

Annual PCC report for the year ending 31st December 2023

The church of St Mary the Virgin, Alveley, is a Grade II* listed building within the village conservation area. The church dates back to 1140 and is of considerable architectural beauty and historical interest. The United Benefice consists of the churches of St Mary the Virgin, Alveley, and St Andrew, Quatt. It is in the Bridgnorth Deanery within the Diocese of Hereford and situated in the county of Shropshire.

The address for correspondence is:

David & Jackie Hampson, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are either ex-officio (Clergy, Readers, Church Wardens, Deanery Synod Representatives, Alveley Old Chapel Manager) – the latter because Alveley Old Chapel is under the ownership and jurisdiction of the church. Others are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representative Rules.

During 2023 the following have served as PCC members:

Incumbent: Reverend Jon Aldwinckle

Reader: Mrs Sue Chidwick

Church Wardens: Mrs Penny Jenkins
Mr Peter Fry - stood down during the year due to family circumstances.

Deanery Synod Reps:

Mrs Kirsty Ritzenthaler

Mrs Sue Chidwick

Mrs Alison Pearson

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Jackie Hampson

Alveley Old Chapel Manager: M/s MM

Elected Members: Mr Dale Chidwick
Mrs Julie Fry - stood down during the year due to family circumstances
Mr David Hampson (Joint PCC Secretary)
Mrs Jackie Hampson (Joint PCC Secretary)
Mrs Anne Simms (PCC Treasurer/Gift Aid Officer)
Mrs Kirsty Ritzenthaler (Electoral Roll Officer)
Mrs Penny Jenkins
Mr Colin Taylor
Prof Paul Rylance
Mr Paul Walford
Mr Keith Pearson

Aims and Purposes of the PCC: St Mary's PCC has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is a Registered Charity (No. 1185217).

During 2023 our new incumbent has engaged well with the PCC, congregation and wider village residents.

JA is a great benefit to St Marys and St Andrews and has built on the successful existing services and events and introduced many new initiatives for worship, fundraising and fellowship.

Objectives and Activities: The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship and become part of the parish community of Alveley. To facilitate this work, it is important to maintain the fabric of the church. The last Quinquennial Report highlighted various issues to be addressed and these continue to be attended to by the Churchwardens. This year has continued to be challenging and demanding on all levels. A new Quinquennial Report is due in 2024.

Safeguarding: To ensure that all are cared for safely, we have a Safeguarding Officer, Mrs Jackie Hampson, and any concerns over personal welfare and safety should be addressed to her.

Pastoral Care and Visiting: JA has recommenced pastoral care with hospital and home visits. Holy Communion is provided at home for those unable to get to Church and is also planned for Bower Grange, the home for the elderly in the Parish.

Prayer Ministry: praying with and for people at any time. Suggestions for daily prayers are now given out each Sunday.

Worship and Music: Our music group plays frequently at 20/20/20 services. Full congregational hymn singing, choir and the playing of the organ continue to be the main method of worship in the other services.

Children and Youth: Sunshine corner, our parent, carer, baby and toddler group continued on Monday mornings through 2023. However, the future of this in 2024 is uncertain due to the resignation of the leader (to pursue other activities within the village). Messy Church has been reintroduced and Youth Club provision is planned.

The Open the Book sessions at Alveley Primary School have also continued and are very well received by Alveley School.

Small groups: held in homes, draw adults to explore the Christian faith and lead them to learn more from Bible study and discussion.

Men's outreach: "Breakfast in the Old Chapel" a meal and an outside speaker to present men with the message of Christ outside the church has unfortunately not yet resumed, though there are plans for 2024.

Alveley Old Chapel: a church-owned and governed establishment in the redundant Methodist Chapel is popular within the village. Coffee, tea, cakes and light lunches are available on two days a week and there is a lovely garden to sit in on sunny days.

MM took over as manager at the beginning of 2023 and has made a number of improvements to the running and legislative compliance of the operation.

AOC is supported financially by a bequest fund and St Mary's Church. A system of joint accounting with church has been established so that the Treasurer can easily oversee finances. A joint Management Committee has been established, consisting of Jenny Sirrell, Kirsty Ritzenthaler and AL. During the year, Jon Aldwinckle and Penny Jenkins also joined the committee. We are very grateful to the team of volunteers who work so hard for its success. Other village organisations (Chapel Crafters, Music Club, Alveley Singers) and the Be Cafe have used this as a venue as well and other social events have been held here. The PCC has held its meetings here and the Parish Administrator has used the office facilities. AOC is also available for private hire.

This has become a wonderful use of a redundant building and we continue to be grateful for the generous legacy which enabled the Chapel to be purchased by the church, thus providing the whole community with hospitality and fellowship and a continuity of life for a much-loved building. Plaques recording the legacy and giving the mission statement are on display.

New Life Nepal: We continue to support this charitable trust along with supporters in Thame, Tupsley, and another parish in Hereford diocese.

Our support is currently being used to help provide food, clothing and other essentials. We receive regular news and updates at PCC meetings. Penny Jenkins has continued to maintain our contact with the trust and we thank her for this, although the main management is based in Thame.

Church Attendance: The Electoral Roll is currently 83, entitling us to 3 Deanery Synod representatives. Church services averaged around 50. We continue to work with and share events at St Andrew's, Quatt.

Fundraising and Social Events: We are very grateful to those in the congregation who have arranged to make their offering by Direct Debit thereby ensuring a regular income from these sources which has helped enormously in ensuring regular income.

Additional fundraising events during 2023 were:

Christmas Tree Festival

Alveley Band Concert

Organ and violinist recital by Andrew Crabtree

Many members of the congregation and PCC have continued to help with ongoing practical tasks of maintenance and caring and we would again like to take this opportunity to thank **everyone** who plays a part in our church life. Without everyone's efforts in countless ways, our church would not be the spiritual, caring and loving community it is, seeking to make God's kingdom here in Alveley. Thank you so much to you all for all that you do.

David & Jackie Hampson May 2024

St Mary's Financial Review for Year Ended 31/12/23 **Financial Review**

Total receipts on unrestricted funds amounted to £84,000 of which £58,234 related to unrestricted voluntary donations. There were no restricted donations received. The freehold property, Alveley Old Chapel, continues to be used primarily as a tea room.

The planned giving through banker's orders unfortunately decreased during 2023 by 9%, primarily due to the death of a major contributor. Total income, excluding legacy and gift aid, increased by 4% compared to last year, mainly due to an increase in income at Alveley Old Chapel, which included a grant of £973. The arrival of a new incumbent early in the year has led to the reintroduction of fund-raising events. Recovered Gift Aid amounted to £18,536 as a result of two claims made during 2023, after one had been delayed from 2022.

£70,426 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St Mary's Church, including the £40,000 contribution to the diocesan parish share, unchanged from 2022, that largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy. Even though we had reduced clergy expenses in 2022, overall unrestricted costs represented an increase of 23% compared to 2023, partly due to the reintroduction of clergy expenses and increased church running costs, but mainly due to a sizeable investment of c£8k in an improved sound system within the church.

The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £5,370 on unrestricted funds, a similar figure to the excess of payments over receipts of £5,630 in 2022. The balances carried forward at 31st December 2023 on unrestricted funds totalled £135,533, of which £9,936 relates to the Chapel bank accounts and cash floats.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months of 'usual' unrestricted payments. Currently there is nobody salaried in the church accounts, and the Chapel bank balance is still sufficient to cover the manager's salary. We also maintain a higher reserves figure to cover anything urgent that may come up on the church's quinquennial review, which looks at the condition of the buildings, as suggested by the Church of England guidance on reserves.

Anne Simms
Treasurer May-24

CONTENTS

Page

Legal and Administrative Information

1

ST MARY THE VIRGIN ALVELEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

2

Registered Charity Number 1185217

3

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR

4

THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Notes to the Accounts

5

ST MARY THE VIRGIN ALVELEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

CONTENTS

Page

1 Legal and Administrative Information

2 Independent Examiner's Report

3 Statement of Receipts and Payments

4 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

5 Notes to the Accounts

CHURCH TREASURER Anne Simms

CHARITY NUMBER 1185217

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS St Mary's Church
Alveley Village
Shropshire
WV15 6ND

BANKERS Barclays Bank PLC
Leicester
Leicestershire
LE87 2BB

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

David Price FCCA
Wallace Crooke
Chartered Accountants
College House
St Leonards Close
Bridgnorth
Shropshire
WV16 4EJ

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN,
ALVELEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)**

I report on accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of the Members and Examiner

As the Charity's trustees, who are members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act, 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 Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given in the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- (a) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements under the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (b) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



D Price FCCA
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Chartered Accountants
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WV16 4EJ

Date: 29th May 2024

**St Mary The Virgin
Alveley Parochial Church Council
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

	Unrestricted			Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
	Funds	Designated	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total Funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts							
Voluntary receipts							
Planned giving	27,009					27,009	29,585
Collections	8,728					8,728	7,455
All other giving / voluntary receipts	435	1,509				1,944	52,648
Gift Aid recovered	18,536					18,536	-
Activities for generating funds	2,018					2,018	669
	56,726	1,509		-		58,235	90,357
Investment income	1,133	58		27		1,218	795
Church activities	10,493					10,493	12,855
Other income						-	-
Sales		14,082		-		14,082	10,882
Total receipts	68,352	15,649		27		84,028	114,889
Payments							
Church activities							
Parish share	40,000					40,000	40,000
Clergy running expenses	1,196					1,196	25
Church running expenses	28,617					28,617	17,278
Chapel running expenses		18,945		-		18,945	14,684
Mission giving and donations				-		-	1,853
	69,813	18,945		-		88,758	73,840
Cost of generating funds	613					613	120
Total payments	70,426	18,945		-		89,371	73,960
Excess of receipts over payments	- 2,074	- 3,296		27		5,343	40,929
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2023	124,655	16,248		49,630		190,533	149,604
Transfers between funds in the year	-	-		-		-	-
Funds carried forward at 31 December 2023	122,581	12,952		49,657		185,190	190,533

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 14th May 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Rev J Aldwinckle - Chair

St Mary The Virgin
Alveley Parochial Church Council
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Unrestricted General fund £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets					
Buildings		69,622		69,622	69,622
Current Assets					
Debtors					
Bank and cash	10,793	48,696	48,805	108,294	113,389
CBF accounts		10,161	852	11,013	10,799
	10,793	58,857	49,657	119,307	124,188
Current Liabilities					
Other creditors		3,739		3,739	3,277
Net current assets	10,793	55,118	49,657	115,568	120,911
Total assets less current liabilities	10,793	124,740	49,657	185,190	190,533

Movement on Funds

	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance carried forward 31/12/2023 £
Restricted					
Nepal New Life					
Church Roof	371	1			372
Fabric Fund	864	26			890
St Marys (Link bequest)	48,395				48,395
	49,630	27			49,657
Designated					
Sunday School	856				856
Sunshine corner					
Choir	2,160		2,160		
Friends fund					
The Old Chapel	13,232	15,649	18,945		9,936
	16,248	15,649	21,105		10,792
General	124,655	68,352	68,266		124,741
Total	190,533	84,028	89,371		185,190

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 9th May 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



Rev J Aldwinckle - Chair

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN ALVELEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Parochial Church Council have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis.

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets consist of the freehold premises at Alveley Old Chapel, which are being held at historic cost.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

The Nepal New Life Fund is for donations received for the project we support in Nepal. The balance of the fund as at 31st December 2023 is nil (2022: nil), and a separate charity now exists, in which to channel these funds.

The Church Roof Fund represents accumulated donations for maintenance of the church roof, for which funds may only be purposed.

The Fabric Fund represents accumulated donations for maintenance of the church fabric, for which funds may only be purposed.

St Mary's (Link Bequest). The bequest was left to the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Mary's Alveley, for use by the local church. Funds are to be used for that purpose only.

Unrestricted Funds

Alveley Old Chapel represents the accumulated income and expenditure of Alveley Old Chapel. These are held in a separate bank account, but the Parochial Church Council is the accountable body for them.

The Sunday School fund represents accumulated donations for the Sunday School.

The Choir fund represents accumulated donations for the Choir. During the year and as agreed at the PCC meeting the opening balance of £2,160 was subsequently transferred to a separate Choir fund to be held outside of the PCC.

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Date: 29th May 2024