the community.

What was planned for the 12 month period:

- A regular Parish Seeker Course with a team.
- St Mary's is seeking to develop more outreach through events, social media and contact with the community.
- Café in St Leonard's to be open 5 days per week.
- St Chad's - More leafleting the estate with events going on.

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

- Develop the evening service at St Leonard's.
- Establish a team equipped to lead Seeker courses.
- Mission weekends within the parish.
- Develop a Café Church.
- Develop a Youth Choir.
- Having more outside presence e.g. evangelizing tent.

Vocation

What we are doing now:

- Encourage active participation in services and general church activities.
- Develop the ministry of Lay Readers with regular leading of worship.
- Offer regular bible study and prayer.
- Encourage Confirmation and ongoing study.
- Encouraging Ordinands/ vicars in training to develop.
- Encouraging after service hospitality at all services.
- Developed a Parish Pastoral Team.

What was planned for the 12-month period:

- Encourage on-going Stewardship.
- Help people identify their own ministry.
- Train a Curate.

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

- Plan for the future of the PCC by encouraging the interest of younger people and those more recent members of congregations.
- Encourage and enable people to 'own' a ministry.
- Develop a youth service led by enabled young people.
- Encourage and enable the congregations to consider the future of each of the churches/services within the parish.
- Seek to establish more ordained ministry in the Parish.

Since July 2022, The Parish has reduced its number of clergy to one full-time stipendiary post. This has resulted in the loss of the "Team Vicar" post. The hope with one incumbent in the Parish is to further increase co-operation and commitment over the congregations to each other but this is of course subject to the formally appointed incumbent in the Parish under the current vacancy. The Parish is about to embark on a full vacancy process without an incumbent or equivalent by the end of April 2024.

Achievements and Performance

- We have been able to establish a consistent pattern of services including changes to service times, in order to cover all our Sunday and mid-week services with 1 member of clergy and 2 exceptional Lay-Readers following the reduction of members in the team.
- We were able to maintain pastoral care and contact with members of our churches through the establishment of a Pastoral Care Team who now takes Home Communion and regular visits to those who are housebound.
- The Bible study groups continue to grow in number.
- We were able to hold several school services and events in St Leonard's church and have developed our links with our local schools. including Bilston CofE Primary, Villiers Primary, Stowlawn Primary, Loxdale Primary, Field View Primary and Green Park Special School.
- We have established a regular Young People's group to encourage the younger people in the churches.
- St Leonard's café - Jacob's Well has now employed 2 café assistants and is now open 6 days a week through the help and support of volunteers.
- The Parish of Bilston, through the Parish Centre at St Chad's has entered into a lease agreement with TipTop Nursery and have developed greater links with the community.
- The Parish surgeries have had a steady increase of Baptism and Wedding bookings.
- We have maintained and developed Baptism preparation and continue to offer Saturday mornings to help facilitate this ministry.
- St Mary's have launched a Community Kitchen which is growing and bringing new people to the church.
- St Leonard's have launched a Lunch Club as part of Warm Places to support those more isolated or alone.
- St Chad's launched 'Places of Welcome' and was included in the Express and Star article as the latest one to be open in the area.

Our Normal Pattern of worship in 2023.

Sundays

St Leonard's Church

- 10:30am - Holy Communion (Common Worship) (2nd Sunday of the month).
- Family Communion Service (Common Worship) (4th Sunday of the month).
- Service of the Word -(1st & 3rd Sunday of the month).
5:00pm - Evensong (1st, 2nd and 3rd 4th Sunday of the month).
- Memorial Service (4 times a year)

Wednesdays

10:30am - Shoppers Communion

Occasional Saturdays

6:00pm - Inspire Praise - outreach services.

St Mary's Church

- 9.30am - Holy Communion (Common Worship) (1st & 3rd Sunday of the month)
- Service of the Word/Morning Prayer (2nd & 4th Sunday of the month)

St Chad's Church

11:00am - Holy Communion (Common Worship) (1st Sunday of the Month).

- Family Communion Service (Common Worship) (3rd Sunday of the month).

- Service of the Word (2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month).

2nd Saturday of the Month.

4:00pm - Fusion @ 4 - Fresh Expression Service.

Other Services and events.

Weekly Bibles studies at St Leonard's and St Chads

We regularly visit Bushfield Court Nursing Home, Mill House and Glenthorne House to do a monthly service and for special events such as Easter, Christmas and Remembrance Day.

Wave of Light Service - October - in St Chad's as part of Baby-loss awareness week.

School Services for Easter, Christmas, Harvest and end of year, in St Leonard's for Bilston CofE and Villiers Primary Schools.

St Leonard's have had visits from Jumping Jo's Nursery, Bilston CofE Primary School, Villiers Primary School, Green Park School, Field View Primary School.

Baptism, weddings and funerals policies

Baptisms take place on the 2nd Sunday and 4th Sunday of the month at St Leonard's, during the main Sunday service and with prior arrangement at St Mary's and St Chad's, baptism will take place in the main Sunday service. Baptism families are required to attend a church service prior to the baptism a minimum of 3 times. Baptism families and godparents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session on a Saturday morning or Monday evening that now include a Baptism Rehearsal. Baptisms are now being filtered in order to cope with demand and enable mission. This means if those who seek baptism outside of our Parish will need to consult the incumbent or equivalent authority of their own parish where they live before seeking baptism in Bilston. It is offered freely once all the expectations are met and we seek those who are baptized to become members of our churches.

All who live within the parish are welcome to get married at the church of their choice. Those who do not live within the ecclesiastical parish must meet the criteria for a qualifying connection. We have adhered to the new marriage legislation that has changed the registration of marriages. All Marriages will be registered with the Local Registry Office in Wolverhampton and any copy of marriage certificates can only be obtained from the same authority.

Baptism and Marriage enquiries/bookings are made on Monday evenings 6pm-7pm & Saturday morning 10am-11am in St Leonard's church for the whole parish.

All who live or die in the parish are entitled to a funeral service and burial/interment of ashes. Bookings are made and confirmed through the Parish Funeral Co-ordinator along with the incumbent (or equivalent) who will then distribute the request of a funeral service to an appropriate minister. To help with demand, we have and continue to seek support from colleagues in neighbouring parishes for the number of funerals we do have in the parish.

Mission activities through community events

1. Churches Together - Good Friday March of Witness, Hope in the Park, Carols in the Town Service.
2. 'Jacob's Well' Café now has 2 employed café assistants and church volunteers in order to bring it under the ministry of the church. It is open on a Monday to Saturday. It also has a Lunch club for those who are lonely or seeking friendships/fellowship on a Wednesday every week
3. St Mary's church has launched a Community Kitchen on a Wednesday once a fortnight to encourage greater engagement with the community. St Mary's graveyard maintenance team also encourage great engagement with the community.
4. The Parish continues to offer support to our local care and nursing homes. We are still active in 'Mill House' "Glenthorne House" and 'Bushfield Nursing home', providing a church service and pastoral care.
5. St Chad's offers a Toddler Group on a Monday Morning for families on the estate. 'Places of Welcome' in St Chads now takes place on a Thursday morning. St Chad's are now a collection point for 'The Well' Foodbank in Wolverhampton and also 'Coats for Kids.' St Chad's continues to support 'Leprosy Mission' and "Operation Christmas Child."
6. St Leonard's hosts a craft club group on a Thursday and a slimming class on a Friday and both groups continue to meet. St Leonard's has a young people group that meet during term time on a Tuesday evening.
7. The Parish of Bilston, with Bilston British Legion, helped in the planning and organising of the Civic Remembrance Sunday Service in Bilston and continues to have strong links with the legion.
8. The Parish has held several social events over the year. At Christmas, St Leonard's, in partnership with the Bilston & Willenhall Lions Club, organised the Christmas Tree festival and we had several trees from local community groups, schools, businesses and organisations. The Christmas Tree festival coincided with the light switch on in the town. St Leonard's hosted the annual memorial service for a local funeral director and as a Parish, joined in with the Carols in the town, supported by Churches Together and the Lanesfield Brass Band.
9. The Parish of Bilston is very active in our local schools. We support assemblies in our own church school - Bilston Church of England Primary, Green Park Special School, Villiers Primary School, Stowlawn Primary and Field View Primary Schools.

Parish Mission Priest (Team Vicar/Acting Team Rector's) Report

In February 2018, just over 6 years ago, I came as a Parish Mission Priest of Bilston, seeking to establish and develop the outreach, evangelism and mission of the Parish as part of a Team ministry including the Team Rector, self-supporting minister and 4 Lay-readers. It is incredible to see the amount of change that has happened in the Parish over this period of time, especially over the last 12 months. I mentioned in my report last year about the increasing demands that are still expected from each church on the role of a single incumbent. They still remain too high as I complete a 3rd year in the Acting Team Rector role. Further changes need to be made in order for the Parish to have a sustainable and productive vicar who won't face burnout and is supported in the ministry they are called to serve.

It is with great sadness and after much prayer and consultation, that this is my final report for the Parish of Bilston as Kim, the children and I will be leaving at the end of March and taking up the post of Incumbent at St Mary's Halton in the Diocese of Chester. It will be very hard to leave Bilston as my heart has been in the Black Country and with the great potential to see the reaping of the harvest field of God's Kingdom in this place, however, the Lord has called us to serve him in new pastures.

Even though the Parish Mission Priest role was made redundant, I still and have always wanted to seek to fulfil my initial appointment, to seek the growth in our churches, to have a heart for evangelism and mission, to pray for new disciples to come to repentance and faith in Jesus and to grow a deeper love for God's Word as we seek to serve him through all our churches in Bilston even though I have seen this becoming a lesser priority in the Parish.

Buildings and Personnel.

All our churches in the Parish are due for their quinquennial in 2024 and there have been some significant work taking place to make sure our buildings are safe, secure and fit for purpose. The details for each churches building work and needs can be found in the district wardens reports. I would like to thank Mark Bircher as Parish Warden for his support to all 3 churches in the Parish, especially with the work in maintaining the utility companies, help with financial management and additional support he has given to the other churches in the Parish. It grieves me to write about the tragic loss of John Arnold who passed away in post as Parish Warden last year. John was a loyal servant to the Parish, to St Chad's and a real friend to me. We send our thoughts and prayers to Pat and the family in their grief.

I would also like to thank Kim Benton who has done a magnificent job with the finances of the parish and who has been a great support to me over the years with St Chad's, the Parish Centre, the Curates House and the Parish as a whole.

St Chad's

St Chad's still has the same troubles with its building as reported last year. Following John's passing, most of the work we hoped would be completed are still outstanding. The nave floor is still a concern and new quotes are being sourced in order to make the church safer and more comfortable. St Chad's has spent money on its kitchen through the repairs of its water boiler and with additional plug sockets in order to operate the appliances. A dedicated COSHH cupboard has now been created in the church. There is now a greater concern with the ceiling by the bell as it is noticeable that birds are now getting into the church through the hole which seems to be getting bigger. This is a problem that will need to be addressed in 2024. St Chad's has had a serious clear out of things in order to reduce the amount of junk that has been stored in the church over the years. The church has had a cleaning company come regularly and this has been a real help to keep on top of the maintenance. St Chad's has also invested in a garden Company to regular maintain the grounds and this has been a great help to keep the church looking welcoming and aesthetically pleasing. I would like to thank Alison Spencer as church wardens for the way she has stepped up in supporting the church following John's death and for her dedication to pick up some of the outstanding work on the church. I would also like to thank Diane Woodberry for her help and support as lay-reader and as deputy warden, in conducting Service of The Word services, Family services, support with Fusion@4's and the work with Places of Welcome and the Pastoral Team. I'm very grateful for the work that you have all done as St Chad's couldn't function without it.

St Mary's

St Mary's building needs are still ongoing. The fallen plaster in the chancel area is still on-going due to funds and there are still many cracks in the plaster work. There has been a fall of plaster above the external North-East door and this work has been delayed due to funds. St Mary's have had work done to its electrics and to its boiler over the year. The graveyard continues to be maintained by a willing group of local volunteers and my gratitude to them for how pristine the grounds are kept throughout the year. I would like to thank Eber Carter and Christine Mills as church wardens for their ongoing hard work and dedication in the maintenance of St Mary's. I was delighted to hear about the establishment of the Community Kitchen in St Mary's that takes place once a fortnight and how this initiative is growing. I hope and pray this will help the church with its outreach and mission and with the potential link with Bushfield Court. I'm also very thankful to Rev Kate Watson, Rev Ben Whitmore and Rev Foluso Adedipe for your support in service cover and pastoral ministry to St Mary's over the year too.

St Leonard's

St Leonard's work in the chancel was undertaken between August 2023 and completed in February 2024 and required major scaffolding covering the east window and chancel area. This work resulted in regular services being conducted in the chapel area and relocating funerals to St Mary's as the church was very much like a construction zone. All the repairs were completed and repainted. The Communion rail has also been reconditioned and ready for use again. The falling render from the parapet wall is still work that is ongoing. The paint on the outside of the church continues to peel away. The chapel area was dedicated by the Bishop of Wolverhampton as part of a service of thanksgiving for the work and ministry of Stowlawn Church. St Leonard's graveyard has had a major grave collapse with another one that looks very unsafe. The responsibility is with Wolverhampton Council Environmental and Bereavement services and we hope this grave is filled in soon. The meeting area at the back of St Leonard's continues to be a hive of activity every day of the week with the regular opening of Jacob's Well Café, Lunch Club, Craft Club, Young People's Group, Slimming Class and toddler provision at the café every week. I'm very grateful for all who have helped and supported the running of St Leonard's this year, to Mark Bircher as district warden too and especially with the chancel work, to Joyce Grocutt as vergers, for your commitment to the occasional offices and Sunday Evening services, to Phil and Jane Dooley and their hard work and dedication, Jane for Jacob's Well, children's / youth ministry and the work with the Lunch Club and the confirmation group and Phil for his support as a lay-reader with the development of the family service, service of the Word's and with the Bible Study group, to Remi Hodister for the general maintenance and work he has done in the church and collating the magazine, to Kerry Bircher for her role in safeguarding and keeping us up-to-date with DBS' and training, to Kim, Karl and all the volunteers in the Jacob's Well Café, for Maxine Gentle who edits the Parish Magazine and has been very flexible with my deadlines once again this year. I appreciate all the work you have done.

Projects

2023 was a year of waiting and watching. Following the decision of the PCC to reduce the number of clergy to a single incumbent and waiting on diocesan actions resulted in a hold of any further projects I would have liked to explore and develop relating to the MAP. The results of my ministry have been more about 'maintaining and keeping things going' rather than 'exploring and taking things forward.' The busyness of the role has sadly resulted in some projects and initiatives coming to an end. Sadly, St Chad's Game's afternoons had to stop and Soup and Study has come to an end. There was no Summer Club for the children this year and my involvement with Green Park School came to an end in November.

I can confidently say that many of the plans we hoped to do in a 12 months period for Discipleship and Evangelism have been achieved with the Bible Study groups, regular morning prayer at St Chad's on a Thursday, the development of a youth program and the young people conducting services at St Leonard's, growth in fellowship after the morning services, the regular opening of Jacob's Well Café the leafleting of the St Chad's estate for events and for St Mary's Community Kitchen, in all 3 churches will give a platform for growth in the coming years. I'm very encouraged that many of these projects are not dependent on clergy and they have been set up and run by members of the congregation/PCC/DCC's.

In terms of Vocation and to encourage others to grow in their own ministries, the Pastoral Care Team has been a great forum for this to happen. This team continue to visit many members of our Parish who cannot return to our churches for whatever reason and to be an outreach to others. The Pastoral Team help with the Care home's ministry at Glenthorne House, Bushfield Court, and due to the closure of The Elms, we are now doing services in Mill House Care Home. The Pastoral Team are now more involved in Funeral ministry with the 4 times a year Memorial Services. They are more engaged with Wedding and Baptism ministry, to assist at Parish surgeries, conducting Baptism preparation, doing regular pastoral visits to members of the congregation at home or through phone calls. They are now trained to distribute Home Communions. This team is headed up by Diane Woodberry.

Many of the other projects that have their own reports are also developing including Bible Study Groups, Fusion@4, Community Kitchen, Lunch Club, Young People's Group, Places of Welcome and Chad's Place. All these initiatives have been maintained and been set up in the last 6 years. We were humbled to do the Wave of light service again this year and to raise funds for SANDS although we had to move it to St Chad's due to the building work at St Leonard's. This service is regularly attended by a few families and this last year we were able to meet with some new people who are affected by baby loss. I pray that this ministry will continue in the future to maintain this contact.

The major part of my ministry continues to be Schools Work. I continue to visit Bilston CofE twice a week to take an Act of Worship and to work with the school's Worship Group. The school has done visits to The Well for Harvest, having their 1st school service for Year 1 Harvest at St Mary's due to the building work at St Leonard's. Bilston CofE had many classes visit St Leonard's last year as part of the R.E. work and to develop their church link. I continue to take an Assembly in Villiers Primary School every week and they still come to St Leonard's for a service at the end of each term.

St Chad's have established a fantastic relationship with Tiptop Nursery in the Parish Centre and have done Easter and Nativity activities with them over Christmas and Easter (2023). Jumping Jo's Nursery had 2 visits to St Leonard's over Christmas which they enjoyed.

My Diocesan involvement continued by serving on the Standing Committee of the Deanery Synod and my role as a Vocations Advisor. It is great to see there are potential candidates exploring ministry in our churches and to seek to encourage them in their calling.

Worship and Growth.

The patterns of worship in the Parish are more established, where each church now has a minimum of 2 Holy Communion services a month. The other services conducted are Service of the Word or Morning Prayer conducted by a lay-reader or churchwarden. This pattern has helped the Parish to be more self-sufficient. It still grieves me to not have the opportunity to lead a non-communion service/family service and this was one of the contributors regarding my future in the parish. It is still noticed that during communion, many still refuse or hesitate to receive the common cup and we hope many will have the confidence to start receiving the wine in this form into the new year.

Since the development of the chapel space in St Leonard's, the Mid-week communion has grown in number and in fellowship. This chapel space was also a vital place for Sunday worship during the building work. During the services at St Leonard's and St Chad's that I am able to, I continue to introduce new songs which I believe are being received well.

It is still encouraging to see new faces in all our churches as we still come to terms with the loss of those who have died this year. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Due to the reduction of clergy, our occasional offices have remained consistent with a good number of funerals, weddings and baptisms coming into our churches. There has been an increase in our home visits and home communions over the year and I pray the Pastoral Team will be ready to support this ministry into the coming year. This year we also marked the Coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III with many events across our churches and engaged with our local community.

This year has been the hardest in my ministry. Following my Ministry Development Review, it was mentioned that if I carry on the same for another 18 months, both my physical and mental health would be seriously affected. This warning must be heeded. By the strength and blessing of the Lord through the power of his Holy Spirit, I value his grace and the support of all those who have encouraged the ministry that I have shared with you. May the Lord continue to bless the work of our Parish as we continue to seek to serve him and our communities to the very best of our abilities.

The Future and Final Reflections

The potential for growth in Bilston is amazing, if the whole parish mutually supports and encourages each other. I can't say that my time in the Parish has been easy and that everything we have tried to do has worked out well. I can't say that I have supported everything well either, but this comes from great and unrealistic expectations. I'm aware that not everyone has supported the ministry I have shared with you and for some, the role of a Mission Priest is still something you're trying to work out. I can't say that the Parish will have all 3 churches in the future or that the Parish will remain financially stable - but one great lesson I have learned while being with you in the last 6 years is, having a great and dependant faith on Jesus. I've never been as closer to the Lord as I am now and in seeing others who have also been changed by encountering the riches of his Word, even for the first time. Kim, Jeremiah, Anna, Naomi and I will be sad to leave you in Bilston and we would value your prayers as we move into the future as we will hold you in our prayers too and I thank them for their love, patience, endurance and care.

I pray for your future incumbent to be one who has great strength, great patience and has a heart for the scriptures and teaching of the Word, one whose heart in preaching will remain truthful to the gospel, otherwise the future will look very bleak. May they carry on the work that the Lord is doing in his church and that we never drift from our primary focus in making Jesus known and to know Jesus better in how we serve him. For those who have learnt through the teaching and preaching of the word and have seen the Lord Jesus in it I echo Paul's final exhortation:

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:8-9)

May God richly bless Bilston Parish into the future.

Rev Simon Skidmore

Deanery Synod Report

2024 proved to be a year of transition for Wolverhampton Deanery Synod. At the meeting in July held at St. Matthews East Park, the Rural Dean David Wright announced that he was leaving Wolverhampton to take up a post in Malta. At the same time it was also announced that the assistant Rural Dean, Phillip Robertson was retiring.

In due course, Rev. Richard Merrick, who is the Vicar of Holy Trinity, Heathtown was appointed as Rural Dean. Other appointments were Robin Whitehouse Lay Chair, Amy Bertaut Assistant Lay Chair and Sarah Weston continuing in her role as Deanery Secretary. The first meeting under the new Rural Dean took place on 23rd November at Holy Trinity, Heathtown. Discussions in groups addressed the issue of the purpose and mission of the Deanery Synod under the headings of:

- 1) What does it mean to develop a culture of discipleship in our churches.
- 2) To encourage individuals in their calling and vocation.
- 3) To be evangelistic in our mission and ministry.
- 4) What are our priorities?
- 5) What place does the deanery play in helping to achieve the above?
- 6) What do we need in terms of resources/engagement?
- 7) How do we work together to achieve our calling to share the good news?

Phillip Dooley

Report on the proceedings of the P.C.C.

The Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) has the responsibility of cooperating with incumbent in the mission of the Church. As with all churches in the Church of England, the parish is a charitable body and therefore P.C.C. members are also trustees and hold responsibility for the financial affairs in the parish and care for buildings.

At the time of writing, the P.C.C. has met in person on 8 occasions since the last A.P.C.M. including two meetings with the Archdeacon regarding the current vacancy. There has also been one occasion when the Business by Correspondence provision was employed to address concerns regarding Parish banking arrangements.

At every P.C.C. meeting in the Parish of Bilston, a number of matters are dealt with. These matters include minutes of the previous meeting and any matters arising, the state of the buildings, the financial position, any health and safety concerns or Safeguarding issues. Additional matters are addressed as they arise. Annually, the P.C.C. must approve the contents of the annual report and accounts to be presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (A.P.C.M.). At the time of writing, that meeting is yet to take place.

In the previous year, the P.C.C. has considered the following additional matters:

The P.C.C. has monitored the progress of the children's day nursery at the Parish Centre.
The Ministry Action Plan was reviewed as were Eucharistic Licenses.

The P.C.C. agreed the employment of two Café Assistants at St. Leonard's and to support the Vocation of Jane Ratcliffe. Finally, the P.C.C. adjourned the making of a statement on the blessings of same sex marriages for further discussion. At the time of writing, no date for any meeting has been arranged.

Philip Dooley

St Leonard's District Warden Report

2023 has been a year of rebuilding in lots of ways, with a lot of work going on behind the scenes to secure a future.

In March, Bishop Clive visited us on one of his final duties before his retirement. He dedicated the chapel in the South Aisle, which contains the furniture from Stowlawn Chapel. It was a lovely service which was attended by a number of former members from Stowlawn. This chapel has been well used in the subsequent months whilst the main body of the church has been out of action.

Throughout the year we held a number of small Table Top Sale events in an attempt to get rid of some of the 'stuff' that had accumulated around the church, whilst raising a little money to boost the income. April was the first followed by one in July and another in October.

A full programme of Easter services was held and well received, including the Good Friday services in the town and in St Leonard's, and the services on Easter Sunday Morning.

At the beginning of May we said a sad farewell to Bill Turner, former churchwarden and long term member of St Leonard's. Bill had struggled with ill health for some years. We have been very pleased to welcome Barbara and their son Robert to join the Wednesday congregation.

In May we celebrated the Coronation with a fun day and BBQ, followed by a celebration service. The church was beautifully decorated with more jam jar red, white and blue arrangements. It was a lovely day and with games, quizzes and lots of crowns, the activities were enjoyed by all.

June saw us taking part in HOPE in the PARK, hard work but a great success. It was good to see more people willing to get involved this year.

In July Jacob's Well Café finally reached a point where we could advertise and interview for 20hrs of work running the café. In the event this was split between Kim Eglington and Karl Green who had spent a lot of time building up the café. On August 1st the café was finally able to open for 6 days per week, meaning that the church was once again open everyday.

August also saw the erection of the scaffold – something that has come to dominate the church for the final 5 months of the year and into 2024. With the building work beginning one or two services had to be cancelled and the rest moved to the side chapel for the rest of the year. The good news was that the insurance company – Ecclesiastical – agreed to cover 100% of the cost of the repairs which were caused by the water damage which happened during a flash flood in October 2021. As is usual when building work on an old building begins, as well as the thick layer of dust covering everything in sight, more problems arose as the plaster was removed, and further areas of the dreaded ‘dry rot’ were found alongside rotted timbers and what was thought to be solid plaster being found to be timber lath covered by plaster. All this meant that the work was going to take longer and approximately double in price, thankfully the insurance company continued to accept the costs involved.

In mid August we once again enjoyed a trip to Weston-Super-Mare with a coach full of church members and customers from the café. It was a lovely day and a great time was had by all.

In September we were very sad to hear of the passing of our dear friend Eva, who had served in the sanctuary for many years, we had more recently lost touch with her as had many of her family. Her funeral was held in church and well attended. The MacMillan Coffee morning was a successful and fitting end to September.

October brought another sad farewell as we held the funeral of Cyril Pountney, a long standing member of the church most recently the evening service. We also celebrated the Harvest Festival with the usual service and offerings, including a wonderful harvest sheaf loaf created by the young people. Unfortunately the school services were not held in St Leonard’s this year because of the building work.

St Leonard’s Patronal Festival was a little different this year with a mixture of music, readings and general celebration looking at our vision for the future of the church. There were many interesting comments added to our board with many people desiring to see a growing congregation with families and young people added to our number.

As November rolled on we determined that the Christmas Tree Festival would go ahead this year, despite the ongoing building work. A lot of hard work went into the preparation of the church and into the event itself which again proved to be a big success.

Again, in November we said farewell to another valued long-term member of the congregation in Leanna Smith. Her funeral was a moving tribute to her life and lively spirit and the contribution she made to the life of the Caribbean community in Bilston. Her infectious smile and mischievous grin will certainly be missed at St Leonard’s.

Gradually post service gathering with refreshments and lots of chatter began to return and many people have made the decision to relax and get to know each other better after services. Many in-depth conversations along with much joviality can be heard after most Sunday services.

The year ended with a return of school carol services, Reclaiming Christmas, the traditional Sunday evening carol service, Christmas dinner for 36 people at the lunch club, and a slightly adapted crib service on Christmas eve morning. The midnight communion this year was led by Foluso Adepipe with the usual high numbers but Christmas Morning service at 9.30am (a bit early for St Leonard’s folk!) was disappointingly small. However the final service of the year at 10.30am on New Year’s eve was well attended and a fitting way to say goodbye to 2023.

Various activities take place throughout the week at St Leonard’s, the café now open six days per week, funerals occurring most weeks, the parish surgery takes place on a Monday evening, Young People’s group on a Tuesday evening, ongoing midweek communion on Wednesdays followed by a bible study and a lunch club, Knit and natter group meeting every Thursday, a small slimming group continue to meet on a Friday and on Saturday Simon holds the parish surgery and Baptism preparation sessions. In addition to this, two schools visit at least 3 times per year each for large school services with smaller class or year visits in between and other schools also arranging occasional class/year visits.

One of the biggest problems of the year has been the actions of Barclays Bank, with whom we bank. On 1st November 2023 they decided (in error) to close our bank account. The first we knew about it was when one or two people who donate to the church by Standing Order began to ask why their money had been returned after payment. We then, on 7th of November got a letter from Barclays stating that they had closed our account and would be issuing a cheque for the closing balance. This caused massive problems all round with direct debits not paid out and income unable to be credited. Energy bills built up and transactions between the insurance company and the contractors have been hard to keep track of. Despite admitting fault and agreeing to reinstate the account, this was not done until 27th December! We are still trying to sort out the mess.

Financially we are fairly stable at the moment due to a large legacy last year, however our income at the moment does not cover our outgoings and currently we are facing massive gas bills due to having to keep the heating on to dry out the new plaster and paint. The gas bills for November and December were £1,400 & £1,600 respectively!

The current building work has been completed as I speak and we are looking forward to regaining full use of the church. There is further work which will need to be completed eventually and we would really love to be able to get the whole church painted inside and out in time for the Bicentenary Celebrations in 2027. This will clearly only be possible with some massive funding.

As we move forward into the future we will need to continue to rebuild not just our building but our congregations also, both physically and spiritually. That means that we have to encourage the involvement of all members of the church in the St Leonard's of tomorrow and hopefully for the next 100 years.

Our thanks this year have to go to Simon for all of his support, to Rev. Glynne Watkin for his commitment to bimonthly services and to all of those who have assisted with services and activities.

Jane Dooley & Mark Birchen

St. Mary's District Wardens Report

Over the last 2 years St Mary's has increased its congregation back to pre-Covid levels. New members have all become regular and active participants in our social events as well as regular worshippers.

We have increased and widened our communication with our community by delivering leaflets and having posters outside the Church which give times of services and dates of events. We now have our own dedicated Facebook page which is active and continually increasing engagement with the wider community.

At the beginning of last year, St Mary's DCC made the decision to start a Community Kitchen which then subsequently began in March and it has proved very successful.

We are extremely fortunate that our members are very willing to help with Church cleaning and maintenance in whatever way they can.

Our group of volunteers ensure that our grounds and Columbarium are in an immaculate condition for those wishing to visit them.

This year our social and fundraising events have included a fete and cream tea to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III in May, a Summer Fayre in August and a Coffee Morning in September to raise funds for Macmillan Care. Our Christmas fete in late November was our most successful event ever.

We have also held a Harvest lunch and a Christmas lunch which were both enjoyable occasions.

We were delighted to welcome back to St Mary's Ade and Amanda Mallins to conduct our Patronal Service in September.

Christine Mills & Elen Carter

St. Chad's District Wardens Report

Before starting this report, I would like to take time to pay respect to a fellow warden, John. John was a man who was kind, gentle and willing to help anyone, not just in St Chad's but other churches. His kindness shone through with trying, or shall I say, doing his best to get things done at St Chad's, but like most, that wasn't without difficulty, especially if people weren't replying to emails or phone calls. I often had a chat with him about the challenges but having a laugh in the meantime.

John was pleased that I had taken on the roll of warden after Pat stepped down. Little did I know this was an upward challenge. When John passed away last year everyone at St Chad's was sad to lose a kind man who had big shoes to fill. Our hearts go to Pat and the family for their loss of a husband, father and grandfather.

As you are aware, Pat stepped down as warden and I took the roll of warden. Getting to grips with my new role in a way hasn't been easy but none the less I will give it a good go, trusting in the Lord but most of all, the parishioners give support and appreciate what is going to be done.

To start with 'The Well' Foodbank did well and parishioners at St Chad's and people from Bushfield Court gave a good donations to a good cause, plus St Leonard's gave us what they had at their Harvest. Hopefully this work carries on. Thank you to all that helped.

Groups at St Chad's are small, Places of Welcome, although are small, hopefully in the new year it will grow and flourish. Of course, Chad's Place has restarted at church. Fingers crossed this will catch on with the estate and surrounding areas. Tip Top Nursery are still in the Parish Centre and they are happy and settled. With the year ahead hopefully we will get a few more groups at church.

As for the church at present times, things need to be done with St Chad's and no mean task or feast. The lighting outside of church needs doing. Flooring in the main church, hopefully carpet, will be put down enabling to keep the church a little warmer. The sound system, the roof around the bell tower both need dealing with also the COSSH Cupboard, Fire Exit at the side of the church needs urgently dealing with as brambles and plant are over grown blocking the exit so hopefully these will get done this coming year if not sooner.

St Chad's have had our fire drill and our fire safety checks are being done by the Fire Safety Team from West Midlands Fire Service to check that all is well at St Chad's.

We have had someone come and check our lightening conductor and the outcome was successful as this work was also overdue.

Well not much more to say other than I hope and pray that things go smoothly for us at St Chad's, God willing.

Alison Spencer

General Data Protection Regulation Report

As a Parish we continue to monitor the privacy of our the people who make up our congregations. If you wish the parish to hold your details which will be kept in a safe place. Please inform the GDPR officer if you no longer wish for this information to be kept and the forms will be returned for you to destroy.

May I take this opportunity to share the news that as from the APCM I will be resigning this post and may I give my successor my best wishes.

Diane Woodberry

Safeguarding of Vulnerable Children and Adults Report

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults, protecting them from abuse or maltreatment and preventing harm to their health or development. As a parish we want to ensure that the children and vulnerable adults in our community are protected and recognise the calling and duty to love and care for the vulnerable and protect all from abuse. For this reason, we have taken guidance from Lichfield diocese on how best to protect those in our community. These are the following advisories that we have followed:

1. Currently, we have a designated safeguarding team which is led by Rev. Simon Skidmore and Kerry Bircher. The role of the Safeguarding Officer is to be the named person volunteers and church members would report any disclosures or child protection concerns to. If required, the Safeguarding Officer will refer on any disclosures or child protection concerns to the appropriate organisation e.g., The Local Authority in which the vulnerable person/child lives, social services or police.
2. All parish members who may take responsibility within their church such as PCC/DCC members, church/parish wardens or those who are responsible for children or vulnerable adults as part of their role within the church MUST have a current DBS issued by the diocese which must be renewed every 3 years.
3. All parish members who may take responsibility within their church such as PCC/DCC members, church/parish wardens or those who are responsible for children or vulnerable adults as part of their role within the church MUST have completed basic awareness and foundation safeguarding training (previously C0 and C1.)

Kerry Bircher has continued to ensure all PCC/DCC members have current DBS certificates in line with our current safeguarding policy by becoming a diocesan verifier to streamline the process and avoid the need to rely on external verifiers. St Leonard's has continued to facilitate safeguarding training evenings to ensure all members can complete the training as well as have sufficient opportunity to ask questions as they arise.

Going forward into 2024, as a parish we need to be more aware of our communities and the challenges they face and take safeguarding more seriously due to the impact it can have on people's lives. We need to ensure that any concern is reported to a safeguard lead no matter how small we feel the issue is. We need to ensure that all members of the parish who are in these roles do hold a current DBS and have completed safeguarding training. It is now mandatory that any future member of PCC/DCC, church/Parish warden must complete basic awareness and foundation safeguarding training and hold a current DBS within 8 weeks of appointment.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Acting on your concerns or seeking advice is rarely a bad idea. People often question 'What if I'm wrong' but we have to ask ourselves 'what if I'm right'. We can't assume that someone else has seen what we may have seen or will pass on concerns.

Proverbs 31v 8 says 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.'

Kerry Bircher

St Leonard's Family Services - Service of the Word Report

In 2023 the Service of the Word family services have continued once per month on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

The format for the services remains adaptable to the theme of the month, a short introductory liturgy with confession followed by between two and four readings with a reflection, prayer and song or hymn for each reading.

Themes this year have included The life of John Newton, The Transfiguration, Ascension, Bearing a Grudge and part of the 'What is Church' theme amongst others.

We have continued to mix the old with the new in terms of music but our use of the screens has been curtailed by the scaffold which has been in place since the beginning of August.

Joanne, Mark and Kerry Bircher and Dale Stroyde have continued to provide musical accompaniment and lead us in song.

We all look forward to growing and developing this service further in 2024.

Phil & Jane Dooley

St Leonard's Young People's Confirmation Group Report

The Young People's group at St Leonard's has continued throughout 2023. Unfortunately 3 young people did not have the opportunity to be confirmed before family issues caused them to leave – one returning to Latvia to live!

Three of the young people who were confirmed have continued to attend the group on a regular basis with the other 2 popping in from time to time. They have been joined by a further 5 young people so the group remains at a regular 8 with a further 2 at times.

Due to the retirement of Bishop Clive in April, there has been no further confirmation opportunity in 2023. The next opportunity will be in April 2024 at St Martin's Church, Bradley.

The group continue to enjoy food together each week followed by games (board games are a current favourite) and a teaching session ending with prayers. They are all quite used to asking for prayer for a variety of people and situations including world affairs, local issues and friends and family who need prayer.

On the 5th Sunday of the month in October the young people led the morning service at St Leonard's. They chose a subject of 'FAMILY' and looked at the readings and how they tied in. They researched a quiz and chose hymns and songs together. After each activity they gave their thoughts on the subject and asked for any thoughts from the congregation. The young people chose to use the lounge area in order to do a café style service and they all encouraged their families to attend to support them. The service was a great success and they are all keen to do more services.

We have a great group of young people and are always open to others joining us.

Jane Dooley

HOPE in the Park Report

This year the planning committee for HOPE in the PARK knew that it had become such a big event that it was no longer possible to manage on the minimal budget that we have coped with for the past 15 years. Therefore we began setting out the budget and aiming to raise extra money from the outset. Several charities supported the event this year. Many thanks to Ann Reaney for seeking additional funding.

The theme of LIGHT was decided upon and Paul Wilmott was invited to join the team for the event. He went into several schools prior to the day introducing the theme and enthusing the children. A lesson plan was provided for schools with a simple mirror to make, with the message about how we can reflect the light of God to those around us through the life that we choose.

Because of the size of the event this year and the use of a portable stage, the council took a keen interest and sent round a health and safety team on the day to check that we had done everything correctly – which we passed with flying colours!

Again, attendance was probably around the 1,000 mark and the contributions from the schools was wonderful. There were lots of positive comments this year and more than one person stated that it was 'the best yet'. Planning is already well underway for this year's event on Sunday 30th June 2024.

Jane Dooley

Jacob's Well Café Report

After a short Christmas Break we reopened in January 2023, offering a warm safe friendly place for people to come in and have a bite to eat and drink and make new friends.

In March we did another Afternoon Tea for Mother's Day, it was another great turn out and everybody really enjoyed the afternoon and their food! We followed this in June with a BBQ for all the Dad's on Father's Day. In between we helped with the catering for the Coronation party in May.

July saw us celebrating a very windy black country Day, whilst the events in the rest of the town were cancelled! Faggots, Mash and paes, Gray Paes and Bearcon, Liver'n'onions, Baercon doorstops and plenty more. This was accompanied by another of our Table Top Sales so there was something for everyone.

On August the 1st two volunteers were finally employed for 10 hours a week each, Kim taking Mondays and Tuesdays and Karl taking Thursdays and Fridays, so with both also continuing to volunteer for the rest of the week we were able to open 6 Days a week, Monday – Saturday. We celebrated with tea and cake and various special offers. The Lunch Club has also continued to run every Wednesday afternoon and although numbers fluctuate a little they rarely drop below 16.

On the 9th of August we went on our 2nd Annual trip to Weston-Super-Mare, we invited our church family and customers from both the café and Lunch club. Once again a wonderful day was had by all.

A new venture to offer a play space for mums and babies on Mondays in September did not really take off, but the MacMillan Coffee morning that we hosted was a big success once again, raising nearly £200 for cancer support.

October turned into Souper October, everyone loved the homemade soup.

Once again the Christmas Tree Festival in November and December was a great success. We managed the refreshments on the opening night and raised a total of £340 in just 6 hours! Our entry in the tree competition was also well supported.

The Lunch Club Christmas Dinner was on the 22nd of December and was open to church members, lunch club regulars and regular customers. We ended up with nearly 40 people and a few take-away meals.

We had planned to open for a few days between Christmas and new year but unfortunately illness of some staff members meant that we had to cancel this and take a full week break.

Many of our customers are regular and loyal, inviting friends to come along and supporting us with small donations. We have a wide range of customers but it is generally agreed that all receive a warm welcome and definitely value for money at Jacob's Well Café. We continue to gain new customers, which is brilliant.

Jacob's Well is a ministry of the church and not a money making business. That said, financially we appear to be breaking even after paying wages and expenses, we hope to be able to reimburse the church for the cost of Gas and Electricity. We do keep the church doors open 6 days a week and a large number of people come in each week just to light a candle or say a prayer. Sometimes people need the opportunity to talk to someone or some ask if we have a bible or other literature to help them on their spiritual journey.

Here is what some of our customers have to say:

"The café is welcoming and the staff are respectful. The room is lovely and clean, you can meet new friends. I am very grateful to be able to come for the company as well as the lovely food". Steve

"We always find the lunches very nice and they are always hot which is very important. It is excellent value for money, the staff are very friendly and helpful and the prices are very good compared to Bilston High Street shops". Joyce and Annabel

"It's great being able to sit and read my paper in peace. I meet up with my friends here and it's a cheap cuppa. I tell everyone about it, I don't know why they don't all come". Ivor

Kim Eglinton

St Mary's Church Community Kitchen Report

At the beginning of last year, St Mary's DCC made the decision to start a Community Kitchen which then subsequently began in March. We delivered leaflets, put up posters and posted details on our Facebook page so all our community were informed.

Initially we offered, a choice of homemade soup, sandwiches or jacket potatoes, cakes and limitless tea or coffee for £1. We were delighted with the response and our customer numbers have steadily increased.

We hold two Community Kitchens a month and we now offer a choice of 5 or 6 hot meals, cakes, tea or coffee still for £1. Many of our clients are elderly who not only appreciate a hot meal but also the companionship they have while they are with us.

We were fortunate that a firm of Solicitors in Wolverhampton heard about our Community Kitchen and sponsored our Christmas meal. This meant we were able to provide a full Christmas lunch free of charge. We are now looking forward to our second year of being open and welcoming new members from our local community.

Christine Mills.

Bible Study and Prayer at St Chad's Report

The Bible Study groups on a Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning continued through 2023. The Tuesday group meet on Zoom at 7:30pm and has had consistent number of 7-8 people and on a Wednesday morning we meet in person at the back of St Leonard's church following the shoppers communion and has had 4-5 people. It is encouraging to see that every week 14-15 people are studying the bible regularly and growing in their knowledge, wisdom and understanding of the scriptures and see it as a vital part of their life and their growth in discipleship.

The study groups began in Jan 2023, looking at the Letter to the Romans which took quite a while to get through and we didn't finish until the summer. This shows the depth of learning that both groups have been going through this year. During Lent, we paused to look at the sequel of 'Passion', the book we read through Lent last year- 'The Resurrection in your life' by Mike McKinley which looked at the Resurrection of Jesus according to Luke's gospel and opened to us the very relevance of Jesus' resurrection for us today.

Following the completion of Romans, the Tuesday evening group were able to study the OT book of Zechariah and his prophetic visions of the coming messiah and the restoration of God's people, both in the coming of Jesus, but also the new heaven and new earth. Sadly, the Wednesday group weren't able to look at Zechariah due to several cancelled sessions. During Advent, some members of the groups looked at the Advent book, 'The Dawn of Redeeming Grace' by Sinclair Fergusson, which looks at the

Matthew's birth narrative of Jesus and its relationship to the Old Testament showing the very grace of God in the coming of Jesus. The study on Zechariah has given the platform to take on one of the greatest studies we are currently going through, the book of Revelation. The news and timing of my departure from Bilston means we are going to start Revelation but we may not complete it.

Due to my leaving, it has raised a question about the future of the study groups, but I have great faith that the members of both groups have the ability, knowledge and commitment to keep these study groups going and to encourage new members to join so that the regular studying of the bible is not lost in the Parish. I have truly valued the fellowship, the friendship and commitment of members of both groups as wonderful examples of faithful and devoted followers of Christ. I pray they may continue in their study of the Word of God.

At the end of each session we spent time in prayer and I have been humbled and amazed by the work of God through the people we have prayed for. We have shared real miracles and healing and hope and each member of the group confidently lead prayers for us all. I believe these gatherings of prayers are the fuel of the ministry for our parish and churches.

The sessions of Morning Prayer at St Chad's continues to provide a time for focused prayer and worship every Thursday morning at St Chad's. There has been up to 5 of us meeting to pray. Sadly, Monday Evening prayer in St Leonard's had to come to an end due to commitments and lack of attendance. I hope another form of regular prayer will be established in St Leonard's in the future. I would like to thank all the members of both study groups and those who have committed to meet with me to pray for the Parish and the churches and I hope these times have instructed, encouraged and prepared you for your own faith and witness to the Lord Jesus. May you remain faithful to the Word of God and continue in what you have been taught. (2 Tim 3:14).

Rev Simon Skidmore

Fusion@4 -Fresh Expression

Our Fusion@4 services at St Chad's continued through 2023. Fusion@4 is a Fresh Expression that happens on a 2nd Saturday of the month in St Chad's Church. It is primarily aimed at those who have no experience of church and who live within the vicinity of St Chad's however we have had people come from all over Bilston and beyond! From Jan 2023, we continued our series looking at 'Old Testament Bible Explorers' focusing on several main characters in the Old Testament including Samson, Gideon and Ruth. After our Easter and Pentecost Service, the theme changed to 'The Parables of Jesus'. The reason for changing the theme was to align the work and ministry we were doing in the schools in order to encourage familiarity for the families we hoped to invite. We have continued these parables into 2024 and will conclude them for Easter 2024.

At each Fusion service, we continue to offer a variety of crafts, activities, challenges and games, a focused time of worship with story-telling, prayers, puppets and dramatic songs, then we finish with a time of food and fellowship. We have started to put a donation plate out to cover costs for the church. Fusion still has the same regular people coming and it would be great to see some new families joining in the future. As part of Fusion, we did Messy Easter and Messy Christmas, both receiving good attendance at both. At Easter, we gave away Easter Eggs and presents were given out to children at Christmas. Fusion wouldn't be possible without the kindness of the volunteers who give up their time on a Saturday to support this ministry and I'm deeply thankful to my wife Kim for her help in the crafts while juggling the children, to Diane Woodberry, Alison Spencer, Jane Ratcliffe, Linda Stockall, Ann and Mike Reaney who have all helped and supported this venture. We are still looking for more volunteers to help us and we pray for more families to come and bring their children to find out more about Jesus and the hope that he brings. It is intended that this service will become the main service in St Chad's on this particular week in the month. It has been a privilege to set up this fresh expression in the Parish and I hope and pray that this ministry will continue to grow in the future. Like we finish each Fusion with the Messy Amen. AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAMEN!!!!

Rev Simon & Kim Skidmore

The Parish Centre Report

This year we have had fewer party and room hires than usual. We have had 6 parties and we were used as a polling station for the local elections. With the reduction in the number of parties and without the people to open the centre for parties we have decided to pause the party hires until we have the people to organise the hire and opening and locking of the centre. The church continues to use the hall for various activities and events including but not limited to, shrove Tuesday barn dance, a barn dance in November, Christmas fayre, Jubilee and coronation celebrations and other community events. My thanks to Pat and John Arnold and Alison Spencer for their help with unlocking and locking up after parties this past year. I'd like to offer my thanks to the staff at Tip Top Nursery for their help with this too, as they have had clear the space for these parties to take place.

The hall has been booked for the councils use as polling station 2nd May 2024, my thanks to Alison Spencer and Diane Woodberry for agreeing to be available for the hall opening on this day.

Tip Top Nursery had their official opening, for children aged 2-5, on 6th March 2023 and within a few months had enough children for them to be able to open both rooms, the nursery room and the bottom half of the hall. The children from the nursery have enjoyed and benefit from the close working relationship that we are developing between the church and the nursery staff. The children and staff made visits to the church for Easter and Christmas, where Simon did a small story and song time. They also came across to join us for the Macmillan coffee morning.

The nursery staff have made some really lovely renovations to the centre and gardens. The garden at the back and side have had new flooring and play areas installed and look really good, as well as providing a safe educational space for the children. The nursery have also given the hall a much-needed modernised paint job.

In the first few months of this year the nursery have opened a new baby room and have completed the garden renovations. They have also installed a new fence to improve the privacy at the front of the building.

I know the nursery have big plans for the next few years.

My thanks to Lisa, Kate, Charlie and all Staff at Tip Top Nursery for all their work in the centre this past year. I am very much hoping for the relationship to continue in the next few years so the church and nursery continue to grow and support each other.

All hall maintenance has been completed and kept up to date with the help of the nursery staff, who have been available for contractors and companies to lease with. A new telephone line and internet has been installed in the centre. With the internet access being extended into the church building.

In the next year, the contracts for waste disposal and sanitary waste disposal, will need to be looked at and renewed. A quotation was obtained from Cathedral, at the beginning of the year.

My thanks again to all mentioned in this report and anyone else who has helped with the organising, sorting and cleaning of the hall. I sincerely hope that next year and in subsequent years things continue to run as smoothly and that the working relationship with Tip Top nursery continues to grow and develop.

Kim Skidmore

St Leonard's Church, Parish of Bilston on Facebook

We currently have 571 people who actively 'like' our page and 660 who follow it. Whenever we share information – advertise services and activities etc. – we regularly reach about 800 people (whenever anyone else 'shares' our post it means that all of their friends can see it too) and we have, on occasion, reached well over 1,000 people. Over the Christmas period (1 month) we reached 5,691 people with different posts. As you can see, with figures like these the Facebook page is well worth having and enables us to reach far more people than we would otherwise be able to reach. If you are on Facebook you can find us and 'like' us, then you can help to spread the word about what is happening within the parish. We are happy to share events at any of the churches if you let us know about them and maybe send us a digital poster.

Jane Dooley

Parish Pastoral Care Team Report

Since just after the last APCM a group of people who have been involved in visiting people at home either as a pastoral visit or to give the housebound Holy Communion on a regular basis started meeting. We try to have the same people visit to give continuity and maintain a friendship. We let them know what is happening in the churches so giving a link.

Another item on our agenda is leading worship in three care homes in the parish: Bushfield Court, The Mill and Glenthorne. Our Services are adapted according to the residents requirements ranging from a version of The Service of The Word to something more straightforward. The residents appear to enjoy singing hymns on the old side. We will be looking for an instrumentalist to play for us once Simon leaves. Anyone who would like to join us please contact me.

If you know of anyone who would like to be visited in hospital by either a member of the team or the hospital chaplaincy team please let us know.

Thanks to the team for their support during the past year and if anyone knows of anyone requiring a pastoral visit please contact me on 07890 494151

Diane Woodberry.

Financial Review

End of year report for The Parish of Bilston 2022

Total Net Assets: £453,731 [2022 £406,032]

Excess £51,344 2023 Unrestricted Excess: £50,282 Restricted Excess: £1,062
[2022 Excess £39,443]

Parish and Parish Centre

Excess: £4,507 Unrestricted excess £4,507
[Excess £4,320 2022]

The Parish account is to receive income from the three churches to pay the Common Fund and Parish Expenses. It also holds the proceeds of the sale of the Curates house. In 2022 the investments were transferred from the General fund to Curate Endowment funds as this better reflects the situation. Whilst the income produced is unrestricted the capital can not be spent. All income from the investments will be used for the Common fund and/or Parish expenses periodically to reduce the burden on the individual Churches. The income will be left to build up in the CCLA deposit account.

The Parish Centre is shown within these accounts. In 2022 the Parish Centre Building was moved from Parish Centre Restricted to Parish Centre Building Endowment. Again this better reflects the situation. Whilst the income in unrestricted the capital can not be spent. All of the income and expenditure was recorded under Parish Centre Restricted. This fund has been closed and funds at the end of 2022 transferred to Parish Centre Designated. It is the intention to build up a reserve fund for any work needed on the Parish Centre and would suggest £20,000 which would be shown separately on the balance sheet as Parish Centre reserve. Along with this working capital of £5,000 retained. Once this figure has been reached then any surplus can be transferred and used to pay the Common fund and/or Parish expenses.

The Parish Centre has seen the Parish centre hire reduce from £9,130 2022 to £8,260. This should increase further as Tip Top Childcare are now hiring the Parish Centre on a 5 year lease eventually at £1,000 per month with contributions to the utility bills. The future looks bright.

Tip Top childcare are now renting the computer room so will be paying an extra £100 per month. As there is no one to take bookings Tip Top are our only client.

Thanks go to Simon and Kim for their continued support and hard work to ensure that the Parish Centre runs so smoothly.

St Chads

Excess: £34,884 – Unrestricted excess £34,485 Restricted excess £398
[Deficit: (£189) 2022][(£1,228) 2021]

St Chads income has increased from £14,965 2022 to £45,903. As with St Mary's had St Chad's not received this legacy then there would have been a deficit of £5,116. This is due to the £40,000 legacy left to the Church by the late Eric Barker. Non-recurring one-off grants has reduced along with other funds generated.

On the plus side expenditure has reduced from £15,154 2022 to £11,019. The most notable difference being that St Chad paid £12,000 Common fund in 2022 and this reduced to £5,523 in 2023.

St Mary's

Excess: £17,149 – Unrestricted excess £17,149
[Deficit (£120) 2022]

St Mary's income overall has increased from £10,200 2022 to £31,472. The main reason for this is the legacy left by the Late Brian Fellows. Had that not been received then there would be a deficit of £2,850. Whilst Gift aid collections 0101 has increased donations 0550 has reduced. This will be because I did not receive the paperwork and envelopes in a timely manner in 2022. 2023 saw the paperwork being delivered in time and so envelopes were posted into donors records. This of course will help with Gift aid claims.

The expenditure has increased from £10,200 2022 to £14,323. The main reason for this is St Mary's have paid in full their share of the Common fund. In addition Church maintenance 2330 has increased.

It is imperative that the Common fund is paid monthly. This still has not been set up. St Mary's need to understand that the Parish account is just a vehicle. The payments for their share of the common fund is paid into the Parish account and paid out to Lichfield.

St Mary's for the time being remain a going concern. However the situation is unsustainable.

St Leonards

Deficit: (£5,196) – Unrestricted deficit (£5,859) Restricted excess £663
[Excess £35,432 2022]

Overall income has increased from £85,638 2022 to £89,088. This is mainly due to the receipt of insurance claims totalling £54,373 which of course has been spent on major repairs 2701. We have seen reductions in 0101 Gift aid collections, 0201 Non gift aid collections, 0550 donations and grants.

Expenditure overall has also increased from £50,205 2022 to £94,284 which as previously documented is due to the major works 2701 expenditure. Other than all other areas are pretty static apart from 1910 LDBF Common fund.

Not a bad year for St Leonard's but a tight rein will be required moving forward.

Thanks go to Mark and Jane for their continued support and hard work throughout the year.

Kim Benton

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £32,092 [2022 £21,290]. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the free reserves at the year end was £121,867 [2022 £78,462] which is considerably higher than this target. In the uncertain economic climate, it is felt to have a healthy reserve is a good foundation for the future and will allow the charity to explore different outreach if identified and also be secure of having sufficient reserves if called upon in any unforeseen

Investment Policy

The charity is granted power to invest in suitable investments under the PCC Powers Measure 1956 and the Trustees Act 2000. As a charity, the Trustees have a duty of care to take such advice as is appropriate before investments are undertaken. This advice is sought from the Central Board of Finance (CCLA) in London.

The charity's investment policies are based on two key principles: -

- Ethical Investment – this includes ensuring that investments are held in companies which have high standards of corporate governance and act in a responsible way towards stakeholders.
- Long-term responsibilities – the trustees are aware of their long-term responsibilities in respect of the Restricted and Unrestricted reserves and as a result follow a prudent approach to investment decisions.

Investment policy for long-term funds is aimed primarily at generating a sustainable income, with due regard to the need for the preservation of capital value, and the possible need to realise investments to meet operational needs. The charity does not have a policy of generating income at excessive or high risk – known as “purchasing income”, where high returns are guaranteed at the expense of capital.

In summary, the charity has an overall policy to maximise income while preserving the real value of its funds. Due to the nature of the charity, an ethical investment policy is taken into consideration when investments are made:

The charity follows the Ethical Investment Advisory policy as recommended by the Lichfield Diocese which includes the following:

“We aim to invest in companies that:

- * will develop their business in the interests of shareholders;
- * demonstrate responsible employment practices;
- * are conscientious concerning issues of corporate governance, the environment and human rights;
- * are sensitive to the community in which they operate.”

Planned giving, collections and donations are the main sources of fund raising along with tax recoverable.

Safeguarding

The PCC believe they have fulfilled their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Reporting Serious Incidents

A Serious Incident is an adverse event, whether actual or alleged, which results in or risks significant harm to the charity's beneficiaries, employees, office holders, volunteers or to others who come into contact with the charity through its work, loss of the charity's money or assets, damage to the charity's property or harm to the charity's work or reputation.

The trustees are not aware of any Serious Incidents in the last year.

Fundraising

The PCC takes its fundraising responsibilities seriously and is very grateful to all donors – whether regular or occasional – for their support of the church and church events. PCC supporters are never taken for granted. The PCC take full responsibility for fundraising and do not use commercial organisations or professional fundraisers. All money raised is either by donations, fundraising events, special appeals or legacies for which the PCC are most grateful.

Volunteers

The members of the PCC would like to thank all of the 45 volunteers who work so hard to make our Church a lively and vibrant community.

Risk Management

The Church Wardens carry out regular Health and Safety Reviews and regularly inspect premises for potential hazards. We have safeguarding policies in place for child protection and for work with vulnerable adults, including rigorous DBS checking of staff and volunteers. Our insurances are reviewed annually to ensure adequate cover. An informal review of any new risks which may impact the work of the Church in the Parish is ongoing.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a Body Corporate established by the Church of England and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission registration number 1138955. The PCC is governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended that came into effect on 2nd January 1957, and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. The PCC members receive training from courses run by the Diocese. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The PCC met 9 times in 2022

Related Parties –

The PCC does not employ any related parties or give contracts for work on the church to any related parties.

Donations from Related Parties

Donations from related parties [9] during the year totalled £5,192 [2022 £5,069]. All these donations were received without condition.

Remuneration paid to Trustees

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the PCC.

Expenses paid to Trustees

One Trustee was paid expenses of £199.71 [2022 £177] for travel.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston

Other names the charity is known by: N/A

Registered Charity Number: 1138955

Charity's principal address: St Leonard's Church Walsall Street Bilston WV14 0AT

Correspondence address: St Leonard's Church Walsall Street Bilston WV14 0AT

Website address: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

PCC Members: Who Served from 1 January 2023 to the date this report was approved

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole period
Ex-Officio		
Revd. Simon Skidmore	Acting Team Rector - Chair.	
Phil Dooley	Secretary/Lay Reader/Diocesan Synod/ Deanery Synod	
Diane Woodberry	Lay Reader/ Deanery Synod	
Pat Arnold	Church Warden St Chad's	Finished as Church Warden & PCC - 23/04/2023
Alison Spencer	Church Warden St Chad's	Elected as Church warden- 23/04/2023
John Arnold	Church Warden St Chad's/ Parish Warden	Passed away 8 May 2023
Mark Bircher	Church Warden St Leonard's/Parish Warden/Lay Chair/Deanery Synod.	
Jane Dooley	Church Warden St Leonard's	
Christine Mills	Church Warden St Mary's	
Eber Carter	Church Warden St Mary's	
Elected Members		
Kerry Eglington	St Chad's	Resigned on 23/04/2023
Charlie Smith	Deputy Church Warden St Leonard's	
Kerry Bircher	St Leonard's (Safeguarding Co-ordinator)	
Matthew Bircher	St Leonard's	
Linda Pearson	St Leonard's	
Kay Edwards	St Leonard's	
Joanne Bircher	St Leonard's	
Ann Reaney	St Leonard's	Resigned - 22/05/2023
Elizabeth Rice	St Mary's	
Wendy Hawkins	St Mary's	
Mavis Heath	St Mary's	Elected onto PCC - 23/04/2023

Bank	Barclays Bank PLC – Queen Square Wolverhampton WV1 1DS
Investment Managers	CCLA 1 Angel Lane London EC4R 3AB
Independent Examiner	Jonathan Hill Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance St Marys House, The Close, Lichfield. WS13 7LD

Bank

Barclays Bank PLC – Queen Square Wolverhampton WV1 1DS

**Investment
Managers**

CCLA
1 Angel Lane
London EC4R 3AB

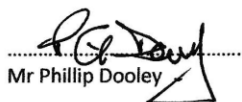
**Independent
Examiner**

Jonathan Hill
Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance
St Marys House, The Close, Lichfield. WS13 7LD

Approved by the PCC on 25/03/2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Simon Skidmore



Mr Phillip Dooley

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees/members of The PCC of The Parish of Bilston

Registered charity number, if applicable: 1138955

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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



Signed:

Date: 21/05/2024

Jonathan Hill FCMA CGMA
Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance
St Mary's House, The Close, Lichfield WS13 7LD

The Parish of Bilston
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2023

Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using Receipts and Payments basis.

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements 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 nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Cashflow Statement

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement on the grounds that the income does not exceed £500,000.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties relate to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Accounting Estimates and Prior Year Errors

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period.

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period

Description of Funds

Unrestricted funds are income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its "free reserves" as disclosed in the trustees' annual report.

An explanation of purpose of each Designated fund are as follows:

- Flower Fund – Flowers for St Leonards Church. Advise this account is closed and monies transferred to St Leonards account. Statement not received in 2022. PCC to consider in 2023.
- Flowers Fund – Flowers for St Chad's Church
- Melting Pot – Takings for The Melting Pot to identify excess/deficit – excess to be transferred to General fund when necessary.
- Building Fund – Ringfenced for work on St Leonards Building
- PCentre – To record income and expenditure of the Parish Centre. Excess can be transferred to Parish funds. Suggest a reserve is built up of £20,000 and retain working capital of £5,000. Any excess is transferred to Parish funds to help with the payment of the Common fund and/or Parish expenses.
- Choir – Funds set aside for the Choir – this fund has not been used for many years advise that the account is closed and transferred to St Leonards account along with transferring the funds to General fund. PCC to consider in 2024.

Restricted funds comprise of two elements :-

- a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest
- b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

An explanation of purpose of each Restricted fund are as follows:

- Décor – This is the re-decoration scheme for the vicarage.
- Belfry – Specific donation for the upkeep of the Belfry
- Fair – This is a grant from Emma Bussey Charity to help with Summer and Christmas Fairs.
- Melting Pot – These are specific fund-raising donations for the Melting Pot. No longer in use closed in 2023.
- Walford legacy – Is to be used for the upkeep of one of the graves in the Church yard.
- Mission Work at St Chad's – Donations specifically for Mission Work at St Chad's
- Project – Kitchen/Vestry/Toilets – Specific donations for the project work at St Chad's
- SoftPlay – Specific grant for the soft play area at St Chad's
- Warmth – Specific grant for Places of Warmth at St Chad's
- Christmas festival – Specific grant for the Christmas festival
- Lighting – Specific donations for the lighting upgrade at St Leonard's
- Manager – Specific donations for the managers post. Post has been filled and fund is at nil so closed in 2023.
- Welcome – Grant for Warm Welcome

Endowment funds are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown in the notes to the accounts.

- Curate – Sale of the Curates House – Investments held in Diocesan Trust TN733. Transferred From PCentre restricted in 2022 to reflect the correct situation. The income is unrestricted, but the capital cannot be spent.
- PCentre Building – The Building at St Chad's. Transferred from PCentre restricted in 2022 to reflect the correct situation. The excess income can be used for Parish purposes, but the building cannot be sold and the capital used.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received or when the PCC becomes entitled to the resource and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Governance and Support Costs

Support costs should be allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources eg by allocating staff costs by time spent and other costs by their usage.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts by s.10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statement.

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

Other tangible fixed assets are valued at cost. The assets are depreciated where applicable at 50% per annum. The Parish Centre is revalued at 31 December annually using Nationwide house price calculator and shown on page 44

Investments

Investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are valued initially at cost and subsequently at market value at the year end. Investments held for re-sale are treated as current asset investments.

Debtors

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount. Subsequently they are measured as cash expected to be received

Creditors and Accruals

Creditors are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts. Accruals are measured on best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Parish of Bilston year ended 2023

Receipts and Payments 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Receipts:					
Donations and legacies	97,333	1,517	—	98,851	98,595
Receipts from charitable activities	15,157	—	—	15,157	13,823
Other trading activities	8,260	—	—	8,260	9,231
Investments	3,530	63	—	3,593	1,337
Other receipts	54,373	—	—	54,373	1,617
Total receipts	178,654	1,581	—	180,235	124,605
Payments:					
Raising funds	454	17	—	471	1,067
Payments on charitable activities	118,653	501	—	119,155	74,493
Other payments	9,264	—	—	9,264	9,600
Total payments	128,372	519	—	128,891	85,161
Net receipts / (payments) resources before transfer	50,282	1,062	—	51,344	39,443
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	7,487	—	—	7,487	316,491
Gross transfers between funds - out	(4,949)	(2,538)	—	(7,487)	(316,491)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	6,189	6,189	(12,796)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	(8,413)	(1,421)	—	(9,835)	12,723
Net movement in funds	44,406	(2,897)	6,189	47,698	39,370

Total funds brought forward	77,463	17,691	310,878	406,032	366,662
Total funds carried forward	121,870	14,793	317,067	453,731	406,032

Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowmen t	2023	2022
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
2 x Inspiron Laptops -	1,061	—	—	—	1,061	2,122
Parish Centre -	—	—	—	219,859	219,859	219,859
Stow Lawn Land -	1	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	1,062	—	—	219,859	220,921	221,982
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
St Mary's DCC Current Account -	19,585	—	—	—	19,585	2,435
St Leonard's Flower Current Account -	—	306	—	—	306	306
Parish Centre Account -	—	4,928	206	—	5,135	4,129
PCC of The Parish of Bilston -	10,902	—	2,200	—	13,103	11,729
St Chad's DCC Current account -	34,619	—	6,297	—	40,916	6,032
Flowers - Cash in hand -	—	142	—	—	142	142
Parish Centre Cash -	—	—	—	—	—	10
St Leonard's Choir -	—	21	—	—	21	21
The Melting Pot - St Leonards -	—	903	—	—	903	11,786
St Leonard's Church Current Account -	33,119	12,558	4,926	—	50,604	42,967
CCLA Bilston TN733 - 402 -	—	—	—	25,561	25,561	22,246
CCLA Bilston TN733 - 420 -	—	—	—	21,717	21,717	23,136
CCLA Bilston TN733 - 477 -	—	—	—	49,929	49,929	45,636
CCLA Bilston TN733 - 600 -	3,679	—	—	—	3,679	475
CCLA (CBF) St Leonards - Walford Legacy	—	—	2,059	—	2,059	1,995
-						
IDS Decoration Scheme DOVER STREET -	—	—	1,220	—	1,220	1,220
IDS Decoration Scheme CUMBERLAND -	—	—	82	—	82	82
Totals	101,906	18,861	16,994	97,208	234,970	174,356
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	40	—	4,103	—	4,143	—
LDBF Common Fund 2022 -	—	—	—	—	—	1,133
Overpayment to P -						
LDBF Common Fund 2022 Overpayment	—	—	—	—	—	9,835
-						
Totals	40	—	4,103	—	4,143	10,968
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	6,303	—	6,303	1,275
Totals	—	—	6,303	—	6,303	1,275
Grand total	103,008	18,861	14,793	317,067	453,731	406,032

Approved by the PCC on 25/03/2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Simon Skidmore

Mr Philip Dooley

Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowmen t	2023	2022
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
2 x Inspiron Laptops -	1,061	—	—	—	1,061	2,122
Parish Centre -	—	—	—	219,859	219,859	219,859
Stow Lawn Land -	1	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	1,062	—	—	219,859	220,921	221,982
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
St Mary's DCC Current Account -	19,585	—	—	—	19,585	2,435
St Leonard's Flower Current Account -	—	306	—	—	306	306
Parish Centre Account -	—	4,928	206	—	5,135	4,129
PCC of The Parish of Bilston -	10,902	—	2,200	—	13,103	11,729
St Chad's DCC Current account -	34,619	—	6,297	—	40,916	6,032
Flowers - Cash in hand -	—	142	—	—	142	142
Parish Centre Cash -	—	—	—	—	—	10
St Leonard's Choir -	—	21	—	—	21	21
The Melting Pot - St Leonards -	—	903	—	—	903	11,786
St Leonard's Church Current Account -	33,119	12,558	4,926	—	50,604	42,967
CCLA Bilston TN733 - 402 -	—	—	—	25,561	25,561	22,246
CCLA Bilston TN733 - 420 -	—	—	—	21,717	21,717	23,136
CCLA Bilston TN733 - 477 -	—	—	—	49,929	49,929	45,636
CCLA Bilston TN733 - 600 -	3,679	—	—	—	3,679	475
CCLA (CBF) St Leonards - Walford Legacy	—	—	2,059	—	2,059	1,995
IDS Decoration Scheme DOVER STREET -	—	—	1,220	—	1,220	1,220
IDS Decoration Scheme CUMBERLAND -	—	—	82	—	82	82
Totals	101,906	18,861	16,994	97,208	234,970	174,356
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	40	—	4,103	—	4,143	—
LDBF Common Fund 2022 -	—	—	—	—	—	1,133
Overpayment to P -	—	—	—	—	—	9,835
LDBF Common Fund 2022 Overpayment	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	40	—	4,103	—	4,143	10,968
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	6,303	—	6,303	1,275
Totals	—	—	6,303	—	6,303	1,275
Grand total	103,008	18,861	14,793	317,067	453,731	406,032

Approved by the PCC on 25/03/2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Revd Simon Skidmore


Mr Phillip Dooley

Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2022

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
Fixed assets - Investments						
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 -	—	—	—	22,246	22,246	25,877
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 [1] -	—	—	—	23,136	23,136	26,212
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 [2] -	—	—	—	45,636	45,636	51,724
Totals	—	—	—	91,019	91,019	103,815
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
2 x Inspiron Laptops -	2,122	—	—	—	2,122	—
Parish Centre -	—	—	—	219,859	219,859	207,137
Stow Lawn Land -	1	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	2,123	—	—	219,859	221,982	207,138
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 -	475	—	—	—	475	11,134
St Mary's DCC Current Account -	2,435	—	—	—	2,435	2,555
St Leonard's Flower Current Account -	—	306	—	—	306	306
Parish Centre Account -	—	3,923	206	—	4,129	1,872
PCC of The Parish of Bilston -	10,213	(1,000)	2,516	—	11,729	5,226
CCLA (CBF) St Leonards - Walford Legacy	—	—	1,995	—	1,995	1,969
-						
St Chad's DCC Current account -	(52)	186	5,898	—	6,032	6,222
Flowers - Cash in hand -	—	142	—	—	142	142
Parish Centre Cash -	—	10	—	—	10	10
St Leonard's Choir -	—	21	—	—	21	21
The Melting Pot - St Leonards -	(715)	10,208	2,293	—	11,786	6,182
St Leonard's Church Current Account -	36,282	1,932	4,752	—	42,967	16,246
IDS Decoration Scheme DOVER STREET -	—	—	1,220	—	1,220	1,220
IDS Decoration Scheme CUMBERLAND -	—	—	82	—	82	82
Totals	48,639	15,731	18,966	—	83,337	53,194
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	—	—	—	—	—	712
LDBF Common Fund 2022 -	1,133	—	—	—	1,133	—
Overpayment to P -						
LDBF Common Fund 2022 Overpayment	9,835	—	—	—	9,835	—
-						
Totals	10,968	—	—	—	10,968	712
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	1,275	—	1,275	(1,802)
Totals	—	—	1,275	—	1,275	(1,802)
Grand total	61,731	15,731	17,691	310,878	406,032	366,662

Analysis of receipts and payments 2023

RECEIPTS

Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
0101 - Gift Aid Collections	11,703	—	—	—	11,703	11,556
Bank/Envelopes						
0201 - Non Gift Aid Collections	1,429	—	—	—	1,429	1,062
0201 - Non-Gift Aid Collections	1,730	—	—	—	1,730	4,209
0301 - Loose plate collections	7,728	—	—	—	7,728	7,380
0410 - Votive Lights/Church Boxes	183	—	—	—	183	335
0550 - Donations appeals etc	5,148	—	1,353	—	6,502	15,375
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	4,563	—	—	—	4,563	5,156
0701 - Legacies	60,000	—	—	—	60,000	40,189
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	2,154	—	—	—	2,154	8,568
0901 - Other funds generated	2,692	—	163	—	2,855	4,760
Total	97,333	—	1,517	—	98,851	98,595
Receipts from charitable activities						
0902 - Heating Weddings&Funeral	—	—	—	—	—	60
0902 - Heating Weddings&Funerals	1,480	—	—	—	1,480	840
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	4,683	—	—	—	4,683	4,691
1210 - Melting Pot - Food Sales	—	8,964	—	—	8,964	8,232
1230 - Hire of Hall	30	—	—	—	30	—
Total	6,193	8,964	—	—	15,157	13,823
Other trading activities						
1230 - Parish Centre Hire	—	8,260	—	—	8,260	9,130
1250 - Magazine income - advertising	—	—	—	—	—	90
1260 - Parish magazine sales	—	—	—	—	—	11
Total	—	8,260	—	—	8,260	9,231
Investments						
1001 - Dividends	3,142	—	—	—	3,142	1,052
1020 - Bank and building society interest	62	4	63	—	131	104
1230 - Rent from lands or buildings&Melting Pot	50	270	—	—	320	180
Total	3,255	274	63	—	3,593	1,337
Other receipts						
1310 - Insurance claims	54,373	—	—	—	54,373	1,617
Total	54,373	—	—	—	54,373	1,617
RECEIPTS TOTAL	161,155	17,499	1,581	—	180,235	124,605

PAYMENTS

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Raising funds						
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	287	—	17	—	305	893
1740 - Bank Charges	—	166	—	—	166	174
Total	287	166	17	—	471	1,067
Expenditure on charitable activities						
1910 - LDBF Common Fund	18,410	—	—	—	18,410	42,368
2001 - Salaries	—	4,515	—	—	4,515	190
2201 - Parish training and mission	255	—	78	—	333	22
2301 - Church running - insurance	9,277	—	—	—	9,277	9,209
2310 - Church office - telephone	710	—	—	—	710	807
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	626	—	—	—	626	—
2330 - Church maintenance	5,179	—	—	—	5,179	3,273
2331 - Cleaning	—	1,747	254	—	2,002	714
2340 - Upkeep of services	286	—	—	—	286	886
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	600	—	—	—	600	—
2360 -	2,358	65	168	—	2,591	2,518
Admin/Stationery/Photocopier/Printing et						
2361 - Parish Expenses	128	—	—	—	128	—
2401 - Church running - electric	3,136	—	—	—	3,136	3,081
2410 - Church running - gas	8,783	—	—	—	8,783	5,900
2440 - Heating & Lighting	74	—	—	—	74	—
2518 - Melting Pot - Non Food Items	—	161	—	—	161	202
2519 - Melting Pot - Food Supplies	—	4,748	—	—	4,748	2,885
2602 - Licences & Subscriptions	—	—	—	—	—	75
2602 - Licences & Subscriptions	403	—	—	—	403	491
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	57,186	—	—	—	57,186	—
2710 - Church major repairs - installation	—	—	—	—	—	1,867
Total	107,415	11,238	501	—	119,155	74,493
Other expenditure						
2333 - Cleaning	—	210	—	—	210	194
2360 -	—	10	—	—	10	831
Admin/Stationery/Photocopier/Printing						
2401 - Church Running - Electric	—	—	—	—	—	20
2410 - Church Running - Gas	—	—	—	—	—	164
2530 - Parish Centre - Electricity	—	1,822	—	—	1,822	2,331
2540 - Parish Centre - Gas	—	791	—	—	791	785
2550 - Parish Centre - Insurance	—	335	—	—	335	744
2560 - Parish Centre - Maintenance	—	2,134	—	—	2,134	1,590
2570 - Parish Centre - telephone	—	2,327	—	—	2,327	1,577
2580 - Parish Centre - water	—	1,631	—	—	1,631	1,361
2710 - Church major repairs - installation	—	—	—	—	—	1,867
Total	—	9,264	—	—	9,264	11,467
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	107,702	20,669	519	—	128,891	87,028
GRAND TOTAL	53,453	(3,170)	1,062	—	51,344	37,576

Fund movement by type 2023

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gain/loss	Closing
Belfry - Belfry						
Restricted	125	—	—	—	—	125
Sub-total for Belfry	125	—	—	—	—	125
Building - Building Fund						
Designated	1,962	—	—	—	—	1,962
Sub-total for Building	1,962	—	—	—	—	1,962
Choir - St Leonard's Choir						
Designated	21	—	—	—	—	21
Sub-total for Choir	21	—	—	—	—	21
Christmas - Christmas Festival						
Restricted	2,500	853	—	—	—	3,353
Sub-total for Christmas	2,500	853	—	—	—	3,353
Curate - Sale Of Curate House						
Endowment	91,019	—	—	—	6,189	97,208
Sub-total for Curate	91,019	—	—	—	6,189	97,208
Decor - Decoration Scheme						
Restricted	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Sub-total for Decor	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Fair - Summer Fair Parish C						
Restricted	206	—	—	—	—	206
Sub-total for Fair	206	—	—	—	—	206
Flower - Flower Fund						
Designated	449	—	—	—	—	449
Sub-total for Flower	449	—	—	—	—	449
Flowers - Flowers Fund						
Designated	186	—	948	762	—	—
Sub-total for Flowers	186	—	948	762	—	—
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	61,731	161,155	107,702	(3,762)	—	103,008
Sub-total for General	61,731	161,155	107,702	(3,762)	—	103,008
Lighting - Lighting At St Leona						
Restricted	1,447	—	—	—	—	1,447
Sub-total for Lighting	1,447	—	—	—	—	1,447
Manager - Manager Post						
Restricted	1,200	—	—	(1,200)	—	—
Sub-total for Manager	1,200	—	—	(1,200)	—	—
Melting Po - Melting Pot						
Designated	10,178	9,239	10,456	2,538	—	11,499
Restricted	1,593	—	254	(1,338)	—	—
Sub-total for Melting Po	11,771	9,239	10,711	1,200	—	11,499

Mission - Mission Work At St C						
Restricted	1,633	500	96	—	—	2,037
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Mission	1,633	500	96	—	—	2,037
PCentre - Parish Centre						
Designated	2,933	8,260	9,264	3,000	—	4,928
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for PCentre	2,933	8,260	9,264	3,000	—	4,928
PCentreBui - Parish Centre Buildi						
Endowment	219,859	—	—	—	—	219,859
Sub-total for PCentreBui	219,859	—	—	—	—	219,859
Project - Kitchen/Vestry/Toile						
Restricted	500	—	—	—	—	500
Sub-total for Project	500	—	—	—	—	500
SoftPlay - Soft Play Area						
Restricted	1,268	—	—	—	—	1,268
Sub-total for SoftPlay	1,268	—	—	—	—	1,268
St Chads - St Chads Fund						
Restricted	—	163	—	—	—	163
Sub-total for St Chads	—	163	—	—	—	163
Walford - Walford Legacy						
Restricted	1,995	63	—	—	—	2,059
Sub-total for Walford	1,995	63	—	—	—	2,059
Warmth - Places Of Warmth						
Restricted	2,000	—	168	—	—	1,831
Sub-total for Warmth	2,000	—	168	—	—	1,831
Welcome - Places Of Welcome						
Restricted	495	—	—	—	—	495
Sub-total for Welcome	495	—	—	—	—	495
Grand total	404,611	180,235	128,891	—	6,189	453,731

Fund movement by type 2022

		Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gain/Loss	Closing
Belfry - Belfry							
Restricted		1,723	—	1,598	—	—	125
	Sub-total for Belfry	1,723	—	1,598	—	—	125
Bibles - Bibles							
Restricted		—	111	111	—	—	—
	Sub-total for Bibles	—	111	111	—	—	—
Bloom - Bilston in Bloom							
Restricted		—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sub-total for Bloom	—	—	—	—	—	—
Building - Building Fund							
Designated		880	1,082	—	—	—	1,962
	Sub-total for Building	880	1,082	—	—	—	1,962
Choir - St Leonard's Choir							
Designated		21	—	—	—	—	21
	Sub-total for Choir	21	—	—	—	—	21
Christmas - Christmas Festival							
Restricted		—	2,500	—	—	—	2,500
	Sub-total for Christmas	—	2,500	—	—	—	2,500
Curate - Sale Of Curate House							
Endowment		—	—	—	91,019	—	91,019
	Sub-total for Curate	—	—	—	91,019	—	91,019
Decor - Decoration Scheme							
Restricted		1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
	Sub-total for Decor	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Fair - Summer Fair Parish C							
Restricted		206	—	—	—	—	206
	Sub-total for Fair	206	—	—	—	—	206
Flower - Flower Fund							
Designated		449	—	—	—	—	449
	Sub-total for Flower	449	—	—	—	—	449
Flowers - Flowers Fund							
Designated		257	—	70	—	—	186
	Sub-total for Flowers	257	—	70	—	—	186
General - General fund							
Unrestricted		139,633	97,165	70,151	(90,699)	(12,796)	61,731
	Sub-total for General	139,633	97,165	70,151	(90,699)	(12,796)	61,731
Laptops - Laptops							
Restricted		—	500	—	(500)	—	—
	Sub-total for Laptops	—	500	—	(500)	—	—
Lighting - Lighting At St Leona							

Restricted	2,110	—	662	—	—	1,447
Sub-total for Lighting	2,110	—	662	—	—	1,447
Manager - Manager Post						
Restricted	—	1,200	—	—	—	1,200
Sub-total for Manager	—	1,200	—	—	—	1,200
Melting Po - Melting Pot						
Designated	5,240	8,418	3,661	180	—	10,178
Restricted	1,592	1	—	—	—	1,593
Sub-total for Melting Po	6,832	8,420	3,661	180	—	11,771
Mission - Mission Work At St C						
Restricted	1,750	—	116	—	—	1,633
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Mission	1,750	—	116	—	—	1,633
PCentre - Parish Centre						
Designated	—	—	—	2,933	—	2,933
Restricted	209,525	9,130	8,584	(222,792)	12,722	—
Sub-total for PCentre	209,525	9,130	8,584	(219,859)	12,722	2,933
PCentreBui - Parish Centre Buildi						
Endowment	—	—	—	219,859	—	219,859
Sub-total for PCentreBui	—	—	—	219,859	—	219,859
Project - Kitchen/Vestry/Toile						
Restricted	—	500	—	—	—	500
Sub-total for Project	—	500	—	—	—	500
SoftPlay - Soft Play Area						
Restricted	—	1,268	—	—	—	1,268
Sub-total for SoftPlay	—	1,268	—	—	—	1,268
Walford - Walford Legacy						
Restricted	1,969	25	—	—	—	1,995
Sub-total for Walford	1,969	25	—	—	—	1,995
Warmth - Places Of Warmth						
Restricted	—	2,000	—	—	—	2,000
Sub-total for Warmth	—	2,000	—	—	—	2,000
Welcome - Places Of Welcome						
Restricted	—	700	204	—	—	495
Sub-total for Welcome	—	700	204	—	—	495
Grand total	366,662	124,605	85,161	—	(74)	404,611

Staff Costs

	2023	2022
Wages & Salaries	£4,590	£NIL
Average number of Employees	2	0

During the year the PCC employed two Café assistants in The Melting Pot [both part-time] none of the payments were large enough to attract social security costs. Their contracts began 1 August 2023. There were no employees in 2022.

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the previous or current year.

The PCC uses the National Employment Savings Trust [Nest] via the Diocesan Payroll Scheme, for its pension payments. However, no pension payments are being made as neither employee qualifies automatically.

Trustees' Remuneration & Expenses

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the PCC. One Trustee was paid expenses of £199 [2022 £177] for travel.

Related Parties

No other expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

Donations from related parties [9 PCC members] totalled £5,192 [2022 £5,069]

Analysis of Transfer between Funds 2023

	Debit	Credit	Description	Fund	
2,000.00	—	Per 40461474	PCentre	Des	
—	2,000.00	To 30027537	General	Unr	
—	1,000.00	Tfr from General to Parish Centre KB tidy up	General	Unr	
1,000.00	—	Tfr from General to Parish Centre KB tidy up	PCentre	Des	
—	762.08	Tfr from General to Flowers to bring to nil	General	Unr	
762.08	—	Tfr from General to Flowers to bring to nil	Flowers	Des	
593.62	—	Tfr from Melting pot des to General KB tidy up	General	Unr	
—	838.56	Tfr from Melting Pot restricted to designated to close fund	Melting Po	Res	
—	593.62	Tfr from Melting pot des to General KB tidy up	Melting Po	Des	
1,200.00	—	Tfr from Managers post to Melting Pot Designated as salaries paid Aug/Sept/Oct/Nov totalling £3,677.24	Melting Po	Des	
838.56	—	Tfr from Melting Pot restricted to designated to close fund	Melting Po	Des	
—	1,200.00	Tfr from Managers post to Melting Pot Designated as salaries paid Aug/Sept/Oct/Nov totalling £3,677.24	Manager	Res	
—	593.62	Tfr from General to Melting Pot KB tidy up	General	Unr	
—	500.00	Tfr from Melting pot restricted to designated KB tidy up	Melting Po	Res	
593.62	—	Tfr from General to Melting Pot KB tidy up	Melting Po	Des	
500.00	—	Tfr from Melting pot restricted to designated KB tidy up	Melting Po	Des	

Analysis of Transfer between Funds 2022

Debit	Credit	Description	Fund	Fund Type
-	22,246.15	Tfr General to Curate	General	Unr
22,246.15	-	Tfr General to Curate	Curate	End
23,136.91	-	Tfr from General to Curate	Curate	End
-	23,136.91	Tfr from General to Curate	General	Unr
45,636.07	-	Tfr from General to Curate	Curate	End
-	45,636.07	Tfr from General to Curate	General	Unr
3,923.29	-	Tfr from restricted to designated as income can be used for Parish expenses	PCentre	Des
-	3,923.29	Tfr from restricted to designated as income can be used for Parish expenses	PCentre	Res
1,000.00	-	Tfr from Restricted to Designated as funds can be used for Parish expenses	PCentre	Res
-	1,000.00	Tfr from Restricted to Designated as funds can be used for Parish expenses	PCentre	Des
-	10.22	Tfr from Restricted to Designated as funds can be used for Parish expenses	PCentre	Res
10.22	-	Tfr from Restricted to Designated as funds can be used for Parish expenses	PCentre	Des
219,859.00	-	Tfr from Restricted to Endowment	PCentreBuilding	End
-	219,859.00	Tfr from Restricted to Endowment	PCentre	Res
180	-	Tfr from 90303410 to 70201782	Melting Pot	Des
-	180	Tfr from 90303410 to 70201782	General	Unr
-	500	Tfr Laptops to General Laptops purchased and General fund debited - see fixed assets	Laptops	Res
500	-	Tfr Laptops to General Laptops purchased and General fund debited - see fixed assets	General	Unr

Fixed Assets

a) Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Buildings £	Church Equipment £	Total Assets
Cost or Valuation			
As at 1 Jan	219,860	2,123	221,982
Additions in the Year	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disposal in the Year	0.00	0.00	0.00
Revaluation [if any]	-6,258	0.00	-6,258
Value at 31 Dec	213,602	2,123	215,725
Accumulated Depreciation			
As at 1 Jan	0.00	0.00	0.00
Charge for the Year	0.00	1,061	0.00
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00
Value at 31 Dec	213,602	1,061	215,725
Net Book Value at 1 Jan 2023	219,860	2,123	221,982
Net Book Value at 31 Dec 2023	213,601	1,061	214,663

Freehold Buildings

Parish Centre: £213,601 [£219,859 2022] – The Parish Church Centre is revalued at 31 December annually using Nationwide house price calculator referred to on page 32

Stow Lawn Land: £1.00 – a nominal figure the land has not been formally valued

2 X Inspiron computers purchased in 2022 depreciation @ 50% in 2023

b) Fixed Asset Investments

	At 1 Jan £	Additions £	Disposals £	Transfers £	Change in Market Value	At 31 Dec £
Endowment Fund						
Investments	91,019	0.00	0.00	91,019	6,189	97,208
Total	91,019	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,189	97,208

CCLA (CBF) Lichfield CB3008402 TN733 – £25,561 [2022 £22,246.15]

CCLA (CBF) Lichfield CB3008420 TN733 - £21,717 [2022 £23,136.91]

CCLA (CBF) Lichfield CB3008477 TN733 - £49,929 [2022 £45,636.07]

Summary of Assets by Fund 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Unrestricted					
General fund	103,008	—	—	103,008	61,731
Designated					
Building Fund	1,962	—	—	1,962	1,962
Flower Fund	449	—	—	449	449
Flowers Fund	—	—	—	—	186
Melting Pot	11,499	—	—	11,499	10,178
Parish Centre	4,928	—	—	4,928	2,933
St Leonard's Choir	21	—	—	21	21
Restricted					
Agency collection	—	—	—	—	1,421
Belfry	—	125	—	125	125
Christmas Festival	—	3,353	—	3,353	2,500
Decoration Scheme	—	1,303	—	1,303	1,303
Kitchen/Vestry/Toilets	—	500	—	500	500
Lighting At St Leonards	—	1,447	—	1,447	1,447
Manager Post	—	—	—	—	1,200
Melting Pot	—	—	—	—	1,593
Mission Work At St Chads	—	2,037	—	2,037	1,633
Places Of Warmth	—	1,831	—	1,831	2,000
Places Of Welcome	—	495	—	495	495
Soft Play Area	—	1,268	—	1,268	1,268
St Chads Fund	—	163	—	163	—
Summer Fair Parish Centre grant from Bussey	—	206	—	206	206
Walford Legacy	—	2,059	—	2,059	1,995
Endowment					
Parish Centre Building	—	—	219,859	219,859	219,859
Sale Of Curate House TN733	—	—	97,208	97,208	91,019
Total	121,867	14,787	317,067	453,721	406,024

Summary of Assets by Fund 2022

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
Unrestricted					
General fund	61,731	—	—	61,731	139,633
Designated					
Building Fund	1,962	—	—	1,962	880
Flower Fund	449	—	—	449	449
Flowers Fund	186	—	—	186	257
Melting Pot	10,178	—	—	10,178	5,240
Parish Centre	2,933	—	—	2,933	—
St Leonard's Choir	21	—	—	21	21
Restricted					
Agency collection	—	1,421	—	1,421	—
Belfry	—	125	—	125	1,723
Christmas Festival	—	2,500	—	2,500	—
Decoration Scheme	—	1,303	—	1,303	1,303
Kitchen/Vestry/Toilets	—	500	—	500	—
Lighting At St Leonards	—	1,447	—	1,447	2,110
Manager Post	—	1,200	—	1,200	—
Melting Pot	—	1,593	—	1,593	1,592
Mission Work At St Chads	—	1,633	—	1,633	1,750
Parish Centre	—	—	—	—	209,525
Places Of Warmth	—	2,000	—	2,000	—
Places Of Welcome	—	495	—	495	—
Soft Play Area	—	1,268	—	1,268	—
Summer Fair Parish Centre grant from Bussey	—	206	—	206	206
Walford Legacy	—	1,995	—	1,995	1,969
Endowment					
Parish Centre Building	—	—	219,859	219,859	—
Sale Of Curate House TN733	—	—	91,019	91,019	—
Total	78,462	17,691	310,878	406,032	366,662

Receipts & Payments Comparatives

Previous Year 2022

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
Receipts and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	90,714	8,780	—	99,495	76,028
Receipts from charitable activities	12,923	—	—	12,923	9,978
Other trading activities	101	9,130	—	9,231	6,951
Investments	1,309	27	—	1,337	2,206
Other receipts	1,617	—	—	1,617	—
Total receipts	106,667	17,938	—	124,605	95,165
Payments on:					
Raising funds	912	155	—	1,067	1,133
Payments on charitable activities	71,955	2,538	—	74,493	112,284
Other payments	1,015	8,584	—	9,600	19,999
Total payments	73,883	11,278	—	85,161	133,417
Net receipts / (payments) resources before transfer	32,783	6,659	—	39,443	(38,252)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	4,613	1,000	310,878	316,491	79,390
Gross transfers between funds - out	(92,199)	(224,292)	—	(316,491)	(79,390)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	(12,796)	—	—	(12,796)	60,952
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	(1,420)	14,143	—	12,723	33,355
Net movement in funds	(69,017)	(202,489)	310,878	39,370	56,054
Total funds brought forward	146,481	220,181	—	366,662	310,607
Total funds carried forward	77,463	17,691	310,878	406,032	366,662

Accounts

<Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston

For the year ended 31st December 2022

Registered Charity Number 1138955

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2022

Charity registration number 1138955

Objectives and Activities

The Parochial Church Council of Bilston (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Acting incumbent, the Reverend Simon Skidmore, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also spiritually responsible for the maintenance of the church

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at all of our three Churches – St Leonards, St Chads and St Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament. Also, through non-sacramental activities of hospitality and fellowship we aim to reach non churched members of the community.

Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Bilston, it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers; and
- Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Vision Statement

"We, the congregations of Bilston Parish, seek to grow as the family of God and the people of God."

Mission Statement

"We are committed to serving God and our community to the very best of our ability day by day".

Mission Action Plan (MAP)

Discipleship

What we are doing now:

- Weekly Sunday worship in all 3 churches.
- A variety of types of worship across the parish.
- Use of Clergy and Readers across all churches.
- 2 weekly Bible Studies with prayer.
- Celebration of Patronal Services across the parish.
- Special celebrations at Christmas/Easter/Harvest.
- Services in Bushfield Court, The Elms and Glenthorne House.

- Sunday School in 2 of our churches.
- Confirmation Group
- Fresh Expression once a month (Fusion@4)
- Developing the preparation and follow-up of Baptism and Wedding families.
- We join a monthly prayer meeting with Churches Together.

What was planned for the 12-month period:

- Develop a Youth program for the parish following the confirmation group.
- To start a regular time for prayer - either morning/evening office or a prayer meeting with a virtual option.
- Develop confidence in prayer across all congregations with training offered.
- Grow and encourage bible study within the parish.
- Local prayer walks.
- Develop an entry-level Bible Study Group.
- Rebuilding regular fellowship.
- Restart Inspire Praise.

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

- Develop a flourishing and sustainable parish youth group.
- Develop a prayer diary that the whole parish can use confidently.
- Baptism and Wedding families attending regular worship.
- Parish teaching weekends – develop a culture of learning.
- Create a Bilston Daily Prayer Facebook page.
- Establishing more daily reading material networking.

Evangelism

What we are doing now:

- Wedding, Baptism and Funeral ministry.
- Jacob's Well Café which enables St Leonard's to be open 7 days per week.
- The Parish Centre at St Chad's providing community space.
- Monthly Memorial services following large number of funerals in the Parish.
- Special services encouraging schools and community to take part – Christingle, Remembrance, Crib, Reclaiming Christmas, Midnight communions, Harvest, Patronals etc.
- Parish social events including fund raisers and fetes etc.
- Work within schools – Bilston CofE, Green Park, Villiers Primary, Tip-Top Nursery.
- Monthly Services in Care homes - The Elm's, Bushfield Court, Glenthorne House.
- Toddler group at St Chad's.
- Places of Welcome.
- Fresh Expression once a month on a Saturday.
- Heavily involved with Churches Together at Christmas, Easter & Summer.
- Develop and refresh memorial service and funeral follow-up.
- Develop a daytime bible study group.
- St Mary's is actively working with the community.

What was planned for the 12 month period:

- A regular Parish Seeker Course with a team.
- St Mary's is seeking to develop more outreach through events, social media and contact with the community.
- Café in St Leonard's to be open 5 days per week.
- St Chad's - More leafleting the estate with events going on.

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

- Develop the evening service at St Leonard's.
- Establish a team equipped to lead Seeker courses.
- Mission weekends within the parish.
- Develop a Café Church.
- Develop a Youth Choir.
- Having more outside presence e.g. evangelizing tent.

Vocation

What we are doing now:

- Encourage active participation in services and general church activities.
- Develop the ministry of Lay Readers with regular leading of worship.
- Offer regular bible study and prayer.
- Encourage Confirmation and ongoing study.
- Encouraging Ordinands/ vicars in training to develop.
- Encouraging after service hospitality at all services.
- Developed a Parish Pastoral Team.

What was planned for the 12-month period:

- Encourage on-going Stewardship.
- Help people identify their own ministry.
- Train a Curate.

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

- Plan for the future of the PCC by encouraging the interest of younger people and those more recent members of congregations.
- Encourage and enable people to 'own' a ministry.
- Develop a youth service led by enabled young people.
- Encourage and enable the congregations to consider the future of each of the churches/services within the parish.
- Seek to establish more ordained ministry in the Parish.

Following the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020 & 2021, The Parish was able to better resume gathered worship and other events in all 3 churches this year. There is still an element of 'caution' with the congregations in receiving the wine from one chalice at Holy Communion but all the churches are still following the national church and diocesan guidelines around Holy Communion and the impacts of Coronavirus.

Since July 2022, The Parish has reduced its number of clergy to one full-time stipendiary post. This has resulted in the loss of the "Team Vicar" post. The hope with one incumbent in the Parish is to further increase co-operation and commitment over the congregations to each other but this is of course subject to the formally appointed incumbent in the Parish under the current vacancy.

Achievements and Performance

- We have been able to maintain and develop further our in-person gathered worship on Sundays and during the week in all 3 churches following the COVID Pandemic.
- We have continued to follow an agreed pattern of services where each church has at least 2 communion services a month on a Sunday along with the mid-week services. This continued to be maintained by 1 member of clergy, 4 Lay-readers and with the grateful support of colleagues from St Martin's Bradley, Ordinands and other clergy outside of the Deanery.
- The PCC decided to reduce the Bilston Team ministry to 1 full time incumbent. At the end of 2022 we have also lost 2 of our lay-readers.
- Each church was able to hold their Patronal Festivals this year and we were grateful to see return Rev Chris Thorpe, Revs Mark & Carol Hathorne.
- The PCC Standing Committee has been re-established and meets virtually.
- We have held several 'Vision and Vacancy' Meetings to establish a Vision and MAP for the coming years.
- The Pastoral Team is taking a more active role and have received training to distribute home communion, help at Parish Surgeries and with occasional offices.
- We have established two new Bible Study groups in the Parish which have seen growth.
- We have established a morning and evening time of prayer during the week.
- Following the cost of living crisis, each church is offering a 'Warm Space' during the week with a 'Places of Welcome' being formally opened at St Chad's with a press-release.
- St Leonard's have been able to host local school visits and school services including the Learning Community 2 Carol Service which had at least 7 school choirs.
- We have had a Confirmation group grow with candidates sent to confirmation in November. The hope is this will become a Youth Group.
- We have established a better relationship with our care homes in the Parish, especially at Bushfield Court and working with Bilston CoFE Primary School, have been able to host special services at Harvest, Christmas and Easter.
- Each church was able to offer a celebrations event for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee in June including services of thanksgiving, garden parties and fairs.
- We were able to offer pastoral provision following the Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with open churches, services of commendation and Books of Condolences.
- The churches in the Parish were able to run and organise fairs during the year to help with fund raising.
- We have confirmed the lease at the Parish Centre with Tip Top Nursery and have built good relationships for the future.
- St Leonard's has developed an appropriate Chapel Space for small services and a dedicated children's area.
- We are actively involved in 3 schools in the Parish including weekly assemblies.
- As a Parish, we were more involved in charitable events and giving including visits from representatives of Operation Christmas Child and The Leprosy Mission. The other charities include Christian Aid, Macmillan Nurses and The Well Foodbank.
- We have continued to join in with Baby Loss awareness week, hosting a Wave of Light service and raising money for SANDS.
- As a Parish, we were actively involved with Churches Together in Bilston and Bradley being a main contributor to Good Friday March of Witness, Hope in the Park, Carols in the Town and World Day of Prayer.
- St Leonard's were able to host Christmas Memorial services including one for a local Funeral Director.
- We have developed our relationships with local funeral directors and St Leonard's has hosted a coffee morning for one of them with the hope of this continuing.
- St Leonard's were successful in launching again a Christmas Tree Festival with the help of Bilston and Willenhall Lions coinciding with the Town's lights switch on event.
- We launched "Hope Explored Seeker Course" in January.
- Our church buildings have been accessed with changes made and planned to make them more Carbon Neutral and energy efficient.

- The Parish were able to have more social events and outings to Lichfield Cathedral for the Chrism Eucharist and for Amanda Mallen's Ordination, a trip in the summer to Weston Super Mare. Other social events include Beetle Drives, Bingo's and two Barn Dances.
- St Leonard's hosted the Archdeacon's Visitation to the Deanery this year.
- Fusion@4 hosted a Summer Holiday Club which was well received by the families and children on St Chad's Estate.
- St Leonard's continued to host "Reclaiming Christmas" which this year was primarily organised by our Parish.

Our Normal Pattern of worship in 2022.

Sundays

St Leonard's Church

- 8:00am - BCP Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sunday)
- 10:30am - Holy Communion (Common Worship) (2nd Sunday of the month).
 - Family Communion Service (Common Worship) (4th Sunday of the month).
 - Service of the Word -(1st & 3rd Sunday of the month).
- 6:30pm - Evensong (1st, 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month).
 - Memorial Service (4th Sunday of the month)
 - Holy Communion (when there is a 5th Sunday of the month).

Wednesdays

10:30am - Shoppers Communion

Occasional Saturdays

6:00pm - Inspire Praise - outreach services.

St Mary's Church

- 9.30am - Holy Communion (Common Worship) (1st & 3rd Sunday of the month)
 - Service of the Word (2nd & 4th Sunday of the month)

St Chad's Church

- 11:00am - Holy Communion (Common Worship) (1st Sunday of the Month).
 - Family Communion Service (Common Worship) (3rd Sunday of the month).
 - Service of the Word (2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month).

2nd Saturday of the Month.

4:00pm - Fusion @ 4 - Fresh Expression Service.

As of July 2022 with the reduction of clergy posts in the Parish, Communion by Extension was removed in consultation with the Bishop of Wolverhampton and Archdeacon of Walsall.

Other Services and events.

Lent Bible Studies at St Leonard's and St Chads
 Weekly Bibles studies at St Leonard's and St Chads

We regularly visit Bushfield Court Nursing Home, The Elm's and Glenthorne House to do a monthly service and for special events such as Easter, Christmas and Remembrance Day.

Wave of Light Service - October - in St Leonard's as part of Baby-loss awareness week.

School Services for Easter, Christmas, Harvest and end of year, in St Leonard's for Bilston CofE and Villiers Primary Schools.

St Leonard's have had visits from Jumping Jo's Nursery, Bilston CofE Primary School, Villiers Primary School, Green Park School, Field View Primary School.

Baptism, weddings and funerals policies

Baptisms take place on the 2nd Sunday and 4th Sunday of the month at St Leonard's, following the main service and with prior arrangement at St Mary's and St Chad's, baptism will take place in the main Sunday service. Baptism families are required to attend a church service prior to the baptism a minimum of 3 times, one being their first visit to the church and the last time would include a Baptism Rehearsal. Baptism families and godparents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session on a Saturday morning or Monday evening. Baptisms are now being filtered in order to cope with demand and enable mission. This means if those who seek baptism outside of our Parish will need to consult the incumbent or equivalent authority of their own parish where they live before seeking baptism in Bilston. It is offered freely once all the expectations are met and we seek those who are baptized to become members of our churches.

All who live within the parish are welcome to get married at the church of their choice. Those who do not live within the ecclesiastical parish must meet the criteria for a qualifying connection. We have adhered to the new marriage legislation that has changed the registration of marriages. All Marriages will be registered with the Local Registry Office and any copy of marriage certificates can only be obtained from the same authority.

Baptism and Marriage enquiries/bookings are made on Monday evenings 6pm-7pm & Saturday morning 10am-11am in St Leonard's church for the whole parish.

All who live or die in the parish are entitled to a funeral service and burial/interment of ashes. Bookings are made and confirmed through the Parish Funeral Co-ordinator along with the incumbent (or equivalent) who will then distribute the request of a funeral service to an appropriate minister. To help with demand, we have and continue to seek support from colleagues in neighbouring parishes for the number of funerals we do have in the parish.

Mission activities through community events

1. Churches Together - Good Friday March of Witness, Hope in the Park, Carols in the Town Service and World Day of Prayer.
2. Jacob's Well café in St Leonard's, run by an excellent team of volunteers. It is open on a Monday, Thursday and Saturday. On a Wednesday, the Lunch club still functions to provide an affordable lunch for those who are lonely or seeking friendships/fellowship. The Café has been distributing Food Parcels to those who have needed support.
3. All 3 churches in the Parish have been open as Warm Spaces in order to provide a place for the local community to gather in warmth, providing comfort, friendship and refreshment.
4. The Parish continues to offer support to our local care and nursing homes. We are still active in 'The Elms' "Glenthorne House' and 'Bushfield Nursing home', providing a church service and pastoral care.
5. St Mary's continues to offer coffee mornings and is hoping to launch a community café initiative. They have held several fayres which have been supported well.
6. St Chad's continued to offer a weekly Parent and Toddler Group for families on the estate. It launched a 'Places of Welcome' along with Transforming Communities. St Chad's continues to be a collection point for 'The Well' Foodbank in Wolverhampton and also 'Coats for Kids.' St Chad's continues to support 'Leprosy Mission' and had a visit from in October to report back the charity work that the church had been supporting.
6. St Leonard's hosts a craft club group on a Thursday and a slimming class on a Friday and both groups continue to meet. On a Wednesday, St Leonard's hosted a Veterans Group from Age UK who found a home with us for a few months but has moved to new premises. The Parish of Bilston, with Bilston British Legion, helped in the planning and organising of the Civic Remembrance Sunday Service in Bilston and continues to have strong links with the legion.
7. The Parish Centre continued to be used for private and community hire, supporting a over 60's group who meet weekly. It hosted a local charities Christmas Fayre. Tip Top Nursery took lease of the majority of the Centre and are hoping to open Easter 2023. We have had to review our hire policy to reflect this. St Chad's and the Nursery are developing a healthy relationship.

8. The Parish has held several social events over the year including 2 barn dances. At Christmas, St Leonard's, in partnership with the Bilston & Willenhall Lions Club, organised the Christmas Tree festival and we had several trees from local community groups, schools, businesses and organisations. The Christmas Tree festival coincided with the light switch on in the town. St Leonard's hosted the annual memorial service for a local funeral director.

9. The Parish of Bilston is very active in our local schools. We support assemblies in our own church school - Bilston Church of England Primary, Green Park Special School and Villiers Primary School and have had visits from Field View Primary School.

10. All 3 churches organised and hosted events to celebrate Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee and marked her passing. Plans have been formed to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Parish Mission Priest (Team Vicar/Acting Team Rector's) Report

I would like to begin by saying a huge thank you to everyone who has supported and encouraged me this year. The changes that the Parish have gone through are huge and I wouldn't be able to write most of this report without those who have dedicated their time and effort while the Parish continues to go through uncertain times. I've now been in the Acting Team Rector role for nearly 2 years and during this time, the PCC have had meetings to talk about the vacancy. These meetings, including one with the Archdeacon of Walsall also talked about the future of the Bilston Team ministry and the Team Rector/Incumbent vacancy in the Parish. Due to the financial strain on the Parish it was decided not to replace the vacant post and from July 2022, the Parish was to function with one full-time Incumbent. This has been very, very hard to accomplish. The demands and expectations from each church in the Parish are still too high and further changes are going to be needed in order for the Parish to have a sustainable future and productive vicar who won't face burnout and the need for the Parish to seek outside help and support to cover services. This is not sustainable.

In my current role, I still seek to fulfil my initial appointment as Parish Mission Priest, to seek growth in our churches, to have a heart for evangelism and mission and to pray for new disciples to find faith in Jesus and to grow in love for God's Word and to serve him through our churches in Bilston.

Buildings and Personnel.

All of our churches in the Parish have gradually removed a lot of the COVID restrictions but hand sanitisers and mask wearing are still an option. St Leonard's and St Chad's have returned to using the communion rail while St Mary's still prefer to keep the COVID guidelines in place. All 3 church buildings need work which can be found in each district wardens report. I would like to thank Mark Bircher and John Arnold as Parish Wardens for the help and support they have given in helping to co-ordinate some of this work across the Parish, including the on-going concern with the increasing prices of the utilities.

St Chad's

St Chad's still has problems with its nave floor but funding to have this corrected has now been agreed and the hope is this will be done by the end of 2023. The fire exit ramp is still on-going. Quotes have been received but the church is now waiting on the process for DAC and approval from the Architect. The men's toilets in St Chad's need improving and we hope this will be done in the new year. St Chad's have recently had a cleaning company come in to regularly clean the church. This has been received very well. The grounds of the church have had little maintenance and a gardening company is being sourced since Community Payback have not returned to the site. I would like to thank Pat and John Arnold as church wardens for the ways they have maintained the church this year. I would like to thank Diane Woodberry for her help and support as lay-reader in conducting Service of The Word services, Family services, support with Fusion@4's and the work with Places of Welcome and the Pastoral Team. I'm very grateful for the work that you have all done. I'm grateful to Rev Kate Watson for being a part of the patronal festival this year too.

St Mary's

St Mary's continues to have some building work that is needed. The fallen plaster in the chancel area is still on-going due to funds and there are still many cracks in the plaster work. There has been a fall of plaster above the external North-East door and quotes for the work are being sought. The graveyard continues to be maintained by a willing group of local volunteers and my gratitude to them for how pristine the grounds are kept throughout the year. I would like to thank Eber Carter and Christine Mills as church wardens for their hard work and dedication in the maintenance of St Mary's. We are saddened by the death of Veronica Britton and Brian Wood this year, both loyal and active members of St Mary's, for their hard work and dedication. I'm grateful for the ministry of Ade and Mandy Mallen who have supported St Mary's this year and we hope and pray that they have settled well in Bloxwich for Mandy's curacy. We are grateful to Revs Mark & Carol Hathorne for their support to the Patronal Festival this year. I'm very thankful to Rev Kate Watson and Rev Foluso Adedipe for your support in service cover and pastoral ministry.

St Leonard's

St Leonard's chancel work following water ingress is still on-going but should be completed in 2023. The falling render from the parapet wall is still to be resolved. The church has gone through several changes to make it more energy efficient including the replacement of lights. The light in the clock faces has been repaired and it produces a great light at night. St Leonard's have created a new chapel space which will be dedicated by the Bishop of Wolverhampton in 2023 and a new children's space has been created in the church which seems to be well used. The church has received a sofa and chairs to create a more relaxed meeting space for meetings and groups. The print room has become a storage space and the copiers are now kept in the vestry to create a better office space.

I'm grateful to all who have helped and supported the running of St Leonard's this year, to Mike and Sue Shelly-Smith for the support they have given, to Joyce Grocutt, Clive Travis and others who have supported in the roles of vergers for occasional offices, to Phil and Jane Dooley and their hard work and dedication, Jane for Jacob's Well, children's / youth ministry and the work with the Lunch Club and the confirmation group and Phil for his support as a lay-reader with the development of the family service, service of the Word's and with the Bible Study group, to Mark Bircher and Remi Hodister, for the general maintenance and work they have both done in the church, to Kerry Bircher for her role in safeguarding and keeping us up-to-date with DBS' and training, to Tammy and Kim, Linda, Karl and all the volunteers in the Jacob's Well Café, for Maxine Gentle who edits the Parish Magazine and has been very flexible with my deadlines once again this year. We appreciate all the work you have done. I am thankful to Rev Chris Thorpe and Sarah for returning to St Leonard's and conducting the Patronal Festival for us this year too.

Projects

There were many key projects that I wanted to focus on this year which all relate to the MAP. One of the priorities was to encourage a deeper level of discipleship and biblical knowledge. This led to the establishment of 2 additional Bible study groups on a Wednesday morning and Tuesday lunchtime. The Wednesday group is following the same studies on a Tuesday evening but the Tuesday lunchtime called 'Soup & Study' is an entry level group for those who are starting out in studying the Bible.

This desire to grow more Bible knowledge also reflects in the Theme's for Fusion@4 and the family services at St Chad's through "Old Testament Bible Explorers." This helped to develop our Summer Holiday club which saw a good number of children from the estate come and learn about Old Testament characters. In January, we launched again 'Hope Explored' and it was received well by those who attended. We hope to begin a time of Morning and Evening Prayer every week into the churches in order to bring more prayer into the Parish and grow the congregations to have more faith in their prayers.

Another project that happened this year was to encourage more fellowship following the ongoing impact of the lockdown period. We were able to do several social events from Beetle Drives, Barn Dances, Bingos and to encourage after-service fellowship in all 3 churches. I'm so delighted to see that all 3 churches have invested more in spending time together at the end of their Sunday services.

It has been so encouraging to see the growth of our Pastoral Team this year. This is a needed team in the Parish noting the need to minister to those who cannot return to our churches for whatever reason and to be an outreach to others. The Pastoral Team help with the Care home's ministry at The Elms, Glenthorne House and Bushfield Court, Funeral, Wedding and Baptism ministry, assist at Parish surgeries, visit members of the congregation at home or through phone calls. They are being trained to distribute Home Communion. I have been able to delegate some of the responsibility of this team to Diane Woodberry. I am still investing

time in Baptism Preparations as a means to bring others to the Christian Faith. We are still planning to do more outreach work including having outside stalls, prayer walks and mission weekends.

Another key project of this year was to strength our schools work. I continue to take assemblies into Villiers school on a weekly basis and to Bilston CoFE Primary school. I am still very active in Bilston CoFE school and spend Wednesday afternoons with pupils to develop the Christian distinctiveness within the school. It has been very encouraging to see our local schools come to St Leonard's. Bilston CoFE Primary have visited for school services and for trips to help R.E. lessons, Villiers School have visited for Harvest and Easter services, Field View Primary brought two classes to the church in order to help with their R.E. and Jumping Jo's Nursery came for a Christmas story. I still serve as a governor in 2 schools in the Parish. I hope to see further development in our schools work with a hope to launch 'Open the Book' in the new year. It was great to be a part of linking our church school to Bushfield Court that has produced the start of intergenerational work.

As a Parish, we have developed further our engagement with other community groups and charities. We are delighted to welcome Tip Top Nursery at the Parish Centre and we are excited to see a fruitful partnership growing in the Centre. It was a delight to welcome Susan Parker from Samaritans Purse and David & Ann Harris from The Leprosy Mission to visit our churches to launch our support to their charities. We were humbled to do the Wave of light service again this year and to raise funds for SANDS.

I have continued to serve as a Vocation's Advisor for the Diocese and have met with candidates exploring their call to ministry. It has been a blessing to encourage Alison Bruton as she prepares for her ordination in 2023 and there is still a great hope for the Parish to training a curate and be a place for future Ordinands or student placements to happen.

Worship and Growth.

The patterns of worship in the Parish this year have been a struggle to maintain due to the persistent demand for Holy Communion. Following the definitive decision to reduce to 1 incumbent, it was also agreed at PCC that Communion by Extension would be removed from Sunday Services and only used if necessary during the week. It has been my intension to provide each church at least 2 Communion services a month and the other services would be either a Service of the Word or Morning Prayer to encourage the ministry of our lay-readers. This is certainly a pattern which will continue into the future.

It still grieves me to not have the opportunity to lead a non-communion service/family service and I hope this opportunity may happen in the new year. It is still noticed that during communion, many still refuse or hesitate to receive the common cup and we hope many will have the confidence to start receiving the wine in this form into the new year.

Since the development of the chapel space in St Leonard's, the Mid-week communion has grown in number and in fellowship. During the services that I am able to, I have tried to introduce new songs which I believe are being received well.

It has been encouraging to see new faces appearing in our churches while also coming to terms with the loss of those who have died this year. All 3 of our churches have seen both decline and growth in services including many moving to different churches in the Parish as we all still recover from the lockdown years. There has been an increase in our home visits and home communions over the year and I pray the Pastoral Team will be ready to support this ministry into the coming year.

As a Parish, we were able to mark the Death of Her Majesty and offer pastoral support at the time. We are planning for the coronation of His Majesty in the coming year and hope the Parish will mark this special occasion in a positive way. Our Fusion@4 services continue to strive forward and we pray that inspire praises will resume in the future.

It's been a tough year personally but I couldn't have done it without the strength and blessing of the Lord and for the support of you all. May the Lord continue to bless the work of our Parish as we continue to seek to serve him and our communities to the very best of our abilities.

"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised." Hebrews 10:36

Rev Simon Skidmore

Deanery Synod Report

Synod met on the 15th June 2022 at St. Martins Church and discussed a project known as LEADING CHURCHES INTO GROWTH. There was a Shaping for Mission update and various diocesan initiatives were noted. There was a proposal to hold a deanery conference. However there were no firm conclusions regarding a subject.

The next meeting was on 21st November 2022. The scheduled September meeting having been postponed. The ongoing Shaping for Mission issue was discussed again. The issue relating to a Deanery conference could not be finalised.

A further meeting is due to take place before the 2023 A.P.C.M. However, no date or agenda has yet been announced.

Philip Dooley

Report on the proceedings of the P.C.C.

The Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) has the responsibility of cooperating with incumbent in the mission of the Church. As with all churches in the Church of England, the parish is a charitable body and therefore P.C.C. members are also trustees and hold responsibility for the financial affairs in the parish and care for buildings.

At the time of writing the P.C.C. has met on five occasions since the last A.P.C.M. including an extraordinary meeting involving the Archdeacon. At every P.C.C. meeting in the Parish of Bilston, a number of matters are dealt with. These matters include minutes of the previous meeting and any matters arising, the state of the buildings, the financial position any health and safety concerns or Safeguarding issues. Additional matters are addressed as they arise. Annually, the P.C.C. must approve the contents of the annual report and accounts to be presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (A.P.C.M.). At the time of writing, that particular meeting is yet to take place.

In the previous year the P.C.C has considered the following additional matters. The P.C.C. agreed to the establishment of a children's day nursery at the Parish Centre, the Mission Action Plan, the cost of living crisis, the sustainability of mission and our three churches. Following an extraordinary involving the Archdeacon, the P.C.C agreed to petition the diocese to reduce the amount of Parish Share (Common Fund) in exchange to moving to a single full-time clergy post.

Philip Dooley

Parish Warden's Report

In addition to all of the good work done by the individual churches and the tribulations each faces, there have been a few things which have affected the whole parish.

The major issue within the parish this year has been the reduction from having 2 priests to only having one. This had to be done for financial reasons, the parish no longer being able to afford the cost of a second post. Simon is doing an excellent job of managing this change as Acting Rector, but the post will still need to be advertised and officially filled. We all need to pull together to support this move. This is a permanent situation and not a temporary one, should we ever want to return to more than one post we would have to become far more financially stable in the long term.

One of the major consequences of this reduction to one minister will mean that we will have more times when we will need to come together to hold parish services rather than each church wanting their own.

All 3 churches have been upgraded to have smart meters fitted (St Leonard's are still awaiting one as the engineer was taken ill). This makes managing the fuel bills much easier.

Mark Bircher has begun to look at all of our energy costs, which will rise massively when current contracts run out in April. He is trying to identify the best deal available. Mark is also looking into our current contracts for things like maintenance of heating systems, alarms, photocopiers etc. to ensure that they are the most competitive we can get them.

In the coming year we will need to work much more closely together to ensure the smooth operating of the parish as a whole.

All of us at St Chad's would like to thank Mark Bircher for all the work he is doing for the parish, and wish him well for the future after his health scare last year. We also thank Phil Dooley and Diane Woodbury for their efforts in these trying times with only one Minister. We must all pull together to sustain the parish.

Let us all march forward with God's help into the future.

Mark Bircher & John Arnold.

St Leonard's District Warden Report

Last year Mike Shelley-Smith announced his intention to resign in April 2022, we thank him for his many years of service and for all of the hard work he has put in during those years.

As a consequence Jane Dooley joined Mark Bircher as warden for St Leonard's.

Following two fairly disastrous years of the effects of COVID19, 2022 has been a year of trying to climb back to some semblance of normality. Unfortunately, the previous two years have depleted our numbers as many older church members have become housebound and others have just got out of the habit of attending church so regularly. However, on a brighter note we have seen new members joining us, some regularly and others on a more intermittent basis.

Unfortunately, when the parish had to make the difficult decision to reduce to only one priest, communion services had to be reduced to two per month. However, this gave an opportunity for some different services and allowed for the opening for visitors to take services. We were able to contact several retired clergy, one of which was Glynn Watkin who agreed to join us for the first Sunday of the month on a bi-monthly basis for one year. We are very grateful to Glynn.

With the closure of Stowlawn Church, we were invited to receive some of their furniture for use at St Leonard's. The communion table and two chairs, along with a carved wooden cross, have enabled us to create a side chapel which has been very well received by the Wednesday Communion and 8.00am service. The chapel will shortly be dedicated by the Bishop, but remains a moveable space which can be used for other purposes.

A request was finally made to the DAC to dispose of the surplus pews. This was not immediately accepted and a specialist was sent out to view the pews. His advice was that the two pews which had formerly been part of the vicar's stalls were by a different designer and were more valuable. He advised that these should be kept, so they were replaced at the back of the choir. The rest of the pews are 'nothing special' and so they would not object to them being disposed of. This was good news but still requires that we re-apply to the DAC. This will be done shortly.

With the creation of the chapel space, the children's play area was moved to the back on the north side of the church. This remains incomplete at the moment as we are hoping that the sale of the pews will raise a little money towards improving this area.

In the summer we held a 'Jam Jar Flower Festival' as part of our celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Members of the public were invited to take part and produce a small flower arrangement. This was generally well received and the church was adorned in a wide variety of arrangements.

On a Tuesday lunchtime a group have been meeting for 'Soup and study', they have been looking at some of the Christian basics like prayer and the bible over a welcome bowl of soup and crusty bread. Food for the body and for the soul!

Wednesday is a very busy day as the 10.30am midweek communion continues, followed by a bible study at 11.30am and lunch club at 1.00pm.

The 'Knit and Natter' group continue to meet on a Thursday morning and have grown in number. They have 'adopted' one of the window ledges and create some wonderful knitted displays for us to enjoy. They also create a cheerful addition to the café and boost sales with the purchase of drinks and snacks.

Five members of the slimming group continue to meet on a Friday morning where they enjoy a weigh-in, encourage one another and have a good chinwag.

St Leonard's is certainly a well-used church.

Water damage which occurred on October 3rd 2021 remains an ongoing concern. The insurance company has agreed to cover part of the necessary repairs but we continue to await a specification from the architect which will determine the extent of the cost to us. The urgency for the work is increasing as the plaster in the sanctuary is crumbling and falling regularly.

The system for recording the finances has been updated and is reported and returned to the Parish Treasurer on a regular basis in line with her request. Unfortunately our expenditure, despite being cut as far as possible, continues to be greater than our income. Our intention for the coming year will be to encourage more people to manage their giving by Standing Order where possible; this has the double benefit of helping us to know what our income will be and also reducing the amount of cash which has to be carried to the bank regularly. Last year our expenditure appears to have averaged about £4,280 per month with monthly income averaging only £3,415. As you can see this is a very big shortfall, however this will be reduced a little in the coming year by the reduction in Parish Share (now called Common Fund).

Our heating system is somewhat less than efficient for the size of the building. In the coming year we will be looking for quotes for a more efficient heating system and also seeking to update the controls of the current system for a wireless control which can be better managed.

The alarm system in St Leonard's has had to be updated and a service contract taken out. This had to happen because it came to light that the insurance company had been given inaccurate information regarding the alarm and had we had a break in we would probably have been inadequately covered. We now have an annual service contract and are trying to create a list of keyholders as a previous list could not be found.

Due to problems with the computers and the software system used for our 10.30 services it became desirable to have internet access. This had been looked at by the DCC a number of times but had been rejected due to the cost which we could not afford. However, when Mark Bircher discussed this with a BT engineer he informed Mark that as we were already paying for a phone line used only by the alarm system, a package for broadband internet would be available to us at only £1 per month extra! We therefore jumped at this opportunity and purchased this. The laptop computers were upgraded by means of a generous donation from a member of the congregation.

Jane Dooley & Mark Bircher.

St. Mary's District Wardens Report

Last year we were delighted to welcome back members of our Congregation who had not returned to Church since the pandemic but now feel comfortable to do so. Unfortunately, we also lost two of our long serving and dedicated members, in April Veronica Brittain died who had attended St Mary's for many many years and then in August Brian Wood died who had served as Church Warden here for over twenty years. He had been a tireless worker for St Mary's not just as Warden but in many practical ways including painting the interior of the Church and also the outside railings. Both of these long serving members are greatly missed by us all.

During the year we welcomed several new members of our congregation who have become part of our family at St Mary's, they have not only participated in social events but also in the mundane tasks such as cleaning, we are very grateful to them all.

Our social and fundraising events have included a Platinum Jubilee garden party, an Autumn Fair and a Christmas Fayre where we welcomed Father Christmas as well as a Jumble Sale. All of these were very well attended by members of our local community. We advertised them by members delivering leaflets to our surrounding areas and also on our own dedicated Facebook page, which was launched last year. This has enabled us to communicate with both our close neighbours and those members who live further away.

In May, Amanda and Ade Mallan organised an Open Day which was very well attended, it gave visitors an opportunity to not just look around the building but to also learn more of the history of our beautiful Church.

Following the death of Her Majesty the Queen in September, the Church was open for several days to enable anyone who wished to come and sign the book of Remembrance, light a candle, lay flowers or say a prayer in her memory could do so.

We were delighted to welcome Mark and Carol Hathorne to our Patronal Service in September, it was lovely to have them back in St Mary's.

There was a fall of plaster above the external door at the rear of the Choir Vestry. We have received a quotation from Crofts Building Company for the repairs but we are awaiting further instructions from the insurance company.

Members of our congregation continue to clean and maintain our Church building on a regular basis, and our grounds and Churchyard are kept immaculate by our group of volunteers, we are very grateful to them all.

Eber Carter & Christine Mills

St. Chad's District Wardens Report

1. Fabric Report

- a. Ramp has seen no progress.
- b. Fire extinguisher inspection carried out in 2022
- c. Chancel still not redecorated main reason Finance and Time constraints.
- d. Still no Wasps.
- e. Floor still must be repaired. Efforts to recommence this will be launched.
- f. We have not had any progress on arranging regular garden tidying around Church.
- g. It is still hoped that in the future we can develop a disabled toilet, and possibly an enlarged kitchen. We would also like to move the Church entrance to the car park side of the church as this would create a welcoming appearance and easier access to St Chad's, but this is a long-term plan.

2. Equipment

- a We are still looking to update our sound system and projector at St Chad's.

3. Events/Church uses

- a) We are repeating the events we had in 2022 when we held a Bingo afternoon with Fish and Chips.
- b) We had a Bonfire Barn Dance in November a Barn Dance is planned for Shrove Tuesday. Also, we held a Skittles event and a Christmas fair in December with a visit from Santa Claus. A fusion, Christingle, and a Messy Christmas Combined, which was very well attended.
- c) Our congregation is holding up with an increase on Sunday 15th Dec When we had 17 adults and 6 Children in Church.
- d) The Chad Centre is being used by TIP TOP Nursery who have taken a five-year contract and should be open. Now, but Ofsted have not done their checks yet and it is still not open.
- e) The Chad Centre is again being booked for parties, several which have been held over the last few months of 2022. We are limiting the Parties in 2023 to avoid clashes of times with the Tip Top Nursery.
- f) Reverend Simon is continuing to hold Bible study meetings by zoom when convenient, which is most weeks, Members numbers are holding around eight to ten.
- g) Chad's Place has recommenced on Thursday mornings along with Places of Welcome.

Finally, this month marks the first anniversary of the death of our respected and much-loved treasurer.

ERIC BARKER

Pat and John Arnold

General Data Protection Regulation Report

There is nothing new to report about the privacy of personal data within the Parish over the last 12 months. May I remind everyone that if you wish the church to keep any personal information about themselves they must fill in a form which should be available at every church. If you want information about yourself removing please contact me. I can be found on 0789 494 151.

Diane Woodberry and Kerry Bircher

Safeguarding of Vulnerable Children and Adults Report

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults, protecting them from abuse or maltreatment and preventing harm to their health or development. As a parish we want to ensure that the children and vulnerable adults in our community are protected and recognise the calling and duty to love and care for the vulnerable and protect all from abuse. For this reason, we have taken guidance from Lichfield diocese on how best to protect those in our community. These are the following advisories that we have followed:

1. We have a designated safeguarding team which is led by Rev. Simon Skidmore and Kerry Bircher. The role of the Safeguarding Officer is to be the named person volunteers and church members would report any disclosures or child protection concerns to. If required, the Safeguarding Officer will refer on any disclosures or child protection concerns to the appropriate organisation e.g., The Local Authority in which the vulnerable person/child lives, social services or police.
2. All parish members who may take responsibility within their church such as PCC/DCC members, church/parish wardens or those who are responsible for children or vulnerable adults as part of their role within the church MUST have a current DBS issued by the diocese which must be renewed every 3 years.
3. All parish members who may take responsibility within their church such as PCC/DCC members, church/parish wardens or those who are responsible for children or vulnerable adults as part of their role within the church MUST have completed basic awareness and foundation safeguarding training (previously C0 and C1.)

Over the past year, Kerry Bircher has taken a lead in ensuring all PCC/DCC members have current DBS certificates in line with our new safeguarding policy by becoming a diocesan verifier to streamline the process and avoid the need to rely on external verifiers. St Leonard's has also facilitated safeguarding training evenings to ensure all members can complete the training as well as have sufficient opportunity to ask questions as they arise.

Going forward into 2023, as a parish we need to be more aware of our communities and the challenges they face and take safeguarding more seriously due to the impact it can have on people's lives. We need to ensure that any concern is reported to a safeguard lead no matter how small we feel the issue is. We need to ensure that all members of the parish who are in these roles do hold a current DBS and have completed safeguarding training. Although most have met these requirements there are a small few that have not. We intend on making it mandatory that any future member of PCC/DCC, church/Parish warden must have completed basic awareness and foundation safeguarding training prior to being appointed into one of these positions. And a current DBS will be required within 8 weeks of appointment.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Acting on your concerns or seeking advice is rarely a bad idea. People often question 'What if I'm wrong' but we have to ask ourselves 'what if I'm right'. We can't assume that someone else has seen what we may have seen or will pass on concerns.

Proverbs 31v 8 says 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.'

Kerry Bircher

St Leonard's Family Service- Service of the Word Report

In 2022 the Service of the Word family services have continued once per month throughout the year. This takes place on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

The format for the services remains similar but can be adapted to the theme of the month. Generally we will have a short introductory liturgy with confession followed by between two and four readings. Each section usually consists of a reading, a reflection, a prayer and a song or hymn.

Themes this year have included The Gifts of the Spirit, Creation, the Prodigal Son, Watershed moments (we've had a few of them this year), Persecuted Christians, Persistence and Expectations amongst others.

We have continued to mix the old with the new in terms of music and try to include a variety of activities including various videos, quizzes, paper cup ping pong and other challenges.

The music this year has been enhanced by the return of the band. Joanne, Mark and Kerry Bircher, sometimes accompanied by Dale Stroyde and using a variety of instruments has provided a welcome and refreshing addition to the service.

We all look forward to learning together in 2023.

Phil & Jane Dooley

St Leonard's Sunday School & Young People's Report

Once again this year has been a difficult year in Sunday school. Attendance has been very irregular with some of the older young people choosing not to come at all.

Since taking on the responsibility of Churchwarden, managing the Sunday school has been even more difficult due to me needing to be in the service at various times. This has sometimes meant that the children have needed to remain in the service, I believe that this may have affected attendance of some of the families.

Despite these issues we have managed to do some good work this year, mainly picking out themes from the lectionary readings but sometimes picking up topical themes like the Platinum Jubilee, joining in with the jam-jar flower festival.

Jane Dooley

The Children of St Chad's (Sunday School)

There are on average 5 children who attend St Chads on a regular basis. These children are aged between 1 year and 15 years. There are a number of children who have complex needs. On a normal Sunday morning the focus is to keep the children comfortable and engaged with the church family. The children spend the service sat at tables at the back with age appropriate activities, often relating to the teaching of the day.

The children are more actively involved in the family services where they prepare and read the prayers and intercessions. The family services this year have been following the old testament characters that we have been looking at in the fusion services. We have recently started a new topic "King of Kings" looking at the kings in the bible using the upcoming coronation as a hook.

Kim Skidmore

HOPE in the Park

This event was planned for 2022 and all was going reasonably well. We obtained a little funding towards the hire of equipment and as this is a Churches Together event more churches than previously were keen to take part. The theme for this year was to be 'Come Together'.

Just over a week before the event was due to take place we had the devastating news that the stage had not only been vandalised but had been completely destroyed by fire, leaving it fenced off with a big cordon around it meaning that the whole area was unusable.

A cry went out – firstly up to heaven for some divine intervention as we would not accept that this was the end of HOPE! Then we appealed to others, with the TV and radio stations picking up our plea. Quickly offers of help came in, the most significant of which was the loan of a portable stage, the type used for outdoor events. The owner of the company was a Christian and when he saw our plight did not hesitate to offer it's use free of charge, which would have cost over £1,000 if we had hired it commercially. Several smaller offers of help were also forthcoming along with lots and lots of publicity.

With the portable stage the event was able to move to the football field of the park, a much bigger area. More churches than ever booked space for a stall to engage with people and the weather was set reasonably fair. Five local schools had agreed to take part this year and assemblies and school visits were done by a small group.

On the day the wind tried it's hardest to defeat us, with gazebos becoming kites and 'paper chase' the main activity! But more people than ever turned up due to the publicity, it was hard to estimate the number but possibly more than 2,000. And so it was that despite Satan trying his best to defeat us more than double the usual numbers of people were reached with something of the gospel and once again Jesus triumphed. Planning for 2023 is already underway.

Jane Dooley

Jacob's Well Café Ministry Report (formally known as the Melting Pot).

The café at St Leonard's reopened on the 5th of January 2022 after the Christmas break. We welcomed back our regular lunch club members alongside a few new ones.

We have been able to do several events this year, some of these events include; funeral buffets throughout the year, of which the largest was for sixty people; Mother's Day afternoon tea on the 26th of March; a 25th wedding anniversary buffet in May; bingo afternoon in July and a private Cream Tea for 20 in September. These events, along with a couple of small grants have enabled us to raise the required funds to look at hiring a part time manager.

We have developed a regular order for the Bilston Town Hall Film club where we provide sandwiches for the organising committee every 2 months, this helps boost the overall profits. We also have the ability to open the café to teas, coffees and toast on Wednesdays due to the dedication of our volunteers and the increase of volunteer staff.

We have built a great community feel within the café where everyone feels welcomed and included. On the 23rd of August we did a trip to Weston-Super-Mare which many of our customers, lunch club members and church family attended, 51 people in all. The cost of the trip was subsidised by a grant from Bilston Relief In Need Charity which enabled us to offer the children's seats at a much reduced price. This trip gave the opportunity for people to talk to different people and make new friends and to feel a sense of belonging. Many had not had a holiday for several years if ever.

Thanks to the generous donations from the harvest Festival we have been able to provide about 14 families with food parcels, with volunteers having basic training on how to put the parcels together by assessing the family's needs. This is becoming an increasing need in Bilston but we do not have the space to become a full food bank, however this work will continue into the future and donations are welcome.

Staff and customers are always encouraged to attend the Wednesday services and bible study which a few customers are attending and staff can attend once their jobs are complete. This helps and enables us to strengthen our bond with the church and gives the volunteers a better understanding of the mission of the church. We continue to work around funerals and other church events, encouraging due respect from customers.

Throughout the year we have celebrated many birthdays of the lunch club members and volunteers. This has included several big birthdays, enabling isolated members to feel a sense of belonging, especially since several of the members are bereaved and often have no other family. Being able to celebrate as part of a much bigger 'family' is special.

We have now been able to open the café three times a week; Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays whilst continuing with lunch club on Wednesdays. With the growth of the volunteers training, development and confidence that has come with the experience of working the regular three days a week (including lunch club) we have been able to open for a couple of hours on Saturdays, run by two of the volunteers; this is slowly developing a customer base.

To end the year we again provided a Christmas dinner to which all church members, customers and lunch club members were invited. Twenty-five attended on the 22nd of December, a little reduced due to illness, a further three or four take-away meals were provided. It was a successful day with all enjoying the cuisine and the company. In order to subsidise the meal a little we raffled a Christmas food hamper which was donated by Hazel Robinson to the café.

We took a short break in order to recuperate over the Christmas and New Year period, ready for the year ahead.

In 2023 our aim is to open a warm space to people of the community where they can be warm; play games; make new friends and have a hot drink. We also aim to advertise and hire a part time manager so that the café can be opened to customers five or six times a week.

Tammy & Kim Eglington.

World Day of Prayer Report

2022 World Day of Prayer centered around the countries England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The service this year took place in St Leonard's Church. As this was the first one since COVID we did not get the same numbers as we have in the past. 2023's World Day of Prayer is focused on Taiwan and will take place at St Chad's.

Kim Skidmore

Bible Study and Prayer Groups Report

The Bible Study groups have really developed this year. The Tuesday evening group continues to meet on Zoom with the opportunity for members to meet in person at St Chad's. The majority of the group still preferred to meet virtually so we stopped an in-person meeting from September and the group became a complete virtual group. The group has about 8-9 regular attendees from across the parish and beyond. The group have studied the books of Judges, Nehemiah and Galatians. We looked at separate studies for Lent and Advent. In Lent, we followed "Passion" by Mike McKinley, looking at Luke 22-24 and an Advent Book, "Repeat the Sounding Joy" by Christopher Ash, looking at the birth narrative of Luke 1-2. Each session had about 1 ½ hours studying and ½ hour of prayer.

It was exciting to see the development of the Wednesday morning group that meets after the shoppers communion in St Leonard's. This group has about 5-6 different members to that of a Tuesday. The Wednesday group is an in-person meeting and I've been so encouraged to see the spiritual growth of the members of this group. The Wednesday group have been following the same studies as the Tuesday group.

Following the MAP for the Parish, we have tried to launch a Tuesday day time group called "Soup and Study". This is an entry level Bible Study group for those who are starting out in their knowledge and study of the scriptures. This started well but due to diary clashes there have been many cancellations. We hope to have a greater consistency in the coming year.

In 2023, we hope to look at new studies on the Letter to the Romans and possibly a large Old Testament Book or even the Book of Revelation. The Lent Course we hope to launch will be "Talking Jesus" which wasn't completed in 2020 due to the COVID lockdown.

It is really encouraging to see how all the members of the groups have grown deeper in their knowledge and faith in the scriptures and how they had been applying it to their lives. The groups have also developed their ability and reliance in prayer. The prayer lists keep getting longer each week and we have shared many examples of answered prayer. The dynamics of the groups are great

but we always open for others to join us. All our Bible Study groups are not exclusive and open for everyone in the Parish to join us and we hope to allow members of the group to help in leading sessions as they grow and mature. Please do contact me if you want to find out more about what we are doing and I pray for a very productive new year.

Rev Simon Skidmore

InSpire Praise Ministry

Our hopes of restarting inSPIRE Praise events was dealt a blow at Easter last year when Mark Bircher was taken ill following the Good Friday event in the town. Following a triple heart by-pass he made steady progress and was eventually able to again pick up his guitar. He and the family began by leading a couple of songs in our monthly family service and we planned toward our annual Reclaiming Christmas Service at the beginning of December.

Reclaiming Christmas was threatened in the end by a certain World Cup match! We made the decision to bring the service earlier (5.00pm instead of 6.00pm) so that people could return home in time for the match; then high levels of illness in the schools taking part also began to threaten. Thankfully Bilston C of E Primary managed to muster a choir and entertained us admirably, Villiers Primary were unable to attend but despite this we had a good turnout and a most enjoyable evening. It was great to hear the band in full swing again and to have a full church raising the roof. Links with children and parents were renewed and the Christmas story retold with the help of a giant jigsaw puzzle and suitable carols and songs.

As most of the congregation hurried off the crew rapidly packed away before enjoying jacket potatoes for tea whilst watching the match on the big screens!

It was a good end to another struggling year, but we are planning to do at least four inSPIRE events during 2023; I hope we will see you there.

Jane Dooley

Pastoral Care Team Report

This year has seen the pastoral team reform. At present it's main focus is keeping the link between the church and the housebound and the church and people in homes. We hope to include hospital visits in the future but at present COVID rules still apply there. We communicate with the hospital chaplains instead. This link is kept by pastoral visits and also taking Holy Communion to them. Consequently interesting conversation goes backward and forwards. During the course of our monthly team meetings we look at baptism, wedding and funeral ministries, showing Gods love in the midst of their joy or sorrow. Sometimes it is difficult to understand why a worshipper has not been seen at church for sometime. Please could I ask that the church is contacted either through Simon or me on 07890 494151

Diane Woodberry

Places of Welcome Report

A new initiative by the Transforming Communities, a charity between the Diocese and Church Urban Fund. It's aim is to be a non-judgmental meeting place for anyone regardless of faith and to make friends. This might help with peoples mental frame of mind. Initially we met on Tuesday afternoons between 2-4pm but this was found difficult for parents with children at school. We moved to Thursdays mornings 10am-12noon. Usually we have a piece of cake and a hot drink of choice. We have games on offer and people bring their knitting and crafts.

In March, a friend of Linda's is coming to give a talk on Elizabethan life and have invited people from across the parish to come.

If you are interested in joining us you will be very welcome, please contact Diane on 07890494151.

Diane Woodberry

Fusion@4 -Fresh Expression

Fusion@4 is our Fresh Expression of church that happens on a 2nd Saturday of the month. It is still primarily aimed at those who have no contact with church and live in the vicinity of St Chad's. From the start of 2022, we continued the 'I am sayings' of Jesus which we completed by May. We started a new series in June called 'Old Testament Bible Explorers' that focuses on several main people in the Old Testament from Adam & Eve to Hezekiah. We plan to finish this series by the middle of 2023. Every Fusion there is a character profile that is created so those who come create a fact file of the people we have been exploring. We continue to offer a variety of activities including crafts and challenges, a focused time of worship with story-telling, prayers, puppets and dramatic songs, then we finish with a time of food and fellowship. We have started to put a donation plate out to cover costs for the church. We still have a range of different children and families each month but with a new regular family who is benefitting from it.

We still did a Messy Easter and Messy Christmas with a Christingle, having over 40 attending. During the Summer, we did a Fusion Holiday club which went down well with children coming from the estate and the hope is to do something similar in 2023. We are very thankful to the volunteers who give their time to help this initiative, especially Diane Woodberry, Alison Spencer and Linda Stockall. We are still looking for more volunteers to help us and we pray for more families to come and bring their children to find out more about Jesus and the hope that he brings.

Reo Simon & Kim Skidmore

The Parish Centre

The biggest change in the Parish Centre this year is the Tip Top Nursery, which is currently ready to go with a large waiting list, just awaiting Ofsted approval. They have made some wonderful changes to the centre and courtyard including painting the back rooms and laying new weather proof flooring in the courtyard at the back.

Regular hire has all but stopped with just the over 60s bingo group using the centre now on a Friday afternoon.

We have had a few parties this year, a couple of which have led to problems, mess and complaints from neighbours. We have there for decided to change the policy and hire arrangements. From now on the centre will take booking for children's parties only, these will take place on a weekend only and all parties must be finished by 6pm.

I am currently looking for a cleaner for the centre, and will possibly talk to the ladies who have started cleaning in St Chad's church.

Kim Skidmore

Chad's Place (Coffee morning and toddlers)

The regular numbers at Chads place have been decreasing faster since covid and currently one really have one boy who attends on a regular basis and one girl who has started coming recently. As Simon's day off has now changed to a Friday, the day for Chad's place has also changed. Chads place now takes place on a Thursday morning alongside the Place of Welcome. The toys have been recently sorted and cleaned and the old choir vestry is being used as the storage of these toys. This area has been organised, and new policies have been put in place to ensure that this area stays organised and tidy.

The toys are put out in half the church on a Thursday and the children can play while their parents engage with the place of welcome activities, or they can join and play with the children. We have done this a couple of times and are slowly getting more children coming in again.

Thanks to Diane Woodberry and Alison Spencer for your help with this in recent weeks. Thanks also to the Place of Welcome team for welcoming the toddlers and parents into your group.

Kim Skidmore

St Leonard's Church, Parish of Bilston on Facebook

This is the name of our Facebook page which has been open for some time now. We currently have 538 people who actively 'like' our page and 601 who follow it. Whenever we share information – advertise services and activities etc. – we regularly reach about 800 people (whenever anyone else 'shares' our post it means that all of their friends can see it too) and we have, on occasion, reached over 1,000 people. As you can see, with figures like these the Facebook page is well worth having and enables us to reach far more people than we would otherwise be able to reach. If you are on Facebook you can find us and 'like' us, then you can help to spread the word about what is happening within the parish. We are happy to share events at any of the churches if you let us know about them and maybe send us a digital poster.

Jane Dooley

Young People's Confirmation Group

In February 2022 we began a young people's confirmation group with 8 young people from the parish aged 10 – 15. We met on a Tuesday evening at 5.30pm and ate tea together before some games and a time of learning. The group gelled well and all looked forward to their Tuesday club, none of them missing unless it was absolutely necessary.

We were in the end given quite short notice of the confirmation in November, unfortunately it was a date that I myself could not make. This led to some debate amongst the candidates and whilst 5 of them chose to go ahead, 3 made the decision to wait until the spring.

In November Tike George, Kunda George, Emily-Rose Senyah, Agneta Krieva and Ashley Booth were all confirmed at St Peter's church by The Rt. Rev. Clive Gregory, Bishop of Wolverhampton. Congratulations to them all.

Sadly, one of the remaining candidates, Marats, has now found out that he has to return to his native Latvia in early February due to a family illness. We pray the he will one day be able to return and will continue in faith as he grows up. Isaiah and Malachi are hoping to be confirmed at the next deanery confirmation in the spring.

My thanks go to Kerry Eglington, Alison Spencer and Diane Woodberry who have all helped to keep the club going. The young people are all keen to resume their Tuesday Club and we already have 2 new youngsters who are looking for confirmation in September 2023. This could be a very exciting year!

Jane Dooley

The Future

This year continues to be a time of uncertainty with instability. We are still awaiting the confirmation of the new incumbent for the Parish and until that appointment is made, I will continue to serve the Parish as best as I can. This will require more change and collaboration from all the churches in the Parish. As we look forward to celebrating the coronation of King Charles III and with the impending changes going on within the Church of England, we must continue to remain faithful to the scriptures and seek to outreach to our town and communities.

We hope to develop further our Youth program in the Parish along with more mission initiatives, social events and introduce more personal bible reading material. We need to develop better publicity for the events that we do and to seek greater unity in what we are doing. I hope and pray that the right incumbent is appointed to carry on the work that the Lord is doing in his church and that we never drift from our primary focus in making Jesus known and to know Jesus better in how we serve him.

“Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain”. 1 Cor 15:1-2.

Let us give thanks for all the Lord has done for us this year and to seek his wisdom and guidance in the year to come.

Rev. Simon Skidmore

Financial Review

End of year report for The Parish of Bilston 2022

Total Net Assets: £406,032 [£366,662 2021]

Excess £39,443 [Deficit: (£38,252) 2021] – Unrestricted Excess: £32,783 Restricted Excess: £39,443 – Before gains on revaluation

Parish and Parish Centre

Excess: £4,320 [Deficit £16,283 2021]

The Parish account is to receive income from the three churches to pay the Common Fund and Parish Expenses. It also holds the proceeds of the sale of the Curates house. In 2022 the investments were transferred from the General fund to Curate Endowment funds as this better reflects the situation. Whilst the income produced is unrestricted the capital can not be spent. All income from the investments will be used for the Common fund and/or Parish expenses to reduce the burden on the individual Churches.

The Parish Centre is shown within these accounts. In 2022 the Parish Centre Building was moved from Parish Centre Restricted to Parish Centre Building Endowment. Again, this better reflects the situation. Whilst the income in unrestricted the capital can not be spent. All of the income and expenditure was recorded under Parish Centre Restricted. This fund has been closed and funds at the end of 2022 transferred to Parish Centre Designated. It is the intention to build up a reserve fund for any work needed on the Parish Centre and would suggest £20,000 which would be shown separately on the balance sheet as Parish Centre reserve. Along with this working capital of £5,000 retained. Once this figure has been reached then any surplus can be transferred and used to pay the Common fund and/or Parish expenses.

The Parish Centre has seen the Parish centre hire increase from £4,067 in 2021 to £9,130 in 2022. This should increase further as Tip Top Childcare are now hiring the Parish Centre on a 5 year lease eventually at £1,000 per month with contributions to the utility bills. The future looks bright.

I would like to thank Simon and Kim for their continued support and hard work to ensure that the Parish Centre runs so smoothly.

St Chads

Deficit: (£189) [Deficit: (£1,228) 2021]

St Chads income has reduced from £19,059 2021 to £14,965 2022 and expenditure has also reduced from £20,287 2021 to £15,154 2022.

St Chads have paid their share of the common fund in full and will see a reduction in 2023 so hopefully this will help. The general fund is showing (£52) but there is £186 in the Flower fund designated which could be drawn upon. Any increases in income or expenditure have been balanced by reductions in other areas

At the time of writing St Chads are in receipt of a legacy of £40,000 which will greatly help their finances for some years.

I would like to thank John and Pat for their continued support and hard work throughout the year.

St Mary's

Deficit; (£120) [Deficit: (£3,700) 2021]

St Mary's income overall has increased from £8,8742 2021 to £10,080 2022. Gift aid collections, Non gift aid collections and loose plate collections have reduced but donations have increased. The reason for this is I did not receive the paperwork and envelopes in a timely manner, and it was not clear when I did receive the paperwork [months late] which envelopes related to which input sheet. The income was therefore posted against donations as St Mary's could ill afford to fall foul of HMRC regulations.

The expenditure has reduced from £12,442 2021 to £10,200 2022 and the main reason for this is the common fund £6,353 2021 £3,553 2022. 2023 will see the Common fund split more evenly with St Mary's request being £5,523.

I have yet to have confirmation that this will be paid monthly. St Mary's don't seem to understand that the Parish account is just a vehicle. The payments for their share of the common fund is paid into the Parish account and paid out to Lichfield. It is imperative that the Parish account is in receipt of the full monthly amount.

It is difficult to see how St Mary's will remain a going concern without the other two Churches subsidizing them and from their accounts it is clear they are unable to.

St Leonards

Excess £35,432 [Deficit (£17,040) 2021]

Overall income has increased from £50,818 2021 to £85,638. This is mainly due to the receipt of an unrestricted legacy of £40,189. Without this St Leonard's would be showing a deficit of (£4,757). Most notable there have been reductions in donations, fees for weddings and funerals but an increase in Melting pot food sales.

Expenditure overall has also reduced from £67,859 2021 to £50,205 2022. Most notable is the reduction in the Common fund from £36,240 2021 to £26,834. There will be further reductions in 2023 because of the overpayment of £9,000 from the CCLA deposit account held with Lichfield. Electricity has risen from £964 2021 to £2,180 2022 whilst gas has reduced from £4,143 2021 to £3,017.

Melting Pot are slowly building up funds again increasing from £6,832 2021 to £11,771 2022.

Not a bad year for St Leonard's but a tight rein will be required moving forward.

I would like to thank Mark and Jane for their continued support and hard work throughout the year.

Kim Benton

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £21,290 [£28,511 2021]. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the free reserves at the year end was £78,462 [£139,633 2021] which is considerably higher than this target. The reduction in the free reserves is due to moving the invested assets from General fund to an Endowment fund.

Investment Policy

The charity is granted power to invest in suitable investments under the PCC Powers Measure 1956 and the Trustees Act 2000. As a charity, the Trustees have a duty of care to take such advice as is appropriate before investments are undertaken. This advice is sought from the Central Board of Finance (CCLA) in London.

The charity's investment policies are based on two key principles: -

- Ethical Investment – this includes ensuring that investments are held in companies which have high standards of corporate governance and act in a responsible way towards stakeholders.
- Long-term responsibilities – the trustees are aware of their long-term responsibilities in respect of the Restricted and Unrestricted reserves and as a result follow a prudent approach to investment decisions.

Investment policy for long-term funds is aimed primarily at generating a sustainable income, with due regard to the need for the preservation of capital value, and the possible need to realise investments to meet operational needs. The charity does not have a policy of generating income at excessive or high risk – known as “purchasing income”, where high returns are guaranteed at the expense of capital.

In summary, the charity has an overall policy to maximise income while preserving the real value of its funds. Due to the nature of the charity, an ethical investment policy is taken into consideration when investments are made:

The charity follows the Ethical Investment Advisory policy as recommended by the Lichfield Diocese which includes the following:

“We aim to invest in companies that:

- * will develop their business in the interests of shareholders;
- * demonstrate responsible employment practices;
- * are conscientious concerning issues of corporate governance, the environment and human rights;
- * are sensitive to the community in which they operate.”

Planned giving, collections and donations are the main sources of fund raising along with tax recoverable.

Safeguarding

The PCC believe they have fulfilled their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Reporting Serious Incidents

A Serious Incident is an adverse event, whether actual or alleged, which results in or risks significant harm to the charity's beneficiaries, employees, office holders, volunteers or to others who come into contact with the charity through its work, loss of the charity's money or assets, damage to the charity's property or harm to the charity's work or reputation.

The trustees are not aware of any Serious Incidents in the last year.

Fundraising

The PCC takes its fundraising responsibilities seriously and is very grateful to all donors – whether regular or occasional – for their support of the church and church events. PCC supporters are never taken for granted. The PCC take full responsibility for fundraising and do not use commercial organisations or professional fundraisers. All money raised is either by donations, fundraising events, special appeals or legacies for which the PCC are most grateful.

Volunteers

The members of the PCC would like to thank all of the 48 volunteers who work so hard to make our Church a lively and vibrant community.

Risk Management

The Church Wardens carry out regular Health and Safety Reviews and regularly inspect premises for potential hazards. We have safeguarding policies in place for child protection and for work with vulnerable adults, including rigorous DBS checking of staff and volunteers. Our insurances are reviewed annually to ensure adequate cover. An informal review of any new risks which may impact the work of the Church in the Parish is ongoing.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a Body Corporate established by the Church of England and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission. The PCC is governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended that came into effect on 2nd January 1957, and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. The PCC members receive training from courses run by the Diocese. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The PCC met 9 times in 2022

Related Parties –

The PCC does not employ any related parties or give contracts for work on the church to any related parties.

Donations from Related Parties

Donations from related parties during the year totalled £5,069 [£13,066 2021]. All of these donations were received without conditions.

Remuneration paid to Trustees

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the PCC

Expenses paid to Trustees

One Trustee was paid expenses of £177 [£567 2021] for travel to officiate Funerals in 2021

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston

Other names the charity is known by: N/A

Registered Charity Number: 1138955

Charity's principal address: St Leonard's Church Walsall Street Bilston WV14 0AT

Correspondence address: St Leonard's Church Walsall Street Bilston WV14 0AT

Website address: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

PCC Members: Who Served from 1 January 2022 to the date this report was approved

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole period
Ex-Officio		
Revd. Simon Skidmore	Acting Team Rector	
Phil Dooley	Secretary/Lay Reader/Diocesan Synod	
Mike Shelley-Smith	Deanery Synod	Resigned as Church Warden/Treasurer St Leonard's 10/04/2022 Resigned as Lay Reader 31/12/2022
Diane Woodberry	Lay Reader	
Pat Arnold	Church Warden St Chad's	Resigned as Parish Warden 10/04/2022
John Arnold	Church Warden St Chad's/Parish Warden	Elected as Parish Warden 10/04/2022
Mark Bircher	Church Warden St Leonard's/Parish Warden	
Jane Dooley	Church Warden St Leonard's	
Eber Carter	Church Warden St Mary's	
Christine Mills	Church Warden St Mary's	
Elected Members		
Adrian Mallen		Resigned as Lay Leader/Assistant Church Warden 31/12/2022
Kerry Eglington	St Chad's	
Kerry Bircher	St Leonard's	
Matthew Bircher	St Leonard's	
Charlie Smith	Assistant Church Warden St Leonard's	
Sylvia Hodister	St Leonard's	Resigned 04/04/2022
Linda Pearson	St Leonard's	Elected 10/04/2022
Kay Edwards	St Leonard's	Elected 10/04/2022

Joanne Bircher	St Leonard's	Elected 10/04/2022
Ann Reaney	St Leonard's	Elected 10/04/2022
Elizabeth Rice	St Mary's	Elected 10/04/2022
Wendy Hawkins	St Mary's	Elected 10/04/2022

Bank Barclays Bank PLC – Queen Square Wolverhampton WV1 1DS

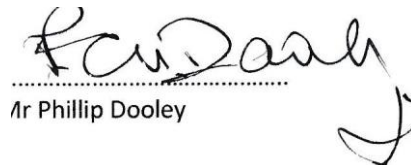
**Investment
Managers** CCLA
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4ET

**Independent
Examiner** Jonathan Hill
Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance
St Marys House, The Close, Lichfield. WS13 7LD

Approved by the PCC on 27/03/2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Simon Skidmore



Mr Phillip Dooley

Mr Philip Dooley

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees/members of The PCC of The Parish of Bilston

Registered charity number, if applicable: 1138955

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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



Signed: Date: 19/05/2023

Jonathan Hill FCMA CGMA

Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance

St Mary's House, The Close, Lichfield WS13 7LD

The Parish of Bilston
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2022

Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using Receipts and Payments basis.

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements 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 nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Cashflow Statement

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement on the grounds that the income does not exceed £500,000.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties relate to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Accounting Estimates and Prior Year Errors

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period.

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period

Description of Funds

Unrestricted funds are income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its "free reserves" as disclosed in the trustees' annual report.

An explanation of purpose of each Designated fund are as follows:

- Flower Fund – Flowers for St Leonards Church. Advise this account is closed and monies transferred to St Leonards account. Statement not received in 2022. PCC to consider in 2023.
- Flowers Fund – Flowers for St Chad's Church
- Melting Pot – Takings for The Melting Pot to identify excess/deficit – excess to be transferred to General fund when necessary.
- Building Fund – Ringfenced for work on St Leonards Building
- PCentre – To record income and expenditure of the Parish Centre. Excess can be transferred to Parish funds. Suggest a reserve is built up of £20,000 and retain working capital of £5,000. Any excess is transferred to Parish funds to help with the payment of the Common fund and/or Parish expenses.
- Choir – Funds set aside for the Choir – this fund has not been used for many years advise that the account is closed and transferred to St Leonards account along with transferring the funds to General fund. PCC to consider in 2023

Restricted funds comprise of two elements :-

- a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest
- b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

An explanation of purpose of each Restricted fund are as follows:

- Décor – This is the re-decoration scheme for the vicarage
- Belfry – Specific donation for the upkeep of the Belfry
- Fair – This is a grant from Emma Bussey Charity to help with Summer and Christmas Fairs.
- Melting Pot – These are specific fund raising donations for the Melting Pot.
- Walford legacy – Is to be used for the upkeep of one of the graves in the Church yard
- Mission Work at St Chad's – Donations specifically for Mission Work at St Chad's
- Project – Kitchen/Vestry/Toilets – Specific donations for the project work at St Chad's
- SoftPlay – Specific grant for the soft play area at St Chad's
- Warmth – Specific grant for Places of Warmth at St Chad's
- Christmas festival – Specific grant for the Christmas festival
- Lighting – Specific donations for the lighting upgrade at St Leonard's
- Manager – Specific donations for the managers post

Endowment funds are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown in the notes to the accounts.

- Curate – Sale of the Curates House – Investments held in Diocesan Trust TN733. Transferred From PCentre restricted in 2022 to reflect the correct situation. The income is unrestricted but the capital can not be spent.
- PCentre Building – The Building at St Chad's. Transferred from PCentre restricted in 2022 to reflect the correct situation. The excess income can be used for Parish purposes but the building can not be sold and the capital used.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received or when the PCC becomes entitled to the resource and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Governance and Support Costs

Support costs should be allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources eg by allocating staff costs by time spent and other costs by their usage.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts by s.10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statement.

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

Other tangible fixed assets are valued at cost. The assets are depreciated where applicable at 50% per annum.

Investments

Investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are valued initially at cost and subsequently at market value at the year end. Investments held for re-sale are treated as current asset investments.

Debtors

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount. Subsequently they are measured as cash expected to be received

Creditors and Accruals

Creditors are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts. Accruals are measured on best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Parish of Bilston year ended 2022

Receipts and Payments 2022

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
Receipts and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	90,714	8,780	—	99,495	76,028
Receipts from charitable activities	12,923	—	—	12,923	9,978
Other trading activities	101	9,130	—	9,231	6,951
Investments	1,309	27	—	1,337	2,206
Other receipts	1,617	—	—	1,617	—
Total receipts	106,667	17,938	—	124,605	95,165
Payments on:					
Raising funds	912	155	—	1,067	1,133
Payments on charitable activities	71,955	2,538	—	74,493	112,284
Other payments	1,015	8,584	—	9,600	19,999
Total payments	73,883	11,278	—	85,161	133,417
Net receipts / (payments) resources before transfer	32,783	6,659	—	39,443	(38,252)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	4,613	1,000	310,878	316,491	79,390
Gross transfers between funds - out	(92,199)	(224,292)	—	(316,491)	(79,390)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	(12,796)	—	—	(12,796)	60,952
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	(1,420)	14,143	—	12,723	33,355
Net movement in funds	(69,017)	(202,489)	310,878	39,370	56,054
Total funds brought forward	146,481	220,181	—	366,662	310,607
Total funds carried forward	77,463	17,691	310,878	406,032	366,662

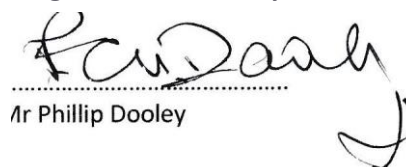
Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2022

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
Fixed assets - Investments						
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 -	—	—	—	22,246	22,246	25,877
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 [1] -	—	—	—	23,136	23,136	26,212
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 [2] -	—	—	—	45,636	45,636	51,724
Totals	—	—	—	91,019	91,019	103,815
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
2 x Inspiron Laptops -	2,122	—	—	—	2,122	—
Parish Centre -	—	—	—	219,859	219,859	207,137
Stow Lawn Land -	1	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	2,123	—	—	219,859	221,982	207,138
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 -	475	—	—	—	475	11,134
St Mary's DCC Current Account -	2,435	—	—	—	2,435	2,555
St Leonard's Flower Current Account -	—	306	—	—	306	306
Parish Centre Account -	—	3,923	206	—	4,129	1,872
PCC of The Parish of Bilston -	10,213	(1,000)	2,516	—	11,729	5,226
CCLA (CBF) St Leonards - Walford Legacy	—	—	1,995	—	1,995	1,969
-						
St Chad's DCC Current account -	(52)	186	5,898	—	6,032	6,222
Flowers - Cash in hand -	—	142	—	—	142	142
Parish Centre Cash -	—	10	—	—	10	10
St Leonard's Choir -	—	21	—	—	21	21
The Melting Pot - St Leonards -	(715)	10,208	2,293	—	11,786	6,182
St Leonard's Church Current Account -	36,282	1,932	4,752	—	42,967	16,246
IDS Decoration Scheme DOVER STREET -	—	—	1,220	—	1,220	1,220
IDS Decoration Scheme CUMBERLAND -	—	—	82	—	82	82
Totals	48,639	15,731	18,966	—	83,337	53,194
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	—	—	—	—	—	712
LDBF Common Fund 2022 -	1,133	—	—	—	1,133	—
Overpayment to P -						
LDBF Common Fund 2022 Overpayment	9,835	—	—	—	9,835	—
-						
Totals	10,968	—	—	—	10,968	712
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	1,275	—	1,275	(1,802)
Totals	—	—	1,275	—	1,275	(1,802)
Grand total	61,731	15,731	17,691	310,878	406,032	366,662

Approved by the PCC on 27/03/2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Simon Skidmore



Mr Phillip Dooley

Mr Phillip Dooley

Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2021

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2021	2020
Fixed assets - Investments						
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 -	25,877	—	—	—	25,877	—
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 [1] -	26,212	—	—	—	26,212	—
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 [2] -	51,724	—	—	—	51,724	—
Totals	103,815	—	—	—	103,815	—
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
Parish Centre -	—	—	207,137	—	207,137	150,000
MONTPELLER 100CM DUEL FUEL RANGE COOKER -	—	—	—	—	—	395
2 Russell Road -	—	—	—	—	—	152,000
Stow Lawn Land -	1	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	1	—	207,137	—	207,138	302,396
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 -	11,134	—	—	—	11,134	—
PCC St Marys Church Bilston Reserve -	2,555	—	—	—	2,555	4,314
St Leonard's Flower Current Account -	—	306	—	—	306	306
Parish Centre Account -	—	—	1,872	—	1,872	1,784
PCC of The Parish of Bilston -	7,034	—	(1,807)	—	5,226	5,929
St Mary's DCC - Reserve Account -	—	—	—	—	—	1,726
CCLA (CBF) St Leonards - Walford Legacy	—	—	1,969	—	1,969	1,968
-						
St Chad's Church Current Account -	4,215	—	—	—	4,215	2,488
St Chad's DCC Current account -	—	257	1,750	—	2,007	1,507
Flowers - Cash in hand -	—	142	—	—	142	142
Parish Centre Cash -	—	—	10	—	10	10
St Leonard's Choir -	—	21	—	—	21	21
Melting Pot -	(149)	—	—	—	(149)	—
The Melting Pot - St Leonards -	—	5,240	1,092	—	6,332	2,512
St Leonard's Church Current Account -	11,027	880	4,338	—	16,246	37,219
IDS Decoration Scheme DOVER STREET -	—	—	1,220	—	1,220	1,220
IDS Decoration Scheme CUMBERLAND -	—	—	82	—	82	82
Totals	35,817	6,848	10,529	—	53,194	61,235
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	—	—	712	—	712	—
Totals	—	—	712	—	712	—
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	(1,802)	—	(1,802)	14,110
Totals	—	—	(1,802)	—	(1,802)	14,110
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Salaries - Parish Centre -	—	—	—	—	—	27,664
Salaries - Projects -	—	—	—	—	—	11,249
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	38,913
Grand total	139,633	6,848	220,181	—	366,662	310,607

Analysis of receipts and payments 2022

RECEIPTS

Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
0101 - Gift Aid Collections	11,556	—	—	—	11,556	16,911
Bank/Envelopes						
0201 - Non Gift Aid Collections	1,062	—	—	—	1,062	1,455
0201 - Non-Gift Aid Collections	4,209	—	—	—	4,209	4,729
0301 - Loose plate collections	7,380	—	—	—	7,380	7,722
0410 - Votive Lights/Church Boxes	335	—	—	—	335	39
0501 - One-off Gift Aid gifts	—	—	—	—	—	400
0550 - Donations appeals etc	12,654	1,108	1,611	—	15,375	27,613
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	5,156	—	—	—	5,156	5,614
0701 - Legacies	40,189	—	—	—	40,189	1,109
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	1,400	—	7,168	—	8,568	8,597
0901 - Other funds generated	4,760	—	—	—	4,760	1,837
0902 - Heating Weddings	900	—	—	—	900	—
Total	89,606	1,108	8,780	—	99,495	76,028

Receipts from charitable activities

1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	4,691	—	—	—	4,691	5,780
1210 - Melting Pot - Food Sales	—	8,232	—	—	8,232	4,198
Total	4,691	8,232	—	—	12,923	9,978

Other trading activities

1230 - Parish Centre Hire	—	—	9,130	—	9,130	4,067
1250 - Magazine income - advertising	90	—	—	—	90	—
1260 - Parish magazine sales	11	—	—	—	11	205
Total	101	—	9,130	—	9,231	4,272

Investments

1001 - Dividends	1,052	—	—	—	1,052	771
1020 - Bank and building society interest	77	—	27	—	104	2
1030 - Rent from lands or buildings	—	—	—	—	—	1,353
1030 - Rent from lands or buildings	—	—	—	—	—	1,353
1030 - Rent from lands or buildings&Melting Pot	20	160	—	—	180	80
Total	1,149	160	27	—	1,337	3,560

Other income

1310 - Insurance claims	1,617	—	—	—	1,617	—
Total	1,617	—	—	—	1,617	—
RECEIPTS TOTAL	97,165	9,501	17,938	—	124,605	93,839

PAYMENTS

Raising funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	737	—	155	—	893	1,011
1740 - Bank Charges	—	174	—	—	174	121
Total	737	174	155	—	1,067	1,133

Payments on charitable activities

1910 - LDBF Common Fund	42,368	—	—	—	42,368	66,906
2001 - Salaries	—	190	—	—	190	—
2201 - Parish training and mission	22	—	—	—	22	—
2301 - Church running - insurance	9,209	—	—	—	9,209	8,348
2310 - Church office - telephone	807	—	—	—	807	441
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	—	—	—	—	—	281
2330 - Church maintenance	1,012	—	2,261	—	3,273	3,263
2331 - Cleaning	457	239	17	—	714	850
2340 - Upkeep of services	712	39	133	—	886	289
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	—	—	—	—	—	343
2360 -	2,393	—	125	—	2,518	3,763
Admin/Stationery/Photocopier/Printing et						
2361 - Parish Expenses	—	—	—	—	—	6,000
2401 - Church running - electric	3,081	—	—	—	3,081	1,574
2410 - Church running - gas	5,900	—	—	—	5,900	7,487
2420 - Church running - water	—	—	—	—	—	58
2420 - Church running - water	—	—	—	—	—	58
2518 - Melting Pot - Non Food Items	—	202	—	—	202	—
2519 - Melting Pot - Food Supplies	—	2,885	—	—	2,885	1,668
2602 - Licences & Subscriptions	75	—	—	—	75	117
2602 - Licences & Subscriptions	491	—	—	—	491	244
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	—	—	—	—	—	7,159
2710 - Church major repairs - installation	1,867	—	—	—	1,867	600
2840 - Other PCC property upkeep	—	—	—	—	—	2,787
Total	68,398	3,557	2,538	—	74,493	112,243

Other payments

2320 - Organ / piano tuning	—	—	—	—	—	281
2333 - Cleaning	—	—	194	—	194	182
2360 -	831	—	—	—	831	4,810
Admin/Stationery/Photocopier/Printing						
2401 - Church Running - Electric	20	—	—	—	20	—
2410 - Church Running - Gas	164	—	—	—	164	—
2530 - Parish Centre - Electricity	—	—	2,331	—	2,331	1,829
2540 - Parish Centre - Gas	—	—	785	—	785	2,065
2550 - Parish Centre - Insurance	—	—	744	—	744	672
2560 - Parish Centre - Maintenance	—	—	1,590	—	1,590	2,905
2570 - Parish Centre - telephone	—	—	1,577	—	1,577	1,354
2580 - Parish Centre - water	—	—	1,361	—	1,361	1,434

2701 - Church major repairs - structure	—	—	—	—	—	7,159
2840 - Other PCC property upkeep	—	—	—	—	—	2,787
Total	1,015	—	8,584	—	9,600	25,483
PAYMENTS TOTAL	70,151	3,731	11,278	—	85,161	138,861
GRAND TOTAL	27,013	5,769	6,659	—	39,443	(45,021)

Fund movement by type 2022

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gain/Loss	Closing
Belfry - Belfry						
Restricted	1,723	—	1,598	—	—	125
Sub-total for Belfry	1,723	—	1,598	—	—	125
Bibles - Bibles						
Restricted	—	111	111	—	—	—
Sub-total for Bibles	—	111	111	—	—	—
Bloom - Bilston in Bloom						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Bloom	—	—	—	—	—	—
Building - Building Fund						
Designated	880	1,082	—	—	—	1,962
Sub-total for Building	880	1,082	—	—	—	1,962
Choir - St Leonard's Choir						
Designated	21	—	—	—	—	21
Sub-total for Choir	21	—	—	—	—	21
Christmas - Christmas Festival						
Restricted	—	2,500	—	—	—	2,500
Sub-total for Christmas	—	2,500	—	—	—	2,500
Curate - Sale Of Curate House						
Endowment	—	—	—	91,019	—	91,019
Sub-total for Curate	—	—	—	91,019	—	91,019
Decor - Decoration Scheme						
Restricted	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Sub-total for Decor	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Fair - Summer Fair Parish C						
Restricted	206	—	—	—	—	206
Sub-total for Fair	206	—	—	—	—	206
Flower - Flower Fund						
Designated	449	—	—	—	—	449
Sub-total for Flower	449	—	—	—	—	449
Flowers - Flowers Fund						
Designated	257	—	70	—	—	186
Sub-total for Flowers	257	—	70	—	—	186

General - General fund							
Unrestricted	139,633	97,165	70,151	(90,699)	(12,796)	61,731	
Sub-total for General	139,633	97,165	70,151	(90,699)	(12,796)	61,731	
Laptops - Laptops							
Restricted	—	500	—	(500)	—	—	
Sub-total for Laptops	—	500	—	(500)	—	—	
Lighting - Lighting At St Leona							
Restricted	2,110	—	662	—	—	1,447	
Sub-total for Lighting	2,110	—	662	—	—	1,447	
Manager - Manager Post							
Restricted	—	1,200	—	—	—	1,200	
Sub-total for Manager	—	1,200	—	—	—	1,200	
Melting Po - Melting Pot							
Designated	5,240	8,418	3,661	180	—	10,178	
Restricted	1,592	1	—	—	—	1,593	
Sub-total for Melting Po	6,832	8,420	3,661	180	—	11,771	
Mission - Mission Work At St C							
Restricted	1,750	—	116	—	—	1,633	
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Sub-total for Mission	1,750	—	116	—	—	1,633	
PCentre - Parish Centre							
Designated	—	—	—	2,933	—	2,933	
Restricted	209,525	9,130	8,584	(222,792)	12,722	—	
Sub-total for PCentre	209,525	9,130	8,584	(219,859)	12,722	2,933	
PCentreBui - Parish Centre Buildi							
Endowment	—	—	—	219,859	—	219,859	
Sub-total for PCentreBui	—	—	—	219,859	—	219,859	
Project - Kitchen/Vestry/Toile							
Restricted	—	500	—	—	—	500	
Sub-total for Project	—	500	—	—	—	500	
SoftPlay - Soft Play Area							
Restricted	—	1,268	—	—	—	1,268	
Sub-total for SoftPlay	—	1,268	—	—	—	1,268	
Walford - Walford Legacy							
Restricted	1,969	25	—	—	—	1,995	
Sub-total for Walford	1,969	25	—	—	—	1,995	
Warmth - Places Of Warmth							
Restricted	—	2,000	—	—	—	2,000	
Sub-total for Warmth	—	2,000	—	—	—	2,000	
Welcome - Places Of Welcome							
Restricted	—	700	204	—	—	495	
Sub-total for Welcome	—	700	204	—	—	495	
Grand total	366,662	124,605	85,161	—	(74)	404,611	

Fund movement by type 2021

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gain/Loss	Closing
Belfry - Belfry						
Restricted	—	3,609	1,776	(109)	—	1,723
Sub-total for Belfry	—	3,609	1,776	(109)	—	1,723
Building - Building Fund						
Designated	14,370	880	4,257	(10,112)	—	880
Sub-total for Building	14,370	880	4,257	(10,112)	—	880
Choir - St Leonard's Choir						
Designated	21	—	—	—	—	21
Sub-total for Choir	21	—	—	—	—	21
Christmas - Christmas Festival						
Restricted	—	1,000	1,000	—	—	—
Sub-total for Christmas	—	1,000	1,000	—	—	—
Decor - Decoration Scheme						
Restricted	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Sub-total for Decor	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Fair - Summer Fair Parish C						
Restricted	206	—	—	—	—	206
Sub-total for Fair	206	—	—	—	—	206
Flower - Flower Fund						
Designated	449	—	—	—	—	449
Sub-total for Flower	449	—	—	—	—	449
Flowers - Flowers						
Designated	257	—	—	—	—	257
Sub-total for Flowers	257	—	—	—	—	257
GenChad - St Chads General Fun						
Designated	1,210	—	—	(1,210)	—	—
Sub-total for GenChad	1,210	—	—	(1,210)	—	—
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	171,750	78,944	114,044	(7,151)	3,815	139,633
Sub-total for General	171,750	78,944	114,044	(7,151)	3,815	139,633
Lighting - Lighting At St Leona						
Restricted	1,860	250	—	—	—	2,110
Sub-total for Lighting	1,860	250	—	—	—	2,110
Locks - Parish Centre - Lock						
Restricted	1,000	—	—	(1,000)	—	—
Sub-total for Locks	1,000	—	—	(1,000)	—	—
Melting Po - Melting Pot						
Designated	2,237	5,080	2,077	—	—	5,240
Restricted	775	817	—	—	—	1,592
Sub-total for Melting Po	3,012	5,897	2,077	—	—	6,832
Mission - Mission Work At St C						
Restricted	1,250	500	—	—	—	1,750
Sub-total for Mission	1,250	500	—	—	—	1,750
PCentre - Parish Centre						
Restricted	111,946	4,082	10,261	19,584	57,137	209,525
Sub-total for PCentre	111,946	4,082	10,261	19,584	57,137	209,525
Walford - Walford Legacy						
Restricted	1,968	1	—	—	—	1,969
Sub-total for Walford	1,968	1	—	—	—	1,969
Grand total	310,607	95,165	133,417	—	60,952	366,662

Staff Costs

During the year the PCC did not employ anyone.

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the previous or current year.

Trustees' Remuneration & Expenses

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the PCC
One Trustee was paid expenses of £177 [£567 2021] for travel to officiate Funerals in 2022

Related Parties

No other expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

Donations from related parties [PCC members] totalled £5,069 [£13,066 2021]

Analysis of Transfer between Funds 2022

Debit	Credit	Description	Fund	Fund Type
-	22,246.15	Tfr General to Curate	General	Unr
22,246.15	-	Tfr General to Curate	Curate	End
23,136.91	-	Tfr from General to Curate	Curate	End
-	23,136.91	Tfr from General to Curate	General	Unr
45,636.07	-	Tfr from General to Curate	Curate	End
-	45,636.07	Tfr from General to Curate	General	Unr
3,923.29	-	Tfr from restricted to designated as income can be used for Parish expenses	PCentre	Des
-	3,923.29	Tfr from restricted to designated as income can be used for Parish expenses	PCentre	Res
1,000.00	-	Tfr from Restricted to Designated as funds can be used for Parish expenses	PCentre	Res
-	1,000.00	Tfr from Restricted to Designated as funds can be used for Parish expenses	PCentre	Des
-	10.22	Tfr from Restricted to Designated as funds can be used for Parish expenses	PCentre	Res
10.22	-	Tfr from Restricted to Designated as funds can be used for Parish expenses	PCentre	Des
219,859.00	-	Tfr from Restricted to Endowment	PCentreBuilding	End
-	219,859.00	Tfr from Restricted to Endowment	PCentre	Res
180	-	Tfr from 90303410 to 70201782	Melting Pot	Des
-	180	Tfr from 90303410 to 70201782	General	Unr
-	500	Tfr Laptops to General Laptops purchased and General fund debited - see fixed assets	Laptops	Res
500	-	Tfr Laptops to General Laptops purchased and General fund debited - see fixed assets	General	Unr

Analysis of Transfer between Funds 2021

Reference	Debit	Credit	Description	Fund	Fund Type
Tidy Up KB	1.00	—	Per General	PCentre	Res
Tidy Up KB	—	1.00	To Parish Centre Retstricte	General	Unr
Tfr from General fund to Parish Centre restricted	—	12,664.57	to Parish Centre R - Having paid off Salary	General	Unr
Tfr from General fund to Parish Centre restricted	12,664.57	—	Per General having paid of	PCentre	Res
Tfr from St Chads General fund - paid from Parish Expenses	1,210.85	—	Per St Chads General fund	PCentre	Res
Tfr from St Chads General fund - paid from Parish Expenses	—	1,210.85	To Parish Centre	GenChad	Des
Tfr from General to parish centre - KB Tidy up	4,707.30	—	Per General KB tidy up	PCentre	Res
Tfr from General to parish centre -KB Tidy up	—	4,707.30	To Parish Centre KB tidy up	General	Unr
Tfr from Locks - Locks replaced and paid out of Parish Centre fund	1,000.00	—	Per Locks fund	PCentre	Res
Tfr from Locks - Locks replaced and paid out of Parish Centre fund	—	1,000.00	To Parish centre - Locks changed and paid from	Locks	Res
Paid in 15/04/2020 - P Davies Solicitors Will requests it is paid into Belfry fund	15,000.00	—	Per General Fund	Belfry	Res
Paid in 15/04/2020 - P Davies Solicitors Will requests it is paid into Belfry fund	—	15,000.00	To Belfry Fund	General	Unr
Paid in 29/06/20 trfd as per Will - request to be paid into Belfry fund	9,791.62	—	Per General fund	Belfry	Res
Paid in 29/06/20 trfd as per Will -request to be paid into Belfry fund	—	9,791.62	To Belfry Fund	General	Unr
Tfr from Belfry established that the legacy was unrestricted	—	24,901.08	To General	Belfry	Res
Tfr from Belfry established that the legacy was unrestricted	24,901.08	—	Per Belfry	General	Unr
Tfr from Building to General Invoice paid from General	10,112.93	—	Per Building fund	General	Unr
Tfr from Building to General Invoice paid from General	—	10,112.93	To General	Building	Des

Fixed Assets

a) Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Buildings £	Church Equipment £	Total Assets
Cost or Valuation			
As at 1 Jan	207,138	0.00	207,138
Additions in the Year	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disposal in the Year	0.00	0.00	0.00
Revaluation [if any]	12,722	0.00	12,722
Value at 31 Dec	219,860	0.00	219,860
Accumulated Depreciation		0.00	0.00
As at 1 Jan	0.00	0.00	0.00
Charge for the Year	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00
Value at 31 Dec	0.00	0.00	219,860
Net Book Value at 1 Jan 2020	207,138	0.00	207,138
Net Book Value at 31 Dec 2020	219,860	0.00	219,860

Freehold Buildings

Parish Centre: £219,859 – Transferred from PCentre Restricted to PCentre Building Endowment as the Parish would be unable to spend the capital value.

Stow Lawn Land: £1.00

b) Fixed Asset Investments

	At 1 Jan £	Additions £	Disposals £	Transfers £	Change in Market Value	At 31 Dec £
Unrestricted funds						
Investments	103,815	0.00	0.00	(91,019)	(12,796)	0.00
Restricted Funds						
Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Endowment Fund						
Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	91,019	0.00	91,019
Total	103,815	0.00	0.00	0.00	(12,796)	91,019

CCLA (CBF) Lichfield 120002024L TN733 - £22,246.15 [2021 £25,877.67]

CCLA (CBF) Lichfield 120002039P TN733 - £23,136.91 [2021£26,212.50]

CCLA (CBF) Lichfield 1200021121 TN733 - £45636.07 [2021 £51,724.96]

Transferred from General Fund to Endowment Fund 'Curate' in 2022 as the Parish are unable to spend the capital.

Summary of Assets by Fund 2022

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
Unrestricted					
General fund	61,731	—	—	61,731	139,633
Designated					
Building Fund	1,962	—	—	1,962	880
Flower Fund	449	—	—	449	449
Flowers Fund	186	—	—	186	257
Melting Pot	10,178	—	—	10,178	5,240
Parish Centre	2,933	—	—	2,933	—
St Leonard's Choir	21	—	—	21	21
Restricted					
Agency collection	—	1,421	—	1,421	—
Belfry	—	125	—	125	1,723
Christmas Festival	—	2,500	—	2,500	—
Decoration Scheme	—	1,303	—	1,303	1,303
Kitchen/Vestry/Toilets	—	500	—	500	—
Lighting At St Leonards	—	1,447	—	1,447	2,110
Manager Post	—	1,200	—	1,200	—
Melting Pot	—	1,593	—	1,593	1,592
Mission Work At St Chads	—	1,633	—	1,633	1,750
Parish Centre	—	—	—	—	209,525
Places Of Warmth	—	2,000	—	2,000	—
Places Of Welcome	—	495	—	495	—
Soft Play Area	—	1,268	—	1,268	—
Summer Fair Parish Centre grant from Bussey	—	206	—	206	206
Walford Legacy	—	1,995	—	1,995	1,969
Endowment					
Parish Centre Building	—	—	219,859	219,859	—
Sale Of Curate House TN733	—	—	91,019	91,019	—
Total	78,462	17,691	310,878	406,032	366,662

Summary of Assets by Fund 2021

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2021	Total 2020
Unrestricted					
General fund	139,633	—	—	139,633	171,750
Designated					
Building Fund	880	—	—	880	14,370
Flower Fund	449	—	—	449	449
Flowers Fund	257	—	—	257	257
Melting Pot	5,240	—	—	5,240	2,237
St Chads General Fund	—	—	—	—	1,210
St Leonard's Choir	21	—	—	21	21
Restricted					
Belfry	—	1,723	—	1,723	—
Decoration Scheme	—	1,303	—	1,303	1,303
Lighting At St Leonards	—	2,110	—	2,110	1,860
Melting Pot	—	1,592	—	1,592	775
Mission Work At St Chads	—	1,750	—	1,750	1,250
Parish Centre	—	209,525	—	209,525	111,946
Parish Centre - Locks	—	—	—	—	1,000
Summer Fair Parish Centre grant from Bussey	—	206	—	206	206
Walford Legacy	—	1,969	—	1,969	1,968
Total	146,480	220,181		366,662	310,607

Receipts & Payments Comparatives
Previous Year 2021

Receipts:	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Donations and legacies	69,836	6,191	—	76,028	96,596
Income from charitable activities	9,978	—	—	9,978	9,146
Other trading activities	2,884	4,067	—	6,951	5,908
Investments	2,205	1	—	2,206	123
Other receipts	—	—	—	—	19,237
Total receipts	84,904	10,260	—	95,165	131,013
Payments on:					
Raising funds	133	1,000	—	1,133	171
Payments on charitable activities	110,508	1,776	—	112,284	116,725
Other Payments	9,737	10,261	—	19,999	25,092
Total payments	120,379	13,038	—	133,417	141,989
Net receipts / (payments) resources before transfer	(35,474)	(2,777)	—	(38,252)	(10,976)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	35,014	44,376	—	79,390	1,956
Gross transfers between funds - out	(53,489)	(25,901)	—	(79,390)	(1,956)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	3,815	57,137	—	60,952	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	6,318	27,036	—	33,355	64,491
Net movement in funds	(43,815)	99,870	—	56,054	53,515
Total funds brought forward	190,297	120,310	—	310,607	257,092
Total funds carried forward	146,481	220,181	—	366,662	310,607

Accounts

<Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston

For the year ended 31st December 2021

Registered Charity Number 1138955

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2021
Charity registration number 1138955

Objectives and Activities

The Parochial Church Council of Bilston (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Acting incumbent, the Reverend Simon Skidmore, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also spiritually responsible for the maintenance of the church

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at all of our three Churches – St Leonards, St Chads and St Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament. Also, through non-sacramental activities of hospitality and fellowship we aim to reach non churched members of the community.

Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Bilston, it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers; and
- Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Vision Statement

"We, the congregations of Bilston Parish, seek to grow as the family of God and the people of God".

Mission Action Plan (MAP)

Discipleship

What we are doing now:

- Weekly Sunday worship in all 4 churches.
- A variety of types of worship across the parish.
- Use of Clergy and Readers across all churches.
- 2 weekly Bible Studies with prayer.
- Celebration of Patronal Services across the parish.
- Special celebrations at Christmas/Easter/Harvest.
- Monthly Saturday morning prayer meeting.
- Services in Care Homes.
- Monthly Saturday evening Praise event.
- Sunday School in 2 of our churches.

What was planned for the 12-month period:

- Change the times of Sunday worship across the parish
 8.00am St Leonard's 6.00pm Stowlawn
 9.30am St Mary's 6.30pm St Leonard's
 10.30am St Leonard's
 11.00am St Chad's
- Develop preparation and follow-up of Baptism and Wedding families.
- Develop a Youth program for the parish despite a successful diocesan event in September of 2018 in which 7 of our young people took part.
- Revitalise the Saturday morning monthly prayer meeting.
- Develop confidence in prayer across all congregations.
- Grow and encourage bible study within the parish.
- Local prayer walks.

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

- Develop a flourishing and sustainable parish youth group.
- Develop a prayer diary that the whole parish can use confidently.
- Baptism and Wedding families attending regular worship.
- Parish teaching weekends – develop a culture of learning.

Evangelism

What we are doing now:

- Wedding, Baptism and Funeral ministry.
- Café which enables St Leonard's to be open 7 days per week.
- The Parish Centre at St Chad's providing community space.
- Memorial services following large number of funerals in the Parish.
- Special services encouraging schools and community to take part – Christingle, Remembrance, Crib, Reclaiming Christmas, Midnight communions, Harvest, Patronals etc.
- Parish social events including fund raisers and fetes etc.
- Work within schools – Bilston CoE, Green Park, Field View, Villiers Primary, Little Rascals.
- Services in Care homes - The Elm's, Bushfield Court, Glenthorne House.
- Toddler group at St Chad's.
- Table Tennis Group/Games Afternoon.

What was planned for the 12 month period:

- Develop Saturday café into Café Church.
- Develop and refresh memorial service and funeral follow-up.
- Develop a youth choir.
- Launch a regular Parish Seeker Course.
- Develop a daytime bible study group.
- Seek and develop an appropriate outreach from St Mary's.

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

- Develop the evening service at St Leonard's.
- Establish a team equipped to lead Seeker courses.
- Mission weekends within the parish.

Vocation

What we are doing now:

- Encourage active participation in services and general church activities.
- Develop the ministry of Lay Readers with regular leading of worship.
- Offer regular bible study and prayer.
- Encourage Confirmation and ongoing study.

What was planned for the 12 month period:

- Parish lunch with Jobs Fair.
- Stewardship campaign.
- Encourage after service hospitality at all services.
- Help people identify their own ministry.
- Develop a parish pastoral team.

What we hope to do in the next 12 months:

- Ensure that the existing members of the congregations return to active worship.
- Encourage people to think about how they can be a more active member of the church and to explore the skills and attributes that they can offer to the church.
- Encourage people to consider their giving and their responsibility toward the church in Bilston.
- Establish a ministry of hospitality in all churches.
- Continue to encourage and build on confidence in a variety of settings.
- Build on the pastoral work which has begun and encourage others to take a more active part.

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

- Plan for the future of the PCC by encouraging the interest of younger people and those more recent members of congregations
- Encourage and enable people to 'own' a ministry
- Develop a youth service led by enabled young people
- Encourage and enable the congregations to consider the future of each of the churches/services within the parish.

As with 2020, 2021 was drastically impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic as we started the year in lockdown but were able to resume gathered worship and events, following the gradual easing of lockdown and following Government guidelines from 28th March.

Prior to 28th March, we continued to offer online services that were regularly available on Facebook and other platforms. We continued to develop fellowship gatherings and carry out meetings using Zoom.

We hope to continue to break away from the traditional rather static "Team Vicar" idea – and increase co-operation and commitment over the congregations to each other but this is of course subject to any new appointment to the Parish and under the current vacancy.

Achievements and Performance

- We have been able to maintain the provision of online services, both weekly on a Sunday and offering Daily Prayer. We were able to keep opening our churches following Government guidelines to allow private prayer prior to March 2021.
- We successfully reopened all churches for public worship on Palm Sunday (Sunday 28th March) and over the year, we gradually restarted many of our existing gatherings and groups.
- We were able to introduce a new pattern of services in order to cover all our Sunday and mid-week services with 1 member of clergy and 4 exceptional Lay-Readers and an Ordinand, when in 2018 we had 3 members of clergy in our team.
- We were able to maintain pastoral care and contact with members of our churches through regular phone calls and social media.
- The Bible study groups had restarted from March and those attending them have grown in number.
- We were able to celebrate Easter in the churches this year following a simple service pattern that also included online provision. Harvest services, Patronal Services at St Mary's and St Leonard's also took place and Christmas Services in St Leonard's, St Mary's and St Chads, took place as gatherings in the church buildings unlike last year. We were able to maintain our links with Care homes with recorded services that were delivered monthly.
- We were able to hold school services and events in St Leonard's church following the easing of lockdown.
- Following the number of people who died during the pandemic, we offered special memorial services in all the churches for those who were unable to attend funeral services or have the items they wanted during the lockdown.
- St Leonard's have re-opened and re-named their café through the help and support of volunteers.
- The Parish Centre at St Chad's, coming out of lockdown, still has a number of private parties and a few regular users.
- We pushed many of our congregation members to set up BACS/Standing Orders for their giving to help with our financial situation.
- We have launched parish seeker courses which have resulted in new members of the churches through Baptism and have begun the process to restart confirmation classes.
- We had a steady increase of Baptism bookings and wedding enquiries for 2022 & 2023, towards the end of the year which we hope continues into the new year.
- We have begun more in-depth Baptism preparation and have opened a Parish Surgery on a Saturday Morning to help facilitate this ministry.
- Since March, we were able to launch regular social and fund-raising events in all 3 churches. The aim was to encourage existing members of the churches to meet following the pandemic and to raise funds for each church. St Chad's were able to maintain a regular event, once a month with St Leonard's and St Mary's doing more one-off events. These events included Beetle drives, Bingo, skittle evenings, barn dances, quizzes and a mother's day cupcake drop to most members of the churches.
- We were able to re-launch our fresh expression 'Fusion@4' and we have been able to retain members who had just started to attend before the lockdown in March 2020.
- The sale of the Curates House (2 Russell Road) was completed this year, giving the Parish a much-needed reserve.
- A pastoral Team has now been established and we hope this will be able to fill in some of the gaps of ministry for the Parish.
- We have begun to see the early signs of people taking more responsibility for their own ministries and involvement in the church e.g. Places of Welcome which plans to launch in Spring 2022.
- We have begun conversations about the future role and purpose of each church in the Parish and other leadership structures within the Parish.

Our Normal Pattern of worship (changed from March 2021 following vacancy and pandemic)

Sundays

St Leonard's Church

8am - BCP Holy Communion,

10:30am - Holy Communion (Common Worship) (2nd Sunday of the month).

- Family Communion Service (Common Worship) (4th Sunday of the month).

- Communion by Extension (By permission of the Bishop) (1st Sunday of the month).

- Service of the Word/ Altogether at 10:30 service -(3rd Sunday of the month).

6:30pm - Evensong (1st, 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month).

- Memorial Service (4th Sunday of the month)

- Holy Communion (when there is a 5th Sunday of the month).

Wednesdays

10:30am - Shoppers Communion

Occasional Saturdays

6:00pm - Inspire Praise - outreach services.

St Mary's Church

9.30am - Holy Communion (Common Worship) (1st & 3rd Sunday of the month)

- Communion by Extension (By permission of the Bishop) (2nd and sometimes 4th Sunday of the month).

- Service of the Word (4th Sunday of the month)

St Chad's Church

11:00am - Holy Communion (Common Worship) (1st Sunday of the Month).

- Family Communion Service (Common Worship) (3rd Sunday of the month).

- Service of the Word (2nd Sunday of the Month).

- Communion by Extension (By Permission of the Bishop) (4th Sunday of the month).

2nd Saturday of the Month.

4:00pm - Fusion @ 4 - Fresh Expression Service.

Other Services and events.

Lent Bible Studies at St Leonard's and St Chads (During 2021 this was held over Zoom).

Weekly Bibles studies at St Leonard's and St Chads

COVID Memorial Services (during 2020 & 2021).

We visit Bushfield Court Nursing Home for a Communion service twice a month and "the Elms" and "Glenthorne" nursing homes monthly and for special events such as Easter, Christmas and Remembrance Day.

Stowlawn Church has now been closed as a place of worship. We are still investigating whether the way ahead may be holding a service in a community room in a local school on the estate so that a Christian presence will be continues.

Wave of Light Service - October - in St Leonard's to remember babies who have died to soon.

School Services for Easter, Christmas, Harvest and end of year, in St Leonard's for Bilston CofE and Villiers Primary Schools.

Baptism, weddings and funerals policies

Baptisms would normally take place on the 2nd Sunday and 4th Sunday of the month at St Leonard's, following the main service and with prior arrangement at St Mary's and St Chad's, baptism will take place in the main Sunday service. Baptism families are required to attend a church service prior to the baptism a minimum of 3 times, one being their first visit to the church and the last time would include a Baptism Rehearsal. Baptism families and godparents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session on a Saturday morning or Monday evening. Baptisms are now being filtered in order to cope with demand and enable mission. This means if those who seek baptism outside of our Parish will need to consult the incumbent or equivalent authority of their own parish where they live before seeking baptism in Bilston. It is offered freely once all the expectations are met and we seek those who are baptized to become members of our churches.

All who live within the parish are welcome to get married at the church of their choice. Those who do not live within the ecclesiastical parish must meet the criteria for a qualifying connection. We have adhered to the new marriage legislation that was imposed from the 4th May that has changed the registration of marriages. All Marriages will be registered with the Local Registry Office and any copy of marriage certificates can only be obtained from the same authority.

Baptism and Marriage enquiries/bookings are made on Monday evenings 6pm-7pm & Saturday morning 10am-11am in St Leonard's church for the whole parish.

All who live or die in the parish are entitled to a funeral service and burial/interment of ashes. Bookings are made and confirmed through the Parish Funeral Co-ordinator along with the incumbent (or equivalent) who will then distribute the request of a funeral service to an appropriate minister. To help with demand, we have and continue to seek support from colleagues in neighbouring parishes for the number of funerals we do have in the parish.

Mission activities through community events

Prior to March, all our missional and community events were put on hold, but since then, we have gradually re-introduced activities for mission and our community. On Good Friday we held a service outside in the grounds of St Leonard's church as an Easter witness which gathered a good number from both church and community. This was usually a Churches Together initiative but since the lockdown our communication between churches had reduced but has thankfully, picked up again.

Sadly, 'Hope in the Park' our ecumenical outreach event with Churches Together in Bilston and Bradley was unable to happen in 2021, like 2020 but we have confirmed plans to go ahead with the event in 2022.

We re-opened and renamed our café in St Leonard's - 'Jacob's Well' to bring it under the ministry of the church. It is run by an excellent team of volunteers. It is open on a Monday and Thursday at present. Since it's re-opening has also launched a Lunch club for those who are lonely or seeking friendships/fellowship.

St Mary's church has hosted at least 1 coffee morning on a Saturday to raise funds and make links with the local community.

The Parish continues to offer support to our local care and nursing homes. We are still active in 'The Elms' "Glenthorne House' and 'Bushfield Nursing home', providing a church service and pastoral care.

We continued to offer COVID Memorial services for those who had funerals during lockdown. These were offered primarily on a Saturday afternoon and led by 2 of our Lay-readers including the present incumbent.

St Chad's continues to offer a Toddler Group on a Friday Morning for families on the estate. We have re-connected with our local counsellors who seek to re-launch their Counsellor Surgeries in the church. St Chad's on a Wednesday afternoon each week has been opened for a Games afternoon with Table Tennis, Pool, Table football etc to help with mental-wellbeing and community engagement. This has given a platform to discover other activities the church could do in the local community including children's work. One initiative is the launching of a 'Places of Welcome' in St Chads that will be taking place in the Spring of 2022. St Chad's are now a collection point for 'The Well' Foodbank in Wolverhampton and also 'Coats for Kids.' St Chad's continues to support 'Leprosy Mission' and had a visit from Mavis Littleford in October to report back the charity work that the church had been supporting.

St Leonard's hosts a craft club group on a Thursday and a slimming class on a Friday and both groups continue to meet. On a Wednesday, St Leonard's hosted a Veterans Group from Age UK who found a home with us for a few months. As a result, St Leonard's was asked to receive a Standard from the Suez conflict and for it to be 'laid-up' in the church. The service was attended by local dignitaries including the Mayor of Wolverhampton, members of the British Legion, armed forces, the deputy Lord Lieutenant and Bishop of Wolverhampton. The Parish of Bilston, with Bilston British Legion, helped in the planning and organising of the Civic Remembrance Sunday Service in Bilston and continues to have strong links with the legion.

The Parish has held several social events over the year including 2 barn dances. At Christmas, St Leonard's, in partnership with the Bilston & Willenhall Lions Club, organised the Christmas Tree festival and we had several trees from local community groups, schools, businesses and organisations. The Christmas Tree festival coincided with the light switch on in the town. St Leonard's hosted the annual memorial service for a local funeral director and as a Parish, joined in with the Carols in the town, supported by Churches Together and the Lanesfield Brass Band.

The Parish of Bilston is very active in our local schools. We support assemblies in our own church school - Bilston Church of England Primary, Green Park Special School and Villiers Primary School. We are hopeful that school visits to our churches may restart in 2022.

Parish Mission Priest (Team Vicar/Acting Team Rector's) Report

I want to begin this year's report by saying Thank you. Thank you for all the support and encouragement that you as a Parish have given me during a very difficult and exhausting 12 months. In January, Rev Dave finished his time with us as Team Rector and caused a huge change in my role with you in Bilston. In April, Bishop Clive, Bishop of Wolverhampton asked if I could take the unofficial role of 'Acting Team Rector' during this season of vacancy as both the Diocese and our Deanery of Wolverhampton were assessing its future through the 'Shaping for Mission initiative' where mission opportunities and future deployment is part of the discussions. At present, there is no further progress to report regarding the vacancy in the Parish, but conversations are being had with the Archdeacon, Bishop and the PCC, and I'm sure the future of the Parish will be made clearer in the coming year. Along with the temporary role of incumbent and fulfilling the role of Parish Mission Priest, it was still my aim and objective to seek growth in our churches, to have a heart for evangelism and mission and to pray for new disciple to find faith in Jesus and to grow in love for God's Word and to serve him through our churches in Bilston.

Building and Personnel.

All the churches in the Parish continued to follow the national government guidelines which involved no gathered public worship before March, 2 metre social distancing marked in each building, the requirement of face coverings, the use of hand sanitiser both entering and leaving the buildings and the use of Track and Trace. All the churches were being monitored over the long period of closure by churchwardens and myself. The churches were still be offered for Private Prayer. I want to thank all the volunteers who have given their time to make sure our churches remained safe over this very stressful period and in helping and supporting their re-opening. I was proud to know that we were keeping close to the guidelines and I am unaware of any of our churches that seemed to encourage the growth of the virus.

On Sunday 28th March, we held our 1st gathered in-person services and the buildings remained COVID Safe. St Leonard's and St Mary's maintained closure of pews and clockwise directions while St Chad's removed its central aisle and with greater flexibility with chairs, kept seating at the required distances. Over the months following, we gradually re-introduced congregations receiving Holy Communion in 1 form only and not using the communion rail. The chalice was then allowed to be offered which was followed by the relaxing of face coverings and social distancing yet St Mary's are still operating a more cautious approach with these two at present.

Since the reopening of our churches, there has been a great effort by many to get them operational again.

St Chad's

St Chad's is still exploring the need to replace/ repair its nave floor. The wooden blocks are now becoming more dangerous. Quotes have been obtained but the faculty is yet to be applied for and funding sourced. Following the sale of 2 Russell Road, quotes have been received to install a new fire exit ramp for the church but again, with the lack of funding and faculty required, the project is on-going. I would like to thank Pat and John Arnold as church wardens for the effort to get St Chad's re-opened for worship and their support in the maintenance of the building. I would like to mention under this heading that St Chad's were heart-broken following the death of their treasurer, Eric Barker, who was a life-long member of the churches in Bilston, especially at St Chad's. We cannot thank enough his generosity, commitment and sacrifice he gave to the church he treasured and loved. He will be greatly missed.

St Mary's

St Mary's still has an area above the chancel where fallen plaster remains visible. There is also an increasing number of cracks that are appearing in the plaster around higher parts around the walls. St Mary's has had installed a new smart gas meter which will help with bills and running costs. The graveyard continues to be maintained by a willing group of local volunteers and my gratitude to them for how pristine the grounds are kept. There has been local repairs to the pathway around the church following cracks that had formed around some vaults. The repairs needed for St Mary's are still with updated quotes required, faculty process to be restarted and funds to be raised.

I would like to mention about the heart-breaking news following the death of Brian Fellows who served as Churchwarden until the end. He was a loyal and faithful member of St Mary's who played such a vital part of the running's of the church over the years and he has left a huge hole in the hearts and lives of St Mary's. I would like to say a huge thank you to Eber Carter as churchwarden, for his dedication in the general running's of St Mary's along with Christine Mills who I know is doing some of the background work too. I would also like to say thank you to for he support given by Ade and Amanda Mallen, for the services they have been willing to do at St Mary's during the vacancy, the pastoral care they have offered and for their support in the Parish Surgeries on a Monday and Saturday. I need to mention with thanks, the support of Rev Kate Watson from St Martin's who has also helped with service cover during the vacancy. We do appreciate it.

St Leonard's

St Leonard's were able to have the dry rot work signed off this year by the Architect who was happy that there was no further damage. There is still an on-going concern with the render from the parapet wall which, after being repaired, has started to come off again. This is being investigated. The church has had several repairs and replacements made over the year including work on the security alarm, all the halogen lights being converted to LED's, and having the working mechanism for the clock updated. In October, St Leonard's suffered water ingress above the chancel wall following a freak storm which at present is being investigated through the churches insurance. The grounds continue to be maintained by Wolverhampton City Council, with support of local counsellors and their team who have offered to keep the grounds too. There has been a reduction in Anti-social behaviour in the church grounds.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mike and Sue Shelly-Smith for their dedication and commitment to St Leonards, Mike in his role as churchwarden and as a reader, who has offered great support in conducting services, funerals and maintenance of the church and Sue with the finances and printing of the magazine, for Joyce Grocutt, Clive Travis and others who have supported in the roles of vergers for occasional offices, for Phil and Jane Dooley and their hard work and dedication, Jane for Jacob's Well, children's / youth ministry and the work with the Lunch Club, and Phil for his support as a lay-reader and with the Bible Study group, for Mark Bircher as Parish Warden and Remi Hodister, for the general maintenance and work they have both done in the church, for Sylvia Hodister in doing the rotas and screens for the services, Kerry Bircher for her

role in safeguarding and keeping us up-to-date with DBS' and training, for Maxine Gentle who edits the Parish Magazine and has been very flexible with my deadlines!

Across the Parish, I would like to thank Kim Benton for her hard work in keeping our finances in order, even thorough the challenges of the pandemic, for all members of our DCC's, PCC, Deanery Synod, deputy wardens, sides people, those who have offered to do bible readings, lead intercessions, play music, visit and see people, and anyone who has volunteered their time to support the ministry and mission of the Parish of Bilston. It has been a very tough year but I'm grateful for the support you have given.

Projects

Following the relaxing of the lockdown period in March, we gradually restarted many of the groups and initiatives that were running pre lockdown in 2020. We were pleased to see the re-launch of the café in St Leonard's, with an emphasis to draw those who come in, to also receive the hope of the gospel and be more of a ministry as well being a source of income for St Leonard's. The name Jacob's Well reflects this. I would like to thank all the volunteers who have given their time to support this ministry and I pray that it will be a fruitful ministry for St Leonard's and the Parish.

The Parish Centre at St Chad's was able to support the New Testament Church of God Foodbank until they returned to their refurbished home. The Parish Centre is still being used weekly by members of the community for meetings, party hire and regular social groups and organisations. We do hope and pray for an organisation to lease the nursery section of the Centre again to bring another stream of income but also to build further community engagement. My thanks for those who help open up and lock the centre voluntarily, to keep it clean, maintained and supported. I do hope to relaunch the committee in the new year as the majority of the original members have either left or sadly passed away.

St Chad's were able to relaunch its' Fresh Expression - Fusion@4 on a Saturday afternoons, once a month, later in the year and it has been so encouraging to see people from the estate who don't or have never been to church, engaging in worship, prayer, fun and fellowship. It is from this initiative where St Chad's has seen growth in its congregation and links with the estate. Chad's Place is also playing its role in the same objective, along with the Game's afternoons. This has encouraged a further initiative to be introduced in 2022, 'Places of Welcome' where we hope to gather more people to spend time engaging with each other, develop fellowship and we pray, encounter Jesus. This is a project we are looking forward to get going. This has also helped us to explore the possibility of developing a children's ministry going forward.

Another aim for the last 12 months is one for outreach and disciple. We not only used Christianity Explored but also, Soul, 3...2...1 and Hope Explored as courses to encourage new disciples in the church. This is something I am still keen to promote and having a team to lead these courses moving forward. As part of this desire to see more people come to faith, I have reviewed our Baptism preparation and procedures, offering sessions for parents and godparents to know exactly what they are promising for their children.

During the Summer term, I was able to return to our link schools to conduct assemblies both on TEAMS and in person. This wasn't consistent over the year but hopefully we can encourage our schools ministry to grow and have visits to the churches again.

One of the hopes at the end of 2021 was to launch a Pastoral Team that could help with the pastoral needs in the parish including visiting, home communion, occasional offices and memorial services. I was pleased to help get this going at the start of 2022 but as the last 12 months have shown in our churches, we have a great number of loyal members of our churches who can no longer join us in person for worship therefore we must not forget or abandon them, but be there for them. For the sheer number, I cannot do this alone. I'm grateful for all the project and other initiatives that we do as a Parish and I pray they will encourage the growth of God's Kingdom in Bilston.

Worship and Growth.

From January to March, worship was offered daily by Rev Dave and I over Facebook for Morning Prayers and Thoughts for the Day. We were able to offer a Sunday Worship Service, live-streamed in the churches that had attendance between 20-30 and views that clicked on the videos into the hundreds. Since March, we started to reduce the number of Facebook live services as we started to gather as numbers decreased dramatically and in-person numbers grew.

From March, and picking up the additional work following the absence of another member of the clergy has resulted in a dramatic change in worship and service structure. Following the change in the service times a few years ago in order for two clergy to manage the workload, we have had to introduce across the Parish a set 'Service of the Word,' a non-communion service in each church. This is to allow the 1 member of clergy at present to meet the needs of the Parish and to encourage the very able team of Lay-Readers to use their skills, gifts and their call to ministry. This means I follow a pattern of being at St Mary's & St Chad's one week, and St Leonard's the week following, allowing for the Lay-readers to lead a Service of the Word or with Bishop's permission as a temporary arrangement - Communion by Extension in the churches I am unable to be present at. It has been heart-breaking to see members of our churches pass away this year, but also encouraged to see new faces in our churches who are coming to faith, exploring the Christian faith or supporting what is going on. This pattern in our churches is as a temporary structure but more changes will need to be made in order for the worship in our churches to be sustainable for the future.

We hope that Inspire Praises may be relaunched again, along with other alternative forms of worship and prayer as we seek the Lord's guiding hand over the coming year.

I would like to thank personally my wife Kim, my son and daughter, Jeremiah and Anna for all the support, love and encouragement they have given me too during these years of ministry with you all.

Rev Simon Skidmore

Deanery Synod Report

Synod met on the 4th March 2021 via Zoom. After elections for the Lay Chair, Vice Chair and Deanery Secretary, Synod looked at how parishes were coping during the Covid 19 lockdown, noting that most made use of Zoom in some form. Under the heading of Parish Finances, it was reported that most suffered serious reductions in income calling into question, the future of some church buildings. A number of Deanery Synod members are also members of the Shaping for Mission team for the Wolverhampton Deanery and have made valuable contributions. At the time of writing, clear recommendations to Lichfield Diocese have yet to be made by the Deanery Shaping for Mission Team.

The second meeting took place on 7th March 2022 at St Jude's. There were encouraging reports from deanery parishes and a real feeling of things getting back to normal and new undertakings being explored. Synod explored new ways of conducting its meetings and there was even discussion of Lay Members meeting outside of formal Deanery Synod sessions. Included in the General Synod report was mention of a motion to raise awareness of persecuted Christians which originated from The Parish of Bilston. The motion was passed unanimously by General Synod.

Philip Dooley

St Leonard's District Warden Report

I had thought that I would continue as your church warden for a few more years, at least until the church and indeed the parish were more stable. In view of comments made at last year's APCM I decided to resign. I stated at that meeting that if there was anyone who wanted to stand as warden I would resign immediately. No one took up the offer and now 12 months later I am implementing my decision to resign, albeit I said later that I would resign either at Christmas 2021 or at the next APCM

I wish to make it clear that I am not retiring but resigning. As such this will be my very last report as your church warden. My resignation is effective as of the APCM 2022. It would have been nice to reach the stage where I could just retire but then we do not get all we want in this life.

During my years as both church and parish warden I have always tried to serve all three congregations as well as Stowlawn with honest integrity. To me it was always a labour of love and dedication to all of you as well as to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

At the point of my resignation, I will be missing from church, namely St Leonard's for some time. (Excluding Readers Role) This will give me a complete break and during this time I will be praying that our Lord will help me identify a new role within his service. Also gives a new team a chance to get established unhindered.

Normally the church warden's report would not begin in this way, but under the circumstances I consider it appropriate to do so. To all those of you who have honestly supported me over the many years I would like to express a heartfelt, thank you.

Over these years we have achieved a great deal together, but as always there is much more to be done both in terms of the buildings and our collective mission as witnesses.

We are at a stage in the parish where the need for clear vision is needed. Some might disagree with me when I say that I am and always have been a person of vision. I have a vision for the building, for the parish and for the development of worship especially at St Leonard's.

Over the last few years much has been done of the fabric of the building. Most of this restoration work has been successful; there are however areas of concern that need to be addressed. It is painfully obvious that the outer finish on the inner parapet wall has failed. There are ongoing conversations with the architect to resolve this. In addition, the south side of the inner sanctuary wall needs an inspection due to monsoon rain downpour in October last year. Again, conversations with Ecclesiastical Insurance are ongoing. One disappointment this year was that the application for funding to redecorate the inside of the church failed. On a brighter note, most of the inner strip lights have been converted to LED. This will help us save money on electricity costs.

The cost of doing this has been met by grant aid funding I acquired from the Bussey Trust. During the year our clock maintenance engineers (Smiths of Derby) came to service the tower clock. Although the servicing went ahead their report was that the clock mechanism could fail at any moment and that should this happen, it could not be repaired or replacement parts sourced due to the age of the clock. I was asked to contact the Bussey Trust again. This I did and subsequently at their last meeting they donated £2.5k towards the repairs.

The existing candle stand in church used predominantly for memorial services is cumbersome to move. To help resolve this Sue and I have donated £400 which should go some way towards a replacement. It was thought that one like they have at St Chad's in memory of Barbara Richardson would be suitable, as yet the stand has not been purchased. I will see to it that this happens soon.

At our last DCC meeting names were listed to form a Building Committee albeit no meeting date has been set. It is imperative that a meeting happens soon so that we can begin the process of a number of initiatives that will allow us to apply for funding, these should include

- ☐ Funding for a strategic plan that will include a structural survey that will give us the facts relating to what needs to be done to the building.
- ☐ Raising finance to cover all costs involved from that survey
- ☐ Planning for the commencement and conclusion of each phase
- ☐ Faculties if and as necessary for all areas

Without any doubt we have a monumental task before us. To be able to attract the levels of funding needed we need to be able to demonstrate to the funding agencies exactly what benefits their funding will bring to the local community.

We also need to look at the internal reordering of the church. Realistically for this to happen we must all be in one mind as to what reordering is needed. This process cannot be based on a sort of, 'what suits me bases. We need to think in a collective sense trying to determine what the future needs will be.

We will never move forward unless we reach a common mind. Until such time when there is common consent we cannot begin to seek grant aid financing. I believe that the Building Committee is the right way forward for this to happen.

Vision is not only about the building, it is also about the congregation; it's about how we proclaim the gospel of Christ and our collective mission to God's people here in Bilston. Structures that helped us to visualise this at one stage have long since been forgotten. To re-establish these structures in some way could well be the way by which we begin to re-identify our collective mission

Mike Shelley-Smith

Mike Shelley-Smith

St. Mary's District Wardens Report

What a mixed year 2020 has been. It started well enough and we were able to hold our Ash Wednesday Ashing Service and looking forward to Lent and Easter. Unfortunately, the coronavirus arrived and started running rampage around the world.

To try and stop the increase the Government placed a lockdown from mid-March which included Churches not holding public services. Easter passed without any Church activity. St Mary's opened the Second Sunday in September after making many safety precautions and celebrated our Patronal Festival. Then once again lockdown closed us for the whole of November due to a large increase in virus numbers, this was again eased and we were able to hold our Midnight Mass and the following Sunday, before lockdown again.

The biggest problem is that after each lockdown the number of the congregation return is less because most of our members are in the vulnerable group and self-isolating and not able to meet with other people. We can only hope and pray that the new vaccines coming are coming into use that the position will improve and get back to normal (whatever that is?)

All of us at St. Mary's send our thanks to Rev. Dave and Liz for all their help and support here during their stay in the Parish of Bilston and wish them every success and happiness in their new venture.

Eber Carter

St. Chad's District Wardens Report

1. Fabric Report

- a. Curates House sale completed and resold within months. Refurbishment is almost complete and looks much better.
- b. We have obtained quotes for the ramp. Permission now required from our architect, Faculty and Finance arranged.
- c. Fire extinguisher inspections have been carried out during 2021. Reports are available.
- d. Chancel still not decorated Main reasons Covid and finance.
- e. No wasps in 2021.
- f. Loose floor blocks in the nave of the church are still a problem causing more concern this year. We cannot progress because of covid and finance. Efforts will be resumed as soon as possible
- g. The gardens around the church are expected to be maintained with the help of those doing community service after Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed. Also, a purple bin has being ordered for garden waste, although we do not appear to have received a purple bin.
- h. It is still hoped that in the future we can develop a disabled toilet, and possibly an enlarged kitchen. We would also like to move the Church entrance to the car park side of the church as this would create a welcoming appearance and easier access to St Chad's, but this is a long-term plan

2. Equipment

- We are still looking to update our sound system and projector at St Chad's

3. Events/ church users

- We are repeating the events we had in 2021 when we held a Bingo afternoon with Fish and Chips.
- We had a Bonfire Barn Dance in November with a barbeque outside.
- Also, we held a Skittles event and a Fusion service during Christmas week culminating in a visit from Santa Claus.
- We have arranged a Barn Dance the week before Shrove Tuesday and Bingo again early in February 2022.
- Our congregation is holding steady although we have lost several regulars due to covid we have gained several new regular members.
- The Chad Centre is being used by Slimmer's world on Saturday mornings and by a Drama group for young people on Saturday afternoons. It is again being booked for parties, several which have been held over the last few months of 2021. There are already some bookings for 2022. Three Bilston Councillors hold their monthly surgeries for their constituents in the Centre.
- Reverend Simon is continuing to hold Bible study meetings by zoom when convenient, which is most weeks, Members numbers are holding around ten or twelve.
- Chad's Place has recommenced on Friday mornings

Pat and John Arnold

General Data Protection Regulation Report

There is nothing to report on this topic apart from reminding people that if they see any people joining our churches to give them a form giving permission for the church to keep their contact details. Also making them aware that they have the right to discontinue this permission at any time but they may not be aware of items that may interest them in the future.

Diane Woodberry and Kerry Bircher

Safeguarding of Vulnerable Children and Adults Report

The year has been quiet mainly due to effects of the various Lockdowns we have been through. However this is as good a moment as any to remind our congregations of the National Church rules concerning this topic. All DCC and PCC members are required to have their DBS' done. Information on this can be got from Kerry Bircher or Diane Woodberry. Following a satisfactory outcome to this members are to do levels C0 and C1 of the safeguarding training that is on the Diocesan website. When this is done please give a copy of your certificates to Kerry Bircher as they have to be renewed. The legislation does change. If you working in a voluntary capacity on behalf of the church your DBS will need completion and you will need to have done level C0 safeguarding training. For all people please show either Kerry or Diane your DBS certificate for the number and renewal date to be noted and the safeguarding certificate copy handed in. This is a serious subject and we thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone safe.

Kerry Bircher and Diane Woodberry

St Leonard's Together @ 10.30 Service Report

In 2021 the Service of the Word family services resumed in May with a slightly different format. Because we now have only one Priest in the Parish, each church agreed to have one service which is a service of the word and does not have communion. Phil Dooley agreed to take the St Leonard's service assisted by Jane, this takes place on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

As singing remained advised against, the format we chose was to play videos with the songs and words on, so that people could 'sing along in their head' as it were. We also generally use all 4 readings for the day, with a short reflection, a song and a prayer after each reading. The whole service begins with a short liturgy. We began in May with a theme of 'Gathering' – which was an apt theme as people were only slowly beginning to return to church. We explored how meeting together as Christians gives us strength and courage as well as lifting us up, but it also enables us to go out and share the Gospel with those around us. Songs included 'Bind us Together Lord' and 'As we are gathered, Jesus is here'.

In June we tackled the subject of the 'Storms of Life' as we looked at Jesus stilling the storm and Psalm 107 as it talks about God answering a cry for help. We listened to the hymns 'Will your anchor hold' and the Military Wives Choir singing 'Eternal Father, Strong to Save'.

July saw the Olympics finally take place and so this was the theme of our service. We read from Isaiah 40 "they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint". We looked at the faith of a number of sports people and sang songs like "Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord" and "The Power of Your Love". God can use whatever skills we have for His own purposes.

Things were a little different in August but in September, October and November we explored what it is to be Servants of God, looked at the Greatness of God and discovered why Christ was born to be King and wants to be king of our hearts. We were also allowed to sing again but also retained some of the video songs.

It has been good to see a gradual return to worship of families and a recognition by many that we can gather to worship without having communion every week. The services appear to be well received and enjoyed by all, with new people joining in the service with readings and new songs. In 2022 we are hoping to re-introduce the band into the services.

Phil & Jane Dooley

Jane Dooley

St Leonard's Sunday School & Young People's Report

This year has again been a difficult year in Sunday school. Deciding when it was safe to return was very challenging and actually getting families to return to church has been even more problematic.

We did begin to re-establish Sunday school sometime during June/July but attendance was very spasmodic. Sometimes we had 4 or 5 children, sometimes none.

In August Becki Wills, who had ably managed the under 8's, unexpectedly moved out of the area, which left a big vacancy!

Since this time I have tried to manage all ages, but it is very difficult to teach Christian truth in such a way as children between the ages of 2 and 15 will learn something! In addition to this some of the younger children have spent much of their lives without having any interaction with other children, meaning that encouraging them to sit and take part has been very difficult.

In the run up to Christmas we explored the part played by various parts of the Christmas story – the star, the Angels, the Donkey and Mary and Joseph. This was accompanied by crafts and was enjoyed by all of the children and some of the parents.

Attendance has continued to be very patchy but we are hoping to start a young people's group in January where those exploring confirmation can learn what it is all about and those who have been confirmed can refresh their faith. We will include food and games to keep it interesting!

Also in January we will begin to explore ways of re-ordering the Sunday school so that all of the children are able to learn from the bible and grow their faith in age appropriate ways.

Jane Dooley

The Children of St Chad's (Sunday School)

This year we have added a few children to our Sunday School we now have 5 children who attend on a regular basis all of whom are primary school aged. We started the year doing our own stories at the back of church looking at the theme of obedience and what it means to listen to God and do what he asks. We also looked at the Lord's prayer and signing the Lord's prayer in Makaton.

The children have been writing the prayers for our monthly Family service of the word. We also try to include a children's song at these services, with 'Jesus is the king' and 'My lighthouse' being particular favourites.

The last few weeks we have started to do our Sunday school in a room in the centre, this has given us more room and helped the children to focus of their own stories without being distracted or a distraction.

Kim Skidmore

HOPE in the Park & Reclaiming Christmas

HOPE in the PARK was again unable to take place in 2021, we are hoping that it will return in 2022.

Jane Dooley

Melting Pot Community Café Ministry Report

The café at St Leonard's finally re-opened on 7th June 2021, 15 months after having to close. The decision was made to re-launch with a new name which reflected the fact that the café is part of the mission of the parish – so **Jacob's Well Café** was launched. Unfortunately, due to the complications involved in banking we are still banking under the name 'Melting Pot'.

We opened for two days per week, Mondays and Thursdays, whilst continuing with the lunch club (initially on Tuesdays but switching to Wednesdays after a short while). We had developed a good team of volunteers helping with the lunch club and from these we were able to adequately staff the café for both days. Despite a large outlay to restock the cupboards and fridges, by the end of week 3 we were already showing a small profit and we continued to have a reasonable turnover until we again had to close our doors for 3 weeks in August due to COVID. Following this we managed to remain open and built a loyal customer base, with many others visiting from time to time.

One of the most valuable and rewarding activities of the café is to be able to offer friendship and companionship to isolated and lonely people, many of whom have been bereaved during this terrible pandemic. Staff are reassured that time spent 'chatting' to customers is not wasted time but an important part of the job. Several customers return week after week having found a place of solace within our doors. Our final event of the year was to serve Christmas dinner to 32 lunch club guests and volunteers on Wednesday 22nd December before taking a well-earned break, ready to start all over again in the New Year. In 2022 our aim is to raise enough money (fundraising and grant aid) to again employ a manager on a part time basis, so that we can re-open for 5 days per week. Any future manager will need to be able to work with us as a church to support the mission of the church, enabling the café to be used as a valuable point of contact with people.

Jane Dooley

Magazine Ministry Report

I have been the editor of the magazine for just over six years. The magazine includes a variety of articles, picture content and current information to support the community.

This year, due to the pandemic, the distribution of the magazine has been affected due to Church closures. I understand the magazine was published online during Church closures. In addition, the December 2021 and January 2022 edition were combined.

Subscribing to Parish Pump allows free access to images and articles on a monthly basis. It is an excellent website which has an extensive range of information and material for inclusion in the magazine. It is reader friendly and has a lively appeal to an audience. The website has a current range of news articles, including fund-raising ideas. The account is set up in the name of Liz Wills and can be accessed by multiple users for differing reasons. The range of articles is wide and certainly is informative. There is a good mix of church related articles as well as articles relating to issues that the community may face and topical news issues. In February I wrote to all the advertisers in the magazine inviting them to re-advertise with us for another year. The cost of advertising has remained the same as the previous year (£45 for a half page yearly advert and £90 for a full page advert). All responses are returned to St. Leonard's with payments made to the parish if accepted by the advertisers. If they choose not to re-advertise with us then I will seek further reputable companies in the local area. The decision for advertisers to renew their subscriptions is a positive statement about the magazine. We have 3 companies which are advertising in the magazine and I expect them to renew for the forthcoming year. However, due to the pandemic, advertisers may be reluctant to advertise if they believe the magazine distribution to have been limited.

Positive comments continue to be received about the magazine and its content, especially in relation to the variety. Parishioners have shared their views about the magazine with me and from feedback I understand that most people enjoy reading material that is relevant to living in modern society. It appears that the variety of content is what is appealing to the audience. This year I have received very few articles for publication from members of the Parish. It would benefit the magazine if more articles were regularly contributed. Although, I have included articles which require a response, still very few articles/responses have been submitted. Bilston CE Primary School are now regularly contributing. Reverend Simon Skidmore continues to contribute a monthly article as well as other informative articles. I see the magazine reaching out to all members of the Parish so I want to welcome articles from all. It would be beneficial if each church in the parish would submit their news for regular publication. This is something I intend to pursue.

Each month there is a pictorial theme which adorns the front cover. In order to reach out to the local community I have included:

- Church and the Community Page – this indicates important dates in the calendar where community members can find out about issues which may affect them; helplines; legal issues or ways to become involved in other interests
- Pages for our Younger Readers– this ensures it is a magazine for all; encourages parents/carers and children to read the magazine together
- In the News- current news articles affecting the Church
- Book Reviews
- More serial articles to promote continuity and interest
- Poems and Prayers
- Inclusion of local school articles – these are produced by children giving a reason for their writing and encouraging their parents to buy the magazine
- Occasional puzzles and Quiz questions
- Smile lines- inclusion of humour to appeal to all
- Film reviews which indicates the magazine is in the modern world
- More pictorial content to appeal to readers

- Announcements- for Baptisms, Marriages and Funeral
- Relevant advertisements related to forthcoming events
- Monthly Parish Event Dates

The magazine continues to evolve and I think it is important that it stays fresh and current. I aim to encourage more contributions from members of the Parish. I will endeavour to encourage more submission of articles from the local community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Simon who provides me with the relevant articles, dates, announcements and events and who ensures online distribution. Thank you to Sue Shelley-Smith who assists in printing the Magazine.

Maxine Gentle

Mothers Union Report

The strange times we have all endured again this year did not prevent Mother's Union from continuing much of its Christian Charitable work despite 'COVID' interference. Eventually arrangements were made to enable those who could connect with modern technology to meet "virtually" for work. The Trustees could communicate and carry out their work, some Branch Meetings enabled to go ahead, and Churches could join with other for Worship. This 'virtual' method of contact through the Diocese and Branches proved invaluable, keeping many of the Branches in touch and with the outside world, during the lockdown. Not quite the same as normal, but determination got a lot of people through and some business on the go. Fund-raising came via the "Summer of Hope" project for which Bilston Branch contributed, and again this year we placed a substantial order for MU Christmas stationary and gifts thanks to Members and Non-members. Our worldwide prayer diary includes named towns in each of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and many countries across the globe, uniting members of all cultures in daily acts of prayer and fellowship.

2022 sees the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, who has been our Patron for 70 years. Mothers' Union overall celebrations for this magnificent milestone will include a variety of special events and pay tribute fit for a Queen, with all Branches free to create their own projects.

Mothers' Union 2022 - "For with God nothing shall be impossible - Luke 1:37 (KJB)"

Veronica Britton

World Day of Prayer Report

The World day of Prayer 2020 was the last event that I took part in before lockdown last year. It took place on 6th March 2020 at the New Testament Church of God. 37 people from across Bilston Churches together attended as we focused our prayer on Zimbabwe. The theme for the evening was 'Take up your mat and Walk'.

This year 2021 was due to take place on 5th March 2021 however with Covid restrictions still in place this will not be happening until later on in the year. It was written in Vanuatu and the theme is 'Build a strong foundation'. I will have links for a livestream of this service nearer the time.

2022's event is due to take place at St Len's and was written in England/wales/ Northern Ireland and a theme of 'I know the plans I have for you'

Kim Skidmore

Bible Study and Prayer at St Chad's Report

The Bible Study and Prayer meetings at St Chads continued to meet at the start of 2021 over Zoom on a Tuesday evening at 7:30pm. The purpose of the group is to continue to grow in a knowledge and love for God's Word, to learn how to be more dependent on it, to grow as disciples and pray through and for issues, people and situations we have encounter or for other we know over the week. Over the year we used both prepared Bible Study material that was adapted to our context and I used my own written material for some studies too.

In January we started looking at the Book of Ruth which lasted around 4-5 weeks. We saw how, Ruth remained faithful, even through the trials she faced. This helped us prepared for the Lent Course which I composed called 'Church, What, Why and How? This was based on the book by Sam Allberry "Why bother with church." Over the 6 weeks we looked at the importance of what it meant to be the church and the roles that we all have. These were recorded videos too and were published on the Facebook Page. After Easter, we began to look at the Old Testament Prophet, Ezra and spent a good 8-10 weeks looking over how God used Ezra in the rebuilding and restoring of his people from exile - something we could all associate with coming out of the pandemic. The study group broke for August as many were on holiday and needed a rest.

The study group gathered again in September and we were still meeting on Zoom. We looked at a thematic topic "Real Prayer." This we carried for 8-10 weeks looking throughout the Bible the use of prayer and how examples of prayer in the scripture should teach us and encourage us in our prayer life. When we finished this study, it took us to Advent when we re-visited the book from last year 'Fixated' by Tim Chester, looking at the birth of Jesus through the Letter to the Hebrews. This allowed us to prepare ourselves for Christmas. The study group also supported a Soul Course that did over June and July for someone exploring the Christian faith and we were planning to launch the new "Hope Explored Course in January 2022. In 2022, we are hoping to do a Lent Course looking at the Passion of Jesus in Luke 22-24. This we hope will be an in-person and virtual meeting both on a Tuesday evening and a Wednesday morning. We are also planning studies in Nehemiah, Galatians and Judges. Eventually we will revisit 'Talking Jesus' and launch that as a separate course in the new year and hope to launch another seeker course in September 2022. The Bible Study meetings are not just for an inclusive group, it is for everyone who wants to know their Bibles better and we are always open for anyone who would like to join us, regardless of how much or little they might know the Bible. I pray we continue to grow and become more dependant of God's Word into the coming year. If anyone would like more information about how to join us in person or would like the zoom meeting information please contact me.

Reo Simon Skidmore

InSpire Praise Ministry

Having re-thought inSPIRE in 2019 and established a link with the family services through the theme and planning process, our aim in 2020 was to build on this and continue the improvement in teaching and worship. Sadly, as with everything else it all came to a standstill in March and was unable to restart throughout 2021.

Finally, in December 2021 a slightly scaled down Reclaiming Christmas did take place. The band and tech crew came back together again for the first time in 20 months and we were joined by Bilston C of E Primary school who sang wonderfully. Villiers Primary school took part by sending a video of their choir and we were introduced to the new minister from the Baptist Church, Ben Haldane.

We look forward to restarting inSPIRE Praise in 2022 with renewed inspiration!

Jane Dooley

Fusion@4 -Fresh Expression

Fusion@4 is our Fresh Expression of church that happens on a 2nd Saturday of the month. It is primarily aimed at those who have no contact with church and live in the vicinity of St Chad's. Following the relaxing of COVID restrictions, we had our first gathering called "Messy Easter" which was followed by Fusions that focussed on Ascension Day and then Pentecost. The fusion we did in July was a summer gathering with games and activities before we finished over August. From September we began a new series looking at the 'I am sayings' of Jesus in John's gospel. We were creating a banner at each session which are now hanging up in the church. In September we started to introduce food to the Fusions in September and they seem to have a steady gathering of regular families. We hope to do a new series in 2022 looking at 'The King, the snake and the Promise' which was used for St Leonard's Family services a few years ago. This will be a Bible overview from Genesis to Revelation, helping the families to see how the whole Bible points to the story of God's salvation for us in Jesus. We still need volunteers to help at fusions. We have a family who comes regularly to our Sunday services in St Chad's as a result of this ministry. We look forward to the exciting things we are planning in the coming year!

Rev Simon & Kim Skidmore

The Parish Centre

This year we have lost some of our groups from the Centre and therefore lost some of our regular income. We currently have two regular groups that meet in the Centre, a youth dance, singing and drama club and the over 60s Bingo group. We do however have a steady run of enquires for party hire and have a few months that are fully booked and have bookings into June.

Kim Skidmore

Chad's Place (Coffee morning and toddlers)

Since re opening after Lockdown we have been continuing to run the Chad's Place Toddler group on a Friday morning. Pre covid we had good numbers but since we have been struggling to get the numbers back up, this is partly due to people being unsure about coming back and partly due to the fact that in the past two years the children have grown up and are now at school. Some of the regulars who have come back are also engaging in some of the other events and services that we are putting on for families including Fusions and Wednesday afternoon Games nights. I hope to continue with the toddler group next year with some more advertising and a sort out of the structure.

Kim Skidmore

St Leonard's Church, Parish of Bilston on Facebook

This is the name of our Facebook page which has been open for some time now. We currently have 431 people who actively 'like' our page and 471 who follow it. Whenever we share information – advertise services and activities etc – we regularly reach about 800 people (whenever anyone else 'shares' our post it means that all of their friends can see it too) and we have, on occasion, reached over 1,000 people. As you can see, with figures like these the Facebook page is well worth having and enables us to reach far more people than we would otherwise be able to reach.

Jane Dooley

BILSTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL: Another Unusual Year **2020-2021**

Our School Year has continued to be a challenging time for everyone in our community. Following our successful SIAMS inspection in January 2020 we have continued to work towards the areas identified for development.

Key findings

- *The reviewed Christian vision is being embedded by the dedicated staff team so that all are able to flourish.*

- *School leaders, including governors, provide effective support and have a very good understanding of the needs of the school including interfaith aspects.*
- *An effective relationship with the local Christian community enhances biblical knowledge and the collective worship experience which encourage all to thrive spiritually. Whilst the role of pupil worship leaders is growing, their involvement in planning and developing collective worship is currently limited. (As at January 2022, this is an area now of growing strength).*

Pupils are confident in expressing how a relationship with Jesus can impact on the lives of those who choose to follow him. However, their current experiences do not yet deepen their understanding of Anglican traditions (this is also now developing rapidly).

(Siams Inspection January 2020)

Throughout the Pandemic, we have continued to keep Worship as a key focus in our school. Worship has continued via Teams, led by St Leonards clergy team each week, with Class Teachers leading worship in classrooms on other days. We have been able to resume Worship Through Song each week and it has been a joy to be able to come together in Key Stages to once again sing as a collective group. This was a valuable and enjoyable part of our school life that children had missed greatly. Worship is a strength in our school.

Rev Simon, continues to work each week in school as our Christian Mission Priest who supports our Worship Group Leaders; he continues to be a very familiar and welcome face around school and has been into Reception classes to share stories from the Bible and parables and other year groups in school to support RE lessons.

Our new Worship Group is well established in school. They are involved in acts of Worship and have begun to lead some Worship in school, during both Key Stage and Class Worship. The Group is working towards developing an outdoor reflection area and are currently preparing a presentation for Governors to request funding. Again, the Worship Group collaborated to fill shoe boxes from online suppliers. The group are also working towards presenting and leading further Worship in School. Children have also supported the Reclaiming Christmas event, singing, reading, and performing at Church.

It was pleasing to go back to having our Carol Service in Church in December 2021. Again, another familiar gathering that was suspended due to Covid. Although it was not the usual whole school event, Key Stage 2 children and families were able to share in the service. This is always a time when we can really focus on the true meaning of Christmas. The Worship lead has rewritten the Worship rota. This is now a two-year plan, with each value being studied in greater depth over half a term rather than two or three weeks. This allows for the staff and children to really understand each value and how this links with the teachings of Jesus. As a school we have begun to implement spiritual journals. In Key Stage 1 this is done as a class. Whilst in Key Stage 2, each child will reflect upon each value taught using a Mirrors, Windows Doors approach. These are then kept in the back of children's RE books. This gives children the opportunity to look back at these journals and further reflect.

The relationship between school and church is a well-defined strength of our school. We have further built on the relationships recognised in our SIAMS inspection.

'Partnerships within the diocese effectively guide Church school improvement. This allows all to flourish. Pupils in the worship group, aided by members from the Christian community, drive improvements in worship. They support the Church school development agenda, including the review of the vision statement.'

'Worship is well supported by members from the Christian community. A seamless partnership with the church supports spiritual development and impacts well upon this mutually beneficial link. This helps all leaders to share Anglican traditions and Christian teaching. Pupils' appreciation of Christian diversity and worldwide Anglican traditions of worship are developing well. The church is utilised as a space for worship and a resource for learning linking with whole school themes. This facilitates working together and mutual support.'

(Siams Inspection, 2020)

*J Lewis – Worship Lead / RE Coordinator
January 2022*

Gary Gentle - Headteacher

The Future

2021 was again a very difficult year with the vacancy of the Team Rector post and losing key members of our PCC, DCC's. It is very hard to see where the future of the Parish of Bilston but I know it will be an exciting one if we are prepared to all pull together. The incumbency in Bilston will need to be officially filled soon and we must deeply pray for the right person to fill it and take the Parish forward.

The reality of our current situation is we have reducing numbers, both in personnel and finances in our churches and they it is becoming more and more difficult to see a sustainable future in our current form. As a Parish we need to formulate and pray for a new united vision for Bilston and the ministry of our churches. Even though we don't know what the future will bring, we know that change will certainly need to happen. We need to be reminded that it is the Lord's church and he will guide, provide and shape its future and that is out of our hands. We need to prioritise the need to grow more in maturity of our faith, be prepared to try new things, increase in our dependency in prayer, seek to support our communities better and encourage others to grow in their relationship with Jesus or even establish one. It has been a privilege to see many grow in their faith over the last year and I do hope to see that continue even into the new year. The Parish also needs more people to come forward and offer to take up roles and positions that have become vacant through others stepping down, moving on or passing away. This is something we must really push into the new year. We hope to carry out more from the MAP's, to review, celebrate and develop further. The ministries and projects that have happened this year, we pray for the on-going work for them to be sustainable and form part of the running and future of the Parish. As always, I wish to end this report quoting from God's Word that feeds and encourages us, this passage from Colossians 3:12-17, I read at a PCC Vision and Vacancy meeting, as the passage I have prayed through for the Parish, to put into practice now as we look to the future:

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:12-17 NIV 2011).

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may he make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may he turn his face towards you and give you his peace both now and the year to come.

Rev. Simon Skidmore

Financial Review

End of year report for The Parish of Bilston 2021

Income:- £95,165 (2020 £131,013)

Expenditure:- £133,417 (2020 £141,989)

Deficit: (£38,252) – Unrestricted Deficit: (£35,474) Restricted deficit (£2,777) – Before gains on revaluation (2020 deficit of £10,976)

Total Assets: £366,662 (2020 £310,607)

The main reason for the reduction in income is due the fact legacies were received in 2020 totalling £24,791. Collections have increased when compared with 2020 but wedding and funeral fees and Parish Centre hire saw a reduction. Overall income has reduced by £35,848.

Expenditure has reduced by £8,572. Nothing really jumps out apart from other PCC property upkeep, this has reduced by £4,000 the expenditure in 2020 was for 2 Russell Road. A new code has been added Parish Expenses and this is showing £6,000. This was put aside for Parish expenses but some has been used to keep the Parish Centre ticking over.

2 Russell Road has been sold and the proceeds invested. You will see there are three investments under TN733 totaling £103,815. £100,000 was invested so we have already seen a growth of £3,815. Along with this a deposit account was opened again under TN733 with £10,000. This is now showing £11,134. The £1,134 represents dividends paid from the investments. In 2022 I will be asking for the transfer of the excess to be paid to the Parish as and when it is needed. It is hoped at some point the dividends will pay the Parish Share and then the residual paid by the three Churches.

All of our liabilities with Lichfield have now been repaid so 2021 was a good start.

Hopefully in 2022 Bilston will consolidate and start to show an excess.

St Chads: - Income £19,059 Expenditure £20,287 resulting in a deficit of (£1,228) St Chad's have been repaid £1,363.35 for the hire of the Church in previous years. They have paid their share of the Parish Share in full, and this has been mainly because of the generous donations from Eric. We have seen an increase in Gift aid collections of nearly £3,000 again this will be down to the generosity of Eric. All other areas have remained static. Sadly, Eric is no longer with us, and I personally will miss the chats we used to have about the Gas and electricity for all of the Churches. I will also miss not being able to read his writing on paperwork that had some sort of food attached. Pat Arnold has very kindly stepped into the breach and along with John have taken over counting and paying in along with sending the paperwork to me. We are currently trying to switch to online banking in an attempt to help with the payment of bills etc and to ensure there are enough funds. It may be that their commitment to pay £15,000 share to the Parish share in 2022 may not be achievable.

St Leonards:- Income £50,818 Expenditure £67,859 resulting in an deficit of (£17,041). There has been a reduction in Gift aid and Non gift aid collections but an increase in loose plate collections. The increase in donations is mainly down to the Parish Share support. 2020 and 2021 were shown in the 2021 figures totalling £9,696. Melting pot sales have increased by a £1,000. However we have seen a reduction in wedding and funeral fees. This is being checked because our paperwork showed some unpaid fees at the end of 2021 which will now show in 2022. The overall reduction in income when compared with 2020 was the fact that we receive two legacies totalling £24,791.62 in 2020. We have seen a reduction in expenditure on major repairs and slight increase on church maintenance. All other areas remain static. St Leonard's paid their Parish share in full and actually received a refund at year end because of the Parish share support. St Leonard's are now fully set up on online banking with me setting up payments and Mark Bircher authorising them. This is working well and adds an extra layer of control. 2022 will of course be challenging but the Parish are in a better position now with no liabilities to worry about. 2 Russell road sold and monies invested which hopefully will be used to help with the payment of as much of the Parish share as possible providing sustainability. The Melting pot has re-opened and is showing signs of recovery.

St Mary's:- Income £8,742 Expenditure £12,442 resulting in a deficit of (£3,700). St Mary's were only able to pay £6,353 towards their share of the Parish Share. The remainder was paid from the sale of 2 Russell road. The Common fund request for 2022 has reduced and so has St Mary's share to £15,000, it is clear that St Mary's will not be able to pay this amount as their total assets stand at £2,555. St Mary's have been asked for a nominal amount of approximately £2,000 for the year. Nothing has been set up yet. In other reports I have sent to the PCC during 2021 the cost to keep the doors open is approximately £2,000 per month. When we add into this to erect scaffolding to investigate the problems with the roof estimated costs being £100,000 and approximately £300,000 to repair it becomes clear that the position is not sustainable. Unfortunately, Brian is no longer with us and as with Eric I will miss my chats with Brian but on this occasion his very neat handwriting. Christine Mills has kindly stepped into the breach counting paying in and sending paperwork to me. St Mary's are set up online but I need another signatory to register so that all invoices can be paid online. Hopefully this will be achieved in 2022.

Reserves Policy -

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £28,511 (2020 £31,388). It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the free reserves at the year end was £139,633 (2020 £19,750) which is considerably higher than this target.

Investment Policy

The charity is granted power to invest in suitable investments under the PCC Powers Measure 1956 and the Trustees Act 2000. As a charity, the Trustees have a duty of care to take such advice as is appropriate before investments are undertaken. This advice is sought from the Central Board of Finance (CCLA) in London.

The charity's investment policies are based on two key principles: -

- Ethical Investment – this includes ensuring that investments are held in companies which have high standards of corporate governance and act in a responsible way towards stakeholders.
- Long-term responsibilities – the trustees are aware of their long-term responsibilities in respect of the Restricted and Unrestricted reserves and as a result follow a prudent approach to investment decisions.

Investment policy for long-term funds is aimed primarily at generating a sustainable income, with due regard to the need for the preservation of capital value, and the possible need to realise investments to meet operational needs. The charity does not have a policy of generating income at excessive or high risk – known as “purchasing income”, where high returns are guaranteed at the expense of capital.

In summary, the charity has an overall policy to maximise income while preserving the real value of its funds. Due to the nature of the charity, an ethical investment policy is taken into consideration when investments are made:

The charity follows the Ethical Investment Advisory policy as recommended by the Lichfield Diocese which includes the following:

“We aim to invest in companies that:

- * will develop their business in the interests of shareholders;
- * demonstrate responsible employment practices;
- * are conscientious concerning issues of corporate governance, the environment and human rights;
- * are sensitive to the community in which they operate.”

Planned giving, collections and donations are the main sources of fund raising along with tax recoverable.

Safeguarding

The PCC believe they have fulfilled their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Reporting Serious Incidents

A Serious Incident is an adverse event, whether actual or alleged, which results in or risks significant harm to the charity's beneficiaries, employees, office holders, volunteers or to others who come into contact with the charity through its work, loss of the charity's money or assets, damage to the charity's property or harm to the charity's work or reputation.

The trustees are not aware of any Serious Incidents in the last year.

Fundraising

The PCC takes its fundraising responsibilities seriously and is very grateful to all donors – whether regular or occasional – for their support of the church and church events. PCC supporters are never taken for granted. The PCC take full responsibility for fundraising and do not use commercial organisations or professional fundraisers. All money raised is either by donations, fundraising events, special appeals or legacies for which the PCC are most grateful.

Volunteers

The members of the PCC would like to thank all of the 45 volunteers who work so hard to make our Church a lively and vibrant community.

Risk Management

The Church Wardens carry out regular Health and Safety Reviews and regularly inspect premises for potential hazards. We have safeguarding policies in place for child protection and for work with vulnerable adults, including rigorous DBS checking of staff and volunteers. Our insurances are reviewed annually to ensure adequate cover. An informal review of any new risks which may impact the work of the Church in the Parish is ongoing.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a Body Corporate established by the Church of England and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission. The PCC is governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended that came into effect on 2nd January 1957, and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. The PCC members receive training from

courses run by the Diocese. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The PCC met 5 times in 2021

Related Parties –

The PCC does not employ any related parties or give contracts for work on the church to any related parties.

Donations from Related Parties

Donations from related parties during the year totalled £13,066 (2020 £10,350). All of these donations were received without conditions.

Remuneration paid to Trustees

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the PCC

Expenses paid to Trustees

One Trustee was paid expenses of £567.90 (2020 £nil) for travel to officiate Funerals in 2021

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston

Other names the charity is known by: N/A

Registered Charity Number: 1138955

Charity's principal address: St Leonard's Church Walsall Street Bilston WV14 0AT

Correspondence address: St Leonard's Church Walsall Street Bilston WV14 0AT

Website address: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

PCC Members: Who Served from 1 January 2021 to the date this report was approved

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole period
Ex-Officio		
Revd. Dave Wills	Team Rector	Resigned January 2021
Revd. Simon Skidmore	Acting Team Rector	February 2021
Phil Dooley	Secretary/Lay Reader/Diocesan Synod	
Adrian Mallen	Lay Reader/Assistant Church Warden St Leonard's	
Mike Shelley-Smith	Church Warden St Leonard's/Treasurer/Lay Reader/Deanery Synod	
Diane Woodberry	Lay Reader	
Pat Arnold	Church Warden St Chad's/Parish Warden	
John Arnold	Church Warden St Chad's	
Mark Bircher	Church Warden St Leonard's/Parish Warden	
Brian Fellows	Church Warden/Treasurer St Mary's	Deceased 01/11/2021
Charlie Smith	Assistant Church Warden St Leonard's	
Eric Barker	Treasurer St Chad's	Deceased 18/01/2022
Eber Carter	Church Warden St Mary's	
Elected Members		
Kerry Eglington		
Kerry Bircher	St Leonard's	
Matthew Bircher	St Leonard's	
Jane Dooley	St Leonard's	
Sylvia Hodister	St Leonard's	
Elizabeth Wills	St Leonard's	Resigned January 2021
Christine Mills	St Mary's	

Bank Barclays Bank PLC – Queen Square Wolverhampton WV1 1DS

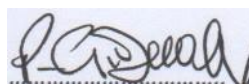
**Investment
Managers** CCLA
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4ET

**Independent
Examiner** Jonathan Hill
Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance
St Marys House, The Close, Lichfield. WS13 7LD

Approved by the PCC on 04/04/2022 and signed on its behalf by:

S. Skidmore

Revd Simon Skidmore

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Dooley', is shown on a light blue rectangular background.

Mr Philip Dooley

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees/members of The PCC of The Parish of Bilston

Registered charity number, if applicable: 1138955

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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



Signed: Date: ...29/09/2022.....

Jonathan Hill FCMA CGMA

Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance

St Mary's House, The Close, Lichfield WS13 7LD

The Parish of Bilston
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2021

Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using Receipts and Payments basis.

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements 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 nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Cashflow Statement

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement on the grounds that the income does not exceed £500,000.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties relate to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Post year end event

The ongoing worldwide outbreak of the COVID-19 virus still represents a significant event since the end of the financial year. However, COVID-19 is considered to be a non-adjusting post year end event and therefore has not been taken into account in preparing these Financial Statements as at 31 December 2021.

Accounting Estimates and Prior Year Errors

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period.

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period

Description of Funds

Unrestricted funds are income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its "free reserves" as disclosed in the trustees' annual report.

An explanation of purpose of each Designated fund are as follows:

- Flower Fund – Flowers for St Leonards Church
- Flowers Fund – Flowers for St Chad's Church
- Melting Pot – Takings for The Melting Pot to identify excess/deficit – excess to be transferred to General fund when necessary.
- Building Fund – Ringfenced for work on St Leonards Building

Restricted funds comprise of two elements :-

- a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest
- b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must

be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

An explanation of purpose of each Restricted fund are as follows:

- Décor – This is the re-decoration scheme for the vicarage
- Belfry – Specific donation for the upkeep of the Belfry
- Fair – This is a grant from Emma Bussey Charity to help with Summer and Christmas Fairs.
- Melting Pot – These are specific fund raising donations for the Melting Pot.
- Parish Centre – Specific donations for the Parish Centre
- Walford legacy – Is to be used for the upkeep of one of the graves in the Church yard
- Mission Work at St Chad's – Donations specifically for Mission Work at St Chad's
- Parish Centre – Locks – Donation from Wolverhampton Council to replace the locks – to be closed locks replaced but invoice paid from General funds of Parish centre in previous years.

Endowment funds are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown in the notes to the accounts.

The Parish of Bilston has no Endowment funds

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received or when the PCC becomes entitled to the resource and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Governance and Support Costs

Support costs should be allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources eg by allocating staff costs by time spent and other costs by their usage.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts by s.10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

Other tangible fixed assets are valued at cost. The assets are depreciated where applicable at 50%

Investments

Investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are valued initially at cost and subsequently at market value at the year end. Investments held for re-sale are treated as current asset investments.

Debtors

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount. Subsequently they are measured as cash expected to be received

Creditors and Accruals

Creditors are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts. Accruals are measured on best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Parish of Bilston year ended 2021

Receipts and Payments 2021

Receipts:	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Donations and legacies	69,836	6,191	—	76,028	96,596
Income from charitable activities	9,978	—	—	9,978	9,146
Other trading activities	2,884	4,067	—	6,951	5,908
Investments	2,205	1	—	2,206	123
Other receipts	—	—	—	—	19,237
Total receipts	84,904	10,260	—	95,165	131,013
Payments on:					
Raising funds	133	1,000	—	1,133	171
Payments on charitable activities	110,508	1,776	—	112,284	116,725
Other Payments	9,737	10,261	—	19,999	25,092
Total payments	120,379	13,038	—	133,417	141,989
Net receipts / (payments) resources before transfer	(35,474)	(2,777)	—	(38,252)	(10,976)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	35,014	44,376	—	79,390	1,956
Gross transfers between funds - out	(53,489)	(25,901)	—	(79,390)	(1,956)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	3,815	57,137	—	60,952	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	6,318	27,036	—	33,355	64,491
Net movement in funds	(43,815)	99,870	—	56,054	53,515
Total funds brought forward	190,297	120,310	—	310,607	257,092
Total funds carried forward	146,481	220,181	—	366,662	310,607

Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2021

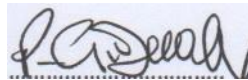
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This Year	Last Year
Fixed assets - Investments						
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 -	25,877	—	—	—	25,877	—
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 [1] -	26,212	—	—	—	26,212	—
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 [2] -	51,724	—	—	—	51,724	—
Totals	103,815	—	—	—	103,815	—
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
Parish Centre -	—	—	207,137	—	207,137	150,000
MONTPELLER 100CM DUEL FUEL RANGE COOKER -	—	—	—	—	—	395
2 Russell Road -	—	—	—	—	—	152,000
Stow Lawn Land -	1	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	1	—	207,137	—	207,138	302,396
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 -	11,134	—	—	—	11,134	—
PCC St Marys Church Bilston Reserve -	2,555	—	—	—	2,555	4,314
St Leonard's Flower Current Account -	—	306	—	—	306	306
Parish Centre Account -	—	—	1,872	—	1,872	1,784
PCC of The Parish of Bilston -	7,034	—	(1,807)	—	5,226	5,929
St Mary's DCC - Reserve Account -	—	—	—	—	—	1,726
CCLA (CBF) St Leonards - Walford Legacy	—	—	1,969	—	1,969	1,968
-						
St Chad's Church Current Account -	4,215	—	—	—	4,215	2,488
St Chad's DCC Current account -	—	257	1,750	—	2,007	1,507
Flowers - Cash in hand -	—	142	—	—	142	142
Parish Centre Cash -	—	—	10	—	10	10
St Leonard's Choir -	—	21	—	—	21	21
Melting Pot -	(149)	—	—	—	(149)	—
The Melting Pot - St Leonards -	—	5,240	1,092	—	6,332	2,512
St Leonard's Church Current Account -	11,027	880	4,338	—	16,246	37,219
IDS Decoration Scheme DOVER STREET -	—	—	1,220	—	1,220	1,220
IDS Decoration Scheme CUMBERLAND -	—	—	82	—	82	82
Totals	35,817	6,848	10,529	—	53,194	61,235
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	—	—	712	—	712	—
Totals	—	—	712	—	712	—
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	(1,802)	—	(1,802)	14,110
Totals	—	—	(1,802)	—	(1,802)	14,110
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Salaries - Parish Centre -	—	—	—	—	—	27,664
Salaries - Projects -	—	—	—	—	—	11,249
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	38,913

Grand total	139,633	6,848	220,181	—	366,662	310,607
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Approved by the PCC on 04/04/2022 and signed on its behalf by:

S. Skidmore

Revd Simon Skidmore



Mr Philip Dooley

Analysis of receipts and payments 2021

Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This Year	Last Year
0101 - Gift Aid Collections	16,911	—	—	—	16,911	16,365
Bank/Envelopes						
0201 - Non Gift Aid Collections	1,455	—	—	—	1,455	773
0201 - Non-Gift Aid Collections	4,729	—	—	—	4,729	4,080
0301 - Loose plate collections	7,722	—	—	—	7,722	6,640
0410 - Votive Lights/Church Boxes	39	—	—	—	39	42
0501 - One-off Gift Aid gifts	400	—	—	—	400	—
0550 - Donations appeals etc	21,269	1,761	4,582	—	27,613	27,997
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	5,614	—	—	—	5,614	2,165
0701 - Legacies	—	—	1,109	—	1,109	24,791
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	8,097	—	500	—	8,597	12,988
0901 - Other funds generated	1,837	—	—	—	1,837	749
Total	68,074	1,761	6,191	—	76,028	96,596

Receipts from charitable activities

1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	5,780	—	—	—	5,780	6,023
1210 - Melting Pot - Food Sales	—	4,198	—	—	4,198	3,123
Total	5,780	4,198	—	—	9,978	9,146

Other trading activities

0901 - Other funds generated	2,679	—	—	—	2,679	—
1230 - Parish Centre Hire	—	—	4,067	—	4,067	5,535
1250 - Magazine receipts - advertising	—	—	—	—	—	225
1260 - Parish magazine sales	205	—	—	—	205	147
Total	2,884	—	4,067	—	6,951	5,908

Investments

1001 - Dividends	771	—	—	—	771	—
1020 - Bank and building society interest	1	—	1	—	2	17
1030 - Rent from lands or buildings&Melting Pot	80	—	—	—	80	106
1030 - Rent from lands or buildings	1,353	—	—	—	1,353	—
Total	2,205	—	1	—	2,206	123

Other income

1310 - Insurance claims	—	—	—	—	—	19,237
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Total	—	—	—	—	—	19,237
RECEIPTS TOTAL	78,944	5,960	10,260	—	95,165	131,013

PAYMENTS

Raising funds

1740 - Bank Charges	—	121	—	—	121	109
Total	—	121	—	—	121	109

Payments on charitable activities

1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	110	—	1000	—	1,110	62
1801 - Giving to missionary societies	—	—	—	—	—	25
1910 - Ministry parish share etc	66,906	—	—	—	66,906	69,693
2001 - Salaries	—	—	—	—	—	6,007
2301 - Church running - insurance	8,348	—	—	—	8,348	8,300
2310 - Church office - telephone	441	—	—	—	441	546
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	281	—	—	—	281	300
2330 - Church maintenance	2,486	—	776	—	3,263	3,393
2331 - Cleaning	563	287	—	—	850	552
2340 - Upkeep of services	289	—	—	—	289	663
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	343	—	—	—	343	1,046
2360 -	8,573	—	—	—	3,763	3,359
Admin/Stationery/Photocopier/Printing et						
2361 - Parish Expenses	6,000	—	—	—	6,000	—
2401 - Church running - electric	1,574	—	—	—	1,574	2,340
2410 - Church running - gas	7,487	—	—	—	7,487	6,302
2420 - Church running - water	58	—	—	—	58	—
2519 - Melting Pot - Food Supplies	—	1,668	—	—	1,668	698
2602 - Licences & Subscriptions	117	—	—	—	117	—
2602 - Licences & Subscriptions	244	—	—	—	244	112
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	2,402	3,757	1,000	—	7,159	13,509
2710 - Church major repairs - installation	100	500	—	—	600	200
2840 - Other PCC property upkeep	7531	—	—	—	7,531	9,439
Total	113,849	6,213	1,776	—	121,838	126,346

Other payments

2004 - Hall Salaries	—	—	—	—	—	5,247
2333 - Cleaning	182	—	—	—	182	539
2530 - Parish Centre - Electricity	—	—	1,829	—	1,829	1,190
2540 - Parish Centre - Gas	—	—	2,065	—	2,065	1,600
2550 - Parish Centre - Insurance	—	—	672	—	672	725
2560 - Parish Centre - Maintenance	—	—	2,905	—	2,905	4,144
2570 - Parish Centre - telephone	—	—	1,354	—	1,354	1,425
2580 - Parish Centre - water	—	—	1,434	—	1,434	270
2820 - Hall + major repairs - installation	—	—	—	—	—	394
Total	9,737	—	10,261	—	19,999	15,534
PAYMENTS TOTAL	114,044	6,334	13,038	—	133,417	141,989

GRAND TOTAL	(35,100)	(374)	(2,777)	—	(38,252)	(10,976)
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Fund movement by type 2021

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gain/Loss	Closing
Belfry - Belfry						

Restricted	—	3,609	1,776	(109)	—	1,723
Sub-total for Belfry	—	3,609	1,776	(109)	—	1,723
Building - Building Fund						
Designated	14,370	880	4,257	(10,112)	—	880
Sub-total for Building	14,370	880	4,257	(10,112)	—	880
Choir - St Leonard's Choir						
Designated	21	—	—	—	—	21
Sub-total for Choir	21	—	—	—	—	21
Christmas - Christmas Festival						
Restricted	—	1,000	1,000	—	—	—
Sub-total for Christmas	—	1,000	1,000	—	—	—
Decor - Decoration Scheme						
Restricted	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Sub-total for Decor	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Fair - Summer Fair Parish C						
Restricted	206	—	—	—	—	206
Sub-total for Fair	206	—	—	—	—	206
Flower - Flower Fund						
Designated	449	—	—	—	—	449
Sub-total for Flower	449	—	—	—	—	449
Flowers - Flowers						
Designated	257	—	—	—	—	257
Sub-total for Flowers	257	—	—	—	—	257
GenChad - St Chads General Fun						
Designated	1,210	—	—	(1,210)	—	—
Sub-total for GenChad	1,210	—	—	(1,210)	—	—
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	171,750	78,944	114,044	(7,151)	3,815	139,633
Sub-total for General	171,750	78,944	114,044	(7,151)	3,815	139,633
Lighting - Lighting At St Leona						
Restricted	1,860	250	—	—	—	2,110
Sub-total for Lighting	1,860	250	—	—	—	2,110
Locks - Parish Centre - Lock						
Restricted	1,000	—	—	(1,000)	—	—
Sub-total for Locks	1,000	—	—	(1,000)	—	—
Melting Po - Melting Pot						
Designated	2,237	5,080	2,077	—	—	5,240
Restricted	775	817	—	—	—	1,592
Sub-total for Melting Po	3,012	5,897	2,077	—	—	6,832
Mission - Mission Work At St C						
Restricted	1,250	500	—	—	—	1,750
Sub-total for Mission	1,250	500	—	—	—	1,750
PCentre - Parish Centre						
Restricted	111,946	4,082	10,261	19,584	57,137	209,525
Sub-total for PCentre	111,946	4,082	10,261	19,584	57,137	209,525
Walford - Walford Legacy						
Restricted	1,968	1	—	—	—	1,969
Sub-total for Walford	1,968	1	—	—	—	1,969
Grand total	310,607	95,165	133,417	—	60,952	366,662

Fund movement by type 2020

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
Building - Building Fund						
Designated	—	15,000	630	—	—	14,370

Sub-total for Building	—	15,000	630	—	—	14,370
Choir - St Leonard's Choir						
Designated	21	—	—	—	—	21
Sub-total for Choir	21	—	—	—	—	21
Decor - Decoration Scheme						
Restricted	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Sub-total for Decor	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Fair - Summer Fair Parish C						
Restricted	206	—	—	—	—	206
Sub-total for Fair	206	—	—	—	—	206
Flower - Flower Fund 449 STL						
Designated	649	75	18	—	—	706
Sub-total for Flower	649	—	—	—	—	706
	67,102					
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	14,745	100,417	117,962	49,490	125,060	171,750
Sub-total for General	14,745	100,417	117,962	49,490	125,060	171,750
St Chads - General fund						
Designated	6,466	—	—	(5,255)	—	1,210
Sub-total for St	6,466	—	—	(5,255)	—	1,210
Chads						
St Leonards – General Fund						
Designated	25,722	—	—	(25,722)	—	—
Sub-total for St	25,722	—	—	—	—	—
Leonards				(25,722)		
St Marys – General Fund						
Designated	20,169	—	—	(20,169)	—	—
Sub-total for St	20,169	—	—	(20,169)	—	—
Marys						
Lighting - Lighting At St Leona						
Restricted	—	2,000	140	—	—	1,860
Sub-total for Lighting	—	2,000	140	—	—	1,860
Locks - Parish Centre - Lock						
Restricted	—	1,000	—	—	—	1,000
Sub-total for Locks	—	1,000	—	—	—	1,000
Melting Po - Melting Pot						
Designated	2,821	6,201	6,942	156	—	2,237
Restricted	—	775	—	—	—	775
Sub-total for Melting Po	2,821	6,976	6,942	156	—	3,012
Mission - Mission Work At St C						
Restricted	1,250	—	—	—	—	1,250
Sub-total for Mission	1,250	—	—	—	—	1,250
PCentre - Parish Centre						
Restricted	124,170	5,535	16,296	1,500	(2,962)	111,946
Sub-total for PCentre	124,170	5,535	16,296	1,500	(2,962)	111,946
Walford - Walford Legacy						
Restricted	1,960	8	—	—	—	1,968
Sub-total for Walford	1,960	8	—	—	—	1,968
Grand total	199,314	131,013	141,989	—	122,098	310,607

Staff Costs

	2021	2020

Wages & Salaries	£0	£11,255
Average number of Employees	0	3

During the year the PCC did not employ any people having made redundant all employees in 2020.

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the previous or current year.

COVID-19 – The PCC received no grants from the Government related to the Furlough Scheme

Trustees' Remuneration & Expenses

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the PCC
One Trustee was paid expenses of £567.90 for travel to officiate Funerals in 2021

Related Parties

No other expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

Donations from related parties [PCC members] totalled £13,066

Analysis of Transfer between Funds 2021

Reference	Debit	Credit	Description	Fund	Fund Type
Tidy Up KB	1.00	—	Per General	PCentre	Res
Tidy Up KB	—	1.00	To Parish Centre Retstricte	General	Unr
Tfr from General fund to Parish Centre restricted	—	12,664.57	to Parish Centre R - Having paid off Salarv	General	Unr
Tfr from General fund to Parish Centre restricted	12,664.57	—	Per General having paid of	PCentre	Res
Tfr from St Chads General fund - paid from Parish Expenses	1,210.85	—	Per St Chads General fund	PCentre	Res
Tfr from St Chads General fund - paid from Parish Expenses	—	1,210.85	To Parish Centre	GenChad	Des
Tfr from General to parish centre - KB Tidy up	4,707.30	—	Per General KB tidy up	PCentre	Res
Tfr from General to parish centre -KB Tidy up	—	4,707.30	To Parish Centre KB tidy up	General	Unr
Tfr from Locks - Locks replaced and paid out of Parish Centre fund	1,000.00	—	Per Locks fund	PCentre	Res
Tfr from Locks - Locks replaced and paid out of Parish Centre fund	—	1,000.00	To Parish centre - Locks changed and paid from	Locks	Res
Paid in 15/04/2020 - P Davies Solicitors Will requests it is paid into Belfry fund	15,000.00	—	Per General Fund	Belfry	Res
Paid in15/04/2020 - P Davies Solicitors Will requests it is paid into Belfry fund	—	15,000.00	To Belfry Fund	General	Unr
Paid in 29/06/20 trfd as per Will - request to be paid into Belfry fund	9,791.62	—	Per General fund	Belfry	Res
Paid in 29/06/20 trfd as per Will -request to be paid into Belfry fund	—	9,791.62	To Belfry Fund	General	Unr
Tfr from Belfry established that the legacy was unrestricted	—	24,901.08	To General	Belfry	Res
Tfr from Belfry established that the legacy was unrestricted	24,901.08	—	Per Belfry	General	Unr
Tfr from Building to General Invoice paid from General	10,112.93	—	Per Building fund	General	Unr
Tfr from Building to General Invoice paid from General	—	10,112.93	To General	Building	Des

Analysis of Transfer between Funds 2020

Analysis of Transfer between funds								
Reference	Date	Account	Code description	Debit	Credit	Description	Fund	
General to Parish Centre - monies from COVID Grant - C/Flow	12/06/2020	30027537	Parish Centre Account	—	1,500.00	To Parish Centre	General	Unr
General to Parish Centre - monies from COVID Grant - C/Flow	12/06/2020	30027537	Parish Centre Account	1,500.00	—	Per General fund	PCentre	Res
General to GenMary to correct	01/01/2020	40461474	PCC of The Parish of Bilston	379.00	—		General	Unr
General to GenMary to correct	01/01/2020	40461474	PCC of The Parish of Bilston	—	379.00		GenMary	Des
General to Melt Pot to correct	30/06/2020	6596	St Leonards Petty Cash	—	77.35		General	Unr
General to Melt Pot to correct	30/06/2020	70201782	The Melting Pot - St Leonards	77.35	—		Melting Po	Des
Total				1,956.35	1,956.35			

Fixed Assets

	Freehold	Church	Total
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a) Tangible Fixed Assets

	Buildings £	Equipment £	Assets
Cost or Valuation			
As at 1 Jan	302,001	395	303,396
Additions in the Year	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disposal in the Year	(152,000)	0.00	(152,000)
Revaluation [if any]	57,137	0.00	57,137
Value at 31 Dec	207,137	395	207,533
Accumulated Depreciation		0.00	0.00
As at 1 Jan	0.00		395
Charge for the Year	0.00	395	(395)
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00
Value at 31 Dec	0.00	0.00	207,138
Net Book Value at 1 Jan 2020	302,001	395	303,396
Net Book Value at 31 Dec 2020	207,137	0.00	207,533

Freehold Buildings

Parish Centre: £207,137

2 Russell Road: Sold - Debts repaid and £100,000 invested

Stow Lawn Land: £1.00

Church Equipment

Montpeller Dual Fuel Range Cooker: £395 – 50% depreciation in 2021

b) Fixed Asset Investments

	At 1 Jan £	Additions £	Disposals £	Transfers £	Change in Market Value	At 31 Dec £
Unrestricted funds						
Investments	0.00	100,000	0.00	0.00	3,815	103,815
Restricted Funds						
Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Endowment Fund						
Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0.00	100,000	0.00	0.00	3,815	103,815

CCLA (CBF) Lichfield TN733 - £103,815

Summary of Assets by Fund 2021

Unrestricted					
General fund	139,633	—	—	139,633	171,750
Designated					
Building Fund	880	—	—	880	14,370
Flower Fund	449	—	—	449	449
Flowers Fund	257	—	—	257	257
Melting Pot	5,240	—	—	5,240	2,237
St Chads General Fund	—	—	—	—	1,210
St Leonard's Choir	21	—	—	21	21
Restricted					
Belfry	—	1,723	—	1,723	—
Decoration Scheme	—	1,303	—	1,303	1,303
Lighting At St Leonards	—	2,110	—	2,110	1,860
Melting Pot	—	1,592	—	1,592	775
Mission Work At St Chads	—	1,750	—	1,750	1,250
Parish Centre	—	209,525	—	209,525	111,946
Parish Centre - Locks	—	—	—	—	1,000
Summer Fair Parish Centre grant from Bussey	—	206	—	206	206
Walford Legacy	—	1,969	—	1,969	1,968
Total	146,480	220,181		366,662	310,607

Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	92,821	3,775	—	96,596	93,384
Income from charitable activities	9,146	—	—	9,146	8,556
Other trading activities	372	5,535	—	5,908	33,550
Investments	115	8	—	123	471
Other income	19,237	—	—	19,237	—
Total income	121,693	9,319	—	131,013	135,965
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	171	—	—	171	2,122
Expenditure on charitable activities	116,585	140	—	116,725	161,660
Other expenditure	8,795	16,296	—	25,092	49,594
Total expenditure	125,552	16,436	—	141,989	213,388
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(3,858)	(7,117)	—	(10,976)	(77,423)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	456	1,500	—	1,956	38,392
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,956)	—	—	(1,956)	(38,392)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	131,250	(8,981)	—	122,269	11,470
Net movement in funds	125,892	(14,599)	—	111,293	(65,953)
Total funds brought forward	67,785	131,528	—	199,314	265,268
Total funds carried forward	193,677	116,929	—	310,607	199,314

Accounts

<Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston

For the year ended 31st December 2020

Registered Charity Number 1138955

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2020
Charity registration number 1138955

Objectives and Activities

The Parochial Church Council of Bilston (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend David Wills, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also spiritually responsible for the maintenance of the church

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at all of our three Churches – St Leonards, St Chads and St Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament. Also, through non-sacramental activities of hospitality and fellowship we aim to reach non churched members of the community.

Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Bilston, it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers; and
- Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Mission or Vision Statement

"We, the congregations of Bilston Parish, seek to grow as the family of God and the people of God".

MAP

As you are no doubt aware many of all our plans this year have been completely blown off course by the ravages and the effects of the Coronavirus epidemic!

Sadly, due to the above, we have not been able to meet as often as we would normally like and contact over the Internet has not proved very satisfactory.

We are continuing to look at our short- and long-term goals – but these have been affected by the vagaries of the virus and the news that the Team Rector will be leaving this Parish early next year for pastures new.

But we are hoping in the near future amongst other things to:

- 1) Develop confidence in Prayer across all our congregation
- 2) Develop and refresh memorial service and funeral follow up
- 3) Hold a Stewardship campaign

We also have some long-term plans (3-5 years) for example:

- 1) Parish teaching weekends to develop a culture of learning

- 2) Establish a team to lead Seeker courses
- 3) Develop a youth service led by enabled young people

We hope to continue to break away from the traditional rather static “Team Vicar” idea – and increase co-operation and commitment over the congregations to each other but this is of course subject to any new appointment to the Parish.

Achievements and Performance

All of our Churches have been badly affected by the present situation, but we, when allowed, have made provision for times of Private Prayer at our worship centres while broadcasting a number of daily and weekly services through Facebook.

Our Normal Pattern of worship

St Leonards: 8am BCP Holy Communion, 10.30 Common Worship Parish Eucharist & once a month 10.30am Non-Eucharistic Family Service Sunday School 6.30 Evensong, , Monthly Memorial service, monthly Evangelistic/praise service called “Inspire”

St Marys: 9.30am Common Worship Parish Eucharist

St Chads: 11am Common Worship Parish Eucharist – Once a month Family Service

Wednesday Morning Communion at St Leonards

Lent Bible Studies at St Leonards, St Chads & St Marys

Weekly Bibles studies at St Leonards and St Chads

Quarterly Healing Services

Parish Prayer meeting on the first Saturday on the month at 9.30am

We visit Bushfield Court Nursing Home for a Communion service twice a month and “the Elms” and “Glenthorne” nursing homes monthly and for special events such as Easter, Christmas and Remembrance Day

Sadly, our Methodist colleagues have decided to close the Stowlawn chapel and plan to sell the building in due course.

We are investigating whether the way ahead may be holding a service at a room in a local school on the estate so that a Christian presence will be continues.

Baptism, weddings and funerals policies

Baptisms would normally take place on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of the month at St Leonards and with prior arrangement at the other churches. It is a service which is offered freely with parents being encouraged to attend church and to become a part of our community should they wish to.

All who live within the parish are welcome to get married at the church of their choice. Those who do not live within the ecclesiastical parish must meet the criteria for a qualifying connection.

All who live or die in the parish are entitled to a funeral service and burial/interment of ashes.

Of course, due to the Coronavirus emergency all these service that have taken place have proceeded under Government or Local restrictions or rules.

Mission activities through community events

Sadly, this year we were unable to host annual memorial services on behalf of the local Undertakers, but we plan to put on a number of special services to help the community through these terrible events when the emergency is over.

Due to “the Virus” we were also unable to join with the local schools continue in holding their Christmas, Easter and Harvest services at our Churches. Similarly, it was with great regret that we were to put on our annual “Hope in the Park” event, even though it is held outdoors at Hickman Park and combines with Churches of other denominations as part of the ecumenical “Churches together in Bilston and Bradley” group. We trust that we will be back next year!

We also had to suspend a number of other functions run at our Churches such as:

The Saturday “St Leonards Café”,

St Marys Saturday Coffee Mornings

St Chads Mum’s and Toddlers group

But one of the hardest decisions we had to make was the closing of our “Melting Pot” community café, which was held at St Leonards Church and the making of our manager redundant. However, we do hope to reopen in some form when circumstances allow.

Team Rector's Report

This is my last report as Team Rector here at Bilston Parish. I am leaving at the end of January 2021 to take up a position of Team Vicar in another Parish.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege serving the 'People of Bilston' over the last decade and a bit – and Liz and I would like to thank our dear brothers and sisters around the three churches for all the love and prayers that they have so freely given our family over the time we have been here. We have laughed and cried together through the good times and the bad and we have many memories that we will forever cherish and hold in our hearts! I wrote in my last report that "2019 was quite a difficult year" – if only I knew what the next year would bring!

With a new Team Vicar and a number of fresh faces in our congregation it did seem that there might be a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel – unfortunately with world and local events being what they are – it turned out to be a train hurtling towards us! But in these difficult days of isolation and worry people have continued to do their best in a bad situation. When possible, Churches have been open - heavily disinfected, true – and everyone sitting away from each other – but we have come together with distance and tried to make the most of it.

When the Church buildings have been closed, we have endeavoured to put on daily services, continue Bible studies, and contact people through Facebook, the internet and the telephone.

I also said last year that:

"I have seen a "true grittiness" in Black Country people who approach these challenges steadfastly and with a wry sense of humour which is apparent in all our Churches."

And continued:

"But we do grit our teeth and get on with it!"

I stand by those words – the Church in Bilston – God's people – in the most difficult of circumstances have "got on with it" – and it has been an honour to have been part of their community.

Building and Personnel

Obviously due to the epidemic much has been put on hold this year. We have strived to make sure that our buildings are safe, and that proper provision has been made to deal with the current crisis. Much effort has gone onto making sure that our Churches have all been marked out for easy and safe entry and exit, seating arranged for proper social distancing and disinfectant and masks provided, and surfaces kept clean.

St Chads have actioned some of their quinquennial report from last year and are considering options for a new Church floor – as the present surface is suffering from wear and tear.

St Leonards had major work take place to deal with its' Fungi problem. Large parts of the church had to be scaffolded and have plaster and woodwork removed and ultimately replaced. This has all been made good and we are very pleased with the outcome. We are now planning the next stage of renovation which will include work on the kitchen area and major redecoration.

St Mary's is still waiting for up-to-date quotes and a revised schedule from our Architect which will help us prioritise what needs to be done.

Sadly, over the last year the Curates House by St Chads has suffered from vandalism and an arson attack which brought a meeting of the PCC to a very urgent close! After some discussion with the Diocese, it was decided to sell the building before anything else could happen and we were very fortunate in that a buyer was soon found and the property is being disposed of!

For the last time as team Rector, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the dedicated and faithful men and women of all ages without whose hard work and persistence in the face of adversity and COVID-19, last year would have been so much worse than it was!

I would, once again, like to sincerely thank everyone for all their hard work and dedication – our Team Vicar-Simon, Parish Wardens, Church Wardens, Deputy Wardens, treasurers, meeting secretaries, PCC & DCC members, people who have endlessly cleaned and disinfected, those who have helped out as wedding and funerals vergers, and anyone who helped decorate the Church when we were allowed in and also those who have kept in contact and in fellowship with people over the telephone. (And I once again apologise if I have left anyone out)!

I am also very grateful for the faithfulness and dedication of our Readers Mike, Phil, Diane and Ade and Authorised Lay Minister Mandy who have given me thoughtful and generous support over my time here – it has been very appreciated. And indeed, they continue faithfully to, amongst other things, give their precious time and energy to leading, preaching, and giving extended communion to all the parishioners of Bilston. Thanks for all you do! We appreciate it!

Projects

This year has been particularly tough for our Parish projects. We have been regretfully forced to make redundancies at both centres and our doors have had to remain stubbornly closed to many of our patrons.

We have however, hosted a Food Bank through the New Testament Church of God at St Chads while the Tuesday "Friendship Lunches" we started last year has gone "Meals on Wheels" which has been greatly appreciated and enthusiastically consumed by its users. Obviously when we have the "all clear" we will be looking at ways to use our facilities to the full and welcome people back in.

Once more I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the past and present staff and volunteers from our projects, for all their hard work over the years it has been greatly appreciated!

Worship and Growth

As has been mentioned several times already we have had to make radical and painful decisions this year to try to keep people safe whilst trying to be "Church" in an unprecedented situation!

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel much of our work which involves face to face contact with the public such as our Christmas Corporate memorial services, visits by the school to the Church and members of our congregation going to minister to several of the care homes in the parish. We were, however, fortunate enough to be able to once more hold a (distanced) memorial service for those who had suffered an infant bereavement. It was again very poignant, quite moving and I feel deeply appreciated by those who came.

Similarly, our monthly "Inspire" services have had to go on hold and as I mentioned earlier, we were very unhappy not to be able to join with other members of the wider local Christian community to put on our annual "Hope in the Park – but we look forward to restarting these activities ASAP!

We have persisted through the wonders of the Internet and Facebook to have regular informal daily services culminating in a weekly "Sunday Service" which seem to have attracted a number of viewers. We have also put on a "Zoomed" Bible Study and teaching Group which continues to attract a regular and enthusiastic following.

Bilston C of E has continued to enjoy Simon regular visiting the school in to teach a number of year groups and we have held weekly School Assemblies through the Schools internet service. Sadly, at present we are unable to visit Villiers and Loxdale Schools but trust that as circumstances change, we will be able to visit and share with the Children and staff once more!

Rev Dave Willis

Team Vicar, Parish Mission Priest Report

What a year! 2020 will be a year we will never forget. It was a year that introduced us to the virus COVID-19, a year when schools and business had to close, including all of our church buildings, a year when we have had to move everything online, a year we discovered live-streaming and Zoom, a year that has put a hold on things we were hoping to launch and a year we received the news that Rev Dave & Liz will be leaving us as Team Rector to pastures new. 2020 has been a very very challenging year with a lot of change but with new exciting opportunities to share the gospel and to outreach to the people of Bilston and beyond. I would usually report how we had been working with the MAP this year but the restrictions have prevented a lot of things we had planned. As Parish Mission Priest, I was still aiming to encourage discipleship and personal spiritual growth while creating new initiatives of evangelism & outreach even during the restrictions. I've attended a lot of CPAS Leadership Training online to help adjust to the new challenges. In the last year I have also been registered as a Volunteer Hospital Chaplain at New Cross Hospital and a new Diocesan Vocations Advisor.

St Chads

St Chad's continues to show signs of physical and spiritual growth. We were excited to launch our new family service called WAT? (Worship All Together) Service in January as we looked at the theme of 'The fruit of the Spirit.' The WAT services have really taken off and has brought new families from the estate to join us once a month on a Sunday to learn new songs, creative worship and see Luke! (puppet). This service has been received very well and I hope it will continue to be a part of the worship structure in St Chads. We even did a "WAT Happened to this year?" service as we prayed through all the troubles of 2020 and the hopes of 2021.

In March, St Chad's hosted the Wolverhampton Deanery Confirmation service led by Bishop Clive and we saw 2 of our candidates confirm their faith. Due to COVID, we have had no baptisms or weddings take place even though we had 1 of each planned. St Chad's has seen the death of several faithful members of our church family this year including, Kath Shinton, Mary Smith, Jean Bate and most unexpectedly Andy Davies. We were able to hold Andy's funeral at St Chads. As we were unable to have a memorial/All souls service due to the November lockdown, we remembered them as part of our Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve.

The Shrove Tuesday Social Barn dance took place in the Parish Centre again this year and was well attended again with the inclusion of pancakes using the centre's new cooker. It is likely that due to COVID, it may not happen in the coming

year. Chad's Place on Friday mornings and the Games Afternoons of Wednesdays were active at the start of the year until the 1st lockdown (see separate report on Chad's Place). Since the initial lock down, Games afternoons have not started again but we hope to do so as the pool table is getting a bit dusty!

St Chad's was delighted to welcome back Rev Graham Morris for our patronal service this year and we very much appreciated the journey both he and Angela made from Cirencester to be with us. We have since remained in contact with Graham for prayer and news!

It was on 22nd March, Mothering Sunday when Lockdown hit St Chad's and the Parish of Bilston resulting in no public services for 4 months. As a response to having no physical services, St Chads created a 'Lock down Home Pack' that contained a service of Morning and Night Prayer, quizzes, biblical reflections and even a bookmark. We produced Home Packs for March to July, November – January and now January 2021 to March 2021. This helped launch a regular live-streamed Morning Prayer every day on the Facebook page during the first lockdown and it had evolved for the 2nd lockdown in November, but continued through until Christmas Day after which we took a short break. The Morning prayers were reaching a lot of people with daily numbers up to 100 from my study until we were allowed back into the church building. The Morning Prayers have been very popular and with the help of Diane Woodberry, we have been able to maintain them over the year. St Chad's moved its Bible Study from a physical gathering to a Zoom meeting each week (See separate report).

Along with Morning Prayer each day, I launched a Service of the Word from the Vicarage every Sunday morning at 10:00am over the 4 months which received views of over 150. This has encouraged people to join St Chad's Facebook page which now has over 200 followers! Live-streaming the Sunday service on to Facebook have continued to the end of the year and has been received well, even with a few microphone/sound problems. This is continuing into 2021. St Chad's returned to public worship with a Service of the Word on 2nd August and Communion was re-introduced in the weeks that followed. We were able to have a Harvest service and donated the offering to the Food Services running out of the Parish Centre. The church was closed again in for the whole of November, with a live-streamed Remembrance Day Service from St Chads, but the church was re-opened in December for Advent and Christmas services. St Chad's launched a "After Service Fellowship" on Zoom which didn't work too well but we hope in the 2021 lockdown, it will be used again.

For Holy Week and Easter, I did a reflection each day from the Vicarage garden live-streamed as we looked at the Passion Narrative according to Mark's gospel, with our own Easter garden. These reflections were watched by members of other churches in Bilston too and even one reached over 800! An early-morning Easter Sunday service was introduced live-streamed and this maybe something to do again in the new year.

For those who were unable to access Facebook, I encouraged the use of the Home Packs which contained the lectionary readings for each day including Sundays. We provided CD versions of the services for those who needed them. By the November lock-down, Home packs were also delivered to all across the Parish and we hope they were a benefit to you.

On 11th August, St Chad's welcomed Bishop Michael, Bishop of Lichfield as part of his walking pilgrimage to all the churches in the Diocese that are named after St Chad to mark the 1350th Anniversary of the saint's death. We held a small service of prayer and the Bishop commented about what a gem the church is in the centre of the community and he gave the church a blessing & gift before he departed. Thanks to all who helped support this visit, and thanks to councillor Linda Leach and councillor Olivia Birch, who helped Kim, Jeremiah, Anna and myself to get the outside of the church tidy.

In October, St Chad's was able to launch its new fresh expression that it hoped to have launched from Easter Sunday but prevented to do so because of COVID. This has followed the successful Messy Christmas and Easters in St Chads and we launched 'Fusion@4'. This is our new monthly Saturday afternoon service at 4pm which is based on a Messy Church model but has the freedom to include a variety of Worship. Its tag line is "Worship, Crafts, Fun (Food – when we can)." They have been very popular with the families on the estate and complements the WAT? Services that happen on the 1st Sunday of each month. Fusion@4 is an event to invite people to who are not used to the formal structure of Sunday worship and I hope it will be supported and encouraged by the whole parish in the coming year.

St Chad's, with the rest of the Parish, were hoping for the 1st time this year to go to the Keswick Convention in July this year with our sister churches at Holy Trinity West Bromwich and St James and St Paul's, West Bromwich. Due to COVID, the convention was cancelled physically but they launched a virtual convention. This encouraged the 3 parishes to launch 'Keswick in the Black Country' where we met each night over the 5 days of the virtual convention to discuss the teaching of Christopher Ash on Psalms 2,3,4,5,6 and pray through what impact it may have on us as churches in the Black Country. We hope to go to the convention as a cohort this coming year!

St Chad's welcomed back Mavis Littleford from 'Leprosy Mission' on 25th October as part of our service and to update us on the work they have been doing. The church raised up to £70 on that Sunday for the work of Leprosy Mission and we pray the partnership continues. St Chad's continued to Support "Operation Christmas Child" and were delighted to send 12 boxes out which was more than we sent last year. St Chad's is also partnering with the NTCOG Food Services running out of the Parish Centre to help deliver food parcels to those struggling on our estate during the lockdowns.

The Parish

My involvement with the whole parish this year has been dramatically restricted because of COVID. I continued to help and support the 'Inspire Praises' in St Leonards before the 1st Lockdown and we hope they will be relaunched in 2021. Parish-Camp was cancelled and has been re-booked at Upton-Magna for 2021, Hope in the Park has been cancelled this year and no meetings have been convened about 2021 but again, we hope this may happen in the new year along with the Churches Together Prayer breakfasts that have been cancelled.

During the lockdown, I've been supporting Diane Woodberry in creating CD services for both Glenthorne and The Elms which have been warmly received. We hope to be able to go in the homes in the coming year.

The Lent Course for this year was 'Talking Jesus,' an outreach course designed to encourage us to talk more confidently about our faith as we seek to encourage and pray for others we know to come to faith. Due to COVID, the course was never finished but I'm hoping to re-launch it in 2021 as a refresher while hoping to do another parish seekers course in the coming year too. I introduced a new Advent book this year called 'Fixated' by Tim Chester and several in the Parish have been reading and reflect on Hebrews 1 over the Advent period. During the Lockdown, I delivered a total of 100 Home packs to members of all the churches in the Parish to encourage them in prayer and reading the scriptures.

At Christmas, I was able to help Jane Dooley, to create 'The Christmas Journey' in St Leonards as a substitute for the Crib Service, Reclaiming Christmas and Carol Services. We opened the church up during the week running up to Christmas and was received well by those who came. This might be something we can continue to do in the coming years.

A project that has been taking a good amount of my time this year has been the Curates House. I would like to thank Kim Benton for her dedicated hard-work over the last 6-12 months to help push the progress with the Curate's house. At time of writing this, we are pleased that the House has not only been put up for sale, but we have sold it for more than the asking price! This will give the Parish a much-needed financial cushion for the coming years while removing a 'burden' that has involved both the Police and Fire Brigade because of the Anti-social behaviour on the house and towards the Church and Parish Centre. This has meant new borders have been created between St Chad's and the Curates House with new fencing being put in place now blocking off the Russell Road entrance to the church.

Schools

Even during the restrictions of this year, I have been able to maintain the schools work. I'm still serving as a Foundation Governor at Green Park School and helping the school to go through the COVID changes. I have been recording and sending in videos to the school for Lent, Easter, Harvest and participated in their virtual Christingle assembly. I've been sending in Bible Stories that helped with their learning themes and I believe they have been received well. For those at St Chads will know, the involvement at Green Park has encouraged us to bring Makaton into our Sunday services which we hope will bridge the gap between the church and the school.

This year I still maintained the role of 'Worship Pastor' in Bilston C of E Primary, heading up the Worship Group in the school up to the Lockdown. For Easter, there was a plan for the Worship group to take Easter Eggs to those in Care Homes but when the Lockdown began, all plans for the rest of the Spring and Summer term came to an end. I was able to do a few virtual assemblies for the school on a Tuesday morning. When the schools re-opened in September, I was doing assemblies on Tuesday mornings in a class that was streamed across the other classes to main the worship on a Tuesday. I still went in on Wednesday to help be a part of RE Lessons and telling Bible Stories.

With a year group, I helped the school send 5 Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas which they enjoyed doing. For Christmas, I helped write, direct and film the Christmas Carol Service for the school which was put up on the schools website. I'm hoping to maintain the links with the schools and continue to build the bridges between them and the Parish.

I would like to thank everyone again this year who has helped in supporting mission and outreach in our Parish this year and my prayer is that all the seeds of the Lord's Word that have been scattered over the internet, through the letter box, on CD will bear much fruit knowing that the coming year will be hard too, not just with COVID, but for our churches and with the upcoming vacancy too. These are my words for 2020 and as we go through 2021 from 2 Thessalonians 2:15-16

¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. ¹⁶ May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷ encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

Reo Simon Skidmore

Deanery Synod Report

Synod met twice during 2020. The February meeting was held at St Luke's Blakenhall. The main business was led by Amanda Robbie from Holy Trinity West Bromwich on the subject of Clergy Wellbeing. Amanda who is the wife of Neil Robbie, Vicar of Holy Trinity gave a comprehensive presentation on the subject, suggesting ways we can aim for a happy and healthy church family and how the congregation can ensure that our clergy are well. She produced a list of helpful tips which can be made available to parishioners who wish to follow up on this important subject. The October meeting was a Zoom meeting, the main business being a preliminary look at the forthcoming Shaping for Mission project.

Philip Dooley

Parish Church Warden Report

Towards the end of 2019 who would have thought that the virus reports coming from China that we were hearing about on our news programs would be having such a devastating effect on us and indeed the rest of the world. Early in 2020 they started to materialise and by March we were in total lockdown. Hundreds were dying, hospitals barely coping, schools, industry and community all shut, nothing happening. Nearly everyone is wearing face masks with people scrambling to buy hand gel whilst at the same time trying to maintain social distancing. Lockdown meant places of worship could not open and as a result all our usual services and events and activities planned for 2020 could not go ahead.

It may seem that against this backdrop there is nothing to report and yet the resilience of the church's tells us that this was not so. From a safe distance some of us met to discuss exactly what we could do. What we decided was to keep in touch with our church members by email and by telephone. Those with online services would get regular emails and others a regular telephone call. Obviously, this needed to be managed. In the case of emails, it was easy to create an email bank wherein one email could be sent to many. Telephone calls were something different. For St Mary's Church Rev Dave Wills would assume the responsibility of weekly calls. Rev Simon Skidmore would do the same for St Chad's. Due to the numbers involved Phil Dooley and I shared the list for St Leonard's. In alphabetical order I took 1 to 50 and Phil had 51 to 86, (I think). Therefore, on a regular basis we have been in touch with the majority of church members across the Parish. Sadly, there have been members that we have not been able to contact due to no contact details being available for them and little or no means of getting in touch.

During these electrical conversations news and prayers have been maintained and shared.

Throughout the lockdown period weekly services have been recorded and put onto Facebook. These are proving to be popular.

Needless to say, closure has had a tremendous effect on our income. The vast majority of members have by one means or another managed to maintain their weekly or monthly giving. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you who have. Your regular contributions payed our parish share. Where income has been lost is by loose plate giving. Fewer people at funerals and charity box giving has greatly reduced loose plate giving as well as reduced income from services

Throughout this terrible year the resilience of the parish has been put to the test and through faith, prayers and your generosity we have remained steadfast.

It is indeed sad to report that the Methodist Circuit is pressing ahead with the closure of Stowlawn without any serious communication with us. Effectively this means that we have lost our Christian witness on Stowlawn.

During 2020 all three-remaining church's – St Mary's – St Chads and St. Leonard's have continued to witness as best they could, and I would add have done a brilliant job.

At the start of 2021 glimmers of hope can be seen. Let us hope and pray that this continues to grow so that we can get back to a new understanding of normality.

Mike Shelley-Smith

St Leonard's District Warden Report

No need to repeat what is already contained in the, Parish Warden's, report but it is worth recording what has been achieved at St. Leonard's during 2020. Just to recap 2019 you will recall the substantial work carried out on the church as a result of the dry rot problem that we had. Some of the work was completed very early on in 2020. Consequently, we had dust everywhere. With plastering dust, you end up just chasing it around the church until you finally get rid of it. In March Sue and I started a mammoth in-depth clean in both the church – Stairwells – Lounge and Balcony areas. This process took up to July when we both agreed we had done as much as we could. This was good timing because if only for a brief period we were allowed to open in September.

It was good to be able to join together in worship with many regular church members. Sadly, due to the virus situation many vulnerable members were not able to do so and are still sheltering at home.

During October we I organised the clearing of all shrub and other growth around the church building. Indeed, we are in debt to John and Jane Searle with the help of their daughter carried out the work for us. They did a fantastic job undertaking much more than they had been scheduled to do. We had hoped to have had all the cuttings taken away by Christmas however due to gas leak problems immediately outside the church entrance we could not. The cuttings were cleared in February 2021.

During September up to December we held service mindful of social distancing I track and trace recording and hand sanitizing as was lawful. The services were different with no singing or real congregation participation. They were enjoyable but not the same, we love to sing hymns of praise and join in. We did decorate the church for Christmas and the Carol Service seemed strange with no sung carols. Thanks to the efforts of Jane Dooley and Rev Simon Skidmore we had a sort of (The way of Nativity) similar to the Stations of the Cross, A number of bays were erected in church each bay illustrating an aspect of the nativity story. It was enjoyed by many.

During the lock down period Rev Dave did online services on Facebook and it would appear that these have gone well. Around November/ December we learned that Rev Dave and Liz Wills were moving on to St Pauls Pendeford and that Dave's last service would be 31st January 2021. A new start for them and for us in more ways than we expected.

Mike Shelley-Smith

St. Mary's District Wardens Report

What a mixed year 2020 has been. It started well enough and we were able to hold our Ash Wednesday Ashing Service and looking forward to Lent and Easter. Unfortunately, the coronavirus arrived and started running rampage around the world.

To try and stop the increase the Government placed a lockdown from mid-March which included Churches not holding public services. Easter passed without any Church activity. St Mary's opened the Second Sunday in September after making many safety precautions and celebrated our Patronal Festival. Then once again lockdown closed us for the whole of November due to a large increase in virus numbers, this was again eased and we were able to hold our Midnight Mass and the following Sunday, before lockdown again.

The biggest problem is that after each lockdown the number of the congregation return is less because most of our members are in the vulnerable group and self-isolating and not able to meet with other people. We can only hope and pray that the new vaccines coming are coming into use that the position will improve and get back to normal (whatever that is?)

All of us at St. Mary's send our thanks to Rev. Dave and Liz for all their help and support here during their stay in the Parish of Bilston and wish them every success and happiness in their new venture.

Brian Fellows

St. Chad's District Wardens Report

1. Fabric Report

- a. In the last 12 months we have had the lower roof tiles reset and secured also, the Curate's house sale has been approved and should be completed very soon. A metal fence has been erected around the Curates house garden, separating it from the Church grounds also the large bushes cut down.
- b. We are also Planning to build a ramp from the church emergency door to help the disabled to exit from that door.
- c. Fire extinguisher inspections have been carried out during 2020. Reports are available.
- d. None of the walls of the Chancel have not been decorated due to no scaffolding equipment. South side of Sanctuary ceiling around the bell pull, water ingress damage still visible but the main problem has been sorted. To be completed with the decoration of the Chancel.
- e. Wasps in the Vestry This problem seems to have been addressed. Few Wasps yet in 2019. They did not return in 2020.
- f. Loose floor blocks in the nave of the church are causing more concern this year. We were looking at a temporary cover for the current floor because of the expense of repair and were advised against it. Funding was applied for which was refused. Further applications are to be made in early in 2021.
- g. The gardens around the church are expected to be maintained with the help of those doing community service after Coved-19 restrictions are relaxed. Also, a purple bin has being ordered for garden waste.
- h. It is hoped that in the future we can develop a disabled toilet, and possibly an enlarged kitchen. We would also like to move the Church entrance to the car park side of the church as this would create a welcoming appearance and easier access to St Chad's, but this is a long-term plan.

2. Equipment

- a. We are still looking to update our sound system at St Chad's.

3. Events/ church users

- a. We plan to repeat the beetle drives we had in 2019 and to include Bingo and Fish & Chip nights as soon as the restrictions allow.
- b. It was intended to repeat the Barn dance in 2020 but of course this was impossible.
- c. We have increased our regular congregation.
- d. The Wesleyan Church ceased to use the church building between 12:00-2:00pm on two Sundays per Month in December.
- e. The Chad Centre is being used by the Wesleyan Church as a drop and collect centre for a food supply service.
- f. Bible reading and Prayer class continues to be held on Tuesday evenings online in a Zoom meeting organized by Reverend Simon.
- g. Chad's Place has been meeting online during the lockdowns.
- h. Three local Councillors are still using St Chad' for their Monthly surgeries and have been extremely helpful in arranging finance for the Centre.

Pat and John Arnold

General Data Protection Regulation Report

There has been another quiet time for maintenance of everybody's privacy. I just want to remind everyone that officially the church keeps contact details on everyone who gives us permission so to do. We cannot give out addresses and phone numbers without permission. If you are a worshipper at any of our three churches, please ask a warden for a form giving us permission to hold this information. I appreciate for some people this may prove difficult but there may be a route around the problem.

Diane Woodberry and Kerry Bircher

Safeguarding of Vulnerable Children and Adults Report

We are happy to report there has been few problems regarding safeguarding issues in the Parish although a couple of issues proved the procedure works when necessary and have given us learning opportunities too. There is back up from the Diocesan Safeguarding Department. We are not on our own when dealing with these issues.

We will be following the Diocesan policies on the recruitment of volunteers to certain posts which will involve two references being obtained and DBS being obtained.

Our protection is guided by policies issued by the Church, both Nationally and from the Diocese. The PCC has recently instigated the latest policy for both children (under18) and adults (everyone else). These will continue to be reviewed every March.

Kerry and I will be leading information giving sessions to the relevant people concerning PCC responsibilities on safeguarding. Some of the training on this topic is to be found on the internet and please do not be offended if we ask you to complete it but the church is subject to the same rules as everyone else in the community.

Please be aware that posters are on each church notice board informing all church users of who to contact if they have a problem or see one occurring. The pathway followed for such complaints is explained too.

Should you need help in any safeguarding issue please contact:

Kerry Bischer and Diane Woodberry

St Leonard's Together @ 10.30 Service Report

In 2020 the family services began with the completion of last year's theme. It seemed a little strange dealing with crucifixion and resurrection in October and November 2019 and then launching into Revelation and our future hope in January, but a good way to start the year.

February saw the beginning of our new theme of "A Fruitful Year". This theme focussed on the Fruits of the Spirit and what these mean for us. We started with Love, looking at how God's love is so much more than our own, praying about those we find it hard to love and situations which need the love of God to change things. The second session was about Joy, a good subject considering what was to come only a week later. Unfortunately, by the weekend of the Together service in March the COVID19 Pandemic had become significant and many people had already stopped coming to church, but we went ahead anyway. This was the last time we would all be together for a very long time. Oh, how we have needed the fruits of the spirit during 2020.

By the time the first lockdown had lifted enough for us to begin to meet together it was for short services with no singing and led by only one person. The family service that we had developed did not really fit into this format and anyway, families were extremely reluctant to return to church. Therefore, there have been no further plans to restart the Together at 10:30 services currently; however, we will be back with worship for everyone as soon as life begins to return to some sort of normality!

Jane Dooley

St Leonard's Sunday School & Young People's Report

As with the family services, although we had had a stable regular group of young people up to March, this all came to an abrupt standstill when the first lockdown happened. At first, we were told it would be for 3 weeks, but of course it continued way beyond that.

At the beginning of May I began a series of short weekly story sessions online – recorded on the church Facebook page. These continued until mid-September, a total of 20 weekly sessions of an average 15mins each – 5 hours' worth of bible stories, beginning with Joseph and working through to Elijah. Although this was done primarily for the children and young people, the only real responses I got were from various adults (not parents of the kids either)!

In December we decided that we needed to do something for Christmas. We invited the children from St Leonard's and St Chad's to come in to record a video of the Christmas story from various points of view and to help create scenes or tableaux of the various parts of the story. They did a fantastic job and the finished 'Christmas Journey' was a COVID safe ticketed event which ran for six days and was enjoyed by members of the parish congregations as well as members of the public. At least we finished 2020 on a high note.

I look forward to welcoming the young people back one day, and by then the senior group will be boosted by a number of younger ones who have grown up so much since we last saw them!!

Jane Dooley

Primary Section

At the beginning of 2020 we had a great start with many plans to do more cooking and other activities unfortunately due to the current circumstances these were all put to a stop.

With a regular number and group of children we continued to follow the church lectionary which I feel is important as it means the whole family have done the same lesson so conversation can enhance the days story. The children have as previous years responded well to this along with the activities and crafts we do.

Becki Wills

The Children of St Chad's (Sunday School)

We started the year well in our children's group with 4 children under 6 supported by 2 of our teenagers and myself looking at a series on stories that Jesus told. In January we had cleared and rearranged a space at the back of church for the children to use for this study. On a couple of occasions, we also used one of the office spaces in the Centre for the children, as we had more than the usual 6 and the space at the back of church was too small for all the children to sit and listen comfortably.

Children were encouraged to join in during the WAT services and sat with their families. During these services a colouring activity based on the theme of the service was provided for them to complete with their families if they wanted.

During lockdown 1 I sent a few bible stories and craft activities to the families of the children in our small group. They were also encouraged to join in with the children's track on the online Keswick convention. I know one of the young girls did join in and found it very enjoyable, they may even consider joining us at Keswick 2021.

Since our return to Church August 2020 we have not met as a Sunday School as the space at the back of church does not allow for adequate social distancing and the office space that we used in the centre has been used on a Sunday morning by NTCOG. I have however been providing colouring and wordsearch activities for children who do attend the services to complete in their seats should they wish to. Most Sunday's however there are only two children in attendance, the Skidmore Children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Emily and Charlotte Davis for joining us and supporting the younger children in Sunday School and all Davis children for their continued friendship to all the children of St Chad's. I know that many parents, not just myself, are very grateful to you for keeping our children occupied at the end of the service so parents can talk and socialise (pre COVID-19).

Looking forward into 2021, I am hoping to continue and finish our series on stories and parables and move on to some other materials that we have in the vicarage. I am also hoping to bring the children more into the WAT services having them learn songs and prayers in advance so they can help with some of the leading during these services.

Kim Skidmore

HOPE in the Park & Reclaiming Christmas

Hope in the Park and Reclaiming Christmas were events which were completely shut down by COVID19. They will return when we are sure it is safe to hold them again.

Jane Dooley

Melting Pot Community Café Ministry Report

Having got to the end of 2019 in a much healthier position, the future of the Melting Pot Café looked good as we went into 2020. We had ended 2019 on a high, cooking Christmas dinner for about 50 people and most days bustling with customers.

The cold and wet of January always bring a bit of a slowdown but we ticked over quite nicely at the beginning of 2020. Sadly, this was not to continue ...

By early March COVID was beginning to make its presence felt and numbers were dropping rapidly at the Café.

Extensive cleaning took place and a regime of sanitising tables and chairs after each customer was adopted however, when a national lockdown was announced it quickly became obvious that the Melting Pot would not be able to remain open. The doors closed on Tuesday 17th March, initially for about 3 weeks.

As Lockdown was extended, we were able to take advantage of the government furlough scheme in order to continue to employ Diane Harper, but when we were still unable to reopen by June, we sadly had to take the difficult decision to make Diane redundant. As we had no income and no reserves it was the only option we had left.

HOWEVER ... just prior to the closure of the cafe I managed to contact a number of isolated and vulnerable people who had begun to attend the lunch club. Throughout the first lockdown I was able to provide one meal per week which I delivered out to about 9 people who were unable to leave the house and many saw no-one else to speak to 'face to face'. The main aim of this venture was to remain in contact with people and provide much needed emotional support as well as practical help and this was much appreciated by the recipients.

As soon as the lockdown lifted sufficiently, we met at St Leonard's as a lunch club, each person on their own table spaced 2 meters apart from each other. As all recipients were happy to pay for their meal and all were more than happy to be able to share in a little companionship, a strong bond grew up and we were also able to make some small donations to the Melting Pot funds. We began to accept a few new people into the club but reached the limit of our space quite quickly. This combined with the need for us as workers – Diane Woodberry, Ysabel Miller, Ann Price and myself – to keep a distance between us when working, led to our move down to the Chad Centre, which gave us a much bigger kitchen space and the ability to spread out more in the main hall and so accept a few more members. Sadly, with weekly meals increased to only 17, lockdown two struck and we had to return to a delivery service only.

Throughout this time, we have also looked at the long-proposed extension to the kitchen at St Leonard's, as its current limitations have been very much highlighted. An estimated cost has been provided by the architect and comes in at around £80,000; a big sum which will require some major grant applications in order to achieve this.

I see The Melting Pot Café as an important part of the work of the church, enabling the building to be open daily for those who wish to look around or to come in to pray, it offers a place of refuge for the lonely, a place of warmth and comfort for those with little else to do and a place of companionship for those who would otherwise have no conversation within the week. It enables groups to meet weekly, provides work experience opportunities to vulnerable people and volunteering opportunities to those who just want something to do with their time.

The Melting Pot Café will return but will need to be rebuilt and re-imagined to enable us to move forward with new purpose and a vision for the future. We will shortly be putting together a new committee, so if you are interested in helping to prayerfully re-imagine what the Melting Pot could become, please let me know.

Jane Dooley

St Len's Café Report

St Len's cafe has been a successful venture within the community, keeping St Leonard's open 7 days a week and serving the best bacon sandwiches in Bilston an opinion told to us every week. The year started well with numbers increasing every week. Unfortunately, in March Covid struck and following government rules and guidelines we had to close. If we are to open again, we will have to look at costs and seek funding due to both of us now only working part time.

Adrian and Mandy Mallen

Magazine Ministry Report

I have been the editor of the magazine for just over five years. The magazine includes a variety of articles, picture content and current information to support the community.

This year, due to the pandemic, the distribution of the magazine has been affected due to Church closures. I understand the magazine was published online during Church closures. In addition, in December the magazine was posted to parishioners.

Subscribing to Parish Pump allows free access to images and articles on a monthly basis. It is an excellent website which has an extensive range of information and material for inclusion in the magazine. It is reader friendly and has a lively appeal to an audience. The website has a current range of news articles, including fund-raising ideas. The account is set up in the name of Liz Wills and can be accessed by multiple users for differing reasons. The range of articles is wide and certainly is informative. There is a good mix of church related articles as well as articles relating to issues that the community may face and topical news issues.

In February I wrote to all the advertisers in the magazine inviting them to re-advertise with us for another year. The cost of advertising has remained the same as the previous year (£45 for a half page yearly advert and £90 for a full-page advert). All responses are returned to the vicarage with payments made to the parish if accepted by the advertisers. As some companies no longer have cheque books. If they choose not to re-advertise with us then I will seek further reputable companies in the local area. The decision for advertisers to renew their subscriptions is a positive statement about the magazine. We have 4 companies which are advertising in the magazine and I expect them to renew for the forthcoming year. However, due to the pandemic, advertisers may be reluctant to advertise due to current restrictions relating to certain businesses. This may depend upon new Government guidelines.

Positive comments continue to be received about the magazine and its content, especially in relation to the variety. Parishioners have shared their views about the magazine with me and from feedback I understand that most people enjoy reading material that is relevant to living in modern society. It appears that the variety of content is what is appealing to the audience. This year I have received very few articles for publication from members of the Parish. It would benefit the magazine if more articles were regularly contributed. Although, I have included articles which require a response, still very few articles/responses have been submitted. Bilston CE Primary School are now regularly contributing. Reverend Simon Skidmore is also contributing a monthly article related to Church History. I see the magazine reaching out to all members of the Parish so I want to welcome articles from all. It would be beneficial if each church in the parish would submit their news for regular publication. This is something I intend to pursue.

Each month there is a pictorial theme which adorns the front cover. Dave and Simon have been taking it in turns to write for the magazine on a monthly basis. In order to reach out to the local community I have included:

- Church and the Community Page – this indicates important dates in the calendar where community members can find out about issues which may affect them; helplines; legal issues or ways to become involved in other interests
- Pages for our Younger Readers– this ensures it is a magazine for all; encourages parents/carers and children to read the magazine together
- In the News- current news articles affecting the Church
- Book Reviews
- More serial articles to promote continuity and interest
- Poems and Prayers
- Inclusion of local school articles – these are produced by children giving a reason for their writing and encouraging their parents to buy the magazine
- Occasional puzzles and Quiz questions
- Smile lines- inclusion of humour to appeal to all
- Film reviews which indicates the magazine is in the modern world
- More pictorial content to appeal to readers
- Announcements- for Baptisms, Marriages and Funeral
- Updates/articles where necessary related to Coronavirus

The magazine continues to evolve, and I think it is important that it stays fresh and current. I aim to encourage more contributions from members of the Parish. I will endeavour to encourage more submission of articles from the local community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Liz Wills who provides me with the Parish Register and who prints the magazine and for all her help with the magazine over the past 5 years.

I look forward to working alongside Sue Shelley-Smith, in producing the magazine in 2021.

Maxine Gentle

Pepperpot Report

"The only "home-grown" activity here has been the recent introduction of a Sunday morning "bellringing club" for a number of youngsters in the care of Hazel and Chenise. These are by far the youngest that I have ever taught, or, indeed, the youngest who have ever been taught here, ranging from ages six to nine and the sessions are conducted on an ad hoc, private tuition basis with parent / carer presence, so it is good to be able to end this year on a bright note". So ended last year's report and the positive nature continued throughout January and February and into March when Sunday sessions were replaced by a regular Saturday morning practice. Although Towlson and Imogen had fallen by the wayside. Isaiah, Malachai and Solomon had persevered to such an extent that nothing other than full practices were sufficient to cater for their proficiency. Both the Penn and Willenhall bands made themselves willingly available to ensure that the boys had the best start to a ringing career and my word, didn't they do well!

Then - Wallop! The end of March and the imposition of lockdown brought an untimely end to all the good things. Ringing internationally was suspended entirely with Australia being able to start again at the end of our summer. Just a handful of towers here are able to sound out within the draconian restrictions of ventilation / distance and family association but with a slight relaxing of the regulations for Christmas, limited ringing was undertaken on Christmas Eve and the day itself.

It is not possible to tell when anything like we have been used to will be available again and in the ringing world we only have the example of the suspension of 1940 to 1943 to call upon, but I do hope that we will be able to make up for lost-ground sooner than later and re-capture and re-interest those who, like OUR youngsters, were cruelly denied life-enhancing opportunities.

Remi Hodister

Mothers Union Report

Our 2020 theme was "Hope and confidence" but lockdown due to coronavirus meant cancellation of all of our fundraising projects and stop hiring out our Conference Room in London with loss of hire-out charges. Undoubtedly these actions would help stop spread of the virus but not help to support our Christian charity work at home and overseas. A special appeal "Urgent Appeal – Coronavirus" was opened to take precedence over all else. Events cancelled included Christmas Raffle withdrawn, "A Summer of Hope" function, Garden Parties and similar. Sale of Christmas cards/goods went ahead with a substantial order placed (yet again with thanks to non-members orders). Bilston branch sent a donation for the Urgent appeal.

At this time of sorrow with people getting the virus and/or losing a loved one, our prayers are with them all. Resources for prayer and worship were made available and continue to be on Facebook, MU website, zoom etc. for business and/or friendship contacts when needed. A new Diocesan Chaplain is soon to be appointed following retirement of Father Carl who is thanked for his input and commitment to Mothers' Union for so long.

Sheran Harper, World President, sent us a lovely message: - So much has happened in such a short time, my thoughts and prayers are with you. I hope like me you will find comfort in the words of our Lord from Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God and I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Veronica Britton

World Day of Prayer Report

The World day of Prayer 2020 was the last event that I took part in before lockdown last year. It took place on 6th March 2020 at the New Testament Church of God. 37 people from across Bilston Churches together attended as we focused our prayer on Zimbabwe. The theme for the evening was 'Take up your mat and Walk'.

This year 2021 was due to take place on 5th March 2021 however with Covid restrictions still in place this will not be happening until later on in the year. It was written in Vanuatu and the theme is 'Build a strong foundation'. I will have links for a livestream of this service nearer the time.

2022's event is due to take place at St Len's and was written in England/wales/ Northern Ireland and a theme of 'I know the plans I have for you'

Kim Skidmore

Flower Ministry Report

The report from the flower arrangers this year is understandably brief. Due to the situations that have been created by the covid19 pandemic there has been no flower arrangements required for weddings. We do intend to explore the flower market when they reopen with a view to amending the prices that we charge for the service we provide, but this job will of course have to wait until it is safe and feasible to undertake.

There has of course been flower arrangements in church and that is thanks to the wonderful ladies who have given their time to create a collection of beautiful artificial arrangements that are displayed and can be changed regularly. Please do notice these wonderful arrangements and remember to give thanks for the gifts and talents of our lovely flower arrangers when you do.

Mandy Mallen

Bible Study and Prayer at St Chad's Report

The Bible Study and Prayer meetings at St Chads continued to meet at the start of 2020. These meetings take place on a Tuesday evening at 7:00pm and the purpose of the group continues to encourage our knowledge and dependence on God's Word, to grow more as disciples of Jesus and to pray for the issues of the week while giving thanks for all that God has given us. We continue to use prepared Bible Study material which we adapt for our context at St Chads.

In January we started our study looking at the Acts of the Apostles. The period of time looking at this book had gone beyond what we had initially planned. The study was intended to be 16 weeks in length that had two 8 session books, but that has turned into near 40 weeks. The reason for the extended length of the study was due to the Lockdown. We were able to complete 3 full sessions before Lent, but after Easter when we picked up Acts again, we were unable to meet in person. This resulted in us moving the Bible study onto Zoom. At the time we had the free 40-minute license which cut our full studies in half if not a to 1/3. The meetings were held on a Wednesday from 7:30pm and finished at 8:10.

By September, I was in a position to buy a license for Zoom that resulted in us picking up the pace through Acts. We then returned to Tuesdays where we still kept the time at 7:30pm. We had at least a gathering of 5-6 per meeting with a total of 12 doing a study on Acts during the year. Throughout the studies, everyone has built the confidence to read and participate in the studies.

During Lent, we paused from Acts to focus on a new outreach course called "Talking Jesus." This was done across the Parish with a meeting on a Tuesday morning in St Leonards and Wednesday Evening in St Chads. The 6-session course was to encourage us to be more confident in talking about our faith, to talk openly about Jesus while praying for 5 people we know to talk confidently about our faith. Both the day and evening sessions were well received and attended. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown we were unable to complete the course but I'm hoping to relaunch it again in the new year for people to complete it or be refreshed about its content.

We had hoped to do a lot more during 2020 but we hope to pick this up again 2021. We hope to study the book of Ruth, look at an apocalyptic book, a major prophet and a gospel in the coming year along with a Lent Course, finishing Talking Jesus and the possibility of doing a seeker course too.

The Bible Study meetings are not just for an inclusive group, it is for everyone who wants to know their Bibles better and we are always open for anyone who would like to join us, regardless of how much or little they might know the Bible. I pray we continue to grow and become more dependant of God's Word into the coming year. If anyone would like more information about how to join or would like the zoom meeting information please contact me.

Reo Simon Skidmore

InSpire Praise Ministry

Having re-thought inSPIRE Praise in 2019 and established a link with the family services through the theme and planning process, our aim in 2020 was to build on this and continue the improvement in teaching and worship. Sadly, as with everything else it all came to a standstill in March and has been unable to restart to date.

In October 2020 three members of the band caught COVID 19; Mark and Joanne Bircher only had a mild dose, but Kerry was taken seriously ill and eventually ended up spending 10 days on a ventilator. The whole parish combined in fervent prayer for Kerry and the whole Bircher family and by God's grace Kerry was returned to her family on Saturday 19th December, just in time for Christmas. It will be a very long journey back to health and wellbeing, but we all long for the day when we will be able to hear Kerry sing to us with the Heart of Worship Band once again.

Jane Dooley

Christmas Day Lunch

This report has been incredibly difficult to write, it is with great sadness that I must report that we did not and could not offer a Christmas lunch to those in need on Christmas day 2020.

This is yet another casualty of the global covid19 pandemic, which made it not only unsafe but illegal to gather people together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. In recent years we have opened our church to people in varying degrees of need and provided them with not only a Christmas lunch but with company and friendship. In the run up to Christmas I received several messages and enquiries asking if we were offering this again, In a year that the need is arguably greater than it ever has been, due to people losing income and sadly for some losing family members, to have to tell them that we couldn't safely provide for them was very difficult. I did explore lots of options to find a viable way to continue, these options included

- Lunch delivery – This would have been very difficult to cook and serve up so many take away meals in my own kitchen due to space.
- Cost – the costs involved are considerable and would have increased if we had to buy take away boxes to put food in, donations may have been less this year as most come from small businesses who were already struggling to help us before the covid19 issue.
- Company – The Christmas lunch is not just about the food, it's about bringing people together so that no-one is alone at Christmas, due to the restrictions on people gathering this was impossible.

After much prayer and reflection, we had to take the decision to postpone our lunch and pray for all those we know of that would have joined us instead.

I am cautiously optimistic that Christmas 2021 will see us return to our Christmas day celebrations but in this world of uncertainty we shall see

Mandy Mallen

The Parish Centre

The Parish Centre at St Chads has had a very quiet year. The departure of Usha Patel and Glen Lewis at the start of year has meant a change in personnel involved in the general running of the Centre. The Parish Centre Committee have been unable to meet during the COVID lockdown but they are made aware of anything that needs to be informed apart from that which is reported to PCC meetings. The continuing management of the Centre has been taken by myself, Kimberly Skidmore, Pat & John Arnold, Diane Woodberry, Brian Fellows and our latest volunteer, Mr Clive Travis. Clive has been superb in helping to open and close the Centre, taking a lot of pressure off me and Kim. Clive has been an answer to prayer for the centre and we hope he will be able to continue to help us for the future.

The hopes and plans for the centre have been put on hold because of COVID. There has been interest in Nursery groups to use the vacant space left behind by Little Rascals but the lockdowns have prevented any further development. The Centre had both boilers condemned at the start of the year, but we have been in the position to purchase one new boiler which has served the centre over the year. The Centre will need a 2nd boiler installed in the new year. The centre is in need for new lighting, décor and users for it.

Behind the scene, I must say a huge thank you to Kim Benton for her hard work in sorting out the finances for the Centre and for receiving a grant from the Council to help the running and survival of the Centre during this COVID year. Like the church, the Centre has been closed for at least 4 months of the year. This has resulted in no parties, private functions or events meaning we have lost out on income and users of the Centre. We have lost 1 user group, a church, Kingdom Way Living Church, who used the centre twice.

Our regular user groups have been – Slimming World on a Wednesday Evening and Saturday morning – Drama Club on a Saturday Morning that have moved from SWBA during COVID (We hope they stay as a permanent user of the Centre) & our over 60's who meet on a Friday afternoon.

As a temporary agreement, The New Testament Church of God have been using the Parish Centre on a Sunday Morning while they are having building work completed on their church. The length of work has been extended and by the end of the year, they were still using the Centre. NTCOFG have also set up a Food Service from the office space at the front of the Centre on a Tuesday & Friday morning. Volunteers have been from their church and St Chads. This has received good publicity in the Express & Star with involvement from the Local counsellors and Pat McFadden MP. We pray this may continue either in its current form or in a way that the Parish may be able to help manage it when the NTCOFG return to their premise in the new year.

Due to the COVID restrictions and future plans in St Leonards, the Parish Centre has also become a temporary home for the Melting Pot Tuesday Lunch Club. Jane Dooley and the team have done a fantastic job in sorting out the kitchen and bringing in a fridge-freezer which the centre is allowed to use too.

The Parish Centre is 'ticking along' but the Parish will need to look at its future and purpose moving forward. Thank you again for all involved and I pray for a productive year to come.

Reo Simon Skidmore

Chad's Place (Coffee morning and toddlers)

At the start of 2020 we had 15-20 Children in regular attendance Chad's Place although we probably only had 10 children in the church at any one time. Most of these Children coming from the estate and local community and not from the church. At the start of the year we were aware of a forthcoming decrease in numbers, as many of our regular attendees started either nursery or full-time school in September 2020.

As of March 22, Chad's Place closed its doors for 4 months. During this time, I continued to update the Facebook page with little activities that families could do at home and we held a few zoom sessions to keep parents connected to each other.

When we did reopen in September Chad's place looked very different. The church was now sectioned off one section for each bubble of no more than 3 children and parents and toys were only shared in each bubble. We had to remove a lot of the shared toys and the larger toys, such as the seesaw, rocking horse and slide, remaining in storage. By this point 10 of our regular children had already moved on to their next stage of learning. Although we have 'lost' these children at Chad's place a lot of them now come to Fusion.

Having lost these children and with things being so unpredictable during September and October we only really had 1 or 2 children return to Chad's Place. October half term 2020 we decided to close Chad's place.

In the fourth coming year we are hoping to relaunch Chad's Place and I will, in the coming weeks, be messaging the parents to find out if they will be returning and what days and times will work best for them. As of yet the future of Chad's Place is unknown.

Kim Skidmore

St. Chad's Coffee Morning

The coffee morning was open in the first three months of 2020, but we were not getting any visitors. Unfortunately, the problems surrounding covid-19 has meant this activity is not occurring. We were going to review this activity during DCC last year, but events overtook us. However, improvements will, hopefully be made then.

Diane Woodberry

St Leonard's Church, Parish of Bilston on Facebook

This is the name of our Facebook page which has been open for some time now. During this terrible year of lockdowns and self-isolation the Facebook page has come into its own. We started the year with less than 200 people who like and regularly follow the page (a good number in itself) but as the first lockdown took hold our number rose rapidly and now stands (Jan 7th) at 322. As soon as our churches had to close in March both Revs, Dave and Simon, and later Diane Woodberry took 2 days per week in Simon's place, began to record daily devotionals and weekly services which were put on the Facebook page. Many people took great comfort from this and have followed these regularly, including many who do not normally attend church. These continue to this day. I also did 20 weeks of once per week bible story videos, working through some of the stories from the Old Testament. In addition to the worship and teaching the Facebook page has enabled us to pass on notices and messages and to be a point of contact for those enquiring about Baptism, weddings, prayer requests, general enquiries etc.

I know that many do not have social media accounts or the technology to see such things. It has also been a steep learning curve for many involved in producing this service. However, social media has been one way of enabling us to remain in touch and to reach out to many people that the church would not ordinarily reach.

God has pushed us into the future whether we liked it or not!!

Jane Dooley

Bilston CE Primary School
AN UNUSUAL YEAR January - December 2020

Our School Year has been a very different and challenging time for everyone in our community. We did start the year off with a very successful SIAMS inspection in January 2020 with the overall judgement being **Good**.

Key findings

- *The reviewed Christian vision is being embedded by the dedicated staff team so that all are able to flourish.*
- *School leaders, including governors, provide effective support and have a very good understanding of the needs of the school including interfaith aspects.*
- *An effective relationship with the local Christian community enhances biblical knowledge and the collective worship experience which encourage all to thrive spiritually. Whilst the role of pupil worship leaders is growing, their involvement in planning and developing collective worship is currently limited.*

Pupils are confident in expressing how a relationship with Jesus can impact on the lives of those who choose to follow him. However, their current experiences do not yet deepen their understanding of Anglican traditions.

Areas for development

- *Ensure the governors' strategy for monitoring include evaluation of the new creative curriculum, together with assessment processes, ensuring that links to religious education (RE) and personal social health education (PSHE) are explicit and fully reflect the school's Christian vision and core values.*
- *Provide further opportunities for pupils to experience Anglican celebrations to enrich their understanding and knowledge.*
- *Allow more pupils to develop their spiritual confidence by supporting them to take a more active role in planning, leading and evaluating whole school worship.*

Build upon established relationships with parents to develop further their understanding and knowledge of the Christian vision and core values.

(Siams Inspection January 2020)

The Pandemic and school closure between March-May 2020, halted much of our work in addressing the Development Plan points. Work began again in the Summer Term 2020 and continued in Autumn 2020, getting our children settled back into school and into familiar routines: worship has been an integral part of this.

Rev Dave Wills, Rev Simon Skidmore and Mike Shelly Smith have continued to support the school in delivering Worship each week of the past year, albeit with a different approach. Whilst unable to have Collective Worship all together in our hall, we felt very strongly that there needed to be a time during each day when we came together as a school community to worship and reflect. So, Worship was delivered virtually using Microsoft Teams! This has been extremely successful and has given us a platform to also develop a wider understanding of Anglican tradition and celebrations. Our Worship includes a Welcome and dismissal with lighting of candles to represent the Trinity. Pupils are involved, reading prayers etc. Worship has been a strength of our school during the pandemic which has helped many of our children and staff: knowing that God is helping us through this crisis.

Rev Simon works each week in school as our Christian priest who supports our Worship Group Leaders; he is familiar and welcome face around school and has been Reception classes to share stories from the Bible and other year groups in school to support RE lessons. Many Autumn Christian festivals would have been held in St but not last year. Instead, Year 2 produced a virtual Festival on the value of Thankfulness. At Christmas, Rev worked closely with Mrs Banyard to produce a Carol concert that included acting, readings and songs



Mission now a very into parables and of the Leonards, Harvest Simon Christmas each week.



Pupils also worked with Rev Simon on Operation Christmas Child/Shoebox Appeal throughout November. We were unable to have donations from families for this so Rev Simon worked with a group of KS2 pupils to select and order shoebox items from Amazon!



We are very grateful for the care and support of Rev Dave, Rev Simon and Mike SS. They have supported staff and children during these stressful and challenging times. The link the School has with Parish clergy is a strength of the link between our school and the Church.

This relationship was highlighted in our SIAMs report in January and given the current situation I feel that we have further built upon this further.

'Partnerships within the diocese effectively guide Church school improvement. This allows all to flourish. Pupils in the worship group, aided by members from the Christian community, drive improvements in worship. They support the Church school development agenda, including the review of the vision statement.'

'Worship is well supported by members from the Christian community. A seamless partnership with the church supports spiritual development and impacts well upon this mutually beneficial link. This helps all leaders to share Anglican traditions and Christian teaching. Pupils' appreciation of Christian diversity and worldwide Anglican traditions of worship are developing well. The church is utilised as a space for worship and a resource for learning linking with whole school themes. This facilitates working together and mutual support.'

(Siams Inspection, 2020)

As the end of 2020 neared, we learnt that Rev Dave was moving on to pastures new. Bilston CE will miss his pastoral support and spiritual guidance. He most certainly has supported the School well over the past ten years, being there whenever the school asked...we will miss his cheery face on a Monday morning (but not perhaps his jokes!) We wish him every happiness and success in his new post in Pendeford.

J Lewis – Worship / RE Coordinator

Gary Gentle - Headteacher

Parish of Bilston Staff List

STAFF LISTS

Date: From January 2020 to January 2021

CLERGY

Revd Dave Wills	Team Rector (moving on at end of January 2021)
Revd Simon Skidmore	Parish Mission Priest & Team Vicar

PARISH READERS

Phil Dooley
Ade Mallen
Mike Shelley-Smith
Diane Woodberry

AUTHORISED LAY MINISTER

Mandy Mallen

PARISH WARDENS

Mike Shelley-Smith

DISTRICT WARDENS

Pat Arnold	St Chad's
John Arnold	St Chad's
Mike Shelley-Smith	St Leonard's
Mark Bircher	St Leonard's
Brian Fellows	St Mary's
Brian Wood	St Mary's

DEPUTY / ASSISTANT DISTRICT WARDENS

Veronica Britton	St Mary's
Joyce Groucutt	St Leonard's
Charlie Smith	St Leonard's
Adrian Mallen	St Leonard's

PARISH SECRETARY

Phil Dooley

PARISH TREASURER

DISTRICT TREASURERS

Mike Shelley-Smith	St Leonard's
Brian Fellows/Brian Wood	St Mary's
Eric Barker	St Chad's

DEANERY SYNOD

Philip Dooley
Mike Shelly-Smith
Adrian Mallen

Diocesan Synod

Philip Dooley

**PCC - ALL THE ABOVE except DEPUTY / ASSISTANT DISTRICT WARDENS
& DISTRICT TREASURERS PLUS:**

		DATE OFFICE COMPLETED
Kerry Eglington		
Eric Barker	St Chad	2022
Mark Bircher	St L	2021 Re-election needed
Kerry Bircher	St L	2022
Matthew Bircher	St L	2022
Jane Dooley	St L	2022
Sylvia Hodister	St L	2023
Eva Small	St L	2022
Charlie Smith	St L	2023
Elizabeth Wills	St L	2022 Left end of January
Christine Mills	St Mary's	2023

**ST LEONARD DCC - ALL THE ABOVE ST LEONARD PCC, DEPUTY / ASSISTANT
DISTRICT WARDENS & DISTRICT TREASURERS MEMBERS PLUS:**

Joyce Groucutt	2022
Remi Hodister	2022
Mandy Mallen	2023
Becki Wills	2022

**ST CHAD DCC - ALL THE ABOVE ST LEONARD PCC, DEPUTY / ASSISTANT
DISTRICT WARDENS & DISTRICT TREASURERS MEMBERS PLUS:**

Audrey Myatt	2023
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**ST MARY DCC - ALL THE ABOVE ST LEONARD PCC, DEPUTY / ASSISTANT
DISTRICT WARDENS & DISTRICT TREASURERS MEMBERS PLUS:**

Veronica Britton	2021 Re-election needed
Eber Carter	2023
Wendy Hawkins	2023
Marjorie Hill	2023
Ken Johnson	2022
Mavis Johnson	2022
Elizabeth Rice	2021 Re-election needed

Electoral Roll figures:

St Leonard's Church – 87 unchanged

St Mary's Church – 27 unchanged

St Chad's Church – 17 same number but one on and one off

Financial Review

End of year report for The Parish of Bilston 2020

Things have once again been quite difficult this year – our situation made even worse by “the virus” which has forced us to keep our buildings closed for long stretches of time which has obviously lost us some revenue. However, people have still been very generous and most have continued to find ways to get their offerings to us in one manner or another.

And so, I am very pleased to report that, despite everything, we have been able to pay our Parish share in full as set by the Diocese. Such a sterling effort has been recognised by the finance department and they have agreed to write off the remainder of our parish debt, which means you will be starting the next year with a clean slate! Well done everybody.

On a more optimistic note, we have had some inquiries about the centres availability and hope we will be able to attract some new business in the new future.

I am pleased to report that we were once more able to produce the Annual Accounts on time and I would like to thank yet again Mrs Kim Benton from the diocese for all the hard work and support she has given the parish over this last year.

Total Assets – £310,607

Deficit- (£10,976) Overall Deficit (£3,858) Unrestricted

Liabilities

Parish Share arrears - NIL The Diocese have written off the remaining £20,000 Parish Share arrears – so Bilston is now clear of that liability.

Salaries Parish Centre - £27,664.57 – The Parish Centre received a grant of £10,000 from Wolverhampton Council during the pandemic. £6,000 was used to repay some of the Salaries liability. Our target was to reduce the liability to £21,000 to take advantage of a £12,000 write off by the Diocese. In 2021 once 2 Russell Road is sold then the intention is to repay a further £6,664.57 along with the Salaries projects liability £11,249. Bilston will then have no historic liabilities.

Salaries Projects - £11,249

6699 Agency collections – £14,110 These are outstanding liabilities to various Agencies LDBF assigned fees and Wedding deposits.

Income has remained pretty static but this will be down to receiving the grant for the Parish Centre and furlough income as a grant from the Government. The Parish Share support we received most has been applied to 2021. So Bilston paid their Parish Share in full.

This was the first year of each Church having their own licence and paying everything in and out of their own accounts. It has worked well and has been more transparent for each DCC – as they are able to look at their own management accounts.

Unfortunately because of financial reasons we had to make three people redundant.

On a positive note we have sold 2 Russell Road – subject to contract at a very respectable price of £152,000 and await completion. The plan is to repay all of Bilston's debts and then invest the remainder to provide an income for the Parish.

The Individual Reports show:-

St Chads: - Income £20,332 Expenditure £22,350 resulting in a deficit of (£2,018) [St Chad's are still owed £1,210 for Church Hall lettings by The Parish centre – this will be transferred in 2021]. The donations include some very generous anonymous donations along with Parish Share support of £3,455 - £724 has been transferred to 2021 Parish Share and a further £2,788 will be applied to 2021 – but because of timing has been left in 2020 accounts.

St Leonards:- Income £82,883 Expenditure £72,033 resulting in an excess of £10,849. Two legacies were received in 2020 totalling £24,791.62 which of course has helped St Leonards cause. St Leonard's have paid their share of the Parish Share in full £33,453 and their Parish Share support of £6,909 has been applied to 2021 leaving them with £26,544 to pay. The Melting Pot had to close in March and although the Manager was furloughed originally she was made redundant in August as it was felt that it would be some time before the Melting Pot could re-open. The Melting Pot account currently holds £2,512 ready for when it can re-open.

St Mary's:- Income £8,644.35 Expenditure £22,512.39 resulting in a deficit of (£13,868.04). This is down to the fact that St Mary's have paid in full their share of the Parish share for 2020 £16,726.56. This included Parish Share support of £3,455. £215 has been applied to 2021 so St Mary's share for 2021 will be £16,511.56. It is highly unlikely that St Mary's will be able to pay this amount in full as their net asset position is £5,707 at end of 2020.

Reserves Policy -

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £31,388. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the free reserves at the year end was £19,750 which is lower than this target. However Russell Road £152,000 is in the process of being sold and this will clear some long term debts and also put the free reserves ahead of target

Investment Policy

The charity is granted power to invest in suitable investments under the PCC Powers Measure 1956 and the Trustees Act 2000. As a charity, the Trustees have a duty of care to take such advice as is appropriate before investments are undertaken. This advice is sought from the Central Board of Finance (CCLA) in London.

The charity's investment policies are based on two key principles: -

- Ethical Investment – this includes ensuring that investments are held in companies which have high standards of corporate governance and act in a responsible way towards stakeholders.
- Long-term responsibilities – the trustees are aware of their long-term responsibilities in respect of the Restricted and Unrestricted reserves and as a result follow a prudent approach to investment decisions.

Investment policy for long-term funds is aimed primarily at generating a sustainable income, with due regard to the need for the preservation of capital value, and the possible need to realise investments to meet operational needs. The charity does not have a policy of generating income at excessive or high risk – known as “purchasing income”, where high returns are guaranteed at the expense of capital.

In summary, the charity has an overall policy to maximise income while preserving the real value of its funds. Due to the nature of the charity, an ethical investment policy is taken into consideration when investments are made:

The charity follows the Ethical Investment Advisory policy as recommended by the Lichfield Diocese which includes the following:

“We aim to invest in companies that:

- * will develop their business in the interests of shareholders;
- * demonstrate responsible employment practices;
- * are conscientious concerning issues of corporate governance, the environment and human rights;
- * are sensitive to the community in which they operate.”

Planned giving, collections and donations are the main sources of fund raising along with tax recoverable.

Safeguarding

The PCC believe they have fulfilled their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Reporting Serious Incidents

A Serious Incident is an adverse event, whether actual or alleged, which results in or risks significant harm to the charity's beneficiaries, employees, office holders, volunteers or to others who come into contact with the charity through its work, loss of the charity's money or assets, damage to the charity's property or harm to the charity's work or reputation.

The trustees are not aware of any Serious Incidents in the last year.

Fundraising

The PCC takes its fundraising responsibilities seriously and is very grateful to all donors – whether regular or occasional – for their support of the church and church events. PCC supporters are never taken for granted. The PCC take full responsibility for fundraising and do not use commercial organisations or professional fundraisers. All money raised is either by donations, fundraising events, special appeals or legacies for which the PCC are most grateful.

Volunteers

The members of the PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our Church a lively and vibrant community.

The Future

2020 has certainly been an unprecedented year! I have lost count of the number of times in this report I have had to write “sadly” and “unfortunately”, and we have had a tough year as the congregations that form Bilston Parish and the different Communities that make up Bilston itself! We have had many good friends among our Church family become ill and seen many others forced into isolation and I feel that everyone has been stressed and worried by the events that have unfolded over the last year. Our patterns of worship have changed, we have had to adapt to new ways of working and indeed living, and us huggers have had to keep their distance and make a friendly wave suffice!

This is not the way I thought my Ministry here would end!

The position of Team Rector in the Parish of Bilston will now be vacant – but the work of God’s people will still carry on! Hopefully as more and more people are vaccinated things will change – I’m not saying they will return to what they were – because circumstances have changed, and I feel we have a long haul ahead of us – but places will open and we will be able to meet again in person and worship and hear God’s word and share the peace(?) once more

In the words of the prophet Isaiah “Things can only get better!!”

In my final article in the Parish Magazine, I quoted from Ecclesiastes Ch3 v9
“What does the worker gain from his toil?”

Well over the years it has been my privilege to meet some really lovely people here in Bilston and more specifically at each of the four centres of worship here in the Parish. You are Saints in the truest sense, “ordinary” men and women who have served their God, their community and their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ whole heartedly and with great humour, courage, and humility – and I will never forget you or them!

Inevitably I have been asked if I have any regrets. I must say yes! I have made many, many mistakes over the decade and a bit I have been here, and I have let people down – and I am sorry. Please accept my apologies. My wife Liz and I would, however, like to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” for all the thoughtfulness and generosity you have shown to the family over the years. Your kindness and your prayers have seen us through some really bad times and are greatly and wholeheartedly appreciated.

Very soon I expect you will be advertising for a new Team Rector to take up the challenge and work alongside you in ministering to the people of Bilston – I pray that you will find the right man or woman for the job – and that they realise how blessed they will be to be chosen.

So, one last time then my dear brothers and sisters

May we go in peace to love and serve our Lord!

Amen

God Bless You All - Dave Wills

And It continues to be my custom at the end of my report to ask the reader to reflect on those who have passed away – and commend them and their service to the Lord.

May they rest in peace – and rise in Glory!

Rev. Dave Wills

Risk Management

The Church Wardens carry out regular Health and Safety Reviews and regularly inspect premises for potential hazards. We have safeguarding policies in place for child protection and for work with vulnerable adults, including rigorous DBS checking of staff and volunteers. Our insurances are reviewed annually to ensure adequate cover. An informal review of any new risks which may impact the work of the Church in the Parish is ongoing.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a Body Corporate established by the Church of England and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission. The PCC is governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended that came into effect on 2nd January 1957, and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. The PCC members receive training from courses run by the Diocese. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The PCC met 5 times this.

Related Parties –

The PCC does not employ any related parties or give contracts for work on the church to any related parties.

Donations from Related Parties

Donations from related parties during the year totalled £10,350. All these donations were received without conditions.

Remuneration paid to Trustees

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the PCC

Expenses paid to Trustees

No Trustee expenses have been incurred during the year

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of Bilston

Other names the charity is known by: N/A

Registered Charity Number: 1138955

Charity's principal address: St Leonard's Church Walsall Street Bilston WV14 0AT

Correspondence address: St Leonard's Church Walsall Street Bilston WV14 0AT

Website address: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

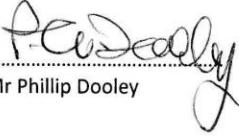
PCC Members: Who Served from 1 January 2020 to the date this report was approved

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole period
Ex-Officio		
Revd David Wills	Chairperson	
Revd Simon Skidmore	Team Vicar	
Mrs Patricia Arnold	Churchwarden – St Chad's [Parish Warden from 29 October 2020]	
Mr Mark Bircher	Churchwarden – St Leonard's	
Mr Phillip Dooley	Secretary/Deanery Synod	
Mr Brian Fellows	Churchwarden – St Mary's	
Mr Mike Shelley-Smith	Parish Warden/Deanery Synod	
Mr Brian Wood	Churchwarden – St Mary's	Resigned 29 October 2020
Mr Adrian Mallen	Deanery Synod	
Mrs Eber Carter	Churchwarden – St Mary's	From 29 October 2020
Mr John Arnold	Churchwarden – St Chad's	
Elected Members		
Mr James Eric Barker		
Mrs Jane Dooley		
Mrs Sylvia Hodister		
Mr Charlie Smith		
Mrs Kerry Bircher	Safeguarding Co-ordinator [Children]	
Mrs Elizabeth Wills		
Mrs Peta Diane Woodberry	Safeguarding Co-ordinator [Adults]	
Mrs Christine Mills		
Mr John Arnold		
Mrs Kerry Eglington		From 29 October 2020
Mr Matthew Bircher		

Bank	Barclays Bank PLC – Queen Square Wolverhampton WV1 1DS
Investment Managers	CCLA Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4ET
Independent Examiner	Jonathan Hill Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance St Marys House, The Close, Lichfield. WS13 7LD

Approved by the PCC on 15 03 2021 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Revd Simon Skidmore


.....
Mr Phillip Dooley

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees/members of The PCC of The Parish of Bilston

Registered charity number: 1138955

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the 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 material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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

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

Signed:

Jonathan Hill FCMA CGMA

Date:

The Parish of Bilston
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2020

Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using Receipts and Payments basis.

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements 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 nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Cashflow Statement

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement on the grounds that the income does not exceed £500,000.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties relate to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Post year end event

The ongoing worldwide outbreak of the COVID-19 virus still represents a significant event since the end of the financial year. However, COVID-19 is considered to be a non-adjusting post year end event and therefore has not been taken into account in preparing these Financial Statements as at 31 December 2020.

Accounting Estimates and Prior Year Errors

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period.

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period

Description of Funds

Unrestricted funds are income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its "free reserves" as disclosed in the trustees' annual report.

An explanation of purpose of each Designated fund are as follows:

- Flower Fund – Flowers for St Leonards Church
- Flowers Fund – Flowers for St Chad's Church
- Melting Pot – Takings for The Melting Pot to identify excess/deficit – excess to be transferred to General fund when necessary.
- Building Fund – Ringfenced for work on St Leonards Building

Restricted funds comprise of two elements :-

- a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest
- b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

An explanation of purpose of each Restricted fund are as follows:

- Décor – This is the re-decoration scheme for the vicarage
- Fair – This is a grant from Emma Bussey Charity to help with Summer and Christmas Fairs.
- Melting Pot – These are specific fund raising donations for the Melting Pot.
- Parish Centre – Specific donations for the Parish Centre
- Walford legacy – Is to be used for the upkeep of one of the graves in the Church yard
- Mission Work at St Chad's – Donations specifically for Mission Work at St Chad's
- Parish Centre – Locks – Donation from Wolverhampton Council to replace the locks

Endowment funds are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown in the notes to the accounts.

The Parish of Bilston has no Endowment funds

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received or when the PCC becomes entitled to the resource and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Governance and Support Costs

Support costs should be allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources eg by allocating staff costs by time spent and other costs by their usage.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts by s.10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

Other tangible fixed assets are valued at cost. The assets are depreciated where applicable at 50%

Investments

Investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are valued initially at cost and subsequently at market value at the year end. Investments held for re-sale are treated as current asset investments.

Debtors

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount. Subsequently they are measured as cash expected to be received

Creditors and Accruals

Creditors are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts. Accruals are measured on best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Parish of Bilston year ended 2020

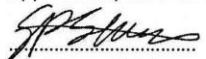
Receipts and Payments

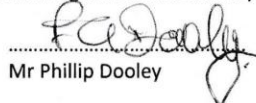
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	92,821	3,775	—	96,596	93,384
Income from charitable activities	9,146	—	—	9,146	8,556
Other trading activities	372	5,535	—	5,908	33,550
Investments	115	8	—	123	471
Other income	19,237	—	—	19,237	—
Total income	121,693	9,319	—	131,013	135,965
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	171	—	—	171	2,122
Expenditure on charitable activities	116,585	140	—	116,725	161,660
Other expenditure	8,795	16,296	—	25,092	49,594
Total expenditure	125,552	16,436	—	141,989	213,388
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(3,858)	(7,117)	—	(10,976)	(77,423)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	456	1,500	—	1,956	38,392
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,956)	—	—	(1,956)	(38,392)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	131,250	(8,981)	—	122,269	11,470
Net movement in funds	125,892	(14,599)	—	111,293	(65,953)
Total funds brought forward	67,785	131,528	—	199,314	265,268
Total funds carried forward	193,677	116,929	—	310,607	199,314
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	171,750	—	—	171,750	14,745
Designated					
Building Fund	14,370	—	—	14,370	—
Flower Fund	449	200	—	706	649
Melting Pot	2,237	—	—	2,237	2,821
St Chads General Fund	—	—	—	—	6,466
St Leonard's Choir	21	—	—	21	21
St Leonards General fund	—	—	—	—	25,722
St Mary's General	—	—	—	—	20,169
Restricted					
Decoration Scheme	—	1,303	—	1,303	1,303
Lighting At St Leonards	—	1,860	—	1,860	—
Melting Pot	—	775	—	775	—
Mission Work At St Chads	—	1,250	—	1,250	1,250
Parish Centre	—	111,946	—	111,946	124,000
Parish Centre - Locks	—	1,000	—	1,000	—
Summer Fair Parish Centre grant from Bussey	—	206	—	206	206
Walford Legacy	—	1,968	—	1,968	1,960

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
Parish Centre -	—	—	150,000	—	150,000	150,000
MONTPELLER 100CM DUEL FUEL RANGE	—	—	395	—	395	790
COOKER -						
Equipment -	1	—	(1)	—	—	2
2 Russell Road -	152,000	—	—	—	152,000	45,000
Stow Lawn Land -	1	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	152,002	—	150,394	—	302,396	195,793
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
PCC St Marys Church Bilston Reserve -	4,314	—	—	—	4,314	7,072
St Leonard's Flower Current Account -	—	306	—	—	306	306
Parish Centre Account -	—	1,210	573	—	1,784	2,131
PCC of The Parish of Bilston -	2,246	—	3,683	—	5,929	2,123
St Mary's DCC - Reserve Account -	1,726	—	—	—	1,726	12,718
CCLA (CBF) St Chads Fund -	—	—	—	—	—	2,249
CCLA (CBF) St Leonards - Walford Legacy	—	—	1,968	—	1,968	1,960
St Chad's Church Current Account -	2,488	257	1250	—	3,995	4,431
Melting Pot - Cash in hand -	—	—	—	—	—	12
Flowers - Cash in hand -	—	142	—	—	142	142
Parish Centre Cash -	—	—	10	—	10	158
St Leonards Petty Cash -	—	—	—	—	—	77
St Leonard's Choir -	—	21	—	—	21	21
The Melting Pot - St Leonards -	—	2,237	275	—	2,512	2,809
St Leonard's Church Current Account -	20,222	14,370	2,627	—	37,219	25,645
IDS Decoration Scheme DOVER STREET -	—	—	1,220	—	1,220	1,220
IDS Decoration Scheme CUMBERLAND -	—	—	82	—	82	82
Totals	30,997	18,546	11,691	—	61,235	63,162
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	—	—	—	—	—	3,454
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	3,454
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	14,110	—	14,110	(1,818)
Totals	—	—	14,110	—	14,110	(1,818)
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Parish Share Arrears -	—	—	—	—	—	20,000
Salaries - Parish Centre -	—	—	27,664	—	27,664	33,664
Salaries - Projects -	11,249	—	—	—	11,249	11,249
Totals	11,249	—	27,664	—	38,913	64,913
Grand total	171,750	18,546	120,310	—	310,607	199,314

Approved by the PCC on 15 03 2021 and signed on its behalf by:


Revd Simon Skidmore


Mr Phillip Dooley

Analysis of receipts and payments

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Last year
Receipts							
Donations and legacies							
0101 - Gift Aid Collections		16,365	—	—	—	16,365	23,907
Bank/Envelopes							
0201 - Non Gift Aid Collections		773	—	—	—	773	6,139
0201 - Non-Gift Aid Collections		4,080	—	—	—	4,080	—
0301 - Loose Plate Collections		—	—	—	—	—	12,118
0301 - Loose plate collections		6,640	—	—	—	6,640	—
0410 - Votive Lights/Church Boxes		42	—	—	—	42	335
0550 - Donations appeals etc		24,197	1,025	2,775	—	27,997	24,990
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		2,165	—	—	—	2,165	10,215
0701 - Legacies		9,791	15,000	—	—	24,791	—
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants		10,000	1,988	1,000	—	12,988	1,000
0901 - Other funds generated		716	32	—	—	749	11,271
0902 - Heating Weddings		—	—	—	—	—	3,407
Total		74,774	18,046	3,775	—	96,596	93,384
Receipts from charitable activities							
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals		6,023	—	—	—	6,023	8,556
1210 - Melting Pot - Food Sales		—	3,123	—	—	3,123	10,080
Total		6,023	3,123	—	—	9,146	18,636
Other trading activities							
0903 - Admin Fee		—	—	—	—	—	381
1230 - Parish Centre Hire		—	—	5,535	—	5,535	21,886
1240 - Church Hall Lettings		—	—	—	—	—	614
1250 - Magazine income - advertising		225	—	—	—	225	225
1260 - Parish magazine sales		147	—	—	—	147	364
Total		372	—	5,535	—	5,908	23,470
Investments							
1020 - Bank and building society interest		9	—	8	—	17	471
1030 - Rent from lands or buildings&Melting Pot		—	106	—	—	106	120
Total		9	106	8	—	123	471
Other income							
1310 - Insurance claims		19,237	—	—	—	19,237	—
Total		19,237	—	—	—	19,237	—
INCOME TOTAL		100,417	21,276	9,319	—	131,013	135,965

Payments

Raising funds

1720 - Costs of stewardship campaign	—	—	—	—	—	253
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	62	—	—	—	62	1,709
1740 - Bank Charges	—	109	—	—	109	159
Total	62	109	—	—	171	2,122

Payments on charitable activities

1801 - Giving to missionary societies	25	—	—	—	25	—
1910 - Ministry parish share etc	69,693	—	—	—	69,693	63,720
2001 - Salaries	—	6,007	—	—	6,007	6,751
2101 - Working expenses of incumbent	—	—	—	—	—	(702)
2201 - Mission and Evangelism Costs	—	—	—	—	—	524
2301 - Church running - insurance	8,300	—	—	—	8,300	8,809
2310 - Church office - telephone	546	—	—	—	546	521
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	300	—	—	—	300	342
2330 - Church maintenance	3,253	—	140	—	3,393	6,648
2331 - Cleaning	437	115	—	—	552	—
2340 - Upkeep of services	663	—	—	—	663	1,236
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	1,046	—	—	—	1,046	283
2360 - Admin/Stationery/Photocopier/Printing et	3,239	30	—	—	3,359	4,268
2401 - Church running - electric	2,340	—	—	—	2,340	2,334
2410 - Church running - gas	6,302	—	—	—	6,302	8,200
2519 - Melting Pot - Food Supplies	—	698	—	—	698	1,031
2601 - Governance costs examination/audit fee	—	—	—	—	—	690
2602 - Licences & Subscriptions	112	—	—	—	112	—
2701 - Church repairs - structure	12,879	630	—	—	13,509	77,501
2710 - Church repairs - installation	—	—	—	—	—	954
Total	109,104	7,480	140	—	116,725	183,110

Other payments

2004 - Hall Salaries	—	—	5,247	—	5,247	10,971
2333 - Parish Centre - Cleaning	—	—	539	—	539	1,938
2420 - Church Running - Water	—	—	—	—	—	46
2518 - Melting Pot Non Food Items	—	—	—	—	—	165
2530 - Parish Centre - Electricity	—	—	1,190	—	1,190	1,180
2540 - Parish Centre - Gas	—	—	1,600	—	1,600	1,468
2550 - Parish Centre - Insurance	—	—	725	—	725	727
2560 - Parish Centre - Maintenance	—	—	4,144	—	4,144	5,938
2562 - Parish Centre - Admin	—	—	—	—	—	339
2570 - Parish Centre - telephone	—	—	1,425	—	1,425	1,391
2580 - Parish Centre - water	—	—	270	—	270	1,138
2820 - Hall + major repairs - installation	—	—	394	—	394	—
2840 - Other PCC property upkeep	8,669	—	—	—	8,669	2,843
Total	8,795	—	16,296	—	25,092	28,144
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	117,962	7,590	16,436	—	141,989	213,388
GRAND TOTAL	(17,544)	13,686	(7,117)	—	(10,976)	(77,423)

Fund movement by type 2020

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
Building - Building Fund						
Designated	—	15,000	630	—	—	14,370
Sub-total for Building	—	15,000	630	—	—	14,370
Choir - St Leonard's Choir						
Designated	21	—	—	—	—	21
Sub-total for Choir	21	—	—	—	—	21
Decor - Decoration Scheme						
Restricted	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Sub-total for Decor	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Fair - Summer Fair Parish C						
Restricted	206	—	—	—	—	206
Sub-total for Fair	206	—	—	—	—	206
Flower - Flower Fund						
Designated	649	75	18	—	—	706
Sub-total for Flower	649	—	—	—	—	706
	67,102					
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	14,745	100,417	117,962	49,490	125,060	171,750
Sub-total for General	14,745	100,417	117,962	49,490	125,060	171,750
St Chads - General fund						
Designated	6,466	—	—	(5,255)	—	1,210
Sub-total for St	6,466	—	—	(5,255)	—	1,210
Chads						
St Leonards – General Fund						
Designated	25,722	—	—	(25,722)	—	—
Sub-total for St	25,722	—	—	—	—	—
Leonards				(25,722)		
St Marys – General Fund						
Designated	20,169	—	—	(20,169)	—	—
Sub-total for St	20,169	—	—	(20,169)	—	—
Marys						
Lighting - Lighting At St Leona						
Restricted	—	2,000	140	—	—	1,860
Sub-total for Lighting	—	2,000	140	—	—	1,860
Locks - Parish Centre - Lock						
Restricted	—	1,000	—	—	—	1,000
Sub-total for Locks	—	1,000	—	—	—	1,000
Melting Po - Melting Pot						
Designated	2,821	6,201	6,942	156	—	2,237
Restricted	—	775	—	—	—	775
Sub-total for Melting Po	2,821	6,976	6,942	156	—	3,012
Mission - Mission Work At St C						
Restricted	1,250	—	—	—	—	1,250
Sub-total for Mission	1,250	—	—	—	—	1,250
PCentre - Parish Centre						
Restricted	124,170	5,535	16,296	1,500	(2,962)	111,946
Sub-total for PCentre	124,170	5,535	16,296	1,500	(2,962)	111,946
Walford - Walford Legacy						
Restricted	1,960	8	—	—	—	1,968
Sub-total for Walford	1,960	8	—	—	—	1,968
Grand total	199,314	131,013	141,989	—	122,098	310,607

Fund movement by type 2019

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
Bloom - Bilston in Bloom						
Restricted	—	500	800	300	—	—
Sub-total for Bloom	—	500	800	300	—	—
Decor - Decoration Scheme						
Restricted	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Sub-total for Decor	1,303	—	—	—	—	1,303
Fair - Summer Fair Parish C						
Restricted	206	—	—	—	—	206
Sub-total for Fair	206	—	—	—	—	206
Flowers - Flowers						
Designated	422	226	—	—	—	649
Sub-total for Flowers	422	226	—	—	—	649
GenChad - St Chads General Fun						
Designated	6,013	8,118	5,062	(2,603)	—	6,466
Sub-total for GenChad	6,013	8,118	5,062	(2,603)	—	6,466
GenMary - St Mary's General Fu						
Designated	23,467	7,772	9,589	(1,481)	—	20,169
Sub-total for GenMary	23,467	7,772	9,589	(1,481)	—	20,169
Genleon - St Leonards General						
Designated	85,236	58,586	95,388	(22,711)	—	25,722
Sub-total for Genleon	85,236	58,586	95,388	(22,711)	—	25,722
Melt-Pot - Melting Pot Fund						
Designated	32	—	—	(20)	—	12
Restricted	6,128	10,080	8,511	(4,889)	—	2,809
Sub-total for Melt-Pot	6,161	10,080	8,511	(4,909)	—	2,821
Mission - Mission Work St Chad						
Restricted	—	1,250	—	—	—	1,250
Sub-total for Mission	—	1,250	—	—	—	1,250
PCentre - Parish Centre						
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—
Restricted	131,585	23,730	25,168	(6,148)	—	123,999
Sub-total for PCentre	131,585	23,730	25,168	(6,148)	—	123,999
SLChoir - St Leonards Choir						
Designated	21	—	—	—	—	21
Sub-total for SLChoir	21	—	—	—	—	21
Walford - Walford Legacy						
Restricted	1,945	14	—	—	—	1,960
Sub-total for Walford	1,945	14	—	—	—	1,960
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	8,903	25,685	68,869	37,555	—	14,745
Sub-total for General	8,903	25,685	68,869	37,555	—	14,745
Grand total	265,268	135,965	213,388	—	—	199,314

Staff Costs

	2020	2019
Wages & Salaries	£11,255	£17,722
Average number of Employees	3	3

During the year the PCC employed an administrator, caretaker at The Parish Centre and Melting pot Manager [all part-time] and no payments were large enough to attract social security costs. The administrator and caretaker were made redundant in January. The Melting Pot Manager was made redundant in August.

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the previous or current year.

COVID-19 – The PCC received £1,189 in grants from the Government related to the Furlough Scheme

Trustees' Remuneration & Expenses – Kim to update

No Trustee expenses or remuneration have been incurred during the year

Related Parties

No other expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

Donations from related parties [PCC members] totalled £10,580

Analysis of Transfer between Funds

Analysis of Transfer between funds									
Reference	Date	Account	Code description	Debit	Credit	Description	Fund		
General to Parish Centre - monies from COVID Grant - C/Flow	12/06/2020	30027537	Parish Centre Account	—	1,500.00	To Parish Centre	General	Unr	
General to Parish Centre - monies from COVID Grant - C/Flow	12/06/2020	30027537	Parish Centre Account	1,500.00	—	Per General fund	PCentre	Res	
General to GenMary to correct	01/01/2020	40461474	PCC of The Parish of Bilston	379.00	—		General	Unr	
General to GenMary to correct	01/01/2020	40461474	PCC of The Parish of Bilston	—	379.00		GenMary	Des	
General to Melt Pot to correct	30/06/2020	6596	St Leonards Petty Cash	—	77.35		General	Unr	
General to Melt Pot to correct	30/06/2020	70201782	The Melting Pot - St Leonards	77.35	—		Melting Po	Des	
Total				1,956.35	1,956.35				

Fixed Assets

a) Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Buildings £	Church Equipment £	Total Assets
Cost or Valuation			
As at 1 Jan	196,000	792	196,793
Additions in the Year	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disposal in the Year	0.00	0.00	2.00
Revaluation [if any]	107,000	0.00	107,000
Value at 31 Dec	303,000	395	303,793
Accumulated Depreciation	0.00	0.00	0.00
As at 1 Jan	0.00	0.00	0.00
Charge for the Year	0.00	395	395
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00
Value at 31 Dec	303,000	395	303,396
Net Book Value at 1 Jan 2020	196,000	792	196,793
Net Book Value at 31 Dec 2020	303,000	395	303,396

Freehold Buildings

Parish Centre: £150,000
2 Russell Road: £152,000
Stow Lawn Land: £1.00

Church Equipment

Montpeller Dual Fuel Range Cooker: £395 – 50% depreciation in 2020

b) Fixed Asset Investments – The PCC have no Fixed Asset Investments

SOFA – Receipts & Payments Comparatives
Previous Year 2019

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	79,625	2,487	—	82,113	72,322
Income from charitable activities	8,556	—	—	8,556	22,223
Other trading activities	11,750	33,073	—	44,823	47,477
Investments	456	14	—	471	496
Total income	100,389	35,575	—	135,965	142,519
Expenditure on:					
Expenditure on charitable activities	75,713	1,856	—	77,569	79,280
Other expenditure	103,196	32,622	—	135,819	63,451
Total expenditure	178,909	34,479	—	213,388	142,731
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(78,520)	1,096	—	(77,423)	(211)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	37,946	445	—	38,392	116,120
Gross transfers between funds - out	(27,208)	(11,183)	—	(38,392)	(116,120)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	11,470	—	—	11,470	53,240
Net movement in funds	(56,312)	(9,641)	—	(65,953)	53,029
Total funds brought forward	124,097	141,170	—	265,268	212,239
Total funds carried forward	67,785	131,528	—	199,314	265,268