



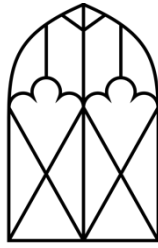
St Bartholomew's Edgbaston

T H E O L D C H U R C H



**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

A charity registered in England and Wales no. 1149853



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St Bartholomew's Edgbaston

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

(This report is made in accordance with The Church Representation Rules 2022 and The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and is separate from any statement or address that the vicar may wish to make or any reports that any other individual or parish group may present at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. It is the means by which the P.C.C. gives an account of how they alone have carried out their responsibilities during the year, and of their future plans.)

Administrative Information

St Bartholomew's Church is situated in Church Road, Edgbaston. It is part of the Diocese of Birmingham within the Church of England.

Under the terms of section 3 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate. In compliance with the Charities Act 2006, because our gross income is over £100,000 we are registered with the Charity Commission. Our governing documents are two pieces of legislation: (1) the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended; and (2) The Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The PCC is comprised of the following members:

Ex-Officio Members

Charlie Butler	Vicar from March 2023, <i>Chair</i>
Guy Hordern	Churchwarden from 2015, <i>Vice Chair</i> + General Synod Representative, 2021 – 2026
Oli Huggins	Churchwarden from 2023
Anne Horder	Deanery Synod Representative, 2023 – 2026
Joe Jordan	Deanery Synod Representative, 2023 – 2026 + Diocesan Synod Representative, 2021 – 2024
David Mayland	Deanery Synod Representative, 2023 – 2026

Elected members who held office at the end of 2023:

Anna Beasley	2022 – 2025
Linda Caswell	2023 – 2025
Frances Clarke	2023 – 2026
Ben Cuffin-Munday	2022 – 2025
Bella Cuffin-Munday	2023 – 2026
Peter Gregory	2023 – 2026
Ernie Irwin	2021 – 2024

Mary Martin	2021 – 2024, <i>Treasurer</i>
Judy Metcalfe	2021 – 2024
George Mitchell	2021 – 2024
Margaret Turner	2023 – 2026
Lynn Shelley	2023 – 2025

Secretary to the PCC, and Electoral Roll Officer, Jem Huggins

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The Standing Committee of the PCC is the only committee required to be in existence by church law and has the power to transact some business of the PCC between meetings. The St Bartholomew's PCC has agreed the specific purpose of its standing committee as being "to make urgent decisions that cannot await the next meeting of the PCC but are of insufficient significance to justify PCC recall between meetings" (St Bartholomew's PCC handbook). The members of the Standing Committee are the Vicar, the Churchwardens, and two members elected by the PCC: currently Linda Caswell and Mary Martin. This Committee has not met this year but has transacted some business by correspondence.

The other sub-committees of the PCC are as follows:

1. Finance Committee Chaired by the Treasurer, Mary Martin. This committee manages our accounts and runs a budgeting process to enable the delegation of regular spending to respective committees.
2. Buildings and Maintenance Committee Chaired by Oliver Huggins. This committee is responsible for the routine maintenance of the Church and its surroundings, the oversight of necessary repairs, and planning any future improvements to our buildings.
3. Walker Hall Committee chaired by Charlie Butler. This committee manages all aspects of the hall which provided a valuable source of income for the PCC and is a forward facing way that we engage with the local community.
4. Employment Committee, chaired by Mary Martin. This committee oversees our employment structures, keep our employment policies up-to-date, and serve as an independent body to support employees through any procedures (grievance, disciplinary, etc.), as needed.

Induction Training

All PCC members elected undergo Safeguarding Training and complete a DBS verification. As part of the onboarding process a training session on the finances of the Church is provided. A handbook is issued, alongside copies of the previous year's Annual Report and PCC minutes.

It is considered that all PCC members and any others who could be understood to be 'managers' in the activities and affairs of the Parish of St. Bartholomew's Church, Edgbaston are deemed to be 'fit and proper' persons under the terms of the Finance Act 2010.

Objectives, Activities & Performance for the year ended 31 December 2023

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in 'The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit' and have regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that, by fulfilling its responsibility to co-operate with the incumbent in the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in the parish, it provides a benefit to the public by:

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

The heart of the Church is its community of worshippers, meeting regularly to encounter God in praise, prayer, Scripture and sacrament. There are 123 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, as at 31st December 2023, of whom 47 are resident in the parish and 76 are not resident. Across the year, 8 people were removed and 8 were added. The main service of worship happens at 10.30am every Sunday, and our usual Sunday attendance in 2023 was 60 adults and 11 children and young people (2022: 68 adults and 12 children and young people). More broadly, our "worshipping community" (defined by the Church of England as anyone who attends our church regularly, or would do if not prevented by illness, incapacity, etc.) in 2023 was 87 adults and 13 children and young people (2022: 84 adults and 17 children and young people). The larger numbers in this second category particularly reflect the faithful and growing congregation at our Wednesday morning service.

Rev Charlie Butler began as vicar of the church in March 2023, and at the church's APCM in April, explained that the church's worship was his first priority. Charlie has articulated how the collect assigned to the church's patron saint captures the heart of his vision for what our worship should be:

Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach your word: grant that your Church may love that word which he believed and may faithfully preach and receive the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Across 2023, the church has heard the preaching of God's word through the lectionary readings in the seasons of Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Advent, as well as series of sermons working through Obadiah, Psalms, and John 17, plus topical sermons series considering how Jesus approached Scripture and questions of money and giving, and all-age talks unpacking the Apostles' Creed.

The preaching of God's word has happened in the context of a pattern of worship that was more stable in 2023 than in previous years. 2022's combining of two services – an informal 9.15 service and a more traditional 11.00 service – into a single 10.30 gathering, blending formal

and informal elements, traditional and more modern hymnody, and teaching for both the whole congregation and in age-appropriate groups, continued through 2023. Charlie informed the PCC that, he intended to maintain this shape for a year, while listening to the opinions of the church community in order to plan for the future. Significant disagreements about the style of our worship remain, and they are painful.

Nevertheless, flowing out of our worship, 2023 was a year of deepening relationships and community in the church family. We held monthly church family lunches, and the anniversary of their beginning, at our October harvest lunch, gave us the opportunity to reflect on their growth over the preceding 12 months, and how they've become an established activity serving a precious purpose in our common life. Our Tuesday and Thursday evening homegroups have carried on meeting, exploring the sermon passages from the preceding Sunday morning in depth, as well as socialising and praying together. Besides online prayer meetings also carrying on via Zoom on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes, the return of the vicarage to the parish in November allowed us to host our monthly in-person prayer meetings back there, and these have been encouraging times of looking back and forward with thanksgiving and prayerful expectation. A number of informal social activities have also continued through the year, notably our Knit 'n' Natter and sewing groups, as well as a monthly men's discipleship group.

Our mission to the parish and wider community remains a challenge. There have been a number of 'success stories':

- We have been able to support the work of Friends International in offering a weekly café for international students in the area. FI use one of our church halls for free, and one of our congregation members is a member of the team that runs the café, while a number of others support it by providing refreshments.
- We continue to welcome members of the community for the occasional offices of baptisms (1 in 2023), weddings (2 in 2023) and funerals (7 in church in 2023, plus 2 at a crematorium conducted by our parish clergy, and 2 burials of ashes in our Garden of Remembrance). We were particularly thankful to see growth in attendance at our November All Souls service, remembering and giving thanks for loved ones who have died.
- Our Easter and Christmas delivery of invitations to every household in the parish has brought new connections with individuals who live in the vicinity of the church, resulting in growth at our Easter services in particular, and a number of sign-ups for our Alpha course, beginning in January 2024.
- Charlie has been able to deepen his connection with one of the secondary schools in the parish (King Edward's), one of the primary schools (Blue Coat, where he and another church member are governors), and Edgbaston Stadium, just beyond our parish boundary.

There remain, though, a wealth of possibilities for mission that we are yet to grapple with, or feel unable to grasp – whether through lack of vision, resource, or clarity of opportunity. In particular: (1) there are many more institutions in the parish – schools, universities, a major teaching hospital, a care home – with which we have little meaningful connection; and (2) the parish continues to diversify beyond the demographic historically represented in our congregation's life. Between 2011 and 2021, census data shows that the % of parish residents identifying as Christian dropped from 40.7 to 29.6, with attendant growth in the Hindu, Muslim,

Sikh and non-religious categories, while the % of white parish residents reduced from 65.1 to 56.9, with growth spread evenly across all other ethnicities.

Charlie has expressed his desire to develop plans for mission in 2024 and beyond. In particular, he has asked the PCC to prayerfully consider our leadership of the congregation in investing in both people and our building, in order to engage in ministry and mission in the parish more effectively. We expect 2024 to include significant proposals to be both brought to the PCC and developed by us in these important areas.

The full PCC met 5 times in 2023 (2022: 10) with an average attendance level of 88% (2022: 91%), this includes some online attendees.

During the year the PCC discussed the following matters, which are reported in detail in the Minutes of each meeting.

23rd January 2023:

- It was announced that Charlie Butler was appointed as Vicar and that he would be inducted on March 6th
- Update on the Vicarage

3rd April 2023 (moved from March 20th)

- Discussion about PCC Induction and filling PCC casual vacancies
- The PCC approved a paper on Children and Communion

17th June 2023, PCC breakfast and planning meeting:

- PCC handbook was discussed at length
- Roles within the PCC were elected
- Further update on the Vicarage

18th September 2023:

- Standing Committee members were elected
- A new Safeguarding Policy, Promoting A Safer Church, was adopted
- Under 'Looking to the future: ministry plans and budget implications' the PCC were asked to prayerfully consider future plans, particularly in relation to the building and spending money from the reserves.

20th November 2023:

- It was announced that the Butler Family were finally able to move into the Vicarage
- PCC agreed to continue contributing the agreed upon amount to the Common Fund, with meetings with the Diocesan Finance team planned to provide clarity
- The Safeguarding Dashboard was updated
- The PCC voted to approve that the Buildings Committee apply for a faculty to remove pews in the Lady Chapel ahead of making the Building plans

Financial Review

2023 was a year where the church's finances have stabilised, and we can thank God for the generosity of church members. Our income exceeded our expenditure by a small margin, £4.4k. The total income for the year was £182.2k up from £161.9k in the previous year, an increase of 12%. The total expenditure fell to £177.8k from £185.9k in the previous year.

The planned giving at £64.1k (2022: £63.0k) was very similar to the previous year and just over 50% was directed to our restricted funds for the Buildings & Upkeep Fund and the Church Growth Fund.

2023 saw an increase in lettings, most notably at the Walker Hall with income of £56.3K (2022: £44.1k).

Investment returns were steady at £17.1k (2022: £17.3K) with interest on our deposit accounts increasing to £2.9k (2022: £0.6k) reflecting the increase in interest rates.

Expenditure on clergy and staffing costs fell from £63.0k to £41.7k. This covers Charlie Butler as Curate for 2 months until his induction as vicar at the start of March and includes our Operations Manager for the whole year. It also includes the cost of refurbishing the interior of the vicarage at £15.1k. Going forward the PCC plans to ensure there is a proper annual plan of works for the vicarage to avoid all the costs falling in one year.

Church repairs and maintenance cost £14.7k (2022: £16.6k) as some work has been delayed by the need to explore getting permissions. During the year an access platform was installed above the bells to provide safe access to the tower roof. The Buildings Committee commissioned a full EICR (Electrical Installation Condition Report) covering the church and St Monica's. Work identified as needing attention is now being scheduled in line with the recommendations. Cameras were installed around St Monica's to deter anti-social behaviour.

The Walker Hall carried out significant repairs in 2023, cost £13.2k (2022: £3.9k), including complete internal redecoration and the sanding and polishing of the main hall.

Net Assets have increased by 4%, mainly due to unrealised investment gains of £18.2k.

Restricted Funds

The PCC maintains restricted funds to enable donors to indicate how they wish their donations to be used. Of particular note are:

1) Church Growth. Monies given to this fund are restricted towards the growth and sustaining of Anglican ministry within the Parish. This includes, but is not restricted to, supporting lay and ordained ministers, funding outreach activities (e.g. the Alpha course and similar events), acquiring / provision of materials for services (e.g. Sunday School materials,) and acts of corporate giving to support those Christians less fortunate than us.

2) Buildings & Upkeep. Donations received into this fund are restricted to the maintenance of the external and internal fabric of the church building, plant and machinery (e.g. the boiler and

Organ) and on-going maintenance of the church grounds. It would not be permissible to use these funds for expenses such as common fund payments and direct service costs.

If no expression is made by a donor then donations are treated as unrestricted.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds of at least six months committed payments, equivalent to £75.0k (2021: £85.0k). This policy is in place to mitigate liquidity risks arising through fluctuations in cash flow and to enable the PCC to respond to unplanned events.

As at the end of 2023 the PCC approved the designation of general unrestricted funds to set up a Long-term Property Maintenance Fund of £250k and an Investing in the Future Fund of £160k. The PCC are acutely aware they have the responsibility to manage the sustainability of historic buildings and plan for future growth.

Risk Assessment

The PCC wishes to record that it acknowledges its responsibilities in this area. Discussion about risk is built into agenda items at PCC meetings. We recognise that key risks for any church are a failure to attend properly to statutory obligations around safeguarding and governance.

We have not developed a formal risk register, but this will be a matter for discussion by the PCC in the year following the April APCM. The contents and obligations of the Equality Act 2010 and the 2018 General Data Protection Regulation are known and complied with to the best of the PCC's ability. The PCC is also aware of its responsibilities in respect of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in its requirement to carry out a fire assessment to identify any possible dangers and risks, to take action to minimise the risks and to create a plan to deal with any emergencies, and also to write up and keep a record of its findings and to review its assessment annually. The PCC intends to develop this policy and plan in 2024.

Since September, a comprehensive Safeguarding Policy, Promoting A Safer Church, has been in place in respect of both children and vulnerable adults. Checks are made with the Disclosure and Barring Service in respect of persons dealing regularly with young people and vulnerable adults. The PCC appointed officer for this is Chris Stotts. Accordingly, the PCC believes it has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Approved by the PCC on 15 April 2024 and signed on their behalf by



Rev Charlie Butler, PCC Chair



Mr Guy Hordern, PCC Vice Chair

Receipts and Payments Account (£000s)

					Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
RECEIPTS						
Planned giving	1	30.4	-	33.7	-	64.1
Collections and other giving	2	5.2	-	-	-	5.2
Other voluntary receipts	3	5.9	0.9	1.1	-	7.9
Gift Aid recovered		9.5	0.2	6.9	-	16.6
Activities for generating funds	4	7.0	56.7	-	-	63.7
Investment Income	5	19.0	1.0	-	-	20.0
Receipts from church activities	6	4.7	-	-	-	4.7
Total income		81.7	58.8	41.7	-	182.2
PAYMENTS						
Cost of generating funds	7	2.7	2.0	-	-	4.7
Parish Share		48.9	-	-	-	48.9
Clergy and Staffing costs	8	32.5	-	9.2	-	41.7
Church Running Expenses	9	7.7	-	18.2	-	25.9
Hall Running Costs	10	-	27.7	-	-	27.7
Church Repairs & Maintenance	11	-	-	14.7	-	14.7
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	12	-	13.2	-	-	13.2
Missionary and Charity Giving		-	-	1.0	-	1.0
Governance Costs	13	0.2	-	-	-	0.2
Total expenditure		92.1	42.8	42.9	-	177.8
Net income or (expenditure) before transfers		(10.4)	16.0	(1.2)	-	4.4
Transfers between funds						
Gross transfers between funds -in		45.2	210.0	17.9	-	273.1
Gross transfers between funds - out		-	(273.1)	-	-	(273.1)
Net movement in funds		34.8	(47.1)	16.7	-	4.4
Gains/losses on investments						
Unrealised		16.9	-	-	1.3	18.2
Total movement in funds		51.7	(47.1)	16.7	1.3	22.6
Total funds brought forward		101.0	457.1	-	16.5	574.6
Total funds carried forward		152.7	410.0	16.7	17.8	597.2

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (£000s)

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total 31 December 2023	Total 31 December 2022
Fixed Assets						
Investments	54.2	410.0	16.7	17.8	498.7	480.6
Current Assets						
Debtors	1.8	-	-	-	1.8	1.8
Cash at bank and in hand	99.0	-	-	-	99.0	104.1
	100.8	-	-	-	100.8	105.9
Liabilities						
Creditors: amounts falling due in one year	2.3	-	-	-	2.3	11.9
Net current assets	98.5	-	-	-	98.5	94.0
Net assets	152.7	410.0	16.7	17.8	597.2	574.6

The PCC also enjoys the use of the Walker Hall, Ampton Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2UJ. A 99 year lease on the property was gifted to the church in 1952. The hall is valued for insurance purposes at £1,428k.

Fund movement by type (£000s)

	Opening	Incoming Cash	Outgoing Cash	Net Cash Movement	Transfers	Unrealised Gains/(Losses)	Closing
Unrestricted							
General Fund	101.0	81.7	(92.1)	(10.4)	45.2	16.9	152.7
Designated							
Long term property maintenance fund	200.0	-	-	-	50.0	-	250.0
Investing for the future Fund	-	-	-	-	160.0	-	160.0
Walker Hall	43.6	57.3	(40.8)	16.5	(60.1)	-	(0.0)
Building fund	150.0	-	-	-	(150.0)	-	0.0
Edgbastonian	3.5	1.5	(2.0)	(0.5)	(3.0)	-	(0.0)
Investment contingency	60.0	-	-	-	(60.0)	-	0.0
Restricted							
Church Growth	0.0	27.8	(2.0)	25.8	(9.1)	-	16.7
Curate	0.0	0.1	(9.2)	(9.1)	9.1	-	(0.0)
Building & Upkeep	0.0	13.8	(31.7)	(17.9)	17.9	-	(0.0)
Hawkes - Vicar	13.8	-	-	-	-	1.2	15.0
Hawkes - Curate	2.7	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.1	2.8
Funds of the church	574.6	182.2	(177.8)	4.4	(0.0)	18.2	597.2

Approved by the PCC on 15 April 2024 and signed on their behalf by



Rev Charlie Butler, PCC Chair



Mr Guy Hordern, PCC Vice Chair

Analysis of Income and Expenditure (£000s)

1. Planned Giving

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
Regular Bank Transfers	10.7	-	1.3	-	12.0	11.0
Envelope Giving	3.4	-	-	-	3.4	3.7
Parish Giving Scheme	16.4	-	32.3	-	48.7	48.3
	30.5	0.0	33.6	0.0	64.1	63.0

2. Collections and other giving

All amounts in the period relate to loose plate collections and the cashless giving machine.

3. Other voluntary receipts

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
Curate Appeal	-	-	0.1	-	0.1	2.5
Legacies	2.0	-	-	-	2.0	0.2
UK mission & charity giving	-	-	-	-	-	1.2
Overseas mission	-	-	1.0	-	1.0	0.2
Other Donations	3.9	0.9	-	-	4.8	4.9
	5.9	0.9	1.1	-	7.9	9.0

4. Activities for generating funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
St Monica's lettings	0.7	-	-	-	0.7	0.7
Walker Hall lettings	-	56.3	-	-	56.3	44.1
Church lettings	0.5	-	-	-	0.5	-
Edgbastonian advertising	-	0.4	-	-	0.4	1.2
Church Family Socials	0.8	-	-	-	0.8	0.7
Other income	5.0	-	-	-	5.0	0.5
	7.0	56.7	-	-	63.7	47.2

5. Investment Income

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
CCLA CBF Church of England Fixed Interest Securities Fund	0.4	-	-	-	0.4	0.6
CCLA CBF Church of England Investment Fund	8.3	-	-	-	8.3	8.3
CCLA CBF Church of England Property Fund	8.4	-	-	-	8.4	8.4
Other interest earned	1.9	1.0	-	-	2.9	0.6
	19.0	1.0	-	-	20.0	17.9

6. Receipts from church activities

All income in the period relates to fees for weddings, funerals and memorial services.

7. Cost of generating funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
Edgbastonian	-	2.0	-	-	2.0	2.1
Church Family Socials	0.8	-	-	-	0.8	0.9
Musicians & Bellringers	1.9	-	-	-	1.9	1.6
	2.7	2.0	-	-	4.7	4.6

8. Clergy & staffing costs

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
Stipends	15.9	-	3.3	-	19.2	42.9
Accommodation	-	-	5.8	-	5.8	19.0
Vicarage refurb	15.1	-	-	-	15.1	-
Vicarage tree work	0.5	-	-	-	0.5	-
Out of pocket expenses	1.0	-	0.1	-	1.1	1.1
	32.5	-	9.2	-	41.7	63.0

9. Church running expenses

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
Insurance	-	-	6.1	-	6.1	6.0
Musicians	3.6	-	-	-	3.6	3.8
Cleaning	-	-	3.6	-	3.6	3.6
Direct services costs and related	1.8	-	0.4	-	2.2	4.3
Administrative costs	1.8	-	0.6	-	2.4	1.7
Advertising	0.5	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Web site	-	-	0.1	-	0.1	0.2
Heating & Lighting	-	-	7.4	-	7.4	6.3
	7.7	-	18.2	-	25.9	26.3

10. Hall running expenses

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
Insurance	-	0.5	-	-	0.5	0.4
Heating, lighting and water	-	10.4	-	-	10.4	3.9
Cleaning	-	4.6	-	-	4.6	4.9
Management service fees	-	10.9	-	-	10.9	10.5
Other running expenses	-	1.3	-	-	1.3	1.0
	-	27.7	-	-	27.7	20.7

11. Church repairs & maintenance

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
Maintenance	-	-	6.2	-	6.2	2.8
Upkeep of churchyard	-	-	6.2	-	6.2	6.9
Major works	-	-	2.3	-	2.3	6.9
	-	-	14.7	-	14.7	16.6

12. Hall repairs & maintenance

Consistent with the prior year, all repairs for the period relate to structural repairs to the Walker Hall.

13. Governance costs

Consistent with the prior year, all governance costs relate to independent examination of these accounts.

Independent Examiner's unqualified report to the members of the P.C.C. of St. Bartholomew's Church, Edgbaston in respect of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st. December 2023 as set out on pages 10 to 11 of this report.

Respective responsibilities of the P.C.C. and the examiner.

The P.C.C. members acting as the charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the 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 the Independent Examiner's statement.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and the guidance published in PCC Accountability (The Charities Act 2011 and the P.C.C.), 5th edition). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for 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 matter has 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 to 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 is reached.

Signed.  Date 3rd. May 2024.
Name Revd. A. A. Clements

Fellow Association of Charity Independent Examiners.

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