

Annual PCC report for the year ending 31st December 2024

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 was in the Bridgnorth Deanery within the Diocese of Hereford and situated in the county of Shropshire. During 2024, the Bridgnorth Deanery amalgamated with other local Deaneries and the new Deanery is now called the Severn Borders Deanery.

The address for correspondence is:

David & Jackie Hampson, [REDACTED]

Email: [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 2024 the following have served as PCC members:

Incumbent: Reverend Jon Aldwinckle

Reader: Mrs Sue Chidwick

Church Wardens: Mrs Penny Jenkins
Mrs Alison Pearson

Deanery Synod Reps: Mrs Kirsty Ritzenthaler
Mrs Sue Chidwick
Mrs Alison Pearson

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Jackie Hampson

Alveley Old Chapel Manager: MM

Elected Members: Mr Dale Chidwick
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
Dr Keith Pearson
Mrs Alison Pearson
Mrs Patricia Haw
Mrs Lynn Madden
Mrs Jenny Sirrell

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 2024 our incumbent has continued to engage 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 Survey has been undertaken in July 2024, the report is still to be received.

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. There is a prayer session every Monday morning which is well attended.

Training: Two PCC members began further ministry training. Keith Pearson – began Reader Training in September and Alison Pearson began her course on: ‘an Introduction to Christian Ministry’.

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 closed during 2024 due to the resignation of the leader (to pursue other activities within the village).

Messy Church has been re-introduced on the first Saturday of each month and is proving to be very successful. In July the session was held at the Alveley Summer Festival with the story of Noah. This introduced Messy Church to a much wider audience.

A 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.

Home groups: small groups held in a few parishioner’s 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 will resume in 2025.

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 continued as manager of the AOC tea rooms in 2024. However, during 2024 it became obvious that the Old Chapel income was insufficient to cover the costs of an official manager. MM is due to stand down in early 2025 and the “management” of the facility will be shared between a number of willing volunteers.

A relaunch is planned for May 2025 with the facility to be known as the Old Chapel Community Centre with a greater emphasis to be put on hiring out for private functions as well as maintaining the two day a week Tea Rooms.

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.

The AOC Management Committee consists of: Anne Simms, Penny Jenkins, LP, MM, Jackie Hampson and Reverend Jon Aldwinckle. We are very grateful to the team of volunteers who work so hard for its success.

Other village organisations - Chapel Crafters and the Be Cafe have used this as a venue as well. 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 continued our support of New Life House - the charitable trust in [REDACTED] Nepal, along with supporters in Thame, Tupsley, and another parish in Hereford diocese.

In June 2024 a new company was established designating New Life Orphanage as a hostel. This will not have the same regulatory difficulties as previously experienced. The hostel is now called [REDACTED].

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.

Parish Retreat: A weekend away is being planned for November 2025. Approximately 30 parishioners have booked in.

Bell Ringers: The bell ringers are an active group who practice on a Thursday evening. They ring on some Sundays and at special services/events.

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

Additional fundraising events during 2024 were:

Pancake Morning including Pancake Races with families who attended – it was half term so the school did not attend as a whole.

Christmas Tree Festival 2024– this was an extremely successful event that brought many different organisations from the village together and also brought many villagers and friends through the Church for the festival and refreshments. It was open longer from Friday through to Monday which seemed to work well.

Harvest Lunch – this was a Bring and Share style and was well attended.

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 2025

St Mary's Financial Review for Year Ended 31/12/24

Financial Review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds amounted to £74,183, of which £51,707 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 increased during 2024 by 12%. Total income, excluding legacy and gift aid, is almost unchanged compared to last year, with decreases in income from Alveley Old Chapel and PCC fees balanced out by increases in voluntary income and fund-raising. Recovered Gift Aid amounted to £8,294 as a result of one claim made during 2024, after two claims totalling £18,536 in 2023.

£62,058 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 2023, that largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy. Overall unrestricted costs represented a decrease of 7% compared to 2023, primarily due to the higher costs in 2023 as a result of an 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 £8,550 on unrestricted funds, an increase of over £3k compared to the excess of payments over receipts of £5,370 in 2023. The balances carried forward at 31st December 2024 on unrestricted funds totalled £126,983, of which £3,053 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, from March 2025, there is no longer a manager at the Chapel. 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-25

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Registered Charity Number 1185217

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ST MARY THE VIRGIN ALVELEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

I report on accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024, 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 control the audit and the audit report. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 142(5)(b) of the Act, whether or not the accounts have come to my attention.

MINISTER Rev Jon Aldwinckle

CHURCH TREASURER Anne Simms

CHARITY NUMBER 1185217

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a comparison of the accounts presented with the accounts and a comparison of the accounts with the accounts and a comparison of the accounts with the accounts. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and a comparison of the accounts with the accounts. The procedures under Section 142(5)(b) of the Act require me to 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.

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

BANKERS Barclays Bank PLC
Leicester
Leicestershire
LE87 2BB

(a) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements of the Act are not being complied with.

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

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

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

Date: 27th December 2024

**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 2024, 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 to 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
Wallace Crooke
Chartered Accountants
College House
St Leonards Close
Bridgnorth
Shropshire
WV16 4EJ

Date: 28th May 2025

St Mary The Virgin
Alveley Parochial Church Council
Receipts and Payments Account
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Voluntary receipts					
Planned giving	30,205	-	-	30,205	27,009
Collections	8,498	-	-	8,498	8,728
All other giving / voluntary receipts	1,878	116	-	1,994	1,944
Gift Aid recovered	8,294	-	-	8,294	18,536
Activities for generating funds	2,716	-	-	2,716	2,018
	51,591	116	-	51,707	58,235
Investment income	1,682	89	46	1,817	1,218
Church activities	7,118	-	-	7,118	10,493
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
Sales	-	13,587	-	13,587	14,082
Total receipts	60,391	13,792	46	74,229	84,028
Payments					
Church activities					
Parish share	40,000	-	-	40,000	40,000
Clergy running expenses	1,136	-	-	1,136	1,196
Church running expenses	20,020	-	-	20,020	28,617
Chapel running expenses	-	20,675	-	20,675	18,945
Mission giving and donations	-	-	-	-	-
	61,156	20,675	-	81,831	88,758
Cost of generating funds	902	-	-	902	613
Total payments	62,058	20,675	-	82,733	89,371
Excess of receipts over payments	1,667	6,883	46	8,504	5,343
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2024	124,741	10,792	49,657	185,190	190,533
Transfers between funds in the year	-	-	-	-	-
Funds carried forward at 31 December 2024	123,074	3,909	49,703	176,686	185,190

St Mary The Virgin
Alveley Parochial Church Council
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

St Mary The Virgin
Alveley Parochial Church Council
Receipts and Payments Account
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds	Unrestricted Designated funds	Unrestricted General fund	Restricted	Total 2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Buildings				69,622		69,622	69,622
Current Assets							
Debtors							
Bank and cash			3,909	45,801	48,806	98,516	108,294
CBF accounts			-	10,967	897	11,864	11,013
			3,909	56,768	49,703	110,380	119,307
Current Liabilities							
Other creditors				3,316		3,316	3,739
Net current assets			3,909	53,452	49,703	107,064	115,568
Total assets less current liabilities			3,909	123,074	49,703	176,686	185,190
Movement on Funds							
			Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance carried forward 31/12/2024
			£	£	£	£	£
Restricted							
Church Roof (a)			372	1	-	-	373
Fabric Fund (b)			890	45	-	-	935
St Marys (Link bequest) (d)			48,395	-	-	-	48,395
			49,657	46	-	-	49,703
Designated							
Sunday School (c)			856	-	-	-	856
The Old Chapel			9,936	13,792	20,675	-	3,053
			10,792	13,792	20,675	-	3,909
General			124,741	60,391	62,058	-	123,074
Total			185,190	74,229	82,733	-	176,686

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 4th May 2025 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 2024**

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 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.

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Date: 28th May 2025