

The Annual Report Including the Financial Statements of

**“The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Castle Bromwich”**

Year ending December 2023

(Registered Charity No. 1146681)



**Promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish
the whole mission of the church**

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England.
The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.
as amended and church representation rules.

St Mary and St Margaret is registered with the Charity Commission as
“The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich”
Charity No. 1146681

The method of appointment of PCC/Trustee members
is set out in the Church Representation Rules.
All regular attendees at the church are encouraged to register on the electoral roll
which enables them to vote and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC/Trustees of
“The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich”

ex officio 1 Rector (from 2nd October 2023)
 Revd. Fiona Harrison-Smith MA, BA(Hons) BMus(Hons)

ex officio 2 Churchwardens
 Mrs Lisa Wakeman
 Mrs Anita Low (elected 21st May)

ex officio 3 Deanery Synod representatives
 Mr Dennis Jordan (resigned 21st May)
 Mrs Karon Ward (re-elected 5th July)
 Mrs Deborah Bates (elected 5th July)
 Mrs Jackie Harris (elected 5th July)
 Mrs Lisa Wakeman (elected 5th July)

ex officio 4 Mrs Alyson Rickus Lay Reader

12 elected members

 Mrs Elaine Jeffs (Treasurer)
 Mr David Greaves (Lay Chair)
 Mrs Shirley Middlemass
 Mrs Susan Bates
 Mrs Laura Fallows
 Mrs Margaret Grady
 Miss Laurie Fisher
 Ms Helen Giles
 Mrs Mary Jones
 Mrs Tricia Richards
 Mrs Deborah Bates (elected to Deanery Synod 5th July)

Bank Lloyds Bank, High Street, Sutton Coldfield

Independent Examiner
 Martin Lawrence, 213 Station Road, Stechford,
 Birmingham, B33 8BB

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of the church remains undiminished where the mission, outreach, thanksgiving, and celebration are at the heart of the ethos in our parish. We are an open and inclusive Church and warmly welcome everyone at St. Mary and St. Margaret, whatever their background or previous experience of Christian worship. We are looking to grow every individual as a Child of God through close ties with the Church school and in our wider Church community.

Our Mission is to be relevant in this community and beyond, through loving Christian service.

Our Aim is to be a living, vibrant, witnessing Church at the centre of our Community.

Vision for the Future

In 2019 we started our Transforming Church journey to grow our Church and meet the needs of an everchanging society. We embarked on a journey of reflection to consider who we are, who our community thinks we are and where God is calling us. With the arrival of our new Rector we have begun to look at what this could look like for us and the next steps to achieve all that God is calling us into

- 1.To be a prayerful and Christ led Church: centered on the needs of the congregation, and wider Community. Caring and compassionate to all that live and work in Castle Bromwich, regardless of age, culture, needs, or background.**
- 2.To Support our Church School family, fostering a mutual spiritual and pastoral partnership with Children, Teachers, and parents.**
- 3. To be Open, welcoming, and hospitable – sharing the Love of Jesus with everyone, regardless of who they are or why they join us. Whether new, of long standing or visiting, make everyone feel at home and included as we seek to broaden the diversity of our outreach and grow new disciples.**
- 4. To provide worship that satisfies the needs of all ages, abilities, and lifestyles, meeting people where they are in their Christian Journey.**
- 5. To be mission led – taking the word of Jesus out into the Community. Linking up with people, other communities and Churches on joint ventures that strengthen connection and unity between our different congregations.**

6. Provide a regular programme of activities to support Christian journeys. Creating a Discipleship Pathway particularly for new Christians, Children, Youth, and families to grow their faith.

7. To be an Environmentally responsible Church – committed to being stewards of God's Creation

The PCC is looking at ways in which we can become carbon neutral.

8. To provide a thriving Christian Ministry for Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) – in the belief that children and young people can follow Jesus and be full members of the Church and are integral to church growth.

Objects and Activities

We have a thriving and inclusive all-age congregation from many walks of life. While many people come from the local community – the village setting of Castle Bromwich with its Hall and Gardens – many others are drawn from further afield and from different Christian traditions. By providing a variety of services and worship styles we hope that most needs are catered for while creating the conditions for discipleship and spiritual growth, development and wellbeing. We also have an excellent relationship with our local church school, St. Mary and St. Margaret CE Aided Primary School, where children participate in weekly clergy led worship, both in the school and in the church setting. Our family church team are working hard to improve these links.

Our Community Hall provides for our own needs while broadening our community outreach by offering a broad range of services and activities that have both deepened and strengthened our local ties while fostering and developing community cohesion.

Worship and Services

Until October we were in vacancy and relied on visiting clergy to lead our worship. We are very grateful to everyone who helped to ensure we continued to have a Sunday Communion Service each week. We are extremely grateful to all the visiting clergy who have led us in our worship. Visiting clergy were ably helped by our small band of loyal servers and ministrants who supported them, their help has been an invaluable resource and they continue to support our rector.

We were able to continue our Wednesday morning services, twice monthly. When we had no clergy cover, these services were led by Mary Jones and Lisa Wakeman with a spiritual communion. A class from our church school join us at the Wednesday service.

Rev. Fiona Harrison-Smith has been with us since 2nd October. Our Sunday Communion services are now at 9:30 or 11:00 and we have a communion service on alternate Wednesdays. Café Worship services take place once a month.

In 2023, the parish undertook

- 9 church funerals,
- 20 baptisms
- 5 weddings

Our current service patterns are as follows:

- Sunday: Holy Communion Service at 9:30 or 11:00am
- Baptism every 1st Sunday of the month 11:00 am
- Café Worship every third Sunday 11:00 am in church community hall
- Family Communion on alternate Wednesdays of the month at 9:30. During term time, a class from our church school join us.

Pastoral Care and Counselling

There are 11 members on the Pastoral Team. We held 6 meetings during the year. Summer Outing was on 22nd July by coach to Nottingham, for a River cruise with meal on the River Trent. We had 50 people attend. It was very successful and all enjoyed the outing .

We held 4 Luncheon Club meals in the Church Hall Which were all well attended . Our Christmas Meal was held at Castle Bromwich Hall Hotel on 12th December, 72 people attended from both Church and the community.

Coffee Mornings were held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Bereavement Group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month 1.30 -3pm and continues to be well attended.

All Souls Service was held 2pm on November 5th In Church with tea and coffee after the Service in the Church Hall. All who came appreciated the Service , but attendance numbers were low, so we have decided to make it later in the afternoon next year in the hope more will attend .

The Pastoral group continue to send Thinking of You Cards to the sick and those in need of support. We also visit the sick and Housebound , and take communion to those unable to attend Church .

Baptism Team

Lisa Wakeman and Shirley Middlemass look after baptism arrangements. There were 19 Baptisms during 2023. Thanksgiving and Preparation Services have resumed and are held every 3 months, with additional Baptism's taking place prior to Thanksgiving service.

Café Worship Team

Café Worship is informal All Age Worship that takes place monthly in the hall on Sunday mornings. It consists of refreshment, songs, prayers, games, activities, and

crafts all based around a Bible Theme. Our mission is certainly messy, and people and relationships take priority over formality and structure. Children learn from the adults and adults can learn from the children.

In 2023 Café Worship remained popular with families and was well attended, and in addition to the regular Sunday Café Worship sessions we organised the following activities.

- Palm Praise,
- Epiphany Party
- Light Party
- Harvest service and Flowerpot Trail

The Mothers' Union

We continue to run our well attended Wednesday monthly friendship afternoons. All ages are welcome.

Highlighted meetings, March - Mothering Sunday we once again made and distributed daffodil posies and bookmarks.

In June we held our messy church with year 3 from our church school and the young families from church. Young and old sharing in song, prayer and fellowship, and working together on a craft to take home, this year it was about God's creation, it was a joy to spend time together, truly echoed in our reading 'and God said it was good'(Genesis).

Later in the year thanks to the MU Birmingham trustees and the generosity of the late Pat Law we were able to present to Hope on Smiths Wood Rainbows, much needed items, how wonderful that we were able to help this little local group and it gave us as a group encouragement to share what we as the Mothers' Union stand for by helping to build a future where children thrive and can share fun and joy with each other.

Finally in December we held our annual afternoon Carol service which was well attended, we enrolled and welcomed 3 new members including our eagerly awaited new Rector and we once again collected an amazing amount of goods for women's aid. Our members continue to be very active within church life and have been delighted to serve our new rector, the congregation and community during the past year and we are eagerly looking forward to what 2024 brings.

The Family Church Team

Family Church is a group, made up of volunteers with a commitment to promote faith in our community.

Our Aim is to create an environment that nurtures faith and promotes a welcoming relationship – especially with those Seeking, new Christians, young people, and families: And to provide worship that is varied, interactive and engaging – to help families understand better and grow in faith. We appreciate the challenges of bringing children to Church and strive to make it easier.

We draw on the skills and talents across a wide range of Family Church volunteers – and provide a platform where we support one another, share, discuss and explore new ideas.

Café Worship, Baby and Me and Wayfarers are an important part of Family Church – and will have submitted their own reports. In addition - Family Church volunteers came together to organise the following events in 2023.

- Community Pancake Race
- Community Rounders in the Park
- Community Games in the grounds
- Community Harvest All Age service followed by Flowerpot Trail in the grounds.
- Harvest School visit for Nursery and Reception children from Church School
- Community Carols under the Stars and Nativity Trail

Christmas Craft Time was organised by Laura and Jackie. A day of family fun and crafts – including a visit from Santa. This was very popular and a sell-out support event for families. They also organised the Autumn Craft Fayre that also proved very popular.

Wayfarers

Wayfarers is the Sunday School for primary aged children (4-11 years) and we met in the Community Hall, after the Gospel during the 10.00a.m. service, on the first and third Sundays (term time only).The children on our roll enjoy the group, learning about the Bible and the Christian faith in a fun and interactive way, often including messy church elements.

Our two main activities during the year were enacting the events of Holy week at the Good Friday Children's service and the presentation of the Nativity at the Children's Christmas Eve service.

Our Good Friday Service this year was a Messy church craft workshop with the congregation moving around church and the hall to five stations making 5 items depicting elements of the Easter story (a palm leaf, chalice, prayer leaf, cross and Easter basket/nest). A retiring collection was taken for The Leprosy Mission.

Following discussion with Revd Fiona we opted to do a Christmas Eve interactive service again with children and some parents from the congregation dressing up and acting the parts as our two narrators read the story. The service was well attended. A retiring collection was taken for The Children's Society.

Further discussions were held during the year between Family Church group members and Rev Fiona regarding the way forward for Wayfarers due to continuing low numbers. The outcome was that we trial a Messy Church approach, meeting once a month on the 3rd Sunday. September saw the launch of a 3 month trial of Messy Church. It was decided to allow 3 year olds to attend if accompanied by one adult. Format to include Bible story, prayers, game and crafts. Café Worship team members volunteered to help out on a rota basis, many thanks go to them all for their support. The first session attracted 13 children and the 2 subsequent sessions 19 children. When asked if

they were enjoying Messy Church a positive response was given by children and parents.

When I met with Rev Fiona in November to discuss the Family Christmas Eve Service we also discussed my wish to stand down as Wayfarers leader. After 27 years I felt it was time to finish. My decision to stand down was not a sudden or an easy one. It was agreed I would finish after the January session. I have many fond memories of my time as Leader and thank all the helpers over the years for their help and support with special thanks to Mary Jones and Julie Fisher. I wish Messy Church every success in the future.

Maralyn Guise

Baby & Me Friendship Café

2023 saw Baby & Me celebrate its 5th birthday with moms attending the twice monthly sessions as part of their regular routine. Attendance peaked and troughed but there was an average attendance of approximately 10 parents per session. Feedback for the group continues to be encouraging and supportive of the safe environment we are trying to create for new parents.

We also hosted our second Wave of Light Service in aid of Baby Loss Awareness Week in October, with an improvement of attendance from the previous year with some repeat visitors who used the service to remember historic loss. We included more religious content following feedback from the previous service and this was gratefully received by those in attendance.

The grass roots function of the group has also been proven by the attendance of parents and their families at other church community events such as the summer fete, harvest festival and Christmas festivities.

In the winter of 2023, Leigh tendered her resignation as leader of the group, with the last session to be held in March 2024. This is due to a change in work and family commitments.

Bell Ringers

This year has been a year of inclusion and community for CBB! In this year we welcomed many new faces as well as some old friends. Not only have our great successes been in extending our community outreach but also in our bell ringing progress and general ability.

Our links with neighbouring towers has grown much stronger this year. We have been visited by numerous towers and are clearly part of the bell ringing landscape. We welcome frequent and weekly visitors from Sheldon and Coleshill Belltowers, these friends and ringers are no longer visitors but instead an important part of our ringing family at CBB. They have not only enriched our Wednesday evening rehearsals but also our open days, heritage days, weddings, and Sunday morning rings! For their support and company we are very thankful! Along with the captains of Coleshill we organised our first joint tower tour, visiting three new towers all in one day. This day was a

massive success culminating in a pub meal in Coleshill. Plans for another tour of new Belltowers in Stourbridge are already in hand for 2024!

We have welcomed our new vicar, Fiona, and her family this year. We met on a few occasions and thoroughly enjoyed inviting the family to our bellringers' Christmas Curry. This saw current and alumni ringers meet Fiona and her family in a wonderful social event with some smashing food! At the same event our three best ringers also got to know the band even better too.

We continue our links with local girl guiding groups and have welcomed many young ladies on tours of the tower and church. Jean and Ben have lead some tours based on the late Bill Dargue's famously fun and informative tours. The band have given demonstrations and tours of the bell towers and roof space to girl guides as well as on multiple Heritage Days and the Summer Fete.

With the addition of new learner bell ringers and the support from Coleshill and Sheldon, we have progressed greatly in our ringing ability. The band ring numerous new methods and can now ring 60 changes of Bob Doubles with bobs as well as many other Doubles, Minimus, and a few Minor methods. Our rate of progress and general ability has not only improved, this only adds to our already happy tower that value our fun and enjoyment in equal measure to our ringing.

Choir and Organ

From January 2023 Stuart Jeffs joined the organist rota, playing for the second Sunday of each month and by March, leading the choir for practice on a Thursday evening. The choir is a little depleted in numbers at the present time with four Sopranos, Two Altos, one tenor and one bass totalling eight members. It is hoped to increase the membership during 2024 by holding a number of 'open' sessions.

The choir sang anthems for the Easter and Holy Week services and a wedding in July with thanks Margaret Croucher for playing the organ and piano.

From September 2023, Stuart Jeffs became the 'full-time temporary' organist having left a position in Handsworth, with the possibility of becoming the permanent organist and musical director in the future, and the choir have continued to meet on a Thursday to rehearse hymns and an anthem for services.

The choir supported the singing during our '9 Lessons and Carols' service in December and it was a thoroughly enjoyable event, they had worked hard to learn some Christmas pieces including one written by Stuart.

The organ has continued to be a fine instrument since it's rebuilding and is now regularly tuned and minor tweaks made when Rodney Briscoe from Boggis & Co visits. It is hoped that 2024 will be the start of an exciting new period for music at St Mary and St Margaret's church and there are a number of plans for events in the near future to raise the profile of our music and worship.

We are appreciative of the input and efforts of every choir member who turn up each week and we look forward to future growth.

The Flower Arrangers bring both beauty and colour into our worship. We are thankful that we have this small and yet willing band who work hard to produce their excellent and stunning floral arrangements. We had beautiful floral displays for Easter, Patronal, and Christmas services. Thanks must go to all those who contributed to the cost of the flowers.

Church Cleaners another small but willing band of loyal volunteers who have the thankless task of cleaning our beautiful old church, their efforts are very much appreciated. However, more volunteers would be welcome.

Gardening Group we are pleased with the success of the church and hall garden, it provides a tranquil and relaxing area to refresh the Spirit, however as it becomes more mature it is harder to keep tidy but thanks to the tireless work of our small group of gardening volunteers it remains a lovely place to sit and reflect.

Charity Fund Raising

We have resumed support Malawi through Lent collection boxes, Children's Society collection at Christingle Service and St Basil's collection boxes during Advent.

Hall Management Team

The Community Hall is run by the Hall Management Team who report to the PCC. Policies and Procedures are kept up to date.

The Community Hall office is staffed by a part time Parish Administrator who deals with all hall enquires and bookings as well as supporting the worship team with administration.

The Hall has both a music licence and alcohol licence.

There are several regular paid bookings for the hall, with Yoga classes and courses, Pilates classes, Baby Massage/Sensory Courses, Dance Classes, Mother & Baby exercise class and Martial Arts groups.

Wayfarers and Café-Worship use the hall for their worship.

Use by community groups, such as Baby and Me, along with Wednesday coffee mornings, Bereavement Support Group, Mothers Union meetings, Luncheon Club and Soup and Rolls Lunches are popular with church members and community alike. These events provide important opportunities for outreach, as they are attended by many people from the wider community, as well as Church regulars.

Safeguarding

We work to provide a safe and caring community, through respectful pastoral ministry, for all our parishioners and congregation. Our clergy, Reader and all volunteers, who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults, are DBS checked and attend the relevant diocesan run safeguarding training courses. The majority of members of the PCC have also renewed their safeguarding training using the new sessions available online from Birmingham Diocese and, in compliance with the directive from the Church

of England, are also DBS checked. Our safeguarding policies and procedures are discussed and approved annually at PCC meetings. The PCC has also appointed a children's advocate and an adult's advocate, who sit on the PCC to represent the interests of these vulnerable groups.

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. St. Mary & St. Margaret is using the Parish Dashboard which gives us visibility of all policies, procedures and training for our church, related to keeping our church community safe. Our Parish Safeguarding Co-Ordinator reports at each PCC meeting and presents a Parish Dashboard action plan at regular intervals for PPC approval.

Church/Hall Fabric

During 2023 we needed to have some of our light fittings repaired and ensured that the bulbs were replaced with LED bulbs as part of our drive to cut our carbon footprint. Everyone was pleased to see the lighting in glass panel near the South door, which dates back to the 1700s, successfully repaired.

The Remembrance chapel had been used for storage of the Christmas stage and grotto. These became surplus to requirements and permission was granted for removal and safe eco recycling, allowing us to restore the Remembrance altar with candles and a cross for all visitors to appreciate the beauty in time for the Remembrance service at the beginning of November.

Following the annual service, the boiler was condemned and needed a vast amount of work to bring it back to use to safely heat our church building. A new pump, PCR board and fan were replaced and thankfully the boiler is now working and the church is a warm welcoming place. Next year we will need to deal with the ingress of water through the cellar walls where the boiler is sited.

Building & Heritage Committee

It has been a busy year for the Building and Heritage Committee with the following projects being considered:-

1. External Storage facility
2. AV upgrade in the church and community hall
3. New Boiler and making the boiler room watertight so we can continue to use this area in the future.
4. Investigation into renewables i.e. solar panels, heat pump, under pew heating
5. Looking into the Quinquennial work needed to maintain our building.

Regarding items 1, 2 and 3 we have sent faculty applications or preview applications to the DAC which are all still under consideration.

Item 4 is a much longer project requiring a lot of consultation with the DAC and Council Planners. We have an estimate cost of between £50k to £70k for this work to be done. The PCC has agreed to invest 50% in this project with other outside funding required. We would hope to save a substantial amount of our present energy cost giving a good return on our investment. This initiative stems from the C of E policy to reduce our carbon footprint to zero by 2030.

Item 5 has just started and we are in the process of costing the urgent repairs needed.

All the above will require us to apply for grants including the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We are actively involved in the C of E backed Eco Church initiative. This comprises three awards Bronze, Silver and Gold. We were fortunate to be granted our bronze award and we will be trying to move to the next level. However, this requires our church to embrace all aspects of eco church including the reduction of our carbon footprint and develop a Biodiversity policy. Its all about how we care for God's earth in different areas of our church life and work.

We applied and received two grants £10k from Awards for All and £10k from Heritage Lottery development. The Awards for All mainly related to funding an energy advisor, video of the church history and promoting warmer church initiatives. The Heritage Lottery development grant related to the sharing and interpreting our heritage. This covered Heritage events, improving the web site, energy and environmental consultation report, Architectural fees (Quinquennial building work) and community consultation and Fund-raising strategy.

Many thanks to all Committee members for their help over the past 12 months.

Coleshill & Polesworth Deanery Synod

There were 3 Deanery synod meetings held in 2023

The 9th Coleshill & Polesworth Deanery Synod meeting was held in February 2023 by Zoom.

The Diocese's finance director and finance manager explained to Synod what the finance team can do for parishes.

The main focus of the meeting was Eco Church, Net Zero and Environmental Focus. Revd Patrick Gerard welcomed the synod to the discussion. Information was given about how we are all facing a crisis with Climate Change, Justice Issues and the release of Carbon gasses into the air – Carbon Dioxide, Methane, Coal, Oil and Gas.

In 2020 the Church of England took a bold lead that they would be Net Zero by 2030. John Haywood explained how we can tie what we can do, to the Church of England's "Five Marks of Mission". John also explained to us the Eco Church tool that was available online and some tips for Parishes to use. By using the Eco Church Tool it will give churches a snap shot as to where they are currently sitting and what they can work towards.

Heather Holmes explained some ideas that could be implemented into Parishes as well as explaining the Practical Path to Net Zero Checklist.

Revd Patrick Gerard shared a video of what the Church of England are already doing and some of the ideas that could be implemented:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_zbx7_UU1k&t=7s

Marilyn Hull explained what kind of support there was out there and what work was already going on. BACA have Zooms coming up in the year that would be very helpful to attend.

The following motion by the Deanery Synod was created and unanimously voted for by Deanery Synod Representatives

"This Deanery Synod recognises that our planet faces an environmental emergency. It welcomes the many measures and initiatives through which the CofE and CofE Birmingham respond to the emergency. Synod encourages the parishes of the deanery to play their part by seeking Eco Church accreditations and to moving towards net zero carbon by 2030, making use of the support and training that is available."

The 10th Deanery Synod Meeting was held at Church of St Peter and St Paul, Kingsbury in June.

Louise spoke about the Archdeaconry Explore Days which are to be about people Exploring where God is calling them and this theme of following God's call would be a theme running through Synod as we had different speakers.

Children Family Mission Enabler

Lee Millward introduced himself to the Deanery in his new role of CFME for the Deanery of Coleshill and Polesworth. Lee will be working hard to put Children and Families at the centre of his mission focusing on supporting clergy, lay and volunteers. His role has an Environmental focus.

Environmental Champion Update

Following the synod that took place in February, Linda Nugent put herself forward to be the Deanery Environmental Champion (DEC) for the Deanery of Coleshill and Polesworth. As a Deanery Environmental Champion Linda is there to support any Parishes within the Deanery with any environmental questions, to help the Parish Environment Contacts (PEC) and help Parishes with their Net Zero and Eco Church. DEC's also meet with the other DEC's in the diocese to share information and questions.

Out of all the parishes in the Deanery, 8 are registered with Eco Church and 3 have bronze awards.

- Net Carbon Zero by 2030 is only 7 years away. How will the church get to that target?
- EFT – Energy Footprint Tool. The diocese uses these submissions to keep track of churches and how they are doing towards Net Zero.
- Linda referred to the Five Marks of Mission for inspiration – caring for creation and promoting justice for all as it is the countries with the least carbon footprint that are suffering the most.

Archdeaconry Explore Days and Vocational Calling

Louise informed synod that there will be two Archdeaconry Explore Days Anyone is encouraged to attend. It is not solely about ordination or calling to be a Reader.

Sue Round introduced herself to the Synod and spoke about her calling to curacy. Sue has been training at Queens for the last two years as a Self-Supporting Minister and will be ordained into Curacy on the weekend of the 24th and 25th June.

Sue's passion was and is in the community, get out in the community and be of help. Sue had felt there was something else she could do, further to her being a Reader.

Thank you

Louise thanked all the members of the synod that had been in their role for the past three years.

The final Deanery Synod meeting of 2023 was held at St Clements Church, Castle Bromwich in October.

Area Dean, Louise Shaw welcomed new members.

Finance Presentation

A presentation was given by Karen Preece from the Birmingham Diocese Board of Finance. The Diocese is in a poor state of finances and isn't receiving the generous contributions it once received from The Church of England. Various areas were discussed and those present were encouraged to contact Karen to see how savings could be made throughout the diocese. Karen also spoke about the churches response to affordable housing which is called 'Coming Home' and Sonia also spoke about Payroll.

Volunteers

We must thank all our volunteers, many of whom work tirelessly in the background but without whom the church and hall would not run so smoothly. Each year we do lose one or two of our older volunteers and we particularly give thanks to these people for their many years of service.

The above report has been compiled by the PCC Secretary with input from the Rector, PCC Vice Chair, Church Wardens and Church Groups on behalf of the PCC/Trustees.

Approved by the PCC on Wednesday 8th May 2024 and signed on their behalf by the Rector

Revd. Fiona Harrison-Smith

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**Balance sheet at 31st December 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Property - Hall	4a	538098	538098
Fixtures & Fittigs - Hall	4a	0	0
Fixtures & Fittings - Church	4b	0	0
Bells	4b	52291	52291
Organ	4b	54600	54600
		<u>644989</u>	<u>644989</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	15000	15000
Short Term Deposits		410000	350000
Cash at bank and in hand		56230	111469
		<u>481230</u>	<u>476469</u>
LIABILITIES; AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
Creditors	7	0	0
Provision for Common Fund		0	0
Diocesan Loan		0	0
		<u>481230</u>	<u>476469</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>481230</u>	<u>476469</u>
LIABILITIES; AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR			
	8		
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1126219</u>	<u>1121458</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted General		433020	427728
Restricted Legacy (decoration Fund)		30000	30000
Restricted Interregnum Fund		0	0
Restricted - Hall (Captial Cost)		538098	538098
Restricted - Bells		13343	13874
Restricted Bells (Capital Cost)		52291	52291
Restricted - Organ		4867	4867
Restricted - Organ (Capital Cost)		54600	54600
		<u>1126219</u>	<u>1121458</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Meeting on

and signed on its behalf by :

Revd F Harrison Smith

Mrs L Wakeman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**For the year ended 31st December 2023**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	2023 £	2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	40255	476	40731	39767
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	16181	0	16181	13575
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	16395	120	16515	17225
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	710	0	710	530
Income from investments	2e	13387	0	13387	2332
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>86928</u>	<u>596</u>	<u>87524</u>	<u>73429</u>
RESOURCES USED					
Charities	3a	0	476	476	763
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3b	71656	0	71656	47778
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	430	651	1081	121
Church Management & Administration	3d	9550		9550	0
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		<u>81636</u>	<u>1127</u>	<u>82763</u>	<u>48662</u>
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		5292	-531	4762	24767
TRANSFER OF ASSETS					
Restricted		0	0	0	-2984
Unrestricted		0	0	0	2984
NET MOVEMENTS OF FUNDS		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY		<u>427728</u>	<u>693730</u>	<u>1121458</u>	<u>1096691</u>
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER		<u>433020</u>	<u>693199</u>	<u>1126219</u>	<u>1121458</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2023

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 2022 £	
2a Incoming resources from donors				
Planned giving				
Covenants	21966	0	21966	23370
Income tax recoverable on covenants	5665	0	5665	2558
Collections (open plate) at all services	4426	0	4426	3551
Sundry Donations	8198	476	8674	10288
Legacy				
	<u>40255</u>	<u>476</u>	<u>40731</u>	<u>39767</u>
2b Other voluntary incoming resources				
Fete & Christmas Fayre	4250	0	4250	3576
Heritage Funding	11681	0	11681	9999
Donation to Community Hall	250	0	250	0
	<u>16181</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16181</u>	<u>13575</u>
2c Income from charitable and ancillary trading				
Community Hall Letting	10800	0	10800	9434
Fees :- Weddings / Funerals	5595	0	5595	7264
Church Bells	0	120	120	300
Church Bells Donation	0	0	0	227
	<u>16395</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>16515</u>	<u>17225</u>
2d Other ordinary incoming resources				
Tea & Coffee Money	710	0	710	530
	<u>710</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>710</u>	<u>530</u>
2e Interest from Legacy	13387	0	13387	2332
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>86928</u>	<u>596</u>	<u>87524</u>	<u>73429</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS(continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2023

3 RESOURCES USED	Unrestricted		Restricted		TOTAL FUNDS	
	Funds		Funds		2023	2022
	£		£		£	£
3a Grants						
Missionary and charitable giving:		0	476		476	763
		<u>0</u>	<u>476</u>		<u>476</u>	<u>763</u>
3b Activities directly relating to the work of the church						
Ministry: diocesan quota	26500		0		26500	8000
Clergy expenses / Visiting clergy expenses	758		0		758	691
Church running costs / Domestic Services	8033		0		8033	7488
Telephone / Broad Band	1263		0		1263	1527
Church maintenance	1680		0		1680	5820
Church Materials	1802		0		1802	680
Church Administration	7796		0		7796	5823
Community Hall Electric	2944		0		2944	2670
Community Hall running costs	14282		0		14282	8278
Upkeep of churchyard	1100		0		1100	1200
Organist fees / Maintenance	2700		0		2700	4016
Justice Security / Call outs / Roof repairs	2798		0		2798	1585
						0
		<u>71656</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>71656</u>	<u>47778</u>
3c Fund-raising and publicity						
Costs of Fete / Fair	430		0		430	121
Bells	0		651		651	0
Organ	0		0		0	0
		<u>430</u>	<u>651</u>		<u>1080</u>	<u>121</u>
3d Heritage spending		9550		0	9550	0
		<u>9550</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>9550</u>	<u>0</u>
3e Depreciation						
Hall Fixture & Fittings		0		0	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		<u>81636</u>	<u>1127</u>		<u>82763</u>	<u>48662</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2023

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets		644989	644989	644989
Current assets	433020	48210	481230	476469
Current liabilities				0
	<u>433020</u>	<u>693199</u>	<u>1126219</u>	<u>1121458</u>
General Fund			433020	427728
Legacy;- Decoration fund			30000	30000
New Facility Fund (Capital Cost)			538098	538098
Bells (Capital Cost)			52291	52291
Organ fund			4867	4867
Bells Fund			13343	13874
Organ (Capital Cost)			54600	54600
Total			<u>1126219</u>	<u>1121458</u>

6 DEBTORS

Income Tax recoverable	15000	15000
Prepayment and accrued interest	0	0
Other Debtors	0	0
	<u>15000</u>	<u>15000</u>

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

a	Accruals and deferred income	0	0
b	Creditors for goods and services	0	0
c	Other creditors	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023;- Additional analysis of major items (for information only)**Church Running Costs**

Insurance	3999
Utilities	4034

Church Administration

Stewardship Envelopes	58
Zoom	184
Café Worship	120
Challenging Thinking	937
Iknow Calendar	248
Website	162

Maintenance & Repair

Roof repair	870
Electrical work	260
Boiler	880
A V System	1547

Hall Running Costs

Manager	6801
Cleaning	1620
Window Cleaning	200
Licence	295
Bin contract	428
Legionella Risk Assessment	1290
Dishwasher	392
Freezer	244
Tables & Stackers	1242
Electrical work	840
General Maintenance	480

Charities

The Childrens Society	135
Leprosy	22
Sands	22
Foodbank	63
Pakistan Earthquake appeal	135
St Basils	150

Fund Raising Events

Garden Fete (G) 3042	2916 Net
Harvest Trail	103
Christmas Craft Fayre	100
Community Carols	224
Autumn Gift Fayre	812
Easter Raffle	158

Donations - General Fund

Dame Mary Bridgeman	1888
Baby & Me	190
Mother Union	50
Anon Don	5895



M. LAWRENCE & CO.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



ICAEW
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS

213 Station Road
Stechford
Birmingham B33 8BB
Telephone : 0121 784 5321
Fax : 0121 785 0688
Email: admin@mlawrence.org.uk
Website: www.mlawrence.org.uk

Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Margaret

Castle Bromwich

I have examined the Accounts, Statements and Invoices submitted to me, and have found some minor differences, but they are so insignificant that they do not require any adjustments to the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Margaret for the period 01/01/23 to 31/12/23.

Signed *H Lawrence*
H Lawrence A.C.A.

Date *10/6/2024*