

<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 feat. 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. AAMEN!!!!

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

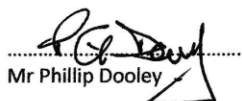
**Independent
Examiner**

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	213,602	2,123	215,725
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