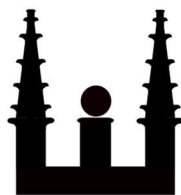


The Parochial Church Council of Acton with Worleston



Registered Charity Number 1143904

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements For Year ending 31st December 2024

Aims and Purposes

Acton with Worleston PCC co-operates with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the churches; for the care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric of the churches and the goods and ornaments thereof; and for the care and maintenance of the churchyards. The PCC seeks to recognise gifts and skills in others and encourage them to share in this mission.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community at St. Mary's Acton and St Oswald's, Worleston.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through: offering church services, which we continue to update and change including adding 'Songs of Praise' providing family and children's ministry, including Messy Church, also bible study groups, and events which have brought together the local community and church including our regular Tea at the Tower.

This year we have developed continued with our vision, **Seeking to share the love of Jesus through word and deed.**

The Plough Service at Reaseheath College was well attended and brings together the students at the college and our roots as a rural, farming community.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Mary's and St Oswald's, Worleston.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

We continue to offer a variety of services, with Songs of Praise and Messy Church proving very popular and welcoming more families into church. The wednesday service Holy Communion at St Mary's, Acton continues and welcomes some of the year 5/6 primary school children, we are excited expand the scope of this going forward. St Oswald's, Worleston continues to offer services twice a month and special services.

As well as our regular service, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life, we had 10 baptisms, 4 marriages and 23 funerals in the year.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Churches Together in Nantwich

Two members of the PCC along with members from six other Christian churches in Nantwich meet as "Pilgrims" visiting each other's churches for services and to share worries, problems and ideas.

Pastoral Care

A few of the highlights were, continuing the Ladies Lunches every month, and for Holly Holy Day in January there was a talk about the battle of Nantwich amongst other things, The concerts continue to be well attended and Tea @ the Tower continues to attract many people every week where the monthly walks are very popular and we thank all the cake bakers and servers.

Safeguarding

Our policy, which is in line with the House of Bishops' safeguarding policies and good practice guidance is reviewed annually and an updated reported at each PCC meeting. It is also displayed prominently in the Church building and on the website. This means the PCC of Acton with Worleston has complied with the requirement imposed by the code under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

At St Mary's Acton and St Oswald's Worleston we work hard to maintain a safe environment for all.

If you have any concerns or enquiries regarding safeguarding, please contact our safeguarding officer. Parish Safeguarding Officer: Tom Doyle

Email: **actonpso24@gmail.com**

Phone **01270 481548**

Financial Review

The merger of two parishes resulted in the formation of the parish of Acton with Worleston on 1st June 2023. These are the first full year's Financial Statements for the new Acton with Worleston PCC.

During the year total income was £91,078 and total expenditure was £117,981. At St Mary's the drainage grid for the toilet extension, and the chancel parapet repairs, resulted in expenditure of £3,159 and grant income of £526. Excluding these exceptional items the deficit was £24,270 which is an average of over £2,000 per month. The PCC has sought advice from the diocese and is considering options for reducing or eliminating the deficit on its routine work. Total fund balances decreased by £13,502 to £450,863.

The PCC reviewed its spending authority rules during the year.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has adopted the Reserves Policy *'To keep a balance on unrestricted funds (excluding designated funds if possible), which equates to approximately six months' payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.'* 'Six months' normal payments (determined from these Financial Statements) are approximately £58,000; at the year end the balance of unrestricted undesignated funds was less than this at £19,924. The reserves policy is met with the inclusion of the designated funds.

Structure Governance and Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules and is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Charity registration number: 1143904. The PCC is governed by the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended, and the Church Representation Rules which originally came into effect in 1957 and have been revised since then, most recently in 2024.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be raised and spent.

The charity is governed by the PCC, which consists of around sixteen members plus clergy licensed to the church, who serve on the PCC ex-officio. All members of the PCC are trustees of the charity. The PCC met 11 times between 1st January and 31st December 2024 including 1 extraordinary meeting to approve the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for 1st June to 31st December 2023. In addition, a Standing Committee meets to consider matters arising between PCC meetings. Other specialist subcommittees support the work of the PCC.

PCC members are elected by vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) by members of the electoral roll who are present at the meeting and in accordance with Church Representation Rules. PCC members normally serve for a period of three years, with a third retiring each year according to Acton with Worleston constitution.

We have a Parish Safeguarding Officer, covering activities for children and for vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is reported on at every PCC meeting. Safeguarding reporting has been maintained as required.

The charity is affiliated to the Church of England, and as a result has representatives sitting on the local deanery and, potentially, diocese committees.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The PCC believes that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the ecclesiastical Parish of Acton with Worleston 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.

Administrative Information

St. Mary's Church is situated in Acton, Nr Nantwich. St Oswald's Church is in Worleston. It is part of the Diocese of Chester within The Church of England.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

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Acton
NANTWICH CW5 8LG

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secretary@stmarysacton.org

Website: www.stmarysacton.org

Charity Name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Acton with Worleston

Registered Charity Number: 1143904

PCC members who have served any time from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Isobel Burnley	Stephan Davies	Penni Doyle	Deana Emerton
Will Emerton	Tracey Foster	Jackie Hatton	James Hickie
Charles Hull	Sue Hull	Rev. Anne Lawson	Claire Lewis-Jones
Joyce Percival	Phillip Percival	Rosemary Shaw	Carol Thayer
Mary Titterington	Ann Williams		

Trustees are either ex – officio, co-opted or elected by the annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church representation rules.

The Trustees' Report was approved by the PCC on 6th October 2025 and signed on its behalf by



Revd S Anne Lawson, PCC Chairman

Acton with Worleston Parochial Church Council

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Acton with Worleston PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My independent examiner's work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the charity, the charity's members as a body and the charity's trustees as a body for my independent examiner's work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (The Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view', which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Caroline Reade

Date: 10/10/25

ACTON WITH WORLESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Statement of Financial Activities for 2024

	Note	General fund	unrestricted Worleston fund	Ben Lyon fund	restricted Acton churchyard fund	restricted Acton flower guild	endowment Gladys Lyon	Total Jan - Dec 2024	Total Jun - Dec 2023
		undesignated £	designated £	designated £	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME									
Voluntary income									
Planned giving	1, 2	8,290	3,447			30		11,767	9,342
Other giving at regular services	2	8,877	1,577					10,454	2,262
Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals	3	4,710	700					5,410	3,060
Community events		11,365	644					12,010	7,255
Other donations	4	1,694	452		500	175		2,821	1,130
Gift Aid		7,769	1,176			52		8,997	5,114
Legacies	5	1,000	-					1,000	-
Fees and charges									
Weddings, Funerals and Monuments		14,423	1,653					16,076	7,773
Community events		9,689	1,572					11,261	8,547
Rent, hire and trading		2,621	541					3,162	1,065
Other income									
Grants & contracts	6	1,293	-		18			1,311	3,467
Investment income and bank interest	7	3,123	-		3,352	35		6,510	3,155
Insurance claim and compensation		240	60					300	-
TOTAL INCOME		75,095	11,821	-	3,870	292	-	91,078	52,169
EXPENDITURE									
Costs of generating funds									
Costs of generating voluntary income		1,852	72					1,924	1,509
Costs of fundraising events		2,351	102					2,453	1,718
Costs of trading		264						264	-
Church activities									
Charitable giving	8	4,491	810					5,301	2,888
Parish Share		44,001	11,000					55,001	30,556
Vicarage costs and vicar's expenses		2,010	576			10		2,596	2,248
Retired clergy fees and expenses		146	-					146	40
Parish office costs	9	1,513	375					1,889	1,231
Magazine & website costs		448	518					967	410
Mission and outreach costs		258	204					462	964
Service costs		2,080	399			254		2,733	1,425
Insurance and Governance		6,039	1,578					7,616	4,910
Oil, gas and electricity		8,540	5,977					14,518	6,228
Building maintenance		4,957	1,667					6,624	1,331
Major building repairs and alterations	10	3,159	-					3,159	9,844
Churchyard maintenance			2,503		9,825			12,328	4,997
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		82,110	25,782	-	9,825	264	-	117,981	70,300

ACTON WITH WORLESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Statement of Financial Activities for 2024 (continued)

	Note	General fund	unrestricted Worleston fund	Ben Lyon fund	restricted Acton churchyard fund	Acton flower guild	endowment Gladys Lyon	Total Jan - Dec 2024	Total Jun - Dec 2023
		undesignated £	designated £	designated £	£	£	£	£	£
Net incoming resources before transfers and other recognised gains and losses		(7,014)	(13,961)		(5,955)	28		(26,903)	(18,130)
Transfers between funds		(5,955)		-	5,955			-	-
Gain (loss) on investment assets on revaluation and disposal	11		10,866	1,043			1,491	13,400	21,992
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(12,969)	(3,095)	1,043	-	28	1,491	(13,502)	3,862
PARISH FUNDS B/F 1 JANUARY 2024		32,893	238,502	125,382	-	2,435	65,154	464,365	460,504
PARISH FUNDS C/F 31 DECEMBER 2024		19,924	235,407	126,425	-	2,462	66,645	450,863	464,365

Balance sheet at 31 December 2024

	Note	General fund	unrestricted Worleston fund	Ben Lyon fund	restricted Acton churchyard fund	Acton flower guild	endowment Gladys Lyon	Total 31 Dec 2024	Total 31 Dec 2023
		undesignated £	designated £	designated £	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS									
Tangible	9	1,551	388					1,938	-
Investments	11		238,704	46,620			66,645	351,969	346,239
		1,551	239,092	46,620	-	-	66,645	353,907	346,239
CURRENT ASSETS									
Debtors and prepayments		12,264						12,264	10,386
Short term deposits		3,434		79,806		2,462		85,702	116,852
Cash at bank and in hand		14,111	(1,708)		540			12,944	3,294
		29,810	(1,708)	79,806	540	2,462	-	110,910	130,531
LIABILITIES									
Creditors		11,436	1,978		540			13,954	12,405
TOTAL NET ASSETS		19,924	235,407	126,425	-	2,462	66,645	450,863	464,365
PARISH FUNDS		19,924	235,407	126,425	-	2,462	66,645	450,863	464,365

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 6 October 2025 and signed on its behalf by

S. Anne Lawson *James S Hickie*

Rev'd S Anne Lawson, PCC Chairman

James S Hickie, PCC Treasurer

The accounting policies and notes form part of the financial statements.

ACTON WITH WORLESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Accounting policies for 2024

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. These financial statements have been prepared: under the Charities Act 2011; in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs and with the Regulations' "true and fair" provisions; under FRS102 as the applicable accounting standard; and under the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The accruals basis has been used which means that the cost of goods and services is accounted for in the year they were supplied even if payment was not made until the following year. Excluded are transactions where the PCC acts as a collection or payment agent for another party (such as wedding and funeral fees collected on behalf of the Diocesan Board of Finance, vergers, organists and bell ringers; and payments made on behalf of the other PCCs in the benefice). The historical cost convention has been used except for investment assets which are shown at market value.

Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC. The PCC has designated parts of its unrestricted funds as the Ben Lyon fund and as the Worleston fund, further details of which are given in note 7.

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object. These funds must only be spent on the specific object for which they were given.

Endowment capital must be held permanently by the PCC with the income generated spent as determined by the donor. Further details of the Gladys Lyon endowment are given in note 7.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property (this includes the almshouses and the Hearse House) are not included in the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Movable 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). These assets are not included in the financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements for 2024

- 1 Includes donations, recorded as unrestricted and spent during the year, of £2,447 given for Worleston churchyard maintenance.
- 2 Donations made at regular services in Gift Aid envelopes are recorded as Other giving at regular services. Prior to 2024 such donations were recorded as Planned giving. The figures for June - December 2023 are not restated.
- 3 Includes donations, recorded as unrestricted and spent during the year, of £786 given for the Acton fabric.
- 4 Includes donations, recorded as unrestricted and spent during the year, of £1,426 given for specific purposes. Breakdown: Acton west door mat well (£1,000); Acton altar cloth (£216); and Acton pew bibles (£210).
- 5 The PCC is grateful for a legacy of £1,000 from the estate of the late George Harding.
- 6 Breakdown: Listed Places of Worship VAT refund £1,067; Commonwealth War Graves £18; and Brindley & Faddiley Trust £226.
- 7 *Ben Lyon designated fund.* In 2019 the endowment bequeathed by the late Ben Lyon was wound up and the Ben Lyon designated fund was set up with the initial value of this bequest. Subsequently the Ben Lyon fund has financed project costs. The income is allocated in accordance with the late Ben Lyon's bequest: one half to the Acton churchyard fund and one half to the Acton fabric fund.
Worleston fund. St Mary's Acton PCC and St Oswald's Worleston PCC merged on 1st June 2023 to form Acton with Worleston PCC. This fund was set up on the merger date with the assets of St Oswald's Worleston PCC; income and expenditure arising from activities at St Oswald's are charged to this fund.
Gladys Lyon endowment capital. This endowment was bequeathed by the late Gladys Lyon. The income is allocated two thirds to the Acton churchyard fund and one third to the Acton church restoration fund.
The income from the Ben Lyon fund and the Gladys Lyon endowment is shown in the Income statement. As separate Acton fabric and church restoration funds are not held the income of £2,749 due to these funds is consolidated in the General fund, with the income being allocated towards total costs of £2,827 for the chancel parapet repairs, the clock service, and the drainage grid for the new toilet extension.
- 8 Breakdown: Mary's Meals £1,851; Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £2,700; St Luke's Hospice £750.
- 9 A photocopier was purchased during the year to replace a leased machine. The cost was shared by the three parishes in the benefice. Depreciation of £646, representing 25% of Acton with Worleston PCC's share of the purchase cost, is included in the Parish Office costs. The remaining 75%, £1,938, is shown on the balance sheet as a Fixed Asset.
- 10 Breakdown: Chancel parapet repairs (final payments) £999; and Drainage grid for toilet extension £2,160.
- 11 All investments are held in CCLA Investment funds. The Worleston fund is invested in the CBF Church of England UK Equity fund and the Lyon funds are invested in the CBF Church of England Investment fund. One disposal for a consideration of £7,670 occurred during the year.
- 12 During the year there were no disclosable related party transactions. Excluding expenses paid to clergy in relation to the performance of their duties, during the year six trustees were reimbursed total expenses of £2,131 which were properly incurred to support the activities of the charity.