

HOLY APOSTLES PARISH CHURCH, LEICESTER

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

AIMS AND PURPOSES

Holy Apostles Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working together with the Priest-in-Charge, Curate, associate minister, the wardens and staff in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church building and hall of Holy Apostles, at the junction of Fosse Road South and Imperial Avenue, Leicester.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

We seek to build up the congregation through:-

- worship, prayer and teaching
- pastoral care
- outreach to the community
- responding to the needs of the church and community through the occasional services
-

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of Holy Apostles Church and hall.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

We minister to our congregation through our Sunday services. Throughout 2024 we held a weekly 10:30 service in the church with groups for children now known as HAL's kids. We held café style church services in the hall when there was a 5th Sunday in a month.

Prayer is encouraged through the monthly Prayer Diary and seasonal prayer bulletin. As a church we supported the Global prayer initiative 'Thy Kingdom Come' and have prayer gatherings once a month. Personal prayer for specific needs is offered in church on Sundays as well as via our WhatsApp group.

Our discipleship groups continued meeting in the church hall, and at Wyggestons for mutual encouragement in bible study and everyday faith. Daily Bible reading material was circulated with the monthly prayer pointers.

There were 48 people on the Electoral Roll (as at 31.12.24) of whom 19 are resident in the parish. The Sunday attendance counted during October, was 32 adults and 8 under 16 yrs

Attendance is usually increased considerably for festivals. 2024 we held our usual events and services for Christmas. The Christmas Café and tree festival was very well attended and led to over 600 children and young people come to the building on

school visits and for the scouts Christingle service. Our own Christingle service was attended by 125 adults and 44 under 16s, which was an increase on 2023.

The connections with the two primary schools in the parish continued to grow through 2024 with assemblies being taken by the clergy once a month in each school, as well as support for RE lessons both in school and in the church. Imperial Avenue infant school came to church for a special assembly at Easter, harvest and Christmas accompanied by staff and parents. St Mary's School year 4 children also held their carol service in church with 65 children and 100 adults.

During 2024 we have celebrated 1 marriage and 2 funerals.

Pastoral Care is an important feature of the church's ministry, with visits to the sick and housebound. Ashley Prince continues to support this ministry as pastoral assistant with PTO (permission to officiate).

Safeguarding is taken seriously by the PCC and the Promoting a Safer Church document has been adopted. The church has policies for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. All roles are recruited according to the safer recruitment guidelines. DBS checks are carried out as required and safeguarding training undertaken at the level appropriate for each role. Safeguarding is regularly brought to the attention of the whole church. In so doing, the PCC has complied with its duty to act according to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The PCC uses the Safeguarding dashboard to support compliance with regulations.

The parish safeguarding officer is Elaine Swanson, Ian Newcombe; leads the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.

Mission and outreach is strategic and multi-faceted. We have reached out to our community through making links with local schools and community groups. These include long running groups such as Tiddlywinks; our parents and toddler group and Soup-er Group, a monthly lunch for older people. In 2024 Welcome Place began with a vision to provide a warm friendly space for people to drop in. It includes refreshments, an opportunity to pray together and lunch. In the warmer months a gardening group forms part of this welcome place. The monthly community café has continued to be successful in creating a space for church and non-church families and individuals to enjoy each other's company, good food and drink.

In the autumn of 2024, we launched a youth group for young people aged 11-16. The aim is to provide a safe space to come and meet with friends after school, to have fun, eat together and begin to explore aspects of faith and spirituality together.

Manor House foodbank is a focus for our support for the poor in the community. The church supports **Christian partners** working abroad. In 2024 support the work of INF specifically by funding the work of Nepalese nationals at the Green Pastures hospital. The church also supports Andrew Fanstone in his work with Iris Ministries in Brazil.

We also support Christian Aid and Open Doors as well as local charities, Safe families for Children, One Roof Leicester, Mosaic Foodbank and Sound Café

Leicester. The offering from the Christingle Service went to support the work of the Children's Society.

Our buildings are a vital resource in our mission. In 2024 they were used for church events, most notably, the Good Friday café and the harvest supper. Brownies, and other community groups as well as New Covenant Church and Reach Leicester Church also make use of our buildings.

Until July 2024 Stephen Gorton continued to support us exploring the redevelopment of the church and site to make it fit for purpose.

West Leicester Mission Partnership

Holy Apostles is part of the West Leicester Mission Partnership. In 2024 This Partnership encompassed the churches of St. Anne, St. Paul & St. Augustine, The Martyrs, Holy Apostles, St. Peter's Braunstone Park, St Margaret's and Wygggestons.

The Mission Partnership leaders continued to meet weekly for morning prayer on zoom throughout 2024.

Deanery Synod

The APCM is entitled to elect two people to the Deanery Synod who are ex-officio on the PCC. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. In 2024 we had one such representative.

2024 STAFFING

Rev'd Jenny Ridge (Priest in Charge) continued to lead the church forward with the support and encouragement Rev'd Tony Leighton (assistant minister) until his retirement in February 2024.

Dr Nick Henwood continued as a 'Caleb student' on placement at Holy Apostles as he undertook both discernment and training for ordination. We were delighted to welcome him as curate following his ordination in July 2024.

Rev'd Andrew Micklethwaite joined the team as 40% time associate priest following his licensing in August 2024.

Barbara Dzima, continued as a ministry apprentice until July.

Margo Henry continues to work in the office as our church administrator.

Francis Hruszka continued in the role of Church cleaner and did some paid gardening hours early in the year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Review of 2024

Total receipts on unrestricted funds was down from £76,551 to £72,252 but at the same time expenditure of unrestricted funds was down from £74,102 to £68,777. This means that even with reduced income the deficit in unrestricted funds was down from (£2,554) to (£1,066) which is good news.

For 2024 we introduced a new modern accounting system and along with that made some changes so that the accounts are easier to understand. All the funds that we held with money designated for the building were consolidated into one which can be seen as the BD for Building Development line.

As a reminder designated funds (unlike restricted funds) can be reallocated by the PCC at any time.

The new accounting system has many advantages and is one used by lots of churches but it does mean that the accounts look slightly different compared to last year and, as always, if anyone has any questions, detailed or otherwise, they are always welcome to contact me.

The reserves policy has not changed (4 months operating costs) and accordingly the amount of reserves would now be £23,000 and this is now shown within the General Fund to avoid having a fund for reserves that requires annual fund transfers to/from the General Fund.

In 2024 we received 2 grants of £500 each from Near Neighbours to help us furnish the small hall for our Welcome Place initiative and also from the City Council to help fund our new Youth Group.

However, as ever the bulk of our income was from gifts and donations which reduced by about 10% to £45,404. This can be seen on the "donations and legacies" line once the £1,000 grant income has been deducted. This continues the long-term decline in donations that we along with many churches are experiencing.

Income from renting out the hall continues to be very important to us and almost unchanged from 2023 at very close to £8,000.

As mentioned above expenditure was reduced and we benefited especially from reductions in energy costs as they further reduced from the 2022 peak though they are far from historic levels and the outlook remains unclear. We also spent significantly less on maintaining the church hall but that is likely to be a temporary respite.

Staff costs continue to rise and we continue to have a policy of paying the Real Living Wage.

In 2024 we increased the Parish Contribution by £1000 and have pledged a further increase of £3,000 in response to the request from the diocese for a 10% increase.

The vast majority of expenditure (£9000) of restricted funds were spent on the second and final payment to MayWay Construction for the building project.

We hold most of our funds (£246,126 at year end) with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund run by CCLA and the Diocese holds £26,292 on our behalf relating to the balance of the funds from the sale of St Oswald's. Although interest rates have reduced slightly we still received just over £14,000 in 2024 without which our financial picture would be very different which is a challenge given the expectation that interest rates will continue to fall over the long term.

While we continue to hold significant funds, a luxury many churches do not have, we continue to face challenges with both the Church itself and the Church Hall. Since we are unable to proceed with the plans we had been working so hard on for the site redevelopment we have had some donors divert giving from the building project to the general fund or the newly created Children and Youth Fund. As ever in line with the regulations governing Charities (and we are a registered charity) we must follow donor wishes with regard to restricted gifts.

David Ridge, Treasurer, Holy Apostles PCC

VOLUNTEERS

We are extremely grateful to all who volunteer in whatever capacity to enable the ministry of the church to progress. Thanks go particularly to those who have cleaned the church, maintained the church garden's and kept the carpark tidy as well as those who serve in a variety of ways on a Sunday.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

The PCC met on 8 occasions during the year (January, March, May, June, July, September, November and December)

The PCC has a Standing Committee which has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings subject to any directions given by the Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The parish church of Holy Apostles is located in the West End area of the city of Leicester, at the junction of Fosse Road South and Imperial Avenue. It is part of the Diocese of Leicester within the Church of England. Correspondence should be addressed to Holy Apostles Church, Fosse Road South, Leicester LE3 1AD.

The PCC is a corporate body (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2023) and Charity Registration was completed in January 2021. Holy Apostles, Leicester is a Registered Charity in England and Wales No: 1192946

Holy Apostles has a Priest-in-Charge; Rev'd Jenny Ridge and had an associate Priest, Rev'd. Tony Leighton. (until Feb 2024), Then associate priest Rev'd Andrew Micklethwaite (from Aug 2024) and curate Rev'd Dr Nick Henwood (from July 2024).

Ministry at Apostles is supported the Associate minister Ian Newcombe and the authorised Pastoral Assistant, Ashley Prince (PTO). Susan Brownsword is a locally authorised minister.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex-Officio members:

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Jenny Ridge
Associate Minister: Revd. Tony Leighton (until Feb 2024)
Associate Minister Rev'd Andrew Micklethwaite (from Aug 2024)
Curate Rev'd Dr Nick Henwood (from July 2024)

Wardens: Elizabeth Gooderham (from May 2022)
Melanie Carter (Until May 2024)
Elaine Swanson (from May 2024)

Co-opted members Deputy Warden Melanie Carter
Reader: Ian Newcombe

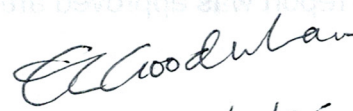
Deanery Representative: John Branney (2023-2026)

Elected Members: David Ridge (2022-2025)
Ashley Prince (2023-2026)
Sue Brownsword (2023-2026) (lay chair)
Carole Dagley (2023-2026)
Mark Wigston (2024-2027)
Nwachuckwu Nwabufu (2024-2027)

PCC Secretary: Elizabeth Gooderham (until May 2024)
Margo Henry (role from May 2024 as part of
her role as church administrator not as a member of PCC)

Treasurer David Ridge

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf by


13/4/25

HOLY APOSTLES PCC 2024 ACCOUNTS

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Donations and legacies	£46,404	-	£2,198	£48,602	£57,076
Income from charitable activities	£8,877	-	-	£8,877	£10,230
Other trading activities	£2,962	-	-	£2,962	£2,914
Investments	£14,009	-	-	£14,009	£8,337
Total Receipts	£72,252	-	£2,198	£74,450	£78,557
Payments					
Expenditure on charitable activities	£65,848	£3,150	£9,044	£78,042	£86,119
Other expenditure	£2,929	-	-	£2,929	£3,132
Total Payments	£68,777	£3,150	£9,044	£80,971	£89,251
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	£3,475	(£3,150)	(£6,846)	(£6,521)	(£10,694)
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	£8,614	£6,544	£6,923	£22,081	-
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£13,154)	(£2,003)	(£6,923)	(£22,081)	-
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains	(£1,066)	£1,390	(£6,846)	(£6,521)	(£10,694)
Net movement in funds	(£1,066)	£1,390	(£6,846)	(£6,521)	(£10,694)
Reconciliation of funds					
Excess of receipts over payments at beginning of the year	£53,390	£157,625	£72,193	£283,207	£293,901
Excess of receipts over payments for the year	£52,325	£159,015	£65,347	£276,686	£283,207

HOLY APOSTLES PCC 2024 ACCOUNTS

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Class	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last year
Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets					
Dell Computer	-	-	-	-	£277
Office Laptop	£512	-	-	£512	-
Total	£512	-	-	£512	£277
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand					
Bank current account Nat west	(£1,288)	£3,060	£1,765	£3,537	£16,459
CCLA deposit account (Held at SMH)	-	£26,292	-	£26,292	£26,292
CCLA (CBF) deposit account	£52,880	£129,663	£63,582	£246,126	£240,117
Cash in hand	£220	-	-	£220	£62
Total	£51,812	£159,015	£65,347	£276,174	£282,930
Net total assets	£52,325	£159,015	£65,347	£276,686	£283,207
Represented by					
General (Unrestricted)	£52,325	-	-	£52,325	£53,390
Designated - BD	-	£155,621	-	£155,621	£155,621
Designated - Mission	-	£3,394	-	£3,394	£2,003
Restricted - BV	-	-	£64,241	£64,241	£71,481
Restricted - CYP	-	-	£438	£438	-
Restricted - Hardship	-	-	£668	£668	£712
Total	£52,325	£159,015	£65,347	£276,686	£283,207

Fund movement summary

Fund	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Fund balances Carried forward
General Fund (Unrestricted)	£53,390	£72,252	£68,777	(£4,540)	£52,325
Building Development (Designated)	£155,621	-	-	-	£155,621
Mission Giving Fund (designated)	£2,003	-	£3,150	£4,540	£3,394
Building Vision (Restricted)	£71,481	£2,073	£9,000	(£313)	£64,241
Children & Youth (Restricted)	-	£125	-	£313	£438
Hardship (Restricted)	£712	-	£44	-	£668
Totals	£283,207	£74,450	£80,971	-	£276,686

HOLY APOSTLES PCC 2024 ACCOUNTS

Analysis of income and expenditure

				Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies					
Standing Orders	£3,160	-	£360	£3,520	£2,950
Parish Giving Scheme	£32,226	-	£1,388	£33,614	£35,996
SumUp / On Line Giving	£477	-	-	£477	£560
Other planned giving	£1,378	-	£100	£1,478	£2,855
Loose plate collections	£991	-	-	£991	£825
One-off Gift Aid gifts	£49	-	-	£49	-
Donations appeals etc	£186	-	-	£186	£200
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	£6,565	-	£350	£6,915	£8,648
Non-recurring one-off grants	£1,000	-	-	£1,000	£5,000
Other funds generated	£370	-	-	£370	£42
Donations and legacies Totals	£46,404	-	£2,198	£48,602	£57,076
Income from charitable activities					
Fees for weddings and funerals	£799	-	-	£799	£2,262
Church hall lettings - objectives	£8,078	-	-	£8,078	£7,968
Income from charitable activities Totals	£8,877	-	-	£8,877	£10,230
Other trading activities					
Fetes / Fayres etc	£588	-	-	£588	£577
Car Park Income	£1,330	-	-	£1,330	£1,575
Community Cafes	£1,044	-	-	£1,044	£762
Other trading activities Totals	£2,962	-	-	£2,962	£2,914
Investments					
Bank and building society interest	£14,009	-	-	£14,009	£8,337
Investments Totals	£14,009	-	-	£14,009	£8,337
Income and endowments Grand totals	£72,252	-	£2,198	£74,450	£78,557

HOLY APOSTLES PCC 2024 ACCOUNTS

Expenditure on charitable activities

Giving to missionary societies	-	£3,150	-	£3,150	£5,719
Home mission	£1,264	-	£44	£1,308	£30
Community Cafes (Home Mission)	£611	-	-	£611	£1,769
HALs Kids (Home Mission)	£1,480	-	-	£1,480	£514
Ministry parish share etc	£28,000	-	-	£28,000	£27,000
Assistant staff costs	£419	-	-	£419	£572
Salary of parish administrator	£6,914	-	-	£6,914	£6,935
Pension for Staff	£324	-	-	£324	£945
Ministry Experience Scheme	£2,804	-	-	£2,804	£2,564
Working expenses of incumbent	£1,250	-	-	£1,250	£979
Vicar's telephone	£139	-	-	£139	£158
Church running - insurance	£3,159	-	-	£3,159	£3,233
Church office - telephone/broadband	£368	-	-	£368	£451
Church Office - printing	£657	-	-	£657	£890
Church maintenance	£2,240	-	-	£2,240	£2,150
Cleaning	£210	-	-	£210	£100
Upkeep of services	£1,919	-	-	£1,919	£660
Upkeep of churchyard	£1,247	-	-	£1,247	£830
Administration	£1,132	-	-	£1,132	£2,804
Visiting speakers / locums	£10	-	-	£10	-
Church running - electricity	£2,854	-	-	£2,854	£3,173
Church running - gas	£4,789	-	-	£4,789	£8,400
Church running - water	£601	-	-	£601	£472
Hall running - gas	£682	-	-	£682	£1,270
Hall running - maintenance	£2,523	-	-	£2,523	£4,511
Governance costs examination/audit fee	£252	-	-	£252	£580
Church major repairs - Design & Build	-	-	£9,000	£9,000	£9,410
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	£65,848	£3,150	£9,044	£78,042	£86,119
Other expenditure					
Cleaner Wages	£2,929	-	-	£2,929	£3,132
Other expenditure Totals	£2,929	-	-	£2,929	£3,132
Expenditure Grand totals	£68,777	£3,150	£9,044	£80,971	£89,251

Holy Apostles Church

Holy Apostles Church, 281 Fosse Road South, Leicester LE3 1AD

Phone: 0116 298 3218

Email: office@holypostles.co.uk

Website www.holypostles.co.uk

Holy Apostles Leicester, is a Registered Charity in England, and Wales: No. 1192946



I have approved the accounts set out on pages 1 to 4 and confirm that I have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

Signed:

Name: Mr David Ridge

Role: Church Treasurer

Date:

April 12th 2025

Countersigned:

Name:

Elizabeth Gooderham

Role:

Church Warden

Date

13/4/25



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Holy Apostles Church, Leicester LE3 1AD

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2024**

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination

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

Signed:

Colin Wood

20th February 2025

Name:

Colin Wood

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians

Address:

16 Wordsworth Rd

Loughborough

Leicestershire LE11 4LQ

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.