

2023 Trustees Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity Church Oswestry

1. Reference and Administration

Charity name: Holy Trinity Church Oswestry

Church address: Roft Street, Oswestry, Shropshire

Correspondence address: Holy Trinity Church, Roft Street, Oswestry

PCC Membership

Ex Officio members

Vicar
Curate

Rev Paul Darlington
Rev James Weaver

Warden
Warden

Mr Alistair Nurden (also Treasurer)
Mr Mark Elliot

Elected members

Mrs Alison Elliot, representative on Deanery Synod
Mr Malcolm Hubbell, representative on Deanery Synod (from April 2023)
Mrs Emma Addison, representative on Deanery Synod (from April 2023)
Mr Mark Pentelow, representative on deanery Synod (until April 2023)
Mr Peter Bradford, representative on Deanery Synod (until April 2023)

Mrs Sally Ashwood
Mrs Judy Breese
Mrs Lydia Cranston
Mr Mike Horner
Mrs Katie Howard
Mr Malcolm Hubbell (until April 2023)

Bankers: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Mr Paul Evison, Garner Pugh & Sinclair, 19 Salop Road, Oswestry, SY11 2NR

Vicar: Rev Paul Darlington, 29 Balmoral Crescent, Oswestry, SY11 2XQ

Registered charity number 1173814.

2. 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 that came into effect on 1st January 2020, as amended. Holy Trinity registered as a separate charity with the Charity Commission in July 2017, as its annual income was in excess of £100,000.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 1st January 2020. At Holy Trinity the membership of the PCC consists of the Vicar, Curate, Church Wardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged and given opportunity to register on the electoral roll.

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity 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.

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 spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The PCC met six times during the year and average attendance was good. During the year the PCC have continued to keep regular oversight of all matters relating to finance, employment, health and safety, safeguarding, Holy Trinity Primary Academy and issues relating to the church building and its contents.

The PCC appointed a Standing Committee comprising Vicar, Church Wardens, Treasurer and a PCC member, which during 2023 was Lydia Cranston. A Strategy Group, consisting of the staff team and various PCC members and other church members, met during the year to consider different areas of church life, and how they could be improved, each time giving a full report back to the PCC.

A Human Resources sub-committee, chaired by a PCC member, has been established to oversee all aspects of the PCC's employment of staff. This sub-committee have reviewed the staff salaries, making recommendations to the PCC. The PCC are grateful to this sub-committee for all the work they have done.

The Standing Committee, on behalf of the PCC, have considered the area of Risk Management, and are satisfied that the Trustees are not being exposed un-necessarily, and will keep this under review in the future.

The PCC re-appointed Andy Cooksley in May 2023 as safeguarding officer. The PCC are very grateful to him for all the work that has been done in this area. DBS checks continue to be made for those that need them. The PCC accepted the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy. Issues that have arisen during the year have been dealt with.

3. Objectives and Activities

The primary aim of the PCC is to promote the gospel and to uphold the doctrines of the Church of England.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Holy Trinity. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of Holy Trinity Church. The furnishings, furniture and silverware are all in good order.

The PCC strives to ensure that activities are available for all ages, and achieves this through Sunday services and children's groups; young people's groups; midweek ladies and home group Bible studies; midweek Bible study at church; preacher's workshops; mission prayer meetings; Sunday evening prayer meeting; courses for those exploring the Christian faith; informal coffee & chat each month.

The PCC are grateful to the large number of church members who give their time on a voluntary basis to help run and lead the various church groups and activities; who undertake practical tasks to keep the church building and outside areas clean, free of rubbish and functioning; and who help in a variety of ways to help Sunday morning services run smoothly. In particular, the PCC are grateful to all those who clean the church on a regular basis.

4. Achievements and Performance

The main focus each week is the Sunday morning service at 10am – a Service of the Word and Holy Communion. During this service there is a group for children (aged 3-11), called Lighthouse and a crèche for under 3s. Attendance varied but there are usually around 130 people in total in attendance (95 adults and 35 children).

As well as our regular service, we enable our church and wider community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. There were no weddings during 2023, 3 adult baptisms and 1 service of thanksgiving. During the year, there were 12 funeral services in church; and 17 funeral services at a crematorium or cemetery.

Members of the wider community have joined with church members at the children's Holiday Club in February, when over 100 children spent five days enjoying Egyptian Adventures, an Egyptian themed holiday club, overseen by over 60 members of the congregation, adults and teenagers. At Christmas over 170 people joined together for Christmas Cracker Christingle, where the Christmas story was explained and everyone enjoyed crafts, games and Christmas food.

During the year church members have had opportunities to study God's Word together in small groups or in one-to-one meetings.

The PCC are enormously grateful to Mark Addison, Associate Minister (Youth and Families), for all the great work that is done amongst the children and young people, and training those who help him, especially Alice Goolden until August 2023, and since then Susie Kinloch. The PCC would also like to thank Rev Andy Cranston and Rev James Weaver for all that they have done during 2023 to support, equip and encourage church members.

The PCC are grateful to Jenny MacIntosh for all the various administrative tasks that she undertook to support the clergy and church members. Jenny left this role during 2023 and the PCC were pleased to appoint Mrs Kathryn Chedgoy in her place.

The PCC were pleased that Rev Paul Darlington was granted permission to take a sabbatical break during 2023, and are very grateful to the rest of the staff team for looking after everything so well during Paul's absence.

Holy Trinity was pleased to continue to welcome some Ukrainian families to the church during 2023. A weekly 'Ukraine Welcome' meeting has continued on Thursday afternoons, which is a mixture of chatting, playing, English lessons, short gospel talk and sharing a meal together. The PCC are very grateful to Gill Darlington who oversees this mission work, which is still funded by a grant received in 2022.

Holy Trinity Primary Academy continued to be supported by the church with the Vicar, Curate and Mark Addison visiting the school, to take an assembly or run the Bible Club. The PCC have been pleased to support the school with donations to the school hardship fund. The PCC receive a regular update on the various school activities and any issues being faced. Plans to open the Holy Trinity Community Hub at the school have been held up by a delay waiting for Shropshire Council to move forwards with regards the future of the building. The Holy Trinity Community Hub has been registered with the Charity Commission and has opened a bank account. It is hoped that this will make progress in early 2024.

The PCC have been kept updated regarding various matters relating to the church building. There are still unresolved issues regarding the roof of the new kitchen, and water ingress. These matters are being pursued with the contractors and architect. The latest Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in March 2018. The PCC reviews annually the architect's report. There is nothing either immediate or in the future that the PCC was not already aware of. The fire extinguishers were serviced as usual in November. A Buildings Team has continued to oversee and undertake work to the fabric of the church and the PCC are grateful to those who give of their time and expertise in this way.

A weekend away at The Quinta in September was a particular highlight of the year, and it was great to be joined by members of All Saints Gobowen. Over 140 people were there for the Sunday morning service, which also included a few from St Mary's Selattyn. Rev Iain Baker took us through the book of Jonah on Friday evening and Saturday and everyone enjoyed a variety of leisure opportunities on Saturday afternoon.

The PCC spent a lot of time during 2023 discussing and praying about what was happening with the Church of England nationally and were very concerned by the decisions that had been taken by General Synod. The PCC wrote at length to our local and Diocesan Bishops expressing our prayerful concern, which culminated in a meeting in September with Bishop Sarah and Bishop Rob Munro, Bishop of Ebsfleet. The situation within the Oswestry Deanery has given much cause for concern, with limited attempts at any meaningful resolution. The PCC are very grateful to the Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) for the work they are doing leading the traditional and evangelical response nationally. The PCC paused paying the Common Fund payments during 2023 not wanting to support false teaching. The CEEC established the Ephesian Fund towards the end of 2023 and the PCC paid its Common Fund request in full in 2023, with over half being given to the Ephesian Fund rather than the Diocese. The PCC plans to continue to give the Common Fund payments this way in 2024.

5. Financial Review

The accounts for 2023 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Planned giving amounted to £99,053. This is an increase of £10,679 from 2022. The general expenses of running Holy Trinity remain fairly constant. There was a deficit for 2023 of around £15,000, which has used up all the reserves, and more. The deficit is due to four one-off items - the purchase of a new projector, repairs to the PA system, purchase of a container for Holiday Club storage and finally sorting out the position with Scottish Power re the gas account, which included paying off some of the outstanding debt.

Gift Aid received during the year amounted to £19,821 for the general fund.

The PCC are grateful to the generosity of church members in giving to support God's work at Holy Trinity. There was an encouraging response to a stewardship campaign in January 2023. The PCC are very encouraged and grateful to God for his continued provision. There is still a big challenge in 2024 to raise sufficient extra funds to break even.

At the end of the year the PCC had a total cash balance of £6,225 held mainly in a CAF Bank account.

The PCC has not agreed a reserves policy, which it hopes to do in 2024. Generally sufficient funds are held to cover 3 months' worth of unrestricted payments.

Mr Paul Evison of Garner Pugh and Sinclair was appointed as Independent Examiner at the APCM in 2023 and the PCC are grateful to him for the work involved in putting the accounts together.

Signed on behalf of Holy Trinity Church PCC by Rev Paul Darlington, Chairman.

.....
Date 5th March 2024

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

Registered Charity Number: 1173814

**Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE P.C.C. OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY

Registered Charity Number: 1173814

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on pages 2 to 8.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE P.C.C. AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The members of the P.C.C. are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to

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

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee 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 next statement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with our examination, no matters have come to our attention

- 1) which give us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Garner Pugh & Sinclair
Chartered Accountants
19 Salop Road
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 2NR

SK Mark
20th February 2024

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £	* See note 7 for full comparative
Incoming Resources						
Donations and Legacies	2a	144,042	50	144,092	125,647	
Charitable Activities	2b	4,802	-	4,802	(181)	
Other Trading Activities	2c	11,407	-	11,407	4,038	
Investments	2d	430	-	430	25	
Total		160,681	50	160,731	129,529	
Resources Expended						
Charitable Activities	3	175,862	791	176,653	130,912	
Total		175,862	791	176,653	130,912	
Net gain/(losses) on investment		-	-	-	-	
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(15,181)	(741)	(15,922)	(1,383)	
Transfer between Funds		-	-	-	-	
Net movement in Funds		(15,181)	(741)	(15,922)	(1,383)	
Total Funds brought forward (1st Jan)		21,406	2,602	24,008	25,391	
Total Funds carried forward (31st Dec)		6,225	1,861	8,086	24,008	


**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities
At 31st December 2023**

	Notes	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
Current Assets			
Bank current accounts		7,194	23,828
Bank deposit accounts		<u>892</u>	<u>180</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	5	<u><u>8,086</u></u>	<u><u>24,008</u></u>
 Parish Funds			
Unrestricted Funds			
- General		6,225	21,406
Restricted Funds		<u>1,861</u>	<u>2,602</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	6	<u><u>8,086</u></u>	<u><u>24,008</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on ^{5th March}~~20th February~~ 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
Rev Paul Darlington - Chairman


.....
Alistair Nurden - Treasurer

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP) and applicable accounting standard FRS102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Cash Flow Statement

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

Description of Funds

Restricted funds comprise of two elements:-

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

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose.

Incoming Resources

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

Resources Expended

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

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and Benefice Property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10 (2) (a) & (C) of 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). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
2a Donations and Legacies				
<i>Voluntary Income/Receipts</i>				
Tax efficient planned giving	96,432	50	96,482	81,346
Collections at services	2,621	-	2,621	7,029
All other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals	25,168	-	25,168	20,664
Gift Aid recovered	19,821	-	19,821	16,608
	<u>144,042</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>144,092</u>	<u>125,647</u>
A) Analysis of all other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals				£
Donations - Funerals - Unrestricted				47
Grants - Unrestricted				<u>25,121</u>
				<u>25,168</u>
2b Charitable Activities				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)	<u>4,802</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,802</u>	<u>(181)</u>
	<u>4,802</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,802</u>	<u>(181)</u>
2c Other Trading Activities				
<i>Activities for Generating Funds</i>				
Church Hire	2,190	-	2,190	1,155
Sundry Receipts	<u>9,217</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,217</u>	<u>2,883</u>
	<u>11,407</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,407</u>	<u>4,038</u>
2d Investments				
Bank Interest	<u>430</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>25</u>
TOTAL	<u>160,681</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>160,731</u>	<u>129,529</u>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

EXPENDITURE ON:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
3 Charitable Activities				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Mission giving and donations	8,988	-	8,988	8,700
Diocesan parish share	42,095	-	42,095	40,213
Salaries/Wages	76,132	-	76,132	60,832
Clergy and staff expenses	3,244	-	3,244	2,978
<i>Church Expenses</i>				
Church running expenses	4,425	-	4,425	2,052
Church utility bills	11,532	-	11,532	4,130
Cost of trading	21,233	791	22,024	11,623
<i>Major Capital Expenditure</i>				
Major Repairs to the Church	8,213	-	8,213	-
<i>Governance Costs</i>	-	-	-	384
	<u>175,862</u>	<u>791</u>	<u>176,653</u>	<u>130,912</u>
TOTAL	<u>175,862</u>	<u>791</u>	<u>176,653</u>	<u>130,912</u>

4 STAFF COSTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries	<u>76,132</u>	<u>60,832</u>

During the year the PCC employed a Youth Worker, a Ministry Trainee, an Administrator and an Associate Vicar.

There were no transactions made in respect of PCC Members, no PCC Member received benefit, or reimbursement of travelling or other expenses.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	General Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Investments Assets	-	-	-
Current Assets	6,225	1,861	8,086
Current Liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>6,225</u>	<u>1,861</u>	<u>8,086</u>

6 FUNDS RECONCILIATION

	Reserves at 1.1.23 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Investment Gain/Losses £	Transfer Between Funds £	Reserves at 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	21,406	160,681	(175,862)	-	-	6,225
Restricted Funds						
Donations	2,602	50	(791)	-	-	1,861
	<u>2,602</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>(791)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,861</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>24,008</u>	<u>160,731</u>	<u>(176,653)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,086</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains and Losses £	Movement in Funds £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	160,681	(175,862)	-	(15,181)
Restricted Funds				
	50	(791)	-	(741)
	<u>50</u>	<u>(791)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(741)</u>
TOTAL NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	<u>160,731</u>	<u>(176,653)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(15,922)</u>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OSWESTRY**

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

7 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES COMPARATIVES (PREVIOUS YEAR)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
Incoming Resources				
Donations and Legacies	122,556	-	3,091	125,647
Charitable Activities	(181)	-	-	(181)
Other Trading Activities	4,038	-	-	4,038
Investments	25	-	-	25
Total	126,438	-	3,091	129,529
Resources Expended				
Raising Funds	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	130,423	-	489	130,912
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	130,423	-	489	130,912
Net gain/(losses) on investment	-	-	-	-
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(3,985)	-	2,602	(1,383)
Transfer between Funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in Funds	<u>(3,985)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,602</u>	<u>(1,383)</u>
Total Funds brought forward (1st Jan)	25,391	-	-	25,391
Total Funds carried forward (31st Dec)	<u>21,406</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,602</u>	<u>24,008</u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
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- state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

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 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Garner Pugh & Sinclair
Chartered Accountants
19 Salop Road
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 2NR

5th March
20th February 2024