

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

For the year ended 31st December 2024

Registered Charity Number 1138955

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

Charity registration number 1138955

Objectives and Activities

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

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

Public Benefit

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

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

Activities and Performance

The Parish of Bilston - Vision, Mission Statements & MAP

Vision Statement

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

Mission Statement

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

Mission Action Plan (MAP)

Discipleship

What we are doing now:

Weekly worship in all 3 churches.

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

Use of Readers and Churchwardens across all churches.

Weekly zoom Bible Study with extended prayer session.

Celebration of Patronal Services across the parish.

Special celebrations at Christmas/Easter/Harvest.

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

What is planned for the next 12-month period:

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

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

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

Evangelism

What we are doing now:

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

What is planned for the next 12-month period:

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

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

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

Vocation

What we are doing now:

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

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

What is planned for the next 12-month period:

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

What we hope to do in 3-5 years:

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

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

Achievements and Performance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Funeral ministry has been busy and memorial services well attended.

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

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

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

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

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

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

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

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

Ministry in the Community

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deanery Synod Report 2024

Synod met on three occasions during the year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phil Dooley

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

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

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

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

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

The blessing of same sex marriages.

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

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

Management of the Parish Centre.

Request to hire one of the Parish buildings.

Funding of a training course.

Philip Dooley, P.C.C. Secretary

St Leonard's Church Warden's Report.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jane Dooley, Mark Bircher

St Mary's Church Warden's Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Christine Mills & Eber Carter

St Chad's Churchwarden's Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Linda Pearson & Alison Spencer

Safeguarding Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kerry Bircher – Safeguarding officer

Jacobs Well Café Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We have received some reviews of some of our customers:

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

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

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

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

Kim, Dee, Alison, Kerry and Rachael

Young People's Confirmation Group

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jane Dooley

St Mary's Church Community Kitchen

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

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

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

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

We are very much looking forward to another successful year.

The Community Kitchen Team

Parish Pastoral Care Team

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

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

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

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

Diane Woodberry

Place of Welcome.

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

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

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

Diane Woodberry.

St Leonard's Service of the Word & Family Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phil & Jane Dooley

Parish Adult Confirmation Preparation Report.

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

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

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

Phil Dooley

Fusion@4

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

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

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

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

Diane Woodberry.

Parish Bible Study Report.

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

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

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

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

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

Phil Dooley.

The Trefoil Guild

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

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

The meetings have included craft activities and afternoon tea.

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

Wendy Hawkins

Churches Together In Bilston and Bradley

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

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

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

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

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

Jane Dooley & Mark Bircher

Bilston Church of England Primary School.

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

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

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

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

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



Jo Lewis

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

Good Shepherd Relief In Need (Reg Charity No 1177783)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ann Reaney, Project Manager City Homemaker.

Financial Review

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

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

Parish and Parish Centre

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

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

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

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

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

St Chads

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

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

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

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

St Mary's

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

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

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

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

St Leonards

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

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

[Deficit: (£5,196) 2023]

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

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

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

Kim Benton

Reserves Policy

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

Investment Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

“We aim to invest in companies that:

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

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

Safeguarding

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

Reporting Serious Incidents

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

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

Fundraising

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

Volunteers

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

Risk Management

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

Structure, Governance and Management

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

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

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

Related Parties –

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

Donations from Related Parties

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

Remuneration paid to Trustees

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

Expenses paid to Trustees

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

Reference and Administrative Details

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

Other names the charity is known by: N/A

Registered Charity Number: 1138955

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr Philip Dooley

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

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

Registered charity number, if applicable: 1138955

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

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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

Signed:



Jonathan Hill FCMA CGMA

Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance

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

Date: 22/05/2025

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

Accounting Policies

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

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Cashflow Statement

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

Going Concern

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

Accounting Estimates and Prior Year Errors

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

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

Description of Funds

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

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

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

Restricted funds comprise of two elements :-

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

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

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

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

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

Incoming Resources

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

Resources Expended

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

Governance and Support Costs

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

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

Fixed Assets

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

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

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

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

Investments

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

Debtors

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

Creditors and Accruals

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

Parish of Bilston year ended 2024

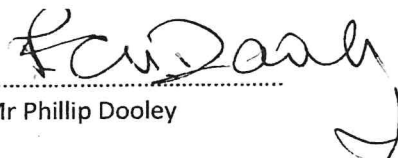
Statement of Receipts and Payments 2024

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

Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2024

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

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


Mr Phillip Dooley

Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2023

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

Analysis of receipts and payments 2024

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

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

Fund movement by type 2024

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

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

Fund movement by type 2023

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

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

Staff Costs

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

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

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

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

Trustees' Remuneration & Expenses

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

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

Related Parties

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

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

Fees for the examination of the accounts

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

Analysis of Transfer between Funds 2024

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

Analysis of Transfer between Funds 2023

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

Fixed Assets

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

a) Tangible Fixed Assets

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

Freehold Buildings

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

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

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

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

b) Fixed Asset Investments

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

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

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

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

Summary of Assets by Fund 2024

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

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

Summary of Assets by Fund 2023

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

Receipts & Payments Comparatives

Previous Year 2023

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

