

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

Table of Contents

1. Trustees Report
2. Independent Examiner's Report
3. Receipts and Payments Account
4. Statement of Assets and Liabilities
5. Notes to the Financial Statements

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:

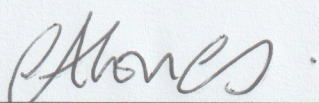
- **Alison Jones** – Pioneer Minister [Appointed by: Bishop Paul Williams]
 - Appointed 18 October 2017
- **Tom Hall** – Treasurer [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 20 July 2018
- **Joel Rathbone** – Trustee [Appointed by: Trustees]
 - Appointed 8 July 2018

- **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

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