

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1185707

Details

Other names	CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION - WOOLSTON (PARISH CHURCH), CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION - BIRCHWOOD (WORSHIP CENTRE), THE TABLE, OAKWOOD (MISSION OUTREACH), THE UNITED PARISH OF BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2019-10-09
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	20 Warren Lane Woolston Warrington WA1 4ES
Phone	07780162922
Email	churchascension1970@gmail.com
Website	www.theascensionwoolston.co.uk

Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Activities: The PCC of the Parish of Birchwood and Woolston, have the responsibility, of cooperating with the Vicar of the Parish or visiting clergy whilst in an Interregnum, of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Full details of current activities are included in our Annual Report.

Classification

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

Geography

- Warrington

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£70,065	£90,278	-	-
2024-12-31	£74,040	£62,216	-	-
2023-12-31	£73,089	£75,832	-	-
2022-12-31	£93,206	£91,798	-	-
2021-12-31	£144,988	£157,970	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Tabitha Prabhakara Rao	Chair	2024-02-06
Ann Brennan		2025-05-11
Anthony Taylor		2024-09-11
Cheryl Ann Simpson		2014-11-01
Graham Arthur Broady		2025-05-11
Hilda Taylor		2024-05-12
Julie Margaret Clegg		2023-05-03
Michael John Brennan		2025-05-11
Neil David Fairweather BSc, MSc		2014-11-01
Peter Davies BSc		2025-05-11
Peter Eric Dibben		2014-11-01
Stuart Walsh		2017-04-30

Accounts

The United Parish of

BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON

The Churches of the Transfiguration & the Ascension

Registered Charity Number 1185707 (England & Wales)

Parochial Church Council Annual Report & Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025



The Ascension - Parish Church



The Transfiguration - Worship Centre

Incumbent:

Rev. Tabitha Rao

Bankers:

Barclays Bank Plc

Warrington Business Centre
23 Sankey Street

Warrington

CCLA

Senator House

85 Queen Victoria Street
London

Architect

Rebecca Grimshaw – Anthony Grimshaw Associates
6 Brideman Terrace, Wigan WN1 1SX

Treasurer

Hilda Taylor (BSc)

Independent Examiner

Debra Jacques (ACMA)

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Birchwood and Woolston
on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025, as set out on
pages 1 to 6 of your Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 the PCC 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, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Signed: D Jacques

Date: 13.2.26

IE's Name: MRS DEBRA JACQUES ACMA

address: 3 SAGE CLOSE PADGATE WARRINGTON WAT20UG

Finance Report 2025

General Funds

At the end of 2025 we have a final balance of £6.1K, on the General Fund; however, we have £3.6K of costs that did not clear by the end of the year, which if they had would have resulted in a final balance of £2.5K.

Income fell in 2025 by £8.9K, and this trend continues to fall, as was anticipated at the end of 2024. Our Giving & Donation income was 40K, and Mission Income of £14K.

Expenses have increased from 57.3K to 80.8K an increase of £23.5K; partly due to the unpaid invoices from 2024 and Parish Share debts, along with inflationary price increases.

Parish Share

We paid all the 2025 Parish Share - a first in several years. We have 2 outstanding Parish Share amounts in 2024, amounting to £8.9K; which and we hope to pay this during 2026. We have Parish Share debts from previous years (2022 and 2023) of £12.6K, which the Diocese expects us to pay.

Restricted Funds - Fabric Fund

This year we have spent £7K from this fund, on the Mission Roof, Maintenance and Compliance work across the church. To support the growth of the Fabric Fund all fundraising costs and income are now assigned to this fund. We generated £5K of fundraising income which has helped offset the spend in the fabric fund.

Restricted Fund - Birchwood – Community

Income to this fund is not sufficient to maintain the costs of operation. Costs are high, and we need to consider how we fund this work, as the fund balances will expire in 2026.

Reserves

Our overall Bank reserves for 2025 stood at £44K, and we expect to use further reserve funds in 2026, reducing this further. It should be noted that most of this reserve is in restricted funds for specific purpose. Our general fund balance is £3k.

2026

Within the Single Parish we submitted a budget for 2026, which we will spend against. The budget has been set against falling income and increasing costs, it will be challenge for us all to manage against the budget.

From 2026 we will be following the new Finance Policy within the Single Parish, so 2026 will be a year of Transition. The Single Parish does not change the financial structure of our church; our assets and liabilities and debt stay with us. We will produce a set of accounts, which will represent all the normal expenses and costs we have in church today. We need to look at our financial sustainability in the longer term, with a focus on revenue generation and cost reduction.

Hilda Taylor, Treasurer.

Birchwood and Woolston (Charity Ref.1185707)
Fund Receipts and Payments 1 January to 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
General Fund (Unrestricted) Fund		
BF 2024	23593	8586
Income		
Donations and legacies		
Gift Aid - Parish Giving Scheme	31211	29200
Gift Aid - Bank (Standing Orders)	512	1198
Gift Aid - Envelopes	1089	1101
Other planned giving - Bank (Standing Orders)	412	
Loose plate collections (GASDS eligible)	2065	3385
Ad-hoc donations: non Gift Aid (GASDS eligible)	657	972
Ad-hoc donations: non Gift Aid (not GASDS eligible)	2235	2179
One-off Gift Aid donations	508	
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	1344	7386
GASDS Tax relief	628	834
Fundraising (general)	-	4322
Total Donations and legacies	40662	50577
Income from charitable activities		
Parish fee for wedding or funeral	2260	
Total Income from charitable activities	2260	0
Other trading activities		
Church or Hall lettings - fund raising	14227	19282
Magazine income - sales	60	44
Other funds generated	6289	2491
Total Other trading activities	20577	21817
Total Income	63498	72394

Birchwood and Woolston (Charity Ref.1185707)
Fund Receipts and Payments 1 January to 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Expenditure		
Cost of Raising funds		
Costs of giving envelopes and stewardship	107	
Costs of fundraising events	1106	1822
Total Raising funds	1213	1822
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Giving to missionary societies	58	
Home mission	882	
Deanery/Parish Share	53664	35664
Clergy working expenses	176	
Council tax (clergy housing)	1955	1663
Water charges (clergy housing)	809	
Insurance premiums (church building)	1059	
Telephone (church building/parish office)	704	
Organ / piano tuning and maintenance	756	
Church building maintenance (routine)	462	906
Upkeep of services	2183	
Church consumable items	518	2034
Administration costs for parish	326	
Governance costs & examination/audit fee	245	
Banking charges	200	
Church building - electric	800	4742
Church building - gas	3779	
Church building - water	388	
Magazine expenses including printing costs	480	
Other trading expenditure	519	1725
Hall/Other building - electricity	2004	8831
Hall/Other building - gas	1940	
Hall/Other building - insurance premiums	1882	
Hall/Other building - maintenance (routine)	1082	
Hall/Other building - water charges	2489	
Hall/Other building - consumables	300	
Total Expenditure on charitable activities	79662	55565
Total Expenditure	80875	57387
CF 2025	6217	23593

Birchwood and Woolston (Charity Ref.1185707)
Fund Receipts and Payments 1 January to 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Fabric (Ascension) (Restricted) Fund		
BF 2024	14611	15364
Income		
Donations and legacies		
Ad-hoc donations: non Gift Aid (not GASDS eligible)	95	0
Fundraising (general)	5004	
Total Donations and legacies	5099	0
Income from charitable activities		
Church event income	539	
Total Income from charitable activities	539	
Investments		
Bank and building society interest	236	296
CBF Deposit account interest	575	
Total Investments	811	296
Total Income	6449	296
Expenditure		
Raising funds		
Costs of fundraising events	744	
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Church building maintenance (routine)		
Church equipment costs		
Hall/Other building - maintenance (routine)	5940	
Hall/Other building - equipment	334	1049
Total Expenditure	7018	1049
CF 2025	14042	14611
Gorton (Restricted) Fund		
BF 2024	11648	11269
Income	0	379
Expenditure	0	
CF 2025	11648	11648
Hicks (Transfiguration) (Designated) Fund		
BF 2024	5802	5802.00
Income	0	0
Expenditure	0	0
CF 2024	5802	5802.00

Birchwood and Woolston (Charity Ref.1185707)
Fund Receipts and Payments 1 January to 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Community - Community (Transfiguration) (Restricted) Fund		
BF 2024	7891	7788
Income	0	
Donations and legacies	0	900
Other funds generated	97	71
Fund Transfer from Joshua	508	
Total Income	605	971
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Parish mission and evangelism costs	2160	869
Church building maintenance (routine)	200	
Church consumable items	-	
Hall/Other building - insurance premiums	-	
Total Expenditure	2360	869
CF 2025	6135	7890
Joshua - (Transfiguration) (Restricted) Fund - Closed 2025		
BF 2024	534	3446
Income	0	0
Expenditure		
Telephone (church building/parish office)	26	2912
Fund Transfer to Community Fund	508	
Total Expenditure on charitable activities	534	2912
CF 2025	0	534

Birchwood and Woolston (Charity Ref.1185707)
Fund Receipts and Payments 1 January to 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Community - Community (Transfiguration) (Restricted) Fund		
BF 2024	7891	7788
Income	0	
Donations and legacies	0	900
Other funds generated	97	71
Fund Transfer from Joshua	508	
Total Income	605	971
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Parish mission and evangelism costs	2160	869
Church building maintenance (routine)	200	
Church consumable items	-	
Hall/Other building - insurance premiums	-	
Total Expenditure	2360	869
CF 2025	6135	7890
Joshua - (Transfiguration) (Restricted) Fund - Closed 2025		
BF 2024	534	3446
Income	0	0
Expenditure		
Telephone (church building/parish office)	26	2912
Fund Transfer to Community Fund	508	
Total Expenditure on charitable activities	534	2912
CF 2025	0	534

General		Fabric		Community		Gorton		Joshua		Hicks		Total
Bf 2024	23593.11	Bf 2024	14611.19	Bf 2024	7890.56	Bf 2024	11647.74	Bf 2024	534.31	Bf 2024	5802.00	64078.91
Income	63498.06	Income	6449.14	Income	118.36	Income	0.00	Income	0.00	Income	0.00	70065.56
Expenses	80874.57	Expenses	7018.1	Expenses	2360.00	Expenses	0.00	Expenses	25.90	Expenses	0.00	90278.57
C/F	6216.60	C/F	14042.23	C/F	5648.92	C/F	11647.74	C/F	508.41	C/F	5802.00	43865.90
Fund Transfer	0.00		0.00		508.41		0.00		-508.41		0.00	0.00
C/F	6216.60	C/F	14042.23	C/F	6157.33	C/F	11647.74	C/F	0.00	C/F	5802.00	43865.90

Cash & Bank Balances	
Current Account	33422.60
Deposit	2.06
CCLA	10418.65
Total	43843.31
Cash	22.59
Total	43865.90

Accounts

Finance Report 2024

2024 has been a challenge in terms of finance for the Church, having had two Treasurers, which inevitably impacted production of timely financial information due to the very limited handover.

General Funds

We are showing a final balance of £23.5K on the accounts; however, invoices due from 2024 remain outstanding to the value of £24.8K which were paid in 2025. Had these transactions been completed, in 2024 accounts the account would show a deficit of £1.2K. We did not have enough funds to pay our bills in the accounting year 2024.

Total income was £72.3K, income increased slightly by £655 from 2023 to 2024, and income generation remains a key focus for 2025. Mission income contributed over £10K for the Church. Social events in 2025 at both Woolston and Birchwood contributed £3.9K of Income to the Church, these two items represent £13.9K of the £74K received.

The accounts are showing expenses of £57.4K, but had the value of unpaid items been included, then this would have been £82K, a value we would not have been able to fund. There were no exceptional expenses for 2024, they relate to normal transactions expected, including: Utilities and Maintenance.

Parish Share

We failed to pay 4 Parish Share amounts in 2024, amounting to £21.5K; we are expected to pay this during 2025, and I expect to pay 2 of these payments in early 2025. We have Parish Share debts from previous years (2022 and 2023) of £12.6K, which the Diocese expects us to pay, we will be adding repayments into future budgets.

Restricted Funds - Fabric Fund

Whilst we have spent very little from this fund in 2024, it is not growing, so we need to consider how we grow this fund. Within FFM, Restricted funds within our church under our control. Giving goes directly to the General fund only.

Restricted Funds - Birchwood – Joshua Project

This project has come to an end, with a balance on the account of £534, there are some small outstanding expenses to be charged against this fund. This fund balance will transfer to an appropriate fund in 2025.

Restricted Fund - Birchwood – Community

The fund shows an increase in funding due to donations of £900; however, there are £2600 of costs to be paid from 2024, and had these had been paid in 2024 the balance on the fund would have been £5310. Funding of Birchwood community is a question we need to tackle as a church.

Reserves

Our overall reserves for 2024 stood at £64K; however, this value for 2024 in real terms would have been £39.2K, had we made all payments due for the year. Parish Share earlier years arrears would reduce this value further to £26.6K. Income generation needs to be our focus together with a reduction in costs.

2025 Focus

As we move towards FFM we need to have a better understanding of the true costs of running the church and our missional work. This will be a focus in 2025.

Parish Share for 2025 has been reduced, and we need to make it our priority to pay 2025 on time, and stop our debt level increasing, as we are still responsible for it. I am working with the Diocese to understand how we can start to reduce this debt.

We need to look closely at our income and expenditure and we are currently drawing up a Budget for 2025 for all funds. Within FFM, our budget will become critical to understand how we intend to spend our money, against all of our income. The budget will need to include Parish Share arrears. We will be expected to deliver a balanced budget.

Under FFM there will be funding available for many aspects of the church: we need to be more proactive, seek out funding and seize these opportunities for this church.

FFM does not change the financial structure of our church, our assets and liabilities stay with us. We will still produce a set of accounts, which will represent all of the normal expenses and costs we have in church today. We need to look at financial sustainability in the longer term, and the budget process will support the framing of that conversation.

Hilda Taylor
Treasurer

The United Parish of

BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON

The Churches of the Transfiguration & the Ascension

Registered Charity Number 1185707 (England & Wales)

Parochial Church Council Annual Report & Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024



The Ascension - Parish Church



The Transfiguration - Worship Centre

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London

Architect

Rebecca Grimshaw – Anthony Grimshaw Associates
6 Brideman Terrace, Wigan WN1 1SX

Treasurer

Hilda Taylor

Independent Examiner

Deborah Jacques (ACMA)

Approved by the PCC on 23 April 2025, then submitted to and approved by the APCM on 11th May 2025

Finance Report 2024

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Hilda Taylor
Treasurer

Summary - All Funds - Year to 31 December 2024		Unrestricted	Restricted**	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Parish -	General	72,394	0	72,394	71,986
Ascension -	Fabric	0	296	296	526
Ascension -	Gorton	0	379	379	294
Ascension -	Organ	0	0	0	0
Transfiguration -	Special Projects	0	971	971	283
Transfiguration -	John Hicks	0	0	0	0
		<u>72,394</u>	<u>1,646</u>	<u>74,040</u>	<u>73,089</u>
Payments					
Parish -	General	57,387		57,387	67,140
Ascension -	Fabric	0	1,049	1,049	3,190
Ascension -	Gorton	0	0	0	0
Ascension -	Organ	0	0	0	192
Transfiguration -	John Hicks	0	0	0	5,310
Transfiguration -	Special Projects	0	3,780	3,780	0
		<u>57,387</u>	<u>4,829</u>	<u>62,216</u>	<u>75,832</u>
Surplus (Deficit)					
Parish -	General	15,007	0	15,007	4,846
Ascension -	Fabric	0	(753)	(753)	(2,664)
Ascension -	Gorton	0	379	379	294
Ascension -	Organ	0	0	0	(192)
Transfiguration -	Special Projects	0	(2,809)	(2,809)	(5,027)
Transfiguration -	John Hicks	0	(3,780)	(3,780)	0
		<u>15,007</u>	<u>(6,964)</u>	<u>8,044</u>	<u>(2,743)</u>
Opening Bank Balances					
Parish -	General	8,586		8,586	2,998
Ascension -	Fabric		15,364	15,364	18,028
Ascension -	Gorton		11,269	11,269	10,975
Ascension -	Organ				192
Transfiguration -	Special Projects		11,234	11,234	16,261
Transfiguration -	John Hicks		5,802	5,802	5,802
Agency Balances			0	0	5,802
		<u>8,586</u>	<u>43,669</u>	<u>52,255</u>	<u>60,058</u>
Closing Bank Balances					
Parish -	General	23,593		23,593	8,586
Ascension -	Fabric		14,611	14,611	15,364
Ascension -	Gorton		11,648	11,648	11,269
Transfiguration -	Special Projects		8,425	8,425	11,234
Transfiguration -	John Hicks		5,802	5,802	5,802
Agency Balances			0	0	0
		<u>23,593</u>	<u>40,486</u>	<u>64,079</u>	<u>52,255</u>

General Fund - Unrestricted - Year 2024 Receipts & Payments Account		2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Incoming resources from donors					
Regular Planned Giving					
Gift Aid Giving		31,499		28,075	
Collections & Non Gift Aid Giving		11,605		15,067	
Occasional Giving					
Donations		3,151		3,153	
			46,255		46,295
Non Recurring Grants 2023					
Diocese of Liverpool - Sequestration Grant		2,535			
Diocese of Liverpool - Covid Support				615	
Council Tax Refund			2,535	142	757
Events and Activities					
Fund Raising & Events		4,322		5,090	
Hire of Church Hall		19,282		19,844	
			23,604		24,934
Total Receipts Year			<u>£72,394</u>		<u>£71,986</u>
Payments					
Mission		8,831		9,339	
Vicarage		1,663			
Church Utilities		4,742		9,105	
Woolston Church Service Expenses		2,034			
Church Maintenance		418		2,011	
Birchwood Church Expenses		488			
Community/Reach Out		1,477		639	
Fund Raising		345		515	
Diocese		35,664		44,618	
Other		1,725		913	
			57,387		67,140
Total Receipts Year			<u>£57,387</u>		<u>£67,140</u>
Excess of Receipts over (Payments)			15,007		4,846
Bank Balances					
Barclays Bank - current account at 31 December 2024			<u>£23,593</u>		<u>£7,844</u>

Fabric Fund - Restricted - Year 2024		2024		2023	
Receipts & Payments Account		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Restricted Donations:					
Legacy				0	
Donations		296		475	
			296		475
Activities for generating funds					
Remembrance Book				25	
			0		25
Income from Investments					
Bank Interest			0		26
Total Receipts			296		526
Payments					
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church					
Church Hall - New Chairs				2,011	
Printer and Mission Cooker	£1,049			0	
Church Hall Repairs				1,087	
Inscribing Remembrance Book				92	
			1,049		3,190
Excess of Receipts over Payments			(753)		(2,664)
Bank Balances					
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2024	14,611			12,452	
Barclays Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2024	0			2,912	
Barclays Bank current / deposit accounts at 31 December 2024	£14,611			£15,364	

This fund is designated for the maintenance of the Fabric of the Church & associated buildings

Gorton Memorial - Restricted - Year 2024 Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2024</u> £	£	<u>2023</u> £	£
Receipts				
Restricted Donations:				
Donations	0		0	
Income from Investments				
Interest - CCLA	379		294	
Total Receipts	379		294	
Transfers				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	0		0	
Payments				
Major Repairs - Woolston	0		0	
Excess of Receipts over Payments	379		294	
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2024	1,804		1,804	
CCLA & Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2024	9,844		9,465	
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2024	£11,648		£11,269	

This fund is restricted to the maintenance of the Fabric of Church Buildings & Contents in Woolston and certain other costs as detailed in original Gorton Trust Deed.

John Hicks - Restricted - Year 2024 Receipts & Payments Account		<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving					
Restricted Donations:					
Grants & Donations towards Replacement Ceiling					
Donations		0		0	
			0		0
Other Grants					
Grant s		0		0	
			0		0
Total Receipts			0		0
Payments					
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church					
Major Repairs - Birchwood			0		0
Excess of Receipts over Payments			0		0
Bank Balances					
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2024			<u>£5,802</u>		<u>£5,802</u>

This fund is designated for the maintenance of the Fabric of the Church & associated buildings in Birchwood

Birchwood - Community - Restricted	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations:				
Donations	0		0	
Food Parcel Grants	900		0	
Lunch Club Donations	71		168	
		971		168
Total Receipts		971		168
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Christian Community Worker:				
Office Rent	0		360	
Insurance	463		0	
Mobile Phone	0		71	
Food Parcels	0		0	
Lunch Club - Running Costs	380		303	
Other Costs	25		(11)	
		868		723
Excess of Receipts over Payments		103		(555)
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2024		7,890		7,788

This fund is restricted Community Development and associated works to serve the Birchwood part of our parish.

Birchwood - Joshua Project - Restricted		<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Occasional Giving					
Restricted Donations:					
Donations		0		115	
			0		115
Total Receipts			0		115
Payments					
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church					
Joshua Centre:					
Salaries & National Insurance	£2,347			3,973	
Payrol & Admin Costs	£246			257	
Insurance	£133			0	
Maintenance	60			142	
Messy Church	0			153	
Other	£125			0	
Activity Costs	0			62	
			2,912		4,587
Excess of Payments over Receipts			(2,912)		(4,472)
Bank Balances:					
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2024		534		3,446	

This fund is restricted for the development of a new congregation in Birchwood.

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of The United Parish of Birchwood and Woolston on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024, as set out on pages 1 to 7 of your Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 the PCC 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, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Signed: D Jacques

Date: 15th April 2024

IE's Name: MRS D JACQUES ACMA

address: 3 SAGE CLOSE WARRINGTON WA20 0UG

Accounts

The United Parish of
BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON
The Churches of the Transfiguration & the Ascension
Registered Charity Number 1185707 (England & Wales)

**Parochial Church Council
Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023**



The Ascension - Parish Church



The Transfiguration - Worship Centre

Incumbent:

Rev. Tabitha Rao

Bankers:

Barclays Bank Plc

**Warrington Business Centre
25 Sankey Street
Warrington**

CCLA

**Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London**

Architect

**Rebecca Grimshaw - Anthony Grimshaw Associates
6 Brideman Terrace, Wigan, WN1 1SX**

Independent Examiner:

Bob Timmis

Approved by PCC on 17 April 2024, then submitted to and approved by the APCM on 12 May 2024

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Annual Report for 2023 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Reference and Administrative Information

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Birchwood and Woolston, Warrington is a Registered Charity, number 1185707 (England & Wales) and continues to operate under the “Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956” and the Church Representation Rules”.

The Church of the Transfiguration is located on Admirals Road, Birchwood, and The Church of the Ascension (the designated Parish Church) is located on Warren Lane, Woolston. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool and its official correspondence address is:

The Vicarage, 20 Warren Lane, Woolston, Warrington, WAI 4ES

Background

The PCC of the Parish of Birchwood and Woolston, comprising the Church of the Ascension and the Church of the Transfiguration, have the responsibility, of cooperating with the Vicar in post, of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. Formal union the of two parishes of Birchwood and Woolston was confirmed by the Church Commissioners from 1 November 2014. From that date the two PCCs met jointly, until the 2015 APCM when a single PCC for the United Parish was elected following the compilation of a combined electoral roll. We applied during 2019 to register as an individual charity and we were granted that status on 9th October 2019. Our Registered Charity Number is 1185707.

Membership

Membership Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation rules.

For the period 23 April 2023 to the date of approval of this report at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 12th May 2024 the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC):

Team Vicar: Position vacant during 2023 Although the post for a parish priest was advertised in 2023 no appointment was made, and we continued without a vicar until Rev. Tabitha Roa became our new vicar in October.

PCC Members: April 2023 to 2024; (January -April 2023)

Church Wardens; Brian Bradley Peter Dibben (Graham Broady April 2022- April 2023)

Representatives of the Deanery Synod

Neil Fairweather Elected APCM 2020 Peter Dibben Elected APCM 2020

Wendy Kelly Co-opted APCM 2023

Elected Members

Anita Bradley

Graham Broady

Barbara England

Val Howarth

Barbara Laughher

Tom Percival

Stuart Robinson

Cheryl Simpson

Stuart Walsh

Co-opted Members; Julie Clegg and Wendy Kelly

Appointments

- **The Chair of the PCC;** Peter Dibben
 - **Treasurer of the PCC;** Stuart Robinson (John Bailey April 2022- April 2023)
 - **Secretary of the PCC;** Wendy Kelly (Sheila Walsh (April 2022-2 April 2023)
 - **Health and Safety Officer;** Julie Clegg
 - **Churches Together;** Julie Clegg (Yvonne Woolley and Ethel Brocklebank; April 2022-2023)
 - **Electoral Roll Officer;** Cheryl Simpson
 - **Warrington Educational Trust Committees Standing Committee:** Neil Fairweather
 - **Safeguarding Officer;** Duncan Howarth
- During 2023, the PCC has continued to address the usual matters of finance, maintenance, and all other routine parish matters.

Meetings 2023 (all Wednesdays at 7.30pm)

There were 2 PCC meetings from January to April and 6 PCC meetings post April in 2023. The dates were 3rd May, 14th June, 26th July, 6th September, 18th October, and 22nd November

There are 14 members of the PCC and the average attendance was 12

Standing Committee:

This committee is a legal requirement to take decisions if the full PCC cannot be consulted. It is also responsible for finance. Decisions made and actions taken are reported at the next full PCC meeting. The members are; Peter Dibben, Brian Bradley and Stuart Robinson.

Public Benefits

During 2023, the PCC has given consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion. Public Benefit The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956

[Registered Charity 1185707](#)

[Page 2](#)

In the United Parish of Birchwood and Woolston our mission statement is 'God in the Community' which confirms our commitment to proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. When planning our actions for the year, the PCC has given consideration and dedication to these aims and we have tried to do this through promoting His Word, and Jesus' ministry through worship, our deeds and within our meetings by working to express the love of the Lord our God, his children, our neighbours and each other in our Christian fellowship within our parish and the wider community. In 2023, the following public benefits were provided:

- Regular public worship open to all.
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation and helping people who have asked for assistance with prayer.
- Pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved, and offering Holy Communion to those who are not able to leave their own homes.
- Messy Church takes place at The Church of the Transfiguration, in partnership with Birchwood C of E School and The Vine at the Church of the Ascension
- Promoting the whole mission of the Church through regular social and fundraising activities open to the whole community.
- Supporting those in need in our community, through our project The Table Oakwood including a community café and a distribution hub for surplus food and providing practical help through donations and gifts to the wider community.
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas through giving to special appeals.
- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses, and small groups. Courses and small groups were delivered as part of the Warrington East Team.
- Working in partnership with the other Anglican churches in the Warrington East Team; namely Christ Church, Padgate.
- Regularly meeting with our ecumenical partners through Churches Together in East Warrington and Churches Together in Birchwood.
- Regular review of Safeguarding policies and practices for our work with young people and vulnerable adults. (As required by section 5, Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016)

Church Attendance

The Church of the Ascension is the designated Parish Church.

2023 the average Sunday attendance at the Ascension has 40 adults and 2 children. The services are also streamed live on Facebook for those unable to attend church with around 3 individuals engaging each Sunday.

“The Table” Sunday services at The Church of the Transfiguration attracted an average of 8 adults and 0 children.

The Electoral Roll

The electoral roll for the United Parish was revised on April 2023 with a total of 78, 10 of which were resident outside the United Parish. As of the April 30th, 2024, there are 82 on the updated electoral roll, of which 10 were resident outside the parish. There are 7, new members and 3 who have moved away. These figures will be presented at the APCM.

A message from Revd. Neil Shaw, Team Rector.

First of all, folks I want to say a big thanks you for all your hard work in holding things together and keeping things going during a long and protracted interregnum. It was a tremendous effort and speaks volumes of ‘the Ascension & Transfiguration’.

Secondly, I also want to thank you for taking the brave step of joining in with Cohort 2 of Fit for Mission in our Deanery. This will be a journey that will be difficult in many ways and will present many challenges. However, given the position we find ourselves in as a Deanery & Diocese I believe it is a way of addressing the issues we face and will put us in a better position in the future to grow the Church and God’s Kingdom in our town & local areas. In many respects, we are preparing the ground not for ourselves but for the future. This is a very sacrificial thing to do but, having just celebrated Easter recently, our faith is based on a sacrifice that is a model to us right now. Finally, you have a new Team Vicar, Hooray! SUPPORT HER! Trust her. Give encouragement, avoid gossip & griping. Tabitha will bring new vision, new suggestions, new ways of looking at things, and yes, new challenges. Embrace them.

Every Blessing, Neil.

Team Vicar’s Report from Revd. Tabitha Rao

It’s a great pleasure to give my first Team Vicar’s report at my first APCM here at The United Parish of Birchwood and Woolston. As many of you know I was licensed here by the Bishop of Liverpool on 6th Feb 2024.

I would like to start by thanking you all for making me feel so welcome here. Of course there are too many to thank individually now who all make the benefice the place that it is.

I continue to enjoy working with our schools and to lead worship to the best of my ability each week. There is always more on my to do list each day.

We continue to welcome, or be involved with schools we are either associated with or are located within the parish. We have seen an increased number of Baptisms and this is exciting. The other reports identify so much of the work and energy that has gone into the running of the Parish over the year. We held a lent group and the important aspect of a study group is that we learn together.

‘For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. Romans 12: 4-6
This is your church. You make it what it is. So, a request to every member of our church community . Please do offer yourselves in some way to bless your Church community. You are invited to prayerfully consider if God might be calling you to join the PCC. It would be good to have some new ideas. We need someone with good IT skills. Could this be you? Do you have good ideas for fundraising? If so, we'd love to hear from you.
Please be assured that I am grateful for all you do and I thank God for each one of you and the fellowship we share.

With my prayers and best wishes The Revd. Tabitha Rao

Churchwardens' Review of 2023 to the 2024 APCM

2023 was our second full year in interregnum. The vacancy was advertised, yet again with no applicants. A situation that affected other vacancies in the diocese. A further advertisement in the Summer was successful. Various obstacles meant that Rev Tabitha Rao was not able to be licensed until February 6th 2024 but we ended the year knowing that our waiting was nearly over. During the year we continued to be supported by several retired clergy, particularly Rev Andrew, Rev Mo and Rev Veronica who had by now become good friends. We were also helped by Rev Neil, Rev Heather, and Rev Phillipa from Padgate and Archdeacon Simon. In September we had a visit from Bishop John. We must give a special thank you to Rev Nigel who took the bulk of the Wednesday services and found himself on permanent standby. Rev Audrey continued her work at Birchwood and also took some services at Woolston. Another friend was Margaret who came when Rev Andrew officiated and played the organ for us. In fact, she started coming once a month on a Monday evening and helped create a singing group.

In September we welcomed Amanda Taylor's licensing as a Reader at Liverpool Cathedral. For those who were not always able to come to church, the weekly e-mail continued to be sent out and services continued to be streamed live on Facebook.

The Vicarage started the year still drying out after the water leak in December 2022. From March the Vicarage was occupied by tenants. This continued until just after Rev Tabitha was appointed, when the diocese started another round of repairs including a new bathroom and roof. This work continued until after the end of January 2024.

Fundraising events, including a successful Summer and Christmas Fair, meant that our income almost kept up with our expenditure. Although this should improve a little with new contracts giving reduced electricity and gas bills, we do need to raise more money to ensure our future. The best way of doing this is through regular giving by our congregation and the PCC is very grateful to all those who give regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme which enables us to recover Gift Aid from your donations promptly.

Our community activities at Birchwood continued with the Community Café on Thursdays in term time and the "Bread and Butter Thing" surplus food scheme on every Thursday throughout the year. This brings a lot of people from the community into the church. It is used as a way of meeting people by several agencies including the Citizens Advice and Warrington Voluntary Action and has been a source of information which has helped many people. Alongside this, our mini food bank has been able provide help to families, often referred by the school, as well as Christmas hampers.

This has been supported by local supermarkets and local charities as well as the other Birchwood churches. Although we get plenty of help from outside, this all depends on the efforts of a few parishioners.

During the year the PCC continued to meet regularly. One additional task in 2023 was to consider if our parish should engage with the diocese Fit for Mission programme. We decided that we would engage, as did every other parish in the deanery. Most parishes including ourselves had some concerns which we can work together to address over the next couple of years before the scheme is fully implemented.

We ended 2023 looking forward to 2024 and the imminent arrival of Rev Tabitha to start a new era in the life of our parish, which we hope and pray, will flourish and grow.

Thank you to all who help in any way to keep the parish running. We really do need all the help we can get. The Parish will not survive without it. To end on a cautionary note: look at what happened at Cinnamon Brow. Peter Dibben/Brian Bradley

Fabric Report

During the last 12 months, work was started on painting the hallway, draught proofing the roof lights, Sacristy, Vicars Vestry with the Choir Vestry to be completed Spring 2024.

We started to paint the rear areas of the church and completed the corridor, sacristy and vicar's vestry. Other repairs included repairing a manhole cover, dealing with a fallen tree, and replacing some light fittings in the lady chapel. Routine maintenance included cleaning gutters and other "gardening" tasks. A new smart electricity meter was supposed to be fitted in the church but was delayed until Jan 2024.

The trees in memorial garden, following a severe Autumn storm, and the diseased silver Birch tree, which was blown over, were taken down. The wood was cut into manageable pieces by a kind neighbour, with some parts of the trunk left and the remainder being removed with Brian's trailer and taken to the recycling centre. The remainder of the tree was used to create a bug hotel and the restoration of the garden has begun. However, the remaining large conifer tree which was also damaged in the same storm needs removing with an approximate cost of £150 - £200. The Mission and grounds were tidied last year during the two-week Easter holidays. A skip was hired and it was filled with unwanted broken equipment. The inside of the mission was cleaned but it is still currently costing a lot of money to maintain e.g. heating boiler, water boiler, stove, and exterior woodwork, which requires replacing, some as a matter of urgency. The Mission has received repairs to the water heater and the heating boiler in addition to the usual summer tidy-up during the pre-school holiday.

We would like to express gratitude to the volunteer cleaners who maintain it on a weekly basis. Work is continuing to reinstate the car park border and the entrance was repaired. In addition to all of this the damaged man hole was repaired and the ongoing weekly maintenance continued. No significant repairs have been carried out at the Transfiguration but the recommendations from the recent quinquennial inspection need to be looked at.

Brian Bradley/Peter Dibben Church Wardens.

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met three times during 2023 including one meeting held at the Ascension. The main topics were how to allocate the Deanery Parish Share between the parishes and the Fit for Mission programme. The Deanery organised a Fit for Mission Fair where we could go for information. After each Parish decided to embark on the Fit for Mission journey the final meeting of the year endorsed this decision and started to appoint the leaders for the teams to guide the process. Peter Dibben.

Safeguarding

During 2023, the PCC continued to implement the national Church of England Safeguarding Policy, as outlined in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook. Policy statements are on display inside The Church of the Ascension, The Mission Hall, and The Church of the Transfiguration. The PCC will formally review this policy, and any amendments proposed by The Church of England, at their meetings. Fortunately, there have been no reported safeguarding incidents in the last twelve months. However, there has been a requirement for renewal of DBS checks (the diocese insist on a three yearly renewal rotation) along with new DBS applications, these being mainly for the youth club. The diocese insist that all PCC members undergo basic safeguarding instruction (by an online course) and this is currently in progress. The Churchwardens are required to undergo some additional instruction, and this too is in progress. As Safeguarding officer, I have completed four training courses since January of this year. Safeguarding within the Church of England is an ever-evolving topic, and now we are out of the interregnum period, I hope to work with Rev. Tabitha to establish a procedure which will suit both the needs of our church and the requirements of the diocese. Duncan Howarth

PCC Review of the year 2023

Services and Worship

To comply with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion, during 2023 regular public worship was open to all and the provision of sacred space and support for personal prayer and contemplation. Our PCC has continued to have regular meetings in the interregnum and have expressed how extremely grateful we are to all our visiting priests who have ensured that we have not had a Sunday without cover. We are grateful to Rev. Neil Shaw and Rev. Andrew Heatherington for their continued commitment to delivering our Sunday services and Rev Nigel for allowing the Wednesday service to continue. Rev Audrey had agreed to take over much of the work done at Birchwood on the Joshua Project during the year while we still have funding. Our grateful thanks go to Helen Bennet, the Community Support Worker who had agreed to continue as a volunteer. The taking part in religious worship, within a child friendly form, for pupils in Birchwood C of E Primary School, and Woolston C of E Primary School, was made available at The Vine and the Messy Church. Throughout the year all services and church events were outlined, discussed and planned in detail at the PCC meetings. At the PCC meetings, Stuart Walsh was thanked for organising and ensuring that vicars were able to officiate weekly and readings were given by members of the congregation. The wardens were also thanked for their efforts which have ensured the smooth running of our services throughout the interregnum.

Services during 2023 during the inter-regnum

Church of the Ascension; Weekly Holy Communion; Wednesday and Sunday

Church of Transfiguration; Evening service; Sunday; The Table

Annual services which took place during 2023

Ash Wednesday 22nd February Holy Week April 2nd- 9th April

Ascension 18th May Transfiguration (Birchwood) 6th, August

Harvest; October 1st Remembrance Sun 12th November

Toy Service Sun 10th Dec Nativity Sun 17th Dec / Carols Sun 17th Dec,

Christingle Sun 24th Dec. Midnight mass (Woolston)

Christmas Day Mon 25th (Birchwood)

There were additional services;

The Vine (Organised by Amanda Taylor each month on Sundays at 3pm for younger worshippers and families)

Messy church provided for children and families with prayer, activities and refreshments (monthly at Birchwood School)

The Table (Sunday evening service at The Church of the Transfiguration)

Baptisms, confirmations (with the Bishop of Warrington officiating) weddings and funerals took place throughout the year

The Reader Service at Liverpool Cathedral (Amanda Taylor was licensed as a reader on September 30th).

Women's Day of Prayer/Padgate Walking Day took place and refreshments were provided by our church.

Decisions;

Any changes to the planned services and their format were to be left until the appointment of our new vicar

Finance. (See more detailed report provided by Stuart Robinson)

From January 2023 until April, John Bailey was the Financial Secretary for our Parish within the PCC, however, when he retired after many years of service, Stuart Robinson took on this important role. John was formerly thanked by the PCC and members of the parish for all his hard work and Stuart has stated in the initial meetings how grateful he has been for the guidance and support which has been provided by John. This has enabled, during the months since April, a smoother transmission of responsibilities, although changing the mandate proved challenging.

One of the main issues facing our parish has been the need to increase our income so that the payments of our outgoings can be met. At each PCC meeting, Stuart has provided and explained a detailed outline of the financial status of our parish so that any issues could be openly discussed. The most regular problems have been maintaining the regular payments of the Parish Share, paying for the maintenance and running of the buildings and facilities, and the fuel and water costs. Much of the income has been provided by the Parish Scheme, church collections, rent from the mission, funding and contributions from social functions and the monthly Birchwood quiz.

Decision

To increase rental income

To change the utility provider

To promote more Parish Giving and church contributions

Fit For Mission

Throughout the church year, the PCC has been discussing the positives and negatives involved in adopting the FFM initiative. The PCC and all members of our parish have had access to detailed information and presentations provided from the Liverpool Diocese and personally by Harriet Roberts. On September 27th, PCC members attended an open meeting, presented by Andrew Thurston, with other churches, within the Warrington Deanery, concerning the implications of belonging to the FFM'S financial system. A specific PCC meeting was arranged for a full discussion concerned with making the final decision for our parish which was needed by the 24th November. The PCC members examined how Fit for Mission was a new way of organising and working within the diocese of Liverpool, and discussed how these changes, over a 2-year period, would affect our churches at Woolston and Birchwood. The main concern was that our parish would lose its control over its finances and decision making. Other more positive points made were that FFM would enable growth in church attendance as at present the challenge was the decreasing numbers of worshippers, higher levels of bureaucracy and the cost of the upkeep of buildings. We discussed how it would be a Bigger Church for a Bigger Difference, when our parish joined together with other parishes in the deanery to form one large parish, there would be access to further combined use of resources, and expertise and support for the clergy. Although the FFM placed much emphasis on the priorities of introducing more people to Jesus, developing Discipleship and Christian leaders and working for justice for all there were some members of the PCC who felt that the priority was to streamline the diocese for economic reasons.

Decision

To accept that our parish would become part of the FFM initiative and keep updated on the changes and outcomes of FFM processes.

Health and Safety

Julie Clegg was appointed as Health and Safety Representative and has introduced an updated Health and Safety Policy to the PCC members with the support of a detailed booklet, outlining the important guidelines we need to promote and ensure are implemented by everyone involved in both churches and the mission. Julie has emphasized the need to be aware of the health and safety issues involved in all aspects of the parish and to ensure that individuals understand their specific responsibilities. It has been suggested at that we needed to stipulate to organisations, such as the nursery and organisations, using the Mission, that the standards of hygiene and cleanliness need to be maintained and safety regulations followed.

Decision

To ensure that all necessary parties have access to the updated Health and Safety Policy that individuals understand their roles and responsibilities

To review all Risk Assessments and further provide further documentation where necessary

To promote the implementation of an On-line Safeguarding Policy

Deanery Synod There had been 3 meetings during the year. Peter Dibben has attended them and reported to the PCC and outlined their main concerns to the PCC. The Synod discussed in depth the implications of the FFM initiative and there was an agreement to accept the changes and responsibilities involved as the majority of representatives felt that there would be advantages for taking this step in the future. The PCC was glad to know that for this coming year there will be no increase in the Parish Share.

Decision

To have further representation at the coming meetings so that we are fully informed about the changes involved in the FFM transmission within the Deanery Synod.

Social Activities and Fund Raising. (Please see further report from Barbara England)

Members of the PCC and also the Social Activities Committee have discussed and organised many social events throughout the year which have provided fellowship, joy and much needed funds for the parish. There were special evenings celebrating events, such as the Coronation and a Murder Mystery. There were 2 enjoyable afternoons for the whole community in the Summer Fair and November Mini Market which raised the most funds for the parish. The PCC were informed of all the coffee and tea afternoons and the members of the Social Committee thanked for all their hard work. The PCC recognised the good work and value of our Youth Club, which has been organised and provided for 9 to 13 year olds every week in the Mission on Mondays by Hilda Taylor and a team of volunteers. (See Report for further details)

Birchwood Community . (See Parish Report for further details)

As a member of the PCC, Cheryl Simpson, explained how the monthly quiz (except August) has been organised and run with the help of volunteers on the first Saturday of each month, providing much entertainment and friendship for the wider communities of Woolston and Birchwood and much needed funds for our parish. Also, at Birchwood she with other members of the PCC have been running The Thursday Café, providing companionship and refreshments for anyone in the community each week. It has only been closed during the school holidays while activities by Warrington Youth Zone have taken place

Churches Together

During the last year Yvonne Woolley has not been present at any Churches Together meetings, due to circumstances beyond her control, whilst Julie Clegg has attended more of the meetings, and reported events and outcomes back to the PCC. Joint services and events have included Women's World Day of Prayer in March 2023, Liverpool's Pentecost Walk of Witness along Hope Street and the two Cathedrals in May 2023, and Padgate & Woolston Walking Day in June.

Decisions

To continue to work closely with churches of other faiths, and our own, especially during the FFM transition period.

To continue to take part in the joint services and events planned for 2024.

Safeguarding

During the year, the PCC continued to refer to the national Church of England Safeguarding Policy within the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, ensuring that policy statements are on display inside The Church of the Ascension, The Mission Hall, and The Church of the Transfiguration. Duncan, as our Safeguarding Officer had given advice to the PCC and has updated the PCC's safeguarding needs, although no issues have been reported to him. All members of the PCC have been DBS checked and training has been given concerning Safeguarding to Duncan, Peter Dibben and Brian Bradley

Decisions; To ensure that all members of the PCC are trained and achieve the certification

Fabric Report (Please see further report Brian Bradley)

The PCC was informed throughout the year about all the work needed to improve and maintain the upkeep of the two churches and the Mission. Tom Beesley was contacted for the

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Quinquennial inspections and he has asked to meet with the churchwardens to discuss plans for carrying out this work, as the terriers needed updating for both churches. Concerns have been expressed about the needs of maintaining higher standards of hygiene within the mission and an annual thorough cleaning took place in August. There have been ongoing problems in both churches and the mission, such as the boiler and the cooker in the community kitchen, all of these issues had been addressed by the PCC. The electrical and gas installations have been checked by safe registered engineers. Members of the PCC and the parish had volunteered to redecorate and ensure that the vicarage was ready for occupancy with the additional support of funding and expertise from the diocese. The Net Zero Initiative continues to be an objective in the future for the PCC. Peter Dibben replied to the diocese saying that while we recognise the importance of this, being in the interregnum for over 2 years, has proved problematic to at the moment.

At our meetings, Peter Dibben has thanked everyone who has contributed to the work of the PCC throughout 2023. All PCC members, our church wardens and treasurer have had a heavy workload to keep our churches and mission going and therefore, Peter stated that they deserved recognition. Peter and the whole of the PCC has expressed that every person within our parish, who has contributed so much time, energy, and dedication to maintaining the life, service and worship of our Christian community deserves a great deal of praise and gratitude.

Wendy Kelly (Secretary)

Parish Reports

The Birchwood Community Project Our Community Café has continued to open on Thursdays in school term time. This provides a basic meal for a voluntary donation and the opportunity to collect surplus food gathered from local supermarkets. Alongside this, on every Thursday, the church space is used as a hub to sort and package food for “The Bread and Butter Thing” a charitable organisation which distributes surplus food from factories, farms and supermarkets, across the region. In co-operation with our ecumenical partners and other local organisations we are also able to help some local families through our Food Pantry (mini food bank). This included 47 Christmas parcels. This is all run by volunteers from the local community with minimal church supervision and represents a major part of the Outreach and Social Justice work in our Parish. But don’t take our word for it; Come and See!

The Birchwood Quiz The quiz night at Birchwood has been running since 1986 and, again this year, we still have had a loyal following, some from the early days, but also newcomers. It has been held on the first Saturday of the month, where possible, for eleven months of the year, although we do not have a quiz in August. The attendance is approximately 36 per session.

All of the money raised, over a thousand pounds a year, goes directly to the treasurer each month to support the churches within our parish. The quiz night cost of £4, was raised slightly during the year and includes a raffle and stand-up Bingo during the interval to increase our takings. It is held in the hall at Birchwood C of E Primary School and our aim is, as always, to increase the number of people within the whole parish of Woolston and Birchwood to come and enjoy a night of friendship and fun. Cheryl Simpson

Ladies Group During the year, the Ladies Group has met 10 times, with the average attendance of 20 members. There has been informative and enjoyable presentations from a variety of groups and individuals, such as The Blood Bikers, who depend solely on voluntary contributions for their work transporting medical and emergency supplies and Home Start, who provide practical and emotional support to families throughout the year. Don Billington, a national gardening expert, explained about his lifelong interest in exotic plants with some of his examples on display. Our annual events, such as the Summer Dinner, Christmas Lunch, Quiz with Dave Warburton, and Hot Pot Supper proved to be fun and well attended. At our AGM we enjoyed a free buffet and a presentation by a marathon runner. Throughout the year, we have supported charities in both practical and financial ways, raising over 250 pounds from our entrance fees, and providing toiletries for families in need. A lovely letter and picture were received from Home Start and a certificate from the Blood Bikers, to thank us for our generosity. Our group of women have continued to meet on the first Thursday of the month to share Christian fellowship and friendship.

Wendy Kelly

Singing Nights at the Ascension Throughout our long Interregnum, we were lucky to have Rev Andrew Hetherington as our celebrant on many occasions. He was always accompanied by Margaret who beautifully played our Organ/Piano as musical accompaniment for our hymns.

In June 2023, Margaret agreed to join us at the Ascension on a monthly basis, and so our Singing Group started. We have regular attendance of around 10-20 from our congregation, singing well known and favourite hymns, as well as learning new songs too. Please feel free to join us for an hour or two on the third Monday of each month. £1 per session including refreshments. In our first six months, we raised over £100. Julie Clegg

The Lighthouse I volunteered to take on the magazine a year ago. At the time, I took an opportunity to update the magazine structure and create a magazine with content written by many members of the community, for the community. Some of the new section additions include a puzzles section, a colouring page, and my own column which is for tv, film, book and restaurant recommendations. I have created regular spaces for members of the community to send in pieces written by themselves, and to share something that they have read/listened to. I appreciate when people send things in, as it encourages their own creativity, and brings joy to readers. I would like to propose that we change the magazine from 10 editions a year to 6 - 1 edition covering 2 months. It would be easier to align with the school holidays for printing purposes and I could make the magazine 28 or 32 pages instead of 24 pages each month. Julia Taylor

The Social Committee Our small group of committee members meet regularly to exchange ideas and discuss our next social projects for our parish. During 2023, many social events took place which were supported by members of both churches, our parish and wider community. The members of the Social Committee have planned and organised differing functions to raise funds for our parish, to promote our church fellowship and, more importantly, to bring happiness and fun into our community. Some of the events were; a celebration of the Coronation, a Summer Fair, a Murder Mystery, a Christmas Mini Market, a quiz and several coffee and cake get-togethers and Afternoon Teas. All our events rely on the many volunteers who give their time, contributions, as well as items for the raffles. Over the past year, at least two thousand and five hundred pounds have been raised. We have asked for further ideas from our church members so that attendance to these events may increase in the future. Anita Bradley

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The Vine

During the year 2023 these family services have been based around the ideas of Messy Church and are relaxed, fun and informative. While we see regular families, the attendance numbers have been irregular, with the numbers of children varying each month from 3 to 12. The themes have been mixed between the old and new Testaments and as examples, this year we learned about the creation story, how God provided the Israelites with manna, the prophecy of God building a new city for everybody, being accepted, being humble, and God's forgiveness and blessings. The services begin with the children doing their craft and prayer activities, which have been drawn or written on crosses, leaves, and cardboard people, and these have been sometimes displayed in church. A few of the activities have included making crowns, planting seeds, decorating trinket boxes and decorating photo frames and the ones involving food have proved to be popular, as the children have made sandwiches, decorated buns, made a flower bouquet with chocolate centres, made a burger using biscuits, and trying honey on wafers to represent manna. There was a chance to enjoy some of their refreshments before the lighting of our own Vine candle and a story with an explanation. Also, we continue with prayer, singing, sometimes with actions, and songs, like Our God is a Great Big God, When I Look Up, or I Love You have been very popular. The Christmas Party saw over 20 children – we only just had enough material for the craft activities, which were making Christmas Crackers and Christmas Trees. There were party games of pass-the-parcel, pin the nose on the gnome, and reindeer hoopla. There was also party food and of course birthday cake for Jesus. During the year, I was frequently told how wonderful the services are, but I am not the only person responsible for creating the service, as others have put in a lot of work behind the scenes and on the day, I have had an army of helpers who I am extremely grateful for and would be lost without. My hope for 2024 is that The Vine service will continue to grow from strength to strength, and it would be wonderful to see more people, both young and old joining us. Amanda Taylor

The Wednesday Club

Our Wednesday Club, which meets on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month, began the year of 2023 with talk by a representative from the Body Shop where some of their products were displayed and their uses explained. During the later months we were given an extremely interesting talk by Julie Clegg, about her holidays, and a presentation by the Fire Brigade, from Lymm Fire Station, about their work and important operations. Both Sheila and Stuart Walsh, gave their own amusing versions of their topics, such as “Do you believe in Aliens?” and a very gripping ghost story! Our numbers have grown recently and everyone has enjoyed both the presentations, and the opportunity to chat together during the refreshment break and we hope that this will continue and the number of our members will increase. Barbara England

Our Churches and the Wider Community

Throughout the past year, members of our parish have been involved in providing funds, toiletries, toys, chocolate eggs and selection boxes for those in special need of some support and kindness, especially women and children, who are living under difficult circumstances. Through our giving, families in both Woolston and Birchwood, and wider afield, have been able to enjoy a little more the festivities at Easter and Christmas and have had access to regular help at the Food Bank too. We have provided support for 2 Women's Refuges and a Drop-in Centre where there is much need for our practical donations.

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Within Warrington, we have established a close relationship with Home Start, where families are given guidance, fun times and companionship and help to develop skills and confidence so that homes become places of security and care. Our generosity and Christian fellowship has been greatly appreciated by these charities and they are so grateful for our practical presents but more importantly our gift of kindness. Barbara Laughner

The Youth Club

The Youth Club runs on Monday evenings during term time, and we have 28 children on the register across school years 5 to 8. We have a small team of volunteers who, without them giving up their Monday evenings, we would not be able to open, therefore I need to thank Anthony, Ash, Caz, Di, Gaynor, Gemma, Julia, Justina, Liz, Sally and Sue for all of their support. this year. We need 6 people every week to open and to provide a space for the youngsters and teenagers to meet friends, to join in with craft activities, and play football, just to name but a few of the various activities which we provide.

This year we supported the Church Summer fair running a number of games and stalls, and were able to give a donation to the church of £200. We also purchased a large Gazebo for the event which we donated to the church for future use. In addition we donated £180 towards the costs of the mission for the weeks we opened in 2023.

We are always looking for help and would invite more volunteers to join our team please let me know – No experience necessary! Hilda Taylor

The Joshua Project and Sunday Evening Services at the Transfiguration Church

Originally, the Sunday services took place at 3:30pm but I found this to be unproductive and hardly worth the trouble Paul and I went to for just 3 or 4 people. It was discouraging, and so after prayer and discussion, I approached Peter and Cheryl to ask if we could change the time to 6:30pm instead, this happened last April 2023. This was the right move, and is a much better service with more people turning up each week. I have aimed to make the services both encouraging and informative, having fellowship and opportunity for discussion on the subject I present each week. The topics have varied significantly, but always relevant to the times we live in.

Just recently, we have been looking at evangelism, with short video clips from Ray Comfort, who has a unique style in his approach to talking to people about God, faith, eternity, and heaven and hell. These have been very well received, and have been encouraging people to become open and bold in sharing the Gospel. Each week, I give opportunity for people to share their thoughts on each topic I present, but never pressure anyone to speak, it is always done in an attitude of respect and inclusion, and learning from each other. It has been encouraging to me that the response has been as good as it is, and hopefully it will continue to develop and grow as a church. Both Paul and myself have been greatly encouraged by the church members, and can see God at work in this church. Thank you to everyone who has supported the services 'And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another especially as we see the Day drawing near' (Hebrews 10:25)

With Tabitha now on board, the plan is that we will work together, and bring new thoughts and ideas to the services. Audrey Holgate

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Reserve's policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to approx. £16,800 (Including full Parish Share) and is intended to help smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies.

The bank balances of £13,646 held on unrestricted funds at the year end, together with the amounts payable to of £4,230 and by £8,900 amounted to £8,976 being 53% of that target. The PCC's is aware that we need to do more to increase our giving to improve this situation and protect our long-term viability.

The balances of £26,633 in the Fabric and Gorton restricted funds are retained principally towards meeting the cost of major repairs to fabric of the church, its organ, and the mission hall. It is our policy to invest a substantial element of these fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and Barclays Deposit Accounts, currently amounting to £12,377 (46%) and the remainder with our principal bankers Barclays Bank Plc.

Other specific restricted fund balances amounting to £10,877 relate to Birchwood Community Projects.

In addition, the PCC can take some comfort from the fact that we own the Church (Mission) Hall which has a significant value.

Registered Charity No 1185707

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31st December 2023

Thanks

I would like to begin by acknowledging the very high quality financial reporting and accounting work carried out over a long period of time by my predecessor, John Bailey. John has been of huge help in the handover of treasurer duties and continues to have a significant financial role in the monitoring of the Parish Giving Scheme and in processing claims for Gift Aid tax.

I would also like to thank Peter Dibben who carried out the arduous task of recording the visits of visiting priests and completing the claim for sequestration reimbursement. Peter has also carried out a lot of work on the accounts of the Birchwood café which is explained further below.

Both the claim for Gift Aid tax prepared by John and the sequestration claim for reimbursement of priest fees prepared by Peter, and which are shown in the Statement of Assets as debtors, have recently been paid into the church's bank account.

I would also like to thank everyone who has made a contribution to the financial wellbeing of the Parish, whether the contributions are overtly financial through giving or fundraising or in the shape of time and effort. All are much appreciated.

The accounts

The movement on each fund is summarised on page 1 and the fund details supporting the Summary are shown on pages 2 to 5. The Statement of Assets on Page 6 shows both the monetary assets and material or significant debtors and creditors as well as the fixed assets owned by the Parish. Behind the accounts are some explanatory notes giving a further breakdown of some of the significant items in the accounts. My comments on each fund are as follows:

General Fund (page 2)

The General Fund shows a surplus for the year of £4846 but only 10 out of 12 instalments of Parish Share were paid during the year. The November and December instalments of Parish Share were paid in January and March 2024 respectively and these instalments are shown in the Statement of Assets as a creditor.

As Treasurer I need to monitor the General Fund balance closely to ensure that it does not become negative, as this would mean that we were taking money from the restricted funds. The balance on General Fund is currently inadequate for the church's needs.

Fabric and Gorton Funds (page 3)

The main item charged to the Fabric Fund was the purchase of new chairs for the Mission Hall. There has been no movement on the Gorton Fund other than the receipt of CCLA bank interest.

Joshua fund (page 4)

The main item charged to this fund was the salary of the congregation leader at Birchwood. It is expected that the balance on this fund will reduce to zero by October 2024 when the financial future of this project will be reviewed.

Birchwood Community Project (page 4)

As a result of time constraints only the first 6 months receipts and payments are included in the main church accounts. A supplementary sheet has therefore been prepared to show the full year's receipts and payments which relate mainly to the lunch club café. This has generated a surplus of £239.50 held in cash at the year end. Of this £219 has since been expended in 2024 on a new fridge for the café. The other main activity of this project, the distribution of free food parcels, is largely self-financing. The project has received a further grant of £400 from the Bread and Butter Thing Charity in 2024.

The payment of rent charged by Birchwood Primary School for use of the Community Office is currently being withheld pending clarification of the costs attributable to use of the facilities at 'The Mount' complex by both The Church of The Transfiguration and The Birchwood Community Project.

Organ and John Hicks Funds (page 5)

The organ fund has been reduced to zero. Future organ repairs will be charged to the Fabric Fund. There has been no movement on the John Hicks fund.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (page 6)

The other assets represent our Mission Hall building and its contents which are shown at the 2018 valuation provided by the insurance company. A Mission Hall building in Penketh similar to ours which was previously used as a day nursery is on the market for \$425,000. Our 2 church buildings and our Mission Hall are included within a single insurance policy which provides for a maximum loss of £3.3m for each building. The 2 church buildings are not shown as assets because they are not owned by the PCC.

Stuart Robinson 3.5.2024

Registered Charity No 1185707



Statement of Accounting Policies used in the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2023

The Financial Statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Rules, using the Receipts and Payments Basis.

The Fund Summary and fund accounts on pages 1 to 5 include only completed cash transactions. The Statement of Assets on page 6 includes monetary assets, material or significant debtors and creditors, and other assets comprising Fixed Assets owned by the PCC.

Funds

General funds are funds held by the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The purpose of any restricted funds is noted in the Financial Statements.

The financial statements include monetary transactions assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. The statement of assets also includes money held on behalf of other organisations not part of the Church but having a connection with it. (Agency balances).

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Land and Buildings held on behalf of the PCC.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1000.
- Any investments held beneficially by the PCC.

The following assets are recognised and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Amounts owing from HMRC where a formal claim has been made.
- Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.
- Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received by the PCC at 31st December.
- Closing cash and bank balances as shown in the Receipts and Payments accounts.

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Any loans or overdrafts advanced to the PCC
- Any arrears of Diocesan Parish Share.
- Material creditors for goods and services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31st December.

Registered Charity No 1185707

The United Parish of **BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON**

The Churches of the Transfiguration & the Ascension

Summary - All Funds - Year to 31 Dec 23

		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
		£	£	£	£
				<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Receipts					
Parish	General	71,986		71,986	66,906
Ascension	Fabric		526	526	2,841
Ascension	Gorton		294	294	119
Ascension	Heritage 50		0	0	0
Ascension	Organ		0	0	0
Transfiguration	Joshua Project		115	115	8,000
Transfiguration	Community Project		168	168	15,340
Transfiguration	John Hicks		0	0	0
		<u>71,986</u>	<u>1,103</u>	<u>73,089</u>	<u>93,206</u>
Payments					
Parish	General	67,140		67,140	77,303
Ascension	Fabric		3,190	3,190	744
Ascension	Gorton		0	0	0
Ascension	Heritage 50		0	0	0
Ascension	Organ		192	192	252
Transfiguration	Joshua Project		4,587	4,587	1,450
Transfiguration	Community Project		723	723	12,049
Transfiguration	John Hicks		0	0	0
		<u>67,140</u>	<u>8,692</u>	<u>75,832</u>	<u>91,798</u>
Transfers					
Ascension	Gorton - from Heritage 50		0	0	1,804
Ascension	Heritage 50 - to Gorton		0	0	(1,804)
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Surplus (Deficit)					
Parish	General	4,846		4,846	(10,397)
Ascension	Fabric		(2,664)	(2,664)	2,097
Ascension	Gorton		294	294	1,923
Ascension	Heritage 50		0	0	(1,804)
Ascension	Organ		(192)	(192)	(252)
Transfiguration	Joshua Project		(4,472)	(4,472)	6,550
Transfiguration	Community Project		(555)	(555)	3,291
Transfiguration	John Hicks		0	0	0
		<u>4,846</u>	<u>(7,589)</u>	<u>(2,743)</u>	<u>1,408</u>
Opening Bank Balances					
Parish	General	2,998		2,998	13,395
Ascension	Fabric		18,028	18,028	15,931
Ascension	Gorton		10,975	10,975	9,052
Ascension	Heritage 50		0	0	1,804
Ascension	Organ		192	192	444
Transfiguration	Joshua Project		7,918	7,918	1,368
Transfiguration	Community Project		8,343	8,343	5,052
Transfiguration	John Hicks		5,802	5,802	5,802
		<u>2,998</u>	<u>51,258</u>	<u>54,256</u>	<u>52,848</u>
Closing Bank Balances					
Parish	General	7,844		7,844	2,998
Ascension	Fabric		15,364	15,364	18,028
Ascension	Gorton		11,269	11,269	10,975
Ascension	Heritage 50		0	0	0
Ascension	Organ		0	0	192
Transfiguration	Joshua Project		3,446	3,446	7,918
Transfiguration	Birchwood Community Project		7,788	7,788	8,343
Transfiguration	John Hicks		5,802	5,802	5,802
		<u>7,844</u>	<u>43,669</u>	<u>51,513</u>	<u>54,256</u>

**** Note - John Hicks Fund is Designated**

General Fund - Receipts & Payments Account - Unrestricted

Year -->

2023

2022

Receipts

Note

Incoming resources from donors

Regular Planned Giving

Tax efficient planned giving	1	28,075		27,805
Income Tax Recovered	2	8,351		8,044
Other Regular Giving	3	2,573		2,763
Collections of loose cash at services	4	4,143		4,006

Occasional Giving

Donations		1,288		1,539
			44,430	44,157

Non Recurring Grants

Diocese of Liverpool - Covid Support			615	2,000
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Othe incoming resources

Council tax and utility refunds			142	0
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Incoming resources from operating activities

Net Interregnum reimbursements	5	1,865	(1,103)	(1,103)
			1,865	

Activities for generating funds

Fund Raising	6	5,010	4,609	
Hire of Church Hall		19,844	17,243	
Magazine advertising		80	0	21,852

Total Receipts

£71,986	£66,906
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Payments

Costs of activities for generating funds

Magazine		480	440	
Fund Raising Costs		515	568	
Church Hall Running Expenses	7	9,339	13,507	
			10,334	14,515

Donations to Charities

Missionary Giving		0	75	
Christian Overseas Relief and Development Agencies		109	100	
Home Missions		0	325	
Secular Charities		50	0	
			159	500

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

Cost of parish ministry

Diocesan Parish Share		44,503	49,692	
Parsonage House		115	2,733	

Church Running Expenses

Heat, Light, Insurances etc	8	9,105	6,641	
Maintenance		795	353	
Upkeep of Services		1,216	1,627	

Support and training costs

Support costs		760	1,123	
			56,494	62,169

Church Management and Administration

Printing and Stationery		20	0	
Bank & Card Charges		10	20	
Miscellaneous		123	99	
			153	119

Total Payments

£67,140	£77,303
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Excess of Receipts over (Payments)

4,846	(10,397)
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Bank Balances

Barclays Bank - current account at 1 January 2023	2,998	13,395
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Barclays Bank - current account at 31 December 2023	£7,844	£2,998
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The United Parish of
BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON
 The Churches of the Transfiguration & the Ascension

Fabric Fund - Restricted
Receipts & Payments

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations:				
In Memorial - General	0		65	
In Memorial - Gift Aid	120		540	
Legacy	0		2,000	
Donations	95		40	
Donations - Gift Aid	0		0	
Envelopes - General	0		0	
General donations Gift Aid	260		0	
		475		2,645
Gift Aid - Tax Refunds		0		64
Activities for generating funds				
Cake Raffles	0		0	
Remembrance Book	25		130	
Fund Raising	0		0	
		25		130
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest		26		2
Total Receipts		526		2,841
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Church Hall - New Chairs	2,011		0	
Church - Chalice Repairs	0		621	
Inscribing Remembrance Book	92		123	
Church Hall - new water heater	330			
Other Church Hall maintenance costs	757	3,190		744
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(2,664)		2,097
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current / deposit accounts at 1 January 2023		18,028		15,931
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2023	12,452		15,442	
Barclays Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2023	2,912		2,586	
Barclays Bank current / deposit accounts at 31 December 2023		£15,364		£18,028

This fund is restricted to the maintenance of the Fabric & Contents of Woolston Church Buildings.

Gorton Memorial Fund - Restricted

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors				
Restricted Donations:				
Donations		0		0
Income from Investments				
Interest - CCLA		294		119
Total Receipts		294		119
Transfers				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Transfer back from Ascension Heritage 50 Fund	0	0	1,804	1,804
Excess of Receipts over Payments		294		1,923
Bank Balances				
CCLA Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2023		10,975		9,052
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2023	1,804		1,804	
CCLA Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2023	9,465		9,171	
Bank accounts at 31 December 2023		£11,269		£10,975

This fund is restricted to the maintenance of the Fabric of Church Buildings & Contents in Woolston and certain other costs as detailed in the original Trust deed

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

Birchwood - Joshua Project - Restricted		2023		2022	
Receipts & Payments Account		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving					
Restricted Donations:					
LBDF - Grant - Birchwood Projects		0		8,000	
Loose cash collections		115	115		8,000
Total Receipts			115		8,000
Payments					
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church					
Joshua Centre:					
Salaries & National Insurance	3,973			661	
Payrol & Admin Costs	257			44	
Maintenance	142			0	
Other Costs	0			532	
Messy Church	153			197	
Activity Costs	62			16	
			4,587		1,450
Excess of Receipts over Payments			(4,472)		6,550
Bank Balances					
Barclays Bank current account at 1 January 2023			7,918		1,368
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2023			£3,446		£7,918

This fund is restricted for the development of a new congregation in Birchwood. It has been provided by the Diocese of Liverpool through their Joshua Centre project, which is funded by the Church of England Strategic Development Fund. The funding is provided on a reducing scale over 6 years, until October 2024 and in the early years this enabled us to employ a congregational leader for one day per week; this ended in July 2021 but a new appointment was made in November 2022. Final grant monies to take us to the end of the project were received in the current year.

Birchwood - Community Project - Restricted		2023		2022	
Receipts & Payments Account		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving					
Restricted Donations:					
Donations (Lyr inc repayment of £1,000 Covid donation)	0			570	
Deanery - Grant - Community Worker	0			13,694	
Food Parcel Grants	0			250	
Lunch Club Donations	168			826	
			168		15,340
Total Receipts			168		15,340
Payments					
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church					
Christian Community Worker:					
Salaries, National Insurance & Pensions	0			7,474	
Payrol & Admin Costs	0			143	
Office Rent	360			1,440	
Office Costs	0			163	
Travel Costs	0			39	
Training	0			484	
Mobile Phone	71			339	
Food Parcels	0			320	
Other Neighbourly items	0			39	
Lunch Club - Running Costs	303			1,529	
Activity Costs	0			0	
Other Costs	(11)			79	
			723		12,049
Excess of Receipts over Payments			(555)		3,291
Bank Balances					
Barclays Bank current account at 1 January 2023			8,343		5,052
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2023			£7,788		£8,343

This fund is restricted for the employment of a Christian Community Development Worker and associated works to serve the Birchwood part of our parish. The majority of the funding is provided by the Deanery Mission and Growth Fund. Our Community worker retired in August 2022 and the project is currently staffed by volunteers.

The above Projects work in tandem and are known collectively as 'The Table' Oakwood

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

Organ Fund - Restricted Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations				
Maintenance Fees from Funerals	0	0	0	0
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest		0		0
		0		0
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Repairs to Organ	192	192	252	252
Excess of (Payments) over Receipts		(192)		(252)
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current account at 1 January 2023		192		444
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2023		£0		£192

This fund is restricted to the maintenance and renewal of the Church Organ

Birchwood - John Hicks - Designated Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations:				
Grants & Donations towards Replacement Ceiling				
Donations	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts		0		0
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Chairs for Birchwood C of E School	0	0	0	0
		0		0
Excess of Receipts over Payments		0		0
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current account at 1 January 2023		5,802		5,802
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2023		£5,802		£5,802

This fund is designated for the maintenance of the Fabric of the Church & associated buildings in Birchwood

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2023

	General Fund Unrestricted £	Fabric Fund Restricted £	Gorton Fund Restricted £	Birchwood Projects Restricted £	John Hicks Fund Designated £	Agency balances	Totals	
							2023 £	2022 £
Monetary Assets								
Bank Accounts - Current - Barclays	7,844	12,452	1,804	11,234	5,802	742	39,878	42,499
Bank Accounts - Deposit - Barclays		2,912					2,912	2,586
Bank Accounts - Deposit - CCLA			9,465				9,465	9,171
Total Bank	7,844	15,364	11,269	11,234	5,802	742	52,255	54,256
Debtors -								
Gift Aid Tax Refunds	1,695						1,695	1,934
Interegnum Fees reclaimable	2,535						2,535	3,184
Other							0	1,395
Total Debtors	4,230	0	0	0	0		4,230	6,513
Other Assets								
Church Hall (Mission) - Building **	540,000						540,000	540,000
Church Hall (Mission) - Contents **	15,000						15,000	15,000
Total Other	555,000	0	0	0	0		555,000	555,000
.** per Insurance Valuation Sept 5 2018								
Total Assets	567,074	15,364	11,269	11,234	5,802	742	611,485	615,769
Liabilities								
Fabric & Buildings	0						0	0
Other Creditors	8,900			361		742	10,003	646
Total Liabilities	8,900	0	0	361	0	742	10,003	646
Net Assets								
Restricted / Designated	555,000	15,364	11,269	10,873	5,802	0	598,308	606,258
Unrestricted	3,174	0	0	0	0	0	3,174	8,865
Total	£558,174	£15,364	£11,269	£10,873	£5,802	£0	£601,482	£615,123

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
1 Tax efficient planned giving-gift aided		
Envelopes	1,225	1,166
Direct payments to Bank	1,218	1,418
Parish Giving Scheme	25,632	25,221
	28,075	27,805
2 Tax Refunds		
Envelopes, Direct to Bank and Donations re Prior Financial Year	941	1,152
Transfer to other funds re restricted donations	-	(64)
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme re Prior Financial Year	1,002	744
Diocese Admin fee		(94)
Parish Giving Scheme - Current Financial Year	6,408	6,306
	8,351	8,044
3 Other Regular Giving		
Envelopes	-	368
Direct to Bank	300	540
Parish Giving Scheme	2,273	1,855
	2,573	2,763
4 Collections of Loose cash at services		
Collections	2,205	2,070
Collections via Sumup card machine	1,817	1,759
Donations towards charities and missions	121	177
	4,143	4,006
5 Net Interregnum Reimbursements		
Fees PCC element	651	937
Interregnum fees set off against Diocesan element	2,975	928
Fees for Banns and other certificates	67	286
Interregnum fees paid	(1,828)	(3,254)
	1,865	(1,103)
6 Fundraising		
Receipts		
Christmas Market	1,819	1,023
Sunday morning tea and coffee	137	194
Social Committee	1,481	1,848
Birchwood quiz	1,573	1,544
	5,010	4,609
Payments		
Social committee	-	80
Birchwood quiz	515	488
	515	568
Net receipts	4,495	4,041
7 Mission Hall running expenses		
Electricity	2,743	3,467
Gas	2,410	3,103
Water	2,630	1,607
Insurance	452	1,349
Maintenance	80	1,636
Cleaning wages	411	1,083
Payroll costs	44	275
Cleaning materials	96	483
Refuse collection	473	504
	9,339	13,507
8 Church running expenses		
Electricity	2,834	468
Gas	3,608	3,430
Water	201	444
Internet	721	830
Insurance Ascension	1,406	776
Insurance Transfiguration	164	492
Cleaning	171	201
	9,105	6,641



Birchwood café accounts summary 2023

Receipts		£
	Café donations	561.16
	Other donations	248.63
	Raffle	30.00
	Total receipts	839.79
	Less accounted for in church 2023	-£168.00
	Adjusted receipts	671.79
Payments		
	Food costs	705.32
	Printer ink	29.97
	Total payments	735.29
	Less accounted for in church 2023	-303.00
	Adjusted payments	432.29
	Surplus (cash in hand at 31.12.23)	£239.50

£219 Of this spent in 2024 on new fidge

Not Included in Review by Independent Examiner.

General Fund Budget 2024

INCOME

Parish Gving Scheme and PGS Gift Aid tax	£34,532
Mission Hall Hire	£18,508
Fundraising	£5,000
Plate and Envelopes	£3,580
Sequestration reimbursement	£2,535
Sumup card machine	£2,056
Other Gift Aid tax	£1,794
Other direct to bank giving	£1,468
Donations	£1,304
Funerals and Banns	£915

Total Budgeted Income	£71,692
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EXPENDITURE RECURRING

Parish share	£53,404
Mission Hall gas	£2,988
Insurance	£2,776
Church gas	£2,296
Mission Hall water	£1,844
Vicarage Council tax	£1,600
Mission Hall electricity	£1,556
Internet and Mobile	£792
Church electricity	£744
Vicarage water	£700
Mission Hall trade waste	£564
Magazine printing	£480
Church water	£300
Fire extinguisher maintenance	£240

EXPENDITURE MISCELLANEOUS

Church supplies	£1,000
CCLI License	£500
Vicar's expenses	£500
Sundry church and mission maintenance	£500
Warrington Brass for walking day	£375
Bi-annual alarm maintenance	£312
Photocopying and Stationery	£300
Miscellaneous expenditure	£250
Vine expenses	£100

Total budgeted expenditure	£74,121
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Budgeted deficit	(2,429)
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Opening General Fund cash balance	£7,844
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Projected General Fund balance at 31.12 24	£5,415
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Less arrears of Parish share payable	(8,900)
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Projected adverse balance on General Fund	(3,485)
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Not Included in Review by Independent Examiner.

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the United Parish of Birchwood and Woolston, in the Diocese of Liverpool, on the accounts for the year ended 31 December, 2023, as set out in its Annual Report and Accounts.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 the PCC 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

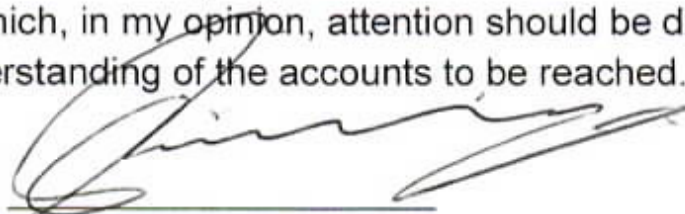
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

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

Signed:



Date: 2 May 2024

Independent Examiner's Name
Independent Examiner's Address

Bob Timmis
73 Lovely Lane, Warrington WA5 1TY

Accounts

The United Parish of

BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON

The Churches of the Transfiguration & the Ascension

Registered Charity Number 1185707 (England & Wales)

Parochial Church Council

Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022



The Ascension - Parish Church



The Transfiguration - Worship Centre

Incumbent:

Currently in Interegnum

Bankers:

**Barclays Bank Plc
Warrington Business Centre
25 Sankey Street
Warrington**

CCLA

**Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London**

Architect

**Rebecca Grimshaw - Anthony Grimshaw Associates
6 Brideman Terrace, Wigan, WN1 1SX**

Independent Examiner:

Mr Les Dunning

Submitted to and Approved by the APCM on 23 April 2023

Signed

Peter Diben - APCM Chair

Annual Report for 2022 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Reference and Administrative Information

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Birchwood and Woolston, Warrington is a Registered Charity, number 1185707 (England & Wales) and continues to operate under the "Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956" and the Church Representation Rules".

The Church of the Transfiguration is located on Admirals Road, Birchwood, and The Church of the Ascension (the designated Parish Church) is located on Warren Lane, Woolston. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool and its official correspondence address is:

The Vicarage, 20 Warren Lane, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4ES

Background

The PCC of the Parish of Birchwood and Woolston, comprising the Church of the Ascension and the Church of the Transfiguration, have the responsibility, of cooperating with the Vicar in post, of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

Formal union the of two parishes of Birchwood and Woolston was confirmed by the Church Commissioners from 1 November 2014. From that date the two PCCs met jointly, until the 2015 APCM when a single PCC for the United Parish was elected following the compilation of a combined electoral roll.

The PCC of the United Parish of Birchwood and Woolston has historically in common with almost all other PCC's of the Church of England having Income / Receipts for the year of under £100,000 being charities exempted from registration with the Charity Commission; however in the year 2018 we exceeded that limit and therefore applied during 2019 to register as an individual charity and we were granted that status on 9th October 2019. Our Registered Charity Number is 1185707.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation rules.

For the period 10 April 2022 to the date of approval of this report at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 23 April 2023 the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC):

Team Vicar:

Position currently vacant

PCC Members:

Church Wardens

Mr. Graham Broady

Mr. Peter Dibben

Representatives on Deanery Synod

Mr. Peter Dibben **

Elected APCM 2020

Mr. Neil Fairweather **

Elected APCM 2020

Elected Members

Mr. John Bailey

Mrs. Kim Blondon

To APCM 10 April 2022

Mrs. Barbara Laugher

Mr. Stuart Robinson **

Mrs. Cheryl Simpson **

Mrs. Sheila Walsh

Annual Report for 2022 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Elected Members - continued

Mr. Stuart Walsh	
Mrs. Anita Bradley	From APCM 10 April 2022
Mrs. Jenny Wood	From APCM 10 April 2022
Mrs. Barbara England	From APCM 10 April 2022
Mrs. Yvonne Woolley	

** PCC representatives on: Warrington East Team Council

Appointments

Mrs. Sheila Walsh	Secretary of the PCC	
Mr. Peter Dibben	Vice Chair of the PCC	
Mr. John Bailey	Treasurer of the PCC	
Mrs. Pat Prince	Gift Aid Secretary	
Mr. Duncan Howarth	Safeguarding Officer	
Mr. Peter Dibben	Health and Safety Officer	
Mrs. Cheryl Simpson	Electoral Roll Officer	Officer for Birchwood
Mrs. Yvonne Woolley	Churches Together	
Mrs. Ethel Brocklebank	Churches Together	
Mr. Neil Fairweather	Warrington Educational Trust	

Committees

Standing Committee:

This committee is a legal requirement to take decisions if the full PCC cannot be consulted. It is also responsible for finance. Decisions made and actions taken are reported at the next full PCC meeting.

Public Benefit

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

In the United Parish of Birchwood and Woolston our mission statement is '**God in the Community**'. This confirms our mission to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, both through the Word and our deeds to love the Lord our God and to love his children, our neighbours and love each other in our fellowship. When planning our activities for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

In 2022, the following public benefits were provided:

Regular public worship open to all.

The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation and helping people who have asked for assistance with prayer.

Pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved, and offering Holy Communion to those who are not able to leave their own homes.

Taking of religious assemblies in Birchwood C of E Primary School, and Woolston C of E Primary School. Messy Church takes place at The Church of the Transfiguration, in partnership with Birchwood C of E School.

Annual Report for 2022 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Promoting the whole mission of the Church through regular social and fundraising activities open to the whole community.

Supporting those in need in our community, through our project The Table Oakwood including a community café and a distribution hub for surplus food.

Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas through giving to special appeals.

Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses, and small groups. Courses and small groups were delivered as part of the Warrington East Team.

Working in partnership with the other Anglican churches in the Warrington East Team; namely Christ Church, Padgate, and The Church of the Resurrection, Cinnamon Brow.

Regularly meeting with our ecumenical partners through Churches Together in East Warrington and Churches Together in Birchwood.

Regular review of Safeguarding policies and practices for our work with young people and vulnerable adults.

Church Attendance

The Church of the Ascension is the designated Parish Church.

During 2022 the average Sunday attendance at the Ascension has been 43 adults and 2 children. The services are also streamed live on Facebook for those unable to attend church with around 3-4 individuals engaging each Sunday.

"The Table" Sunday services at The Church of the Transfiguration attracted an average of 8 adults and 6 children.

The Electoral Roll

The electoral roll for the United Parish was completely revised on 7 April 2019 with a total of 83, 11 of which were resident outside the United Parish. As of the 31 March 2022 there were 78 on the electoral roll of which 11 were resident outside the parish. Updated electoral roll numbers will be given at the APCM.

The Gorton Memorial Trust

The Gorton Memorial Trust was set up in 1980 with the sole objective of the charity being the repair, maintenance and general upkeep of the church as served by the Church of the Ascension Woolston and by such means as are charitable, the promotion of the Christian Faith in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.

From time to time the PCC have requested financial assistance from the trust and over the years the trust has made grants to the PCC towards costs incurred on the Vicarage, Church Roof, Church Heating System, Service Books, Disabled Access, and Toilet.

The Trust was disbanded in 2007 and its assets transferred to the PCC. The assets transferred have been put into a new PCC Fund called "**Gorton Memorial Fund**" and incorporated into the Financial

Annual Report for 2022 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Statements attached to this report. It is the intention of the PCC to use these funds only for purposes laid out in the original Gorton Trust Deed.

As part of our successful bid to the  for a grant to enable major repairs to be carried out to the **Church of the Ascension** the PCC allocated **£20,000** from this Fund in the year 2020 towards that project which completed in 2021 leaving a balance of **£1,804** in the H50 fund which has been transferred back to this account in the year.

PCC Review of the Year

As most Covid restrictions were relaxed over the year, the PCC reverted to meeting without restrictions in the Mission Hall. The PCC met nine times, and all meetings were conducted following the rules in place at the time. Average attendance was 64%. There were ongoing discussions about which Covid restrictions should be maintained in church over the year. By the end of 2022 we had resumed full Eucharistic administration for those who were comfortable with that situation. Some parishioners still prefer to receive just the bread and not share the communal cup. The seating was also restored to its original pattern.

We have continued to be in interregnum and are extremely grateful to all our visiting priests who have ensured that we have not had a Sunday without cover. We are grateful to Rev Nigel for allowing the Wednesday service to continue. Rev. Stuart Nixon of the United Reform Church had agreed to take over much of the work done at Birchwood on the Joshua Project and during the year he was replaced by Rev Audrey while we still have funding. Our grateful thanks go to him for his help. Helen Bennet, the Community Support Worker retired in the summer but has agreed to continue as a volunteer.

Although the post for a parish priest was advertised twice in 2022 no appointment was made, and we continue into 2023 without a vicar. Mr Peter Dibben and Mrs Yvonne Woolley are our elected representatives. It was confirmed that there would be a like-for-like appointment.

The PCC continued to address the usual matters of finance, maintenance, and all other routine matters. Work on the Heritage Project 50 was completed and signed off.

The chairs in the Mission were showing their age and it was decided to replace them. Mr. Stuart Robinson agreed to conduct research and several examples were looked at before a final decision was made to purchase sixty chairs. The project would be funded from the Fabric Fund and parishioners would also be asked to sponsor a chair.

The PCC also continued to review its safeguarding and health and safety policies; these are also displayed on the Church of the Ascension notice board. Various work parties carried out tidying up and maintenance at both buildings and the Mission Hall.

Our regular events including Walking Day, Remembrance Day, Harvest and Christmas took place. Mr. Stuart Walsh agreed to continue to find cover for our regular services and readers for every service.

Thanks are due to everyone who has contributed to the work of the PCC over the year. It has meant that our church wardens and treasurer have all had a much heavier workload to keep our church going and deserve our gratitude. Thanks also go to the members of the PCC who have contributed so much in time, energy, and dedication.

Annual Report for 2022 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Financial Review of the Year

The Summary on page 12 shows the overall performance of each of the funds under the control of the PCC with Receipts totaling £93,206 and Payments of £91,798 giving an overall surplus for the year of £1,408 and fund balances carried forward of £54,256.

The following notes highlight what has happened to each fund.

General Fund

The Receipts & Payments Account of the **General Fund** covers the day to day running expenses of the Church and this is included in the Financial Statements for 2022 attached to this Report on page 13 with supporting notes on the following pages.

This shows we had a **deficit** of Receipts over Payments of **£10,397** for the year (Yr. 2021 surplus £6,285) giving a balance in hand at the 31 December 2021 of **£2,998** (Dec 2021 £13,395).

The reasons we ended up with a deficit were reduced rebates for Parish Share Payments, increased Utility bills and Interregnum fees as well as overpayment of Church Hall Hire fees in 2021 and reduced regular giving.

The **salient points** that should be considered when reviewing the financial statements for the General Account for the year are as follows:

Receipts:

- Receipts at £66,906 were down £5,438 (7.5%) on 2021.
- Our weekly income was £1,287 (2021: £1,391).
- Overall giving (including tax refunds) decreased by £1,784 (3.9%) to £44,157.
 - Tax efficient planned giving down by £1,162 (4%) at £27,805.
 - Tax Refund up £84 at £8,044.
 - Other regular giving, collections and donations were down £686 (7.6%) at £8,308.
- 34% (2021 37%) of our income comes from Grants, Fees, Fund Raising and the Church Hall, these were down in total by £3,654 (21.4%) at £22,749.
 - Grants and Fund Raising were up but overpayment of hire charges in prior year re Mission Hall and increased interregnum fees affected this.

Payments:

- Payments at £77,303 were up £11,224 (17%) on year 2021.
- Weekly expenditure amounted to £1,487 (2021: £1,270).
- In the year our Parish Share payments went up by £7,813 (18.6%) to £49,692 being £956 per week.
 - This was after a rebate of £5,238 from the Diocese – such support not likely in the future.
- The Church running costs were up by also 56% at £6,994 (LY £4,473) - due to increased utility bills.

As regards Parish Share it should be noted that the new scheme introduced at Deanery level for year 2020 saw substantial increases at a parish level for many Churches with our increase being £2,910 (6%) to £50,541 in that year. This trend has continued with the charge for year 2021 being £52,752 and for year 2022 it will be £54,930 dropping slightly in year 2023 to £53,403.

Annual Report for 2022 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Because of the impact of Covid 19 the Diocese waived substantial amounts of Parish Share in the year 2021 of £10,873 and year 2022 £5,238 – without this help we would have struggled financially; however, in the coming year of 2023 with no reduction available the total will be the full £53,403 and this equates to £22.32 per week for each of the 46 (at Dec 2022) regular planned givers to the church.

Gift Aid gives us a bonus of 25p for each pound given in a tax refund from the Government which amounted to £8,044 in this year's accounts. This was made up of £1,738 in respect of the previous 12 months to December 2021 and £6,306 via Parish Giving Scheme for the current year. In the last 10 years gift aid tax refunds to the General Account have totaled £85,468 (to Lyr. £82,579).

As mentioned in previous year's reports a scheme called "**Parish Giving**" (PGS) was introduced by the C of E and if you give via this scheme and are a taxpayer the church gets the tax refund monthly (this really helps Church's cash flow) rather than waiting a year to claim it back; 38 Church Members were in the scheme during 2022 and this brought in a tax refund of £6,306 during the year (see above). Many thanks for this.

Details of the Scheme are given on page 9 and will highlighted at the APCM and hopefully you will consider joining if you have not done so already – you don't have to be a taxpayer to participate, and this is our preferred regular giving scheme - if interested please contact Mr. John Bailey or Mrs. Pat Prince.

Our thanks go to all who support the Church either financially or in other ways.

The Budget (estimate) for 2023 is subject to the continuing impact of the economic situation which includes increased Parish Share / Utilities and shows a deficit (overspend) of £9,250 (£178pw) with Receipts of £75,000 (£1,442pw) and payments of £84,250 (£1,620 pw) – see page 22 – obviously not ideal and assumes continued and hopefully increased support of the congregation.

Fabric Fund

Receipts to the **Fabric Fund** were £2,841 (2021 - £1,085) which included a legacy of £2,000. Payments amounted to £744 (2021 - £80) which included £621 for repairs to Church Chalice; full details of the fund are given on Page 17. Fabric Fund balances now stand at £18,028 (2021: £15,931).

Gorton Memorial Fund

Apart from the transfer of £1,804 from the H50 Fund detailed elsewhere in this report the only other receipt on the **Gorton Memorial Fund** during the year was that of Interest amounting to £119. This gives a balance carried forward of £10,975, (2021: £9,052) as shown on Page of 17.

Organ Fund

As regards the **Organ Fund** the only transactions was a payment for maintenance of the Organ of £252 giving a balance carried forward of £192 (2021: £444) as shown on Page of 18.

John Hicks Fund

No Receipts were received in the year (2021 - £nil). Payments amounted to £nil (2021 £1,058). The John Hicks Fund now stands at £5,802 (2021: £5,802) as shown on Page 18.

Annual Report for 2022 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Joshua and Community Project Funds

The Birchwood “**Joshua and Community Project Funds**” collectively known as “**The Table Oakwood**” were created in the year 2018 and are principally funded by external grants and are restricted funds to promote the Christian message in that area as well providing practical on the ground support.

Grants are normally received towards the end of our financial year (Dec) to cover the next 12 months costs, but this was not the case in 2021 with the Community worker and Joshua grants being received in February 2022. No further grants are due for the Joshua Fund and ongoing discussions will have to be made with the Deanery as regards Community work in Birchwood.

During the year additional grants and donations have been appreciably received to enable the provision of food parcels during these difficult times. Full details of receipts and payments so far are given on Page 19.

Ascension Heritage 50 Fund



This fund which was grant supported by the Lottery Heritage Fund was for the major refurbishment of the Church of the Ascension as part of its 50th Celebrations along associated community involvement.

This project was completed during the year 2021 leaving a small balance on 31 December 2021 remaining in the fund of £1,804 which was transferred during the year back to the Gorton Fund from which the original Church contribution to this project came.

Reserve's policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to approx. £21,000 (Including full Parish Share) and is intended to help smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies.

The bank balances of £8,800 held on unrestricted funds at the year end, together with the amounts payable to of £6,513 and by £646 amounted £14,467 being 70% of that target. The PCC's is aware that we need to do more to increase our giving to improve this situation and protect our long-term viability.

The balances of £29,195 in the Fabric, Gorton and Organ restricted funds are retained principally towards meeting the cost of major repairs to fabric of the church, its organ, and the mission hall. It is our policy to invest a substantial element of these fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and Barclays Deposit Accounts, currently amounting to £11,757 (40%) and the remainder with our principal bankers Barclays Bank Plc.

Other specific restricted fund balances amounting to £16,261 relate to Birchwood Community Projects.

In addition, the PCC can take some comfort from the fact that we own the Church (Mission) Hall which has a significant value.

Annual Report for 2022 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Safeguarding

During the year the PCC adopted the national Church of England Safeguarding Policy, as outlined in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook. Policy statements are on display inside The Church of the Ascension, The Mission Hall, and The Church of the Transfiguration. The PCC will formally review and readopt this policy, and subsequent amendments proposed by The Church of England, at the first meeting following the APCM annually.

Churchwarden's Report

We were in interregnum all year. Our vacancy was advertised, and we interviewed two applicants in May and offered the post to one of them. Although the post was accepted the appointee subsequently withdrew. By this time the second interviewee, who was an extremely close second, had already accepted another post in our Diocese. By the end of the year two more attempts at advertising had been made both of which were unsuccessful.

We reviewed our Covid precautions at each PCC meeting recognizing the need to balance our return to normal with protecting those in our congregation with vulnerabilities. In stages we removed mask wearing requirements and distancing requirements, we resumed receiving bread at the altar rail, and then receiving wine as well as bread.

The Wednesday morning service returned to the Lady Chapel. To enable better distancing the pews were arranged in a square. The regular Wednesday congregation decided they preferred them that way. Which is why they are still like that!

In July we resumed singing 4 hymns rather than 2 and began using hymn books again which gave us a larger choice of hymns as we resumed using the i-pad rather than the laptop and projector. Quite regularly we had an organist to play for us as two of our visiting priests brought one with them!

The weekly e-mail continued to be sent out and the services continued to be streamed live on Facebook.

The Diocese surveyed the Vicarage and decided some improvements were needed. This included total re-wiring and subsequent redecoration. The outside was also re-decorated, and gutters repaired. Some of this was undone in December when a pipe burst in the loft and water damaged the ceilings and walls in a couple of rooms.

The Table Sunday afternoon service at the Church of the Transfiguration continued to be led by Rev Stuart Nixon from the URC as arranged by Rev Rebecca before she left. Stuart's management became increasingly concerned as the interregnum extended and requested that Stuart be released. After a period of holding services every other Sunday, Stuart stepped down in October and Rev Audrey took on these services from November 10th which returned to weekly.

The Community Café at the Transfiguration resumed operation in March. During April we started a new venture, hosting a surplus food distribution scheme in the church ("The Bread-and-Butter Thing") this proved popular and attracted additional volunteers from the community. Unlike the Café which closes during school holidays this operates throughout the year. The Café was organised by our Christian Community Development Worker who wished to step down from her role in July. Finding a replacement proved difficult. Although the Café is now run by several volunteers from the community it must be overseen by two PCC members with help from the ex-development worker as a regular volunteer. This is a fragile situation but is determined by the school's concerns over safeguarding.

Annual Report for 2022 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The community food bank, established with the other Birchwood churches during Covid continued to provide food parcels for those in some of the poorest parts of the parish. This is funded by various grants and donations and was able to provide eighty Christmas hampers.

One of the Covid things that we decided to repeat at the Ascension was the outside Easter Garden. This is a small way of engaging the community and the Year 5 school children who coloured in the many figures.

Rev Tracey at Cinnamon Brow had been on sick leave for a long time, and this ended when she took ill health retirement at the end of January 2022. The situation at Cinnamon Brow was reviewed and not only had their congregation declined but several key people had moved away, and they did not have a fully functioning PCC. The Roman Catholic St Bridget's congregation had also declined and some major repairs to the church building were becoming needed. It was therefore decided to close the church. Final services were held there on November 13th.

Not having a Vicar means that the opportunities for worship in our schools are limited. We are very grateful to Rev Neil who has led some worship in our Woolston School. Two of the Foundation Governors at the Woolston CofE Primary School retired in November and replacements were sought.

Padgate and Woolston Walking Day went ahead in its traditional format after a two-year break.

Our finances have just survived the year but with reduced reserves we do need to raise more money to ensure our future. The best way of doing this is through regular giving by our congregation and the PCC is very grateful to all those who give regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme which enable us to recover Gift Aid from your donations promptly.

We ended 2021 looking forward to 2022 with great expectations of a new Vicar and a new era in the life of our Parish which we hope and pray will come to fruition soon.

We are also very grateful to all the retired clergy who have supported us and have become good friends. Perhaps a special thank you to our very own Rev Nigel who not only led many of our Wednesday services but also stepped up and took the additional services occasioned by mourning her Late Majesty. The final service of the year at the Ascension was the midnight mass celebrated by Archdeacon Simon Fisher.

Thank you to all who help in any way to keep the parish running. We really do need all the help we can get. We hope that we get a fully functioning PCC. The Parish will not survive without one. Look at what happened at Cinnamon Brow.



Peter Dibben – PCC Chair

29 March 2023

On behalf of the PCC for submission and approval at the APCM on 23 April 2023 (Sunday).

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the **Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the United Parish of Birchwood and Woolston (Registered Charity No. 1185707)** on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022, as set out on pages 11 to 21 of your Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 the PCC 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act.
- or, the accounts do not accord with the accounting records:

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



IE's Name: **Mr Les Dunning**

22 March 2023

Address: 24 Thetford Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 3EQ

Accounting Policies - Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

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

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The purpose of any restricted funds is noted in the financial statements.

The financial statements include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.
- Any Investments held beneficially by the PCC.

The following assets are recognised and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Amounts owing from HMRC where a formal claim has been made.
- Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.
- Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31 December by the PCC.
- Closing Cash and Bank Balances as shown in the receipts and payments account.

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Any Loans or Overdrafts advanced to the PCC.
- Any arrears of Diocesan Parish Share.
- Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31 December.

The United Parish of
BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON
 The Churches of the Transfiguration & the Ascension

Summary - All Funds - Year to 31 Dec

		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted**</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
		£	£	£	£
				<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Receipts					
Parish	General	66,906		66,906	72,344
Ascension	Fabric		2,841	2,841	1,085
Ascension	Gorton		119	119	5
Ascension	Heritage 50		0	0	70,839
Ascension	Organ		0	0	30
Transfiguration	Special Projects		23,340	23,340	685
Transfiguration	John Hicks		0	0	0
		66,906	26,300	93,206	144,988
Payments					
Parish	General	77,303		77,303	66,059
Ascension	Fabric		744	744	80
Ascension	Gorton		0	0	0
Ascension	Heritage 50		0	0	70,762
Ascension	Organ		252	252	248
Transfiguration	Special Projects		13,499	13,499	19,763
Transfiguration	John Hicks		0	0	1,058
		77,303	14,495	91,798	157,970
Transfers					
Ascension	Gorton - from Heritage 50		1,804	1,804	0
Ascension	Heritage 50 - to Gorton		(1,804)	(1,804)	0
		0	0	0	0
Surplus (Deficit)					
Parish	General	(10,397)		(10,397)	6,285
Ascension	Fabric		2,097	2,097	1,005
Ascension	Gorton		1,923	1,923	5
Ascension	Heritage 50		(1,804)	(1,804)	77
Ascension	Organ		(252)	(252)	(218)
Transfiguration	Special Projects		9,841	9,841	(19,078)
Transfiguration	John Hicks		0	0	(1,058)
		(10,397)	11,805	1,408	(12,982)
Opening Bank Balances					
Parish	General	13,395		13,395	7,110
Ascension	Fabric		15,931	15,931	14,926
Ascension	Gorton		9,052	9,052	9,047
Ascension	Heritage 50		1,804	1,804	1,727
Ascension	Organ		444	444	662
Transfiguration	Special Projects		6,420	6,420	25,498
Transfiguration	John Hicks		5,802	5,802	6,860
		13,395	39,453	52,848	65,830
Closing Bank Balances					
Parish	General	2,998		2,998	13,395
Ascension	Fabric		18,028	18,028	15,931
Ascension	Gorton		10,975	10,975	9,052
Ascension	Heritage 50		0	0	1,804
Ascension	Organ		192	192	444
Transfiguration	Special Projects		16,261	16,261	6,420
Transfiguration	John Hicks		5,802	5,802	5,802
		2,998	51,258	54,256	52,848

Registered Charity No. 1185707 (E&W)

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** Note - John Hicks Fund is Designated

The United Parish of
BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON
 The Churches of the Transfiguration & the Ascension

General Fund - Receipts & Payments Account - Unrestricted		Year -->	2022		2021	
	Note	£		£	£	£
Receipts						
Incoming resources from donors						
Regular Planned Giving						
Tax efficient planned giving	1a	27,805	42%		28,967	40%
Income Tax Recovered	1b	8,044	12%		7,980	11%
Other Regular Giving	2	2,763	4%		3,005	4%
Collections of loose cash at services	3	4,006	6%		3,130	4%
Occasional Giving - Donations	4	1,539	2%		2,859	4%
			66%	44,157		63%
						45,941
Non Recurring Grants - Diocese of Liverpool			3%	2,000		0
Other voluntary incoming resources - Legacy				0		0
Incoming resources from operating activities to further the councils objects						
Wedding and Funeral Fees - less interegnum Fees	16	(1,103)	-2%	(1,103)	(42)	0%
						(42)
Activities for generating funds						
Fund Raising	5a	4,609			2,311	
Hire of Church Hall	6a	17,243			24,134	
			33%	21,852		37%
						26,445
Total Receipts Week / Year		£1,287		£66,906	£1,391	£72,344
Payments						
Costs of activities for generating funds						
Magazine	15	440			240	
Fund Raising Costs	5b	568			393	
Church Hall Running Expenses	6b	13,507			13,298	
			19%	14,515		21%
						13,931
Donations to Charities						
Missionary Giving	7	75			75	
Christian Overseas Relief and Development Agencies		100			175	
Home Missions		325			325	
Secular Charities		0	1%	500	173	1%
						748
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church						
Cost of parish ministry						
Diocesan Parish Share	8	49,692			41,879	
Clergy Expenses	9	0			126	
Parsonage House	10	2,733			2,356	
Mission & Evangelism		0			110	
Church Running Expenses						
Heat, Light, Insurances etc	11	6,641			3,852	
Maintenance	12	353			621	
Upkeep of Services	13	1,627			1,882	
Support and training costs						
Salaries, Wages and Honaria	14a	0			0	
Support costs	14b	1,123	80%	62,169	186	77%
						51,012
Church Management and Administration						
Printing and Stationery		0			314	
Bank & Card Charges		20			43	
Miscellaneous		99	0%	119	11	1%
						368
Total Payments Week / Year		£1,487		£77,303	£1,270	£66,059
Excess of Receipts over (Payments)				(10,397)		6,285
Bank Balances						
Barclays Bank - current account at 1 January 2022				13,395		7,110
Barclays Bank - current account at 31 December 2022				£2,998		£13,395

The United Parish of
BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON
 The Churches of the Transfiguration & the Ascension

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended: - - - >>>

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

	2022		2021
	£	£	£
1a Tax efficient planned giving - gift aided			
Envelopes	1,166		1,664
Direct Payments to Bank	1,418		1,768
	2,584		3,432
Parish Giving Scheme	25,221		25,535
	<u>27,805</u>		<u>28,967</u>
1b Tax Refunds			
Envelopes & Direct Bank & Donations - re Prior Financial Year	1,152		2,499
Transfer to Other Funds re restricted donations	(64)		(1,111)
Gift Aid - Small Donations Scheme - re Prior Financial Year	744		350
Diocese - Admin Fee	(94)		(142)
Parish Giving Scheme - Current Financial Year	6,306		6,384
	<u>8,044</u>		<u>7,980</u>
2 Other Regular Giving			
Envelopes	368		475
Direct Payments to Bank	540		660
Parish Giving Scheme	1,855		1,870
	<u>2,763</u>		<u>3,005</u>
3 Collections of loose cash at services			
Collections	2,070		1,803
Collections via Sumup online.	1,759		1,012
Donations towards charities and missions - restricted (note 7)	177		315
	<u>4,006</u>		<u>3,130</u>
4 Donations			
Donations - Church General Fund	510		1,860
Donations - Church General Fund - Gift Aid	777		756
Donations - Church Flowers (restricted) - (Note 13)	134		36
Donations - Church Flowers (restricted) - Gift Aid (Note 13)	15		55
Donations - Church Magazine (restricted) - (Note 15)	93		42
Donations - Church Magazine (restricted) - Gift Aid (Note 15)	10		110
	<u>1,539</u>		<u>2,859</u>
5 Fund Raising			
a) Receipts:			
Christmas Market	1,023		1,005
Sunday Morning Tea & Coffee	194		0
Social Committee	1,848		486
Birchwood Quiz's	1,544		820
Total Receipts	<u>4,609</u>		<u>2,311</u>
b) Less Payments:			
Christmas Market	0		24
Social Committee	80		287
Birchwood Quiz's	488		82
Total Payments	<u>568</u>		<u>393</u>
Net Receipts	<u>4,041</u>		<u>1,918</u>
6 Church Hall Running Expenses			
a) Receipts:			
Regular Lettings	16,513		24,134
Casual Lettings	730		0
Total Receipts	<u>17,243</u>		<u>24,134</u>
b) Less Payments:			
Electric	3,467		2,016
Gas	3,103		2,879
Water	1,607		472
Insurance - (Note 18)	1,349		1,324
Maintenance	1,636		4,580
Cleaning - Wages	1,083		876
Cleaning - Payroll Costs	275		86
Cleaning - Materials	483		342
Refuse Collection	504		723
Total Costs	<u>13,507</u>		<u>13,298</u>
Net Receipts	<u>3,736</u>		<u>10,836</u>

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended: - - - >>>

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account (cont'd)

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£	£	£	£
7 Donations to Charities				
Missionary Giving				
United Society (USPG)	75	75	75	75
Christian Overseas Relief and Development Agencies				
Christian Aid	100	100	175	175
Home Missions				
The Children's Society	325	325	325	325
Secular Charities				
Fox Wood School	0	0	173	173
Total payments		500		748
Direct giving (restricted) in respect of the above - see note 3		177		315
Net payment of Church Funds		323		433
8 Diocesan Parish Share				
Parish Share - Amount Paid		49,692		41,879
Waived by Diocese re Covid19		5,238		10,873
Total Parish Share due for year		54,930		52,752
(Year 2023 - £53,403 being £1.027 per week)				
9 Clergy Expenses				
Telephone	0	0	126	126
10 Parsonage House				
Council Tax & Water Rates	0		1,412	
Costs whilst Vacant - due to Interregnum	2,733		944	
		2,733		2,356
11 Church Running Expenses				
Electric	468		468	
Gas	3,430		1,605	
Water	444		182	
Web, Broadband & Mobiles	830		255	
Insurance - Ascension - (Note 18)	776		758	
Insurance - Transfiguration - (Note 18)	492		485	
Cleaning	201		99	
		6,641		3,852
12 Church Maintenance				
<u>Ascension</u>				
Fire Extinguishers & Hose Maintenance	165		148	
Electrics - 3 Yr & PAT Tests	0		86	
General Maintenance	18		34	
Glazing	170		0	
Heating & Plumbing	0		221	
	353		489	
<u>Transfiguration</u>				
Lightning Conductors - Transfiguration	0		132	
<u>Total</u>		353		621
13 Upkeep of services				
Service Books, Music Sheets and Licences	712		679	
Holy Communion Wine, Wafers, Candles	324		567	
Special Service Expenses	192		330	
Vine Service Expenses	226		215	
Church Flowers	173		91	
		1,627		1,882

Note: restricted donations of £149 (2021 £91) received towards cost of Flowers - see note 4.

**Notes to Financial Statements for year ended: - - >>>
 General Fund Receipts & Payments Account (cont'd)**

	2022	2021
	£	£
14 Salaries and support costs		
a) Salaries		
Organist	0	0
Verger	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
b) Support costs		
Christian Organisations - Subscriptions	30	0
Computer & Web Costs	0	48
Lay Training	735	20
Parish hospitality - special services	58	118
Walking Day	300	0
	<u>1,123</u>	<u>186</u>
15 Magazine		
Costs	440	240
Less		
Donations (Note4)	93	42
Donations (Gift Aid) (Note 4)	10	110
	<u>103</u>	<u>152</u>
Cost after donations	<u>337</u>	<u>88</u>
16 Fees		
Fees - Funerals, Weddings - PCC Element	937	1,324
Fees - Funerals & Weddings - Diocese Element allowed as set off	928	206
	<u>1,865</u>	<u>1,530</u>
Fees - Banns & Other Certificates	286	264
	<u>2,151</u>	<u>1,794</u>
Paid over to Diocese	0	672
Paid Over to Organists	0	70
Paid Over to Organ Fund	0	30
Paid - Interregnum Fee's & Expenses	3,254	1,064
	<u>3,254</u>	<u>1,836</u>
Total PCC Fees per accounts	<u>(1,103)</u>	<u>(42)</u>
PCC - Net Receipts	1,223	816
PCC - Net Interregnum Costs	<u>(2,326)</u>	<u>(858)</u>
Total PCC Fees per accounts	<u>(1,103)</u>	<u>(42)</u>

On behalf of the Diocese of Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance - £1,865 was received as fees from Funeral Directors and private individuals in regard to funerals, burials and weddings. This money was distributed in accordance with current diocesan guidance as detailed above. In addition £928 was retained (as allowed by Diocese) to be set off against Interregnum fee's of £3,254 - the balance of £2,326 is reclaimable from the Diocese at the discretion of the Archdeacon - such a claim will be made in due course and this amount has been included in Debtors in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities along with £858 outstanding for Year 2021.

The Notes above relate to the General Account to be found on Page 13

17 Debtors - Statement of Assets and Liabilities - Page 21

Gift Aid Tax Refunds relate to monies received under gift aid in the year to which a claim is to be submitted to HMRC; Other debtors relate to Utilities in advance and net Interregnum fees paid out not yet reclaimed.

18 Other Assets - Statement of Assets and Liabilities - Page 21

These assets consist of the Church Hall building known as the Mission and its contents and are shown at the values they were insured for as notified on 5 September 2018, as has been our normal practice for some years.

However from 8 October 2018 all Church Properties are now included in a single Parish Plus Policy that covers the both Churches (see Note 11) and Hall (see Note 6b) with cover for each buildings and contents totalling up to a maximum of £2.96m for each property irrespective of its current value.

Note: - Neither Church Building is shown as an asset as they are not owned by the United Parish of Birchwood & Woolston.

19 Liabilities - Statement of Assets and Liabilities - Page 21

Other creditors mainly relate to Utilities in arrear.

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022

Fabric Fund - Restricted Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations:				
In Memorial - General	65		0	
In Memorial - Gift Aid	540		250	
Legacy	2,000		0	
Donations	40		0	
Envelopes - Gift Aid	0		5	
		2,645		255
Gift Aid - Tax Refunds		64		765
Activities for generating funds				
Remembrance Book	130		65	
		130		65
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest		2		0
Total Receipts		2,841		1,085
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Church - Chalice Repairs	621		0	
Inscribing Remembrance Book	123		80	
		744		80
Excess of Receipts over Payments		2,097		1,005
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current / deposit accounts at 1 January 2022		15,931		14,926
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2022	15,442		13,647	
Barclays Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2022	2,586		2,284	
		£18,028		£15,931

This fund is restricted to the maintenance of the Fabric & Contents of Woolston Church Buildings.

Gorton Memorial Fund - Restricted Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Income from Investments				
Interest - CCLA		119		5
Total Receipts		119		5
Transfers				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Transfer back from Ascension Heritage 50 Fund	1,804		0	
		1,804		0
Excess of Receipts over Payments		1,923		5
Bank Balances				
CCLA Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2022		9,052		9,047
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2022	1,804		0	
CCLA Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2022	9,171		9,052	
		£10,975		£9,052

This fund is restricted to the maintenance of the Fabric of Church Buildings & Contents in Woolston

The United Parish of
BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON
 The Churches of the Transfiguration & the Ascension

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022

Organ Fund - Restricted Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations				
Maintenance Fees from Funerals	0	0	30	30
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest		0		0
		0		30
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Repairs to Organ	252	252	248	248
Excess of (Payments) over Receipts		(252)		(218)
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current account at 1 January 2022		444		662
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2022		£192		£444

This fund is restricted to the maintenance and renewal of the Church Organ

Birchwood - John Hicks - Designated Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations:				
Grants & Donations towards Replacement Ceiling				
Donations	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts		0		0
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Chairs for Birchwood C of E School	0		1,058	
		0		1,058
Excess of Receipts over Payments		0		(1,058)
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current account at 1 January 2022		5,802		6,860
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2022		£5,802		£5,802

This fund is designated for the maintenance of the Fabric of the Church & associated in Birchwood

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022

Birchwood - Joshua Project - Restricted Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£	£	£	
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations:				
LBDF - Grant - Birchwood Projects	8,000		0	
		8,000		0
Total Receipts		8,000		0
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Salaries & National Insurance	661		2,465	
Payrol & Admin Costs	44		87	
Travel Costs	0		8	
Other Costs	532		27	
Messy Church	197		266	
Activity Costs	16		296	
		1,450		3,149
Excess of Receipts over Payments		6,550		(3,149)
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current account at 1 January 2022		1,368		4,517
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2022		<u>£7,918</u>		<u>£1,368</u>

This fund is restricted for the development of a new congregation in Birchwood. It has been provided by the Diocese of Liverpool through their Joshua Centre project, which is funded by the Church of England Strategic Development Fund. The funding is provided on a reducing scale over 6 years, until October 2024 and in the early years this enabled us to employ a congregational leader for one day per week; this ended in July 2021 but a new appointment was made in November 2022. Final grant monies to take us to the end of the project were received in the current year.

Birchwood - Community Project - Restricted Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations:				
Donations	570		(165)	
Deanery - Grant - Community Worker	13,694		0	
Food Parcel Grants	250		850	
Lunch Club Donations	826		0	
		15,340		685
Total Receipts		15,340		685
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Christian Community Worker:				
Salaries, National Insurance & Pensions	7,474		11,659	
Payrol & Admin Costs	143		130	
Office Rent	1,440		1,440	
Office Costs	163		183	
Travel Costs	39		65	
Training	484		0	
Mobile Phone	339		326	
Food Parcels	320		1,324	
Other Neighbourly items	39		0	
Lunch Club - Running Costs	1,529		688	
Other Costs	79		799	
		12,049		16,614
Excess of Receipts over Payments		3,291		(15,929)
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current account at 1 January 2022		5,052		20,981
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2022		<u>£8,343</u>		<u>£5,052</u>

This fund is restricted for the employment of a Christian Community Development Worker and associated works to serve the Birchwood part of our parish. The majority of the funding is provided by the Deanery Mission and Growth Fund. Our Community worker retired in August 2022 and the project is currently staffed by volunteers.

Both of the above Projects work in tandem with each other and are collectively known as "THE TABLE, OAKWOOD".

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022

Ascension - Heritage 50 Fund - Restricted Receipts & Payments Account		2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£	
Receipts					
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giv					
Restricted Donations:					
Donations	0		85		
		0		85	
Gift Aid - Tax Refunds		0		346	
Activities for generating funds					
Heritage Events	0		3,765		
		0		3,765	
Non recurring grants					
Heritage Fund - Lottery Grant		0		66,643	
Total External Receipts		0		70,839	
Transfers back to Gorton Fund		(1,804)		0	
Total Receipts		(1,804)		70,839	
Payments					
Activities directly relating to the objectives of the Lottery Heritage Fund Grant					
Church - Structural Repairs & Conservation	0		47,728		
Church - Professional Fees	0		2,301		
	0		50,029		
Staff - Heritage Engagement Officer	0		9,642		
Staff - Recuitment, Training, Travel, Other Expe	0		821		
Publicity & Promotion	0		315		
Equipment,- Speakers.Screen, Projector,etc	0		2,198		
Misc	0		45		
Event costs	0		5,212		
Evaluation of project	0		2,500		
		0		70,762	
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(1,804)		77	
Bank Balances					
Barclays Bank current account at 1 January 2022		1,804		1,727	
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2022		£0		£1,804	

This project was completed in August 2021.

This fund is restricted to the agreed objects of the Lottery Heritage Grant Award

Registered Charity No. 1185707 (E&W)

Page Number: 20

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2022

	General Fund <u>Unrestricted</u> £	Fabric Fund <u>Restricted</u> £	Gorton Fund <u>Restricted</u> £	Organ Fund <u>Restricted</u> £	Birchwood Projects <u>Restricted</u> £	John Hicks Fund <u>Designated</u> £	Totals	
							2022 £	2021 £
Monetary Assets								
Bank Accounts - Current - Barclays	2,998	15,442	1,804	192	16,261	5,802	42,499	41,512
Bank Accounts - Deposit - Barclays		2,586					2,586	2,284
Bank Accounts - Deposit - CCLA			9,171				9,171	9,052
Total Bank	2,998	18,028	10,975	192	16,261	5,802	54,256	52,848
Debtors - (Note 17)								
Gift Aid Tax Refunds	1,934						1,934	1,801
Interegnum Fees reclaimable	3,184						3,184	858
Other	1,395						1,395	353
Total Debtors	6,513	0	0	0	0	0	6,513	3,012
Other Assets - (Note 18)								
Church Hall (Mission) - Building **	540,000						540,000	540,000
Church Hall (Mission) - Contents **	15,000						15,000	15,000
Total Other	555,000	0	0	0	0	0	555,000	555,000
** per Insurance Valuation Sept 5 2018								
Total Assets	564,511	18,028	10,975	192	16,261	5,802	615,769	610,860
Liabilities - (Note 19)								
Fabric & Buildings	0						0	0
Other Creditors	646						646	1,262
Total Liabilities	646	0	0	0	0	0	646	1,262
Net Assets								
Restricted / Designated	555,000	18,028	10,975	192	16,261	5,802	606,258	594,453
Unrestricted	8,865	0	0	0	0	0	8,865	15,145
Total	£563,865	£18,028	£10,975	£192	£16,261	£5,802	£615,123	£609,598

On behalf of the PCC


Peter Dibben
Chairperson

Dated 22 March 2023

10 Year Historical Data - General Account

										Current Yr	Budget
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<u>Receipts</u>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources from donors											
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	21,587	22,852	24,161	26,213	26,725	30,039	30,785	28,525	28,967	27,805	28,500
Income Tax Recovered	5,675	6,579	7,933	11,372	9,819	8,994	9,064	10,008	7,980	8,044	8,000
Planned Giving - Other	1,398	1,606	1,559	1,413	1,574	1,186	1,168	3,063	3,005	2,763	3,000
Collections and Other Giving	5,629	5,545	5,290	5,659	5,177	4,429	4,545	1,161	3,130	4,006	4,000
Donations	2,113	7,300	8,310	5,006	2,137	1,454	5,272	4,079	2,859	1,539	2,000
	36,402	43,882	47,253	49,663	45,432	46,102	50,834	46,836	45,941	44,157	45,500
Incoming resources from operating activities to further the councils objects											
Magazine Adverts	156	150	150	100	200	90	260	180	0	0	0
Wedding and Funeral Fees	1,276	511	2,154	1,571	1,149	1,788	1,746	327	(42)	(1,103)	2,000
	1,432	661	2,304	1,671	1,349	1,878	2,006	507	(42)	(1,103)	2,000
Activities for generating funds											
Fund Raising / Other	6,174	7,270	7,003	6,815	7,263	7,313	6,287	2,587	2,311	4,609	5,000
Rent from Church Hall	11,214	12,786	16,414	14,986	15,374	16,346	16,344	15,765	24,134	17,243	22,500
	17,388	20,056	23,417	21,801	22,637	23,659	22,631	18,352	26,445	21,852	27,500
Other Receipts											
Grants / Insurance Claims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	2,000	0
Total Receipts	£55,222	£64,599	£72,974	£73,135	£69,418	£71,639	£75,471	£66,695	£72,344	£66,906	£75,000
										Per Week ->	£ 1,442
										Current Yr	Budget
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<u>Payments</u>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Costs of activities for generating funds											
Books	22	92	-	9	20	-	-	-	-	0	0
Magazine Printing	564	540	520	480	480	480	480	160	240	440	500
Fund Raising Costs	905	1,291	1,413	1,451	1,538	1,869	1,746	788	393	568	750
Church Hall Running Expenses	8,041	7,093	11,672	8,770	6,537	11,024	11,710	7,572	13,298	13,507	16,000
	9,532	9,016	13,605	10,710	8,575	13,373	13,936	8,520	13,931	14,515	17,250
Grants											
Missionary Giving	179	187	322	604	225	225	225	75	75	75	75
Christian Overseas Relief and Development	450	550	470	300	300	100	125	125	175	100	125
Home Missions	500	675	600	750	850	600	500	300	325	325	300
Secular Charities	100	175	177	-	575	-	-	-	173	0	0
	1,229	1,587	1,569	1,654	1,950	925	850	500	748	500	500
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church											
Diocesan Parish Share	40,665	41,562	45,205	45,210	46,117	47,042	47,516	42,118	41,879	49,692	53,401
Clergy Expenses & Mission	1,400	1,000	1,575	643	1,158	1,308	1,156	477	236	0	0
Parsonage House	2,399	1,251	1,303	1,900	1,174	2,273	2,244	2,303	2,356	2,733	2,750
Heat, Light, Insurances etc	4,209	4,558	5,991	6,105	3,669	3,778	5,290	4,364	3,852	6,641	7,500
Maintenance	151	874	479	2,510	820	1,256	2,267	612	621	353	500
Upkeep of Services	1,448	1,988	1,995	2,114	2,363	2,568	1,979	1,791	1,882	1,627	1,500
Salaries, Wages and Honaria	195	20	20	860	60	-	-	-	-	0	0
Support Costs	552	799	447	461	401	759	386	-	186	1,123	599
	51,019	52,052	57,015	59,803	55,762	58,984	60,838	51,665	51,012	62,169	66,250
Church Management and Administration											
Printing and Stationery	139	155	277	244	311	178	112	417	314	0	0
Office Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	(19)	138	141	137	401	145	54	107	11	99	200
Bank Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	76	43	20	50
	120	293	418	381	712	323	166	600	368	119	250
Total Payments	£61,900	£62,948	£72,607	£72,548	£66,999	£73,605	£75,790	£61,285	£66,059	£77,303	£84,250
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(£6,678)	£1,651	£367	£587	£2,419	(£1,966)	(£319)	£5,410	£6,285	Per Week -> (£10,397)	(£9,250)
Balances:											
Bank balances at start of year	£5,639	(£1,039)	£612	£979	£1,566	£3,985	£2,019	£1,700	£7,110	£13,395	£2,998
Bank balances at end of year	(£1,039)	£612	£979	£1,566	£3,985	£2,019	£1,700	£7,110	£13,395	£2,998	(£6,252)

Accounts

The United Parish of

BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON

The Churches of the Transfiguration & the Ascension

Registered Charity Number 1185707 (England & Wales)

Parochial Church Council

Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2021

Submitted to and approved by the APCM on 10 April 2022

Signed



Peter Dibben - APCM Chair



The Ascension - Parish Church



The Transfiguration - Worship Centre

Incumbent:

Currently in Interegnum

Bankers:

Barclays Bank Plc
Warrington Business Centre
25 Sankey Street
Warrington

CCLA

Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London

.....

Architect

Rebecca Grimshaw - Anthony Grimshaw Associates
6 Brideman Terrace, Wigan, WN1 1SX

Independent Examiner:

Mr Les Dunning

Annual Report for 2021 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Elected Members - continued

Mr. Stuart Walsh
Mrs. Yvonne Woolley

** PCC representatives on: Warrington East Team Council

Appointments

Mrs. Sheila Walsh	Secretary of the PCC	
Mr. Peter Dibben	Vice Chair of the PCC	
Mr. Jon Bailey	Treasurer of the PCC	
Mrs. Pat Prince	Gift Aid Secretary	
Mr. Duncan Howarth	Safeguarding Officer	
Mr. Peter Dibben	Health and Safety Officer	
Mrs. Cheryl Simpson	Electoral Roll Officer	Officer for Birchwood
Mrs. Yvonne Woolley	Churches Together	
Mrs. Ethel Brocklebank	Churches Together	
Mr. Neil Fairweather	Warrington Educational Trust	

Committees

Standing Committee:

This committee is a legal requirement to take decisions if the full PCC cannot be consulted. It is also responsible for finance. Decisions made and actions taken are reported at the next full PCC meeting.

Public Benefit

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

In the United Parish of Birchwood and Woolston our mission statement is '**God in the Community**'. This confirms our mission to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, both through the Word and our deeds to love the Lord our God and to love his children, our neighbours and love each other in our fellowship. When planning our activities for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

In 2021, the following public benefits were provided:

Regular public worship open to all – when Covid 19 restrictions allowed.

The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation and helping people who have asked for assistance with prayer.

Pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved, and offering Holy Communion to those who are not able to leave their own homes.

Taking of religious assemblies in Birchwood C of E Primary School, and Woolston C of E Primary School. Messy Church takes place at The Church of the Transfiguration, in partnership with Birchwood C of E School.

Promoting the whole mission of the Church through regular social and fundraising activities open to the whole community.

Supporting those in need in our community, through our project The Table Oakwood and the employment of a Christian Community Development Worker.

Annual Report for 2021 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas through giving to special appeals.

Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Courses and small groups were delivered as part of the Warrington East Team, Warrington Deanery, and Churches Together in East Warrington.

Working in partnership with the other Anglican churches in the Warrington East Team; namely Christ Church, Padgate, and The Church of the Resurrection, Cinnamon Brow.

Regularly meeting with our ecumenical partners through Churches Together in East Warrington.

Regular review of Safeguarding policies and practices for our work with young people and vulnerable adults.

Church Attendance

The Church of the Ascension is the designated Parish Church.

During the pandemic, the average Sunday attendance when the Ascension has been open for public worship, has been 42 adults and 2 children. When closed for public attendance, worship has taken place on Facebook Live, with around 30 households engaging each Sunday.

The Church of the Transfiguration continues to be used for services in connection with the Birchwood School and for occasional offices when pandemic restrictions allowed.

The electoral roll for the United Parish was completely revised on 7 April 2019 with a total of 83, 11 of which are resident outside the United Parish as of 3 March 2021 there were 80 on the electoral roll of which 11 were outside the parish. Updated electoral roll numbers will be given at the APCM.

The Gorton Memorial Trust

The Gorton Memorial Trust was set up in 1980 with the sole objective of the charity being the repair, maintenance and general upkeep of the church as served by the Church of the Ascension Woolston and also by such means as are charitable, the promotion of the Christian Faith in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.

From time to time the PCC have requested financial assistance from the trust and over the years the trust has made grants to the PCC towards costs incurred on the Vicarage, Church Roof, Church Heating System, Service Books, Disabled Access and Toilet.

The Trust was disbanded in 2007 and its assets transferred to the PCC. The assets transferred have been put into a new PCC Fund called "**Gorton Memorial Fund**" and incorporated into the Financial Statements attached to this report. It is the intention of the PCC to use these funds only for purposes laid out in the original Gorton Trust Deed.

As part of our successful bid to the  for a grant to enable major repairs to be carried out to the **Church of the Ascension** the PCC allocated **£20,000** from this Fund in the year 2020 towards that project. This topic is covered in more detail elsewhere in this Report.

PCC Review of the Year

As for most of 2020 the on-going Covid-19 restrictions affected all areas of life. The PCC met eight times and all meetings were conducted following the rules in place at the time. Average attendance was 86%. Two meetings were held over Zoom; two meetings were held in church and the remainder in the Mission Hall.

Any decisions made at meeting using Zoom were ratified by email votes.

Annual Report for 2021 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Following the news that the Rev. Rebecca Roberts and her husband, Rev. Michael Roberts, would be leaving the parish this meant a lot of re-organisation with Rev. Stuart Nixon of the United Reform Church agreeing to take over much of the work done at Birchwood on the Joshua Project – our grateful thanks go to him for help at this time.

Archdeacon Simon Fisher, came to speak to the PCC about beginning the process of filling the vacancy. The pre-Section 11 meeting and the Section 11 meeting were held promptly to ensure that the process was begun as quickly as possible and the other team members contacted to elect their representatives. Mr Peter Dibben and Mrs Yvonne Woolley were elected as our representatives. It was confirmed that there would be a like-for-like appointment would be made.

The PCC continued to address the usual matters of finance, maintenance and all other routine matters. Work continued on the Heritage Project 50. Mr Stuart Robinson continued his valuable work with the Heritage project, Two Zoom meetings were held with Sarah Harding from the NLHF and discussions and suggestions were explored about widening the links with the community.

The PCC also reviewed its safeguarding and health and safety policies, these are also displayed on the Church of the Ascension notice board.

After Rev. Rebecca's departure the PCC discussed how to continue to hold our regular events including Remembrance Day, Harvest and Christmas. Mr Stuart Walsh agreed to find cover for our regular services and readers for every service.

The PCC reluctantly accepted Mrs. Susan Rustage's decision to stand down as a PCC member. Gratitude for her valuable contribution over the year was expressed. As PCC secretary I would like to thank every member of the PCC for their hard work and dedication during such difficult and unprecedented times.

In normal times the PCC minutes are placed on the Church of the Ascension notice board following approval at the subsequent meeting

Financial Review of the Year

The Summary on page 12 shows the overall performance of each of the funds under the control of the PCC with Receipts totaling £144,988 and Payments of £157,970 giving an overall deficit for the year of £12,982 and fund balances carried forward of £52,848.

Receipts and payments in the year are much higher than normal due to the major refurbishment of the Church of the Ascension as part of our 50th celebrations which also includes projects to connect with the wider community in our Parish; this building and community work is supported by the  (National Lottery Heritage Fund). Receipts and Payments under this scheme are detailed on Page 20 of the accounts.

This project was completed during 2021 and that total Receipts and Payments will be lower year 2022.

The following notes highlight what has happened to each fund.

General Fund

The Receipts & Payments Account of the **General Fund** covers the day to day running expenses of the Church and this is included in the Financial Statements for 2021 attached to this Report on page 13 with supporting notes on the following pages.

This shows we had a **surplus** of Receipts over Payments of **£6,285** for the year (Yr. 2020 £5,410) giving a balance in hand at the 31 December 2021 of **£13,395** (Dec 2020 £7,110).

The main reason we ended up with a surplus is that as part of the Diocese of Liverpool's continuing Covid 19 support to the Parish they reduced Parish Share Payments by a £1,000 per month for the last 10 months of

Annual Report for 2021 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

the year which amounted to £10,000 and without that much appreciated support we would have had a deficit for the year.

The **salient points** that should be considered when reviewing the financial statements for the General Account for the year are as follows:

Receipts:

- Receipts at £72,344 were up £5,649 (8.5%) on 2020.
- Our weekly income was £1,391 (2020: £1,283).
- Overall giving (including tax refunds) decreased by £895 (1.9%) to £45,941.
 - Tax efficient planned giving up by £442 (1.5%) at £28,967.
 - Tax Refund down £2,078 (20%) at £7,930 – change of scheme – timing differences.
 - Other regular giving, collections and donations were up £691 (8%) at £8,994.
- 36% (2020 30%) of our income comes from Grants, Fees, Fund Raising and the Church Hall, these were up in total by £6,544 (32.9%) at £26,403.

Payments:

- Payments at £66,059 were up £4,774 (7.8%) on 2020.
- Weekly expenditure amounted to £1,270 (2020: £1,179).
- In the year our Parish Share payments went up by £2,211 (4.3%) to £52,752 being £1,014 per week.
 - However we paid £41,879 with a rebate of and Covid support waived being £10,873 – see notes elsewhere re this.
- Church Hall costs were up 75% at £13,298 (LY £7,572) primarily due to increased utility and maintenance costs.
- The Church running costs were also 10% lower at £4,473 (LY £4,976) primarily due to reduced utility bills as a result on lower use of the Church building and also due to its major refurbishment.

As regards Parish Share it should be noted that the new scheme introduced at Deanery level for year 2020 saw substantial increases at a parish level for many Churches with our increase being £2,910 (6%) to £50,541 in that year. This trend has continued with the charge for year 2021 being £52,752 and for year 2022 it will be £54,929

As mentioned previously because of the impact of Covid 19 the Diocese waived substantial amounts in the year 2020 £8,423 and year 2021 £10,873 – without this help we would have struggled financially.

In the coming year (2022) however the reduction is much lower at £2,177 giving a net total for the year of £52,752 and this equates to £19.50 per week for each of the 52 (at Dec 2021) regular planned givers to the church.

Gift Aid gives us a bonus of 25p for each pound given in a tax refund from the Government which amounted to £7,980 in this year's accounts. This was made up of £1,596 in respect of the previous 12 months to December 2020 and £6,384 via Parish Giving Scheme for the current year. In the last 10 years gift aid tax refunds to the General Account have totaled £82,579 (to Lyr £80,790).

Mentioned in previous year's reports a scheme called "**Parish Giving**" (PGS) was introduced by the C of E and if you give via this scheme and are a taxpayer the church gets the tax refund monthly (this really helps Church's cash flow) rather than waiting a year to claim it back; 36 Church Members were in the scheme during 2021 and this brought in a tax refund of £6,384 during the year (see above). Many thanks for this.

Details of the Scheme are given on page 9 and will be highlighted at the APCM and hopefully you will consider joining if you have not done so already – you don't have to be a taxpayer to participate and this is our preferred regular giving scheme - if interested please contact Mr. John Bailey or Mrs. Pat Prince.

Our thanks go to all who support the Church either financially or in other ways.

Annual Report for 2021 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The Budget for 2022 is subject to the continuing impact of Covid 19 along with increased Parish Share and shows a deficit (overspend) of £6,500 (£125pw) with Receipts of £74,000 (£1,423pw) and payments of £80,500 (£1,548 pw) – see page 22 – obviously not ideal and assumes continued support of the congregation.

Fabric Fund

Receipts to the **Fabric Fund** were £1,085 (2020 - £2,876) which included donations of £320 and tax refund of £785. A fee for inscribing Book of Remembrance of £80 was paid. The Fabric Fund now stands at £15,931 (2020: £14,926) as shown on Page of 17.

Gorton Memorial Fund

The only receipt on the **Gorton Memorial Fund** during the year was that of Interest amounting to £5. This gives a balance carried forward of £9,052, (2020: £9,047) as shown on Page of 17.

Organ Fund

As regards the **Organ Fund** the only transactions were a receipt from funerals of £30 towards maintenance of the Organ and a payment for maintenance of the Organ of £444 giving a balance carried forward of £444 (2020: £662) as shown on Page of 18.

John Hicks Fund

No Receipts were received in the year (2020 - £200). Payments amounted to £1,058 (2020 £nil) during the year and were in respect of new chairs for the Birchwood School Hall which are funded by a donation that was received in 2019. The John Hicks Fund now stands at £5,802 (2020: £6,860) as shown on Page 18.

Joshua and Community Project Funds

The Birchwood “**Joshua and Community Project Funds**” collectively known as “**The Table Oakwood**” were created in the year 2018 and are principally funded by external grants and are restricted funds to promote the Christian message in that area as well providing practical on the ground support. We originally had 2 part time members of staff who started towards the end year 2018 but this reduced to 1 in August 2021 being our Christian Community Worker in Birchwood

Grants are normally received towards the end of our financial year (Dec) to cover the next 12 months costs, but this has not been the case in 2021. We received the Community worker and Joshua grants in February 2022.

During the year additional grants and donations have been appreciably received to enable the provision of food parcels during these difficult Covid 19 times. Full details of receipts and payments so far are given on Page 19.

Ascension Heritage 50 Fund



This fund which is grant supported by the Lottery Heritage Fund is for the major refurbishment of the Church of the Ascension as part of its 50th Celebrations along associated community involvement.

Full details of receipts £70,839 and payments £70,762 in the year are detailed on page 20 of the accounts.

The Lottery Heritage Fund meets 88% of the costs with the Church providing the balance of 12% through Community Events (somewhat curtailed re Covid 19), donations and transfer from reserves (Gorton).

Annual Report for 2021 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

This project was completed during the year leaving a small balance remaining in the fund of £1,804; its proposed to transfer this in due course back to the Gorton Fund if no late costs in respect of this project materialise.

Reserve's policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to approx. £20,000 (Including full Parish Share) and is intended to help smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies.

The bank balances of £19,197 held on unrestricted funds at the year end, together with the amounts payable to of £3,012 and by £1,262 amounted £20,947 being 105% of that target. The PCC's is aware that aid from the Diocese in the year has helped to improve this position at the yearend but as a PCC we know we need to do more without needing such help.

The balances of £27,231 in the Fabric, Gorton, H50 and Organ restricted funds are retained principally towards meeting the cost of major repairs to fabric of the church, its organ and the mission hall. It is our policy to invest a substantial element of these fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and Barclays Deposit Accounts, currently amounting to £11,336 (42%) and the remainder with our principal bankers Barclays Bank Plc.

Other specific restricted fund balances amounting to £6,420 relate to Birchwood Community Projects.

In addition, the PCC can take some comfort from the fact that we own the Church (Mission) Hall which has a significant value.

Safeguarding

During the year the PCC adopted the national Church of England Safeguarding Policy, as outlined in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook. Policy statements are on display inside The Church of the Ascension, The Mission Hall, and The Church of the Transfiguration. The PCC will formally review and readopt this policy, and subsequent amendments proposed by The Church of England, at the first meeting following the APCM annually.

Churchwarden's Report

After the Covid reduced Christmas 2020, 2021 started with one service in church on 3 January 2021 before we shut down again for three months. Rev. Rebecca was able to stream Sunday services direct from the Church of the Ascension thanks to the Wi-Fi installation that was part of the Heritage Lottery funded work.

The Church of the Transfiguration at Birchwood also closed and the Sunday afternoon "Table" services were held using Whatsapp. Purely social meets were held approximately monthly in a nearby park. The community food bank, established with the other Birchwood churches continued operation and provided a real need for those in some of the poorest parts of the parish. This was funded from various generous grants and donations.

During this shutdown PCC meetings and a lent course were held on-line. The Church of the Ascension reopened for Sunday worship on 28 March 2021, Palm Sunday. Certain activities could take place outside and the school children contributed to a wonderful outside Easter Garden.

Wednesday morning services re-started on 28 April 2021 but in the church to enable distancing. The heritage lottery work continued until July, mainly re-pointing the brickwork.

Others were, of course, also affected by Covid and Woolston Parish council used the Church several times for their meetings in order to have enough space to hold socially distance meetings.

Annual Report for 2021 to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

In the summer we held a very successful summer event – “The Ascension Fest”. This was the final event of the Heritage Lottery project, with the lottery providing some setting-up funding, it attracted a large number of visitors from the local community.

A confirmation service was held at Birchwood in July when four adults, mostly parents that started by coming to the Birchwood messy church and then “The Table” Sunday services, were confirmed. Two teenagers from Woolston who missed out in 2020 were also confirmed at that service.

Rev. Rebecca Roberts announced her new appointment on 11 April 2021 and held her final Sunday service on 1 August 2021 before leaving us for the parish of Lower Darwen in the Diocese of Blackburn. Rebecca’s husband Mike also left and his role as missional leader at “The Table” has been temporarily filled by Rev. Stuart Nixon.

As with all parishes that fall into vacancy, the Deanery took long look at us. Their decision was that because we were a Parish with a reasonably large congregation at one church and were making efforts to build up a new congregation at the other that it was appropriate to appoint a new vicar on a like for like basis. The vacancy process is very slow and we had to wait until November for the Diocese Mission and Pastoral committee to ratify the Deanery’s proposal. In the meantime, we had put together our ‘Parish Profile’, which describes the parish for the benefit of potential applicants.

By the end of the year with most of our congregation having received at least two doses of Vaccine and in many cases three, normal Sunday attendance settled at just below pre-Covid levels with a handful of people watching online each week. This only reduced slightly when the Omicron Variant was announced. However, attendance at all the live Christmas services was much reduced.

Curiously, fewer funerals took place in both 2020 and 2021 than in 2019.

Team events have been minimal because of Covid. It didn’t help that Rev. Tracey at Cinnamon Brow was on sick leave for a long time. This was to end when she took ill health retirement at the end of January 2022.

Not having a Vicar means that the opportunities for worship in our schools are limited. We are very grateful to Rev. Nigel who offered to officiate at a school service in church at the Ascension in December as well as taking his share of our regular services.

We are also very grateful to all the other retired clergy who have supported us not forgetting Archdeacon Simon who has also officiated here. The final service of the Year at the Ascension was the midnight mass celebrated by Bishop Beverley Mason.

Our finances have survived the year but we do need to raise more money to ensure our future. The best way of doing this is through regular giving by our congregation and the PCC is very grateful to all those who give regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme which enable us to recover Gift Aid from your donations promptly.

We ended 2021 looking forward to 2022 with great expectations of a new Vicar and a new era in the life of our Parish which we hope and pray will come to fruition

Peter Dibben – PCC Chair



16 March 2022

On behalf of the PCC for submission and approval at the APCM on 10 April 2022 (Sunday).

The Church of the Ascension Woolston



Your church has registered with www.parishgivingscheme.org. This is the information you need when you ring to make your gifts to your church through the PGS:

Our full church name is:
Church of the Ascension -
Woolston

Our unique church code is:
220622217

QR code



To change your Direct
Debit, once it is set up:
Via My PGS on the website

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/my-pgs/>

or ring the PGS team on 0333 002 1260,
or email info@parishgiving.org.uk.

You can also write to:
Parish Giving Scheme
76 Kingsholm Road
Gloucester
GL1 3BD.

Supporting your church

Giving through the Parish Giving Scheme

Why give through the Parish Giving Scheme?

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is simply the best way you can support The church of the Ascension. The PGS is an Anglican charity. Most Liverpool parishes have joined and over half of English dioceses support it. Joining the PGS makes a huge difference compared with weekly envelopes or cash on the plate because we can collect your gift now. It is more efficient than standing orders.

Your gift is *always* in your full control (by online, email or phone) with PGS. The Scheme is for every church member with a bank account. You do not need to pay tax.

Your gift leaves your account by Direct Debit on the 1st of each month. It is in church account by the 10th and any Gift Aid reclaims by the end of the month. The PGS saves time and administration and helps with cash flow. Your gift will support our ministry and PGS helps us make generous giving part of our daily life and discipleship. **How do I join, firstly**

- Have your bank details to hand: account number, sort code and the name of your bank.
- Have the church details found on the left to hand: our church name and our unique PGS church code.

Then choose one of three ways

1. Ring the PGS office in Gloucester on **0333 002 1271**. They will guide you through the process, Monday to Friday 9- 5pm
2. By the website.
<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/> and type in church code or the church postcode or scan the QR code with a smart phone.
3. By completing a Gift Form available from John Bailey – E: johnhbailey.bailey@gmail.com m:07740826266

What happens next?

You will receive confirmation by email or post of your Direct Debit, the amount and date of your first PGS gift. If you already give by standing order, remember to cancel it once PGS have confirmed with you.

How much does it cost? - Nothing, everything you give goes into the church bank account.

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the **Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the United Parish of Birchwood and Woolston (Registered Charity No. 1185707)** on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021, as set out on pages 11 to 21 of your Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 the PCC 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act.
- or, the accounts do not accord with the accounting records:

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



IE's Name: **Mr Les Dunning**

16 March 2022

Address: 24 Thetford Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 3EQ

Accounting Policies - Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

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

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The purpose of any restricted funds is noted in the financial statements.

The financial statements include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- . Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- . Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC.
- . Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.
- . Any Investments held beneficially by the PCC.

The following assets are recognised and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- . Amounts owing from HMRC where a formal claim has been made.
- . Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.
- . Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31 December by the PCC.
- . Closing Cash and Bank Balances as shown in the receipts and payments account.

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- . Any Loans or Overdrafts advanced to the PCC.
- . Any arrears of Diocesan Parish Share.
- . Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31 December.

Summary - All Funds - Year to 31 Dec

		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted**</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
		£	£	£	£
				<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Receipts					
Parish	General	72,344		72,344	66,695
Ascension	Fabric		1,085	1,085	2,876
Ascension	Gorton		5	5	70
Ascension	Heritage 50		70,839	70,839	134,655
Ascension	Organ		30	30	60
Transfiguration	Special Projects		685	685	28,903
Transfiguration	John Hicks		0	0	200
		<u>72,344</u>	<u>72,644</u>	<u>144,988</u>	<u>233,459</u>
Payments					
Parish	General	66,059		66,059	61,285
Ascension	Fabric		80	80	0
Ascension	Gorton		0	0	0
Ascension	Heritage 50		70,762	70,762	152,928
Ascension	Organ		248	248	0
Transfiguration	Special Projects		19,763	19,763	25,689
Transfiguration	John Hicks		1,058	1,058	0
		<u>66,059</u>	<u>91,911</u>	<u>157,970</u>	<u>239,902</u>
Surplus (Deficit)					
Parish	General	6,285		6,285	5,410
Ascension	Fabric		1,005	1,005	2,876
Ascension	Gorton		5	5	(19,930)
Ascension	Heritage 50		77	77	1,727
Ascension	Organ		(218)	(218)	60
Transfiguration	Special Projects		(19,078)	(19,078)	3,214
Transfiguration	John Hicks		(1,058)	(1,058)	200
		<u>6,285</u>	<u>(19,267)</u>	<u>(12,982)</u>	<u>(6,443)</u>
Opening Cash & Bank Balances					
Parish	General	7,110		7,110	1,700
Ascension	Fabric		14,926	14,926	12,050
Ascension	Gorton		9,047	9,047	28,977
Ascension	Heritage 50		1,727	1,727	0
Ascension	Organ		662	662	602
Transfiguration	Special Projects		25,498	25,498	22,284
Transfiguration	John Hicks		6,860	6,860	6,660
		<u>7,110</u>	<u>58,720</u>	<u>65,830</u>	<u>72,273</u>
Closing Cash & Bank Balances					
Parish	General	13,395		13,395	7,110
Ascension	Fabric		15,931	15,931	14,926
Ascension	Gorton		9,052	9,052	9,047
Ascension	Heritage 50		1,804	1,804	1,727
Ascension	Organ		444	444	662
Transfiguration	Special Projects		6,420	6,420	25,498
Transfiguration	John Hicks		5,802	5,802	6,860
		<u>13,395</u>	<u>39,453</u>	<u>52,848</u>	<u>65,830</u>

General Fund - Receipts & Payments Account - Unrestricted		Year -->		2021		2020	
	Note	£		£		£	£
Receipts							
Incoming resources from donors							
Regular Planned Giving							
Tax efficient planned giving	1a	28,967	40%		28,525	39%	
Income Tax Recovered	1b	7,980	11%		10,008	14%	
Other Regular Giving	2	3,005	4%		3,063	4%	
Collections of loose cash at services	3	3,130	4%		1,161	2%	
Occasional Giving							
Donations	4	2,859	4%		4,079	6%	
			64%	45,941		70%	46,836
Non Recurring Grants							
Diocese of Liverpool - Covid Support			0%	0			1,000
Incoming resources from operating activities to further the councils objects							
Magazine Adverts	15	0			180		
Wedding and Funeral Fees - less interregnum Fees	16	(42)			327		
			0%	(42)		1%	507
Activities for generating funds							
Fund Raising	5a	2,311			2,587		
Hire of Church Hall	6a	24,134			15,765		
			37%	26,445		28%	18,352
Total Receipts Week / Year		£1,391		£72,344		£1,283	£66,695
Payments							
Costs of activities for generating funds							
Magazine	15	240			160		
Fund Raising Costs	5b	393			788		
Church Hall Running Expenses	6b	13,298			7,572		
			21%	13,931		14%	8,520
Donations to Charities							
Missionary Giving		75			75		
Christian Overseas Relief and Development Agencies		175			125		
Home Missions		325			300		
Secular Charities		173			0		
	7		1%	748		1%	500
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church							
Cost of parish ministry							
Diocesan Parish Share	8	41,879			42,118		
Clergy Expenses	9	126			477		
Parsonage House	10	2,356			2,303		
Mission & Evangelism		110			0		
Church Running Expenses							
Heat, Light, Insurances etc	11	3,852			4,364		
Maintenance	12	621			612		
Upkeep of Services	13	1,882			1,791		
Support and training costs							
Salaries, Wages and Honaria	14a	0			0		
Support costs	14b	186			0		
			77%	51,012		84%	51,665
Church Management and Administration							
Printing and Stationery		314			320		
Bank & Card Charges		43			76		
Miscellaneous		11			107		
Stewardship Envelopes		0			97		
			1%	368		1%	600
Total Payments Week / Year		£1,270		£66,059		£1,179	£61,285
Excess of Receipts over (Payments)				6,285			5,410
Bank Balances							
Barclays Bank Plc - Current Account at 1 January 2021				7,110			1,700
Barclays Bank Plc - Current Account at 31 December 2021				£13,395			£7,110

The United Parish of
BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON
 The Churches of the Transfiguration & the Ascension

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended: - - - >>>

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

	2021	2020
	£	£
1a Tax efficient planned giving - gift aided		
Envelopes	1,664	1,930
Direct Payments to Bank	1,768	1,494
	3,432	3,424
Parish Giving Scheme	25,535	25,101
	<u>28,967</u>	<u>28,525</u>
1b Tax Refunds		
Envelopes & Direct Bank & Donations - re Prior Financial Year	2,499	2,656
Transfer to Other Funds re restricted donations	(1,111)	0
Gift Aid - Small Donations Scheme - re Prior Financial Year	350	1,272
Diocese - Admin Fee	(142)	(195)
Parish Giving Scheme - Current Financial Year	6,384	6,275
	<u>7,980</u>	<u>10,008</u>
2 Other Regular Giving		
Envelopes	475	339
Direct Payments to Bank	660	860
Parish Giving Scheme	1,870	1,864
	<u>3,005</u>	<u>3,063</u>
3 Collections of loose cash at services		
Collections (inc Sumup Online in Church)	2,815	1,112
Donations towards charities and missions - restricted (note 7)	315	49
	<u>3,130</u>	<u>1,161</u>
4 Donations		
Donations - Church General Fund	1,860	1,669
Donations - Church General Fund - Gift Aid	756	2,245
Donations - Church Flowers (restricted) - (Note 13)	36	40
Donations - Church Flowers (restricted) - Gift Aid (Note 13)	55	10
Donations - Church Magazine (restricted) - (Note 15)	42	20
Donations - Church Magazine (restricted) - Gift Aid (Note 15)	110	95
	<u>2,859</u>	<u>4,079</u>
5 Fund Raising		
a) Receipts:		
Christmas Market	1,005	0
100 Club Subscriptions	0	824
Social Committee	486	341
Birchwood & Virtual Quiz's	820	1,422
Total Receipts	<u>2,311</u>	<u>2,587</u>
b) Less Payments:		
Christmas Market	24	0
100 Club Prizes	0	600
Social Committee	287	38
Birchwood & Virtual Quiz's	82	150
Total Payments	<u>393</u>	<u>788</u>
Net Receipts	<u>1,918</u>	<u>1,799</u>
6 Church Hall Running Expenses		
a) Receipts:		
Regular Lettings	24,134	15,380
Casual Lettings	0	385
Total Receipts	<u>24,134</u>	<u>15,765</u>
b) Less Payments:		
Electric	2,016	2,214
Gas	2,879	1,452
Water	472	1,116
Insurance - (Note 18)	1,324	1,310
Maintenance	4,580	380
Cleaning - Wages	876	826
Cleaning - Payroll Costs	86	0
Cleaning - Materials	342	175
Refuse Collection	723	99
General Acc - normal costs:	<u>13,298</u>	<u>7,572</u>
Net Receipts	<u>10,836</u>	<u>8,193</u>

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended: - - - >>>
General Fund Receipts & Payments Account (cont'd)

	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
	£	£	£	£
7 Donations to Charities				
Missionary Giving				
United Society (USPG)	75		75	
		75		75
Christian Overseas Relief and Development Agencies				
Christian Aid	175		125	
		175		125
Home Missions				
The Children's Society	325		300	
		325		300
Secular Charities				
Fox Wood School	173		0	
		173		0
Total payments		748		500
Direct giving (restricted) in respect of the above - see note 3		315		49
Net payment of Church Funds		433		451
8 Diocesan Parish Share				
Parish Share - Amount Paid		41,879		42,118
Waived by Diocese re Covid19		10,873		8,423
Total Parish Share due for year		52,752		50,541
(Year 2022 - £54,929, less rebate of £2,177 = £52,752, being £1,014 per week)				
9 Clergy Expenses				
Car	0		175	
Telephone	126		296	
		126		477
10 Parsonage House				
Council Tax & Water Rates	1,412		2,303	
Costs whilst Vacant - due to Interregnum	944		0	
		2,356		2,303
11 Church Running Expenses				
Electric	468		474	
Gas	1,605		2,400	
Water	182		95	
Web, Broadband & Mobiles	255		0	
Insurance - Ascension - (Note 18)	758		732	
Insurance - Transfiguration - (Note 18)	485		480	
Cleaning - Transfiguration	99		183	
		3,852		4,364
12 Church Maintenance				
Ascension				
Fire Extinguishers & Hose Maintenance	148		146	
Electrics - 3 Yr & PAT Tests	86		0	
General Maintenance	34		0	
Heating & Plumbing	221		466	
	489		612	
Transfiguration				
Lightning Conductors - Transfiguration	132		0	
		621		612
13 Upkeep of services				
Service Books, Music Sheets and Licences	679		655	
Holy Communion Wine, Wafers, Candles	567		131	
Special Service Expenses	545		92	
Equipment for Online Services	0		836	
Church Flowers	91		77	
		1,882		1,791

Note: restricted donations of £91 (2020 £50) received towards cost of Flowers - see note 4.

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended: -- >>>
General Fund Receipts & Payments Account (cont'd)

	2021		2020
	£	£	£
14 Salaries and support costs			
a) Salaries			
Organist	0		0
Verger	0		0
	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
b) Support costs			
Computer & Web Costs	48		0
Lay Training	20		0
Parish hospitality - special services	118		0
	<u>186</u>		<u>0</u>
15 Magazine			
Costs		240	160
Less			
Donations (Note 4)	42		20
Donations (Gift Aid) (Note 4)	110		95
		<u>152</u>	<u>115</u>
Cost after donations		88	45
Adverts		0	180
Surplus (Excess)		<u>(88)</u>	<u>135</u>
16 Fees			
Fees - Funerals & Weddings		1,530	2,087
Less - Allowed as set off by LDBF re Interregnum		<u>(206)</u>	<u>0</u>
		1,324	2,087
Paid over to LDBF	672		1,665
Paid Over to Organists / Organ Fund	70		140
Paid Over to Organists / Organ Fund	30		60
Paid - Interregnum Fee & expenses	1,064		0
		<u>1,836</u>	<u>1,865</u>
Sub Total - PCC Element		(306)	222
Other Fees for Banns & Other Certificates		264	105
Total PCC Fees per accounts		<u>(42)</u>	<u>327</u>

On behalf of Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance (LDBF) - £1,530 was received as fees from Funeral Directors and private individuals in regard to funerals, burials and weddings. This money was distributed in accordance with current diocesan guidance as detailed above. In addition £206 was retained (as allowed by LDBF) to be set off against Interregnum fee's of £1,064 - the balance of £858 is reclaimable from LDBF at the discretion of the Archdeacon - such a claim will be made in due course and this amount has been included in Debtors in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Notes above relate to the General Account to be found on Page 13

17 Debtors - Statement of Assets and Liabilities - Page 21

In respect of the Year 2020 the amounts against Fabric & Buildings relate to grants due on expenditure relating to building work and associated fees at 31 December 2020, in connection with the Heritage Lottery (H50) project for the major refurbishment of the Church of the Ascension (such grant received Jan 2021);

Gift Aid Tax Refunds relate to monies received under gift aid in the year to which a claim is to be submitted to HMRC; Other debtors relate to Utilities in advance and net Interregnum fees paid out not yet reclaimed.

18 Other Assets - Statement of Assets and Liabilities - Page 21

These assets consist of the Church Hall building known as the Mission and its contents and are shown at the values they were insured for as notified on 5 September 2018, as has been our normal practice for some years.

However from 8 October 2018 all Church Properties are now included in a single Parish Plus Policy that covers the both Churches (see Note 11) and Hall (see Note 6b) with cover for each buildings and contents totalling up to a maximum of £2.96m for each property irrespective of its current value.

Note: - Neither Church Building is shown as an asset as they are not owned by the United Parish of Birchwood & Woolston.

19 Liabilities - Statement of Assets and Liabilities - Page 21

In respect of the year 2020 the Fabric & Buildings Creditor relates to amounts outstanding for building work and associated fees at 31 December 2020, in connection with the Heritage Lottery (H50) project for the major refurbishment of the Church of the Ascension (paid Jan 2021); Other creditors mainly relate to Utilities in arrear.

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021

Fabric Fund - Restricted Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations:				
In Memorial - General	0		540	
In Memorial - Gift Aid	250		200	
Legacy	0		0	
Donations	0		0	
Donations - Gift Aid	0		2,000	
Envelopes - General	0		13	
Envelopes - Gift Aid	5		48	
		255		2,801
Gift Aid - Tax Refunds		765		0
Activities for generating funds				
Cake Raffles	0		72	
Remembrance Book	65		0	
		65		72
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest		0		3
Total Receipts		1,085		2,876
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Inscribing Remembrance Book	80		0	
		80		0
Excess of Receipts over Payments		1,005		2,876
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current / deposit accounts at 1 January 2021		14,926		12,050
Barclays Bank current / deposit accounts at 31 December 2021		<u>£15,931</u>		<u>£14,926</u>

This fund is restricted to the maintenance of the Fabric of Woolston Church Buildings.

Gorton Memorial Fund - Restricted Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Income from Investments				
Interest - CCLA		5		61
Interest - NS&I		0		9
Total Receipts		5		70
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Transfer to Ascension Heritage 50 Fund - Ex NSI	0		13,453	
Transfer to Ascension Heritage 50 Fund - Ex CCLA	0		6,547	
		0		20,000
Excess of Receipts over Payments		5		(19,930)
Bank Balances				
CCLA Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2021		9,047		28,977
CCLA Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2021		<u>£9,052</u>		<u>£9,047</u>

This fund is restricted to the maintenance of the Fabric of Church Buildings in Woolston and certain other costs as detailed in original Gorton Trust Deed.

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021

Organ Fund - Restricted Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations				
Maintenance Fees from Funerals	30		60	
		30		60
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest		0		0
		30		60
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Repairs to Organ	248		0	
		248		0
Excess of (Payments) over Receipts		(218)		60
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current account at 1 January 2021		662		602
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2021		<u>£444</u>		<u>£662</u>

This fund is restricted to the maintenance and renewal of the Church Organ

Birchwood - John Hicks - Designated Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations:				
Grants & Donations towards Replacement Ceiling				
Donations	0		200	
		0		200
Total Receipts		0		200
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Chairs for Birchwood C of E School	1,058		0	
		1,058		0
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(1,058)		200
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current account at 1 January 2021		6,860		6,660
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2021		<u>£5,802</u>		<u>£6,860</u>

This fund is designated for the maintenance of the Fabric of the Church & associated buildings in Birchwood

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021

Birchwood - Joshua Project - Restricted Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
	£	£	£	
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations:				
LBDF - Grant - Birchwood Projects	0		4,000	
		0		4,000
Total Receipts		0		4,000
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Joshua Centre:				
Salaries & National Insurance	2,465		3,650	
Payrol & Admin Costs	87		141	
Travel Costs	8		18	
Other Costs	27		107	
Messy Church	266		111	
Activity Costs	296		259	
		3,149		4,286
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(3,149)		(286)
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current account at 1 January 2021		4,517		4,803
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2021		£1,368		£4,517

This fund is restricted for the development of a new congregation in Birchwood. It has been provided by the Diocese of Liverpool through their Joshua Centre project, which is funded by the Church of England Strategic Development Fund. The funding is provided on a reducing scale over 6 years, until October 2024 and in the early years this enabled us to employ a congregational leader for one day per week; this ended in July.

Birchwood - Community Project - Restricted Receipts & Payments Account	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations:				
Donations	835		1,135	
Donation (repaid 2021) re 2020 Nat Lottery Covid 19 Response	(1,000)		1,000	
Deanery - Grant - Community Worker	0		14,025	
Food Parcel Grants	850		7,640	
Lunch Club Donations	0		1,103	
		685		24,903
Total Receipts		685		24,903
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Christian Community Worker:				
Salaries, National Insurance & Pensions	11,659		11,507	
Payrol & Admin Costs	130		141	
Office Rent	1,440		1,440	
Office Costs	183		123	
Travel Costs	65		63	
Mobile Phone	326		309	
Food Parcels	1,324		5,274	
Other Neighbourly items	0		1,489	
Lunch Club - Running Costs	688		723	
Activity Costs	0		302	
Other Costs	799		32	
		16,614		21,403
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(15,929)		3,500
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current account at 1 January 2021		20,981		17,481
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2021		£5,052		£20,981

This fund is restricted for the employment of a Christian Community Development Worker and associated works to serve the Birchwood part of our parish. The majority of the funding is provided by the Deanery Mission and Growth Fund, and is currently secured for 3 years until December 2021 - a further year of funding for 2022 has been agreed.

Both of the above Projects work in tandem with each other and are collectively known as "THE TABLE, OAKWOOD".

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021

Ascension - Heritage 50 Fund - Restricted Receipts & Payments Account	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations:				
Donations	85		546	
PeoplesFund Donations	0		170	
Donations - Gift Aid	0		1,560	
PeoplesFund Donations - Gift Aid	0		635	
		85		2,911
Gift Aid - Tax Refunds		346		0
Activities for generating funds				
Heritage Events	3,765		699	
		3,765		699
Non recurring grants				
Heritage Fund - Lottery Grant		66,643		131,045
Total External Receipts		70,839		134,655
Transfers - Gorton Fund		0		20,000
Total Receipts		70,839		154,655
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the objectives of the Lottery Heritage Fund Grant				
Church - Structural Repairs & Conservation	47,728		102,873	
Church - Professional Fees	2,301		25,433	
	50,029		128,306	
Staff - Heritage Engagement Officer	9,642		12,138	
Staff - Recruitment, Training, Travel, Other Expenses	821		1,556	
Publicity & Promotion	315		421	
Equipment,- Speakers.Screen, Projector,etc	2,198		5,416	
Misc	45		0	
Event costs	5,212		2,591	
Evaluation of project	2,500		2,500	
		70,762		152,928
Excess of Receipts over Payments		77		1,727
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current account at 1 January 2021		1,727		0
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2021		£1,804		£1,727

This project was completed in August 2021 - more details given on Page 6 of the Annual Report to the APCM.

This fund is restricted to the agreed objects of the Lottery Heritage Grant Award

The United Parish of

BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON

The Churches of the Transfiguration & the Ascension

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2021

	General Fund Unrestricted £	Heritage 50 Fund Restricted	Fabric Fund Restricted £	Gorton Fund Restricted £	Organ Fund Restricted £	Birchwood Projects Restricted £	John Hicks Fund Designated £	Totals	
								2021 £	2020 £
Monetary Assets									
Bank Accounts - Current - Barclays	13,395	1,804	13,647		444	6,420	5,802	41,512	54,800
Bank Accounts - Deposit - Barclays			2,284					2,284	1,983
Bank Accounts - Deposit - CCLA				9,052				9,052	9,047
Bank Accounts - Deposit - NS&I								0	0
Total Bank	13,395	1,804	15,931	9,052	444	6,420	5,802	52,848	65,830
Debtors - (Note 17)									
Fabric & Buildings		0						0	29,635
Gift Aid Tax Refunds	1,801							1,801	2,762
Interegnum Fees reclaimable	858							858	0
Other	353							353	595
Total Debtors	3,012	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,012	32,992
Other Assets - (Note 18)									
Church Hall (Mission) - Building **	540,000							540,000	540,000
Church Hall (Mission) - Contents **	15,000							15,000	15,000
Total Other	555,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	555,000	555,000
** per Insurance Valuation Sept 5 2018									
Total Assets	571,407	1,804	15,931	9,052	444	6,420	5,802	610,860	653,822
Liabilities - (Note 19)									
Fabric & Buildings		0						0	30,754
Other Creditors	1,262							1,262	1,060
Total Liabilities	1,262	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,262	31,814
Net Assets									
Restricted / Designated	555,000	1,804	15,931	9,052	444	6,420	5,802	594,453	612,601
Unrestricted	15,145	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,145	9,407
Total	£570,145	1,804	£15,931	£9,052	£444	£6,420	£5,802	£609,598	£622,008

On behalf of the PCC

Peter Dibben
Chairperson

Dated 16 March 2022

Registered Charity No. 1185707 (E&W)

Page Number: 21

Historical Data - General Account

Receipts

Incoming resources from donors

	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £	2015 £	2016 £	2017 £	2018 £	2019 £	2020 £	Current Yr 2021 £	Budget 2022 £
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	19,362	21,587	22,852	24,161	26,213	26,725	30,039	30,785	28,525	28,967	30,000
Income Tax Recovered	5,155	5,675	6,579	7,933	11,372	9,819	8,994	9,064	10,008	7,980	8,000
Planned Giving - Other	2,233	1,398	1,606	1,559	1,413	1,574	1,186	1,168	3,063	3,005	3,000
Collections and Other Giving	5,900	5,629	5,545	5,290	5,659	5,177	4,429	4,545	1,161	3,130	3,500
Donations	4,768	2,113	7,300	8,310	5,006	2,137	1,454	5,272	4,079	2,859	3,000
	37,418	36,402	43,882	47,253	49,663	45,432	46,102	50,834	46,836	45,941	47,500

Incoming resources from operating activities to further the councils objects

Book Sales	242	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Magazine Adverts	175	156	150	150	100	200	90	260	180	0	0
Wedding and Funeral Fees	1,501	1,276	511	2,154	1,571	1,149	1,788	1,746	327	(42)	0
	1,918	1,432	661	2,304	1,671	1,349	1,878	2,006	507	(42)	0

Activities for generating funds

Fund Raising / Other	7,167	6,174	7,270	7,003	6,815	7,263	7,313	6,287	2,587	2,311	2,500
Rent from Church Hall	13,322	11,214	12,786	16,414	14,986	15,374	16,346	16,344	15,765	24,134	24,000
	20,489	17,388	20,056	23,417	21,801	22,637	23,659	22,631	18,352	26,445	26,500

Other Receipts

Grants / Insurance Claims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	0
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Total Receipts

£59,825	£55,222	£64,599	£72,974	£73,135	£69,418	£71,639	£75,471	£66,695		£72,344	£74,000
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Per Week -> £ 1,423

Payments

Costs of activities for generating funds

Books	403	22	92	-	9	20	-	-	-	0	0
Magazine Printing	582	564	540	520	480	480	480	480	160	240	500
Fund Raising Costs	1,661	905	1,291	1,413	1,451	1,538	1,869	1,746	788	393	1,000
Church Hall Running Expenses	7,781	8,041	7,093	11,672	8,770	6,537	11,024	11,710	7,572	13,298	15,000
	10,427	9,532	9,016	13,605	10,710	8,575	13,373	13,936	8,520	13,931	16,500

Grants

Missionary Giving	332	179	187	322	604	225	225	225	75	75	75
Christian Overseas Relief and Development	250	450	550	470	300	300	100	125	125	175	175
Home Missions	500	500	675	600	750	850	600	500	300	325	300
Secular Charities	590	100	175	177	-	575	-	-	-	173	0
	1,672	1,229	1,587	1,569	1,654	1,950	925	850	500	748	550

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

Diocesan Parish Share	39,585	40,665	41,562	45,205	45,210	46,117	47,042	47,516	42,118	41,879	52,752
Clergy Expenses & Mission	(2,165)	1,400	1,000	1,575	643	1,158	1,308	1,156	477	236	248
Parsonage House	3,111	2,399	1,251	1,303	1,900	1,174	2,273	2,244	2,303	2,356	2,500
Heat, Light, Insurances etc	4,506	4,209	4,558	5,991	6,105	3,669	3,778	5,290	4,364	3,852	5,000
Maintenance	971	151	874	479	2,510	820	1,256	2,267	612	621	500
Upkeep of Services	1,754	1,448	1,988	1,995	2,114	2,363	2,568	1,979	1,791	1,882	2,000
Salaries, Wages and Honaria	463	195	20	20	860	60	-	-	-	0	0
Support Costs	878	552	799	447	461	401	759	386	-	186	0
	49,103	51,019	52,052	57,015	59,803	55,762	58,984	60,838	51,665	51,012	63,000

Church Management and Administration

Printing and Stationery	136	139	155	277	244	311	178	112	417	314	100
Office Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	185	(19)	138	141	137	401	145	54	107	11	300
Bank Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	76	43	50
	321	120	293	418	381	712	323	166	600	368	450

Total Payments

£61,523	£61,900	£62,948	£72,607	£72,548	£66,999	£73,605	£75,790	£61,285		£66,059	£80,500
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Excess of Receipts over Payments

(£1,698)	(£6,678)	£1,651	£367	£587	£2,419	(£1,966)	(£319)	£5,410		£6,285	(£6,500)
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Balances:

Bank balances at start of year

£7,337	£5,639	(£1,039)	£612	£979	£1,566	£3,985	£2,019	£1,700		£7,110	£13,395
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Bank balances at end of year

£5,639	(£1,039)	£612	£979	£1,566	£3,985	£2,019	£1,700	£7,110		£13,395	£6,895
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** Includes the Church of the Transfiguration from 1 Nov 2014.

Not included in examination by Independent Examiner