

2024 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	Rev Paul Darlington
Curate	Rev James Weaver (until July 2024)
Warden	Mr Alistair Nurden (also Treasurer)
Warden	Mr Mark Elliot

Elected members

Mrs Alison Elliot, representative on Deanery Synod
Mr Malcolm Hubbell, representative on Deanery Synod
Mrs Emma Addison, representative on Deanery Synod

Mrs Sally Ashwood
Mrs Judy Breese
Mrs Lydia Cranston
Mr Adrian Dyer (from April 2024)
Mr Mike Horner
Mrs Katie Howard (until April 2024)

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 2024 was Judy Breese. 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 Jenna Middleton in May 2024 as safeguarding officer. The PCC are very grateful to her 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 Mini Lighthouse for under 3s. Attendance varied but there are usually around 144 people in total in attendance (114 adults and 30 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 was 1 wedding during 2024, 3 adult baptisms 3 young people were baptised and 1 child. During the year, there were 9 funeral services in church; and 10 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 Champions, an Olympics themed holiday club, overseen by over 80 members of the congregation, adults and teenagers. At Christmas around 200 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. There have been increasing opportunities on a Sunday for lay preachers and those who may see church leadership as a future option, to gain some valuable experience and training.

The PCC were excited but sad to learn that James Weaver, curate, had accepted a new role at a church in Oxford, with a view of establishing a new church plant there possibly in 2026. James, Abi and family left Oswestry in July 2024. The PCC are enormously grateful to James for all that he has done during his time at Holy Trinity, for the new initiatives that he had set up, for his diligent teaching and careful pastoral care. The PCC are also grateful to Abi for her support of James, enabling him to serve the church family as effectively as he did. Church members gave generously towards a parting gift for the Weaver family.

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 Susie Kinloch until August 2024, and since then Sam Hodgins. The PCC would also like to thank Rev Andy Cranston for all that he has done during 2024 to support, equip and encourage church members. Under Andy's leadership, a new bereavement ministry team was set up to help support those who have been bereaved. In November, a Sunday afternoon service of remembrance was held for those who had lost a loved one recently, and this was well received by all who attended.

During 2024 there was a weekend of teaching and encouragement relating to marriage, and a similar day focussing on singleness, both available to all church members. Both had external speakers and those attending found the input and teaching helpful.

The PCC are grateful to Kathryn Chedgzoy for all the various administrative tasks that she undertook to support the clergy, PCC and church members.

Holy Trinity was pleased to continue to welcome some Ukrainian families to the church during 2024. 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.

Other ministry initiatives carried on during 2024, including the monthly Cuppa, Cake & Chat which attracts a number of elderly folk who live locally and for whom this is their sole contact with the church. A number of people who have been coming to Cuppa Cake & Chat have now become regular attendees on a Sunday morning. There has also been a regular pattern of evangelistic courses, which have been well attended and well supported by church members.

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. It is hoped that this will make progress in early 2025.

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 2024 and the report was issued to all PCC

members. The electrical installation also has a full 5-year inspection during 2024. A number of recommendations contained in the Quinquennial report have been attended to, and quotes will be obtained to undertake repairs to the boundary wall and stone entrance pillar. The pillar was made safe at the end of 2024. Other longer term will be kept under review. 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.

The PCC spent a lot of time during 2024 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 situation within the Oswestry Deanery has continued to give 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 has continued to pay its Common Fund request via the Ephesian Fund. Due to lack of available funds the PCC were unable to pay the full request in 2025.

5. Financial Review

The accounts for 2024 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Planned giving amounted to £112,849. This is an increase of £13,796 from 2023. The general expenses of running Holy Trinity remain fairly constant. There was a small surplus for 2024 of around £700, but £5,500 of Common Fund request was unpaid.

Gift Aid received during the year amounted to £20,522 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 2024, from which over £20,00 was either given or pledged. However, as some church members left Holy Trinity during 2024, for a variety of different reasons, and cancelled their monthly donations, this resulted in a reduction of income by around £10,000. The PCC are very encouraged and grateful to God for his continued provision. There is still a big challenge in 2025 to raise sufficient extra funds to break even and to begin to build up reserves.

At the end of the year the PCC had a total cash balance of £7,017 held mainly in a CAF Bank account.

The PCC has not agreed a reserves policy, which it hopes to do in 2025. 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 2024 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 11th March 2025

**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 2024**

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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 2024 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

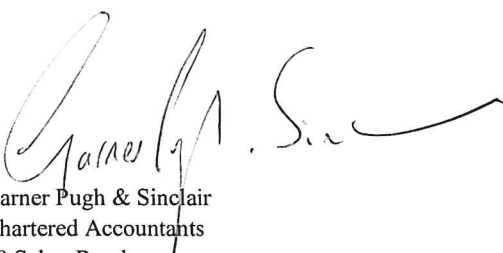
Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

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

11th March 2025

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

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	* See note 7 for full comparative
Incoming Resources						
Donations and Legacies	2a	158,874	325	159,199	144,092	
Charitable Activities	2b	1,392	-	1,392	4,802	
Other Trading Activities	2c	3,782	-	3,782	11,407	
Investments	2d	58	-	58	430	
Total		164,106	325	164,431	160,731	
Resources Expended						
Charitable Activities	3	163,404	1,546	164,950	176,653	
Total		163,404	1,546	164,950	176,653	
Net gain/(losses) on investment		-	-	-	-	
Net Income/(Expenditure)		702	(1,221)	(519)	(15,922)	
Transfer between Funds		90	(90)	-	-	
Net movement in Funds		792	(1,311)	(519)	(15,922)	
Total Funds brought forward (1st Jan)		6,225	1,861	8,086	24,008	
Total Funds carried forward (31st Dec)		7,017	550	7,567	8,086	


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

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities
At 31st December 2024**

	Notes	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Current Assets			
Bank current accounts		7,553	7,194
Bank deposit accounts		<u>14</u>	<u>892</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	5	<u>7,567</u>	<u>8,086</u>
 Parish Funds			
Unrestricted Funds			
- General		7,017	6,225
Restricted Funds		<u>550</u>	<u>1,861</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	6	<u>7,567</u>	<u>8,086</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 11th March 2025 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 2024**

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 2024**

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
2a Donations and Legacies				
<i>Voluntary Income/Receipts</i>				
Tax efficient planned giving	112,849	275	113,124	96,482
Collections at services	-	-	-	2,621
All other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals	25,254	50	25,304	25,168
Gift Aid recovered	20,522	-	20,522	19,821
Legacies	249	-	249	-
	<u>158,874</u>	<u>325</u>	<u>159,199</u>	<u>144,092</u>
A) Analysis of all other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals				£
Donations - Sundry - Unrestricted				5
Donations - Sundry - Restricted				50
Grants - Unrestricted				<u>25,249</u>
				<u>25,304</u>
2b Charitable Activities				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)	<u>1,392</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,392</u>	<u>4,802</u>
	<u>1,392</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,392</u>	<u>4,802</u>
2c Other Trading Activities				
<i>Activities for Generating Funds</i>				
Church Hire	890	-	890	2,190
Sundry Receipts	<u>2,892</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,892</u>	<u>9,217</u>
	<u>3,782</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,782</u>	<u>11,407</u>
2d Investments				
Bank Interest	<u>58</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>430</u>
TOTAL	<u>164,106</u>	<u>325</u>	<u>164,431</u>	<u>160,731</u>

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

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024**

EXPENDITURE ON:

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
3 Charitable Activities					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Mission giving and donations		8,500	-	8,500	8,988
Diocesan parish share		38,557	-	38,557	42,095
Salaries/Wages	4	82,266	-	82,266	76,132
Clergy and staff expenses		3,419	-	3,419	3,244
<i>Church Expenses</i>					
Church running expenses		5,976	-	5,976	4,425
Church utility bills		12,964	-	12,964	11,532
Cost of trading		11,314	1,546	12,860	22,024
<i>Major Capital Expenditure</i>					
Major Repairs to the Church		-	-	-	8,213
<i>Governance Costs</i>		408	-	408	-
		<u>163,404</u>	<u>1,546</u>	<u>164,950</u>	<u>176,653</u>
TOTAL		<u>163,404</u>	<u>1,546</u>	<u>164,950</u>	<u>176,653</u>

4 STAFF COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries	<u>82,266</u>	<u>76,132</u>

During the year the PCC employed an Associate Minister, 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 2024**

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	General Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Investments Assets	-	-	-
Current Assets	7,017	550	7,567
Current Liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>7,017</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>7,567</u>

6 FUNDS RECONCILIATION

	Reserves at 1.1.24 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfer Between Funds £	Reserves at 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	6,225	164,106	(163,404)	90	7,017
Restricted Funds					
Donations	<u>1,861</u>	<u>325</u>	<u>(1,546)</u>	<u>(90)</u>	<u>550</u>
	<u>1,861</u>	<u>325</u>	<u>(1,546)</u>	<u>(90)</u>	<u>550</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>8,086</u>	<u>164,431</u>	<u>(164,950)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,567</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	164,106	(163,404)	-	702
Restricted Funds				
	<u>325</u>	<u>(1,546)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,221)</u>
	<u>325</u>	<u>(1,546)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,221)</u>
TOTAL NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	<u>164,431</u>	<u>(164,950)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(519)</u>

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

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024**

7 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES COMPARATIVES (PREVIOUS YEAR)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Incoming Resources			
Donations and Legacies	144,042	50	144,092
Charitable Activities	4,802	-	4,802
Other Trading Activities	11,407	-	11,407
Investments	430	-	430
Total	160,681	50	160,731
Resources Expended			
Raising Funds	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	175,862	791	176,653
Other	-	-	-
Total	175,862	791	176,653
Net gain/(losses) on investment	-	-	-
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(15,181)	(741)	(15,922)
Transfer between Funds	-	-	-
Net movement in Funds	(15,181)	(741)	(15,922)
Total Funds brought forward (1st Jan)	21,406	2,602	24,008
Total Funds carried forward (31st Dec)	6,225	1,861	8,086

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

Registered Charity Number: 1173814

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BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

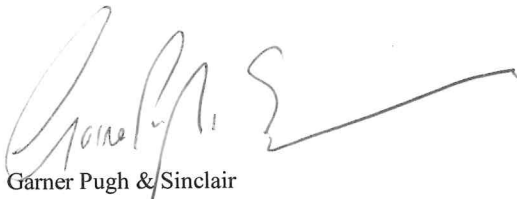
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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 - 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

11th March 2025