

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF HOLY CROSS, WOODCHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1174003

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2017-07-28

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Rectory
Church Lane
Upton
Woodchurch
Wirral
CH49 7LS

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Website www.holycrosswoodchurch.uk

Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH, PASTORAL, EVANGELISTIC, SOCIAL AND ECUMENICAL

Activities: Provide regular public worship, open to all, and sacred space, for personal prayer and contemplation. Visit the sick and bereaved. Teach Christianity through sermons, study groups and religious assemblies in schools. Promote the mission of the church through the provision of activities for children, parents and senior citizens. Supporting other churches and charities both UK and overseas.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Wirral

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£120,727	£121,021	-	-
2024-12-31	£106,624	£104,953	-	-
2023-12-31	£110,312	£127,215	-	-
2022-12-31	£122,099	£124,038	-	-
2021-12-31	£110,013	£130,409	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Audrey Joanna Hipps		2023-04-23
Barbara McKenzie		2023-04-23
Bernard Gallivan		2025-04-06
Dominic Eccles		2026-04-19
Enid Deardon		2023-04-23
Heather Christine Cross		2025-04-06
JENNIFER MARGARET DAVIES		2019-04-28
Paul Joseph Mountford		2019-04-28
Reverend Sister Janet Rachel Arnold CA		2024-04-21
Richard Lawrence Hague		2025-04-06
SUSAN DEBORAH MOUNTFORD		2019-04-28
SUSAN MARGARET DEMPSEY		2025-04-06
WILLIAM IAN MCKENZIE		2019-04-28
Wendy Deverill		2023-04-23

Accounts

**HOLY CROSS
WOODCHURCH PARISH CHURCH**

**2025 ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**



Growing disciples of Christ

“For with you is the wellspring of
life; in your light we see light”

Psalms 36 v 9

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SERVED DURING 2025

Ex-Officio Members

Rector: Rev Sr Janet Arnold CA (from 4 February 2024)

Lay Reader Mrs Sue Mountford

Churchwardens: Mr Roy Milne ('til April 2025) Lay Chair
Mrs Wendy Deverill (from 30 June 2023)
Mr Bernie Gallivan (from June 2025)

Hon. Treasurer Mrs Wendy Deverill (from January 2023)

Lay Member on Chester Diocesan Synod: Mr Ian McKenzie Deanery lay representative on
Chester Diocesan Synod and Deanery Secretary

Clergy Member on Chester Diocesan Synod: Revd Sr Janet Arnold CA (from September 2024)

Lay Representatives on Birkenhead Deanery Synod:

Mrs Jenny Davies	(term ends 30 June 2026)
Mrs Wendy Deverill	(term ends 30 June 2026)
Ms ED	(resigned January 2026)

Elected Members:

PCC Secretary (position vacant)
Dr Roy Palmer (resigned March 2025)
Mrs Pat Clark (term ended April 2025)
Mrs Sally Felix (term ended April 2025)
Mrs Jo Hipps (term ends April 2026)
Mrs Barbara McKenzie (term started April 2028)
Mrs Enid Dearden (term ends April 2027)
Mrs Sue Mountford (term ends April 2027)
Miss Christine Foster (term ends April 2027)
Mrs Sue Dempsey (term ends April 2028)
Mrs Heather Cross (term ends April 2028)
Mr Richard Hague (term ends April 2028)

Safeguarding Officer: Mr Paul Mountford (term ends April 2027)

Co-opted Members: The Revd Canon David Felix (resigned April 2025)
The Revd Josie Tuplin (resigned July 2025)

In Attendance: Mrs Sue Treanor (Parish Administrator)
Prof. Christopher Tuplin, PCC Secretary (resigned Oct. 2025)

Independent Examiner: Mr Tony Endean

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Reverend Sister Janet Arnold CA
(Rector & Chairperson)

.....

Mrs Wendy Deverill
(Hon. Treasurer)

Objectives and Activities

This is the 28th Annual Report of Woodchurch Parochial Church Council (the PCC) which has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, the Reverend Sister Janet Arnold CA, in promoting the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical, in the ecclesiastical parish of Holy Cross Woodchurch, Chester Diocese, within the Church of England. The PCC also has responsibilities relating to the maintenance of the parish church and churchyard, for the Parish Community Hall and other PCC-owned property. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. There is also a limited power of co-option. The ex officio members are the clergy licensed to the parish, the churchwardens and the lay members and representatives on the Diocesan and Deanery Synods. Retired clergy licensed to the parish are invited to attend as co-opted members. The PCC is also spiritually responsible for the maintenance of the church. It is our mission to reach out to the 1.5 million souls in Chester Diocese as yet unreached or transformed by the love and forgiveness of God, learning on our journey together alongside all parishes.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Holy Cross. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services and social occasions can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, sacrament and music, sending us out for service and mission in the community and world. Through the Occasional Offices we listen to the needs of the community and share with them the Good News of God's love made personal through Jesus. Also, through prayerful support and activities such as baptism and funeral ministry, hospitality, Messy Church, school services, school visits and leading collective worship, we work with local schools, particularly the Church primary school and we aim to reach out to unchurched members of the community.

The correspondence address is: The Parish Office c/o 20, Eltham Green, Arrowe Park CH49 5NG. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a registered charity (number 1174003).

Our Vision Statement

In July 2019 the PCC adopted "Growing disciples of Christ" as a summary of our core purpose. Our vision is to be a welcoming, growing, all-age Christian community faithfully proclaiming the love of God in word and deed. Our verse for 2025 was; ""For with you is the wellspring of life; in your light we see light" (*Psalms 36 v 9*). As such, may we continue to discern what God is calling us to be and do in our church and wider community to, together with the whole diocese reach the 1.5 million who do not Christ.

Public benefit

The trustees of the PCC 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 Cross, Woodchurch. The PCC helps to promote the whole mission of the Church by following Christ and growing disciples in Christ; through vocation, discipleship, and evangelism, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public.

Worship Services

The worship service pattern at Holy Cross Church during 2025 has centred on the principal eucharistic service at 10am Sunday mornings with music led by organists Suzy Chapman and Gill Locke, with a small, robed choir. There are also eucharistic services at 8am on Sundays and at 10am on Wednesdays. The first Sunday in the month 10am Eucharist continued as a shortened, more 'All Age' friendly service during 2025. Holy Cross also hosted a monthly Sunday Choral Evensong

service from St. Saviour Church (whilst they were in vacancy), this ended in May once the new incumbent arrived at Oxton, St Saviour Church and their choir returned there. The re-introduction of healing prayer offered during the fourth Sunday principal service, has been sporadic since October, due to illness and now that there are fewer people licensed or available to continue this.

Printed sheets have been provided for children on the theme of the lectionary readings which are followed at Holy Cross. This year the focus has been on the Old Testament and gospel Bible readings. The churchmanship of Holy Cross is catholic and traditional in style. Music at the principal service is led by the organ and piano with a small robed choir accompanying. During Lent a series of 8am Thursday morning eucharists were held, followed by a welcome breakfast. There have been fewer occasional offices at Holy Cross this year with the number of Baptisms: 13 baptisms (less than 1 year = 10; ages 1-4 = 0; ages 5-10 = 2; ages 11-17 = 1; Adult = 0). Only 2 weddings, 1 Wedding Blessing and 11 funerals were held in church, with 5 additional funerals at Landican Cemetery only and 7 interment of ashes (2 were joint/double interments) in Holy Cross Churchyard and 1 elsewhere in Bebington Cemetery. There were 4 burials in Holy Cross Churchyard and 2 burials at Landican Cemetery. There was a Confirmation Service held in May where Sheila Dickin made re-commitments to follow her Confirmation promises, made as a teenager and 3 children from Oxton, St Saviour were baptised and 11 received Confirmation.

The Rt Revd Julie Conalty, the Bishop of Birkenhead, invited Revd Janet to be part of an ecumenical team planning a service and individual blessings for babies buried in Landican Cemetery without blessings, often in mass graves. The group met a number of times and Rev Janet planned the service along with a Canon from Chester Cathedral. The service, held at Landican, North Chapel, on 4th November was well attended and individual babies were blessed by the appropriate denomination leaders, even several families who had not registered and turned up on the day were able to have their babies blessed. The BBC crew present interviewed Bishop Julie, which was shown on the North West News.

Activity Reports on the Life of the Parish 2023-2024

1. THE PCC; Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a Body Corporate established by the Church of England (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission. The PCC is governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended that came into effect on 2nd January 1957, and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council at Holy Cross comprise of the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the Electoral Roll. Congregation members are encouraged and supported to take on new roles and to stand for election to the PCC.

PCC REPORT

The PCC met 9 times during 2025, one of these was a summer social meal at the Rectory and in addition, the PCC met to agree the examined financial report and figures for 2024 and regarding a statement of the leaving of the Hon. Ass. Priest Josie Tuplin. Elections at the 2025 APCM necessitated a secret vote as there more candidates than vacancies (which is always a nice position to be in), and the PCC Secretary opted to become an observer, leaving another place at the PCC for a voted-on member. The total number of elected PCC members decreased to 9 in 2025 following the renewal and decrease in numbers on the new Electoral Roll for 2025. We are very grateful for the experience and input of Revd Canon David Felix who resigned from his co-opted role at the APCM, and Revd Josie Tuplin was resigned from her co-opted role on the PCC

in July, along with Christopher Tuplin the attending PCC Secretary. Since the PCC Secretary resigned there have been a number of people who have taken the PCC minutes as minute secretaries. We remain without a PCC Secretary, for the moment.

The main topics discussed by the PCC this year were: the Organ and its repairs (including the change of organ tuners from Harold Davies to Cartwright and Cartwright); regulations for the Ashes Plots opened in the Churchyard; Confidentiality; Health and Safety; The Jubilee Room Roof damage; Gluten-free wafers at Communion; Health and Safety; The Churchyard Nature Trail; Graveyard issues; new Baptism Service sheets; Communion before Confirmation; and Safeguarding is always on the agenda. Following a visit from stained-glass expert Martin Crampin, Jo Hipps gave the PCC an excellent and interesting history of some of our stained-glass windows in Holy Cross Church. There were also discussions about the Angel Festival which happened during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, with an Open Day in December. It was wonderful having Christmas with The Angels!

A number of PCC members have gained their DBS clearance and some need to complete the online training required for the role. A Safeguarding issue reported has been dealt with. Ongoing finance is a real issue and ongoing issue with a loss of generous givers and fewer fundraising events taking place.

It is utterly remarkable and down to God, and a few very generous large donations that we have ended up 'in the black' with our finances this year.

Rev Janet Arnold (there is currently no permanent PCC Secretary), January 2026

2. THE ELECTORAL ROLL

At the end of December 2025 there were 87 persons on the Electoral Roll of the parish, compared with 129 at the end of December 2024. In April 2025 a new Electoral Roll was prepared as in all Church of England parishes every five years, there had been an attempt to visit all named on the previous roll who were not in regular attendance. This resulted in one person starting to attend worship again. Of the 87 persons on the current roll; 28 were resident in the parish (32%) and 59 were non-resident (68%). So, the next total renewal will be in April 2030. The Roll will be closed from March 1st 2026 until the APCM on April 19th for new applications and any amendments.

Ian McKenzie (Electoral Roll Officer), January 2026

3. THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2025

Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31st December 2025

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

CURRENT ASSETS	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash at Barclays Bank	27,442	23,815
Shares at CCLA	52,437	53,800
Short term deposits (CCLA)	30,004	28,796
	109,883	106,411

FUNDS

Unrestricted funds in current account	1,880	1,702
Restricted Funds in current account	375	841
Unrestricted funds in deposit account	18,043	13,265
Restricted Funds in deposit account	7,144	8,007
Unrestricted funds in CCLA	20,460	19,664
Restricted Funds in CCLA	9,544	9,132
Shares in CCLA	52,437	53,800

TOTAL FUNDS

109,883	106,411
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Restricted and designated funds are kept in our deposit account to separate them from our general funds, which are used for our normal running costs and which are kept in our current account. Restricted Funds are those where the donor has specified the use of the donation; designated funds are those where the PCC has decided what a specific amount of money, eg fund-raising, will be used for.

2025 has been a challenging year financially, our income from planned giving has fallen from £3,500 each month to less than £3,000, and our expenditure continues its inexorable rise. We are cutting costs wherever we can, whilst trying to keep up with the essential maintenance necessary to keep our ancient church in good condition.

We have received some generous one-off donations and bequests, and my thanks go to everyone who gives to our church in whatever way, as we could not manage without any of you.

Our fundraising in 2025 has been both enjoyable and successful, with Barn Dances, a coach trip to Boundary Mill and Barton Grange Garden Centre, and our Christmas Fair. Thanks go to everyone who helped with the organisation and running of all our fundraising events.

The Tower of Light service was, as always, very popular not just with our regular congregation but also others from the wider community. The total raised was just over £1,800; I would like to thank everyone who works so hard each year to make it such a success, in particular Andy and Sue Treanor.

Income from letting the Parish Community Hall and the Jubilee Rooms has been much reduced this year, mainly due to the disbanding of the Majorettes who were frequent regular users. The number of children's parties has also fallen; many of the parties held previously were children who attended the Majorettes so that connection has gone. The halls have been loss-making in 2025, this is extremely concerning given that we need major repairs to the roof of the Jubilee Room.

During 2025, for the first time since I became Treasurer, we have had to transfer money from the unrestricted funds in the deposit account to meet our commitments. Those transfers were able to be repaid after the Christmas Fair and Tower of Light fundraising, but our finances are balancing on a knife edge to avoid using any of our reserves. However, in 2025 Holy Cross was able to meet all our commitments in full, including the Parish Share, and we pray that 2026 will be the same.

I would like to record my thanks to everyone at Holy Cross for their generosity and hard work this year.

Wendy Deverill (Treasurer), January 2026

4. THE CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

Following the retirement of Roy Milne at the APCM in April, Bernie Gallivan was elected as Church Warden and formally appointed at the Archdeacon's visitation we both attended in June. We are very grateful to Roy for his hard work over the previous six years, and also for his continued support whilst I have been unwell.

Throughout the year we have continued to ensure the approaches in and around the Church, Car Park and Parish Hall are kept safe and tidy. We attended numerous service engineer visits and call-outs to the alarm as well as taking gas, electricity and water meter readings. We also ensured that the correct flag is flying.

We attended all our regular weekly worship services, baptisms and on occasions helped at funerals. We were involved with both our Services of Remembrance, Meadowside School Christmas service and all our Christmas services. We help with decoration of the church for Easter, Remembrance and Christmas.

We have regular meetings with the Rector and attend Standing Committee and PCC Meetings.

The front doors into church have been treated and stained with boiled linseed oil, as have the pews in the chancel, the Rood Screen and the panelling of the organ loft. Thanks go to Bernie and Roy for their hard work doing this.

Although we have had quotes for the work to repair the roof of the Jubilee Room the PCC decided we should seek further advice, and no decision has been made at the time of writing.

Repairs have been carried out to the organ by Cartwright and Cartwright, who have been appointed by the PCC to look after the organ from now on. Following their recommendation a security lock has been fitted to the organ loft door.

Recently we had the electrical circuits checked and certified, Portable Appliances Tested for all three buildings including the office equipment used by the Parish Administrator.

The guttering channels along the roof and the downspout drains have all been cleared. Lack of funds have prevented any movement on the repairs needed to the boundary wall.

In September the annual Heritage Open Day was very successful and as well as viewing displays of information about the church and old photographs visitors were taken up the church tower.

Our Angel Festival took place in December and we helped with setting up the displays and stewarding on the day.

In addition to our duties as Wardens in church we have also been acting as caretaker for both halls as we have been unsuccessful in finding anyone prepared to undertake this role which entails opening and closing either building when hired out for celebrations.

2025 has been a difficult year for the Church Wardens, my ill-health has meant I have not always been able to carry out my role with the commitment I would have liked, and Bernie stepped back as Warden for a while during the summer. We are very grateful to Roy Milne, Richard Hague and Paul Mountford for their help this year.

Wendy Deverill and Bernie Gallivan (Churchwardens) December 2025

5. HALLS REPORTS.

Parish Community Hall

As we have been unable to appoint a caretaker, the Wardens, Rector and Sue Treanor still attend to open and close the hall before and after functions, although Children's Birthday Parties are not as popular as they used to be.

Regular users are Baby Ballet weekly on Saturday mornings, Community Café on Wednesday afternoons during term time, Scouts weekly on Monday and Tuesday evenings during term time, and Messy Church, Mothers' Union and WI monthly.

The Scouts have been using the hall since Spring when the scout hut was damaged by a car driving into it; the arrangement is temporary until their hut can be repaired. The Scouts have been issued with hire charges for the use of the hall to enter into their insurance claim as they have been unable to use their hall.

A successful Christmas Fair was organised and well attended as was the Tower of Light.

Meadowside Community Café is proving very popular, especially their Bingo events.

The Wardens have attended at service engineer visits and Jenny Davies attends when Wirral Borough Council Pest Control visit.

Jubilee Rooms

The AA, NA, bereavement counselling, a local Housing Resident's group, Craft Club and The Jubilee Singers are our regular users, and on occasions a group of Indian gentlemen have used the rooms for meetings.

The roof over the north side of the building is in need of major repairs/replacement.

Wendy Deverill (December 2025)

6. THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE PARISH CHURCH

The usual services to the alarm, roof alarms and lightening conductor were carried out.

In February Barlow's came to rectify the electrical faults identified in the NICEIC electrical installation condition report, and in April they came to replace the light fitting above the font. This required a scaffold tower; the first one they ordered was not tall enough, so a second visit and tower had to be arranged. They also did our PAT testing in November and came in December to sort out a fault with the wiring to the Tower lighting feed, which had unfortunately meant that the Tower of Lights had not been illuminated for a few days.

Tony Parsons has cleaned the church gutters, reset old slates and repointed the flashings at the base of the tower, and coping stones to the gable end adjacent to the tower.

Bernie Gallivan and Roy Milne have treated the front doors into church, the pews in the chancel, the Rood Screen and the panelling of the organ loft with boiled linseed oil. A security lock has also been fitted to the door to the organ loft. Thanks go to Bernie and Roy for their hard work doing this.

The PCC appointed Cartwright and Cartwright to look after our organ; they have done the necessary re-leathering, attended to some 'dumb' notes, and discovered and repaired an electrical fault which has been causing problems for some years. They will be doing regular tuning of the organ from now on, and we look forward to working with them.

An old map of the church and curtilage which belonged to Doug Hague was framed and donated by his family. This is now hanging in church; there was no need for a faculty as the hooks were already in position.

Our thanks go to the Sadler family and friends who have looked after our churchyard so well in 2025, we were pleased to again be awarded with a Green Flag. Elian Davies has devised a nature trail around the churchyard, and temporary signs have been posted relating to this.

The Parish Terrier has been updated this year and the current situation is reported in that document.

Bernie Gallivan and Wendy Deverill. (Churchwardens) December 2025

7. BIRKENHEAD DEANERY SYNOD

Holy Cross is one of the ten parishes that make up the Birkenhead Deanery. Elected to represent our parish at the A.P.C.M. in April 2023 for the three year period 2023 – 2025 were Jenny Davies, Elian Davies and Wendy Deverill with also from Holy Cross Ian McKenzie who is the Deanery Secretary. At the A.P.C.M. next April the parish has to elect three representatives to the Deanery Synod for the next three year period 2026 – 2028.

The synod meets three times a year at a different parish in the deanery. On February 27th 2025 the meeting was at Christ Church Birkenhead when the guest speaker before the business meeting was Jon Peacock, Strategic Programme Advisor for the Chester Diocese. The next meeting on June 16th was at St. Oswald's Bidston, when the guest speaker was Bessia Kanengoni, Digital Giving Advisor for the Chester Diocese, and the last meeting of the year was at St. Bedes' Cloughton when the guest speaker was Alex Fisher the Faith Development Officer at Wirral Borough Council. (A copy of the full text of the talk, and the talks at the other deanery meetings can be obtained from Ian McKenzie)

Ian McKenzie (Deanery Secretary), January 2026

8. THE BIRKENHEAD CHURCH AID SOCIETY was established over 100 years ago to support clergy and lay members of churches in the Birkenhead Deanery area as they trained for the ministry, or as Lay Readers or Pastoral Workers. These days the society is managed by the Deanery Standing Committee and makes grants for the purchase of books and course materials to members of parishes in the deanery who are in training. It's funding comes from investment interest and donations when needed from the parishes in the deanery.

Ian McKenzie (Deanery Synod Secretary), December 2025

9. SAFEGUARDING

There have been no Safeguarding incidents reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) in 2025. An 'internal difference' between members of the church was shared with the PSO and with the Diocese however, this was determined not to be a safeguarding incident and was dealt with by the Diocese and those concerned.

There is an ongoing program to ensure that all individuals who undertake a relevant role within the parish undertake Safeguarding training and a DBS check. This monitored by the PSO. Many will need retraining in 2026.

Many members of the congregation have completed Basic and Foundations Training but not Domestic Abuse. It is hoped that this may be addressed in 2026. Work will also continue to update and complete the parish Safeguarding portal.

The PSO's identity and contact details are displayed via posters displayed in the church and parish hall.

10. PARISH MINISTRY TEAM

The Team continued to support ministry at Oxton, St Saviour until their new incumbent arrived in June and Josie led a monthly Evensong, until it returned to Oxton, St. Saviour Church, in June. Sue Mountford (Reader) began to take home communions with Audrey, to those who are house-bound, is involved with Messy Church and continued to preach at least once every 6 weeks. Sue Treanor (Parish Administrator) continued to do sterling work in the parish office. We had team meetings regularly on Monday mornings and from the Autumn every fortnight in person, following Morning Prayer, with Parish Office meetings on the other weeks.

The Parish Ministry Team oversees worship, pastoral care, adult discipleship, mission and outreach of the parish. Members of the team work with the incumbent, churchwardens and the PCC to share in leading worship and preaching, and offer pastoral and administrative support in the life of the parish and giving regular updates and reports for the PCC. also leads worship regularly and supports the team. Holy Cross is a busy parish and the work shared across the team is invaluable.

Sadly, the team at Holy Cross is very much depleted at the end of 2025. Sadly, Revd. Canon David Felix (Honorary Assistant Priest) stepped back from leading and peaching due to his wife's illness and his impending surgery. Revd Josie Tuplin (Honorary Assistant Priest) continued to preach and preside on 4th Sundays of the month and covering holidays until her and her husband left the church in October, Josie taking a break from public ministry.

Revd Sister Janet Arnold CA (Rector), December 2025

11. Reader (LLM) Report for 2025.

As a licensed lay minister for the Church of England based at Holy Cross, Woodchurch this year has marked my 3-year anniversary since being licensed and I had to renew all my safeguarding training and my DBS certificate in order to continue.

In many ways it has been a fulfilling year. I have enjoyed working on talks for the services, learning more about myself, feeling closer to God and the wonderful people I serve in this community.

It has also been a very emotional and, at times, testing year.

As a church community we have yet again suffered the loss of devoted, wonderful people, although, as you all know, we regard them as family members, which always has a profound effect on us all. We miss them, and all who have gone before.

On a very personal level, my mum, as some of you know, died in November after living with vascular dementia for some time. I feel, as do others, that although we believe those who have gone from this earthly life have gone to a better place, it is still very painful, navigating learning to live without them on a day-to-day basis.

I also feel sad due to the unrest and personal tensions that have occurred at Holy Cross. We are a family, much like any other, and disagreements do occur from time to time. As a Christian, I believe that I need to be open minded and open hearted and try to be as fair and honest as I can be. I need to remember that there are two sides to every story and to jump to conclusions and make judgements is not helpful or right. I have, at times, found that difficult to do and I know I have made mistakes.

We are all precious in the sight of God and when we hurt one another, we hurt God too. We can still share our opinions and give others space if needed but, on a personal level, I know I should focus on moving forward. My hope and prayer for us all as a church community is to move forward together, walking in Christ's light to enable us to spread the Good News to all who wish and/or need to hear it.

Your servant,

Susan Mountford (Reader)

12. PASTORAL CARE

Rev's Janet and Josie have worked alongside visitors within the congregation to offer pastoral visits for the congregation at home, in hospital and those in sheltered homes or nursing care. Rev Janet has now, since she arrived, managed to visit most of the people named on the 2024 Electoral Roll (over 120 people) along with many who are not on the Electoral Roll.

Home Communion were offered before Easter, during the Summer and some before Christmas and on request to those who have been unable to get to church, which sadly has been an increasing number. Pastoral care is also offered within the parish community, to offer a listening ear and prayer. It is a real privilege to be able to minister in this way. There are also caring members of the congregation who regularly phone those who are sick or unwell and visit, which is invaluable. A group of us were able to celebrate Vera Gibson's 90th Birthday in the sunshine, at her care home.

Sadly, since the summer there have been fewer visits made, with decreased numbers of clergy available and with Rev Janet's illness since November. This is an area where always more is needed. **Revd. Sister Janet Arnold CA (Rector), December 2025**

13. DISCIPLESHIP

The START! course was run in for 6 weeks in January/ February and October/November 2025 and although 6 people started the later course, 2 did not complete the course due to health issues. It is hoped to continue running this course, particularly for newer church members. Three people who completed the START! course in 2025 also went on to complete the CPO 'Alive' discipleship sheets. A new course of these sheets is due to start in January 2026. The START! Course is an excellent course and Bernie and I really enjoyed running it.

Lent Course: A Lent Bible Study Course was run on Thursday evenings, in person, at the Rectory and online for the Zoom Bible Study Group for 6 weeks; a short video prayer course by Pete Greigs looking at Prayer down the ages.

Zoom Bible Study Group: This group met online on Tuesday evenings from 8-9.30pm, including a Bible Study and the Service of Compline. Revd Josie ran this group during term-times, with the support of her husband, Christopher, until October. So far, we do not have the resources to re-start this online group.

Revd. Sister Janet Arnold CA (Rector), December 2025

14. SOCIAL AND FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES

Despite the absence of a Social & Fund-Raising Committee of the PCC there were quite a few activities during 2025. Firstly, on June 6th there was the first of two Barn Dances held last year in the Parish Community Hall when we were delighted to welcome back Alison Schultz and her band for about the 20th time. With good food, music and dancing it was an excellent evening. As it was on October 3rd when the second Barn Dance took place.

On the week-end of Holy Cross Day the parish again supported the Wirral Heritage event when like many Wirral buildings and sites we welcomed many visitors to explore our ancient parish church, tower and grounds.

We were unable to host the annual Coffee Morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support last September but on Sunday October 19th after the 10 o'clock service a cake sale and other activities raised £ 354 for the charity.

The weeks leading up to the end of 2025 were a busy and enjoyable time with planned Social and Fund-Raising events. On Friday, November 14th we enjoyed the annual pre-Christmas Shopping coach trip to Boundary Mill at Colne in Lancashire followed by a visit to Barton Grange Garden Centre.

On November 22nd our Christmas Fair was held in the Parish Community Hall and it was well supported by the local community, and very pleasing to our Treasurer was the amount raised. In addition to the money raised on the day we will receive a further £750 from Barclays Bank in the new year through the good offices of Lil Peers a retired former bank employee. Then on November 30th the "Tower of Light" was switched on following a service in church. The event, organised again by Sue Treanor (our Parish Administrator) with husband Andy and their band of helpers who put on a great display with lights mounted on the church tower which were visible across the parish and from Oxton and Prenton. The 'Switch On' was followed by mulled wine, mince pies etc in the hall and many families took the opportunity to put their remembrances on the Christmas Tree in church and make generous donations to church as well.

Many thanks are due to the many church members who helped with these events during 2025.

Ian McKenzie, December 2025

15. MOTHERS UNION

Mothers' Union meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 2pm, in the Parish Community Hall. We have a varied programme of speakers and events throughout the year. Some of our speakers this year were Fiona from Dogs for the Deaf and Emily from the Women's Refuge. One of our fundraising events was an afternoon Strawberry Tea held in the garden of a M.U member. All are welcome to join us at our meetings.

At Holy Cross our branch continues to support Mothers' Union Diocesan projects at home and abroad with donations and Prayers.

Jenny Davies, December 2025

16. CRAFT CLUB

Craft Club continues to meet fortnightly on Monday afternoons in the Jubilee Rooms between 2.00pm and 4.00pm; we welcome members from church and from the community.

Much of the work done by the Craft Club is for charity, either for church funds or other charities as agreed by the members. In 2025 we have knitted or crocheted jumpers and cardigans for children in Ukraine, donated hearts to Arrowe Park Hospital, and knitted and crocheted goods for sale at Easter, in aid of church funds. This last endeavour was very successful and will certainly be repeated. We had our usual stall at the Christmas Fair, stocked with handmade Christmas goods made by our members, and we knitted and crocheted angels as part of our contribution to the Angel Festival in church.

We run the Craft Club on a very informal basis, with no-one particularly in charge but with all members discussing and agreeing our projects and direction. Everyone is welcome, even if you just want a hot drink and a chat.

Wendy Deverill, December 2025

17. COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Community Café is a joint venture with Meadowside Special School. We meet in the Parish Hall on Wednesday afternoons in term time. A team of senior students from Meadowside work in the kitchen, supervised by staff. The students serve hot drinks, cake, and clean and tidy the kitchen and hall at the end of the afternoon. This enables them to gain useful work experience and develop their social skills. They are a delightful group of young people whose friendliness and enthusiasm make the café a special place. The work of the Café in providing opportunities for young people and a warm space for members of the community to meet.

Revd Sister Janet Arnold (Rector), December 2025

18. MESSY CHURCH UPDATE FOR 2025.

Messy Church during 2025 went overall very well. Some months' attendances were low, sometimes it was very well attended. Even having our Messy Easter at the end of the school Easter break we had a really good number. The most we have had at any one time has been 18 and the least 6. The children come with a parent/guardian and engage with crafts linked to a topic/Bible Story, a short service in church and tea back in the Parish Community Hall. We have had babies and children up to age 10/11 attending and the average attendance over the last 11 months, we don't have a Messy Church in August, has been 9 children. We have, due to a variety of circumstances, lost some of our volunteers which means it has, at times, been difficult. We have had some people who have offered to help out when available and, as a team, we are very grateful. We would be very grateful for any offers of help, even if it's on a casual basis going forward. When low on volunteers and then something happens so one of our regular volunteers can't make it, it puts those remaining under pressure to fill the gaps.

I would like to extend my huge thanks to all those who have helped this last year; for the wonderful crafts that have been brought to help bring God's word to the children and their guardians; for the help in the services; for the help in the kitchen:

Thank you all very much indeed.

Susan Mountford (Administrator for Messy Church), January 2026

19. OPEN THE BOOK

During 2025 the ministry of the Open the Book team has continued to be suspended. This was due to the few members remaining in the team. Open the Book is an enjoyable and fun way to communicate the Bible in primary schools through short dramas to be used in collective worship. Previously, the team had been leading Collective Worship in Woodchurch, Holy Cross Church of England and Fender Primary Schools on alternate weeks.

This year Rev Janet applied to the Raby Schools Trust and was granted the sum of £500 to help relaunch the Open the Book team. The resources have previously been stored in the back of the Jubilee Rooms but following a storm, it was found that water was pouring into the back room where the props were stored and some had been ruined or needed repair. The costumes that were rescued were moved to the spare wardrobe space in the choir vestry. The Open the Book Team are looking for new members to re-launch our team.

Revd. Sr. Janet Arnold CA (Rector), December 2025

20. CHOIR

At present due to weather, and time constraints, it has been decided to run choir practise only as and when needed. Gill or I will let Sue Treanor know if it is going ahead in time for the pew sheet. These choir practises can be run by either of us. Mostly it will be to look at hymns or anthems. There are currently very few in the choir.

Suzy Chappell, January 2026

21. SCHOOLS LINKS:

Holy Cross Primary School

Our church school has had Julie Davies as acting headteacher and Laura Jones her deputy for part of the year and there have been executive heads put in place by the diocese to offer support for the school in raising standards. The new headteacher Mrs Zoe Carcerio started in September and we look forward to welcoming her on a Sunday at Holy Cross Church.

There have been 8 school church services this year. After chatting with the children last year, it was decided for most school services to bring only one key stage in at a time so that children could hear and see better in church. This had worked well but changed to whole school services in the Autumn Term. There were also an Ash Wednesday service for Key Stage 2 and a whole school Easter Service. Barbara and Jenny have faithfully supported the School Services with refreshments for the parents when they arrive after dropping off the children. The numbers of parents attending these services has dropped hugely since September, the parents say that they are not getting notices with enough warning so that they can attend. The school also held their own Harvest Service in church.

Class groups have also visited the church to learn about Baptism and the Church building. Revd Janet has led school collective worship, visited and supported teaching RE lessons in school and enjoyed chatting with the children over lunch. Revd Janet continues as an associate governor and led an introduction session for all staff in September during their inset day. The school have now completed their move over to the Chester Diocesan Academy Trust and a new Governing body has been set up.

Fender Primary School

Rev Janet briefly met with Headteacher Charles Hewitt and invited the school to be involved in the Angel Festival and offered Bible Explorer lessons for years 5 and 6 students. She expressed the hope that the Open the Book team at Holy Cross would be operational in 2026. Sadly, we have to delay the start of Open the Book team.

Ganneys Meadow School and Family Hub

Rev Janet met with Headteacher Mrs Kathryn Kennedy and invited the school to be involved in the Angel Festival. The school delivered an Angel for the Angel Festival and received a thank you letter.

Gilbrook Special School

Pupils from Gilbrook School, along with their teachers have visited Holy Cross Church a number of times bearing seasonal artwork for display at Easter, for Remembrance Day and an amazing interactive angel display for the Angel Festival in December. A class made a church visit and learned about Baptism, Holy Communion and church worship. Revd Janet has visited the school for the occasional special performance or collective worship. It has been good to build on good relationships.

Meadowside Special School.

Meadowside continues to run a Community Café during termtimes at Holy Cross Parish and Community Hall on Wednesday afternoons 1-2.45pm. This is a great opportunity to mix with family of some of the young people, staff and to support the youngsters in getting some helpful work experience. Revd Josie continues as the school Chair of Governors. In December, we were delighted to welcome the whole school and their families into Church for their fabulous annual re-telling of the Christmas story.

Woodchurch High School

Over the last year Revd Janet has only rarely been able to attend the school Prayer Meetings as they are now held on a Wednesday morning when preparations are happening for Holy Cross mid-week Holy Communion service. Sadly, this has been the only input we have had this year.

Revd. Sr. Janet Arnold CA (Rector), December 2025

A FINAL FEW WORDS

2025 has been a tough year... there was conflict within the Standing Committee and key people within the church since before I arrived in February 2024 and over time these conflicts continued to draw heat and encompass me too, though I had tried to resist this. The PCC meetings, Standing Committees and Monday Team Meetings were all affected by this conflict which I did not confront strongly enough. I had hoped and prayed that people would resolve their feelings and that love, grace and prayer were the answers. But, when in September, I had the tendered resignations of two key people within the church due to the behaviour of one person, I had to act. Sadly, already damage had been done within the trust of the congregation. I have found this hard to bear and to remain silent and not to explain my side of things when untruth, rumours and story have abounded. I am aware that there remains within me and others great sadness that things could not have turned out differently.

We have lost many dear and special friends from our congregation this year; Rosemarie, Frances, Maurice, Peter, Phil and Sally, and others have moved to care homes and we do not see them as often. The impact of their loss is shown in so many ways; their participation and knowledge at PCC and Standing Committees, their love and commitment to the Woodchurch Community and the loss of generous givers has meant a large drop in our regular giving. Only through some very generous one-off gifts have we made it through the year 'in the black' financially. This continues to be an on-going challenge. Sadly, I fear that unless things turnaround, some difficult decisions will have to be made.

We have also made new friends this year including friends from India and South Africa and from our own unique backyard of Woodchurch. The START! Course has helped people consider faith seriously and the CPO 'Life' sheets have been useful in helping people grow and learn the faith, practising our prayer with different methods and styles from the Lent Course based on the Lord's Prayer.

Friends have moved on to other places, including Revd. Josie and Christopher and we are so grateful for their time at Holy Cross, for the love and skills they shared, particularly all their work during the vacancy, Revd. Josie with Meadowside Café and their specialist knowledge brought to the Zoom Bible Study, which is greatly missed. Despite this, average numbers of adults on Sundays were only 2 down from 2024 and the average number of children attending remained at 3.

As I look back on the year I wonder at God's generous grace to us, his love beyond measure that He longs us to share within our friends and family, with neighbours and within our community. God has been faithful to us and led us through stormy seas and navigated us through challenging waters, and there will always be more adventures to come where he draws us close and calls us to follow Him closely, listening for His voice above the clamour of the world. He calls us to offer Him no less than everything.

Faithfully yours in Christ Jesus, Janet
Revd Sister Janet Arnold CA (Rector) January 2026

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WOODHURCH, HOLY CROSS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned Giving Gift Aid		33760		33760	37,503
Planned Giving Not Gift Aid		5,926		5,926	6,319
Collections at Services		0		0	0
All other giving	a)	18,571	375	18,946	11,960
Gift Aid Recovered		12,353		12,353	9,972
		70,610	375	70,985	65,754
Other Voluntary Income					
Grants and Legacies		0		0	836
Flowers		817		817	1,380
Activities for Generating Funds b)		7,383		7,383	9,330
		8,200	0	8,200	11,546
Investment Income					
Bank Interest					87
Dividends (CBF Investment Fund)		722		722	705
		722		722	792
Income from other sources					
Wedding and Funeral Fees		13,385		13,385	13,812
Lettings		5,495		5,495	12,306
Refunds (inc VAT)		398		398	843
From CCLA funds		0		0	0
From Deposit account		21,542		21,542	1,571
		40,820	0	40,820	28,532
Total receipts		120,352	375	120,727	106,624

PAYMENTS	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Church Activities					
Parish Share		33,259		33,259	39,466
Diocesan Fees			2,245	2,245	2,620
Mission and Charitable Giving					
		33,259	2,245	35,504	42,086
Salaries and Honoraria					
Parish Administrator		14,774		14,774	14,604
Retired Clergy			1,120	1,121	1,590
Verger			700	700	700
Gravedigger			2,810	2,810	2,225
Organists		3,705	785	4,490	4,885
Bell Ringers			350	350	365
Funeral admin/flowers			30	30	352
		18,479	5,795	24,275	24,721
Running Expenses					
Rectory Utilities/Council Tax		2,442		2,442	2,739
Incumbent Expenses		427		427	599
Mission and Evangelism to Children			534	534	578
Sundry Expenses		457		457	987
Insurance		6,815		6,815	3,268
Other expenses c)		3,072		3,072	3,191
Repairs and Maintenance		5,874		5,874	3,674
Service Requisites		768		768	1,352
Flowers		1,065		1,065	1,135
Admin		1,099		1,099	673
Churchyard Upkeep		34		34	0
Church utilities		3,202		3,202	4,325
		25,255	534	25,789	22,521
Cost of Trading					
PCH & JR Utilities		4,744		4,744	3,929
PCH & JR Maintenance		3,181		3,181	3,897
		7,925	0	7,925	7,826
Fundraising					
Cost of Fundraising		1,672		1,672	1,187
100 Club Prizes		745		745	925
		2,417	0	2,417	2,112
Other Outgoings					
Audit Fee		0		0	900
Surveys		0		0	0
Transfers to Deposit Account			25,111	25,111	4,787
		0	25,111	25,111	5,687
Total Payments		87,335	33,685	121,021	104,953
Cash in bank account at 1st January 2025				23,815	18,640
Interest on Deposit account				345	289
Cash in bank accounts at 31st December 2025				27,442	23,815

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WOODHURCH, HOLY CROSS

FURTHER ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
RECEIPTS					
a) All Other Giving					
Donations		18,571		18,751	11,439
Admin		0		0	0
Wall Fund			375	375	521
		18,571	375	19,126	11,960
b) Activities for Generating Funds					
Fund Raising Activities		3,913		3,913	4,762
100 Club		1,645		1,645	1,870
Tower of Light		1,825		1,825	2,598
		7,383	0	7,383	9,230
PAYMENTS					
c) Other Expenses					
Organ & Piano Maintenance		893		893	310
Bank Charges		307		307	594
Music Licences		551		551	949
Photocopier		1,321		1,321	1,338
		3,072		3,072	3,191

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WOODHURCH, HOLY CROSS

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Cash Funds				
Barclays Current Account	1880	375	2255	2543
Barclays Deposit Account	18043	7144	25187	21272
Total	19923	7519	27442	23815
CCLA Funds				
CBF Deposit Fund	4649		4649	4447
Hayward Trust		1426	1426	1364
Sanctuary Fund		4466	4466	4273
Youth Fund		1510	1510	1445
Enhancement Fund		2142	2142	2050
Rector & Churchwarden's Fund	15811		15811	15217
Total	20460	9544	30004	28796
Debtors				
Nil				
Investments	Reserve Fund	Churchyard Fund	Total value	Total value
	Number Value (£)	Number Value (£)	2025	2024
	443 27485	1124 24952	52437	53800

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WOODHURCH, HOLY CROSS

**RESTRICTED FUNDS HELD IN DEPOSIT ACCOUNT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	2025	2024
Sunday School Fund	500	500
Donkey Fund	100	100
Wall Fund	2885	2850
Discretionary Fund (those in need)	1667	1667
Bell Fund	286	190
Choir Fund	372	1200
Childrens Work	544	1000
Churchyard Fund	640	400
Wedding Fees	150	100
Total	7144	8007

**DESIGNATED FUNDS HELD IN DEPOSIT ACCOUNT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

Craft Club	152	152
Tower of Light	2030	4541
Total	2182	4693

**UNRESTRICTED FUNDS HELD IN DEPOSIT ACCOUNT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

Interest from previous year	333	
Interest paid 2025	345	333
Chester Grant	183	239
Unallocated trf from CCLA 2024	8000	8000
In Memoriam	7000	
Total	15861	8572

Total in deposit account	25187	21272
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**RESTRICTED FUNDS HELD IN CURRENT ACCOUNT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	2025	2024
Churchyard Fund	0	0
Wall Fund	376	841
Total in current account	376	841

Grand Total	25563	22113
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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY CROSS, WOODCHURCH - 0110**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2025, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("The Regulations") and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view by the financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement

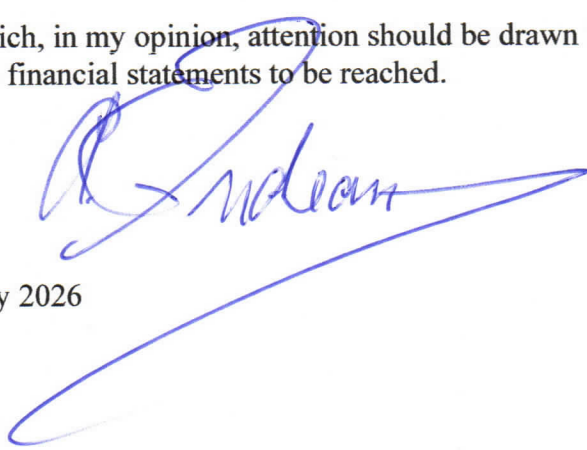
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - . to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and to prepare
 - . financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the
 - . requirements of the Act and the Regulations

have not been met; or

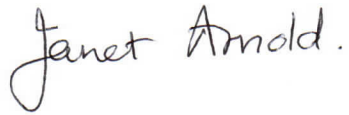
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

A Endean
28th February 2026



HOLY CROSS WOODCHURCH PARISH CHURCH

These financial statements were approved by the PCC on 4th February 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Arnold." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Name: Revd Sister Janet Arnold CA

Position: Rector

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY CROSS, WOODCHURCH - 0110**

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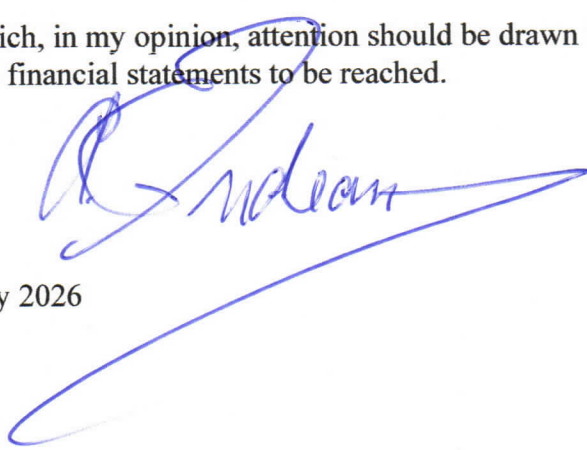
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- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

A Endean
28th February 2026



Accounts

**HOLY CROSS
WOODCHURCH PARISH CHURCH**

registered charity number 1174003

**2024 ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**



Chair

Revd Sr Janet Arnold CA
Rector

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs Wendy Deverill
31 Yew Tree Close
Arrowe Park
CH49 5PA

Hon Secretary

Professor Christopher Tuplin
5 Beryl Road
Prenton
CH 43 9RS

Growing disciples of Christ

“See what great love the Father has
lavished on us, that we should be called
children of God! And that is what we
are!” 1 John 3:1 (NIV)

HOLY CROSS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS DURING 2024

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

RECTOR

In vacancy until 4 February 2024
 Revd Sister Janet Arnold CA -from 4 February 2024 (chair)

CHURCHWARDENS

Mr Roy Milne (from 28 April 2019) (Vice-Chair)
 Mrs Wendy Deverill (1st term April 2026)

CLERGY MEMBER ON CHESTER DIOCESAN SYNOD

Revd Sister Janet Arnold CA (from September 2024)

LAY MEMBER ON CHESTER DIOCESAN SYNOD

Mr Ian McKenzie

LAY REPRESENTATIVES ON BIRKENHEAD DEANERY SYNOD

Mrs Jenny Davies (term ends 30 June 2026)
 Ms Elian Davies (term ends 30 June 2026)
 Mrs Wendy Deverill (term ends 30 June 2026)

ELECTED MEMBERS

Secretary

Professor Christopher Tuplin (term ends April 2025)

Safeguarding Officer

Mr Paul Mountford (term ended 2024, new term ends April 2027)
 Mrs Sue Dempsey (resigned March 2024)
 Mrs Jo Hipps (term ends April 2026)
 Dr Roy Palmer (term ends April 2026)

Mrs Pat Clark (term ends April 2025)
 Mrs Sally Felix (term ends April 2025)
 Mrs Barbara McKenzie (term ends April 2025)

Mrs Enid Dearden (term ended 2024, new term ends April 2027)
 Mrs Sue Mountford (term ended 2024, new term ends April 2027)
 Mrs Barbara Taylor (term ended April 2024)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

The Revd Canon David Felix
 The Revd Josie Tuplin

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Sue Treanor (Parish Administrator)

BANK:

Barclays Bank

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Tony Endean

Accounts approved by the PCC on 9 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

.....

Revd Sister Janet Arnold CA (Chairperson)

Professor Christopher Tuplin (Secretary)

Objectives and Activities

This is the 27th Annual Report of Woodchurch Parochial Church Council (the PCC) which has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, the Reverend Sister Janet Arnold CA, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical, in the ecclesiastical parish of Holy Cross Woodchurch, Chester Diocese, within the Church of England. The PCC also has responsibilities relating to the maintenance of the parish church and churchyard, for the Parish Community Hall and other PCC-owned property. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. There is also a limited power of co-option. The ex officio members are the clergy licensed to the parish, the churchwardens and the lay members and representatives on the Diocesan and Deanery Synods. The PCC is also spiritually responsible for the maintenance of the church. The correspondence address is: The Parish Office c/o 20, Eltham Green, Arrowe Park CH49 5NG. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a registered charity (number 1174003).

The PCC is committed to enabling as many as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Holy Cross. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services and social occasions can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, sacrament and music, sending us out for service and mission in the community and world. Through the Occasional Offices we listen to the needs of the community and share with them the Good News of God's love made personal through Jesus. Also, through prayerful support and activities such as baptism and funeral ministry, hospitality, Messy Church, school services, school visits and leading collective worship, we work with local schools, particularly the Church primary school and we aim to reach out to unchurched members of the community.

Our Vision Statement

In July 2019 the PCC adopted "Growing disciples of Christ" as a summary of our core purpose. Our vision is to be a welcoming, growing, all-age Christian community faithfully proclaiming the love of God in word and deed. Our verse for 2024 was: "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1). As such, may we continue to discern what God is calling us to do in our church and wider community to reach all whom we wish to know of the Good News Jesus offers to everyone.

Public benefit

The trustees of the PCC 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 Cross, Woodchurch, the PCC helps to promote the whole mission of the Church by following Christ and growing disciples in Christ, through vocation, discipleship, and evangelism, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public.

Worship Services

The worship service pattern at Holy Cross Church during 2024 has centred on the principal eucharistic service at 10am Sunday mornings with music led by organists (Suzy Chapman and Gill Locke) and a robed choir. There are also eucharistic services at 8am on Sundays and at 10am on Wednesdays. The first Sunday in the month 10am Eucharist has been shortened and made more 'All Age' friendly during 2024. In addition, Holy Cross has hosted a monthly Sunday Choral Evensong service from St. Saviour's (whilst they are in vacancy). There has been the re-introduction of healing prayer offered during the fourth Sunday principal service, led by clergy

and lay persons. Printed sheets have been provided for children on the theme of the lectionary readings which are followed at Holy Cross. This year the focus has been on the Old Testament and gospel Bible readings. The churchmanship of Holy Cross is catholic and traditional in style. During Lent a series of 8am Thursday morning eucharists were held, followed by a welcome breakfast. There have been fewer occasional offices at Holy Cross this year with a decrease in the number of Baptisms: 28 baptisms (less than 1 year = 13; ages 1-4 = 6; ages 5-10 = 4; ages 11-17 = 2; Adult = 3). Only 3 weddings and 12 funerals were held in church, with 4 additional funerals at Landican Cemetery only and 6 interment of ashes in the churchyard. The drop in numbers coming for baptism may be in part due to the drop in the local birth rate which is now affecting next year's school intake.

Activity Reports on the Life of the Parish 2023-2024

1. THE PCC; Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a Body Corporate established by the Church of England (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission. The PCC is governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended that came into effect on 2nd January 1957 and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council at Holy Cross comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the Electoral Roll. Congregation members are encouraged and supported to take on new roles and to stand for election to the PCC.

PCC REPORT

The previous two PCC reports, particularly the most recent, have been marked by the references to the vacancy which ran from January 2023 to February 2024. Since 4 February 2024 this issue has thankfully gone away.

Elections at the 2024 APCM left PCC with three vacancies but the co-option of Revd Josie Tuplin and Revd Canon David Felix added strength to the committee. There were seven PCC meetings in 2024, at which (as usual) a wide range of matters of concern to the church and community was discussed. There has fortunately been rather less need for talk about the graveyard or the boundary wall than in some recent years. A new Health and Safety Officer has been appointed and issues around Safeguarding training are being addressed. Fundraising remains a concern, but the Christmas trip took place, as did a Christmas Fair.

Christopher Tuplin (PCC Secretary), January 2024

2. THE ELECTORAL ROLL

At the end of December 2024 there were 129 persons on the Electoral Roll of the parish. Of these 52 were resident in the parish (40%) and 77 were non-resident (60%). During 2024 six new names were added to the Roll, and six church members on the Roll sadly passed away, leaving the total on Roll unchanged from December 2023.

The Diocese requires that a new Electoral Roll be prepared before the 2025 Annual Parish Church Meeting by the end of May. This means that for 28 days prior to that the Roll will be closed for additions or amendments.

Ian McKenzie (Electoral Roll Officer), December 2024

3. THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31 December 2024

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Barclays Bank	23,815	18,640
Shares at CCLA	53,800	51,868
Short term deposits (CCLA)	28,796	27,259
	106,411	97,767
FUNDS		
Unrestricted funds in current account	1702	751
Restricted Funds in current account	841	
Unrestricted funds in deposit account	13,265	
Restricted Funds in deposit account	8,007	17,889
Unrestricted funds in CCLA	19,664	4,224
Restricted Funds in CCLA	9,132	23,035
Shares in CCLA	53,800	51,868
TOTAL FUNDS	106,411	97,767

Restricted and designated funds are kept in our deposit account to separate them from our general funds, which are used for our normal running costs and which are kept in our current account. Restricted Funds are those where the donor has specified the use of the donation; designated funds are those where the PCC has decided what a specific amount of money e.g. fund-raising, will be used for.

Our income from planned giving has been relatively stable throughout 2024, at around £3500 each month, and we have received some generous one-off donations. My thanks go to everyone who gives to our church in whatever way, as we could not manage without any of you.

Our fundraising in 2024 has been both enjoyable and successful, although reduced owing to Ian McKenzie's period of ill health. We are delighted that he is making a good recovery and look forward to more social events in 2025. A coach trip was arranged to Boundary Mill and Barton Grange garden centre, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. The Christmas Fair was very well supported and raised almost £2000, to which £750 was added by Barclays Bank from their charitable giving to causes supported by retired staff. Thanks go to everyone who helped with the organisation and running of the fair and to Lilian Peers for securing the funding from Barclays. The sale of calendars made using old photographs of the Church and Woodchurch Village raised £250.

The Tower of Light service was, as always, very popular not just with our regular congregation but also others from the wider community. The total raised was very nearly £2500. I would like to thank Sue Treanor who first conceived this service eleven years ago and who works so hard every year to make it such a success.

Hirings of the Parish Community Hall and the Jubilee Rooms have generated a profit of almost £4500 this year, which is a little more than last year. The number of children's parties and hire to family groups has increased, but of course the associated heating costs have risen also. Our fixed price gas and electricity contracts finished at the beginning of December 2024 and the new contracts are inevitably more expensive.

Our income in 2024 has exceeded our expenditure, and Holy Cross has been able to meet all our commitments in full, including the Parish Share. We do not have a large surplus and we must not be complacent, but we continue to make ends meet and have not needed to use any of our reserves.

I would like to record my thanks to everyone at Holy Cross for their generosity this year.

Wendy Deverill (Treasurer), January 2025

4. THE CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

2024 started with the Parish still in a Vacancy and, although Revd Sr Janet Arnold CA had been appointed as the new Rector of Holy Cross, her Induction was not held until 4 February. Once the newly appointed Rector had taken up residency in the Rectory our agreement with the diocese to undertake a "duty of care" role ended.

Throughout the vacancy we owe our grateful thanks to Revd Josie and all of the various visiting clergy for their continued spiritual guidance. We also wish to thank our PCC Secretary Christopher for tremendous work with the arrangements for the Induction Service.

Throughout the year we have between ourselves continued to ensure the approaches in and around the Church, Car Park and Parish Community Hall are kept safe and tidy. Temporary repairs were needed to potholes in the car park, and we have also dealt with repairs and updating to the noticeboard and numerous service engineer visits as well as gas, electric and water meter readings and out-of-hours security call-outs to the Church. We have, on occasion, helped at funerals and have also been involved with the Meadows School Christmas service, the parish's Easter, Remembrance Day and All Souls services and the Christmas decoration of the church.

We spent many hours updating the Parish Terrier in preparation for the Archdeacon's Inspection which was held in June as well as attending his Visitation service on the same evening for which we travelled to Christleton.

In September the annual Heritage Open Day was very successful and, as well as viewing displays of information about the church and old photographs, visitors were taken up the church tower. Twelve of the photographs on display have been used by Wendy in the production of a 2025 calendar.

We were pleased to appoint Janette Hamlet as our cleaner for both the church and hall buildings but sadly she has recently decided to retire. A replacement has been found and Joyce Duggan has already taken up her duties.

In addition to our duties as Wardens in church we have also been acting as caretaker for both halls. We have been unsuccessful in finding anyone prepared to undertake this role which entails opening and closing either building when hired out for celebrations.

We have regularly attended Standing Committee and PCC Meetings and on occasion been asked to chair them. We have also attended several meetings in the Rectory.

Recently we had the electrical circuits checked and certified and had a Portable Appliances test done for all three buildings, as well as for the office equipment used by the Parish Administrator. We took the opportunity, as suggested by the church architect when undertaking the quinquennial insurance inspection report, to upgrade the church lighting levels.

We have both undertaken safeguarding training in accordance with diocesan requirements.

Sadly, due to an incident late in 2023 Rob Sadler was late in returning in 2024 to attend to the graveyard grass cutting and in view of unseasonable weather thereafter it was never fully completed. A complaint was received regarding ivy growing down the boundary wall and obstructing the pavement in Pool Lane. This was removed by both of us. The guttering channels along the roof and the downspout drains have all be cleared.

The lack of funds has prevented any movement on the repairs needed to the boundary wall and during the winter storm the roofing felt has been blown off part of the Jubilee Room.

We are pleased to announce that the new area set-aside for the Interment of Cremated Remains is now available.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Wendy for all of her time and availability in sharing our duties which she undertakes in addition to being our Treasurer.

In April 2025 I will have completed my six years as your Warden and will be retiring. I take this opportunity to thank you all, PCC Members and Congregation with the hope that I have served you justly and well.

Roy Milne and Wendy Deveril (Churchwardens), January 2025

5. HALLS REPORTS

Parish Community Hall.

As Wardens we still attend to opening and closing the hall before and after functions. Children's Birthday Parties are still very popular. A rather hurried re-arrangement was needed during the school summer holidays to accommodate the Whizz Kids holiday club. We have welcomed on several occasions groups of Indian families for celebration events and during the General Election a couple of electioneering meeting were held.

The Craft Club is still proving to be very popular to Parish life and a successful Christmas Fair was organised and well attended as was the Tower of Light. Meadowside Community Café is proving very popular since their summer vacation.

Sadly, the Community Choir *Voices in the Woods* has disbanded and no replacement booking has yet been found.

We have attended at service engineer visits and Wirral Borough Council Pest Control still visits. Cleaning duties are now undertaken by a newly appointed cleaner.

Roy Milne (Halls Manager), January 2025

Jubilee Rooms.

The AA, NA, bereavement counselling, a local Housing Resident's group and Elian Davies (Wellbeing) as our regular user groups have recently been joined by a new community choir *The Jubilee Singers*. On occasions a group of Indian gentlemen have used the facility for meetings. Both the Junior Majorettes group and the Indian Children's learning group have not returned.

The roof over the north side of the building is in need of major repairs/replacement.

Roy Milne (Halls Manager), January 2025

6. THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE PARISH CHURCH

The Parish Terrier has been updated this year in readiness for the Archdeacon's Inspection. The current situation is reported in that document.

Roy Milne and Wendy Deveril (Churchwardens), January 2025

7. BIRKENHEAD DEANERY SYNOD

Holy Cross is one of the ten parishes that make up the Birkenhead Deanery. Elected to represent our parish at the APCM in April 2023 for the three year period 2023 – 2026 were Jenny Davies, Elian Davies and Wendy Deverill. Also on the synod from Holy Cross is Ian McKenzie, who is the Deanery Secretary. The synod meets three times a year at a different parish in the deanery. On 12 February 2024 the meeting was at St. Paul with St. Luke Tranmere when the guest speaker before the business meeting was Katy Herrera, the Families, Children and Youth Advisor for the Chester Diocese, whose presentation was entitled "Growing Faith": this is a movement (involving churches, schools and households working together) that exists to change the culture of the Church of England so that everyone instinctively puts children, young people and families at the heart of mission and ministry in the church.

It was announced in early June that our Rural Dean, Revd Dr Joe Kennedy had been appointed Bishop of Burnley in the Blackburn diocese. Joe had been the vicar of St. Saviour's Oxtun since 2011 and rural Dean since 2021.

The next meeting on 13 June was at St. Peter's Church Rock Ferry, when the guest speaker was Revd Peter Froggatt (Diocesan Director for Outreach), who described a new outreach course being prepared for parishes in the diocese. It is broken down into three sections: (i) Sharing God's life, (ii) Sharing your life and (iii) Sharing your faith. (A copy of the full text of the talk, and the talks at the other deanery meetings, can be obtained from Ian McKenzie.)

Elections to the Diocesan Synod from the deanery resulted in the appointment of Revd Keith Addenbrooke, Revd Sr Janet Arnold, Revd Matt Graham and Revd James Terry to the House of Clergy and Tony Endean (St. Oswald's), Ian McKenzie (Holy Cross) and Martin Smith (St. Catherine's) to the House of Laity.

The last meeting of the year was held at Holy Cross on 24 October and was chaired by Revd Paul Bentley from the Priory Parish, the newly appointed Rural Dean for the Birkenhead Deanery. The guest speakers were Revd Canon Simon Chesters (Diocesan Director of Ministry) and his deputy Revd Jenny Bridgman. They described their work, which covers a range of activities seeking to encourage, equip and develop the calling of all God's people while supporting those in a wide variety of lay and ordained ministries.

Ian McKenzie (Deanery Synod Secretary), December 2024

8. THE BIRKENHEAD CHURCH AID SOCIETY was established over 100 years ago to support clergy and lay members of churches in the Birkenhead Deanery area as they trained for the ministry or as Lay Readers or Pastoral Workers. These days the society is managed by the Deanery Standing Committee and makes grants for the purchase of books and course materials to members of parishes in the deanery who are in training. Its funding comes from investment interest and donations when needed from the parishes in the deanery.

Ian McKenzie (Deanery Synod Secretary), December 2024

9. SAFEGUARDING

All members of the PCC at Holy Cross have a current DBS and have undergone Safeguarding training.

A Safeguarding Policy has been drafted, currently awaiting approval from incumbent and the PCC. An action plan will follow.

There have been no cases that have required intervention from the Diocese.

Paul Mountford (Safeguarding Officer), January 2025

10. PARISH MINISTRY TEAM

Holy Cross is blessed to have a team of lay and ordained members led by the Rector, Revd Sr Janet Arnold CA, capably supported by Revd Josie Tuplin (Honorary Assistant Priest), Sue Mountford (Reader) and Sue Treanor (Parish Administrator). They have met as a team on Monday mornings (in person or via zoom) following Morning Prayer to share in conversation around the life of the parish. The Parish Ministry Team oversees worship, pastoral care, adult discipleship and mission and outreach in the parish. Members of the team work with the incumbent, churchwardens and the PCC to share in leading worship and preaching and to offer pastoral and administrative support in the life of the parish. They provide regular updates and reports on this work for the PCC. Revd Canon David Felix (Honorary Assistant Priest) also leads worship regularly and supports the team. Revd John McKae, having started the year at Holy Cross and given support during the vacancy, decided to move to another parish to offer support during their vacancy. Holy Cross is a busy parish and the work shared across the team is invaluable.

Revd Sister Janet Arnold CA (Rector), December 2024

11. READER UPDATE FOR 2024.

I have enjoyed another year of serving God and all who attend worship at Holy Cross. I have preached on Sundays at 8am and 10am services. I also led at the Last Hour at the Cross on Good Friday and, with my reader colleague from St Saviour's, led choral evensong in October.

I completed year 5 of reader training in April and received my degree from Chester University at a ceremony held on 8 November 2024 at Chester Cathedral.

I continue to be thankful for the love and support I receive from everyone at Holy Cross Church.

Susan Mountford (Reader), December 2024

12. PASTORAL CARE

Revds Janet and Josie work alongside visitors from within the congregation to offer pastoral visits for members of the congregation at home, in hospital and in sheltered homes or nursing care. Revd Janet has managed to visit at least 70 members of the congregation in their homes at least once this year and sometimes as many as three church members in hospital at one time. Home Communion was offered before Easter and Christmas and on request to those who have been unable to get to church, which sadly has been an increasing number. Pastoral care is also offered within the parish community, to offer a listening ear and prayer or, on a number of occasions, to pray around someone's house. It is a real privilege to be able to minister in this way. There are also caring members of the congregation who regularly phone those who are sick or unwell, which is invaluable.

Revd Sister Janet Arnold CA (Rector), December 2024

13. ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

The **START! course** was run for 6 weeks in July and August of this year and although two members started, only one completed the course. It is hoped to run the course on an irregular basis. The lady who completed the START! course has continued to develop her faith through Bible reading and discipleship sheets which Revd Janet has been working through with her. Hopefully another series of START! will begin in the new year. This is an excellent course and Bernie Gallivan and I have really enjoyed running it.

Revd Sister Janet Arnold CA (Rector), December 2024

Zoom Bible Study began during the first lockdown in 2020 and continues to flourish. There are currently 13 members ranging in age from mid-thirties to early-nineties who gather on Tuesday evenings to explore the relevance of the Bible in our daily lives and end the evening with a service of Compline. Highlights of 2024 include the story of Joseph in Genesis, the first 5 chapters of Revelation and the Book of Proverbs. We are currently about a third of the way through the Gospel of John. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Revd Josie Tuplin (Hon. Assistant Priest), January 2025

14. SOCIAL AND FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES

In the continued absence of a Social and Fund Raising Committee of the PCC there were fewer activities than in previous years but things did start again from September onwards. On the weekend of Holy Cross Day the parish again supported the Wirral Heritage event when, like many Wirral buildings and sites, we welcomed many visitors to explore our ancient parish church and grounds. On 27 September members of the church hosted the now annual Coffee Morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support and raised a fantastic £765 for the charity.

The weeks leading up to the end of 2024 were a busy and enjoyable time with planned Social and Fund Raising events. On Friday 15 November there was the annual pre-Christmas Shopping coach trip to Boundary Mill at Colne in Lancashire followed by a visit to Barton Grange Garden Centre.

On 23 November our Christmas Fair was held in the Parish Community Hall. It was well supported by the local community, and very pleasing to our Treasurer was the record amount raised. Then on 1 December the "Tower of Light" was switched on following a well attended service in church. The event was organised again by Sue Treanor (our Parish Administrator) with her husband Andy

and their band of helpers, who put on a great display, with lights mounted on the church tower that were visible across the parish and from Oxtan and Prenton. The "Switch On" was followed by mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments in the hall, and many families took the opportunity to put their remembrances on the Christmas Tree in church and make generous donations to church as well.

Ian McKenzie, December 2024

15. MOTHERS UNION

Mothers' Union meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Community Parish Hall. We have had a varied programme of speakers and events during the year. All are welcome to join us at our meetings. At Holy Cross our branch continues to support Mothers' Union Diocesan projects at home and abroad with donations and Prayers.

Jenny Davies, December 2024

16. CRAFT CLUB

The Craft Club meets Monday afternoons 2-4pm fortnightly in the warm, welcoming space of the Parish and Community Hall and is open to everyone, including those who don't attend church. It offers a friendly atmosphere where people can enjoy a good natter while creating handmade items for seasonal fundraising at Easter and Christmas. During 2024 we made cream egg Easter mice, poppies for display on Remembrance Sunday and Christmas crafts for the fair to raise funds for Church. The club also supports charitable causes, for example making children's jumpers for Ukraine: over 35 jumpers have been made by our Craft Club this year and sent to Ukraine. Craft Club is all about bringing the community together to craft, chat and make a difference.

Sue Treanor (Parish Administrator), January 2025

17. COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Community Café is a joint venture with our neighbours at Meadowside Special School. We meet in the Parish Hall on Wednesday afternoons in term time. A team of senior students from Meadowside work in the kitchen, serve hot drinks and cake, and clean and tidy the kitchen and hall at the end of the afternoon. This enables them to gain useful work experience and develop their social skills. They are a delightful group of young people whose friendliness and enthusiasm are what make the café so special. The work of the Café in providing opportunities for young people and a warm space for members of the community to meet was recognised by a grant from the Evolve Wirral Fund in 2024.

Revd Josie Tuplin (Hon. Assistant Priest), January 2025

18. MESSY CHURCH UPDATE FOR 2024.

Messy Church has been held once a month throughout the year, except for August. We have a planning meeting, usually two weeks before, when we decide theme and crafts and plan the service. We focused on stories from the Old Testament for a while and then returned to Remembrance in November.

The number of children along with their carer(s) does vary from month to month. The lowest has been 6, due to a school parents' evening the same day. The most we have had has been 19. Over the last 12 months the numbers have averaged out to 11 children each month.

Messy Church continues to be enjoyed by all who attend, children and adults alike. The crafts are always well constructed and well thought out for that month's theme. Engagement in the service is positive and the tea always goes down a treat!

Our volunteers are amazing and I'm so thankful for the commitment they make to this ministry – for their time, their craft ideas and their help in the services. If anyone would like to join our team you would be very welcome. Please speak to any one of us. Thank you.

Susan Mountford (Administrator for Messy Church), January 2025

19. OPEN THE BOOK

During 2024 the ministry of the Open the Book team has been suspended. This was due in part to the sad and sudden death of leader Diane Adams in December 2023. The team had been leading Collective Worship in Woodchurch, Holy Cross Church of England and Fender Primary Schools in alternate weeks. The Open the Book charity has produced a new set of guidelines. There is a charge for membership and groups are required to use a new book. New books will need to be purchased and membership of the organisation restarted before the team can begin work again. This is an enjoyable and fun way to communicate the Bible in primary schools and is an opportunity it would be sad to miss. After a break during 2024, it is hoped that the team will restart in 2025 and we are always looking for new members to join our team.

Revd Sr. Janet Arnold CA (Rector), December 2024

20. CHOIR

This year we may note the introduction of the Celtic Alleluia in April, the reintroduction of the Gradual hymn, the choir's contribution to the Induction service in February and the 15 or so anthems the choir sang during 10am service in the course of the year. Because the conditions set by the departing incumbent at St Saviours resulted in the cancellation of Choral Evensong services there for the duration of the vacancy, our organist Gill Locke and members of the choir co-operated with the St Saviours choir in mounting such services at Holy Cross in June, July, September and October, and will continue to do so in 2025 so long as the St Saviours vacancy lasts.

Christopher Tuplin (Choir master), January 2025

21. SCHOOLS LINKS

Holy Cross Primary School

Our church school has been in to church for eleven services this year and Barbara and Jenny have supported with refreshments for the parents when they arrive early. After chatting with children who couldn't hear or see anything in church services because of lack of clear microphone use, pillars obscuring the view or just quiet children's voices, it was decided for most school services to bring only one Key Stage in at a time. This has worked well and the interaction with children has increased. Class groups have also visited the church to learn about Baptism and the Church building. Revd Janet has led school collective worship, visited lessons, enjoyed chatting with the children over lunch, and taught year 5 and 6 pupils Bible Explorer Old Testament lessons. Revd Janet led a morning for staff in September during their inset day. The school has become part of the Chester Diocesan Academy Trust and a new Governing body is being set up. Julie Davies has been acting headteacher and Laura Jones her deputy for the entire year, and executive heads (both of them head teachers of Church of England Primary schools) have been put in place by the diocese to offer support.

Gilbrook Special School

Pupils from Gilbrook School, along with their teachers, have visited Holy Cross Church a number of times bearing seasonal artwork for display – crosses at Easter and poppies for Remembrance Day. A class made a church visit and learned about Baptism, Holy Communion and church worship. Revd Janet visited the school for the Remembrance Service and Christmas collective worship and bake sale. She was shown around the school and farm and met with staff. It has been good to begin to build relationships here.

Fender Primary School

The regular contact with Fender Primary School has been through the Open the Book team over the last few years. Sadly, we have not been able to offer this resource during 2024 but hope to re-start soon. There is a new headteacher at the school and we look forward to getting to know him and the school better in 2025.

Woodchurch High School

Over the last year Revd Janet has visited the chaplaincy team, taken part in Easter Assemblies for the whole school and attended Prayer Meetings when possible. Now that the prayer meetings have moved to a Wednesday morning, it is much more difficult to attend them, as they clash with Wednesday Holy Communion services in church. Revds Josie and Janet also welcomed a class of year 7 pupils into the church as they explored church music, robes, baptism and holy communion. Revd Janet attended at event at the High School when Archbishop Stephen Cottrell visited. It was also good to display an art exhibition of work by year 6 children in church: the High School worked with year 6 pupils from our church primary school to produce this work.

Revd. Sr. Janet Arnold CA (Rector), December 2024

Meadowside Special School.

Our links with Meadowside Special School, where Revd Josie is now Chair of Governors, continue to develop and flourish. Throughout 2024, we continued to work with students from the school in our Community Café and, in December, we were delighted to welcome the whole school and their families into Church for their wonderful annual re-telling of the Christmas story.

Revd Josie Tuplin (Hon. Assistant Priest), January 2025

A FINAL FEW WORDS

It is good to be back at Holy Cross and living in Woodchurch parish again. The licensing service on 4 February was meticulously planned here at Woodchurch, beautiful flowers filled the church, the organist and choir had been practising and led the varied worship with distinction, and the buffet tables of refreshments were groaning – what a lovely welcome back. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make it a lovely occasion: it really was special, thank you! A huge thank you to Revd Josie who led the church during the vacancy so ably, supported by Revds David, John and Gordon, and also to Wendy and Roy as Churchwardens, who kept things going in terms of the buildings, halls and in so many other ways. Each one gave so generously of their time and energy, thank you.

I know that God has called me back here to Holy Cross, Woodchurch and I look forward to working alongside the ministry team, churchwardens, PCC and members of the church and the community as we seek to serve God and make him known in this parish and beyond. It has been good to meet my new colleagues on the ministry team (and I'm so grateful for Sue Treanor's continued work and ministry) and Deacon Ellie at the Methodist Church. I look forward to us doing more together ecumenically.

Since the Rural Dean Revd Dr Joe Kennedy left St Saviours Church in June to become the Bishop of Burnley, both Revd Josie and I have been supporting the churchwardens in Oxtun and leading services of Holy Communion, Weddings and the occasional funeral.

I have had the privilege of visiting over seventy church members in their homes during 2024: thank you to so many who have welcomed me so warmly. There have been many visits to those at Arrowe Park Hospital too during 2024. I do not know if I will ever complete visiting all those on the church electoral roll, but I shall try.

Yes, there are challenges ahead at Holy Cross Church and joys along the way. We are sad that beloved members of the congregation are now worshipping with the angels in glory; we miss them, but we also rejoice at new faces and members in the congregation.

There is so much going on in this parish, particularly with the large number of schools we are blessed with on the estate. We have amazing opportunities, so please continue to pray that we make the most of these opportunities for mission and faith sharing. We hold to our vision statement, "Growing disciples of Christ", as we are each called to proclaim in word and deed the love of God, his transforming forgiveness and healing in our lives as we reach out to others.

Revd Sister Janet Arnold CA (Rector) January 2025

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WOODHURCH, HOLY CROSS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned Giving Gift Aid		37503		37503	28,920
Planned Giving Not Gift Aid		6,319		6,319	8,000
Collections at Services		0		0	0
All other giving a)		8,212	3,748	11,960	13,569
Gift Aid Recovered		9,972		9,972	9,755
		62,006	3,748	65,754	60,244
Other Voluntary Income					
Grants and					
Legacies			836	836	0
Flowers			1,380	1,380	830
Activities for Generating Funds					
b)		5,797	3,533	9,330	9,106
		5,797	5,749	11,546	9,936
Investment Income					
Bank Interest		87		87	98
Dividends (CBF Investment Fund)		705		705	695
		792		792	793
Income from other sources					
Wedding and Funeral Fees		5,263	8,549	13,812	17,027
Lettings		12,306		12,306	10,190
Refunds (inc VAT)		843		843	1,031
From CCLA funds		0		0	8,150
From Deposit account			1,571	1,571	2,941
From No 2 account					0
		18,412	10,120	28,532	39,339
Total receipts		87,007	19,617	106,624	110,313

PAYMENTS	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
Church Activities					
Parish Share		39,466		39,466	37,587
Diocesan Fees			2,620	2,620	2,096
Mission and Charitable Giving					
		39,466	2,620	42,086	39,683
Salaries and Honoraria					
Parish Administrator		14,604		14,604	14,097
Retired Clergy			1,590	1,590	2,286
Verger			700	700	850
Gravedigger			2,225	2,225	2,375
Organists		3,930	955	4,885	5,729
Bell Ringers			365	365	500
Funeral admin/flowers			352	352	500
		18,534	6,187	24,721	26,337
Running Expenses					
Rectory Utilities/Council Tax		2,739		2,739	1,355
Incumbent Expenses		599		599	0
Mission and Evangelism to Children			578	578	426
Sundry Expenses		987		987	857
Insurance		3,268		3,268	6,434
Other expenses	c)	3,191		3,191	2,245
Repairs and Maintenance		3,674		3,674	4,740
Service Requisites		1,352		1,352	1,944
Flowers		1,135		1,135	1,294
Admin		673		673	499
Churchyard Upkeep		0		0	4,179
Church utilities		4,325		4,325	5,891
		21,943	578	22,521	29,866
Cost of Trading					
PCH & JR Utilities		3,929		3,929	3,483
PCH & JR Maintenance		3,897		3,897	2,872
		7,826	0	7,826	6,355
Fundraising					
Cost of Fundraising			1,187	1,187	2,350
100 Club Prizes			925	925	1,120
			2,112	2,112	3,470
Other Outgoings					
Audit Fee		900		900	840
Surveys		0		0	0
Transfers to Deposit Account			4,787	4,787	20,664
		900	4,787	5,687	21,504
Total Payments		88,669	16,284	104,953	127,214
Excess of Receipts over payments		-1,662	3,333	1,671	-16,902
Net transfers between funds				-3,216	
				-1,545	

Cash in bank account at 1st January 2024	18,640
Interest on Deposit account	289
Cash in bank accounts at 31st December 2024	23,815

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WOODHURCH, HOLY CROSS

FURTHER ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
RECEIPTS					
a) All Other Giving					
Donations		8,212	3,227	11,439	12,451
Admin		0		0	140
Wall Fund			521	521	978
		8,212	3,748	11,960	13,569
b) Activities for Generating Funds					
Fund Raising Activities		4,762		4,762	8,522
100 Club		935	935	1,870	2,129
Tower of Light			2,598	2,598	2,873
		5,697	3,533	9,230	13,523
PAYMENTS					
c) Other Expenses					
Organ & Piano Maintenance		310		310	155
Bank Charges		594		594	590
Music Licences		949		949	551
Photocopier		1,338		1,338	950
		3,191		3,191	2,245

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WOODHURCH, HOLY CROSS

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
Cash Funds					
	Barclays Current Account	1838	705	2543	872
	Barclays Deposit Account		21272	21272	17768
	Total	1838	21977	23815	18640
CCLA Funds					
	CBF Deposit Fund	4447		4447	4224
	Hayward Trust		1364	1364	1295
	Sanctuary Fund		4273	4273	4057
	Youth Fund		1445	1445	1372
	Enhancement Fund		2050	2050	1946
	Rector & Churchwarden's Fund	15217		15217	14365
	Total	19664	9132	28796	27259
Debtors					
	Nil				
Investments		Reserve Fund	Churchyard Fund	Total value	Total value
		Number	Value (£)	Number	Value (£)
		443	27809	1124	25991
				53800	51868

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WOODHURCH, HOLY CROSS

**DESIGNATED FUNDS HELD IN DEPOSIT ACCOUNT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	2024	2023
Sunday School Fund	500	500
Donkey Fund	100	100
Chester Grant	239	385
Wall Fund	2850	2213
Discretionary Fund (those in need)	1667	1667
Bell Fund	190	145
Choir Fund	1200	110
Tower of Light	4541	3225
Craft Club	152	152
Childrens Work	1000	0
Churchyard Fund	400	
Wedding Fees	100	589
Trf from Current account	8000	8000
Interest paid	333	44
Total in deposit account	21272	17130

**DESIGNATED FUNDS HELD IN CURRENT ACCOUNT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Churchyard Fund	0	50
Messy Church	-136	71
Wall Fund	841	0
Total in current account	705	121

Grand Total	21977	17251
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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY CROSS, WOODCHURCH - 0110**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("The Regulations") and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view by the financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

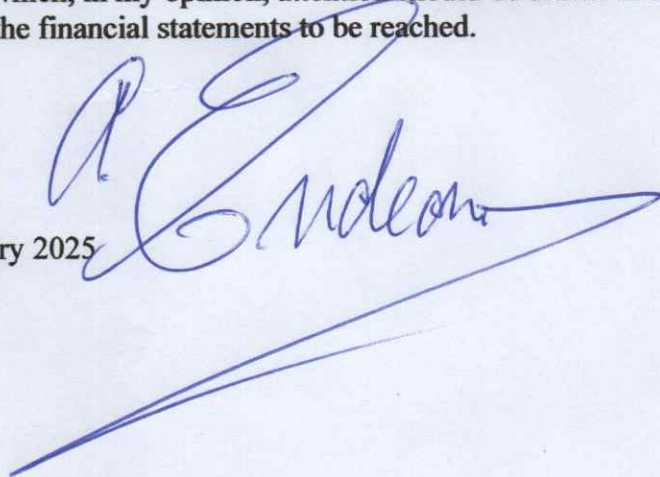
- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- . to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and to prepare
- . financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the
- . requirements of the Act and the Regulations

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

A Endean
4th February 2025



Accounts

**HOLY CROSS
WOODCHURCH PARISH CHURCH**

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
2024**

Chair
Revd Sr Janet Arnold CA
Rector

Hon. Treasurer
Mrs Wendy Deverill
31 Yew Tree Close
Arrowe Park
CH49 5PA

Hon Secretary
Professor Christopher Tuplin
5 Beryl Road
Prenton
CH 43 9RS

Growing disciples of Christ

“See what great love the Father has
lavished on us, that we should be called
children of God! And that is what we are!”
1 John 3:1 (NIV)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SERVE DURING 2023/2024

RECTOR

In Vacancy until 4 February 2024
Rev Sr Janet Arnold (from 4 February 2024)

CHURCHWARDENS

Mr Roy Milne (from 28 April 2019) (Vice-Chair)
Mr Martin Hughes (until 29 June 2023)
Mrs Wendy Deverill (from 30 June 2023)

LAY REPRESENTATIVE ON CHESTER DIOCESAN SYNOD

Mr Ian McKenzie

LAY REPRESENTATIVES ON BIRKENHEAD DEANERY SYNOD

Mrs Jenny Davies (retires 30 June 2026)
Ms Elia Davies (retires 30 June 2026)
Mrs Wendy Deverill (retires 30 June 2026)

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mrs Diane Adams (retires April 2026)
Mrs Sue Dempsey (retires April 2026)
Mrs Jo Hipps (retires April 2026)
Dr Roy Palmer (retires April 2026)

Mrs Pat Clark (retires April 2025)
Mrs Sally Felix (retires April 2025)
Mrs Barbara McKenzie (retires April 2025)
Professor Christopher Tuplin (retires April 2025) PCC Secretary

Mrs Enid Dearden (retires April 2024)
Mr Paul Mountford (retires April 2024)
Mrs Sue Mountford (retires April 2024)
Mrs Barbara Taylor (retires April 2024)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

The Revd Canon David Felix
The Revd Josie Tuplin

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Sue Treanor (Parish Administrator)

INTRODUCTION

This is the 26th Annual Report of the Woodchurch Parochial Church Council (the PCC) prepared for the purposes of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997.

Holy Cross Church, Woodchurch is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: The Parish Office c/o 20, Eltham Green, Arrowe Park CH49 5NG. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a registered charity (number 1174003).

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector in promoting the parish and the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical; it also has responsibilities relating to the maintenance of the parish church and churchyard, and for the Parish Community Hall and other PCC-owned property. Members of the PCC are either *ex officio* or elected by the annual parochial church meeting. There is also a limited power of co-option. The *ex officio* members are the clergy licensed to the parish, the churchwardens and the lay representatives on the Diocesan and Deanery Synods.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

In July 2019 the PCC adopted "Growing disciples of Christ" as a summary of our core purpose. Our vision is to be a welcoming, growing, all-age Christian community faithfully proclaiming the love of God in word and deed.

1. ELECTORAL ROLL at 21 April 2024

At the end of December 2023 there were 129 persons on the Roll for the parish. Of these 57 were resident in the parish and 72 were non-resident. During 2023 there were four new names added and sadly there were eight persons on the roll who died during the year. When the Roll was closed before the APCM the numbers on Roll included 57 Residents in the Parish and 71 Non-residents in the parish, a total of 128.

Ian McKenzie (Electoral Roll officer), April 2024

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH GENERALLY

The Parish was in vacancy for a period of slightly over twelve months in 2023-2024, from 8 January 2023 until the Institution and Induction of Revd Sr Janet Arnold CA as the new Rector of Woodchurch on 4 February 2024. That the parish came through the vacancy in good heart and excellent shape is overwhelmingly due to Revd Josie (still Assistant Curate in January 2023 and thereafter Honorary Assistant Priest), the Churchwardens (Roy Milne and Wendy Deverill), and the Parish Administrator (Sue Treanor). Their practical and strategic leadership that has kept everything working – and working very well indeed.

In ensuring that we were able to provide not only the regular Sunday and midweek services and the special services associated with Easter and Christmas but also a substantial number of Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Interment of Ashes and other occasional offices, Revd Josie has had invaluable assistance from Revd Canon David Felix, Revd Dr Joe Kennedy, Revd Elaine Bisson, Revd John McKae and our Reader Sue Mountford. Bishop Julie and Archdeacon Mike Gilbertson helped at Christmas and on other occasions. Canon David provided important advice in dealing with issues concerning the graveyard, as well as helping Revd Josie, the Treasurer (Wendy Deverill) and other PCC members to mount a successful planned giving appeal. The Parish Representatives (Roy Milne and Jo Hipps) played a vital role in the appointment of Revd Janet as Rector. The work of many other individuals ensured that outreach and social carried on as usual, and the congregation showed great patience and understanding throughout.

But, to reiterate, the chief credit is unquestionably due to Revd Josie, the Churchwardens and the Parish Administrator for their unstinting hard work and their ability to command the cheerful and undivided support of the entire church community.

Whether or not in vacancy the PCC does its best to represent the congregations and the wider community in which it serves. As a team, it has discussed and voted on things that sustain and improve the church's capacity to spread the Gospel, as well as more day-to-day things such as paying bills, maintaining the church fabric or managing the graveyard. All required positions were filled in elections at the 2023 Annual Meetings. Christopher Tuplin replaced Sue Mountford as PCC Secretary in May 2024. The PCC is immensely grateful to Mrs Mountford for her long service in this role. There have been seven PCC meetings since then, as well as five Standing Committee meetings. We have been extremely fortunate to be able to deal with matters of church and community business when required. Fundraising has continued but is still not back to pre-pandemic lockdown levels. An appeal for members of the congregation to review their planned giving did, however, produce a very generous response. Christmas and Summer Coach trips, a Christmas Fair and a Christmas concert (Adam Lacey) were held over the course of the last 12 months.

Our Vision Statement

Our verse for 2024 is "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1). As such, may we continue to discern what God is calling us to do in our church and wider community to reach all whom we wish to know of the Good News Jesus offers to everyone.

Christopher Tuplin (PCC Secretary), April 2024

3. THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2023

Summary Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Current Assets		
Cash at Barclays Bank	18,640	17,775
Shares at CCLA	51,868	46,729
Short term deposits (CCLA)	27,259	34,353
	97,767	98,857
Funds		
Unrestricted funds in current account	751	12,424
Unrestricted funds in CCLA	4,224	11,887
Restricted funds at Barclays Bank	17,889	5,351
Restricted Funds in CCLA	23,035	22,466
Shares in CCLA	51,868	46,729
Total Funds	97,767	98,857

The finance summary above shows that there are restricted funds of £40,924 and unrestricted funds of £56,843. (*For more detail see the certificated accounts, available as a separate document.*) We opened a Deposit account with Barclays in August 2023 to separate the restricted and designated funds from our general funds, which are used for our normal running costs.

The amount received from Planned Giving continued to decrease during the first eight months of 2023, and on Generosity Sunday we asked each member of the congregation to review their giving. The response was immediate, and our receipts from planned giving have increased by approximately 25%, with some additional generous one-off donations. My thanks go to everyone who was able to respond to the appeal, and also to those of you who filled in new Gift-Aid declarations.

Our fundraising in 2023 has been both enjoyable and successful; Ian McKenzie arranged two coach trips this year as well as the Adam Lacey concert which was enjoyed by many of us, despite falling on the evening of what was possibly the worst weather of the year. We had a coffee morning in June which raised over £670, and thanks go to everyone who helped with the organisation and running of these events, as well as to all who supported them. The Christmas Fair was well supported and raised almost £1300, to which £750 was added (in next years' figures) by Barclays Bank from their charitable giving to causes supported by retired staff. Thanks go to everyone who helped with the organisation and running of the fair, and to Lilian Peers for securing the funding from Barclays. The 10th Anniversary Tower of Light was as popular as ever; we added new lights in the trees, on the Tower and along the path into church, and work was undertaken to update the electricity supply to the Lych Gate and the Tower and the lights above the choir stalls in church. Even after this expenditure the Tower of Light raised more than £1300, and huge thanks go to Sue and Andy Treanor for all their hard work, and to all those who helped them.

We have been fortunate that our costs for gas and electricity for both the Church and the Halls were fixed before the energy crisis; these contracts will continue until the end of 2024. The price of oil fell in 2023 from its height in Autumn 2022 so our expenditure on utilities for 2023 was very similar to that for 2022.

Hirings of the Parish Community Hall and the Jubilee Rooms have generated a profit of almost £4000 this year.

We transferred £8000 from our CCLA funds into our current account; this reversed the transfer that had been made in 2022 and meant that Holy Cross has been able to fully meet all outgoings this year, including the Parish Share.

I would like to record my thanks to Pat Clark for her help while I have found my feet as Treasurer and for continuing as Payroll Officer, to Sue Treanor for her efficiency and support, and to everyone at Holy Cross for their generosity this year.

Wendy Deverill (Treasurer), April 2024

4. THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE PARISH CHURCH

The following is a summary, in chronological order, of work done on the fabric of the church during 2023. It is a mixture of maintenance and improvement works. Because it is a listed building, many of the works meet the criteria enabling VAT to be reclaimed from HMRC.

- 17/01/23 and 26/01/23. H G Vess Security Systems Ltd. Church intruder alarm service. £215. VAT £43. TOTAL £258
- 26/01/23. Wk Arboriculture. Removal of mature lime tree and yew tree. £1,200 (No VAT)
- 21/02/23. Island Electrical. Replaced exploding spotlight in middle aisle. £85 (No VAT)
- 07/02/23. Tony Parsons. Cleaned church gutters and drains. Noted 6 slipped tiles and provided photos. £135 (No VAT)
- 21/02/23. E-Bound. Roof alarm annual service and maintenance. £ 336.00, VAT £67.20, TOTAL £403.20. (Note: the date given on the invoice 01/01/23.)
- 22/03/23. Tony Parsons. Replaced and reset missing slates. £148 (No VAT)
- 13/04/23. Celtic Fire Security. Fire extinguisher etc., inspection and service, including some replacement of extinguishers for Church, Parish Hall and Jubilee Rooms. £304.00, VAT £60.80, TOTAL £364.80
- 04/05/23. Wk Arboriculture. Removal of unsuitable/unsafe trees in churchyard. £2,900 (No VAT)
- 15/05/23. E-Bound. Call out to replace Redcare with BT Redcare. Replaced data aerial and data cable due to signal issue. £542, VAT £108.50, TOTAL £651.00
- 31/08/23. PAS Sound Engineering. Two new lapel series 5000 microphones and leads, including postage. £62.30, VAT 12.46, TOTAL £74.76.
- 16/10/23. Grosvenor Heating. Servicing the boiler and replacing the flexible hose. £165.00, VAT £33.00. TOTAL 198.00
- 01/12/23. H G Vess Security Systems Ltd. Church intruder alarm service. £225. VAT £45. TOTAL £270
- 06/12/23. Hammac Electrical Ltd. Upgrade to church wiring to include 2 new spotlights over Choir Pews. £858, VAT £173 VAT. TOTAL £1038

No major repairs or improvements were undertaken this year. However, as noted elsewhere in this document, there are major problems with the state of the churchyard perimeter wall. When this can eventually be dealt with it will be a major expense.

Thanks to the work of the Sadler family and friends the churchyard won a Green Flag Award in 2022. This award was renewed in July 2023 and is advertised by a flag on the church tower. The Green Flag Award® scheme, which recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces and sets the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world, is managed by *Keep Britain Tidy* under license from the UK Government (Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities).

Roy Palmer (on behalf of Fabric Committee), April 2024

5. BIRKENHEAD DEANERY SYNOD

Holy Cross is one of the ten parishes that make up the Birkenhead Deanery. Elected to represent our parish at the APCM in April 2023 to serve on the Deanery Synod for the three-year period 2023 – 2026 were Jenny Davies, Elian Davies and Wendy Deverill. Ian McKenzie (also from Holy Cross) is the Deanery Secretary.

The synod meets three times a year at a different parish in the deanery. In February 2023 the meeting was at St. Saviour's Oxtun when the guest speaker before the business meeting was Bishop Julie (Bishop of Birkenhead). She declared "If you aren't angry then you are not paying attention" and added "Well, Birkenhead Deanery churches, are you paying attention?" She then gave a very upbeat, robust response to her question.

The meeting in June last year was at St. Catherine's Tranmere when the speaker was Rev. Dr Stephen Torr who spoke to Synod about the need for Lament in church life. He stressed that lament should feature regularly in our worship as it opens up a space where those who are hurting can recover, and those who are wounded can find healing and wholeness.

The guest speaker at the October meeting was Revd Debbie Wilkinson. She was appointed last year as the Mission Lead for the Wirral Waters development across the Birkenhead and Wallasey docklands where there will eventually be some 12,000 homes and all the infrastructure needed to support the project. Debbie is also an Associate Minister at the Priory Parish in Birkenhead which is closely involved in the development. She gave a detailed overview of the development and of her evolving role and that of the Church of England in the project.

(If anyone would like to read the transcript of any of those talks please contact Ian McKenzie.)

One of the functions of the Deanery's Standing Committee is to manage The Birkenhead Church Aid Society, which was established over 100 years ago to support clergy and lay members of Birkenhead parishes as they trained for the ministry or as Lay Workers or Pastoral Workers. The Society still makes grants towards the purchase of books and study material to members of parishes in the deanery who are in these categories.

Ian McKenzie (Deanery Synod representative), April 2024

6. SAFEGUARDING

6.1 Safeguarding Concerns

There have been no safeguarding referrals or concerns raised with the Safeguarding Officer during 2023

6.2 Agreement with Offenders

Offenders who become known to the Church and who pose a risk to children or adults at risk and who wish to take part in activities or Church worship should enter into an agreement which should be reviewed on a regular basis. During 2023, the Safeguarding Officer was not informed of any new or recent offenders who require such agreements.

6.3 Current DBS Registration and Safeguarding Training

Disclosure and Barring Service - Thirtyone:Eight (formerly Churches' Child Protection and Advisory Service) is the appointed safeguarding partner for the Diocese of Chester.

Several DBS applications have been processed by *Thirtyone:Eight*. There are still a number outstanding.

Some PCC members have completed their safeguarding training online and others attended the in-person training organised by the Diocese. There are still some training modules to be completed.

Chester Diocese require DBS checks and Safeguarding training for all PCC members. Anyone has questions or queries about completing DBS or safeguarding training should contact the Safeguarding Officer (Paul Mountford).

In all safeguarding correspondence please use the designated safeguarding email address: safeguarding@holycrosswoodchurch.co.uk

6.4 Safeguarding Statement

The PCC continues to comply with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, i.e. the duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Paul Mountford (Safeguarding Officer), April 2024

7. CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

I write this on behalf of both churchwardens. I am most grateful to Wendy Deverill for joining me in carrying out this role.

1. Parish Church and surrounds

Tasks undertaken by the Churchwardens (1) Work to ensure the approaches in and around the Church, Car Park and Parish Hall are kept tidy. (2) Regular checks on the consumption of heating oil and ordering / delivery as required. (3) Reading and submitting gas, electric and water meter readings. (4) Removal and storage of Christmas Trees and assistance with Tower of Lights. (5) Making and decorating of the Easter Cross which was also used for Remembrance celebrations. (6) Stewarding duties during 8am, 10am Sunday and Wednesday Worship, baptisms and funerals. We also attended school Christmas productions. (7) Recommendation of Social distancing and hand sanitisation measures.

Graveyard (1) Many hours were spent involving Revd Josie, Sue Treanor and Canon David in dealing with a complaint regarding the already approved installation of an oversize headstone in the cremated remains section of the graveyard. This was eventually resolved by the complainant withdrawing his complaint. (2) A faculty was submitted and approved for setting aside an area at the Pool Lane end of the graveyard for the burial of cremated remains. Problems arose because this area also contains re-buried remains from the area of the North Aisle extension built in the early 1960s. Careful measurements had to be undertaken to determine the exact location from an architect's drawing and a visit to the Cheshire Archives in Chester. (3) As a reward for their hard work, Rob Sadler and his family and friends were once again awarded a Green Flag Community award. Our application for 2024 has already been submitted.

Boundary Wall Discussions with Curtin's (Civil Engineers) to produce a design and specification for the proposed supports which are required to be submitted by the DAC for acceptance have stalled due to disagreement about the adequacy of the support design suggested by Wirral MBC who have already had a similar design accepted by the DAC and installed at St Hilary's Church in Wallasey. Our consultant, eager to progress action has now decided to leave the project because he is about to retire and because we have advised him that lack of funding means that we do not feel it appropriate at this time to seek quotations from suitable contractors.

2. Other matters

Vacancy During the period 9 January 2023 to 4 February 2024 the parish was in a vacancy and under the responsibility of the Churchwardens.

Following Revd Christine's departure, the Wardens agreed with the Archdeacon and Buildings Manager to undertake a duty of care by regular visits to the Rectory. This finished when Revd Janet took occupancy.

With the help of others our Parish Profile and other paperwork required to support our advertisement for a new Rector was completed. Following a PCC meeting Jo Hipps and Roy Milne were elected as Parish Representatives and, along with the Archdeacon, Rural Dean and a representative from the Patronage Board, conducted interviews on two occasions, in July and September. An offer was made in September which Revd Sister Janet Arnold CA accepted and eventually a date of 4 February 2024 was agreed for her Institution and Induction by the Bishop of Chester and the Archdeacon respectively.

Making the arrangements for a service of Institution and Induction is not a straightforward business, and our sincere thanks go to our PCC Secretary, Christopher Tuplin, and to Ian McKenzie and Sue Treanor for their help in dealing with the complexities. We also thank our organists and augmented choir, the flower arranging team and the congregation caterers for the music, floral displays and refreshments provided for the service on 4 February.

We also wish to record our thanks to Rev Josie, Canon David, Revd John, the Rural Dean, Elaine Bissen, Sue Mountford and Elian Davies for all their assistance in leading our worship and

in providing pastoral care during the vacancy. We are very grateful to all members of the congregation for their consideration throughout the vacancy.

Quinquennial Inspection This was undertaken in September, and we have also attended at regular service engineer visits.

Church property A complete review of two legally required documents (the Terrier and Logbook) has been undertaken with the help of Tony Lunam and Roy Palmer in readiness for today's APCM also for a Church Inspection by the Archdeacon on 14 May 2024.

Safeguarding We have both undertaken Safeguarding Training as required by the Diocese.

Cleaning and caretaker duties After the resignation of our cleaner / caretaker, her duties were undertaken by both of the Wardens, including opening and closing of the Hall / Jubilee Room when required for one-off hirings. A replacement cleaner has now been appointed and continues with her duties.

Roy Milne (Churchwarden), April 2024

8. HALL MANAGER'S REPORT

Hirings for the Parish Community Hall continue to be stable but sadly we have lost one group. Children's Birthday Parties are still very popular, and we have attracted a couple of occasional users. The recently formed Craft Club is proving to be a very popular and well attended addition to Parish life and attendance at the Meadows Community Café is increasing.

The heating system of the PCH is fully controlled by the boiler timer programmer and the settings adjusted as per seasonal demands. Hand sanitisation measures are still being recommended. Wirral Borough Council Pest Control continue with their regular attendance. I have also attended at service engineer visits. Obsolete smoke detector heads have recently been replaced in the building.

Existing users of the Jubilee Rooms (AA, NA, bereavement counselling, a local Housing Resident's group, Elian Davies (Wellbeing) and Open-the-Book) have now been joined by a Junior Majorette's group and an Indian Children learning group.

The roof to the rear of the building is still in need of being replaced. The heating system is fully controlled by the boiler timer programmer and the settings adjusted as per seasonal demands.

Roy Milne (Halls Manager), April 2024

9. PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Throughout the vacancy in 2023 the Parish Leadership Team, Revd Josie Tuplin (Honorary Assistant Priest), Sue Mountford (Reader) and Sue Treanor (Parish Administrator) – continued to meet, usually on Monday mornings, to pray together, share in conversation around the life of the parish. The Parish Leadership Team oversees worship, pastoral care, adult discipleship, mission with new generations and outreach. Members of the team work with the churchwardens and the PCC subcommittees to develop some of these aspects of the life of the parish and the team reports regularly to the PCC.

Revd Josie Tuplin (Hon. Assistant Priest), April 2024

10. WORSHIPING LIFE

10.1 Church Services

During the vacancy, we were able to continue offering services of Holy Communion at 8am and 10am on Sunday mornings and a 10am Holy Communion service on Wednesdays. There was much to celebrate as we welcomed the Revd John McKay (retired priest with PTO) and Ms Elian Davies (formerly a local Methodist Preacher) to the existing team of Revd Josie, Revd David and Mrs Sue Mountford (Licensed Reader). Our Rural Dean, Revd Dr Joe Kennedy, and the Revd Elaine Bisson, both from Oxton, were very generous in regularly leading our worship and preaching, and we are also grateful to Bishop Julie, Archdeacon Mike Gilbertson and Canon Ron Iveson for their contributions to our worshipping life. Some changes were required, however, and, with the start of the vacancy in January, Sunday evening services were suspended for the time being. We are very grateful to all who contribute to our weekly pattern of worship. Numbers attending worship fluctuate week by week but most weeks around 70 people have joined in Sunday worship at one service or another and 10-15 on Wednesday mornings.

The usual range of extra services took place in Lent and Advent. On Sunday May 7th, we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla with a joyful service in church, at which the choir (augmented by several volunteers) sang a special anthem: *The Mountains Shall Bring Peace*. This was followed by a lunch party in the Parish Community Hall and the gift of chocolate crowns made by the Craft Club. There were also special services for Corpus Christi, Remembrance and All Souls (the latter two again very well attended by people for the wider community), as well as a Pet Service. The Sunday morning service on 2 July was dedicated to the people of Ukraine and the choir sang John Rutter's anthem *A Ukrainian Prayer*. To mark International Women's Day all the music at the Sunday morning service on 5 March was written by women. Adult attendance at Christmas services is now above pre-Covid levels, and the Carol Service and Christmas Eve Eucharist both attracted an encouraging number of members of the wider community.

10.2 Baptisms, Confirmation, Weddings and Funerals

During 2023 we welcomed many families to church to share in significant life events

Baptisms: 27 children (13 below the age of 1, 13 aged 1-10, 1 aged 11-17). All families bringing children for baptism took part in a one-hour session of baptism preparation some weeks before their baptism service and were encouraged to attend Sunday services and Messy Church.

Confirmation: In October 2023, we welcomed Bishop Julie to Holy Cross for a Confirmation service for one adult and one young person. It was a delight to welcome Bishop Julie, the candidates and their families and friends for a very special occasion.

Weddings: 4 plus 2 Renewals of Vows. The annual Marriage Preparation Day (reinstated post-Covid in 2022) was enjoyed by the couples who attended and many also comment on how much they enjoyed their wedding services in church.

Funerals: Clergy continue to visit the bereaved and to officiate at funerals both in church and at Landican Crematorium and Frankby Cemetery.

- Church and burial in churchyard: 4
- Church with burial at Frankby: 2
- Church and Landican: 16
- Landican only: 3
- Burial of Ashes: 9

Revd Josie Tuplin (Hon. Assistant Priest), Sue Treanor (Parish Administrator), April 2024

11. ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

The Holy Cross Bible Study Group has been meeting on Zoom for nearly four years now and we continue to attract new members. Material studied in 2023 included the whole of the *Acts of the Apostles*, the opening chapters of *Revelation*, and the story of Joseph in the Old Testament. In Lent we explored the Bishop of Chester's book *Clinging to the Cross*. The group meets on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. and we are always delighted to welcome visitors and new members.

In addition to the Bible Study group, Revd Josie prepared one adult and one young person for confirmation exploring the teachings of the Christian faith, relationship with God and commitment through the lens of the Confirmation promises.

Revd Josie Tuplin (Hon. Assistant Priest), April 2024

12. PASTORAL CARE

During 2023, we missed the wonderful contribution made by our Pastoral Worker, Jan Lupton, who retired at the beginning of the year after many years of faithful and loving service. Members of the Leadership Team have continued to visit people at home and in hospital and take communion to parishioners at home and in nursing homes, but with reduced capacity. Sadly, it has been difficult to do as much regular (non-emergency) home visiting as we should like. Particularly in the early months of the 2023, we lost a considerable number of faithful members of our congregation, many of whom had been very ill for some time. As the year went on, the need for a team of lay people to assist with home communions became increasingly obvious. We are grateful to those who have agreed to take on this ministry and have now received DBS clearance. When the relevant safeguarding training has been completed, they will be trained by clergy and deployed during 2024. We should also continue to recognise the importance of the informal pastoral care faithfully provided to one another and to neighbours by members of the congregation.

Revd Josie Tuplin (Hon. Assistant Priest), April 2024

13. MISSION WITH NEW GENERATIONS

In 2023, Holy Cross Woodchurch Parish church continued to have a good relationship with Woodchurch CE Primary school parishioners serving as school governors and clergy making visits to school by invitation as often as possible. We also welcomed school into church on a monthly basis for special services, which were well attended not only by the children but also by their families. At these services, members of the congregation provided coffee and a warm welcome to families. We also have built on our excellent links with Meadowside Special School, where Revd Josie is a co-opted governor. It was a delight to welcome Meadowside pupils into church for their Christmas service for the first time since the onset of the Pandemic. Senior pupils also provide catering for our Community Café. After a long break due to Covid, 5th Birkenhead Scouts are now flourishing once more and it has been a pleasure to welcome their representatives to a range of services over the course of the year.

At the end of 2023 we were all saddened by the sudden death of Mrs Diane Adams. Diane was passionately committed to outreach in general and to mission to new generations in particular. She was the energetic and cheerful driving force behind both the *Open the Book* team and our *Messy Church* and her loss is a real blow to our work with new generations. Under Diane's leadership, the *Open the Book* team was expanded and was able to lead fortnightly assemblies at Woodchurch CE Primary and Fender Primary throughout 2023, bringing the Bible to local children and their teachers. *Messy Church* has continued to meet monthly and to thrive. It provides a wonderful opportunity for children, along with their parents and carers, to enjoy creative activities, worship songs and Bible stories, and to share a simple meal together. Average attendance at Messy Church is upwards of 18 children and 22 adults. We enjoyed a very well-attended *Messy Easter* on Good Friday.

We hope that all of our services are family friendly, and we have a children's activity table available in church with resources appropriate for different ages and based on the Gospel reading of the day. We are very grateful to Mrs Sally Felix for her work in overseeing and improving this resource. The first Sunday of the month is a designated all-age service, and it has been good to welcome children from the Church School Junior Choir (trained by our organist Gill Locke) to take part in that service. The annual Christingle Service and Crib service were both joyful family occasions, with the Crib Service in particular attracting a very encouraging number of young families.—

Revd Josie Tuplin (Hon. Assistant Priest), April 2024

14. OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Outreach and Community Engagement Team is currently promoting three projects in the parish, a Community Café, Craft Club and an initiative to welcome people who move onto the Woodchurch Estate.

Community Café is a joint venture with our neighbours at Meadowside Special School. We meet in the Parish Hall on Wednesday afternoons in term time. A team of senior students from Meadowside work in the kitchen, serve hot drinks and cake, and clean and tidy the kitchen and hall at the end of the afternoon. Their efficiency, good humour and friendliness are what make the café so special and it provides a warm and welcoming space in which to relax and meet friends. It also enables the young people to gain important work experience and has been recognised by *Involve North West* as providing a valuable resource for the local community where social isolation and poverty are key challenges.

Our scheme to welcome new residents with a potted plant, a card and a (now updated) leaflet about church activities continues. Work on establishing a nature trail in the churchyard is nearly complete. We hope that this will be a valuable amenity for local schools and families and will encourage greater knowledge and love for God's creation.

Craft Club, which meets twice a month in the Parish Community Hall, is now a well-established outreach activity and has already attracted a large number of people who are not regular members of the congregation. The Christmas Angels initiative, which involved leaving over two hundred knitted or crocheted angels hanging in trees and bushes around the parish together with a Christmas message was warmly received in the community, as was the flower-covered Easter cross in the porch and the annual decoration of both porch and churchyard with poppies for Remembrance.

In 2023, the annual *Tower of Light* service at the beginning of Advent reached its tenth anniversary. It was unfortunate that it coincided with very poor weather and numbers were somewhat down, but it did attract a large number of members of the community, both to the service and to refreshments afterwards. It was good to remember our departed loved ones in the company of many of our neighbours from the wider community and to see the (newly refurbished and extended) lights shining in the darkness of the Christmas period.

Revd Josie Tuplin (Hon. Assistant Priest), April 2024

15. READER REPORT

I am now coming to the end of year 5 of Post-licensing Reader Training. I am so grateful to all at Holy Cross for your continued encouragement and support. As many of you will be aware, I have been given opportunities to lead services and to share with you some of my thoughts on our Bible readings and I have been so grateful for those opportunities. My hope is that you have found some of those thoughts and reflections helpful.

I am also very grateful for the opportunities I was given to lead and preach at Christmas 2023 and recently at Easter tide. I would also like to thank the Revds Josie, David and John for their support whilst we were in vacancy.

With thanks again for all your prayers and support.

Susan Mountford, April 2024

16. SOCIAL AND FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES

In the absence of both a Social and a Fund-Raising sub-committee of the PCC. in recent times there was less activity than usual in the first half of 2023. In June, however, we had "Beryl's Coffee Morning", which successfully raised funds for church use, and then in August the annual Mystery Coach trip saw a full coach party descend on Lytham for a good day out. At the end of September the MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning raised £865.

The weeks leading up to the end of 2023 were a busy and hopefully an enjoyable time for us all as we approached Christmas with a variety of different events both social and fund raising. On November 24th we had our now annual Pre-Christmas shopping trip to Boundary Mill at Colne and the Barton Grange Garden Centre with its fabulous Christmas displays. On 2 December our Christmas Fair was held in the Parish Community Hall: many thanks are due to Sue Dempsey who organised another successful event. Sunday 3 December marked the tenth anniversary of the *Tower of Light* organised by Sue Treanor. She and Andy, and their band of helpers, put on a great display, with the lights mounted on the tower being visible in many parts of the parish as well as in Oxton and Prenton. The service was followed by mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments, and many families took the opportunity to put their remembrances on the Christmas tree and make generous donations to church as well. And lastly on Saturday 10 December we had the Adam Lacey Christmas Concert in church, when his selection of music from the West End and other shows in which he had appeared was much enjoyed.

Ian McKenzie April 2024

17. MOTHERS UNION

Mothers' Union meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Community Parish Hall. We have a varied programme of speakers and events during the year. All are welcome to join us at our meetings. At Holy Cross our branch continues to support the Mothers' Union at home and abroad with prayer and donations.

Jenny Davies, April 2024

18. OPEN THE BOOK

Our Open the Book team goes into Woodchurch Church of England and Fender Primary Schools in alternate weeks. Open the Book shares and brings to life Bible stories for children. We have had a short break following the sudden death of our coordinator Diane Adams and are now looking forward to restarting later in 2024. We are always looking for new members to join our team.

Jenny Davies, April 2024

19. A FINAL FEW WORDS

2023 has been a year of many challenges, not least being in vacancy. The loss of so many very dear members of our congregation has also been the source of much sadness this year. We were also, of course, sad to see Revd Christine leave us in the New Year but we were pleased to have the opportunity to rejoice with her and pray for her new ministry as she was inducted as Vicar of Goostrey in January. After a long vacancy, we were delighted to hear of the appointment of an old friend, Revd Sister Janet Arnold CA, as our new Rector, and we pray for her as she settles back in among us. Her Institution and Induction on 4 February 2024 was a wonderfully joyful occasion and we look forward to this new season in our life together, as a community which seeks to grow in faith, and also in number as others come to put their trust in Jesus, all of which is summed up in our vision statement, "growing disciples of Christ". We recognise that we are called to proclaim the love of God in the love we extend to others. We acknowledge, particularly as we move into a new season in the life of our church, that it is only by placing ourselves in God's hands that we can be salt and light to one another and our wider community. And we pray that 2024 will see us going forward, not in our own strength, but in the power of the Holy Spirit and in accordance with God's purposes for this place.

Revd Josie Tuplin (Hon. Assistant Priest), April 2024

**HOLY CROSS,
WOODCHURCH PARISH CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
2023**

Chair
Revd Sister Janet Arnold CA
The Rectory,
Church Lane,
Woodchurch CH49 7LS

Growing disciples of Christ

John 1:3

***See what great love the Father has lavished on us,
that we shall be called children of God! And that is
what we are!***

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2023

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Barclays Bank	18,640	17,775
Shares at CCLA	51,868	46,729
Short term deposits (CCLA)	27,259	34,353
	97,767	98,857
FUNDS		
Unrestricted funds in current account	751	12,424
Unrestricted funds in CCLA	4,224	11,887
Restricted funds at Barclays Bank	17,889	5,351
Restricted Funds in CCLA	23,035	22,466
Shares in CCLA	51,868	46,729
TOTAL FUNDS	97,767	98,857

The finance summary above shows that there are restricted funds of £40,924 and unrestricted funds of £56,843. We opened a Deposit account with Barclays in August 2023 to separate the restricted and designated funds from our general funds, which are used for our normal running costs.

The amount received from planned giving continued to decrease during the first eight months of 2023, and on Generosity Sunday we asked each member of the congregation to review their giving. The response was immediate, and our receipts from planned giving have increased by approximately 25%, with some additional generous one-off donations. My thanks go to everyone who was able to respond to the appeal, and also to those of you who filled in new Gift-Aid declarations.

Our fundraising in 2023 has been both enjoyable and successful; Ian McKenzie arranged two coach trips this year as well as the Adam Lacey concert which was enjoyed by many of us, despite falling on the evening of what was possibly the worst weather of the year. We had a coffee morning in June which raised over £670, and thanks go to everyone who helped with the organisation and running of these events, as well as to all who supported them. The Christmas Fair was well supported and raised almost £1300, to which £750 was added (in next years' figures) by Barclays Bank from their charitable giving to causes supported by retired staff. Thanks go to everyone who helped with the organisation and running of the fair, and to Lilian Peers for securing the funding from Barclays. The 10th Anniversary Tower of Light was as popular as ever; we added new lights in the trees, on the Tower and along the path into church, and work was undertaken to update the electricity supply to the Lych Gate and the Tower and the lights above the choir stalls in church. Even after this expenditure the Tower of Light raised more than £1300, and huge thanks go to Sue and Andy Treanor for all their hard work, and to all those who helped them.

We have been fortunate that our costs for gas and electricity for both the Church and the Halls were fixed before the energy crisis; these contracts will continue until the end of 2024. The price of oil fell in 2023 from its height in Autumn 2022 so our expenditure on utilities for 2023 was very similar to that for 2022.

Hirings of the Parish Community Hall and the Jubilee Rooms have generated a profit of almost £4000 this year.

We transferred £8000 from our CCLA funds into our current account; this reversed the transfer that had been made in 2022 and meant that Holy Cross has been able to fully meet all outgoings this year, including the Parish Share.

I would like to record my thanks to Pat Clark for her help while I have found my feet as Treasurer and for continuing as Payroll Officer; to Sue Treanor for her efficiency and support, and to everyone at Holy Cross for their generosity this year.

Wendy Deverill, Treasurer

Please see audited accounts as separate documents at end.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Holy Cross Church, Woodchurch

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Holy Cross Church, Woodchurch for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Suzanne Draper FCCA ACA

SB&P

Chartered Accountants

Oriel House

2-8 Oriel Road

Bootle

Liverpool

Merseyside

L20 7EP

Date:

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WOODHURCH, HOLY CROSS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned Giving Gift Aid		28,920		28,920	31,610
Planned Giving Not Gift Aid		8,000		8,000	9,622
Collections at Services		0		0	181
All other giving	*	8,426	5,143	13,569	12,486
Gift Aid Recovered		9,755		9,755	9,964
		55,101	5,143	60,244	63,863
Other Voluntary Income					
Grants and Legacies					1,882
Flowers			830	830	805
Activities for Generation *		5,170	3,937	9,106	9,734
		5,170	4,767	9,937	12,421
Investment Income					
Bank Interest		98		98	156
Dividends (CBF Investment Fund)		695		695	691
		792		792	847
Income from other sources					
Wedding and Funeral Fees		6,735	10,291	17,027	23,171
Lettings		10,190		10,190	10,516
Refunds (inc VAT)		1,031		1,031	2,114
From CCLA funds		8,150		8,150	1,000
From Deposit account			2,941	2,941	
From No 2 account					8,167
		26,107	13,232	39,339	44,968
Total receipts		87,170	23,143	110,312	122,099

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WOODHURCH, HOLY CROSS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

PAYMENTS

Church Activities				
Parish Share	37,587		37,587	36,492
Diocesan Fees		2,096	2,096	4,830
Mission and Charitable Giving				2,931
	37,587	2,096	39,683	44,253
Salaries and Honoraria				
Parish Administrator	14,097		14,097	13,302
Retired Clergy		2,286	2,286	
Verger		850	850	1,000
Gravedigger		2,375	2,375	2,850
Organists	4,424	1,305	5,729	5,630
Bell Ringers		500	500	507
Funeral admin/flowers		500	500	1,651
	18,521	7,816	26,337	24,940
Running Expenses				
Rectory Utilities/Council Tax	1,355		1,355	2,967
Mission and Evangelism to Children		426	426	0
Sundry Expenses	857		857	4,501
Insurance	6,434		6,434	6,021
Other expenses *	2,245		2,245	3,309
Repairs and Maintenance	4,740		4,740	2,903
Service Requisites		1,944	1,944	700
Flowers	1,294		1,294	970
Admin	499		499	795
Churchyard Upkeep	4,179		4,179	208
Church utilities	5,891		5,891	6,188
	27,496	2,370	29,866	28,562
Cost of Trading				
PCH & JR Utilities	3,483		3,483	3,216
PCH & JR Maintenance	2,872		2,872	3,408
	6,355		6,355	6,624
Fundraising				
Cost of Fundraising		2,350	2,350	1,478
100 Club Prizes		1,120	1,120	1,141
		3,470	3,470	2,619
Other Outgoings				
Audit Fee	840		840	250
Surveys				8,790
Transfers to Deposit Account		20,664	20,664	8,000
	840	20,664	21,504	17,040
Total Payments	90,799	36,415	127,215	124,038
Excess of Receipts over payments	-3,630	-13,273	0	-16,902
Cash in bank account at 1st January 2023			17,775	
Interest on Deposit account			45	
Cash in bank accounts at 31st December 2023			18,640	

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WOODHURCH, HOLY CROSS

FURTHER ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
RECEIPTS					
a) All Other Giving					
Donations		8,286	4,165	12,451	10,789
Admin		140		140	210
Wall Fund			978	978	1,487
		8,426	5,143	13,569	12,486
b) Activities for Generating Funds					
Fund Raising Activities		4,105		4,105	8,522
100 Club		1,064	1,064	2,129	1,162
Tower of Light			2,873	2,873	-
Chaurchyard fund					50
		5,170	3,937	9,107	9,734
PAYMENTS					
c) Other Expenses					
Organ & Piano Maintenance		155		155	652
Bank Charges		590		590	600
Music Licences		551		551	642
Photocopier		950		950	1,336
Choir					80
		2,245		2,245	3,310

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WOODHURCH, HOLY CROSS

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
Cash Funds				
Barclays Current Account	872		872	17775
Barclays Deposit Account		17768	17768	0
Total	872	17768	18640	17775
CCLA Funds				
CBF Deposit Fund		4224	4224	11887
Hayward Trust		1295	1295	1255
Sanctuary Fund		4057	4057	3931
Youth Fund		1372	1372	2299
Enhancement Fund		1946	1946	1886
Rector & Churchwarden's Fund		14365	14365	12950
Bell Fund		0	0	58
Sound System Fund		0	0	87
Total		27259	27259	34353
Total			45899	52128

Notes: The Bell and Sound System Funds which held £87 and £58 respectively were closed with the balances transferred to Barclays
£1000 was taken from the Youth Fund and transferred to the R&CW Fund to reimburse the payment to the Scouts

Debtors

Nil

Investments	Reserve Fund		Churchyard Fund		Total value	Total value
	Number	Value (£)	Number	Value (£)	2023	2022
	443	26459	1124	25409	51868	46729

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WOODHURCH, HOLY CROSS

DESIGNATED FUNDS IN DEPOSIT ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
Sunday School Fund	500	500
Donkey Fund	100	100
Chester Grant	385	385
Wall Fund	2,850	2,213
Discretionary Fund (those in need)	1,667	1,667
Bell Fund	145	100
Choir Fund	110	190
Tower of Light	3,225	-
Craft Club	152	-
Wedding 5/5/2024	589	-
Trf from Current account	8,000	-
Interest paid	45	-
Total in deposit account	17,768	5,155

**DESIGNATED FUNDS IN CURRENT ACCOUNT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Churchyard Fund	50	50
Messy Church	71	146
Total in current account	121	196
 Grand Total	 17,889	 5,351

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Holy Cross Church, Woodchurch

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Holy Cross Church, Woodchurch for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
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I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Suzanne Draper FCCA ACA

SB&P

Chartered Accountants

Oriel House

2-8 Oriel Road

Bootle

Liverpool

Merseyside

L20 7EP

Date:

Accounts

**HOLY CROSS,
WOODCHURCH PARISH CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
2022**

Chair

The Rev Dr Joe Kennedy,
Rural Dean and Vicar of St Saviour's Parish Church,
Bidston Road,
Oxton,
Wirral,
CH43 2JZ

Growing disciples of Christ

Psalm 127.1

***Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.***

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs Pat Clark,
17, Noctorum Way,
1Noctorum
Wirral,
CH43 9HS

Mr Nick Broad
The Rectory,
Church Lane,
Woodchurch,
Wirral,
CH49 7LS

Hon Secretary

Mrs Susan Mountford,
c/o The Parish Office
Church Lane
Woodchurch,
Wirral,
CH497LS

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SERVE DURING 2022/2023

RECTOR: In Vacancy

HON. ASSISTANT PRIEST:

Revd Josie Tuplin
Canon David Felix
Revd Sheila Hughes

CHURCHWARDENS:

Mr Roy Milne	(from 28.04.19) (Vice Chair)
Mr Martin Hughes	(from September 2020)

LAY REPRESENTATIVE ON CHESTER DIOCESAN SYNOD

Mr Ian McKenzie

LAY REPRESENTATIVES ON BIRKENHEAD DEANERY SYNOD:

Mrs Jenny Davies	(retires 31 st May 2023)
Ms Elian Davies	(retires 31 st May 2023)
Mr Bernie Gallivan	(retires 31 st May 2023)

ELECTED MEMBERS: (brackets denote year of expiry of term of office)

Mrs Diane Adams	(retires April 2023)
Mrs Gill Stott	(retires April 2023)
Mr Duncan Smith	(retires April 2023)
Dr Roy Palmer	(retires April 2023)
Mrs Liz Davies	(retires April 2024)
Mr Pat Cleary	(retires April 2024)
Mr Paul Mountford	(retires April 2024)
Mrs Sue Mountford	(retires April 2024) PCC Secretary
Vacancy for one additional member	(to retire April 2024)
Mrs Pat Clark	(retires 2025)
Mrs Sally Felix	(retires 2025)
Mrs Barbara McKenzie	(retires 2025)
Professor Christopher Tuplin	(retires 2025)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Mrs Jo Hipps was co-opted by Rev Christine
Mrs Wendy Deverill was co-opted by PCC April 2023
Revd Josie Tuplin was co-opted by PCC April 2023

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Sue Treanor (Parish Administrator)
Mr Tony Lunam (Adviser re halls and buildings)

INTRODUCTION

This is the 25th Annual Report of the Woodchurch Parochial Church Council (the PCC) prepared for the purposes of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997.

Holy Cross Church, Woodchurch is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office c/o 20, Eltham Green, Arrowe Park CH49 5NG. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a registered charity, number 1174003.

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector in promoting the parish and the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical; it also has responsibilities relating to the maintenance of the parish church and churchyard, and for the Parish Community Hall and other PCC-owned property. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the annual parochial church meeting; there is also a limited power of co-option. The ex-officio members are the clergy licensed to the parish, the churchwardens, and the lay representatives on the Diocesan and Deanery Synods.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

In July 2019 the PCC adopted "Growing disciples of Christ" as a summary of our core purpose. Our vision is to be a welcoming, growing, all-age Christian community faithfully proclaiming the love of God in word and deed.

REPORTS ON THE LIFE OF THE PARISH 2022

ELECTORAL ROLL AT 23/4/2023

When the Roll was closed before the APCM the numbers on Roll included 58 Residents in the Parish and 75 Non-residents in the parish, a total of 133.

Ian McKenzie, electoral roll officer, April 2023

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH GENERALLY

Reverend Christine Broad and her husband Nick sadly left our parish in January 2023 to serve the people in Goostrey, Cheshire after almost 4 years of service to us all here at Holy Cross and the wider community. We give thanks to Reverend Josie, her husband Christopher, Reverend David and his wife Sally, Reverend Sheila and her husband Martin who have supported us during Reverend Christine's sabbatical and the vacancy. As a PCC we do our best to represent the congregations and the wider community in which we serve and we have, as a team, discussed and voted on things we believe are important aspects of church life in order for us to spread the Gospel, as well as the more day to day things such as paying bills, maintenance issues, etc. We had our 2022 annual meeting in April filling all the required positions. We have had 5 PCC meetings since then, we have been extremely fortunate to be able to deal with matters of church and community business when required. Fundraising has continued but is still not back to pre-pandemic lockdown levels. Christmas and Summer Coach trips, Harvest Supper, and Christmas Fayre were held over the course of the last 12 months.

Our verse for 2023 is "unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain" (Psalm 127.1). May we continue to discern what God is calling us to do in our church and wider community to reach all whom we wish to know of the Good News Jesus offers to everyone.

Susan Mountford, PCC Secretary, April 2023

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2022

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	2022
	£
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash at Barclays Bank	17,775
Shares at CCLA	46,729
Short term deposits (CCLA)	34,353
	98,857
FUNDS	
Unrestricted funds in current account	12,424
Unrestricted funds in CCLA	11,887
Restricted funds in current account	5,351
Restricted Funds in CCLA	22,466
Shares in CCLA	46,729
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>98,857</u>

The finance summary above shows that there are restricted funds of £27,817 and unrestricted funds of £71,040. This is an encouraging position as we have almost come out the other side of lockdown. The amount received from giving is down by 3.5% due to the changing circumstances of the congregation. Many givers have now transferred to standing order through the bank which helps the financial planning. There was continued support for the wall fund and the Tower of Light at Christmas. Surveys for the wall, which is in need of repair, cost £8700, necessary because of the nature of the wall, but this was mainly offset by the closure of the no. 2 account which had accrued just over £8000.

Holy Cross has been able to fully cover all outgoings including the parish share. The community hall and the church are signed up to long term contracts for the gas and electricity, agreed just before the energy crisis and this again affords us some stability. The substantial increase in the price of oil for this winter was partially offset by a generous donation from the diocese as a result of a grant from the Church of England. The outstanding credit of £1,100 from our previous gas supplier going bust has been returned to our account - many thanks to Martin Hughes for his persistence in chasing this up.

Fundraising has resumed again after the pandemic. Many thanks to Ian McKenzie for his successful coach trips and to Sue Dempsey for another fantastic Christmas Fair. Some well supported coffee mornings were arranged this year enabling us to donate over £2000 to the Ukraine appeal. Many thanks to Beryl Robinson and her team. Other charities supported include the DEC Afghanistan appeal and the Children's Society.

The rector and church wardens arranged to donate £1000 to the scouts as they returned from Covid to find there were problems with the ageing boiler in their building.

The finance system within the church works very efficiently. Pat Clark, who retired as treasurer at the end of April, and Sue Treanor have developed a sound system for recording the finances and arranging the banking, supported by the BACS system. I would like to record my thanks to Pat for helping me as I took over from her in the short term. Also, my thanks to Sue for her help in 'easing me in'. Finally, I would like to thank Wendy Deverill for offering her services as treasurer from January 2023. I know she has made a successful start to the role and wish her every success.

Please see audited accounts as separate documents at end.

THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE PARISH CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 – FABRIC COMMITTEE ITEMS

The following is a summary, in chronological order, of work done on the fabric of the church during 2022. It is a mixture of maintenance and improvement works. Because it is a listed building, many of the works meet the criteria enabling VAT to be reclaimed from HMRC.

21/01/22 H G Vess Security Systems Ltd

Church Intruder alarm serviced. £215.00, VAT £43.00, **TOTAL £258.00**

26/01/22 Block N Mesh

Supplied 3Round Top Anti-Climb Gladiator Panels, 3 rubber blocks, 6 standard coupler and 1 additional rubber block, to form a support to the distorted churchyard wall to the right of the Lych Gate. These materials were assembled and fitted by Roy Milne and Martin Hughes. **TOTAL £208**

01/02/22. E-Bound

Roof alarm annual service. £310.53, VAT £62.11, **TOTAL £372.64**

03/05/22 Celtic Fire Security

Fire extinguisher etc., inspection and service for Church, Parish Hall and Jubilee Rooms. £163.00, VAT £32.60, **TOTAL £195.60**

20/09/22 David Wells, Organ Builders, Liverpool

Retune and Repairs to Organ £420, £84 VAT, **TOTAL £504**

29/09/22 Barlows

Call out because of tripping in South Aisle circuit. Fault traced to damaged cable. £130.00, VAT £26.00, **TOTAL £156.**

31/10/22 Barlows

Replaced faulty cable back to fuse board. £162.77, VAT £32.55, **TOTAL £195.32**

26/11/22. Grosvenor Heating.

Boiler service and sealing leak in North Aisle radiator. £140.00, VAT £28.00. **TOTAL £168.00**

Unlike the previous year, no major repairs or improvements were undertaken. However, as described elsewhere in this document, major problems with the state of the churchyard perimeter wall have to be dealt with, which will be a major expense.

Thanks to of the work of the Sadler family and friends the churchyard has won a Green Flag Award and this is advertised advertise by a flag on the church tower. The Green Flag Award® scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and

around the world. The Green Flag Award is managed by *Keep Britain Tidy* under license from the UK Government Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities.

BIRKENHEAD DEANERY SYNOD

The last meeting in the current 3 year cycle of meetings took place on February 14th 2023 at St. Saviour's Oxtun when the guest speaker was the Bishop of Birkenhead. She asked "If you aren't angry then you are not paying attention. Well, Birkenhead Deanery, are you paying attention?" She then gave a very upbeat, robust response to her question. *(I have a copy of the whole presentation if anyone would like a copy).*

The previous meeting was on October 13th 2022 at St. Bede's Cloughton when the guest speaker was Rev Canon Dr Anthony Austell, Director of Mission in the Portsmouth Diocese. His talk was about Mission and centred on "The 5 marks of Mission" which he expanded on as Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure.

The first meeting of the synod's year was on June 21st 2022 at St. Saviour's Oxtun when the main speaker was Rev Dr Joe Kennedy (Rural Dean) who gave a presentation on the role of the Diocesan Environmental Forum of which he is co-chairman.

At this year's A.P.C.M. we have to elect 3 PCC members to the Synod for the next 3-year cycle 2023-2026.

The next synod meetings are on June 12th 2023 at St. Catherine's Tranmere and October 19th 2023 at Christ Church Birkenhead.

Ian McKenzie, April 2023

SAFEGUARDING

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

There have been no safeguarding referrals or concerns raised with the Safeguarding Officer during 2022.

AGREEMENT WITH OFFENDERS

Offenders who become known to the Church and who pose a risk to children or adults at risk and who wish to take part in activities or Church worship, should enter into an agreement which should be reviewed on a regular basis.

During 2022 the Safeguarding Officer was not informed of any new or recent offenders who require such agreements.

CURRENT DBS REGISTRATIONS.

Disclosure and Barring Service: *Thirtyone:eight* (formerly *Churches' Child Protection and Advisory Service*) is the appointed safeguarding partner for the Diocese of Chester.

I am still waiting for further advice from the Diocese about registration and checking identity and documents. Once this has been established, I will be in touch with those who require new/updated DBS certificates.

Some PCC members have completed their safeguarding training online which is great news. I am still waiting to hear from the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer for advice on training in a group setting. I fear this may be some time off yet.

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The PCC continues to comply with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Paul Mountford, April 2023.

FURTHER REPORTS ON THE LIFE OF THE PARISH

CHURCH WARDENS REPORTS

PARISH CHURCH & SURROUNDS.

Work continues to ensure the approaches in and around the Church, Car Park and Parish Hall are kept tidy.

Attendance during service engineer visits within the Church.

Stewarding duties during 10am Sunday Worship, baptisms & funerals.

Regular checks on the consumption of heating oil and ordering / delivery as necessary. A fault on the oil tank level indicator was found to be due to a faulty battery.

Removal and storage of Christmas Trees and assistance with Tower / Trees of Lights.

Making of the Easter Cross from Christmas tree trunks for the Craft Club.

Reading and submitting meter readings for electricity.

Flag flying on the tower.

Social distancing and hand sanitisation measures are still being recommended.

Roy Milne. (Church Warden), April 2023.

HALLS REPORTS.

Parish Community Hall.

Hirings for the Hall are now back to pre-Covid utilisation with the exception that one disruptive dance group has left.

Children's Birthday Parties are still very popular.

Wirral Borough Council Pest Control continue with their regular attendance.

Some minor maintenance has been undertaken over the last year.

The heating system is fully controlled by the boiler timer programmer and the settings adjusted as per seasonal demands.

The hall water meter has been located.

Reading and submitting gas and electricity meter readings: the water meter is read but the reading is submitted by Sue Treanor.

Hand sanitisation measures are still being recommended.

The recently formed Craft Club is proving to be a very popular addition to parish life and is well attended.

Jubilee Rooms.

At present these are used for bereavement counselling, a local Housing Resident's Group, church mission initiatives such as the Open the Book group, a well-being business, and organisations promoting healthier lifestyles.

The roof to the rear of the building needs repairing.

Roy Milne. (Halls Manager), April 2023.

Boundary Wall: Discussions with Curtin's Civil Engineers to produce a design and specification for proposed supports for the wall (which must be submitted to the DAC for acceptance) have stalled due to disagreement over the adequacy of the support design. This is despite its being suggested by Wirral MBC, which has already had a similar design accepted by the DAC and installed at St Hilary's Church in Wallasey.

Trees: A large lime tree, considered to be causing damage to an adjacent section of boundary wall and dangerously top heavy has been felled, along with a yew tree outside the parish hall which was found to be rotten. WK Arboriculture were asked to check other trees in the churchyard and identified nine trees they considered in need of urgent attention. Their quotation for the work was accepted by the PCC and List B permission for the work to be carried out was submitted and approved by the Archdeacon via the DAC. We currently await a date to be agreed for the work to commence.

Calendars: These proved very popular. 86 of the 100 printed were sold resulting in a profit to church funds of £227.

Positive Energy: After much work, including involving the Ombudsman, we finally received the £1100 which was the credit on the account when Pozitive ceased trading in November 2021. The £50 compensation awarded by the Ombudsman has yet to be received. In order to reduce the risk of such a large credit being accrued, the current gas providers have been asked to install a remote reading facility so they can access readings themselves but progress on this is slow.

Internet: Preliminary work was carried out on the possibility of providing an internet connection to the church and/or the Parish Hall. In connection with this, provision of a contactless payment facility in the church to encourage donations from visitors was also considered. Both remain open for further discussion once the vacancy has been filled.

Vacancy: Both Wardens attended a Parish Leadership Team Meeting at which Christine announced her decision to leave Holy Cross. Members of the PCC attended a meeting chaired by the Archdeacon at which he outlined the procedural process to be followed. Following Christine's departure, we both attended a meeting with the Archdeacon and Buildings Manager to inspect the interior of the Rectory.

The Parish Profile and other paperwork required for the vacancy is now complete and ready for submission.

Martin Hughes. (Church Warden), April 2023.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Parish Leadership Team (Rector, Assistant Curate, Reader, and Parish Administrator) has continued to meet during 2022, usually on Monday mornings, to pray together and share in conversation around the life of the parish. Pastoral Workers Emeriti are also invited to this meeting, and from time-to-time churchwardens are also invited to join the meeting to discuss particular agenda items. The Parish Leadership Team oversees worship, pastoral care, adult discipleship, mission with new generations and outreach. Members of the team work with PCC subcommittees to develop some of these aspects of the life of the parish and the team reports regularly to the PCC.

Revd Josie Tuplin, Hon. Assistant Priest, April 2023

WORSHIPING LIFE

CHURCH SERVICES

Services of Holy Communion at 8am and 10am on Sunday mornings, a quiet Sunday evening service, and the 10am Holy Communion service on Wednesdays have continued throughout 2022. A service of Night Prayer via telephone has also continued to be available throughout. We are very grateful to all who contribute to our weekly pattern of worship, especially to four new chalice assistants. Numbers attending worship fluctuate week by week but most weeks around 70 people

have joined in worship at one service or another on Sundays and 10-20 on Wednesday mornings.
Revd Josie Tuplin, Hon. Assistant Priest, April 2023

BAPTISMS, CONFRIMATION, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

During 2022 we welcomed many families to church to share in significant life events

Baptisms - 32 children and 1 adult. All families bringing children for baptism take part in a one hour session of baptism preparation some weeks before their baptism service and are encouraged to attend Sunday services and Messy Church. Adults preparing for baptism participated in a 3 session baptism preparation course exploring the teaching of the Christian faith, relationship with God and commitment.

Confirmation: In October 2022, we welcomed Bishop Julie to Holy Cross for a service of baptism and confirmation. Six of the candidates, two of whom were also baptized by Bishop Julie, were students from the Church School, and they were confirmed alongside three adults who have joined our church community since the Covid outbreak. It was a delight to welcome Bishop Julie, the candidates and their families and friends for a very special occasion.

Weddings – 10 plus 1 renewal of vows. The annual Marriage Preparation Day was reinstated in 2022 and the couples who attended enjoyed the marriage preparation and many also comment on how much they enjoyed their wedding services in church.

Funerals: Clergy continue to visit the bereaved and to officiate at funerals both in church and at Landican Crematorium.

Church and burial in churchyard: 5

Church and Landican: 15

Landican only: 6

Burial of Ashes: 8

Revd Josie Tuplin, Hon. Assistant Priest, and Sue Treanor, Parish Administrator, April 2023

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

The Holy Cross Bible Study Group has been meeting on Zoom for nearly three years now and we continue to attract new members. In 2022, much of our focus has been on the Acts of the Apostles, together with a short study of Old Testament texts relating to creation. The group meets on Tuesdays at 8pm and we are always delighted to welcome visitors and new members.

In addition to the Bible Study group, Revd Josie has prepared three adults and six young people for confirmation over the course of 2022.

Revd. Josie Tuplin, Hon. Assistant Priest, April 2023

PASTORAL CARE

During 2022 it has been possible to visit people in their homes and in hospital once again and members of the Leadership Team have been able to take communion to parishioners at home and in Nursing Homes, as well as keeping in touch by telephone with those who are currently unable to

come to church. It is good also to recognise the importance of the informal pastoral care faithfully provided to one another and to neighbours by members of the congregation. A priority for the future is to recruit and train a team of lay people to assist in home communions.

Revd. Josie Tuplin, Hon. Assistant Priest, April 2023

MISSION WITH NEW GENERATIONS

Holy Cross Woodchurch Parish church continues to have a good relationship with Woodchurch CE Church school with a number of parishioners serving as school governors and clergy making visits to school by invitation as often as possible. We also welcome school into church regularly for special services, which are well attended not only by the children but also by their families.

Under the leadership of Mrs Diane Adams, the *Open the Book* team is leading fortnightly assemblies in two local schools, and the team is growing.

Messy Church has continued to meet monthly and to thrive. It provides a wonderful opportunity for children, along with their parents and carers, to enjoy creative activities, worship songs and Bible stories, and to share a simple meal together. Average attendance at Messy Church is 18 children and 22 adults. As part of the community celebrations for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we welcomed 48 children and their carers for a special Messy Church to celebrate *The Faith of The Queen*, and we also enjoyed a very well-attended *Messy Easter* on Good Friday.

We hope that all of our services are family friendly, and we have a children's activity table available in church with resources appropriate for different ages and based on the Gospel reading of the day. In 2022, we were able to reinstate the 1st Sunday of the month as a designated all-age service, and it is good to welcome children from the Church School Junior Choir to take part in that service. In the longer term, we would like to have Sunday activities for children during term time alongside the principal service, and also a toddler group to serve local families.

The annual Christingle Service and Crib service were both very well attended and joyful occasions. Numbers of children attending these events with their parents and carers have continued to rise year on year since 2019.

Revd. Josie Tuplin, Hon. Assistant Priest, April 2023

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Outreach and Community Engagement Team is currently promoting two projects in the parish, a Community Café and an initiative to welcome people who move onto the Woodchurch Estate.

Community Café is a joint venture with our neighbours at Meadowside Special School. We meet in the Parish Hall on Wednesday afternoons in term time. A team of senior students from Meadowside work in the kitchen, serve hot drinks and cake, and clean and tidy the kitchen and hall at the end of the afternoon. Their efficiency, good humour and friendliness are what make the café so special and it provides a warm and welcoming space in which to relax and meet friends. It also enables the young people to gain important work experience and has been recognised by *Involve North West* as providing a valuable resource for the local community where social isolation and poverty are key challenges.

Our scheme to welcome new residents with a potted plant, a card and a leaflet about church activities continues and work on a nature trail in the churchyard is well advanced. We hope that

this will be a valuable amenity for local schools and families and will encourage greater knowledge and love for God's creation.

A new outreach activity is the Craft Club which meets in the Parish Community Hall and has already attracted a large number of people who are not regular members of the congregation.

In 2022, the annual *Tower of Light* service at the beginning of Advent, saw a return to the sort of numbers we have been used to in the past, and it was good to remember our departed loved ones in the company of so many of our neighbours from the wider community.

A possible proposal for the future is the establishment of a monthly or termly Dementia Café

Revd. Josie Tuplin, Hon. Assistant Priest, April 2023

READER TRAINING

I am now coming to the end of year 4 of Post-licensing Reader Training. My licensing service at Chester Cathedral on 8th October 2022 was a huge joy, made all the more special by the wonderful support I received from this wonderful family of Holy Cross Church. I am so grateful to you all and for your continued encouragement and support. As many of you will be aware, I have been given opportunities to lead services and to share with you some of my thoughts on our Bible readings and I have been so grateful for those opportunities. My hope is that you have found some of those thoughts and reflections helpful. I do know now that God was calling me to do this some time ago and I eventually had to stop running away. Your love and prayers will continue to sustain and feed me so that I may continue to grow and serve our congregations and the wider community.

With thanks again for all your prayers and support.

Susan Mountford, April 2023

SOCIAL AND FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES

While no formal arrangements for social events have been made for 2023 at this stage a number of events/dates have been suggested.

Saturday, August 5th MYSTERY COACH TRIP

Friday, September 29th MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT COFFEE MORNING

Either 24th or 25th Nov PRE-CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TRIP

And already booked –

Saturday, December 10th ADAM LACEY, CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Ian McKenzie, April 2023

MOTHERS UNION

Mothers' Union has continued to meet monthly on Tuesday afternoon. We have had a varied programme of speakers and events during 2022. All are welcome to join us at our meetings. The Diocesan Festival service this year was held at St Mary's Church Handbridge. Our Deanery coffee morning at St Stephens raised over £700 for MU projects.

At Holy Cross we continue to support the work of the Mothers' Union at home and worldwide with prayer and donations.

Jenny Davies, April 2023

These financial statements were approved by the PCC on 2nd April 2023
and were signed on its behalf by:

Ray Milne

Name: ROY MILNE

Position: Churchwarden.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Holy Cross Church, Woodchurch

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Holy Cross Church, Woodchurch for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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



Suzanne Draper FCCA ACA

SB&P

Chartered Accountants

Oriel House

2-8 Oriel Road

Bootle

Liverpool

Merseyside

L20 7EP

Date: 12/5/2023.....

HOLY CROSS, WOODCHURCH, P.C.C.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (ALL ACTIVITIES)

RECEIPTS	2022			2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
<i>Income from donors</i>				
<i>Planned giving:</i>				
1 Gift Aid (40 donors)	31610		31610	31920
2 Non Gift Aid (22 donors)	9622		9622	10800
1a Collections at all services	181		181	115
3 Church box and donations	10789		10789	10422
6 Gift aid Recovered	9964		9964	10501
7 Admin	210		210	200
8 Wall Fund		1487	1487	746
	62376	1487	63863	64704
<i>Other voluntary income</i>				
9 Grants & Legacies		1882	1882	11757
Churchyard Fund	50		50	570
10 Flowers		805	805	605
11 Fund raising activities	8522		8522	5592
11a 100 Club Prizes		1162	1162	1097
	8572	3849	12421	19621
<i>Investment income</i>				
12 CBF Deposit Fund interest		156	156	318
13 Dividends (CBF Investment Fund)		691	691	505
	0	847	847	823
<i>Income from other sources</i>				
14 Wedding and funeral fees	23171		23171	16187
Chester Funeral Grants				270
16 Hall lettings (incl. Jubilee Rooms)	10516		10516	6908
17 Refunds (incl VAT)	2114		2114	500
Discretionary Fund				1000
21 From Vicar's discretionary fund CCLA		1000	1000	
21 Number 2 account closure	8167		8167	
	43968	1000	44968	24865
Total receipts	114916	7183	122099	110013

HOLY CROSS, WOODCHURCH, P.C.C.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (ALL ACTIVITIES)

	PAYMENTS	2022			2021
		Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
		£	£	£	£
	<i>Fund raising and social activities</i>				
	Hospitality				
1	Expenses: Fund raising		1478	1478	15
2	100 Club prizes		1141	1141	1031
		0	2619	2619	1046
	<i>Missionary and charitable giving</i>				
	Overseas missions				
	Christian relief and development	2570		2570	
	Home mission, church societies	361		361	50
3	Secular charities	2931		2931	50
	<i>Church activities.</i>				
	<i>Ministry:</i>				
4	Parish Share (Diocese)	36492		36492	41688
5	Chester Fees		4830	4830	3792
	<i>Salaries & Honararia</i>				
6	Parish secretary	13302		13302	12866
7	Verger's Fees		1000	1000	1100
7	Gravedigger's Fees		2850	2850	3109
7	Bell Ringers		507	507	240
7,10	Organist	3990	1640	5630	3476
7	funeral admin/flowers		1651	1651	
		53784	12478	66262	66271
	<i>Clergy & Staff Expenses</i>				
11	Rector's expenses				
7	Rector Funeral Fees			0	144
12	Rectory Utilities/council tax	2967		2967	3352
	Rectory Expenses			0	
	Assistant clergy expenses	2967	0	2967	3496
	<i>Church expenses</i>				
	<i>Mission & evangelism</i>				
	Worship & Young People				
	Pastoral				
	Outreach				
	Deanery payments				
	Education & Training				
	<i>Running Expenses</i>				
14	Sundry expenses	4501		4501	
26	Insurance	6021		6021	5966
27	Basic expenses	3309		3309	1832
15	Repairs and maintenance	2903		2903	3404
16	Services - sacristy, choir, etc.		700	700	1004
17	Flowers		970	970	835
18	Printing, stationery, etc	795		795	2949
19	Churchyard upkeep & improvements (App.2)	208		208	1940
		17737	1670	19407	17930
	<i>Church Utility Bills</i>				
20	Church Utilities	6188		6188	2487
21	Hall Utilities	3216		3216	3212
		9404		9404	5699
	<i>Cost of Trading</i>				
22	PCH & JR	3408		3408	4934
	Parish magazine: direct costs	3408	0	3408	4934
	<i>Major Repairs</i>				
	Rood Screen			0	22793
	South Aisle Window			0	5338
	North Aisle Window			0	1632
			0	0	29763
	<i>Governance Costs</i>				
24	Audit fee	250		250	250
		250		250	250
	<i>Other outgoing resources payments</i>				
	Refunds			0	970
32	Surveys		8790	8790	
33	Payment into CCLA account		8000	8000	
		0	16790	16790	970
	<u>Total payments</u>	90481	33557	124038	130409

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Debtors

Investments

Land and Property

(Note 1: The Church and the Rectory are benefice property.

Note 2: The Jubilee Rooms, car park, Lewis Hall and grassed area are Diocesan glebe, but it is intended to transfer them to the PCC when future requirements for the Rectory have been determined.)

Other assets

Lawnmower and gardening equipment.

(Note : Church furnishings are listed in the inventory and are vested in the churchwardens on special trusts.)

Liabilities

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Amount</u>
---------------------	---------------

Item	Amount	Comment
Church Roof Security	Annual charges currently £569	

HOLY CROSS, WOODCHURCH, P.C.C.

DONATIONS TO MISSIONS AND OTHER CHARITIES
FROM THE P.C.C.'s GENERAL FUND AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

	2022			2020
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<i>Overseas Missions</i>				
<i>Christian relief and Development</i>				
DEC Afghanistan	175	-	175	
DEC Covid Appeal	175		175	
DEC Ukraine appeal	2220		2220	
	2570		2570	
<i>Home Mission and Church Societies</i>				
Birkenhead Church Aid				50
Chester Clergy Trust				
Ark Project				
Children's Society	361		361	310
	361		361	
<i>Secular Charities</i>				
Water Aid				
Charles Thompson Mission				
TOTALS	2,931		2,931	360

HOLY CROSS, WOODCHURCH, P.C.C.
RESTRICTED FUNDS DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS
for year ended 31st December 2022

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	<u>2022</u> £	<u>2021</u> £	
<u>HAYWARD TRUST (for Church Repairs)</u>			
Donations			
Interest	16	1	(no expenditure) 1632
[Balance, being excess receipts over payments]			
CBF Deposit a/c balances at 1/1/22 1239			
CBF Deposit a/c balances at 31/12/22 1255			
<u>SANCTUARY FUND</u>			
Donations			
Interest	51	2	(no expenditure) 0
[Balance, being excess receipts over payments]			
CBF Deposit a/c balances at 1/1/22 3880			
CBF Deposit a/c balances at 31/12/22 3931			
<u>YOUTH FUND</u>			
Donations			
Interest	30	0	(no expenditure) 0
[Balance, being excess receipts over payments]			
CBF Deposit a/c balances at 1/1/22 2269			
CBF Deposit a/c balances at 31/12/22 2299			
<u>CHURCH ENHANCEMENT FUND</u>			
Donations			
Interest	25	0	(no expenditure) 0
[Balance, being excess receipts over payments]			
CBF Deposit a/c balances at 1/1/22 1861			
CBF Deposit a/c balances at 31/12/22 1886			
<u>SOUND SYSTEM FUND</u>			
Donations			
Interest	1	0	(no expenditure) 0
[Balance, being excess receipts over payments]			
CBF Deposit a/c balances at 1/1/22 86			
CBF Deposit a/c balances at 31/12/22 87			
<u>RECTOR AND WARDENS FUND</u>			
Donations			
CBF Deposit a/c balances at 31/12/22 12950			
<u>BELL FUND</u>			
Donations			
CBF Deposit a/c balances at 31/12/22 58			

HOLY CROSS, WOODCHURCH, P.C.C.
RESTRICTED FUNDS IN CURRENT ACCOUNT
for year ended 31st December 2022

	RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	<u>2022</u> £	<u>2021</u> £	<u>2022</u> £	<u>2021</u> £
<u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>				
Donations	0	0	(no expenditure)	0
	Current a/c balances at 1/1/22 500			
	Current a/c balances at 31/12/22 500			
<u>DONKEY FUND</u>				
Donations	0	0	(no expenditure)	0
	Current a/c balances at 1/1/22 100			
	Current a/c balances at 31/12/22 100			
<u>CHOIR FUND</u>				
Donations	80	110	(no expenditure)	0
	Current a/c balances at 1/1/22 110			
	Current a/c balances at 31/12/22 190			
<u>MESSY CHURCH</u>				
Donations	97.57	0	(no expenditure)	0
	Current a/c balances at 1/1/22 48.07			
	Current a/c balances at 31/12/22 145.64			
<u>CHESTER GRANT</u>				
Donations	0	0	(no expenditure)	128
	Current a/c balances at 1/1/22 385.00			
	Current a/c balances at 31/12/22 385			
<u>WALL FUND</u>				
Donations	1487		(no expenditure)	
	Current a/c balances at 1/1/22 726			
	Current a/c balances at 31/12/22 2213			
<u>DISCRETIONARY FUND (those in need)</u>				
Donations	1667		(no expenditure)	
	Current a/c balances at 1/1/22 0			
	Current a/c balances at 31/12/22 1667			
<u>BELL FUND</u>				
Donations	100		(no expenditure)	
	Current a/c balances at 1/1/22 0			
	Current a/c balances at 31/12/22 100			
<u>CHURCHYARD FUND</u>				
Donations	50		(no expenditure)	
	Current a/c balances at 1/1/22 0			
	Current a/c balances at 31/12/22 50			

Accounts

**HOLY CROSS,
WOODCHURCH PARISH CHURCH**

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
2021**

Chair

Reverend Christine Broad (Rector)
The Rectory,
Church Lane,
Woodchurch,
Wirral,
CH49 7LS

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs Pat Clark,
17, Noctorum Way,
Noctorum,
Wirral,
CH43 9HS

Hon Secretary

Mrs Susan Mountford,
c/o The Parish Office
Church Lane
Woodchurch,
Wirral,
CH497LS

Growing disciples of Christ

Romans 5:5

*“and hope does not disappoint us,
because God’s love has been poured into
our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has
been given to us”*

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SERVE DURING 2021/2022

RECTOR: Revd Christine Broad (Chair)

ASSISTANT CURATE: Revd Josie Tuplin

CHURCHWARDENS: Mr Roy Milne (from 28.04.19) (Vice Chair)
Mr Martin Hughes (from September 2020)

LAY REPRESENTATIVE ON CHESTER DIOCESAN SYNOD
Mr Ian McKenzie

LAY REPRESENTATIVES ON BIRKENHEAD DEANERY SYNOD:

Mrs Jenny Davies	(retires 31 st May 2023)
Mrs Anne Palmer	(retires 31 st May 2023)
Mrs Bernie Gallivan	(retires 31 st May 2023)

ELECTED MEMBERS: (brackets denote year of expiry of term of office)

Mrs Liz Davies (retires April 2024)
Mr Paul Mountford (retires April 2024)
Mrs Sue Mountford (retires April 2024) PCC Secretary
Vacancy for one additional member (to retire April 2024)

Mrs Diane Adams (retires April 2023)
Mrs Gill Stott (retires April 2023)
Mr Duncan Smith (retires April 2023)
Dr Roy Palmer (retires April 2023)

Mrs Ann Cleary (retires April 2022)
Mr Pat Cleary (retires April 2022)
Miss Lucy Dempsey (retires April 2022)
Mrs Sue Dempsey (retires April 2022)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: *none at present*

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Pat Clark (Treasurer)
Mrs Sue Treanor (Parish Administrator)
Mr Tony Lunam (Adviser re halls and buildings)

INTRODUCTION

This is the 24th Annual Report of the Woodchurch Parochial Church Council (the PCC) prepared for the purposes of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997.

Holy Cross Church, Woodchurch is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office c/o 20, Eltham Green, Arrowe Park CH49 5NG. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a registered charity, number 1174003.

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector in promoting the parish and the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical; it also has responsibilities relating to the maintenance of the parish church and churchyard, and for the Parish Community Hall and other PCC-owned property. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the annual parochial church meeting; there is also a limited power of co-option. The ex-officio members are the clergy licensed to the parish, the churchwardens, and the lay representatives on the Diocesan and Deanery Synods.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

In July 2019 the PCC adopted "Growing disciples of Christ" as a summary of our core purpose. Our vision is to be a welcoming, growing, all-age Christian community faithfully proclaiming the love of God in word and deed.

REPORTS ON THE LIFE OF THE PARISH 2021

ELECTORAL ROLE

The Roll is closed for additions or alterations for 28 days before the A.P.C.M. and re-opened after the meeting. At the time of the closure there were 137 persons on the Roll with 56 living in the parish and 81 non-resident in the parish. *Ian McKenzie, electoral role officer, April 2022*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH GENERALLY

It has been just over 3 years now since we welcomed Reverend Christine Broad, her husband Nick, and their family and almost 3 years since we welcomed Reverend Josie, her husband Christopher and family to our parish. What a blessing they continue to be! As a PCC we do our best to represent the congregations and the wider community in which we serve and we have, as a team, discussed and voted on things we believe are important aspects of church life in order for us to ultimately spread the Gospel, as well as the more day to day things such as paying bills, maintenance issues, etc. We had our 2021 annual meeting in April filling all the required positions except for one place on the PCC. We have had 5 PCC meetings since then, some on Zoom and some in person. We have been extremely fortunate to be able to deal with matters of church and community business when required. Fundraising has continued despite the pandemic but has been on a much smaller scale. Some of our fundraising activities have restarted for example Christmas Coach trip, Harvest Supper, and Christmas Fayre.

Our verse for 2022 is "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3.9). May we continue to discern what God is calling us to do in our church and wider community to reach all who we wish to know of the Good News Jesus offers all. *Susan Mountford, PCC Secretary April 2022*

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2020

For a number of months in 2020 we were unable to make our usual Parish Share payments so we started 2021 owing Chester £5,852. This we agreed to repay at a rate of £500 extra per month. This money has now been completely repaid.

We have paid out more this year than we took in but most of this was covered by the money donated in 2020 for the Rood Screen. We also had work completed on both the South Aisle Window and the North Aisle Window. The work on the South Aisle Window was paid by a donor and the North Aisle Window was paid for by transferring money from the Haywood Trust Deposit account. Unfortunately we now need to look at repairing the churchyard wall but that is for 2022.

We have been able to do some fund raising in the last year and our halls have started to provide an income. Once again we have managed to keep our heads above water and get through the year. This has been mainly due to the wonderful response of our congregation in their continued support of the church and for so many continuing to pay their weekly/monthly giving by standing order payments. A few of our envelope givers have continued to put their money in their envelopes and pass on the envelopes to Sue Treanor to be paid into our account.

Again we would not have survived this last year without the change to our banking facilities. We are now able to do on-line banking and so people can be paid without resorting to cheques or cash. Nearly all firms want invoices paid in this way and we are cutting to a minimum any payments we make in cash. This has also made it possible for us to keep a close eye on finances in real time rather than only at the end of a month as before. Sue Treanor is now the second signatory for on-line banking with me and it has worked incredible smoothly thanks to Sue's extra input. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all the extra work she has taken on this year. We are extremely fortunate to have Sue as our Parish Administrator and she works many, many more hours than we pay her for.

I have included an extra section this year in the accounts showing monies in the account which are not at our disposal. This is headed restricted funds in current account. I felt people needed to know why all of the money in our account was not always at our disposal.

People may notice that though we have restarted Messy Church in the Parish Community Hall there are no payments under Worship and Young People. This is due to the generous support of all the helpers at Messy Church who donate all the necessary food, stationary and equipment as well as their time and effort, free of charge.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all those people who have helped me over the last 22 years as Treasurer and for the trust you have all placed in me. That has meant a lot to me. I am grateful to be able to hand over the reins to Nick Broad. I will continue to do the wages for the next few months till he finds his feet and of course will be on hand to help in any way I can.

Pat Clark (Hon. Treasurer) April 2022

Please see also accounts and audit certificate available as separate documents

THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE PARISH CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 – FABRIC COMMITTEE ITEMS

The following is a summary, in chronological order, of work done on the fabric of the church during 2021. It is a mixture of maintenance and improvement works, except from the last item which concerns work in the churchyard. The majority of the jobs were small items. However, two jobs, both carried out by Recclesia and requiring a faculty, were major undertakings.

27/01/21. H G Vess Security Systems Ltd

Church Intruder alarm serviced. £215.00, VAT £43.00, TOTAL £258.00

08/02/21. Recclesia

Repair and restoration of the Stained glass window in west end of the South Aisle. The work was started in December 2020. It included removal of two extremely eroded sandstone mullions and replacement with newly fashioned sandstone. Faculty number 2019-045303.

£4,448, VAT £889.60. Total £5,337.60

22/02/21. Tony Parsons

Investigate dampness of walls in north west corner between North Aisle and Chancel. Clean internal gutters and direct flow into downpipe. £150 (No VAT)

09/04/21. Recclesia

Beetle infestation elimination in Rood Screen, Altar Rail and Chancel Pew was started in December 2020, completed 09/04/21. Invoice dated 30/03/21. Faculty number 2016-004487.

Costs were Rood Screen £14,517, Altar rail £1,699, Chancel Pew £2,231. General items £496.

Total £18,993. VAT total £3,798. TOTAL £22,731.

28/04/21. Celtic Fire Security

Fire extinguisher etc., inspection and service for Church, Parish Hall and Jubilee Rooms.

£260.00, VAT £52.00, TOTAL £312.00

29/04/21. Barlows

Repair of faulty wiring in South Aisle. £83.00, VAT 16.60 for survey plus £385.00, VAT £77.00 for job. Total £468.00, VAT £93.60. GRAND TOTAL £561.60.

30/04/21. E-Bound,

Roof alarm annual service. £288, VAT £57.60, TOTAL £345.60

04/08/21. Pas sound engineering

Supply of new radio microphone. £232.20, VAT 46.44, TOTAL 278.64

13/09/21. Grosvenor Heating.

Boiler service and replacement of oil burner nozzle £122.00, VAT £24.40. TOTAL £146.40

03/10/21. H G Vess Security Systems.

Supplied and fitted new Optex PIR zone 1 church alarm system. TOTAL £96.00

21/10/21. PES Heating and Plumbing.

Fitted a replacement (donated) toilet and sink in the Church Vestry. Supplied and fitted a new doughnut washer, basin waste system and ceramic tap heads. TOTAL £270.

02/11/21. Ron Holden

Removed sections of a large fallen churchyard tree which had come to rest partly on the Jubilee Rooms and had also demolished several grave headstones. Charged £750. Ecclesiastical Insurance paid £500 of this, leaving us to pay £250 excess. This claim is the first of two others (dealing with the damage to the Jubilee Rooms and headstones) which will be covered by the same excess.

BIRKENHEAD DEANERY SYNOD

Holy Cross is one of the ten parishes that make up the Birkenhead Deanery. Because of the Covid pandemic restrictions the Synod was not able to meet in 2021 (in fact the last meeting was in February 2020) but the Standing Committee was able to make plans to resume meetings from February 2022 with the first one at Holy Cross when His Worship, the Mayor Wirral was to be the guest speaker.

The Birkenhead Church Aid Society which is managed by the Deanery Standing Committee make grants to members of churches in the deanery who are training for ordination, to be Lay Readers or Pastoral Workers. All the parishes in the deanery make annual donations to the work of the society which also receives some interest from earlier investments. In 2020 a total of £ 1350 was given as grants and in 2021 the total was £ 600. *Ian McKenzie April 2022*

SAFEGUARDING

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

There have been no safeguarding referrals or concerns raised with the Safeguarding Officer during 2021.

AGREEMENT WITH OFFENDERS

Offenders who become known to the Church and who pose a risk to children or adults at risk and who wish to take part in activities or Church worship, should enter into an agreement which should be reviewed on a regular basis.

During 2021, the Safeguarding Officer was not informed of any new or recent offenders who require such agreements.

CURRENT DBS REGISTRATIONS

Eleven lay persons within the Parish currently have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates in place; details of these certificates are held by Thirtyone:Eight (formerly Churches' Child Protection and Advisory Service), the appointed safeguarding partner for the Diocese of Chester.

One new application for a DBS certificate was received and processed during 2021.

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The PCC continues to comply with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). *Alison Cretney 7 April 2022*

Our thanks go to Alison for serving faithfully as Parish Safeguarding Officer for a number of years. Alison has now handed this role on, and we are grateful to Paul Mountford for agreeing to take on this role. *Christine Broad Rector April 2022*

FURTHER REPORTS ON THE LIFE OF THE PARISH

CHURCH WARDENS REPORTS

PARISH CHURCH & SURROUNDS.

Work continues to ensure the approaches in and around the Church, Car Park and Parish Hall are kept tidy. Churchwardens also ensure the following.

Attendance during service engineer visits within the Church.

Stewarding duties during 10am Sunday Worship and also Baptisms.

Regular checks on the consumption of heating oil and ordering /delivery as necessary.

Removal and storage of Christmas Trees and assistance with Tower of Light.

Social distancing and hand sanitisation measures are still being recommended.

HALLS REPORTS.

1). Parish Community Hall.

Hirings for the Hall are now back to pre-Covid utilisation including two additional hirings, Meadowside School Cafe and one AA Group.

Children's Birthday Parties have also become a regular hirer.

Wirral Borough Council Pest Control have now resumed their regular attendance.

Some minor maintenance has been undertaken over the last year.

The heating system has been serviced and is now fully controlled by the boiler programmer following a period of indiscriminate setting on the room thermostat by hirers.

Hand sanitisation measures are still being recommended.

2). Jubilee Rooms.

This building has very limited usage. At present only the NA Group and a local Housing Residents Group use it on a regular basis, and also a group for parents bereaved of adult children.

The rear of the building, once a room available for hire, with a separate entrance has become a storage area.

The roof is leaking badly and has been inspected by two general contractors who were contacted to assess the damage, but both declined, so I arranged a visit from Furber Roofing. Their estimator undertook quite a detailed examination of the damage but sadly a lot of the timbers are rotting quite badly and this was also reported in a PCC Recommendation dated 2017 but was never acted upon. This is only a light-load bearing roof with fascia timbers.

The future usage of this area needs urgent discussion as to whether it is repaired or demolished.

Roy Milne. April 2022.

BOUNDARY WALL

In June, we received an outline report on the boundary wall from Castree Ltd., Civil Engineers, which indicated that two sections of the wall either side of the lych gate were in need of attention.

In order to move the matter forward we consulted the Church Architects but their quotes for designing and overseeing the works were felt to be very expensive so after discussion with the Diocesan Advisory Committee Secretary, it was agreed that we could seek alternative professional oversight. On the recommendation of a retired Chartered Surveyor, we asked Rupert Lowe MRICS of Grantley Lowe to visit the site and discuss the matter. His recommendation was that we employ Formby Surveys to carry out a specialist survey of the entire length of the wall to provide a detailed report highlighting issues and this report is passed to Curtins, Civil and Consulting Engineers to draw up specific plans for repair and reconstruction of the most urgent sections. Quotes from both were received and accepted by the PCC and the preliminary survey has now been carried out. Once plans are available, Rupert Lowe will draw up the necessary tender documents and submit these to suitable companies and, in the fullness of time, oversee the works during progression and sign off stages.

Curtins had already seen the outline report and suggested that, in view of the proximity of the wall to the right of the lych gate we needed to inform the Local Authority. Consultation with them resulted in the purchase and installation of the 3 sections of mesh fencing to contain the wall should a collapse occur.

It is anticipated that we will shortly be in a position to know with some certainty the cost of works needed to make the wall safe, including reinstatement of the collapsed section so that we can decide how to raise funds for the work. *Martin Hughes April 2022*

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

The parish leadership team, Rector, Assistant Curate, Reader in training, and Parish Administrator continue to meet via Zoom, usually on Monday mornings to pray together and share in conversation around the life of the parish. Pastoral workers emeriti are also invited to this meeting, and from time to time churchwardens are also invited to join the meeting to discuss particular agenda items. The Parish Leadership Team oversee worship, pastoral care, adult discipleship mission with new generations and outreach. Members of the team work with PCC subcommittees to develop some of these aspects of the life of the parish and the team reports regularly to the PCC. *Christine Broad Rector April 2022*

WORSHIP

Services of Holy Communion at 8am and 4pm or 6pm on Sundays, and 10am on Wednesdays have continued throughout 2021 with appropriate covid security measures in place. The principal 10am Sunday service remained on Zoom until 18th July 2021 and then moved back into the church building on 25th July with a service of Holy Communion. A service via telephone has also continued during 2021. It is good to report that in spite of various covid restrictions, changing

regulations and lockdowns worship has continued in an unbroken pattern at Holy Cross Church, either in the building or via Zoom or telephone all the way through the Pandemic and the leadership team are grateful for the support of everyone who has participated in worship in any way during this challenging time. Numbers attending worship fluctuate week by week but most weeks around 70 people join in worship at one service or another on Sundays and 10-20 on Wednesday mornings. *Christine Broad Rector April 2022*

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

During 2021 we welcomed many families to church to share in significant life events

Baptisms - 21 children and 6 adults. All families bringing children for baptism take part in a one hour session of baptism preparation some weeks before their baptism service, and are encouraged to attend Sunday services and Messy Church. Adults preparing for baptism participated in a 3 session baptism preparation course exploring the teaching of the Christian faith, relationship with God and commitment. During 2021 sessions were offered via Zoom when lockdowns were in place and in church following relaxation of restrictions

Weddings - 5 plus 1 renewal of vows. Due to covid restrictions wedding preparation took place on a couple by couple basis via zoom during 2021. The couples enjoyed the marriage preparations and many also comment on how much they enjoyed their wedding services in church.

Funerals: Clergy always make contact with families bringing a loved one to church for a funeral, during 2021 some funerals had to be arranged via telephone but visits are always offered where possible.

Church and burial in churchyard: 4

Church and Landican: 7

Landican only: 10

Graveside funeral only (due to Covid): 1

Burial of Ashes: 5

Christine Broad Rector and Sue Treanor Parish Administrator April 2022

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

The Holy Cross Bible Study Group has been meeting on Zoom for nearly two years now and we continue to attract new members. We began 2021 by looking at Marks's Gospel together, followed by a Bible Reading Fellowship Lent Course. Other books we've enjoyed reading over the course of the year have included Esther, Hebrews and Ruth. During the Advent and Christmas period we also studied Paula Gooder's excellent book, *Journey to the Manger*. We have been saddened as a group to lose our friend Anne Palmer, a long-term member of the group, whose beautiful prayers at the end of the sessions were much appreciated. The group meets on Tuesdays at 8pm and we are always delighted to welcome visitors and new members.

In addition to the Bible Study group, Revd Christine has prepared six adults for baptism over the course of 2021. *Josie Tuplin April 2022*

PASTORAL CARE

During 2021 our 2 pastoral workers continued to offer pastoral contact, care and visits where appropriate. Our clergy and reader in training also keep in touch with parishioners by telephone and visiting and are willing, by request, to take home communicants to parishioners unable to attend worship. It is hoped during 2022 to develop this ministry by training more people to share in home communion visits. *Christine Broad Rector April 2022*

MISSION WITH NEW GENERATIONS

Holy Cross Woodchurch Parish church continues to have a good relationship with Woodchurch CE Church school with a number of parishioners serving as school governors and clergy making visits to school by invitation as often as possible, We also welcome school into church regularly for special services.

Diane Adams has now taken up the role of leader of the Open the Book team and the team will be taking assemblies in local schools.

Messy Church continued online during the first part of 2021, and in the Autumn returned to the church hall. The team have been delighted to welcome no less than 53 children to different Messy Church sessions- though not all at once. Usually about 12 children attend at any one time with their parents and carers and enjoy craft, songs and stories, and refreshments together.

Although we hope that all of our services are family friendly, and we have a children's colouring table available in church, designated regular 1st Sunday all- age services did not take place during 2021 as we navigated the challenge of online worship and the return of the principal service to church, this is an area of church life to which we intend to attend during 2022, and would very much like at some point in the future to have Sunday activities for children during term time alongside the Principal service, and also a toddler group to serve local families.

Christine Broad Rector April 2022

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Outreach and Community Engagement Team is currently running two projects in the parish, a Community Café and an initiative to welcome people who move onto the Woodchurch estate.

Community Café is a joint venture with our neighbours at Meadowside Special School. We meet in the Parish Hall on Thursday afternoons in term time (or the Jubilee Rooms on the second Thursday in the month) between 1.15 and 2.45. A team of senior students from Meadowside work in the kitchen, serve hot drinks and cake, and clean and tidy the kitchen and hall at the end of the afternoon. Their efficiency, good humour and friendliness are what make the café so special and it is a wonderful opportunity for the rest of us to relax with friends and meet new people. It also provides the young people with valuable work experience and has recently been recognised by *Involve North West* as providing a valuable resource for the local community.

Our scheme to welcome new residents with a potted plant, a card and a leaflet about church activities continues. We have so far welcomed six people who are new to the area and distributed information leaflets about our Christmas services to people living in two new developments in the parish. *Josie Tuplin April 2022*

READER TRAINING

I am now coming to the end of year 3 of Reader Training. My classes and assignments have finished, providing all my outstanding results come back in the positive. I should know sometime in May. It has continued on-line which has been challenging but the learning has been wonderful. I also did a 6-week placement at Chester Cathedral on a Chaplaincy Essentials course which was wonderful and inspiring, in equal measure. I've received so much encouragement and support from everyone and I am grateful to you all. As many of you will be aware, I have been given opportunities to lead services and to share with you some of my thoughts on our Bible readings and I have been so grateful for those opportunities, and I am thankful for the encouraging phone calls and text messages. I feel even more sure than ever that this is what God is calling me to do and I just hope and pray, with your continued love and prayers, I will be licensed on 8th October 2022 so I can continue to grow and serve our congregations and the wider community.

With thanks again for all your prayers and support. *Susan Mountford. April 2022*

SOCIAL AND FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

Social Activities. Sadly we were only able to arrange two events last year because of the pandemic. In October we held a "Harvest Home Celebration" with supper and entertainment (but no dancing!) led by Alison Schultz and her band. Then at the end of November we had our annual pre-Christmas Shopping coach trip to Boundary Mill at Colne in Lancashire. As usual both events were well supported and enjoyed and we all look forward to arranging more events as soon as circumstances allow. *Ian McKenzie April 2022*

Fund Raising: Again because of Covid we were not able to arrange our annual Summer Fair in June and other activities were curtailed. However Sue Treanor, our Parish Administrator, was able to continue with her great fund raising efforts. The '100 Club' Monthly Draw carried on through 2021 raising funds for church. (See Sue if you would like to join!). The "Tower of Light" at the end of the year was hugely successful in terms of the numbers who attended the opening church service and then the switch on of the many lights on the church tower as well as in terms of the amount of money donated. The lights mounted at the top of the tower could be seen in many parts of the parish and as far away as Oxton and Prenton truly a visible sign to the local community that we are here. The Coffee Mornings organised by Beryl Robinson and her friends, and her 20p tube collections were both a boost to parish funds and our link to our parish community. Similarly there was great local community support for the for the annual Coffee Morning run for MacMillan Cancer Support in September. *Ian McKenzie April 2022*

MOTHERS UNION

Mothers' Union returned back to monthly Tuesday afternoon meetings in September 2021. We have a varied programme throughout the year and all are welcome to join us. At Holy Cross we continue to support the work of the Mothers' Union at home and worldwide with donations and Prayer.

Anne Palmer our Branch leader and Deanery representative for many years sadly passed away on 14th March 2022. Anne was a remarkable person and her Friendship, Leadership and Faith will be greatly missed. *Jenny Davies April 2022.*

THE CHAIR'S REPORT- A few words from the Rector

The reports above describe a parish determined to rise to the challenges which 2021 brought us as the world continued to navigate the global pandemic. We have continued to strive to be true to our core purpose which is to grow in faith, knowledge and love of God and in number. This core purpose is summarised in our statement, "growing disciples of Christ". Our vision is to be a faithful, welcoming, growing, all-age Christian community faithfully proclaiming the love of God in word and deed. We recognise that we have been richly blessed in many ways in 2021, and also that if we are to continue to grow into the fulfilment of the vision described above we need to listen prayerfully and carefully to God. And so we have adopted as our verse for the year for 2022 "Speak Lord for your servant is listening" and as we continue to worship together, to serve one another and endeavour to reach out to the community God has called us to serve, we pray that we will hear God's call and be faithful in discerning how we can work in the power of the Holy Spirit to become all that God is calling us to be. *Christine Broad Rector April 2022*

PAYMENTS	2021		2020	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Fund raising and social activities				
Hospitality				1
Expenses: Fund raising	<u>15</u>		15	75
100 Club prizes		<u>1031</u>	<u>1031</u>	997
	15	1031	1046	1073
Missionary and charitable giving				
Overseas missions				
Christian relief and development				
Home mission, church societies	<u>50</u>			360
Secular charities				
	50		50	360
Church activities.				
Ministry:				
Parish Share (Diocese)	41688		41688	29567
Chester Fees		3792	3792	
Salries & Honararia				
Parish secretary	12866		12866	12758
Verger's Fees		1100	1100	
Gravedigger's Fees		3109	3109	
Bell Ringers		240	240	
Organist	<u>2564</u>	<u>912</u>	<u>3476</u>	2188
	57118	9153	66271	44513
Clergy & Staff Expenses				
Rector's expenses				330
Rector Funeral Fees		144	144	
Rectory Utilities	948		948	
Rectory Expenses	<u>2404</u>		<u>2404</u>	3590
Assistant clergy expenses				<u>230</u>
	3352	144	3496	4150
Church expenses				
Mission & evangelism				
Worship & Young People				453
Pastoral				
Outreach				10
Deanery payments				20
Education & Training				
				483
Running Expenses				
Basic expenses	7798		7798	7929
Repairs and maintenance	3404		3404	2522
Services - sacristry, choir, etc.	1004		1004	1830
Flowers		835	835	90
Printing, stationery, etc	2949		2949	3414
Churchyard upkeep & improvements (App.2)	<u>1920</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>1940</u>	
	17075	855	17930	16415
Church Utility Bills				
Church Utilities	2487		2487	3170
Hall Utilities	<u>3212</u>		<u>3212</u>	<u>4188</u>
	5699		5699	7358
Cost of Trading				
PCH & JR	<u>2962</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>4934</u>	4811
Parish magazine: direct costs				235
	2962	1972	4934	5046
Major Repairs				
Rood Screen		22793	22793	
South Aisle Window		5338	5338	
North Aisle Window		<u>1632</u>	<u>1632</u>	
		29763	29763	
Governance Costs				
Audit fee	<u>250</u>		<u>250</u>	250
	250		250	250
Other outgoing resources payments				
Refunds	<u>970</u>		970	
	970		970	
Total payments	87491	42918	130409	79648

HOLY CROSS, WOODCHURCH, P.C.C.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

<u>Monetary assets</u>	2021							2020
	General Fund	Hayward Trust	Sanctuary Fund	Youth Fund	Enhancement Fund	Sound Sys Fund	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Current a/c Barclays Bank	19714						19714	38483
CBF Deposit Fund	3818	1239	3880	2269	1861	86	13153	14780
Cash in hand								
Total	23532	1239	3880	2269	1861	86	32867	53263
<u>Debtors</u>								
NIL								
<u>Investments</u>	2021							2020
	Reserve Fund		Churchyard Fund		TOTAL			TOTAL
	Number	Value (£)	Number	Value (£)	VALUE			VALUE
CBF Investment Fund shares	443	25877	1124	26323	52200			44969
<u>Land and Property</u>								
Parish Hall								
(Note 1: The Church and the Rectory are benefice property.								
Note 2: The Jubilee Rooms, car park, Lewis Hall and grassed area are Diocesan glebe,								
but it is intended to transfer them to the PCC when future requirements for the								
Rectory have been determined.)								
<u>Other assets</u>								
Photocopier								
Telephones								
Lawnmower and gardening equipment.								
(Note : Church furnishings are listed in the inventory and are vested in the churchwardens								
on special trusts.)								
<u>Liabilities</u>								
	Amount		Comment					
Church Roof Security			Annual charges					
Church Electrics	?							
Church Wall								

HOLY CROSS, WOODCHURCH, P.C.C.**DONATIONS TO MISSIONS AND OTHER CHARITIES
FROM THE P.C.C.'s GENERAL FUND AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

	2021			2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Overseas Missions				
 Christian relief and Development				
Christian Aid				
 Home Mission and Church Societies				
Birkenhead Church Aid	50			50
Chester Clergy Trust				
Ark Project				
Children's Soc				<u>310</u>
 Secular Charities				
Water Aid				
Charles Thompson Mission				
 TOTALS	50			360

HOLY CROSS, WOODCHURCH, P.C.C.

CHURCHYARD ACCOUNT for year ending 31st December 2021

Appendix 2

RECEIPTS	2021	2020	PAYMENTS	2021	2020
	£	£		£	£
Restricted					
Investment Interest / dividends		360	Gardening	20	630
Donations	570	270	Petrol, sundries		
			Trees	750	
			Wall	1170	
Unrestricted					
Transfer from Main a/c	1370	0			
TOTALS	1940	630		1940	630

RESTRICTED FUNDS DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS for year ended 31st December 2021

Appendix 3

RECEIPTS	2021	2020	PAYMENTS	2021	2020
	£	£		£	£
HAYWARD TRUST (for Church Repairs)					
Donations		0			
Interest	1	12	NA Window	1632	0
[Balance, being excess receipts over payments]					
CBF Deposit a/c balances @ 1/1/21 2870					
CBF Deposit a/c balances @ 31/12/21 1239					
SANCTUARY FUND					
Donations		0	(no expenditure)		0
Interest	2	16			
[Balance, being excess receipts over payments]					
CBF Deposit a/c balances @ 1/1/21 3878					
CBF Deposit a/c balances @ 31/12/21 3880					
YOUTH FUND					
Donations		0	(no expenditure)		0
Interest	1	10			
[Balance, being excess receipts over payments).					
Barclay's Bk Deposit a/c balances @ 1/1/21 2268					
CBF Deposit a/c balances @ 31/12/21 2269					
CHURCH ENHANCEMENT FUND					
Donations		0			
Interest	1	7	(no expenditure)		0
[Balance, being excess receipts over payments]					
CBF Deposit a/c balances @ 1/1/21 1860					
CBF Deposit a/c balances @ 31/12/21 1861					
SOUND SYSTEM FUND					
Donations		0			
Interest	0	0	(no expenditure)		0
[Balance, being excess receipts over payments]					
CBF Deposit a/c balances @ 1/1/21 86					
CBF Deposit a/c balances @ 31/12/21 86					

RESTRICTED FUNDS IN CURRENT ACCOUNT for year ended 31st December 2021

Appendix 4

RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
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Independent examiner's report to the PCC of Parish of Holy Cross, Woodchurch

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 4 to 9, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the guidance from the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented in those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997

Have not been met; or

(2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



M Hart (FCCA)
20 Enbourne Drive
Pontprennau
Cardiff

Date 28 March 2022