

THE POTTING SHED CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1176783

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2018-01-23

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

Contact

Address Willow Cottage
Norwell Woodhouse
Newark
NG23 6NG

Phone 01636636716

Email office@thepottingshedchurch.org

Website www.thepottingshedchurch.org

Activities

Objects: 'TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP AND PRAYER.'

Activities: The Potting Shed Church is a rural church community in the middle of Nottinghamshire. It seeks to nurture followers of Jesus, especially amongst families, children and youth. We hope to connect with those not presently engaging with existing models of rural church and to resource established rural churches. We meet on Sundays and midweek in a Barn and use Zoom and social media to build community.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Nottinghamshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£152,370	£113,595	-	-
2023-12-31	£120,424	£103,299	-	-
2022-12-31	£123,158	£87,866	-	-
2021-12-31	£125,417	£77,370	-	-
2020-12-31	£112,240	£67,522	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Joel Rathbone		2018-07-08
Naomi Louise Emerton		2022-09-01
Nigel Spraggins		2024-01-22
Rev ALISON JONES		2017-10-18

THE POTTING SHED CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1176783

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2024

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Bishop's Mission Order dated 1st August 2017 was made by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham under part V of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2011 and was made to endorse and make provision for The Potting Shed Church.

The Potting Shed Church was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 1st August 2017 with charity number: 1176783

The Potting Shed Church

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2024 Report and Accounts for The Potting Shed Church

Aims and Purposes

The Potting Shed Church was commissioned by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham to plant a pioneering, Resourcing Church in the middle of Nottinghamshire county amongst rural communities, as part of the wider mission and ministry of the Diocese.

We aim to connect with those not currently engaging with existing models of rural church, especially young families, youth, and young adults. Our purpose to enable those we connect with to explore faith in Jesus and experience church community and to grow in their discipleship. Our objective is also to be a resource for 'grafting' and 'planting' 'new worshipping communities' into rural villages and to develop more sustainable forms of mission generally in rural communities. We aim to be a 'filling station' – a place to encourage, nourish, grow and resource those who remain engaged in the life and leadership of rural churches.

Objectives and Activities

All planning and decision making is done in consideration of our stated purposes (taken from our Governing Document) and with thought to how we might better carry out those purposes as per the guidance given by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

When planning our Sunday worship Gatherings, midweek events and other activities, we seek to be accessible to people of all ages and stages of faith. We also aim to provide opportunities for all those who connect with The Potting Shed to explore the Christian faith for themselves and we're passionate about helping individuals and families to apply the Bible's teaching to their lives in practical ways.

We plan and lead midweek small groups and courses to meet the needs of the different age groups and stages of faith of those we connect with. These include: The Alpha Course, The Marriage Course, The Prayer Course, The Lectio Course, Saturday Breakfast and midweek Life Groups. We offer midweek prayer and worship opportunities: Tuesday Morning prayers on Zoom, in-person Prayer and Worship evenings and one-off courses as a follow-on from Alpha.

We are actively seeking to build community and further the Christian faith in all that we do and are committed to encouraging and resourcing established rural churches in their own ministries.

Achievements and Performances

A summary of the main achievements of The Potting Shed charity in 2024, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of our beneficiaries and wider benefits to society as a whole:

'To connect with those not currently engaging with existing models of church, especially young families, youth and young adults. To enable people to explore faith in Jesus and experience church community.'

In 2024 we continued to offer Sunday services from the Village Hall, Norwell and to reach out to the village and more widely with accessible opportunities to explore faith and deepen discipleship.

Revd Alison Jones (Pioneer Minister of The Potting Shed Church) supported local churches with occasional pastoral services, particularly weddings and baptisms. Two young Mums having had their children baptised, started to attend Little Seedlings (our group for babies, toddlers and pre-school children, plus their parents/carers) and were keen to explore faith further. These and other Occasional Offices offered natural ongoing connections with people at significant life moments. The Potting Shed's commission to explore fresh ways of being church in the rural setting, often leads to good conversations about faith, belonging and what it means to be part of a worshipping community.

The Potting Shed – a future location

Trustees continued to develop our thinking about a longer-term base for The Potting Shed Church, as the village hall location was not easily found by those in the wider rural area which we look to serve.

They worked with a local architect firm to develop plans for a flexible community and worship space on land offered to us by the Diocese, in the village of Cromwell, alongside a small rural church – St Giles' Cromwell. Positioned on the A1, access to the village is excellent for those living in the wider rural area and the offer would enhance village amenities too.

We held two community engagement days where those resident in the village were invited to view the plans and hear how The Potting Shed hoped to enhance and serve the village community whilst offering a fresh opportunity to church to those living in the wider, rural area. Villagers were asked to share their thoughts, which were extremely positive. The proposal offered a contemporary building, sensitively designed to sit alongside the traditional church building next door with creative links between the two. A statement of the old alongside the new! The outdoor space offered space for reflection, outdoor activities and space for schools to gather for end of term events.

Plans were shared with the Diocesan team, but it was felt that the timing was not quite right, and the trustees began to think about a shorter-term venue that would serve our charitable objectives well and ensure that the community at The Potting Shed continued to thrive.

As it was felt that these plans would not progress for now, Alison explored the opportunity of a closed church building, further along the A1 - St Nicholas' Church, Tuxford. After consultation with trustees, The Potting Shed employees and the church family it was felt that this would provide a short- to medium-term venue. The Diocese proposed that there might be opportunity to connect with a wider geographical area of villages and churches, particularly given that most churches were without clergy and in vacancy.

In December 2024, as part of that discernment The Potting Shed opened St Nicholas' Church for the Christmas Market and switching on of the Christmas Tree lights. Gale-force winds meant that the Christmas Market event did not go ahead at the last minute, but The Potting Shed at St Nicholas' were able to offer 'shelter from the storm' with refreshments, carols and an opportunity to meet those living locally.

Following that positive event, trustees and The Potting Shed team consulted with the church family and agreed that there was a valuable opportunity being placed before us, to move to Tuxford for the short to mid-term.

St Nicholas' Church building offers a surprisingly flexible worship space without pews, a level wooden floor, a kitchen servery as part of the main worship space for hospitality, and disabled toilet access. There is a primary and secondary school in the town and a history of outreach and good relationships between school and church. There are also children and Youth's resources indicating a lively time in the church's history.

Sunday Services

These continued at Norwell Village Hall (until April 2025), reaching out to the wider community with worship and teaching continuing to be presented in an accessible way, particularly enabling those exploring faith to feel welcome.

Set up and take down of PA and audio equipment was a significant task and teams worked hard to ensure the rural DNA of The Potting Shed, whilst also ensuring that our gathered times were well provided for musically. Teams worked hard to offer this.

Discipleship

In seeking to offer deeper discipleship and community for those with a more mature faith, midweek Life Groups play a vital role.

Midweek courses enabled time to ask further questions and to develop understanding and also relationships. Courses led in 2024:

The Lectio Course – a five-session video series with a well-known speaker and church leader Pete Greig exploring the ancient practice of Lectio Divina. Engaging with scripture in order to listen to God.

Practicing the Way – a resource designed to be used in community, by small groups. The material uses video and group questions to help the teaching land practically into lives.

The Discipleship Course – an eight-week course lead by Southwell and Nottingham Diocese which The Potting Shed were invited to co-lead with St Paulinus' Church, Ollerton. The Potting Shed provided course leaders and table hosts, plus a worship band. AdAM, the worship leader, included musicians from Ollerton to encourage and develop worship leading skills.

Confirmation Preparation

Alison worked with a churchwarden from another church to disciple a young adult in preparation for being Confirmed at the Minister in Southwell. This built a relationship with the church, the warden and young person chose to join us at The Potting Shed on Sundays during that time.

AWAKEN

For the second time The Potting Shed encouraged church family members to attend Awaken – a three-day Christian festival based at Lincolnshire Showground over the August Bank Holiday. AWAKEN is an exciting event principally led for Ground Level Network of Churches, but also welcoming churches locally. It offers an opportunity for church leaders to bring church family members for a time of teaching, worship, training, ministry and fellowship.

Morning and evening celebrations offer spaces for families and groups to worship together, and specific venues for children and youth. There are afternoon practical seminars relevant to all aspects of family life, work, health, vocational training that ensure those who come along have opportunity both for fellowship and deeper learning.

Camping is not for everyone, so the team worked hard to lift some of the practical aspects of living in the field for those who attended, with a community kitchen and help in setting up tents etc. A number of church family members came along on the Sunday and enjoyed a shared meal.

Potting Shed Kids

In 2024 many of our children moved into our youth provision, and we have had a small growth in our pre-school age children. We have continued to offer provision for primary aged children on Sundays, while also making our resources accessible for younger children too. This has been challenging but also enabled us to resource the parents of the pre-school children and help them grow in confidence in teaching their children about faith.

Rooted Youth

In 2024 Rooted Youth has grown in numbers, due to children getting older and becoming youth age, and a couple of new young people have started coming along to Rooted on Wednesdays/church on Sundays. Rooted started meeting at the vicarage in Norwell from September 2024 which has been a great resource, enabling games and fun, and learning through discussion and videos for the whole group. They have been able to get to know each other better and grow in their Christian faith.

Additionally, as a team of kids and youth leaders some of us joined in with the Diocesan Inspire programme, designed to help us be inspired in our ministry and talk together about the work we do (and what we are hoping to see happen) with the children and young people connected to church, which it was helpful to do.

Rise and Shine – in Primary Schools

During 2024 we have increased the number of schools connected to [Rise and Shine](#) – we now have six rural primary schools zooming in each Thursday over two sessions – a total of approximately 400 children each week.

In October 2024 we ran our first 'Rise and Shine Live!' holiday club which was attended by around thirteen children, most of whom were not previously connected to The Potting Shed, and three of our young people volunteered as young leaders. We ran the club over three mornings, with action songs, bible teaching, crafts, games and discussions.

Although we didn't get as many children come along as we hoped, it was good to get to know the children, and their parents. One girl (in year 6) has since then started connecting regularly into Rooted. We were also able to recruit a good number of adult leaders from our Potting Shed congregation, which has led to a small increase in leaders for PS Kids/Rooted on Sundays.

Rise and Shine Chaplaincy

In 2024 we were able to run two chaplaincy courses in the schools that connect to Rise and Shine. In three of the schools we ran a self-esteem course called 'Like Me', created by Scripture Union, with year 5 children. This helped them to think through issues such as peer pressure, social media, friendship and relationships, and self-image. A couple of volunteers from The Potting Shed helped us run the courses. This went down well in all of the schools; in one of them the course helped specifically with friendship difficulties some of the year 5 girls were having.

The other course was a year 6 transition course which we ran in four schools. This is called 'It's Your Move' (also produced by Scripture Union) and it enables the children to think through their questions and worries about moving up to secondary school. Again, it was great to connect in person with these children and help them think about the next stage of their lives.

Little Seedlings

In 2024 we ran Little Seedlings at St Giles' Village Hall Cromwell. This was a significant time of connecting with young Mums particularly of very young babies. Leaders enabled a safe space for the parents to meet, share with one another and to explore faith in a gentle way.

The team running Little Seedlings were new, so it was a time of growing leaders and honing this ministry outreach in readiness for the future. The venue in Cromwell ensured that we continued to reach out to the village and to build connections.

The Alpha Course

We did not run Alpha in 2024 but made plans to lead a larger course, based in the Village Hall, Norwell in early 2025. A team was built together and plans made for how that might be hosted in the space.

Worship Team

In 2024 the worship team consistently served the regular worshipping life of The Potting Shed Church with involvement in all Sunday 4pm services and at other events throughout the year.

The team continued to meet regularly on Tuesday evenings for training, prayer, to play and sing together and to learn new songs and skills. From May to June however, we took up the invitation to use our Tuesday evenings in smaller worship teams to serve the wider church and the Diocese at St Paulinus' Church in Ollerton where a Discipleship Course was being run. This gave some opportunity for those who are newer or less experienced in leading worship to lead in a generous environment, supported by the worship team leader to grow in their skills and it was an encouraging time for both the worship team and those attending the course.

Small teams also served at the Inspire children and youth training weekend in Nottingham in June and at the Rise and Shine Live Holiday Club at Norwell school in October half-term

using a selection of kid's worship songs which also fed into the Sunday celebration immediately following the week. Both were times of significant joy for those involved.

The wider team also worked hard during November and December to prepare and lead a number of special items and accompaniment for carols at the annual BIG Christmas Sing on 22nd December when many visitors attend church and when a few extra singers take the opportunity to join in.

It has proved to be a significant challenge and drain on some of those volunteering, particularly within the worship tech team, to set up and pack down the sound system and screen from scratch each week at the village hall in Norwell and to unload and repack the storage container, whilst also seeking to work in good relationship with the village hall group, who also use the same container and who occasionally need access to the other equipment stored in there. We have always been trying to find suitable ways to simplify this process and to make it more sustainable.

The summer BBQ and Christmas social evenings (both held at homes in Newark) were well attended and appreciated as relaxed and enjoyable times together and served well as an appropriate space to express thanks to those who so willingly and consistently give of themselves, their time and their gifts to the worship and supporting tech ministries.

Average weekly attendance – Adults & Children:

	2024 Q1	2024 Q2	2024 Q3	2024 Q4
Sunday adults	42	36	31	37
Sunday children	13	10	10	12
Midweek adults (in person)	18	12	12	12
Midweek children (in person)	4-7	4-7	5	6
Rise and Shine (Zoom) adults	12	11	12	11
Rise and Shine (Zoom) children	298	309	403	392
Total* ...	72 in person + 310 online	58 in person + 320 online	53 in person + 415 online	61 in person + 403 online

*not counting individuals more than once per week

Financial Review

The Potting Shed Church was originally established and funded using SDF (Special Development Funding) from the Church of England Church Commissioners, following a successful bid by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

We are aware that for the longer term we need to be self sustaining with our funds coming through planned financial giving from those who are part of The Potting Shed. Planned giving increase to £58,257 in 2024, (£51,161 in 2023). There were six additional regular givers who responded to encouragement towards regular giving.

The Diocesan grant for the wages of the Worship Leader and Children and Families Worker was £52,249. This is the SDF2 funding that ended in 2024 with a final payment of £12,378 made in 2025. The employment of the Worship Leader and the Children and Families Worker was taken over directly by the Diocese in July and September of 2025 respectively.

The Diocesan equipment grant is paid annually in arrears. £6,350 was granted in 2024 and £7,142 claimed to be paid in 2025, which leaves £18,944 from the original grant of £100,000 made available to drawdown.

A new SDF4 grant of £13,333 received in 2024 was used to fund 2025 expenditure on youth and family work.

Gift aid is claimed on all tax efficient planned giving. There were no fund raising activities in this period however investment returns have improved to £3,299 compared to £2,681 in 2023 due to higher balances on deposit and better interest rates.

No charges were made for church activities in 2024. Whilst we do not currently have facilities to offer weddings and funerals to those who we connect with at The Potting Shed we hope to do so in the future, when we have a permanent location.

Overall outgoings increased by £10,296 compared to the previous year. Parish Share is the usual church contribution towards the stipends, housing and pensions of the stipendiary clergy, and training costs. The Potting Shed contributed £35,000 in 2024 (an increase of £10,500).

The staff wages were for a full-time Worship Leader, a part-time Children and Families Worker and a part-time Administrator. The costs increased to £58,104 in 2024. (£55,224 in 2023). The costs of the Incumbent are funded directly by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, and the Parish Share payment is the contribution towards those costs.

Staff expenses have increased due to increased activity from the team.

Equipment and hire costs reduced to £7,142 in 2024 (£11,350 in 2023) which reflected the lower hire cost while based at Norwell. These will reduce further following the move to Tuxford.

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £38,775. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at the 31st December totalled £215,229.

Reserves Policy

It is a policy of the Trustees to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months expenditure. The balance of £215,229 is equivalent to 23 months expenditure based on 2024 levels.

At 31st December it was anticipated that reserves may be required for the wages of the Worship Leader and Children and Families Worker, once the SDF2 funding ended.

Reserves were also held in anticipation of building (or developing) a longer-term venue for The Potting Shed.

Volunteers

Volunteers continue to play a significant role in planning and carrying out Potting Shed activities, events and in enriching our life as a community with the skills which they bring with them. We are thankful for volunteers gifted in this way.

Regular volunteer contributions have included:

- Setting up for regular and one-off events, including Sunday worship and preparation for small groups, weekly events and courses.
- Technical support for services – installation, maintenance and running of PA and visual equipment.
- Welcome and hospitality – a high value for The Potting Shed Church.
- Musical provision – another core volunteer area and place of growth and discipleship.
- Leading of services and groups, midweek activities. Helping with children and youth work provision.
- Research and planning for a longer-term venue for The Potting Shed. This has been a significant season as we consider future plans. We are thankful for several key

volunteer leaders with particular skill sets who are working hard to take this forward into 2025 – legal, planning, building skills, landscaping.

Total volunteer hours per week (on average): 50

Structure, governance and management

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Bishop's Mission Order made by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham under part V of the Church of England's Pastoral and Mission Measure 2011 to endorse and make provision for The Potting Shed Church. (1st August 2017)

Trustees are selected as follows:

Bishop Paul Williams makes one 'Bishop's recommendation' of a Trustee appointment. Trustees elect and appoint Trustees according to the needs of the charity and giving opportunity to include different skills and experience.

Nigel Spraggins is currently our 'Bishop's recommendation' Trustee.

The Potting Shed is a small charity and the organisational structure currently reflects that.

All Trustees are involved in the weekly life of The Potting Shed Church.

We are part of a network of parish churches in rural Nottinghamshire, who are part of the Church of England.

The Potting Shed is part of the Deanery of Newark and Southwell and receives oversight in its decision-making and policies related to its charitable objectives, from the Senior Diocesan team.

Administrative information

The correspondence address is:

Willow Cottage, Norwell Woodhouse, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG23 6NG.

The Potting Shed Church is an Unincorporated Association, CIO. CIO Association Constitution which was submitted 09/12/2017. No amendments have since been made.

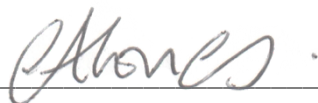
Trustees who have served at any time during the reporting period are as follows:

- **Alison Jones** – Pioneer Minister [Appointed by: Bishop Paul Williams]
 - Appointed 18 October 2017
- **Tom Hall** – Treasurer [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 20 July 2018, resigned July 2025
- **Joel Rathbone** – Trustee [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 8 July 2018
- **Naomi Emerton** – Trustee [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 1 September 2022
- **Phil Welfield** – Trustee [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 4 December 2023, resigned May 2025
- **Nigel Spraggins** – Trustee [Appointed by: Bishop Paul Williams]
 - Appointed 22 January 2024

Declaration of Related Party Interests

- Mr Tom Hall, Treasurer and Trustee is also a Trustee of another charity, the Keframa School Build (KSB). KSB is building a secondary school in Uganda.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 24 / 10 / 2025 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Alison F K Jones (Pioneer Minister).

Signature:  _____

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Potting Shed Church

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner:

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect of the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.

AJSlinger

Alison Slinger FCA
234 Norwood Gardens
Southwell
Notts
NG25 0DS

Potting Shed Church

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts:						
Planned giving	1a	58,257	-	-	58,257	51,161
Collections at services	1b	613	-	-	613	954
All other giving/voluntary receipt:	1c	1,520	-	-	1,520	2,500
Diocesan Grant	1d	71,932	-	-	71,932	47,136
Gift Aid recovered	1e	16,749	-	-	16,749	15,992
		<u>149,071</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>149,071</u>	<u>117,743</u>
Activities for generating funds	1f	0	-	-	0	0
Investment income	1g	3,299	-	-	3,299	2,681
Church activities	1h	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Receipts		<u>152,370</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>152,370</u>	<u>120,424</u>
PAYMENTS						
Church Activities:						
Diocesan Parish Share	2a	35,000	-	-	35,000	24,500
Staff wages	2b	58,104	-	-	58,104	55,224
Clergy and staff expenses	2c	5,020	-	-	5,020	2,393
Church running expenses	2d	8,329	-	-	8,329	5,762
Equipment and hire costs	2e	7,142	-	-	7,142	11,350
Mission Giving		0	-	-	0	2,230
New Building planning	2f	0	-	-	0	1,839
Costs of generating funds		-	-	-	-	-
Total payments		<u>113,595</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113,595</u>	<u>103,299</u>
Excess of receipts over payments		38,775	-	-	38,775	17,125
Transfer between funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>38,775</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,775</u>	<u>17,125</u>
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January 2024		176,454			176,454	159,329
Cash at bank and in hand 31 December 2024		<u>215,229</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>215,229</u>	<u>176,454</u>

Potting Shed Church
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Cash Funds					
Bank current account	15,501	0	0	15,501	13,907
Deposit funds - Savings Account	199,728	0	0	199,728	162,547
	<u>215,229</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>215,229</u>	<u>176,454</u>
Other monetary assets					
Equipment and Hire costs recoverable	7,142			7,142	6,350
Gift Aid recoverable	2,940			2,940	6,526
	<u>10,082</u>			<u>10,082</u>	<u>12,876</u>

Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

The Potting Shed Church

Notes to the Financial Statements 2024

Income

- 1a There has been a strong increase in planned giving with six additional regular givers in response to encouragement towards regular giving.
- 1b Collections at services decreased during the year probably as more people switched to regular giving. However more focus is needed on promoting and using the contactless machine.
- 1c One off giving decreased over the period.

1d	Grants	2024	2023
	SDF2 Grant fund for wages	£52,249	£35,610
	SDF4 Grant fund for youth and family work	£13,333	
	Diocesan grant for equipment	£6,350	£11,526
	Total	£71,932	£47,136

The SDF2 funding ended in December 2024 and a final payment of £12,378 was made in 2025. The difference in amounts granted in 2024 and 2023 was due to timing differences for the claims.

The equipment costs grant is paid annually in arrears. There will be a further claim for equipment costs of £7,142 in 2025, and that will leave a balance of £18,944 from the original grant of £100,000 made available to drawdown.

The SDF4 funding for youth and family work is to be used for 2025 expenditure.

- 1e Gift aid is claimed on all tax efficient planned giving. A further £2,940 is pending for donations made in 2024.
- 1f There were no fundraising activities in this period.
- 1g Higher interest rates improved investment income.
- 1h No charges were made for church activities in 2024. Whilst we do not currently have facilities to offer weddings and funerals to those we connect with at The Potting Shed we hope to do so in the future, particularly as we potentially partner with local rural churches.

Expenditure

- 2a Parish Share is the usual church contribution towards the stipends, housing and pensions of the stipendiary clergy, and training costs. The Potting Shed agreed to and paid a contribution of £35,000 in 2024. The contribution is planned to increase to £46,000 next year.

- 2b The staff wages were for a part time Administrator, a part time Family Worker and a full time Worship Leader. The costs increased due to pay rises in line with living wage and aligning pension payments. The incumbent costs are funded directly by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.
- 2c Staff expenses increased, reflecting the additional activities delivered by the team.
- 2d Running costs increased as a result of additional activities across the team with regard to youth and children's work, Alpha and support to the wider community.
- 2e Barn equipment and hire costs were lower in 2024 reflecting the lower hire cost while we are at Norwell. £2,000 was paid for storage costs which on conclusion of TPS move to Tuxford will stop. Also costs for the use of Norwell vicarage will stop.
- 2f There were no costs for building plans in 2024.

THE POTTING SHED CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1176783

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Bishop's Mission Order dated 1st August 2017 was made by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham under part V of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2011 and was made to endorse and make provision for The Potting Shed Church.

The Potting Shed Church was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 1st August 2017 with charity number: 1176783

The Potting Shed Church

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2023 Report and Accounts for The Potting Shed Church

Aims and Purposes

The Potting Shed Church was commissioned by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham to plant a pioneering, Resourcing Church in the middle of Nottinghamshire county amongst rural communities, as part of the wider mission and ministry of the Diocese.

The new worshipping community aims to connect with those not currently engaging with existing models of rural church, especially young families, youth, and young adults. Our purpose is then to enable those we connect with to explore faith in Jesus and experience church community. Our objective is also to be a resource for 'grafting' and 'planting' 'new worshipping communities' into rural villages and to develop more sustainable forms of mission in rural communities. We aim to be a 'filling station' – a place to encourage, nourish, grow and resource those who remain engaged in the life and leadership of rural churches.

Objectives and Activities

All planning and decision making is done in consideration of our stated purposes (taken from our Governing Document) and with thought to how we might better carry out those purposes as per the guidance given by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

When planning our Sunday worship Gatherings, midweek events and other activities, we seek to be accessible to people of all ages and stages of faith. We also aim to provide opportunities for all those who connect with The Potting Shed to explore the Christian faith for themselves and we're passionate about helping individuals and families to apply the Bible's teaching to their lives in practical ways.

We plan and lead midweek small groups and courses to meet the needs of the different age groups and stages of faith of those we connect with. These include: The Alpha Course, The Marriage Course, The Prayer Course, The Lectio Course, Saturday Breakfast and midweek Life Groups. We offer midweek prayer and worship opportunities: Tuesday Morning prayers on Zoom, in-person Prayer and Worship evenings and one-off courses, for example the Character Course as a follow-on from Alpha.

We are actively seeking to build community and further the Christian faith in all that we do and are committed to encouraging and resourcing established rural churches in their own ministries.

Achievements and Performances

A summary of the main achievements of The Potting Shed charity in 2023, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of our beneficiaries and wider benefits to society as a whole. The objectives in italics are taken directly from our Governing Document objectives with achievements below:

'To connect with those not currently engaging with existing models of church, especially young families, youth and young adults. To enable people to explore faith in Jesus and experience church community.'

In 2023 we worked to establish and develop services at the Village Hall, Norwell and the opportunities which the Village Hall and village position offered us in connecting with the community.

We had intended to return to the Barn at Cauntton after Christmas 2022. Having considered the practical advantages of the Village Hall (a warm, dry, accessible space with off-road parking and a good-sized room for Potting Shed Kids ministry) and the missional opportunities (located within a village community and close to Cromwell, Cauntton and Kneesall villages) it seemed wise discernment to remain in the Village Hall.

We have been delighted to welcome regular visitors to The Potting Shed now that our village setting is easier to locate, and have recently improved our signage put up within the village before Sunday services. The new signage highlights more clearly that we are part of the Church of England, which has been helpful for village residents in understanding our positioning alongside more traditional models of church. Our Potting Shed Kids new signage highlights that our children's ministry runs alongside our Sunday service.

Christians living in the villages have been greatly encouraged by our presence at the Village Hall. The Hall committee have been thankful to work with us after the challenges of the pandemic. There is now increased awareness of matters of faith, and a curiosity from those living locally about exploring faith. Several who live locally have attended Alpha and one or two are now serving in volunteer leadership roles with a fresh or renewed commitment to their local churches. This is a significant way in which we are a resourcing established rural churches.

Our services at the Village Hall are shaped in outline and content to serve our stated objectives as a charity. Worship and teaching are presented in an accessible way, particularly to enable those exploring faith to feel welcome. We also seek to offer deeper discipleship and community for those with a more mature faith – midweek Life Groups play a key role in this.

We regularly support village churches in resourcing their monthly Holy Communion services and we have particularly enjoyed working with lay leaders to develop lively, creative festival services. In December 2023 we offered Christingle services in three local villages, two of

which we connect with, through our schools work – Rise and Shine. Each Christingle service was warmly received by the community, each service shaped slightly differently according to the missional context. Kneesall School is one of our newer Rise and Shine schools; the Christingle service at St Bartholomew’s Church in Kneesall attracted a record number of school families. The school is working hard to build connections with both village and church. Working with the village churches enables us to deepen our connections and discipleship of children attending the village schools, whilst supporting churches in reaching their village communities themselves.

Attempts to connect with families in village schools whose children we connect with through Rise and Shine had previously had limited success, despite using traditional flyers in book bags, posters and creative social media. These natural parish opportunities are so important therefore.

Alison has also been supporting these churches with occasional pastoral services – particularly weddings and some baptisms. These offer natural connections with people at significant life moments. The fresh approach of The Potting Shed’s commission to explore fresh ways of being church in the rural setting, often leads to good conversations about faith, belonging and what it means to be part of a worshipping community.

Potting Shed Kids

In 2023 Potting Shed Kids have been able to really find their feet through being in a venue that is warm and welcoming.

We’ve been able to start using a screen and laptop so that Bible stories and worship songs are more engaging. We’ve had significant times of connecting with God, especially when we joined in with the Holy Spirit Adventure series the adults were doing on Sundays in June and had our own Holy Spirit Day activities as part of that. New young leaders are emerging as a result of that time.

In October we trialled having a separate Sunday series to the adults to help the children reflect on Halloween, alongside themes of light and dark from a Christian perspective, and especially to think about how to talk with their friends about those contrasts.

Rooted Youth

In 2023 Rooted Youth has been continuing every week in term time and well attended by Potting Shed based young people in school years 5 – 9 (age 9 to 14 years). They have had lots of social time – playing games, eating pizza, chatting – and also lots of opportunities to

grow in their understanding and friendship with Jesus through Bible time, creative prayer and discussions. It has been ably led by two volunteers every week.

It is a youth provision that we now feel God wants us to open up to pupils in years 5 & 6 through our Rise and Shine connections, going forwards.

In 2023 we made some forays into how the youth at The Potting Shed could be provided for in other ways: the Holy Spirit Day in June gave us a flavour of what it would be like to run something annually for the whole church, youth included, and we trialled a group for Potting Shed young people on Sundays in October which went well and contributed to our thinking about providing for this age group better on Sundays.

Belonging and Discipleship

We have been encouraged to see individuals embark upon journeys of faith and discipleship. Scripture Union describes these journeys as 'discipleship pathways' where individuals or families: Connect, Explore, Respond and Grow in faith, though not always in that order.

Several have connected with us on a Sunday, then attended Alpha or another discipleship course having made a response and commitment of faith and are now serving on a Team using their gifts in ways that bless them, the church and community. One volunteer wrote:

"Since being a part of The Potting Shed I have grown so much within my faith, but understand that I am just at the beginning of my journey with God. Giving back as a volunteer in the Worship Team and with Potting Shed Kids gives me the chance to inspire others to embark on their journey too."

Life Groups

Life Groups have continued to develop as places of belonging during 2023, where individuals or couples come to share life, grow in the Christian faith and have fun together!

There are currently evening Life Groups in Newark and Norwell Woodhouse with a daytime midweek Life Group in Norwell Woodhouse also. On Saturday mornings groups meet in Ollerton and Newark for breakfast, fellowship, prayer and encouragement.

In 2024 we hope to form two groups from one of the larger evening groups, to then meet in a different location. We see the opportunity of a Life Group located in one of the villages perhaps drawing together those who worship at local village churches, and some who worship at The Potting Shed.

A new member of The Potting Shed, who has recently joined a daytime Life Group wrote:

"I enjoyed the Lectio study last night. It's lovely to be in fellowship with others... to have in depth discussions with people."

A new location and venue – Operation New Barn!

Throughout 2023, whilst we have been thankful for the practical and missional opportunities of Norwell Village Hall, it remains clear that the building is not a long-term solution and has limitations for our growth.

In order to further the work of The Potting Shed and address the needs of our developing ministry, on Sundays but also in further resourcing our midweek ministry, we believe we need to explore a longer term 'home'.

Rationale for a Proposed new Location

A new Potting Shed Church and Community Space would enable us to develop as a rural resourcing church with opportunity to serve the rural community in an area bordered by Newark, Bleasby, Southwell, Ollerton/Edwinstowe, Tuxford/East Markham and the River Trent.

With our focus on reaching those new to church, and children and youth, a new accessible and flexible space would enable us to support larger settlements in our catchment area such as Ollerton and Tuxford, and to support new worshipping communities.

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham is a key partner in this process and sees the proposal as central to its developing strategy to support and enable rural ministry, particularly connecting with those not yet engaged with worshipping communities, and the opportunity to revitalise village churches across the Diocese,

The Potting Shed Church and Rural Community Space – building on our current offering as a resourcing church, we hope to offer additional resources and activities for children, families, teenagers, adults and older people.

Examples might include:

A 'gathering space' for missional communities scattered in the wider rural area (including established, rural churches meeting monthly, new expressions of church meeting outside a church building, school worshipping communities). Regular gatherings might include time

for celebration of all that has been happening, sharing of encouraging stories, training, input and further outreach.

An appropriate space for our weekly youth provision (Rooted) with space for gathering youth groups termly for indoor and outdoor activities and events.

Schools – a termly celebration space for gathering the schools we serve weekly (currently reaching four schools, 300+ children) Year 6 leaver celebrations, school chaplaincy training. Facilities could be available to schools during term time for educational purposes but further establishing the location and venue as a rural missional ‘hub’.

Pre-school provision – Little Seedlings. A gathering space for village offerings of our Little Seedlings ministry. A space for running primary and teenage parenting courses and other pastoral training resources.

Weekly Carers Club – Caring for those who care, fortnightly lunch clubs for more isolated members of the community including older individuals and or pre-school children and carers.

Courses and facilities for outreach, discipleship and pastoral care – including Alpha, The Bereavement Journey, The Character Course, Life Groups, safeguarding training, counselling and mentoring facilities, PCC Tonight courses and churchwarden training, Rural Food Bank collection and distribution.

Additionally, the building and outside community space could be made available for events and activities that build and serve the community.

The Proposed Location and rationale

In a prior pre-app for a development on the A616 Ollerton Road in Caunton, Newark and Sherwood District Council acknowledged that our proposal for a Potting Shed Church and Community Space “would enhance community and leisure facilities which is supported in principle by Spatial Policy 8 and the NPPF”. However this original site in open countryside was considered unsuitable and Newark and Sherwood District Council asked us to locate a site within or on the edge of an existing settlement.

In September 2023 we submitted a pre-planning application for the development of low-grade agricultural land adjacent to St Giles’ Church, Cromwell. This proposes the development of a Church of England resourcing countryside church, with facilities for contemporary worship and prayer.

The development will also provide community space and related outreach and discipleship facilities for local churches and community groups. Outside play and recreational space would additionally provide a unique offering to the wider local community and enable us to further develop our objectives as a rural resourcing church.

In December 2023 we met with our representative at Newark and Sherwood District Council and with the conservation officer. We were encouraged to submit a full Planning Application, and given advice on further research and information that would help that application.

A significant opportunity emerging from this process will be a Community Consultation and Engagement process. This is seen by our trustees and the District Council as an opportunity to share widely the work of The Potting Shed, and highlight ways that we might serve communities with our charity objectives.

We have been advised to extend this community consultation beyond immediate villages to include village churches and schools that we connect with further afield, for example Bleasby and Kneesall villages.

The Diocesan team are in full support of this application and regular meetings have been scheduled to ensure they are able to support us in this.

Learning Community Opportunity

In March 2022 we were invited to be part of a National Learning Community led by Sally Gaze (Archdeacon in Suffolk) and Tim Lea from Charis Consultants.

The Learning Community hopes to enable participants (6 churches or groups of churches in total) to be more effective and fruitful in their rural setting, particularly in:

1. Reaching out to those who are not yet part of any church, developing leaders and cooperating with other churches for mission.
2. Taking time to reflect, share good practice and stories, build connectedness and relationships.
3. Listening together to what God is doing in rural ministry with a view to sharing this wider across the national Church through an agreed report.

The Learning Community has been partly funded with SDF funding. All churches taking part were asked to contribute £1500 per team over the next 2.5 years during which the Learning Community will meet in person for three residential gatherings and online for four individual days. This is an ecumenical project.

It has been an encouragement to be asked to contribute to this piece of work and to be given the opportunity to learn from rural churches who are also developing in different missional 'shapes' to that of a traditional parish model. We met in September 2023 online over two days, the second of these shared times together. It proved to be a time of 'cross pollination' with churches at different stages of their development.

Rise and Shine – in Primary Schools

During 2023 we have expanded our reach to Primary schools, welcoming two new schools during the year, who join in with Rise and Shine weekly. We reach over 300 children each week. An additional school has made enquiry about exploring Rise and Shine for their school context, which we are currently exploring.

Rise and Shine is an energised half hour of songs, Bible stories, activities and prayer. This creative discipleship ministry is delivered via Zoom and we work to ensure each termly series and weekly session is engaging, anchored in Jesus, and relevant to the children's real life experiences. We've covered topics such as Stories Jesus Told, being Strong And Brave, and the Names of Jesus.

We have welcomed new volunteers onto the team also.

"Just a quick note to thank you for this morning's [Rise and Shine] It was a joy to walk around the classes and see them all engaging with the worship. Looking forward to next week already!" (Headteacher of a school recently connecting with Rise and Shine)

Rise and Shine Chaplaincy

In 2023 we ran a series of workshops with year 6 pupils from both Norwell and Dean Hole schools, using the Scripture Union resource 'It's Your Move'. The three workshops covered Managing Stress, Making New Friends and the practicalities of moving to secondary school.

Little Seedlings

In 2023 we ran Little Seedlings at Dean Hole school fortnightly during termtime, from January to December. This supported the school through a time of leadership change and community perception, in response to them having requested that we might work with them in July 2022. The school had valued the Little Seedlings ministry and the benefits it brought when it was held at the Barn.

Little Seedlings was held in the school's pre-school and reception classroom, and pupils joined in with the 90-minute session along with the parents and toddlers that came with pre-school children. It was a great way to build up relationships with the staff, pupils and local families, building on the connections we already had with the school through Rise and Shine. The session included craft, free play, songs, prayers and a Bible story.

In December 2023 we felt that it was time to draw Little Seedlings at Dean Hole to a close. With a new leadership team in place, the school were entering a new season. This would also give us time and space to consider a new location for this ministry. At the end of 2023 a new opportunity for Little Seedlings emerged to serve the community in a different location which we are actively pursuing. We hope to develop a local team as we begin this new season of Little Seedlings.

The Alpha Course

Alpha continues to offer a model for creating a safe, relaxed environment for people to ***‘explore faith in Jesus and experience church community’*** in line with our objectives.

The Alpha Course blesses our wider ministry. New people bring fresh perspectives on ‘being church’, helping us to consider the shape and rhythm of our life as a worshipping community, whilst remaining true to Biblical example. Meeting around food, the opportunity to ask questions, creating an environment that is welcoming to non-church friends are important for our Sunday ministry too.

We ran Alpha in the Spring of 2023 and again in the Autumn, each time with two small groups. The course connected with those exploring faith who are not as yet connected with a worshipping community, but also with Christians who are looking to re-connect with church, to re-explore their gifts and find belonging and community.

This course included a number of new leaders who greatly benefitted from the course. One new leader writes of her experience of the Holy Spirit Day:

“...the Holy Spirit Day testimonies were inspirational... some spoke out for the first time and demonstrated spiritual gifts, some gave encouragement to others, some were deeply moved by God’s spirit and some just basked in the peace and grace of our Lord. We felt like a family, Gods family.” (Alpha Helper)

Governing Document objective: ***'To be a 'filling station' to encourage, nourish and grow disciples who are engaged in the life and leadership of rural churches.'***

Worship Team

It has been encouraging to welcome some new people into the Worship Team in 2023, particularly in terms of those coming on Tuesday evenings when the team pray, play music, learn new songs, work on arrangements and practice together. We have also more recently been taking time to do a little bit of discussion and prayer around topics related to the ministry, which serves us well as informal drip-feed training.

A number of those who come along serve on teams in other local churches and are using it as a resource for learning new songs and to grow in their skills. It is great to see friendships developing and some growing in confidence and ability at these evenings. We are now working towards some members being safely recruited into the Sunday worship teams.

The growing relationships along with some pastoral support from the Worship Team Leader have been important for a number of the team in recent times who have struggled with ill health in various guises.

The ongoing lack of a dedicated and equipped venue and worship space has meant that Tuesday evenings have been taking place in the lounge at the home of the Worship Team Leader. Whilst this has been convenient in some regards, it is beginning to present challenges in terms of space.

Our Village Hall location, whilst having several advantages as a dry, warm space to operate within, setting up and de-rigging the tech equipment each Sunday has been a more laborious task than is ideal. Thanks to the hard work, skills and knowledge of team members who have sourced tech equipment which can be stored on site in a secure container, as well as a few new volunteers, this is proving manageable for the time being. Training up others in set-up needs to be a priority for future sustainability though.

There have been the usual opportunities to serve the church for Sunday worship and for evenings of prayer and worship, as well as serving beyond the Potting Shed for events organised in the Diocese and in supporting and resourcing specific services in local village churches. We have been encouraged by the response and participation of the various congregations, especially on some specific occasions when we have felt the Holy Spirit at work in our midst as we have worshipped Jesus together in song.

We have also valued some relaxed social times together including a summer BBQ and Christmas party.

Nurturing Leaders from beyond The Potting Shed

Several leaders from beyond the Potting Shed continue to join our afternoon worship. Many of these have continued to be a part of their local community, serving in their local churches but have benefitted from a place of refreshment.

We encourage these leaders not to be 'on rota' or serving in any way to enable them to be refreshed. For some, using their gifts to serve in a different context however, enables them be refreshed, to flourish and grow.

One couple who are rooted in a local village church but join The Potting Shed church for fellowship and refreshment said:

"We have been active in a local church in vacancy, endeavouring to move things forward after the lull caused by the pandemic. This has involved a lot of "giving"! It has been wonderful to attend the Potting Shed, with no expectations placed upon us, and just be fed and refreshed. We have been welcomed and made to feel part of the community."

Average weekly attendance – Adults & Children:

	2023 Q1	2023 Q2	2023 Q3	2023 Q4
Sunday adults	43	42	37	40
Sunday children	14	11	11	14
Midweek adults (in person)	12		19	10
Midweek children (in person)	12		6	12
Rise and Shine (Zoom) adults	5	5	9	11
Rise and Shine (Zoom) children	69	87	264	296
Total*...	<u>155</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>346</u>	<u>383</u>

*not counting individuals more than once per week

Financial Review

The Potting Shed Church was originally established and funded using SDF (Special Development Funding) from the Church of England Church Commissioners, following a successful bid by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

We are aware that for the longer term we need to be self sustaining with our funds coming through planned financial giving from those who are part of The Potting Shed. Planned giving increase to £51,161 in 2023, (£50,874 in 2022) and regular giving was encouraged towards the end of the year resulting in three new givers starting in 2024.

The Diocesan grant for the wages of the Worship Leader and Children and Families Worker was £35,610. Wage support will only be available for the first six months of 2024. A Diocesan grant of £11,525 for the period January to December 2022 for equipment and hire costs was received in 2023. A further claim of £6,350 will be made in 2022 to cover the period to the end of December 2023.

Gift aid is claimed on all tax efficient planned giving. There were no fund raising activities in this period however investment returns have improved to £2,681 compared to £499 in 2022 due to higher balances on deposit and better interest rates.

No charges were made for church activities in 2023. Whilst we do not currently have facilities to offer weddings and funerals to those who we connect with at The Potting Shed we hope to do so in the future, when we have a permanent location.

Overall outgoings increased by £15,433 compared to the previous year. Parish Share is the usual church contribution towards the stipends, housing and pensions of the stipendiary clergy, and training costs. The Potting Shed contributed £24,500 in 2023 (an increase of £9,000) and this will increase to £35,000 in 2024.

The staff wages were for a full-time Worship Leader, a part-time Children and Families Worker and a part-time Administrator. The costs increased to £55,224 in 2023. (£48,384 in 2022). The costs of the Incumbent are funded directly by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, and the Parish Share payment is the contribution towards those costs.

Staff expenses have increased due to increased activity from the team, and some back-dated mileage claims. However, the running costs have reduced as a result of using the facilities of Norwell village Hall and not having to heat the barn.

Barn equipment and hire costs include a £5,000 payment for barn hire that relates to 2022. An ongoing lower hire cost will continue while The Potting Shed is based in Norwell Village Hall as there will not be the barn or toilet hire costs.

Mission giving of £2,230 included a £2,000 donation to the Music and Worship Foundation charity Engage Worship.

£1,839 was spent in support of the new planning application for a potential site near Cromwell.

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £17,125. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at the 31st December totalled £176,454.

Reserves Policy

It is a policy of the Trustees to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months expenditure. The balance of £176,454 is more than enough to meet this requirement.

Volunteers

Volunteers continue to play a significant role in planning and carrying out Potting Shed activities, events and in enriching our life as a community with the skills which they bring with them. We are thankful for volunteers gifted in this way.

Regular volunteer contributions have included:

- Setting up for regular and one-off events, including Sunday worship and preparation for Small Groups, weekly events and courses.
- Technical support for services – installation, maintenance and running of PA and visual equipment.
- Welcome and hospitality – this is a significant area for The Potting Shed and a high value for us.
- Musical provision – this is another core volunteer area.
- Leading of services and groups, midweek activities. Helping with children and youth work provision online.
- Research and planning for a longer-term venue for The Potting Shed. This has been a significant season as we consider future plans. We are thankful for several key volunteer leaders with particular skill sets who are working hard to take this forward into 2025.

Total volunteer hours per week (on average): 60

Structure, governance and management

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Bishop's Mission Order made by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham under part V of the Church of England's Pastoral and Mission Measure 2011 to endorse and make provision for the Potting Shed Church. (1st August 2017)

Trustees are selected as follows:

Bishop Paul Williams makes one 'Bishop's recommendation' of a Trustee appointment. Trustees elect and appoint Trustees according to the needs of the charity and giving opportunity to include different skills and experience.

After the resignation of Maureen Cole in September 2020 Nigel Spraggins has agreed to serve as our 'Bishop's recommendation' Trustee.

The Potting Shed is a small charity and the organisational structure currently reflects that.

All Trustees are involved in the weekly life of The Potting Shed Church.

We are part of a network of parish churches in rural Nottinghamshire, who are part of the Church of England.

The Potting Shed is part of the Deanery of Newark and Southwell and receives oversight in its decision-making and policies related to its charitable objectives, from the Senior Diocesan team.

Administrative information

The correspondence address is:

Willow Cottage, Norwell Woodhouse, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG23 6NG.

The Potting Shed Church is an Unincorporated Association, CIO. CIO Association Constitution which was submitted 09/12/2017. No amendments have since been made.

Trustees who have served at any time during the reporting period are as follows:

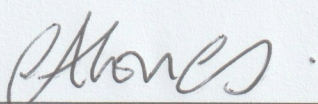
- **Alison Jones** – Pioneer Minister [Appointed by: Bishop Paul Williams]
 - Appointed 18 October 2017
- **Tom Hall** – Treasurer [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 20 July 2018
- **Joel Rathbone** – Trustee [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 8 July 2018

- **Naomi Emerton** – Trustee [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 1 September 2022
- **Phil Welfield** – Trustee [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 4 December 2023
- **Nigel Spraggins** – Trustee [Appointed by: Bishop Paul Williams]
 - Appointed 22 January 2024

Declaration of Related Party Interests

- The Potting Shed Church continued to rent an Agricultural barn from Mr Michael Arlington, whilst we have not been meeting there regularly whilst at the Village Hall in Norwell. Mr Joel Rathbone is the son-in-law of Mr Michael Arlington.
- Mr Tom Hall, Treasurer and Trustee is also a Trustee of another charity, the Keframa School Build (KSB). KSB is building a secondary school in Uganda. Mr Michael Arlington (barn owner) has requested that the rental income from the barn is paid directly to the KSB charity.

Approved by the Trustees on **08/04/2024** and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Alison F K Jones (Pioneer Minister).

Signature: 

Potting Shed Church

Financial Statements for the the year ended 31st December 2023

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts:						
Planned giving	1a	51,161	-	-	51,161	50,874
Collections at services	1b	954	-	-	954	1,879
All other giving/voluntary receipts	1c	2,500	-	-	2,500	2,376
Diocesan Grant	1d	47,136	-	-	47,136	58,155
Gift Aid recovered	1e	15,992	-	-	15,992	8,410
		<u>117,743</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>117,743</u>	<u>121,694</u>
Activities for generating funds	1f	0	-	-	0	0
Investment income	1g	2,681	-	-	2,681	499
Church activities	1h	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>965</u>
Total Receipts		<u>120,424</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120,424</u>	<u>123,158</u>
PAYMENTS						
Church Activities:						
Diocesan Parish Share	2a	24,500	-	-	24,500	15,500
Staff wages	2b	55,224	-	-	55,224	48,384
Clergy and staff expenses	2c	2,393	-	-	2,393	849
Church running expenses	2d	5,762	-	-	5,762	9,528
Equipment and hire costs	2e	11,350	-	-	11,350	6,526
Mission Giving	2f	2,230	-	-	2,230	3,177
New building planning	2g	1,839	-	-	1,839	3,902
Costs of generating funds		-	-	-	-	-
Total payments		<u>103,299</u>			<u>103,299</u>	<u>87,866</u>
Excess of receipts over payments		17,125	-	-	17,125	35,292
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-	-
		<u>17,125</u>			<u>17,125</u>	<u>35,292</u>
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January 2023		159,329			159,329	124,037
Cash at bank and in hand 31 December 2023		<u>176,454</u>			<u>176,454</u>	<u>159,329</u>

Potting Shed Church
Financial Statements for the the year ended 31st December 2023

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
Cash Funds					
Bank current account	13,907	0	0	13,907	25,869
Deposit funds - Savings Account	162,547	0	0	162,547	133,460
	<u>176,454</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>176,454</u>	<u>159,329</u>
Other monetary assets					
Barn Equipment and Hire costs recoverable	6,350			6,350	11,526
Gift Aid recoverable	6,526			6,526	9,316
	<u>12,876</u>			<u>12,876</u>	<u>20,842</u>
Investment assets					
Investment fund shares at market value	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Assets retained for church use	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Liabilities					
Barn Rental Payments due	0			0	5,000
Parish Share Outstanding	<u>0</u>			<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. Barn Equipment and Hire costs claim to be agreed with Diocese and claimed from SDF funding in 2022

The Potting Shed Church

Notes to the Financial Statements 2023

Income

- 1a There has been a small increase in planned giving, and one additional regular giver. Regular giving was encouraged towards the end of the year resulting in three new givers at the start of 2024.
- 1b Cash giving dropped during the year and more focus is needed on promoting and using the contactless machine.
- 1c There was a slight increase in one off giving.
- 1d The Diocesan grant for wages was £35,610. Wage support will only be available for the first six months of 2024. A grant of £11,525 for the period January to December 2022 for equipment and hire costs was received in 2023. A further claim of £6,350 will be made in 2024 to cover the period to the end of December 2023.
- 1e Gift aid is claimed on all tax efficient planned giving. A further £6,526 is pending for donations made in 2023.
- 1f There were no fund raising activities in this period.
- 1g Interest rate increases significantly improved investment income.
- 1h No charges were made for church activities in 2023. Whilst we do not currently have facilities to offer weddings and funerals to those who we connect with at The Potting Shed we hope to do so in the future, particularly as we potentially partner with local rural churches.

Expenditure

- 2a Parish Share is the usual church contribution towards the stipends, housing and pensions of the stipendiary clergy, and training costs. The Potting Shed paid a contribution of £24,500 in 2023. The contribution is planned to increase to £35,000 for 2024.
- 2b The staff wages were for a part time Administrator, part time Family Worker and a full time Worship Leader. The costs increased due to pay increases in line with the living wage and aligning pension payments.
- 2c Staff expenses increased, reflecting the additional activities delivered by the team.
- 2d Running costs were reduced as a result of using the facilities of Norwell Village Hall and not having to heat the barn.

- 2e Barn equipment and hire costs were actually lower in 2023 but appear higher as £5,000 payment for the rental of the barn in 2022 was not made until early 2023. An ongoing lower hire cost will continue while we are at Norwell as we will not have barn or toilet hire costs.
- 2f A donation was made to Music & Worship Foundation CIO Engage Worship.
- 2g £1,839 was spent on planning advice and a pre planning application.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Potting Shed Church

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner:

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect of the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.

AJSlinger

Alison Slinger FCA
234 Norwood Gardens
Southwell
Notts
NG25 0DS

THE POTTING SHED CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1176783

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2022

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Bishop's Mission Order dated 1st August 2017 was made by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham under part V of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2011 and was made to endorse and make provision for The Potting Shed Church.

The Potting Shed Church was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 1st August 2017 with charity number: 1176783

The Potting Shed Church

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4. Statement of Assets and Liabilities
5. Notes to the Financial Statements

2022 Report and Accounts for The Potting Shed Church

Aims and Purposes

The Potting Shed Church was commissioned by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham to plant a pioneering, Resourcing Church in the middle of Nottinghamshire county amongst rural communities, as part of the wider mission and ministry of the Diocese.

The new worshipping community aims to connect with those not currently engaging with existing models of rural church, especially young families, youth, and young adults. Our purpose is then to enable those we connect with to explore faith in Jesus and experience church community. Our objective is also to be a resource for 'grafting' and 'planting' 'new worshipping communities' into rural villages and to develop more sustainable forms of mission in rural communities. We aim to be a 'filling station' – a place to encourage, nourish, grow and resource those who remain engaged in the life and leadership of rural churches.

Objectives and Activities

All planning and decision making is done in consideration of our stated purposes (taken from our Governing Document) and with thought to how we might better carry out those purposes as per the guidance given by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

When planning our Sunday worship Gatherings, midweek events and other activities, we seek to be accessible to people of all ages and stages of faith. We also aim to provide opportunities for all those who connect with The Potting Shed to explore the Christian faith for themselves and we're passionate about helping individuals and families to apply the Bible's teaching to their lives in practical ways.

We plan and lead small groups and courses midweek to meet the needs of the different age groups and stages of faith of those we connect with. For example: The Alpha Course, The Marriage Course, The Prayer Course, Saturday Breakfast, Prayer 2 Go, Breathe, and Midweek Discipleship Groups. We also plan one-off events tailored to welcoming those from outside our church community.

We are actively seeking to build community and further the Christian faith in all that we do and are committed to encouraging and resourcing established rural churches in their ministries.

Achievements and Performances

A summary of the main achievements of The Potting Shed charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of our beneficiaries and wider benefits to society as a whole.

The objectives in italics are taken directly from our Governing Document objectives with achievements below:

'To connect with those not currently engaging with existing models of church, especially young families, youth and young adults. To enable people to explore faith in Jesus and experience church community.'

In 2022 we continued to establish and develop in-person services at The Potting Shed Barn within the enlarged tented space created in 2021 after the pandemic.

Our services continued to be shaped in outline and content to serve our stated objectives as a charity, with worship and teaching presented in an accessible way to enable those exploring faith to feel welcome and included. As well as seeking to offer opportunity for deeper discipleship and community for others.

Our hope to connect with families in line with our charity objectives was becoming increasingly frustrated by our 'hidden' location as a worshipping community. The Barn was up a track with physical signposting only put up for services and events.

Attempts to connect with families linked to the schools we are engaged with, had limited success, despite using traditional flyers in book bags, posters and creative social media.

In November, the Sunday before Advent Sunday the Barn heater failed and was found to be irreparable. The Potting Shed then moved to Norwell Village Hall for Advent, where it is now still meeting.

The Village Hall offers a warm, dry, accessible space in which to meet with off-road parking. There is a separate, good sized room for Potting Shed Kids.

The move has given Potting Shed Teams a rest from the 'outdoor' set-up and take-down, enabling us to focus on mission and ministry and developing relationships in the villages.

We have found an increase in visitors to The Potting Shed now that we are easier to locate. Christians who live in the villages are encouraged by our presence and there is an intrigue and curiosity from those locally about exploring faith.

Development of Teams – In Spring we began developing Teams for all key areas of our leading and running our Sunday services. Our hope was to ensure that all volunteers might find belonging, grow and flourish by serving on a Team. Interviews with Team leads ensured

we were safely recruiting whilst also giving those with a gifting and passion for a particular Team, the opportunity to innovate and develop the team ministry. Teams include:

Welcome Team, Hospitality Team, Worship and Tech Team, Children and Youth Teams

In 2023 we plan to establish a Wellbeing / Pastoral Care Team and a Prayer Team.

We continue to place a high value at The Potting Shed upon gathering and worshipping as All Ages together, as a way of enabling authentic 'whole family of God' community.

Potting Shed Kids

In 2022 we continued to offer weekly Potting Shed Kids activities on Sundays alongside adult church. Through all weathers we met in an outdoor gazebo, which definitely added to the sense of adventure on some weeks! The relationships between the children have grown and they have also grown in confidence in their sense of belonging to The Potting Shed. They have beautifully welcomed two Ukrainian refugee children into their midst (which has been a source of joy and acceptance by those children) amongst other new families and children.

We have also been more intentional with those who have grown older and in October 2022 we opened up our weekly youth meeting (called Rooted) to include children of year 5 and above. This resulted in an immediate boom in numbers and that sense of belonging and community now extends from Sundays into Wednesday evenings!

Since December 2022 The Potting Shed has been located in Norwell Village Hall on Sundays and this is already making a positive difference to how we are able to lead our provision for children.

Belonging and Discipleship

A number of individuals who have recently come to faith in local, traditional, village churches, began to worship with The Potting Shed in the afternoons during 2022. They enjoy the informal worship, prayer and All Age approach and also attend midweek groups and events where these discipleship opportunities are not available in their local context.

In the Autumn two of these individuals were confirmed at Southwell Minster, supported at the service by both their local church context, and The Potting Shed Church.

One candidate commented:

'Having recently come to faith in my local parish I went to TPS following an invitation and on my first visit I was blown away by how relaxed everything was.'

I have... been drawn into the life of the church and I enjoy fellowship and have made many friends, young and older. Faith experiences are shared openly and regular life groups are a bonus to nurture people's faith...I feel connected with the style of worship. I find it joyful to sing there whereas I don't in my local church. TPS isn't just Sunday it's an all week blessing.'

LifeGroups at The Potting Shed

LifeGroups have continued to develop as places of belonging, where individuals or couples come to share life, grow in the Christian faith and have fun!

There are now evening LifeGroups in: Bleasby, Newark and Edwinstowe. There is a daytime midweek LifeGroup in Norwell Woodhouse, and on Saturday mornings two groups meet in Ollerton and Newark for breakfast. In 2023 we hope to start an additional daytime and evening group LifeGroup in another of the villages.

A new member of The Potting Shed, who has recently joined a daytime LifeGroup wrote:

'I love coming to the Thursday Potting Shed Home Group. Acceptance and love are what I have experienced and that only fuels my desire to learn more about the teachings of Jesus Christ. Thursday Home group is helping me to learn to trust in others. I am finding that a beautiful and enlightening experience.'

The Bereavement Journey

In September we trialled the Bereavement Journey for those who have experienced Bereavement recently, or some time ago. We found the Bereavement Journey to be a resource with great potential for serving the wider community, building supportive relationships and potentially enabling people to connect with a worshipping community for the first time. In 2023 we will be exploring the revised course and consider how we use this to further our work.

A course member commented:

'I (felt) confident in the group to openly share feelings and discuss ideas. It was all helpful. The videos were exactly right, knowledgeable and calm'

Pre-Marriage Course

In Autumn we enrolled with the Pre-Marriage Course (having run the Marriage Course during the pandemic) in order to offer the course as part of marriage preparation. A couple due to be married in July 2023 will start the course early in 2023.

‘To enable people to explore faith in Jesus and experience church community. To be a resource for ‘grafting’ and ‘planting’ ‘new worshipping communities’ into villages and to develop more sustainable forms of mission in rural communities.’

The Beck and Trent / Riverside Proposal

This was a significant project which began in June 2021 to explore a new model of rural ministry, to develop sustainable forms of mission, to develop our ministry as a resourcing church and to help meet our charitable objectives.

In 2021 at the request of the Bishop’s Core Team, we began exploring the possibility of a closer working relationship with the Beck and Trent and Riverside villages. It was hoped that closer working would benefit all, be more missionally-aligned and enable better administrative cover for all the churches involved.

The process involved several Working Party meetings. After a Report by all the working parties was completed, consultations were made with PCCs and Treasurers.

PCCs were asked to vote on the proposal as set out in the Report of the Working Group. In January 2022, 7 parishes voted ‘against’, 3 parishes voted ‘for’.

The way forward

Since the Working Party conclusion, churches which voted ‘for’ the proposal have continued to enjoy working with The Potting Shed and relationships and shared ministry has developed. There is growing vision and understanding for how we might resource churches more widely in the future.

Opportunities to lead services have enabled us to serve the rural context, developing our offering and helping clarify a longer-term vision for ministry.

A new location and venue – Operation New Barn!

In November 2022 the Barn heater ceased working and challenges emerged with the fabric of the Barn which we anticipated would need considerable resources to rectify.

An opportunity emerged to move into the Village Hall in Norwell and we have been worshipping there on a Sunday since. We have been delighted at the welcome we have received, and how the village location has enabled new people to connect with us.

With Diocesan support we have been exploring several sites which may provide a longer term ‘home’ for The Potting Shed. Our hope is to find a site in line with our original brief and

commission – ‘an inspirational, flexible building’ to facilitate community connections, worship and wider ministry.

Having submitted a Pre-Planning Application in 2022 to build a new Barn on a local and accessible site, we were advised (in the same week that we were required to move out of the Barn) that planning would be unlikely to be granted as the site was not part of or adjacent to a settlement. The Trustees took the decision not to pursue this location.

With the help of the Diocese, we are now exploring other potential sites. We hope to progress one of these to a planning application along with careful and thorough community consultation. We are also exploring grants that might be available to develop this community-focused project.

Finalising a longer home for The Potting Shed is important to achieving our longer-term objectives and clarifying our future ministry. We are committed to progressing this.

Learning Community Opportunity

In March 2022 we were invited to be part of a National Learning Community led by Sally Gaze (Archdeacon in Suffolk) and Tim Lea from Charis Consultants.

The Learning Community hopes to enable participants (6 churches or groups of churches in total) to be more effective and fruitful in their rural setting, particularly in:

1. Reaching out to those who are not yet part of any church, developing leaders and cooperating with other churches for mission.
2. Taking time to reflect, share good practice and stories, build connectedness and relationships.
3. Listening together to what God is doing in rural ministry with a view to sharing this wider across the national Church through an agreed report.

The Learning Community has been partly funded with SDF funding. All churches taking part were asked to contribute £1500 per team over the next 2.5 years during which the Learning Community will meet in person for three residential gatherings and online for four individual days.

The first of these residentials will be in January 2023. It feels a great encouragement to have been asked to contribute to this piece of work and we anticipate it will be a time of learning from a number of different churches at different stages of their development. This is an ecumenical project.

Rise and Shine – in Primary Schools

During 2022 Rise and Shine has continued to be a welcome contribution to the worshipping life of Church of England primary schools in two local villages. Every week in term time we have “Zoomed-in” to their classrooms and encouraged the children with songs, bible stories, games and activities and prayers. We’ve looked at the story of Joseph, we’ve celebrated the qualities of God and we’ve joined in with the Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative, amongst other topics.

We see about 70 children and their teachers each week, and our Children and Families Worker builds on this work through regular (in-person) chaplaincy visits to the schools.

In 2022 we had conversations with another local village school who were interested in joining in with Rise and Shine, and we are continuing to pursue this.

Little Seedlings

An exciting development from this work in schools has been the re-establishment of a toddler group (called Little Seedlings). This came about through one of the schools reaching out to us in July 2022 for assistance with helping raise the profile of the school with its local community. We agreed to run a toddler group in the school to reach out to new parents; a trial in December 2022 has resulted in a quickly growing group in the first half of 2023. One parent commented ‘Great group – we love coming. We love seeing what the nursery and reception children are doing in school’ and another one said it’s ‘a relaxing and warm atmosphere for mums’. Free play and craft activities are combined with songs and Bible stories, and refreshments for the mums and carers who come along.

Our schools-work is proving to be effective and sustainable in delivering our objectives. We are giving thought to how we might replicate aspects of our children’s work offering.

The Alpha Course

Alpha continues to offer a model for creating a safe and relaxed environment for people to ***‘explore faith in Jesus and experience church community’ in line with our objectives.***

The Alpha Course also blesses our wider ministry. New people bring fresh perspectives on ‘being church’, helping us to consider the shape and rhythm of our life as a worshipping community, whilst remaining true to Biblical example. Meeting around food, the opportunity to ask questions, creating an environment that is welcoming to non-church friends are important for our Sunday ministry too.

‘To be a ‘filling station’ to encourage, nourish and grow disciples who are engaged in the life and leadership of rural churches.’

Worship Team

The Worship Team have continued to meet regularly on Tuesday evenings to practice, worship together and to prepare for leading others. Last August we lost a significant couple from the team (due to their relocation for work), who had been leading worship regularly, but we have also welcomed a few new members in more recent months.

The team continues to play a vital role in impacting the worshipping life of the community on Sundays and at other times, and have occasionally resourced worship at other Diocese events and services including at the Church School Leaders’ day conference at the Hayes last November and an upcoming weekend in June for the Inspire Youth and Children’s Worker programme.

One significant area of development has been the starting up of Potting Shed Voices, which is loosely a Gospel and Worship Song Choir. We have been meeting either fortnightly or monthly and have encouraged folks from the church to participate whether they consider themselves to be confident singers or not. We have been blessed and surprised by how many have engaged with it and of how the Lord has used this in the lives of those who have come along. We have heard stories of people being released into worshipping in new and deeper ways and even of relief from anxiety and depression. The ‘choir’ have sung at both the Christmas and Easter services at The Potting Shed and it is also through this ministry that some new singers have been joining in with the wider Worship Team.

Tech and IT Development

Our forced relocation to Norwell Village Hall from the Barn in November was a challenge for our Tech Team, particularly in terms of supporting the Worship Team. We had established a good PA system and pattern of working in the Barn and were faced with having to rethink for a venue which isn’t ours and where we needed to set up from scratch every time. We are so grateful to God particularly for Edwin and Heather Beasant who have been so patient and committed to the vision and have been amazing at looking at the details and the possibilities, developing ways and purchasing equipment to make it work and to be sustainable in this season.

Nurturing Leaders from beyond The Potting Shed

Several leaders from beyond the Potting Shed continue to join our afternoon worship. Many of these have continued to be a part of their local community, serving in their local churches but have benefitted from a place of refreshment.

We encourage these leaders not to be 'on rota' where that enables them to be refreshed. For others, serving in a different context is what enables them to be refreshed, to flourish and grow.

One leader commented:

'The Potting Shed Church provides a space of refreshment for me as a different style of worship from my home context. From my first Sunday I felt a sense of belonging and spiritual nourishment.'

'It has also provided a space alongside my local Church to develop my gifts of leadership through Rooted Youth Group but also the opportunities to serve in other ways. For example preaching, serving on Potting Shed kids and engagement in worship through dance.'

Average weekly attendance – Adults & Children:

2022	2022	2023
Q1 Adults: 38	Q3 Adults: 33	Q1 Adults: 54
Children: 70	Children: 38	Children: 67
Total: 108	Total: 71	Total: 121
2022	2022	
Q2 Adults: 41	Q4 Adults: 47	
Children: 47	Children: 70	
Total: 88	Total: 117	

Financial Review

The Potting Shed Church was originally established and funded using SDF (special development funding) from the Church of England Church Commissioners, following a successful bid by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

We are aware that for the longer term we need to be self-sustaining with our funds coming through planned financial giving from those who are part of The Potting Shed.

Overall giving has increased over the period by £4,489. Planned giving grew by £7,084 with an increase of two family groups giving regularly. Collections at services of £1,879 have started through the introduction of a contactless giving machine.

The Diocesan grant for the wages of the Worship Leader and Children and Families Worker was £43,356. This will reduce from the end of 2023 and will not be available after the end of 2024. A grant of £14,799 for the year to December 2021 for equipment and hire costs was received in 2022. A further claim of £11,526 will be made in 2023 to cover the period to the end of December 2022.

Gift aid is claimed on all tax efficient planned giving. There were no fund-raising activities in this period however investment returns have improved by £481 due to rising interest rates.

No charges were made for church activities in 2022. Whilst we do not currently have facilities to offer weddings and funerals to those we connect with at The Potting Shed we hope to do so in the future, when we have a permanent location.

Overall Outgoings increased by £10,496 over the period. Parish Share is the usual church contribution towards the stipends, housing and pensions of the stipendiary clergy, and training costs. The Potting Shed agreed to and paid a contribution of £15,500 in 2022, a £7000 increase. The contribution is planned to increase £24,500 next year.

The staff wages were for a part-time Administrator, part-time Children and Families Worker and full-time Worship Leader. The costs stayed level, due to time worked however a review of salaries is taking place that will backdate any payments that should have been made. The Incumbent and any Curate costs are funded directly by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

Staff expenses have increased post-covid restrictions in line with increased activity and events. Running costs have increased reflecting a greater level of activity and support for schools

Barn equipment and hire costs were lower in 2022 as the 2022 £5,000 payment for the rental of the Barn was not made until early 2023. Also as the church is now meeting in Norwell Village Hall we were able to stop the toilet hire charges and there will be no Barn payment in 2023.

Gifts were made by the church to support some members to attend New Wine, as a gift for leaving staff and to the Keframa charity as profits from a barn dance.

£3,902 was spent in support of a planning application for a potential site for a new church building. Unfortunately planning advice was not supportive therefore we are looking at other potential options.

Volunteers

Volunteers continue to play a significant role in planning and carrying out Potting Shed activities, events and in enriching our life as a community with the skills which they bring with them. We are thankful for volunteers gifted in this way.

Regular volunteer contributions have included:

- Maintenance of the Barn, especially tasks that have required re-configuring to ensure covid-appropriate space.
- Setting up for regular and one-off events, including Sunday worship and preparation for Small Groups, weekly events and courses.
- Technical Support for services – installation, maintenance and running of PA and Visual equipment. This increased during 2021 and is now a core volunteer area.
- Welcome and Hospitality – this is a significant area for The Potting Shed and a high value for us. Those serving in food and refreshment hospitality work hard in what is essentially a field kitchen and recently in transitioning to a Village Hall with occasional church settings.
- Musical provision – this has increased during 2022 and is now a core volunteer area with the team growing.
- Leading of services and groups, midweek activities. Helping with children and youth work provision online.
- Research and planning for a longer-term venue for The Potting Shed. This has been a significant season as we consider future plans. We are thankful for several key volunteer leaders with particular skill sets who are working hard to take this forward into 2023.

Total volunteer hours per week: 50

Structure, governance and management

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Bishop's Mission Order made by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham under part V of the Church of England's Pastoral and Mission Measure 2011 to endorse and make provision for the Potting Shed Church. (1st August 2017)

Trustees are selected as follows:

Bishop Paul Williams makes one 'Bishop's recommendation' of a Trustee appointment. Trustees elect and appoint Trustees according to the needs of the charity and giving opportunity to include different skills and experience. Since the resignation of Maureen Cole in September 2020 we are awaiting the formal proposal of a new 'Bishop's recommendation'.

The Potting Shed is a small charity and the organisational structure currently reflects that.

All Trustees are involved in the weekly life of The Potting Shed Church.

We are part of a network of parish churches in rural Nottinghamshire, who are part of the Church of England.

The Potting Shed is part of the Deanery of Newark and Southwell and receives oversight in its decision-making and policies related to its charitable objectives, from the Senior Diocesan team.

Administrative information

The correspondence address is:

Willow Cottage, Norwell Woodhouse, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG23 6NG.

The Potting Shed Church is an Unincorporated Association, CIO. CIO Association Constitution which was submitted 09/12/2017. No amendments have since been made.

Trustees who have served at any time during the reporting period are as follows:

- **Alison Jones** – Pioneer Minister [Appointed by: Bishop Paul Williams]
 - Appointed 18 October 2017
- **Tom Hall** – Treasurer [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 20 July 2018
- **Joel Rathbone** – Trustee [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 8 July 2018

- **Stuart Almond** – Trustee [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 4 October 2020, resigned 13 May 2022
- **Naomi Emerton** – Trustee [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 1 September 2022

We are looking to invite three new Trustees to our board in 2023.

Declaration of Related Party Interests

- The Potting Shed Church rents an Agricultural barn from Mr Michael Arlington as a meeting venue. Mr Joel Rathbone is the son-in-law of Mr Michael Arlington.
- Mr Tom Hall, Treasurer and Trustee is also a Trustee of another charity, the Keframa School Build (KSB). KSB is building a secondary school in Uganda. Mr Michael Arlington (barn owner) has requested that the rental income from the barn is paid directly to the KSB charity.

04/07/2023

Approved by the Trustees on DD/MM/YYYY and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Alison F K Jones (Pioneer Minister).

Signature: Alison

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Potting Shed Church

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner:

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect of the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.

AJSlinger

Alison Slinger FCA
234 Norwood Gardens
Southwell
Notts
NG25 0DS

Potting Shed Church

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts:						
Planned giving	1a	50,874	-	-	50,874	43,790
Collections at services	1b	1,879	-	-	1,879	-
All other giving/voluntary receipts	1c	2,376	-	-	2,376	6,850
Diocesan Grant	1d	58,155	-	-	58,155	63,294
Gift Aid recovered	1e	8,410	-	-	8,410	11,410
		121,694	-	-	121,694	125,344
Activities for generating funds	1f	0	-	-	0	0
Investment income	1g	499	-	-	499	8
Church activities	1h	965	-	-	965	65
Total Receipts		123,158	-	-	123,158	125,417
PAYMENTS						
Church Activities:						
Diocesan Parish Share	2a	15,500	-	-	15,500	8,500
Clergy and Staff wages	2b	48,384	-	-	48,384	48,939
Clergy and staff expenses	2c	849	-	-	849	194
Church running expenses	2d	9,528	-	-	9,528	4,747
Barn equipment and hire costs	2e	6,526	-	-	6,526	14,800
Mission Giving	2f	3,177	-	-	3,177	190
New Building work on Church	2g	3,902	-	-	3,902	0
Costs of generating funds		-	-	-	-	-
Total payments		87,866	-	-	87,866	77,370
Excess of receipts over payments		35,292	-	-	35,292	48,047
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-	-
		35,292	-	-	35,292	48,047
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		124,037			124,037	75,990
			0			
Cash at bank and in hand 31 December		159,329			159,329	124,037

Potting Shed Church
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
Cash Funds						
Bank current account		25,869	0	0	25,869	15,203
Deposit funds - Savings Account		133,460	0	0	133,460	108,834
		<u>159,329</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>159,329</u>	<u>124,037</u>
Other monetary assets						
Barn Equipment and Hire costs recoverable		11,526			11,526	14,800
Gift Aid recoverable		9,316			9,316	4,182
		<u>20,842</u>			<u>20,842</u>	<u>18,982</u>
Investment assets						
Investment fund shares at market value		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Assets retained for church use		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Liabilities						
Barn Rental Payments due		0			5,000	0
Parish Share Outstanding		<u>0</u>			<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

The Potting Shed Church

Notes to the Financial Statements 2022

Income

- 1a Planned giving has grown by £7,084 with an increase of two family groups giving regularly.
- 1b Collections at services of £1879 have started through the introduction of a contactless giving machine.
- 1c There was a decrease in one off giving due to a large one off gift in 2021, outside of that item one off giving rose slightly.
- 1d The Diocesan grant for the wages of the Worship Leader and Children and Families Worker was £43,356. This will reduce from the end of 2023 and will not be available after the end of 2024. A grant of £14,799 for the year to December 2021 for equipment and hire costs was received in 2022. A further claim of £11,526 will be made in 2022 to cover the period to the end of December 2022.
- 1e Gift aid is claimed on all tax efficient planned giving.
- 1f There were no fund-raising activities in this period.
- 1g Investment has improved by £481 due to rising interest rates.
- 1h No charges were made for church activities in 2022. Whilst we do not currently have facilities to offer weddings and funerals to those we connect with at The Potting Shed we hope to do so in the future, when we have a permanent location.

Expenditure

- 2a Parish Share is the usual church contribution towards the stipends, housing and pensions of the stipendiary clergy, and training costs. The Potting Shed agreed to and paid a contribution of £15,500 in 2022. The contribution is planned to increase £24,500 next year.
- 2b The staff wages were for a part-time Administrator, part-time Children and Families Worker and full-time Worship Leader. The costs stayed level, due to time worked however a review of salaries is taking place that will backdate any payments that should have been made. The Incumbent and any Curate costs are funded directly by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.
- 2c Staff expenses have increased post covid restrictions.
- 2d Running costs have increased reflecting a greater level of activity and support for schools.
- 2e Barn equipment and hire costs were lower in 2022 as the 2022 £5,000 payment for the rental of the barn was not made until early 2023. Also as the church is now meeting in Norwell Village Hall we were able to stop the toilet hire charges and there will be no barn payment in respect of 2023.
- 2f Gifts were made by the church to support some members to attend New Wine festival, as a gift for leaving staff and to the Keframa charity as profits from a barn dance.
- 2g £3,902 was spent in support of a planning application for a potential site for a new church building. Unfortunately planning advice was not supportive therefore we are looking at other potential options.

THE POTTING SHED CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1176783

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2021

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Bishop's Mission Order dated 1st August 2017 was made by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham under part V of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2011 and was made to endorse and make provision for The Potting Shed Church.

The Potting Shed Church was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 1st August 2017 with charity number of 1176783.

The Potting Shed Church

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2021 Report and Accounts for the Potting Shed Church

Aims and Purposes

The Potting Shed Church was commissioned by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham to plant a pioneering, Resourcing Church in the middle of Nottinghamshire county amongst rural communities, as part of the wider mission and ministry of the Diocese.

The new worshipping community aims to connect with those not currently engaging with existing models of rural church, especially young families, youth, and young adults. Our purpose is then to enable those we connect with to explore faith in Jesus and experience church community. Our objective is also to be a resource for 'grafting' and 'planting' 'new worshipping communities' into rural villages and to develop more sustainable forms of mission in rural communities. We aim to be a 'filling station' - a place to encourage, nourish, grow and resource those who remain engaged in the life and leadership of rural churches.

Objectives and Activities

All planning and decision making is done in consideration of our stated purposes (taken from our Governing Document) and with thought to how we might better carry out those purposes as per the guidance given by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

When planning our Sunday worship Gatherings, midweek events and other activities, we seek to be accessible to people of all ages and stages of faith. We also aim to provide opportunities for all those who connect with The Potting shed to explore the Christian faith for themselves and we're passionate about helping individuals and families to apply the Bible's teaching to their lives in practical ways.

We plan and lead small groups and courses midweek to meet the needs of the different age groups and stages of faith of those we connect with. For example: The Alpha Course, The Marriage course, The Prayer Course, Saturday Breakfast, Prayer 2 Go, Breathe, and Midweek Discipleship Groups. We also plan one-off events tailored to welcoming those from outside our church community.

We are actively seeking to build community and further the Christian faith in all that we do and are committed to encouraging and resourcing established rural churches in their ministries.

Achievements and Performances

A summary of the main achievements of The Potting Shed charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of our beneficiaries and wider benefits to society as a whole.

The objectives in italics are taken directly from our Governing Document objective with achievements below:

'To connect with those not currently engaging with existing models of church, especially young families, youth and young adults. To enable people to explore faith in Jesus and experience church community.'

In early 2021 we re-commenced in-person services at The Potting Shed Barn, after Christmas services had once again been taken online due to the Pandemic.

We were delighted to meet several individuals and new families who had connected with us online during the Autumn and Winter of 2020. And we worked hard to refresh and re-configure the Barn to ensure that socially distanced gatherings and services were Covid compliant.

In 2021 our services continued to be shaped in outline and content to serve our stated objectives as a charity, with worship and teaching being presented in an accessible way to enable those exploring faith to feel welcome and included. As well as seeking to offer opportunity for deeper discipleship and community for others.

As part of this we re-shaped our Sunday service outline to better provide for Children to explore faith in age-appropriate ways. This created an opportunity to adapt preaching and teaching, and to shape the worship response uniquely for adults and young people.

We continue to hold a high value at The Potting Shed upon gathering and worshipping All Ages together as a way of creating authentic community. In 2022 we will embark on a project to further develop those times on a Sunday when we gather as a church family, all ages together.

Potting Shed Kids

After a year of both online and in-person All-Age services, we wished to offer children their own space in which to develop a closer relationship with one another and with God.

In July 2021 we trialled separate children's provision on Sundays, after the time of opening worship. This was well received by adults and children, and in September we launched 'Potting Shed Kids' for primary aged children - half an hour of catch up, story time, discussion, songs and craft, held in a large gazebo outside the barn

This development has helped The Potting Shed to meet the above objective by:

- Helping children to grow in their own personal faith, and in their connection to each other.
- Appealing to new families, enabling each member in coming along to church and to experience community. This is often as a result of children inviting their friends from school.
- Providing an opportunity for members of church, including some young adults and retirees, to serve alongside each other. This has deepened our sense of community and commitment to the wider objectives of The Potting Shed.

Belonging and Discipleship

In May 2021 we were delighted to host a Deanery Baptism and Confirmation service and to welcome Bishop Andy. We baptised two adults from The Potting Shed (one full immersion in a Baptism font) and one adult re-affirming their Baptism vows:

'With my life's challenges so far and my journey with my faith, I had a strong desire to be baptised, which has fittingly arrived as I step foot into Civilian Life and open myself to new and joyful experiences and for what plans God has for me.' **Baptism and Confirmation candidate, 2021**

Bishop Andy Confirmed five candidates from The Potting Shed and three candidates from local rural churches.

"Finding Jesus has cleansed and lifted me way beyond my imagination and earthly understanding. I feel peace. A peace I never thought possible. A peace I did not know existed. And a love I did not know existed... Confirmation IS for me. Being a Christian IS for me. God IS for me!" **Confirmation Candidate, 2021**

Midweek Groups at The Potting Shed

During 2021 we launched several new opportunities midweek for people to develop deeper community.

Prayer 2 Go

This was launched as a half hour, online opportunity in the middle of the day, led by volunteers. This included a warm welcome to all, a short devotional thought for encouragement and then the opportunity for prayer.

Midweek at The Potting Shed - In September, a daytime and evening trial group were launched. The hope was after the social distancing of lockdown to enable fellowship and discipleship groups to establish, and to then 'self-seed' and embed within the villages we connect with, with appointed leaders. The outcome was:

- Midweek Evening group – Two groups going forward. One to serve and support Alpha, another for deeper discipleship – Going Deeper
- Midweek Daytime group – There is opportunity and a hunger for a group to continue for fellowship and discipleship going forward once a leader is available.

'To enable people to explore faith in Jesus and experience church community. To be a resource for 'grafting' and 'planting' 'new worshipping communities' into villages and to develop more sustainable forms of mission in rural communities.'

The Beck and Trent / Riverside Proposal – This was a significant project which began in June 2021 and continues in its development. The hope was to explore new ways to build community, develop sustainable forms of mission and better shape resource ourselves to meet our charitable objectives.

Initially, on the request of the Bishop's Core Team, we began exploring the possibility of closer working with the Beck and Trent and Riverside villages and to explore the implications for ministry. It was hoped that closer working would benefit all, be more missionally aligned and enable better administrative cover for all the churches involved.

The process involved several meetings as follows:

24.6.21 - Initial meeting of the villages and The Potting Shed to outline the proposal and potential road map.

15.7.21 - Feedback paper with comments from initial meeting

1.9.21 – First working group

8.9.21 - Churches were invited to share something of the story of their villages.

16.9.21 – Second working group

27.9.21 – Third working group

14.10.21 – Fourth working group

Report of the Working Groups completed

1.11.21 – Consultations with all PCCs to review the report.

16.11.21 – Additional meeting following questions raised by parishes

14.12.21 – Treasurers met with Diocesan team for further work on financial questions

Outcome

The PCCs were asked to vote on the proposal as set out in the Report of the Working Group. 7 parishes voted against, 3 parishes voted for.

The way forward

It was concluded that the proposal will not move forward, and the villages and The Potting Shed Church will not work together as was originally proposed in the consultation and paper

The Potting Shed has seen new, fruitful relationships develop from the process and missional opportunities. The Potting Shed continues with its development as a rural resourcing church.

A new location and venue – Operation New Barn!

The current location and Barn is no longer a viable option for the future of The Potting shed. For several reasons:

- The Barn was offered to us as short-term provision whilst we discerned our requirements, began to grow the church and to serve the community through our objectives. The Barn was not intended as for long term use.
- Insurance on the building is for short term accommodation only.
- Whilst our adaptations to the Barn have enabled us to work to our objectives, we now require a building that is 'fit for purpose' - with appropriate heating, water and sanitation in a fully accessible sight that is safe for all ages.
- In our current location and venue we are unable to advertise or signpost to the Barn during the week, erecting temporary signage before services and activities. Increasingly we are discovering that individuals and families we are connecting with through schools work and in other ways, are unaware of our location.
- Before the Pandemic we were ready to progress next steps regarding a new location and venue. Moving online during the Pandemic put those plans on pause, but relieved the practical needs regarding the building.
- Since starting to meet In Person again (from Sept 2021) we are experiencing the 'urgency of now' regarding our location and venue practically, and in meeting our objectives as a church and charity.
- Midweek activities are being held at Willow Cottage, 30 people currently for Alpha and Discipleship groups on one night alone, this is not a longer term option.

The way forward

A field has become available to us locally that we believe builds on: our current location with those we connect with, would facilitate our relationships with local churches as we continue to support and further facilitate them in their ministries, and which would enable us to erect a 'fit for purpose' building in a cost effective way.

The original bid and brief for The Potting Shed Church spoke of 'an inspirational, flexible worship space' which would be effective in serving our purposes. We believe the location potentially available would facilitate that.

We are now working with the Diocese and have agreed a proposal for exploring planning permission for the site identified. A planning team has been created and others are heading up plans to ensure the location and venue are designed with our objectives in mind and to build on the encouraging progress of The Potting Shed so far.

Rise and Shine – in Primary Schools

In March 2021 two Headteachers of local village primary schools were invited to attend Rise and Shine, our midweek, online offering for Potting Shed children during lockdown.

The Headteachers enjoyed the fast-paced, high energy, interactive sessions and Rise and Shine was launched into Dean Hole Caunton, and Norwell Primary schools via Zoom as part of their collective worship programme.

Each week this delivers songs, a story, interactive activities, prayers and reflections with a clear Christian emphasis. One Headteacher described Rise and Shine as her 'covid recovery plan'. Another said that they believe Rise and Shine to be a 'new worshipping community' locally.

We are delighted that we see about 70 children and their teachers each week.

Rise and Shine developments

In September 2021 Rise and Shine via Zoom was complemented with in-person chaplaincy delivered by our Children and Families Worker on a fortnightly basis in each school. This enabled more bespoke pastoral work alongside particular groups of children alongside school staff.

Throughout 2021 we built new connections with other village primary schools as they considered the potential of Rise and Shine. We also had meetings with the Diocesan education team, exploring ways of enabling this service to rural, village schools in other parts of the diocese.

In summary, Rise and Shine is proving to be effective in delivering our objectives and sustainable.

The Alpha Course

For the January 2021 Alpha course, whilst we would have preferred to meet in person, we took the decision to run the course via Zoom. Alpha online required us to be resourceful in building trusting relationships with guests. But building on our experience of the previous year, the course was greatly valued by all who attended with a number coming to faith.

'To be a 'filling station' to encourage, nourish and grow disciples who are engaged in the life and leadership of rural churches.'

Sunday Musical Worship Development

In June 2021 we began a weekly 'How Would Jesus Lead Worship?' course online for musicians and worship leaders at the Potting Shed and from other churches in the surrounding area.

Encouraging relationships developed forming a worship team meeting in person on Tuesday evenings to practice, worship together and prepare for leading others.

This has drawn people into the heart of the church, including some who now attend Alpha, and created a sense of belonging for those involved. It has had a significant positive impact on the worshipping life of the church.

The team now includes about 20 people, including sound and vision supporting team members.

Tech and IT Development

The developing tech team have been resourcing Sunday worship with significant skills and expertise resulting in a much improved PA and fully equipped band area at the Potting Shed Barn which is serving us well.

Nurturing Leaders from beyond The Potting Shed

In 2021, in what was a particularly challenging year for those serving in ministry, we welcomed several leaders who were serving in their local churches. Many of these have continued to be a part of our local community but have benefitted from a place of refreshment.

The above examples of adaptation and innovation from meeting online to in-person has enabled us in fresh ways to build on our objectives as a charity and to better serve the wider rural community.

Additional Information

During the time of the Beck and Trent / Riverside Proposal, The Potting Shed team was working with both Archdeacons exploring a significant project that we believed would help the charity work towards our agreed objectives. During that time, quarterly meetings with the Diocesan Project team ceased.

Average weekly attendance – Adults & Children:

2021

Q1 Adults:	41
Children:	35
Total:	76

2021

Q2 Adults:	43
Children:	72
Total :	115

2021

Q3 Adults:	23
Children:	33
Total:	56

2021

Q4 Adults:	36
Children:	73
Total:	109

Rise and Shine started at the end of March has added to the numbers in Q2 and Q4.

Financial Review

The Potting Shed Church was originally established and funded using SDF (special development funding) from the Church of England Church Commissioners, following a successful bid by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

We are aware that for the longer term we need to be self-sustaining with our funds coming through planned financial giving from those who are part of The Potting Shed. A priority for the charity is to increase giving year by year to cover costs.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Total income for the year was £125,417 which included Diocesan Grants of £63,294. Income of £62,050 was received from planned giving, other giving and gift aid claims, and there was a small amount of investment income and fee income.

£77,370 was spent to provide Christian ministry from the Potting Shed Church. Staff wages were £48,939 and Parish Share of £8,500 was paid in 2021 as a contribution towards the stipends and housing costs of clergy in the Diocese. The remaining expenditure was on church running costs and a donation to New Wine.

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £48,047. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balance carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds was £124,037.

Volunteers

Volunteers continue to play a significant role in planning and carrying out Potting Shed activities, events and in enriching our life as a community with the skills which they bring with them. We are thankful for volunteers gifted in this way.

Regular volunteer contributions include:

- Maintenance of the Barn, especially tasks that have required re-configuring to ensure Covid appropriate space.
- Setting up for regular and one-off events, including Sunday worship and prep for Small Groups, weekly events and courses.

- Technical Support for services – installation, maintenance and running of PA and Visual equipment. This increased during 2021 and is now a core volunteer area.
- Welcome and Hospitality – This is a significant area for The Potting Shed and a high value for us. Those serving in food and refreshment hospitality work hard in what is essentially a field kitchen!
- Musical provision – This has increased during 2021 and is now a core volunteer area.
- Leading of services and groups, midweek activities. Helping with children and youth work provision online.
- Research and planning for a longer term venue for The Potting Shed. This has been a significant season as we considered future plans. Good relationships have begun with several volunteer leaders being raised up for taking this forward in 2022.

Total Volunteer hours per week: 20

Structure, governance and management

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Bishop's Mission Order made by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham under part V of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission measure 2011 to endorse and make provision for the Potting Shed Church. (1st August 2017)

Trustees are selected as follows:

Bishop Paul Williams makes one 'Bishop's recommendation' of a Trustee appointment. Trustees elect and appoint Trustees according to the needs of the charity and giving opportunity to include different skills and experience. Since the resignation of Maureen Cole in September 2020 we are awaiting the formal proposal of a new 'Bishop's recommendation' The Diocesan team have identified two candidates and we are awaiting next steps.

The Potting Shed is a small charity and the organisational structure currently reflects that. All Trustees are involved in the weekly life of The Potting Shed Church.

We are part of network of parish churches in rural Nottinghamshire, who are part of the Church of England.

The Potting Shed is part of the Deanery of Newark and Southwell and receives oversight in its' decision making and policies related to its charitable objectives, from the Senior Diocesan team.

Administrative information

The Potting Shed is part of the Deanery of Newark and Southwell and receives oversight in its' decision making and policies related to its charitable objectives, from the Senior Diocesan team.

The correspondence address is:

Willow Cottage, Norwell Woodhouse, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG23 6NG.

The Potting Shed Church is an Unincorporated Association, CIO. CIO Association Constitution which was submitted 09/12/2017. No amendments have since been made.

Trustees who have served at any time during the reporting period are as follows:

- **Alison Jones** – Pioneer Minister [Appointed by: Bishop Paul Williams]
 - Appointed 23rd Jan 2018
- **Tom Hall** – Treasurer [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 20th July 2018
- **Joel Rathbone** – Trustee [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 20th July 2018
- **Stuart Almond** – Trustee [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 4th October 2020

Declaration of Related Party Interests

- The Potting Shed Church rents an Agricultural barn from Mr Michael Arlington as a meeting venue. Mr Joel Rathbone is the son in law of Mr Michael Arlington.
- Mr Tom Hall, Treasurer and Trustee is also a Trustee of another charity, the Keframa School Build (KSB). KSB is building a secondary school in Uganda. Mr Michael Arlington (barn owner) has requested that the rental income from the barn is paid directly to the KSB charity.

Approved by the Trustees on:

03/05/22

and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Alison F K Jones (Pioneer Minister).

Signature: _____

Alones

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Potting Shed Church

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner:

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect of the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.



Alison Slinger FCA
234 Norwood Gardens
Southwell
Notts
NG25 0DS

The Potting Shed Church

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Designated Building fund £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary receipts:					
Planned giving	1a	43,790	-	43,790	41,000
Collections at services	1b	0	-	-	-
All other giving/voluntary receipts	1c	1,850	5,000	6,850	2,170
Diocesan Grant	1d	63,294		63,294	62,564
Gift Aid recovered	1e	11,410	-	11,410	6,481
		<u>120,344</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>125,344</u>	<u>112,215</u>
Activities for generating funds	1f	0	-	0	0
Investment income	1g	8	-	8	25
Church activities	1h	<u>65</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Receipts		<u>120,417</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>125,417</u>	<u>112,240</u>
PAYMENTS					
Church Activities:					
Diocesan Parish Share	2a	8,500	-	8,500	4,000
Staff wages	2b	48,939	-	48,939	48,552
Clergy and staff expenses	2c	194	-	194	2,524
Church running expenses	2d	4,747	-	4,747	3,264
Barn equipment and hire costs	2e	14,800	-	14,800	8,432
Mission Giving	2f	190	-	190	750
Costs of generating funds		-	-	-	-
Total payments		<u>77,370</u>		<u>77,370</u>	<u>67,522</u>
Excess of receipts over payments		43,047	5,000	48,047	44,718
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		75,990	0	75,990	31,272
Cash at bank and in hand 31 December		<u>119,037</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>124,037</u>	<u>75,990</u>

The Potting Shed Church
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated Building Fund £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
Cash Funds				
Bank current account	15,203	0	15,203	19,205
Deposit funds - Savings Account	103,834	5,000	108,834	56,786
	<u>119,037</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>124,037</u>	<u>75,990</u>
Other monetary assets				
Barn Equipment and Hire costs recoverable	14,800		14,800	22,317
Gift Aid recoverable	4,182		4,182	2,070
	<u>18,982</u>		<u>18,982</u>	<u>24,387</u>
Liabilities				
Barn Rental Payments due	0		0	5,000
Parish Share Outstanding	0		0	1,000
	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>1,000</u>

The Potting Shed Church

Notes to the Financial Statements

Income

- 1a Planned giving has grown by £2,790 however there has been no increase in the number of regular givers. This continues to be a challenge with COVID restrictions however this will have renewed focus moving forward.
- 1b There was no cash giving due to the lack of face to face meetings during covid restrictions.
- 1c There was an increase in one off giving mainly due to a one off £5K donation which has been allocated to a new designated buildings fund.
- 1d The Diocesan grant for wages was £40,976 which will reduce from the end of 2022. A grant of £22,317 for the period to March 2019 to December 2020 for equipment and hire costs was received in 2021. A further claim of £14,799 will be made in 2022 to cover the period to the end of December 2021.
- 1e Gift aid is claimed on all tax efficient planned giving.
- 1f There were no fund-raising activities in this period due to covid restrictions.
- 1g There is a small investment income now that funds have been invested in a deposit account.
- 1h Whilst we do not currently have facilities to offer weddings and funerals to those we connect with at The Potting Shed we hope to do so in the future, particularly as we potentially partner with local rural churches. The charges made in 2021 were in respect of a funeral taken by Rev Alison Jones at a church in vacancy.

Expenditure

- 2a Parish Share is the usual church contribution towards the stipends, housing and pensions of the stipendiary clergy, and training costs. The Potting Shed agreed to and paid a contribution of £7,500 in 2021 alongside a payment of £1,000 for the 2020 period. The contribution is planned to increase to £15,500 next year.
- 2b The staff wages were for a part time Administrator, Family Worker and Worship Leader. The costs stayed level despite standard pay increases as we did not have an intern over this period. The Incumbent and any Curate costs are funded directly by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.
- 2c Staff expenses reduced as there were less travel claims due to the covid restrictions.
- 2d Running costs were slightly higher in 2021 as we were able to run more face to face services and meetings.
- 2e Barn equipment and hire costs were higher in 2021 as the 2020, £5,000 payment for the rental of the barn was not made until early 2021 and the 2021 payment was made in December.
- 2f Donation to New Wine

THE POTTING SHED CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1176783

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Charity registration number: 1176783

The Potting Shed Church

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Bishop's Mission Order dated 1st August 2017 was made by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham under part V of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2011 was made to endorse and make provision for The Potting Shed Church.

The Potting Shed Church was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 1st August 2017 with charity number 1176783.

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2020 Report and Accounts for the Potting Shed Church

Aims and Purposes

The Potting Shed Church was commissioned by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham to plant a pioneering, Resourcing Church in the middle of Nottinghamshire county amongst rural communities, as part of the mission and ministry of the Diocese.

The new worshipping community aims to connect with those not currently engaging with existing models of rural church, especially young families, youth, and young adults. Our purpose is to enable those who connect with us to explore faith in Jesus and experience church community. Also to be a resource for 'grafting' and 'planting' 'new worshipping communities' into rural villages and to develop more sustainable forms of mission in rural communities. We aim to also be a 'filling station', a place to encourage, nourish and grow those who are engaged in the life and leadership of rural churches.

Objectives and Activities

All planning and decision making is done in consideration of our stated purposes (taken from our Governing Document) and with thought to how we might better carry out those purposes as per the guidance given by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

When planning our Gatherings for worship and activities we seek to be accessible to people of all ages and stages of faith. Providing opportunities for all who connect with the Potting Shed to explore the Christian faith for themselves and to help them apply the Bible's teaching to their lives.

We plan and lead Small Groups and courses midweek to meet the needs of the different age groups and stages of faith of those we are connecting with. For example Alpha, The Marriage course, parenting courses, The Prayer Course etc.

We also plan one-off events tailored to welcome those outside our church community. Actively seeking to build community and further the Christian faith in all activities held and encouraging and resourcing established rural churches in their ministries.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

A summary of the main achievements of The Potting Shed charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of it's beneficiaries and wider benefits to society as a whole.

The objectives in italics are taken directly from our Governing Document objective with achievements below:

'To connect with those not currently engaging with existing models of church, especially young families, youth and young adults. To enable people to explore faith in Jesus and experience church community.'

Our Services continued in 2020 to be shaped to serve the above objectives - worship and teaching being presented in an accessible way that enables those exploring faith to be included.

In March 2020, due to the Covid 19 outbreak and the onset of the first National lockdown 1.0, the Trustees in line with advice from the Southwell and Nottingham Diocese agreed to cease in-person worship at the Barn, and to re-launch Sunday services using short All Age videos.

The videos were planned and recorded to create similar opportunities for individuals and families, including children and young adults to be practically involved in worship. Individuals and families submitting recorded Bible readings, prayers, and other creative contributions. Recorded services gave opportunity for families not currently connected with existing models of church to 'dip a toe in' watching from the comfort of their own homes, and at a time that suited them.

In July and August, as Lockdown 1.0 lifted, the Barn opened once again and was refreshed and re-configured to enable socially-distanced gatherings and services that were Covid compliant.

At the beginning of Lockdown 2.0, we then re-launched online services using Zoom. This enabled more interactive, community-building opportunities which saw us welcoming several new families and individuals who were exploring churches or connecting with church. People in this socially isolated time were thinking about community engagement and matters of faith and our hope was to ensure we were accessible and welcoming to those joining us.

During the Lockdown periods in 2020, when schools were closed, we launched and ran Rise and Shine! a high energy, interactive gathering on Monday morning, for Primary Aged children including 30 minutes of songs, a Bible story, games and life application aimed at the Primary age group. This new ministry attracted families from villages further afield, able to join in online. In a time when online school resources were limited, the informal yet structured weekly opportunity to explore faith, build community and support families was well received by families.

Throughout this time, we worked with and alongside village churches who were unable to hold in-person worship, supporting and supplementing their online resources. This built new and deeper working relationships that will enable us to serve the communities going forwards in new ways.

'To enable people to explore faith in Jesus and experience church community. To be a resource for 'grafting' and 'planting' 'new worshipping communities' into villages and to develop more sustainable forms of mission in rural communities.'

The Alpha Course

In January 2020 we began an Alpha course, welcoming individuals who had been engaging with our Sunday Gatherings, and one or two who had enjoyed the course previously. The Alpha course gives people opportunity to explore life and faith and to learn what is at the heart of Christian community.

In March 2020, half way through the course at the start of Lockdown 1.0, we took the decision to take the course onto Zoom. We were delighted at the way that most of those engaged on the course transitioned across. And there were encouraging stories of people growing in faith. A number who had previously helped lead Alpha having done the course themselves, are now leading in the villages in which they live.

Several from the course have since shared personal stories of how the course has given them a new sense of purpose about life and a peace in their particular circumstances.

The Marriage Course

We were delighted to welcome seven couples onto the Marriage Course, having run the course first as a team to ensure we felt confident about its application in our context.

This was a fresh opportunity to explore how faith has practical application in lives. This is a resource that in the future we look forward to offering to our wider communities.

The Prayer Course

This revised course based around The Lord's prayer is perfect for those exploring faith and a resource that would transfer well into local ministry situations. The course began in-person in the Barn, but transferred online when Lockdown required. Once again we were delighted that those engaging with the material found Zoom offered fresh opportunities and accessibility on winter evenings.

'To be a 'filling station' to encourage, nourish and grow disciples who are engaged in the life and leadership of rural churches.'

Our midweek Breathe events have been a safe place for those from other churches to be refreshed midweek when they are otherwise leading within their own communities.

During lockdown 2.0 we launched weekly Breathe 'style' gatherings with informal worship, the opportunity for some input related to Sunday's theme or topic and the chance for

discussion and prayer - Midweek at The Potting Shed. The sessions allowed individuals the opportunity to meet in a smaller, adult group than on a Sunday, with opportunity for deeper reflection.

We welcomed several leaders currently serving in other rural local churches during a time that was particularly exhausting and depleting for them. Many of these have continued to be a part of our community and have benefitted from a place of belonging of their own.

The above examples of adaptation to an online presence has enabled us in fresh ways to meet those objectives and to serve and benefit the wider rural community, and to serve our objectives as a charity.

Financial Review

The Potting Shed Church was originally established and funded using SDF (Special Development Funding) from the Church of England Church Commissioners, following a successful bid by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

Financial Giving from members of The Potting Shed Church now supplements that original donation. We are aware that giving needs to increase to sustain the charities activities.

A priority for the charity is to increase giving year by year to cover costs.

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

At the end of 2020 the cash assets of the charity were £75,990 a growth in year of £44,718. This included the agreed equipment and hire claim (to March 19) paid by the Diocese SDF fund of £18,920. A further claim of £22,317 will be made in 2021 to cover equipment hire costs from April 2019 to December 2020.

Our other main sources of income were; planned giving from church members of £41,000, one off gifts of £2,170, £43,643 in wage support to cover the additional roles of the Worship Leader and Family Worker from the Church Commissioners SDF and £6,481 in Gift Aid. Total income for the year was £112,240.

The salaries of the Incumbent and Curate were met by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. This year we had a full year of the costs of the Worship Leader, Family Worker and part time Administrator. We also took on a part time intern. Direct salary costs rose therefore to £48,312 of which the majority of the cost was covered by the wage support in the SDF. Expenses reduced due to covid to £2,524, running costs reduced as we did not use the barn facility as often to £3,264. Equipment and hire were also lower at £8,432. Total outgoings for the year were £67,522.

The Potting Shed will continue to receive funding through SDF and the Diocese until June 2023. During this period the Potting Shed plans to see growth in attendance and regular givers to ensure the charity is self-sufficient at this point. 2020 saw a small increase in planned giving of nearly £8,389 however there was no increase in regular givers, and due to Covid it was difficult to address this issue or to accurately assess regular attendance through on-line meetings.

The Potting Shed also has access to an Equipment Fund of £100,000, an initial claim of £18,920 has been agreed to cover set up costs from 2017 to March 2019, which has been paid in early 2020. A further claim of £22,317 will be made to cover equipment and hire costs through to December 2020.

The Potting Shed has started to pay Parish Share to support Incumbent and Curate costs. The planned payment for 2020 was £5,000, of which £4,000 was paid by Dec 2020. This payment will increase plan on an incremental basis with a planned payment in 2021 of £7,500.

Volunteers

Volunteers continue to play a significant role in planning and carrying out Potting Shed activities, events and in enriching our life as a community with the skills which they bring with them. Volunteer activities have changed in frequency during 2020 with the move from in-person to online gatherings. Tech support has become increasingly an important aspect of our services. We are thankful for volunteers gifted in this way.

Regular volunteer contributions include:

- Maintenance of the Barn, especially tasks that have required re-configuring to ensure Covid appropriate space.
- Setting up for regular and one-off events, including Sunday worship and prep for Small Groups, weekly events and courses. This has been intermittent during 2020
- Technical Support for services – installation, maintenance and running of PA and Visual equipment. This has increased in 2020 and is now a core volunteer area.
- Hospitality – Minimal during 2020
- Musical provision
- Leading of services and groups, midweek activities. Helping with children and youth work provision online.
- Research and planning for a longer term venue for The Potting Shed

Structure, governance and management

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Bishop's Mission Order made by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham under part V of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission measure 2011 to endorse and make provision for the Potting Shed Church. (1st August 2017)

Trustees are selected as follows:

Bishop Paul Williams makes one 'Bishop's recommendation' of a Trustee appointment. Trustees elect and appoint Trustees according to the needs of the charity and giving opportunity to include different skills and experience.

The Potting Shed team meets with a Diocesan Project team quarterly to set objectives and to assess achievements against objectives set.

We have been thankful for the charity board experience of our Bishop's recommended Trustee – Maureen Cole. It was with great sadness that Maureen had to offer her resignation in September 2020. We were delighted to welcome Stuart Almond onto the charity board. Stuart brings considerable experience in change management and team building.

The Potting Shed is a small charity and the organisational structure currently reflects that. All Trustees are involved in the weekly life of The Potting Shed Church.

We are part of network of parish churches in rural Nottinghamshire, who are part of the Church of England.

The Potting Shed is part of the Deanery of Newark and Southwell and receives oversight in its decision making and policies related to its charitable objectives, from the Senior Diocesan team.

Administrative information

The correspondence address is:

Willow Cottage, Norwell Woodhouse, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG23 6NG.

The Potting Shed Church is a Charitable Incorporated Association Registered on 23rd January 2018.

Trustees who have served at any time during the reporting period are as follows:

- **Maureen Cole** – Chair of Trustees [Appointed by: Bishop Paul Williams]
 - Appointed 4th October 2020. Resigned in September 2020.
- **Alison Jones** – Pioneer Minister [Appointed by: Bishop Paul Williams]
 - Appointed 18th Oct 2017

- **Tom Hall** – Treasurer [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 20th July 2018
- **Joel Rathbone** – Trustee [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 8th July 2018
- **Stuart Almond** – Trustee [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 4th October 2020

Declaration of Related Party Interests

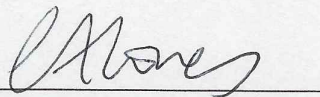
- The Potting Shed Church employs Mrs Emilie Rathbone (on a part time basis), Mrs Emilie Rathbone is married to Mr Joel Rathbone, a Trustee.
- The Potting Shed Church rents an Agricultural barn from Mr Michael Arlington as a meeting venue. Mrs Emile Rathbone is the daughter of Mr Michael Arlington. Mr Joel Rathbone is the son in law of Mr Michael Arlington.
- Mr Tom Hall, Treasurer and Trustee is also a Trustee of another charity, the Keframa School Build (KSB). KSB is building a secondary school in Uganda. Mr Michael Arlington (barn owner) has requested that the rental income from the barn is paid directly to the KSB charity.

Approved by the Trustees on:

28 / 04 / 21

and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Alison F K Jones (Pioneer Minister).

Signature: _____



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Potting Shed Church

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner:

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

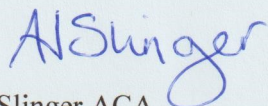
Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect of the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.



Alison Slinger ACA
234 Norwood Gardens
Southwell
Notts
NG25 0DS

The Potting Shed Church

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts:						
Planned giving	2	41,000	-	-	41,000	32,611
Collections at services	3	0	-	-	0	155
All other giving/voluntary receipts	4	2,170	-	-	2,170	3,530
Diocesan Grant	5	62,564	-	-	62,564	35,946
Gift Aid recovered	6	6,481	-	-	6,481	3,689
		<u>112,215</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,215</u>	<u>75,931</u>
Activities for generating funds	7	0	-	-	0	972
Investment income	8	25	-	-	25	24
Church activities	9	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Receipts		<u>112,240</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,240</u>	<u>76,927</u>
PAYMENTS						
Church Activities:						
Diocesan Parish Share	10	4,000	-	-	4,000	-
Clergy and Staff wages	11	48,553	-	-	48,553	38,988
Clergy and staff expenses	12	2,524	-	-	2,524	4,227
Church running expenses	13	3,264	-	-	3,264	6,528
Barn equipment and hire costs	14	8,432	-	-	8,432	17,053
Mission Giving	15	750	-	-	750	898
Costs of generating funds		-	-	-	-	-
Total payments		<u>67,522</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,522</u>	<u>67,694</u>
Excess of receipts over payments		44,718	-	-	44,718	9,233
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		31,272			31,272	22,039
Cash at bank and in hand 31 December		<u>75,990</u>			<u>75,990</u>	<u>31,272</u>

The Potting Shed Church
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
Cash Funds						
Bank current account		19,205	0	0	19,205	9,623
Deposit funds - Savings Account		56,786	0	0	56,786	21,649
		<u>75,990</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>75,990</u>	<u>31,272</u>
Other monetary assets						
Barn Equipment and Hire costs recoverable		22,317			22,317	18,920
Gift Aid recoverable		2,070			2,070	1,753
		<u>24,387</u>			<u>24,387</u>	<u>20,673</u>
Investment assets						
Investment fund shares at market value		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Assets retained for church use		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Liabilities						
Barn Rental payments due		5,000			5,000	
Parish Share Outstanding		<u>1,000</u>			<u>1,000</u>	<u>0</u>

The Potting Shed Church

Notes to the Financial Statements

- 1 The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 under the receipts and payments basis.
- 2 Planned giving has grown by £8,389, although there has been no increase in the number of regular givers. This will be a focus moving forward as the church returns to regular face to face meetings.
- 3 There was no cash giving due to the lack of face to face meetings during covid restrictions.
- 4 There was a reduction in one off giving due to the lack of face to face meetings during covid restrictions.
- 5 The Diocesan grant for wages was £43,644 which will reduce from the end of 2022. A grant of £18,920 for the period to March 2019 for equipment and hire costs was received in 2020. A further claim of £22,317 will be made in 2021 to cover the period to the end of December 2020.
- 6 Gift aid is claimed on all tax efficient planned giving.
- 7 There were no fund raising activities in this period due to covid restrictions.
- 8 There is a small investment income now that funds have been invested in a deposit account.
- 9 No charges were made for church activities in 2020. Whilst we do not currently have facilities to offer weddings and funerals to those we connect with at The Potting Shed we hope to do so in the future, particularly as we potentially partner with local rural churches.
- 10 Parish Share is the usual church contribution towards the stipends, housing and pensions of the stipendiary clergy, and training costs. The Potting Shed agreed to a contribution of £5,000 of which £4,000 was paid in 2020 and £1,000 will be paid in early 2021. The contribution is planned to increase £7,500 next year.
- 11 The staff wages were for a part time Administrator, Family Worker and Worship Leader, and an intern. The increase is due to the intern costs and the full year cost of the family worker. The incumbent and Curate are funded directly by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.
- 12 Staff expenses reduced as there were less travel claims due to the covid restrictions.
- 13 Running costs were lower in 2020 due to the restrictions of the covid pandemic as most of the usual activities had to move to an online provision.
- 14 Barn equipment and hire costs were lower in 2020 as the usual £5,000 payment for the rental of the barn was not made until early 2021, whereas there were two barn rental payments of £5,200 and £5,000 in 2019 in respect of 2019 and 2018. However there was an additional cost in 2020 for the lining of the barn to make it waterproof.
- 15 Related Party Transactions:
 - a) Emily Rathbone, who is the wife of Joel Rathbone who is a trustee, is employed as a part time administrator. She also served as a trustee until 22nd May 2018 when she began her employment by the Church.
 - b) Rental payments of £10,200 for the use of the barn were paid directly to the Keframa School Build charity in 2019 at the request of the landlord Michael Arlington, who is the father in law of Joe Rathbone who is a trustee. Michael Arlington is a trustee of the Keframa School Build Charity. A further payment of £5,000 was made in early 2021.
 - c) Tom Hall is a trustee of The Potting Shed Church and also a trustee of the Keframa School Build Charity.
- 15 Mission giving was a donation to the Nimbus Collective and Zac Adams.