

## **Independent Examiner's Report the PCC of Holy Trinity Much Wenlock and Bourton**

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 which are set out on pages 2 to 7.

### **Respective Responsibilities of PCC and Examiner**

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

It is my responsibility to: -

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act)
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by The Charity Commissioners under 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

### **Basis of Independent Examiners report**

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

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirement of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024  
Jill Robinson, BSC, BFP, ACA  
Field House,  
Bourton, Much Wenlock  
TF13 6QE

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Much Wenlock with Bourton**

**Registered Charity No. 1142708**

**Statement of Financial Affairs**

**For year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

			<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Unrestricted &amp; Designated Fund</b>	<b>Restricted Fund</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	£	£	£	£
Income From:				
Donations & legacies	95,262	7,371	102,633	105,078
Charitable Activities	4,610		4,610	8,224
Other related activities	22,684		22,684	18,507
Investment	2,107	400	2,507	751
Other income	60		60	93
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income	124,723	7,771	132,494	132,653
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	493		493	713
Charitable activities	4,171		4,171	3,166
Other expenditure	114,494	6,910	121,404	129,216
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure	119,158	6,910	126,068	133,095
Net income/expenditure	5,565	861	6,426	(442)
Choir & Bellringers accounts removed				(7,181) *
Totals brought forward.	45,607	78,766	124,373	131,996
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals carried forward.	51,172	79,627	130,799	124,373 *

- **The 2022 accounts included accounts owned by the Bellringers and Choir. These have been removed from the balance sheet to provide an accurate comparison with 2023. See Note A.**

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Much Wenlock with Bourton**

**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Bank Current accounts	2,311	4,599 *
Bank Deposit account	102,457	98,708
Bank CCLA account	25,075	31,079
Cash in Hand	40	40
Debtors & Prepayments	<u>2,500</u>	<u>4,585</u>
	132,383	139,011
Less Current Liabilities	<u>(1,584)</u>	<u>(14,638)</u>
	<b><u>130,799</u></b>	<b><u>124,373</u></b>
<b>Represented by: -</b>		
General	42,593	35,820
<b>Designated</b>		
Mission	2,119	2,119
Fabric	6,460	7,668
	8,579	9,787 *
<b>Restricted</b>		
Bourton	16,971	19,617
Sharpen	3,600	3,600
Fabric	51,685	55,549
Bells	7,371	
	79,627	78,766
	<b><u>130,799</u></b>	<b><u>124,373</u></b>

\* The 2022 accounts included accounts owned by the Bellringers and Choir. These have been removed from the balance sheet to provide an accurate comparison with 2023. See Note A

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**Registered Charity No. 1142708**

**Statement of Financial Affairs for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

		<b>2023</b>			<b>2022</b>
	<b>General</b>	<b>Designated</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Giving	48,458			48,458	53,978
Gift Day	2,155			2,155	2,101
Charitable collections	4,610			4,610	2,419
Funerals/Weddings	4,774			4,774	3,073
Tax refunds	15,234			15,234	15,530
Donations	17,861			17,861	17,479
Grants	4,280			4,280	8,478
Fees	8,408			8,408	8,224
Fund Raising (Bells)			7,371	7,371	3,893
Legacy etc	2,500			2,500	1,500
Herald	14,276			14,276	15,133
Sundry	60			60	93
Bank Interest	2,107		400	2,507	752
<b>Total</b>	<b>124,723</b>		<b>7,771</b>	<b>132,494</b>	<b>132,653</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Distribute Charities	4,171			4,171	3,166
Charitable giving					252
Parish Promise	66,296			66,296	65,272
Staff	8,694			8,694	6,717
Team expenses	1,406			1,406	2,750
Mission expenses	200			200	452
Utilities	8,860			8,860	7,296
Insurance	5,072			5,072	4,497
Cleaning	726			726	248
Repairs		1,208	4,036	5,244	9,783
Churchyard Maint.	5,624		2,874	8,498	13,496
Sanctuary exp.	256			256	499
Bellringers exp.	32			32	32
Choir exp.	207			207	1,205
Admin exp.	497			497	950
Herald exp.	14,462			14,462	13,756
Fund raising	493			493	712
Sundry	954			954	2,012
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>117,950</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>6,910</b>	<b>126,068</b>	<b>133,095</b>
<b>Movement</b>	<b>6,773</b>	<b>(1,208)</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>6,426</b>	<b>(442)</b>

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**Notes to the Financial Statement or year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

It was decided that since the two churches were combined some time ago into a single PCC, the accounting needed to be consolidated. The Bourton bank accounts are now closed, with the money held in the combined Much Wenlock and Bourton bank account. The separate Bourton accounts are marked as such. Bourton is not a separate charity, so Gift Aid must be reclaimed through Much Wenlock.

The previous ten bank accounts have been consolidated into five.

The simplification of the accounting will continue into 2024, with plans to dramatically reduce the excessive complexity of previous accounting.

Notes to the 2023 accounts:

- A. Until now, the balance sheet included two bank accounts for the choir and bellringers. These are owned and operated by those two groups and the PCC has no control over them and has no say in how the money is raised or spent. It was agreed that they should not be on our balance sheet. We consulted the Diocesan finance director, who confirmed that they needed to be removed from our balance sheet.
- B. The Bellringers have been successful in raising funds for the future repairs to the bells. Most of the almost £25,000 raised is promised to the Bellringers including various grants, once the total has been reached. A much smaller sum is held by the PCC and is marked as being for the bells. A deposit was paid in March 2024 of £6,681 by the PCC from the money held by the PCC in order to facilitate commencement of the work.
- C. An initial 50% payment has been made for the decoration of the tower at Bourton. This amounted to £3,150. The balance will not be due until the work has been completed.
- D. The PCC had loaned £2,500 to Much Wenlock Ecclesiastical Society. This was outstanding at year end but repaid in March 2024.
- E. The increase in staff costs relates to a change of church cleaner, with the new incumbent working longer hours.

- 1) The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, governing the accounts of PCCs and with the Regulations “true and fair view” provisions.
- 2) Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for its own use or spending on a future project.

- 3) Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes.

Sharpen restricted fund is a legacy that must be spent on the upkeep of a grave in the Town Cemetery.

The Much Wenlock Fabric fund is a legacy from one parishioner to be spent on the upkeep of the building.

The Bourton restricted fund was a legacy for the upkeep of the churchyard.

- 4) Designated and Restricted Funds

	As at 01/01.23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31/12/23 £	NOTES
Designated					
Bell Ringers				Nil	A
Choir				Nil	A
Fabric	7,668		1,208	6,460	
Mission	<u>2,119</u>		—	<u>2,119</u>	
Total	9,787		1,208	8,579	
Restricted					
Sharpen	3,600			3,600	
Bellringers		7,371		7,371	
Fabric Much Wenlock	55,549	144	4,008	51,685	
Churchyard Bourton	7,531	256		7,787	
Fabric Bourton	<u>12,086</u>	—	<u>2,902</u>	<u>9,184</u>	
Total	78,766	7,771	6,910	79,627	

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5) Staff Costs

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Wages and salaries	£8,694	£6,717
Average no. of employees	2	2

During the year, the PCC employed a Director of Music and a cleaner (both part-time) but no payments were large enough to attract social security costs and no pension contributions were made.

6) Related Parties

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

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

7) Analysis of Transfer between Funds

There were no transfers between funds.

8) Current Assets and Prepayments

	2023 £	2022 £
Debtors (unrestricted funds)		
Tax recoverable		2,489
Prepayments		984
Fees		242
Other debtors	<u>2,500</u>	<u>870</u>
	2,500	4,585
Liabilities falling due in one year.		
Accruals utilities	1,584	3,262
Other creditors		3,896
Receipts in Advance	<u>          </u>	<u>7,480</u>
	1,584	14,638