

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF GOSSOPS GREEN AND BEWBUSH

England & Wales - Charity number 1196796

Details

Other names	PARISH OF GOSSOPS GREEN & BEWBUSH,-ST ALBAN'S
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2021-11-26
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Albans Gossops Drive Crawley RH11 8LD
Phone	01293344860
Email	office@stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk
Website	www.stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Furthering the object of the charity

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£86,770	£64,859	-	-
2024-12-31	£80,879	£60,133	-	-
2023-12-31	£79,077	£66,033	-	-
2022-12-31	£80,351	£82,111	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Susan Margaret Richardson	Chair	2021-11-26
Andrew Carl Hoare		2021-11-26
Beverley Ann Killick		2021-11-26
Emma Jane Humphrey		2021-11-26
Geoffrey Ian Snell		2025-05-11
Helen Petrina Ford		2024-05-12
Jane Greta Sharpe		2021-11-26
Jemma Robinson		2024-09-17
Keith John Ford		2023-05-21
Madeleine Taylor		2021-11-26
Rev Greta Jane Sawyer		2025-09-03
Rita Ann Wallis		2025-05-11
Sandra Sheehan		2025-05-11

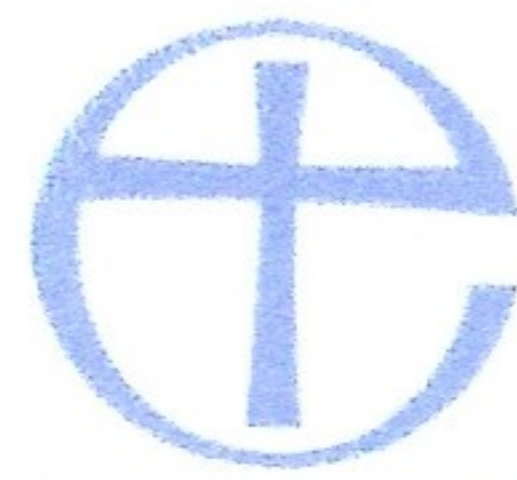
Accounts



**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's**

**Trustees Annual Report and Annual Financial Report
for the year ended
31 December 2025**

Registered Charity number: 1196796



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

Officers and professional advisers

Trustees:	
<i>Ex Officio:</i>	
Priest-in-Charge	Rev'd Greta Sawyer (Chair) (from September 2025) <i>Previously vacant</i>
Reader:	Ms Beverly Killick* (from September 2025)
Wardens:	Mrs Sue Richardson (Vice chair) Mr Keith Ford (from May 2025)
Secretary:	Mrs Meg Miller
Safeguarding officer:	Mr Andy Hoare
<i>Elected members:</i>	Mrs Cissy Atwine (until October 2025) Mr Keith Ford Mr Robert Higson (until May 2025) Mr Andy Hoare Mrs Emma Humphrey Ms Beverly Killick (until September 2025) Mrs Jemma Robinson Mrs Jane Sharpe Mrs Sandra Sheehan (from May 2025) Mr Geoff Snell (from May 2025) Mrs Rita Wallis (from May 2025)
<i>Deanery Synod:</i>	Mrs Madeleine Taylor Mrs Helen Ford

**Despite being an ex-officio position this person has not taken up the role of a voting member of the PCC.*

Treasurer:	Mr James May
Finance officer:	Mrs Sue Richardson
Charity Number:	1196796
Registered office:	St Alban's Parish Office St Alban's Church Hall Gossops Drive Crawley West Sussex RH11 8LD
Independent Examiners:	Darren Harding ACA FCCA DChA Richard Place Dobson Services Limited 1-7 Station Road Crawley West Sussex RH10 1HT

1. About the Parish

St. Alban's church is in the Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, which are two neighbourhoods on the west side of Crawley. It is part of the Deanery of East Grinstead and the Diocese of Chichester.

St. Alban's church prides itself for being inclusive and has a multicultural congregation of all ages and walks of life. The church welcomes visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary to join us as members of the family.

2. Structure, governance and management of the charity

The governance of St. Alban's church is conducted in accordance with that specified by the Church of England. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with HMRC and became a registered charity with the Charity Commission in 2021. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. In 2025 we held six PCC meetings and an APCM. Four Standing Committee meetings were also held throughout the year. The members of the Parochial Church Council who served during the year are listed on the Charities Commission website. Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate (where appropriate), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery Synods), and 9 members on the electoral roll who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). All members of the congregation are encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills, experience and diversity where possible.

Communication to parishioners is provided via a weekly emailed newsletter (also published on Facebook and hard copies delivered to those without internet access).

The church has an Authorised Lay Minister: Community Elective (ALM)

2.1 Notable changes

Following the retirement of the Revd Ann Alexander in June 2024, St. Alban's Church started the year in an interregnum. During this time, the running of the church was now solely the responsibility of the two Church Wardens and PCC with support from the Rural Dean and Archdeacon. The church continued to operate as 'business as usual' with services being covered by visiting vicars.

In September 2025, the Revd Dr. Greta Sawyer was licensed by the Bishop of Horsham as 'Priest in Charge'. This is a part-time role that comes as 'House for Duty'.

A Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) was licensed on 20 September.

2.2 Policies

The following policies are held by the PCC:

- Health and Safety Policy St Alban's and Bewbush Barn
- Finance Policy
- Finance Reserves Policy
- Significant National Mourning Policy
- GDPR Data Privacy Notice
- GDPR Data Protection Consent Form
- GDPR Audit
- Response to Safeguarding Allegations
- Safeguarding Policy
- Parish Whistleblowing Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Behaviour Code
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Reporting of Serious Incidents
- Social Media Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy (The House of Bishops Guidance on Safer Recruitment and Management of People - Church of England.org/safeguarding/ Emanual/safer recruitment)
- Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Church Hall Hire Ts and Cs.

2.3 Safeguarding statement

The PCC of the Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The PCC of the Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush is committed to implementing all safeguarding policies and practice guidance issued by the House of Bishops and have adopted the 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy Statement'. The PCC has implemented the new requirement to have safeguarding arrangements on the front page of the parish's website and in the porch notice board. The parish was quick to register to use the new Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and swiftly reached Level 2.

3. Objectives

The objectives of St. Alban's church are:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known
- Practical and spiritual support and care for all people living in the parish, from the youngest to the oldest, irrespective of level of need or ability to pay
- Maintaining the fabric of our buildings for worship and community life in order to facilitate our mission and outreach.

3.1. How St. Alban's objectives have been met

The PCC achieved its objectives by:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and making their experience of worship a welcoming and accessible one
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers
- Considering how services and outreach events can involve the many groups that live within the parish
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament and helping to serve some of the needs of our local communities
- Offering worship and prayer and learning about the Gospel in small group situations
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Giving material support to various charities and missionary organisations
- Reaching out to the unchurched through the provision of a variety of outreach events.

4. Impact of St. Alban's Church on the community

St. Alban's church makes a significant impact to people's lives whether from the local community or worldwide. This ranges from nurturing their spiritual needs to providing practical help.

4.1. Worship and Prayer

St Alban's Church is open Tuesdays-Thursdays from 9.00am - 4.00pm and in our busy world it offers a place for people to pray or just sit in a quiet and sacred space.

In 2025 there were 79 people recorded on the electoral roll, which is a small decrease from 2024 (83). On average 57 people attend the Sunday Sung Eucharist. This includes about 14 children, which is higher than the national average for the Church of England. The older children regularly participate in these services by giving out service sheets, reading the lesson and intercessions, ringing the bells and serving. It has been noticeable that the young people have grown in confidence by taking on these roles. The young people go out to Junior

Church at the start of the service and return during the Peace. They do activities that teach them about the same Gospel or readings being heard in church and have a chance to talk about what they have learnt towards the end of the service, which helps give them confidence with speaking in public.

Several all age services were held in 2025 as part of the Sunday Sung Eucharist that were specifically targeted at young people (no Junior Church is held at this time) e.g. Mothering Sunday. It was a pleasure to welcome 6th Crawley's Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs to the Remembrance service who were smartly dressed in their uniforms.

A weekly said Eucharist is held on Thursday mornings that is attended by about 12 people. Major festivals such as Christmas and Easter, and the Carol Service tend to attract more people from the community. Other special services included: the Triduum at Easter, Harvest, Mothering Sunday, Christingle, Taizé, and Wave of Prayer Services for the Mothers Union. A carol service was held in the Bewbush Barn for the first time in several years.

Once again, it was a pleasure to welcome The Holy Trinity Secondary School, who used St. Alban's church to host their carol service.

4.2. Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers in the Christian faith

There were 5 Baptisms in 2025, which involved preparation with the parents/Godparents and the Baptism itself that took place either in the Sunday Eucharist or a small service with family, friends and representatives from the church.

The Lent Course was well attended and a lay leader led a weekly bible study group.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who run Junior Church and this provided excellent teaching for our young people as well as being very much enjoyed by them.

The annual Good Friday Children's Workshop was well attended and enjoyed by all as was the Christingle service.

The Revd Dr. Sawyer has been keen to continue the close relationship we have with the Primary and Secondary schools in the neighbourhood of Gossops Green. She has taken classes in the Primary school and led a Eucharist for the teachers at the secondary school.

4.3. Provision of pastoral care

Pastoral care was provided by the pastoral care team and included home communions, regular phone calls and visits. It was offered to anyone in need, whether they were churchgoers or not.

4.4. Provision of practical support

Helping those in need provides a visible demonstration of our faith. Members of the congregation regularly provided practical help. We have a box in church for donations to the local food bank, Free Shop Crawley, which is delivered regularly.

The church runs a Heart of Welcome Café which is a registered 'Place of Welcome' centre. Members of the community enjoy coming each week as it is a warm and friendly weekly meeting place, also serving as a place of warmth while energy bills are still so high. Many Outreach3Way carers bring the people they support along to socialise and Age UK refer older people as well. Local councillors, PCSO's and representatives from Age UK sometimes attend and provide advice and practical help that benefits those in need.

Our Tiny Toes toddler group continues to attract more and more people from the whole community and has proved to be a much needed and welcome wellbeing provision. Weekly attendance is around 20+ families. Refreshments and craft activities are provided each week for the children and their adults. Christmas and Easter gifts are given to the children each year. Although initially set-up to support families in the local neighbourhood, due to its popularity members also now come from further afield. To be fully inclusive, unlike many similar organisations, pre-booking is not required and there is no set fee (but donations are gratefully received). The families that attend come from many backgrounds and English is often a second language.

The Mothers' Union (MU) actively supports our mission through projects such as the Rise Up Project to support Victims of Domestic Abuse. As a result, they have received the Bronze award for supporting victims of domestic abuse. The MU also issue socks for Gatwick detainees and attend a Carol Service at Brook House, Gatwick's Immigration Removal Centre.

The parish supports the Family Support Work charity to which the toys donated at the 'Toy Service' were sent. Regular food donations, including those from our Harvest, are provided throughout the year to Free Shop Crawley.

The parish supports Link to Hope by sending Christmas shoeboxes filled with useful items and toys to those in need in Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine. Every year St Alban's members support the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal and collect and fill shoeboxes with items for families and the elderly in Eastern Europe. (42 boxes in 2025).

We also support Open House, and the YMCA hub which supports young people as they move into adulthood and we have church members who help with cooking a weekly meal for the young people.

St. Alban's continues to support Open Doors through prayer, individuals providing financial gifts and advocacy. The latter is performed by encouraging our Member of Parliament to become informed about the World Watch List and by signing petitions for support of persecuted Christians, which is directed to national governments and the United Nations. We held our annual service dedicated to the persecuted church where the congregation learnt about the work performed by Open Doors.

4.5. Provision of the church buildings for people to enjoy

In addition to church services, one of our main focuses has been to explore ways in which our church buildings can be used for groups and events that are of value to our local community. These can take place in the church or church hall. As the chairs are not fixed in the church, it provides a large and flexible space for a wide range of varied activities.

A major event in 2025 was Revd Dr. Sawyer's licensing service which was conducted by the Bishop of Horsham and attended by nearly 200 people. This included the Archdeacon of Horsham, members of the regular congregation, 20 robed clergy, councillors, family and friends. Refreshments were served in the church hall after the service.

The Mother's Union makes good use of the facilities for activities including worship, preparing the Mothering Sunday posies, making poppies for Remembrance Sunday and Christmas 'Shine a Light' stars for the very young, packing socks for Brook House Immigration Removal Centre detainees and collecting food donations for Family Support Work.

Other events such as the annual Cream Tea afternoon and Christmas Tree Festival and Café are enjoyed by the whole community. The wonderful cakes and refreshments offered at each event are lovingly baked by the fundraising team.

There are many other groups who regularly use the church and hall, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Slimming World, Rainbows, and a Martial Arts class.

The Barn Church, Bewbush is a useful resource to the parish and acts as a community centre. The building is used by groups that provide services that benefit the community: The Barn Pre School, Desire2Dance, and Elim Pentecostal Church; as well as being used for one-off events.

4.6 Significant Activities in 2025

- 2nd February - Taizé Service
- 16th February - Dedication service and Bring & Share lunch
- 18th April - Good Friday Workshop (Messy Church)
- 22nd June - Patronal Festival and 80th anniversary of Peace
- 3rd August - Cream Tea
- 3rd September - Rev'd Greta's Licensing
- 12th October - Harvest Festival and lunch
- 19th October - Service for the persecuted church
- 7th November - Fundraising Painting event
- 9th November - Remembrance Sunday
- 22nd November - Safeguarding Training
- 29th November - MU Silence for Abuse victims
- 30th November - Christingle Service
- 6th December - Christmas Tree Festival and Café
- 7th December - Toy Service
- 7th December - Grand Draw raffle
- 7th December - Carols in The Barn
- 14th December - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
- 24th December - Crib service and Midnight Mass
- 25th December - Christmas Day service

5. Buildings and Maintenance

Maintenance has been periodically carried out on the church and hall throughout the year. This included stopping leaks in the church roof, redecorating the Lady Chapel and some re-pointing.

Although the church is only about 60 years old, the brickwork on the tower is spalling and scaffolding has been put around it to catch any falling masonry. This is going to require significant time and money to rectify and the PCC is identifying suitable grants specifically for this purpose. One other avenue is through encouraging people to donate via legacies.

St Alban's is currently fundraising and applying for grants for various desperately needed improvements to the church building so that more mission, outreach and community work can be facilitated.

The church is currently considering the installation of a kitchenette in the church, building a new entrance to make St. Alban's more accessible and to incorporate toilets within the church. At some stage we would be like to replace the church hall with a new multi-purpose brick building.

6. Financial Review

6.1 Reserves

It is the PCC's policy that, due to the age and condition of the buildings it should maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds that equates to approximately three months of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations.

We also keep three months' income from Bewbush Barn rental fees to cover contingency against unforeseen situations.

We have a restricted account for special projects.

Unrestricted Funds at the end of 2025 were £72,218. This achieved the reserves as outlined above.

6.2 Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The PCC takes a minimal risk approach to operations. PCC meetings are held every 2-3 months to discuss risks (including upcoming events) and put in place insurance. With no fixed assets or debtors, the risk of impairment is minimal. Cash handling remains a risk, with segregation of duties taking place throughout the parish where possible. There is a Safeguarding Officer in place in order to ensure that we can manage vulnerable people appropriately.

7. Appointing Trustees

The church seeks new PCC members and trustees annually. This process starts when an AGM notice is displayed in Church 3 weeks before the meeting. This notice states the desired number of PCC members required & Deanery Synod roles. Before the meeting, those who are willing to stand are asked to sign a nomination form which they sign along with proposal & seconder. This individual is then put forward at the AGM and voted on by those present. All members of our PCC are trustees and the details added to Charity Commissioners website.

8. Approval

This Trustees' Annual Report has been approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Revd Dr. Greta Sawyer, PCC Chair.

Signed G. S. Sawyer

Date 19th April 2026

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

Receipts and Payments Summary of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	42,406	-	42,406	35,989
Trading activities	2	43,545	-	43,545	40,726
Other receipts	2	819	-	819	4,164
Total received		86,770	-	86,770	80,879
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	3	218	-	218	274
Charitable activities	3	50,507	-	50,507	47,377
Other payments	3	14,134	383	14,517	12,482
Total paid		64,859	383	65,242	60,133
Reconciliation of funds:					
Net income		21,912	(383)	21,529	20,746
Funds at 1 January		50,306	15,878	66,184	45,438
Funds at 31 December		72,218	15,495	87,713	66,184

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments Basis.

2. Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	23,253	-	23,253	23,529
Planned giving (no tax refunds)	1,939	-	1,939	1,750
Loose cash collections	1,962	-	1,962	1,629
Special appeals	9,862	-	9,862	3,197
Gift aid recovered	5,390	-	5,390	5,884
Donations	42,406	-	42,406	35,989
Rental income	38,659	-	38,659	37,196
Fundraising events	4,886	-	4,886	3,530
Trading activities	43,545	-	43,545	40,726
Fees for weddings and funerals	332	-	332	491
Other receipts	487	-	487	3,673
Other receipts	819	-	819	4,164
Total received	86,770	-	86,770	80,879

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
Assets:				
Bank current account	72,218	15,495	87,713	66,184

Note 7 has further details on restricted funds.

Liabilities:

At the year end the following estimated liabilities existed (all to be paid from unrestricted funds):

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	1,380	1,552

This Financial Report for the period ended 31 December 2025, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by Rev'd Greta Sawyer, PCC Chair:

G. J. Sawyer

Date: 19th April 2026

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

3. Analysis of total paid

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
	Note				
Event costs		218	-	218	274
Raising funds		218	-	218	274
Charitable donations		-	-	-	-
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	4	20,004	-	20,004	20,004
Interregnum costs		1,944	-	1,944	1,206
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	6	3,949	-	3,949	3,802
Clergy and other people's expenses		1,825	-	1,825	2,184
Mission costs		477	-	477	1,193
Insurance		4,461	-	4,461	4,363
Water, gas, electric, and oil		11,496	-	11,496	8,807
Printing and photocopying		2,504	-	2,504	2,838
Wedding and funeral costs		366	-	366	1,167
Other regular church running costs		3,480	-	3,480	1,813
Charitable activities		50,507	-	50,507	47,377
Maintenance & redecoration		10,862	383	11,245	9,916
Accountancy fees		1,350	-	1,350	1,284
Bank fees		116	-	116	120
Other payments		1,806	-	1,806	1,162
Other payments		14,134	383	14,517	12,482
		64,859	383	65,242	60,133

4. Parish share to Chichester Diocese

The Parish share to Chichester Diocese of £20,000 (2024: £20,000) is for the payment of Clergy and other central costs. The full cost of the parish ministry amounts to c.£85,000 for the year (2024: c.£81,000). The shortfall is not payable by the parish in future years.

5. Gift aid

Gift aid is recoverable on donations received up to the year end. Due to the preparation on the basis of cash accounting, there is Gift Aid due on December's donation after the year end.

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

6. Payments to PCC employees

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross pay	3,749	3,501
Honaria payments	200	301
Salaries and honaria per note 3	3,949	3,802

7. Restricted funds

The PCC continues to fund raise for a building project which will take place in phases but will result in the repair of the church tower, construction of a new entrance hall, the upgrade of WCs and the kitchen area, and a new church hall.

Furthermore the charity has also received funds which are restricted for expenditure in relation to the Toddler group at the church.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Building fund	13,053	13,436
Toddler group	2,442	2,442
	15,495	15,878

8. Related party transactions

During the year there were various donations from trustees to the parish. Due to many being in cash it is not possible to quantify the amounts.

During the period there were various expenses paid for by trustees on behalf of the church (because cash floats are not given out), which were then reimbursed.

Furthermore the utility, council tax, and phone bills of the clergy and curates are paid by the charity, with rent and wages being paid by the Diocese (for which this charity pays through contributions, see note 3).

There were no other related party payments or receipts during the year.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 1 to 12.

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').

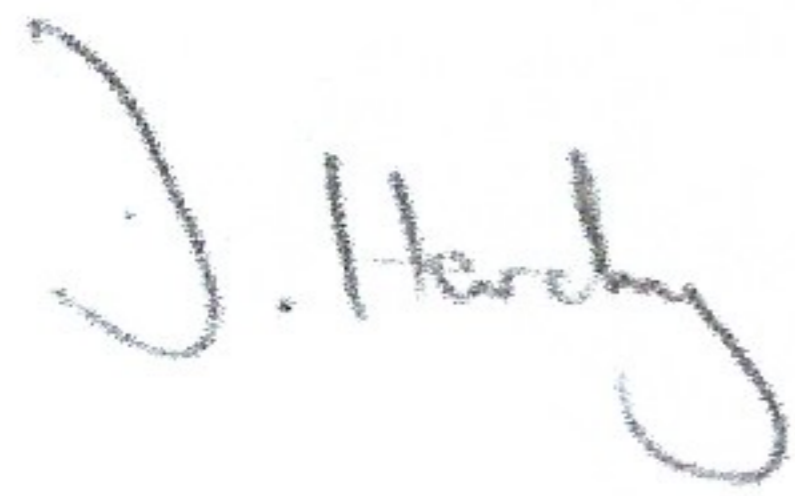
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

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.



Darren Harding ACA FCCA DChA

Richard Place Dobson Services Limited
Registered in England
Company Number 4681154
1-7 Station Road, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1HT

Date: 1 May 2026

Accounts

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's**

**Trustees Annual Report and Annual Financial Report
for the year ended
31 December 2024**

Registered Charity number: 1196796

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Officers and professional advisers

Trustees:

Ex Officio:

Incumbent: Revd. Ann Alexander (Chair) (retired 7 July 2024)
Currently vacant

Wardens: Mrs Deborah Cowie (until 15 December 2024)
Mrs Sue Richardson (Vice chair)

Secretary: Mr Alan Magrath* (until 12 May 2024)
Mrs Meg Miller* (from 12 May 2024)

Safeguarding officer: Mr Andy Hoare

Elected members: Mr Geoff Bull (until 8 July 2024)
Mrs Caroline Edwards (until 12 May 2024)
Mr Keith Ford
Mr Robert Higson
Mr Andy Hoare
Mrs Emma Humphrey
Ms Beverly Killick
Mrs Sarah Magrath (until 12 May 2024)
Mrs Jane Sharpe
Mrs Madeleine Taylor
Mrs Helen Ford (from 12 May 2024)
Mrs Cissy Atwine (from 6 September 2024)
Mrs Jemma Robinson (from 17 September 2024)

Deanery Synod: Mrs Madeleine Taylor
Mrs Helen Ford (from 12 May 2024)

**Despite being an ex-officio position this person has not taken up the role of a voting member of the PCC.*

Treasurer: Mr James May
Finance officer: Mrs Sue Richardson

Charity Number: 1196796

Registered office: St Alban's Parish Office
St Alban's Church Hall
Gossops Drive
Crawley
West Sussex
RH11 8LD

Independent Examiners: Darren Harding ACA FCCA DChA
Richard Place Dobson Services Limited
1-7 Station Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1HT

Trustees Annual Report for 2024

1. About the Parish

St. Alban's church is in the Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, which are two neighbourhoods on the west side of Crawley. It is part of the Deanery of East Grinstead and the Diocese of Chichester.

St. Alban's church prides itself for being inclusive and has a multicultural congregation of all ages and walks of life. The church welcomes visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary to join us as members of the family.

1.1 Notice of Suspension of Presentation

On September 11th 2024, the Parish Wardens were advised that the presentation of the Benefice of Gossops Green and Bewbush St. Alban's was suspended for a period of five years. Under the provisions of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, this allowed for the temporary lifting of a patron's right to present an incumbent for appointment to a parish. The Bishop would remain responsible for the cure of souls which would normally be exercised by the appointment of a priest-in charge, or by arranging for neighbouring clergy to serve in the parish.

2. Structure, governance and management of the charity

The governance of St. Alban's church is conducted in accordance with that specified by the Church of England. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with HMRC and became a registered charity with the Charity Commission in 2021. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. In 2024 we held six PCC meetings and an APCM. Four Standing Committee meetings were also held throughout the year. The members of the Parochial Church Council who served during the year are listed on the Charities Commission website. Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate (where appropriate), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery Synods), and 9 members on the electoral roll who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). All members of the congregation are encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills, experience and diversity where possible.

Communication to parishioners is provided via a weekly emailed newsletter (also published on Facebook and hard copies delivered to those without internet access).

2.1. Notable Changes

As our vicar, the Revd Ann Alexander, retired in June 2024, St. Alban's Church is in an interregnum. The running of the church is now solely the responsibility of the Church Wardens and PCC with support from the Rural Dean and Archdeacon. The church has continued to operate as 'business as usual' with services being covered by visiting vicars. The church also has two lay leaders (one who is in training) who are authorised to take certain parts of a service.

2.2. Safeguarding statement

The PCC of the Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The PCC of the Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush is committed to implementing all safeguarding policies and practice guidance issued by the House of Bishops and have adopted the 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy Statement'. The PCC has implemented the new requirement to have safeguarding arrangements on the front page of the parish's website and in the porch notice board. The parish has also achieved the SQP Level 1 quality assurance assessment.

2.3 Policies

The following policies are upheld by the PCC and are regularly updated: Health and Safety Policy St Alban's, Health and Safety Policy Bewbush Barn, Finance Policy, Finance Reserves Policy, Significant National Mourning Policy, GDPR Data Privacy Notice, GG Data Protection Consent Form, GDPR Audit, Response to Safeguarding Allegations, Safeguarding Policy, Parish Whistleblowing Policy, E-Safety Policy, Behaviour Code, Authorised Sidespersons, Conflict of Interest Policy, Reporting of Serious Incidents, Social Media Policy, Safer Recruitment Policy, (The House of Bishops \ Guidance on Safer Recruitment and Management of People - Church of england.org/safeguarding/Emanual/safer recruitment), and Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

3. Objectives

The objectives of St. Alban's church are:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known
- Practical and spiritual support and care for all people living in the parish, from the youngest to the oldest, irrespective of level of need or ability to pay
- Maintaining the fabric of our buildings for worship and community life in order to facilitate our mission and outreach

3.1. How St. Alban's objectives have been met

The PCC achieved its objectives by:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and making their experience of worship a welcoming and accessible one
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers
- Considering how services and outreach events can involve the many groups that live within the parish
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament and helping to serve some of the needs of our local communities
- Offering worship and prayer and learning about the Gospel in small group situations
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Giving material support to various charities and missionary organisations
- Reaching out to the unchurched through the provision of a variety of outreach events

4. Impact of St. Alban's Church on the community

St. Alban's church makes a significant impact to people's lives whether from the local community or worldwide. This ranges from nurturing their spiritual needs to providing practical help.

4.1. Worship and Prayer

St Alban's Church is open during the day on a Tuesday and Wednesday and on a Friday morning, and in our busy world it offers a place for people to pray or just sit in a quiet and sacred space.

Trustees Annual Report for 2024

In 2024 there were 84 people recorded on the electoral roll, which is a small increase from 2023. On average 60 people attend the Sunday Sung Eucharist. This includes about 20 children, which is higher than the national average for the Church of England. The older children regularly participate in these services by giving out service sheets, reading the lesson and intercessions, ringing the bells and serving. It has been noticeable that the young people have grown in confidence by taking on these roles. As a result it enabled them to lead the Crib Service. The young people go out to Junior Church at the start of the service and return during the Peace. They do activities that teach them about the same Gospel or readings being heard in church and have a chance to talk about what they have learnt towards the end of the service, which helps give them confidence with speaking in public.

Several all age services were held in 2024 as part of the Sunday Sung Eucharist that were specifically targeted at young people (no Junior Church is held at this time) e.g. Mothering Sunday.

A weekly said Eucharist is held that is attended by about 12 people. Major festivals such as Christmas and Easter, and the Carol Service tend to attract more people from the community. Other special services included: the Triduum at Easter, Harvest, Mothering Sunday, Christingle, Taize, and Wave of Prayer Services for the Mothers Union.

Once again, it was a pleasure to welcome The Holy Trinity Secondary School, who used St. Alban's church to host their carol service.

4.2. Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers in the Christian faith

There were 3 Baptisms in 2024, which involved preparation with the parents/Godparents and the Baptism itself that took place either in the Sunday Eucharist or a small service with family, friends and representatives from the church.

The Lent Course was well attended and a lay leader led a fortnightly bible study group.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who run Junior Church and this provided excellent teaching for our young people as well as being very much enjoyed by them.

The annual Good Friday Children's Workshop was well attended and enjoyed by all (40 children and 15 adults) as was the Christingle service (43 attendees).

Classes from Year 2 of Gossops Green Primary school visited the church as part of their studies to learn about the building, its features and how these are used. A member of the congregation and a retired vicar showed them around and answered their questions.

A member of the congregation visited Year 3 classes of Gossops Green Primary School to teach them about the meaning and symbols of Advent.

4.3. Provision of pastoral care

Pastoral care was provided by the pastoral care team and included home communions, regular phone calls and visits. It was offered to anyone in need, whether they were churchgoers or not.

4.4. Provision of practical support

Helping those in need provides a visible demonstration of our faith. Members of the congregation regularly provided practical help e.g. small jobs, shopping to those identified in need. We have a box in church for donations to the local foodbank, Freeshop Crawley, which is delivered regularly.

The church runs a Heart of Welcome Café which is a registered 'Place of Welcome' centre. Members of the community enjoy coming each week as it is a warm and friendly weekly meeting place, also serving as a place of warmth while energy bills are still so high. Social Services and NHS staff bring clients with whom they are working on a one to one basis and Age UK refer older people as well. Some people have been referred to the weekly health walk led by one of the volunteers. Local councillors, PCSO's and representatives from Age UK attend regularly to provide advice and practical help to those who attend.

Trustees Annual Report for 2024

Our Tiny Toes toddler group continues to attract more and more people from the whole community and has proved to be a much needed and welcome wellbeing provision. Weekly attendance is around 20+ families. Refreshments and craft activities are provided each week for the children and their adults. Christmas and Easter gifts are given to the children each year.

The Mothers' Union (MU) actively supports our mission through projects such as the Rise Up Project to support Victims of Domestic Abuse. As a result, they have received the Bronze award for supporting victims of domestic abuse. The MU also issue socks for Gatwick detainees and attend a Carol Service at Brook House, Gatwick's Immigration Removal Centre.

The parish has supported the Family Support Work charity throughout the year with regular food donations, half of our Harvest donations and the annual Toy Service. Food collections are also collected and delivered regularly to the Free Shop Crawley.

The parish supports Link to Hope by sending Christmas shoeboxes filled with useful items and toys to those in need in Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine (48 boxes in 2024).

We also support Open House, and the YMCA hub which supports young people as they move into adulthood and we have church members who help with cooking a weekly meal for the young people.

St. Alban's continues to support Open Doors through prayer, individuals providing financial gifts and advocacy. The latter is performed by encouraging our Member of Parliament to become informed about the World Watch List and by signing petitions for support of persecuted Christians, which is directed to national governments and the United Nations. We held our annual service dedicated to the persecuted church where the congregation learnt about the work performed by Open Doors.

4.5. Provision of the church buildings for people to enjoy

In addition to church services, one of our main focuses has been to explore ways in which our church buildings can be used for groups and events that are of value to our local community. These can take place in the church or church hall. As the chairs are not fixed in the church, it provides a large and flexible space for a wide range of varied activities.

A major event in 2024 was Rev. Ann's final service which was well attended by the regular congregation and those with whom she crossed paths in the community and wider afield during her 11 years in office. A celebration lunch was held that reinforced the sense of community in the church.

Other events such as the annual Cream Tea afternoon, Christmas Fair and Tree Festival, are enjoyed by the whole community. The wonderful cakes and refreshments offered at each event are lovingly baked by the fundraising team.

There are many other groups who regularly use the church and hall, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Slimming World, Rainbows, a Martial Arts class.

The Barn Church Bewbush is no longer used for regular Anglican services but it provides a resource centre for the parish and acts as a community centre. The building is used by regular groups who provide services that benefit the community: The Barn Pre School, Desire 2 Dance, and Elim Pentecostal Church, as well as being used for one-off events.

4.6. Significant Activities in 2024

- Taize service
- Visioning Day
- Fund raising concert given by an ex-chorister who now performs professionally
- Whole church meeting with Archdeacon Angela and Rev'd Richard Poole

Trustees Annual Report for 2024

- Patronal Festival and Rev'd Ann's 'send-off'
- Cream Tea
- Anne Oldham's talk on her job as makeup artist for Downton Abbey
- Harvest Festival Lunch
- Christingle service
- Christmas Tree Festival and Fair & Grand Draw
- Carol service
- Crib service

5. The Future

St Alban's is currently fundraising for various desperately needed improvements to the church building so that more mission, outreach and community work can be facilitated.

Medium term plans include the installation of a kitchenette in the church. This will make it easier and safer to provide coffee after church services and other communal gatherings, which currently has to come from the church hall.

Further longer term plans include building a new entrance to make St. Alban's more accessible and to incorporate toilets within the church. At some stage we would be like to replace the church hall with a new multi-purpose brick building.

6. Financial Review

The summary of financial activities shows an increase in giving, an increase in the number of hirers of the Church Hall and a reduction in expenditure.

The tower requires significant time and money to make it structurally sound and the PCC is fundraising and identifying suitable grants specifically for this project.

6.1. Reserves


It is the PCC's policy that due to the age and condition of the buildings, it should maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds which equates to approximately two months of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. The closing balance on unrestricted funds at the end of 2024 was c.£50,000, which achieved this.

6.2. Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The PCC takes a minimal risk approach to operations. PCC meetings are held every 2-3 months to discuss risks (including upcoming events) and put in place insurance. With no fixed assets or debtors, the risk of impairment is minimal. Cash handling remains a risk, with segregation of duties taking place throughout the parish where possible. There is a Safeguarding Officer in place in order to ensure that we can manage vulnerable people appropriately.

7. Approval

This Trustees' Annual Report has been approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Sue Richardson, PCC Chair.



Date: 11.12.2025

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 1 to 12.

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').

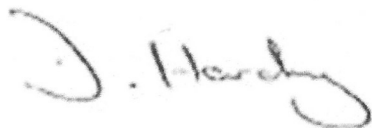
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

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.



Darren Harding ACA FCCA DChA

Richard Place Dobson Services Limited
Registered in England
Company Number 4681154
1-7 Station Road, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1HT

Date: 14 April 2025

Receipts and Payments Summary of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	35,489	500	35,989	45,663
Trading activities	2	40,726	-	40,726	40,206
Other receipts	2	1,722	2,442	4,164	1,492
Total received		77,937	2,942	80,879	87,361
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	3	274	-	274	121
Charitable activities	3	47,377	-	47,377	44,713
Other payments	3	12,482	-	12,482	27,199
Total paid		60,133	-	60,133	72,033
Reconciliation of funds:					
Net income		17,804	2,942	20,746	15,328
Funds at 1 January		32,502	12,936	45,438	30,110
Funds at 31 December		50,306	15,878	66,184	45,438

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Assets:				
Bank current account	50,306	15,878	66,184	45,438

Note 7 has further details on restricted funds.

Liabilities:

At the year end the following estimated liabilities existed (all to be paid from unrestricted funds):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	1,552	2,490

This Financial Report for the period ended 31 December 2024, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by S. RICHARDSON, PCC Chair:



Date: 11.4.2025

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments Basis.

2. Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	23,529	-	23,529	23,434
Planned giving (no tax refunds)	1,750	-	1,750	2,277
Loose cash collections	1,629	-	1,629	2,366
Special appeals	2,697	500	3,197	11,726
Gift aid recovered	5,884	-	5,884	5,860
Donations	35,489	500	35,989	45,663
Rental income	37,196	-	37,196	37,625
Fundraising events	3,530	-	3,530	2,581
Trading activities	40,726	-	40,726	40,206
Fees for weddings and funerals	491	-	491	1,084
Other receipts	1,231	2,442	3,673	408
Other receipts	1,722	2,442	4,164	1,492
Total received	77,937	2,942	80,879	87,361

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

3. Analysis of total paid

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
Event costs	Note	274	-	274	121
Raising funds		274	-	274	121
Charitable donations		-	-	-	-
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	4	20,004	-	20,004	15,000
Interregnum costs		1,206	-	1,206	-
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	6	3,802	-	3,802	3,525
Clergy and other people's expenses		2,184	-	2,184	3,609
Mission costs		1,193	-	1,193	942
Insurance		4,363	-	4,363	4,289
Water, gas, electric, and oil		8,807	-	8,807	13,400
Printing and photocopying		2,838	-	2,838	2,412
Wedding and funeral costs		1,167	-	1,167	-
Other regular church running costs		1,813	-	1,813	1,536
Charitable activities		47,377	-	47,377	44,713
Maintenance & redecoration		9,916	-	9,916	24,737
Accountancy fees		1,284	-	1,284	1,260
Bank fees		120	-	120	120
Other payments		1,162	-	1,162	1,082
Other payments		12,482	-	12,482	27,199
		60,133	-	60,133	72,033

4. Parish share to Chichester Diocese

The Parish share to Chichester Diocese of £20,000 (2023: £15,000) is for the payment of Clergy and other central costs. The full cost of the parish ministry amounts to c.£81,000 for the year (2023: c.£80,000). The shortfall is not payable by the parish in future years.

5. Gift aid

Gift aid is recoverable on donations received up to the year end. Due to the preparation on the basis of cash accounting, there is Gift Aid due on December's donation after the year end.

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

6. Payments to PCC employees

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross pay	3,501	3,300
Honaria payments	301	225
Salaries and honaria per note 3	3,802	3,525

7. Restricted funds

The PCC continues to fund raise for a building project which will take place in phases but will result in the repair of the church tower, construction of a new entrance hall, the upgrade of WCs and the kitchen area, and a new church hall.

Furthermore the charity has also received funds which are restricted for expenditure in relation to the Toddler group at the church.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Building fund	13,436	12,936
Toddler group	2,442	-
	15,878	12,936

8. Related party transactions

During the year there were various donations from trustees to the parish. Due to many being in cash it is not possible to quantify the amounts.

During the period there were various expenses paid for by trustees on behalf of the church (because cash floats are not given out), which were then reimbursed.

Furthermore the utility, council tax, and phone bills of the clergy and curates are paid by the charity, with rent and wages being paid by the Diocese (for which this charity pays through contributions, see note 3).

There were no other related party payments or receipts during the year.

Accounts

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's**

**Trustees Annual Report and Annual Financial Report
for the year ended
31 December 2023**

Registered Charity number: 1196796

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

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Officers and professional advisers

Trustees:

Ex Officio:

Incumbent:

Revd. Ann Alexander (Chair)

Wardens:

Mrs Deborah Cowie (from 21 May 2023)

Mrs Caroline Edwards (Vice Chair) (until 21 May 2023)

Mrs Sue Richardson (Vice chair from 21 May 2023)

Secretary:

Mr Alan Magrath*

Safeguarding officer:

Mr Andy Hoare

Elected members:

Mr Geoff Bull (from 21 May 2023)

Mrs Caroline Edwards (from 21 May 2023, previously a Warden)

Mr Keith Ford (from 21 May 2023)

Mr Robert Higson

Mr Andy Hoare

Mrs Emma Humphrey

Ms Beverly Killick

Mrs Sarah Magrath

Mrs Jane Sharpe

Deanery Synod:

Mrs Sue Richardson (until 21 May 2023)

Mrs Madeleine Taylor (from 21 May 2023)

**Despite being an ex-officio position this person has not taken up the role of a voting member of the PCC.*

Treasurer:

Mr James May

Finance officer:

Mrs Sue Richardson

Charity Number:

1196796

Registered office:

St Alban's Parish Office

St Alban's Church Hall

Gossops Drive

Crawley

West Sussex

RH11 8LD

Independent Examiners:

Darren Harding ACA FCCA DChA

Richard Place Dobson Services Limited

1-7 Station Road

Crawley

West Sussex

RH10 1HT

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

Trustees Annual Report for 2023

Our aims and purposes

The Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush consists of two main neighbourhoods on the west side of Crawley. Gossops Green and Bewbush PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar, the Revd Ann Alexander, in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England;
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical.
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known.
- Practical and spiritual support and care for all people living in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or ability to pay;
- Maintaining the fabric of our buildings for worship and community life in order to facilitate our mission and outreach.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, our Vicar and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. For 2023 we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and making their experience of worship a welcoming and accessible one;
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community;
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers;
- Considering how services and outreach events can involve the many groups that live within the parish;
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament and helping to serve some of the needs of our local communities;
- Offering worship and prayer and learning about the Gospel in small group situations;
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- Raising money and giving material support to various charities and missionary organisations;
- Reaching out to the unchurched through the provision of a variety of outreach events;

What we achieved and how we affected our beneficiaries' lives

Worship and Prayer

The church family welcomes visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary to join us as members of the family. Visitors attend by personal choice and, it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of our churches. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities.

I always enjoy the church service and activities, the church is always a warm friendly environment specifically organised for friends, family and those on their own like your truly. D.A. (Comment posted on Google Maps)

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

Trustees Annual Report for 2023

This year, the average attendance at Sunday services (not including major feasts such as Easter) is 45 adults and 14 children. New members have been welcomed, and baptisms and funeral services have been held. This year there are 79 people recorded on the electoral roll. This number has remained pretty static over the past few years; however, several new families have joined us this year and it is hoped they will be added to the electoral roll for next year. It has been a delight to see so many worshippers from the local community at special services, especially at Easter and Christmas and for services such as the Harvest Service, Mothering Sunday, Messy Christingle Service, Sunday evening Taize, Lady Day and Wave of Prayer Services for the Mothers Union and a dedicated service for Open Doors. It also gave us great joy to host the Holy Trinity School Carol Service once again. We had three 'whole year group' visits from Bewbush Academy who all wrote lovely cards to say thank you. The number of children who enjoy attending church regularly is a joy to behold. At all age services and at

*To St Albans,
Thank you for teaching us about
Christians and answering all our
questions thank you lots and lots
From G, (Year 4 Bewbush Academy)*

other times our youngsters take part in worship by being readers, serving during worship, and leading the prayers. It is a real joy to see young people grow in confidence through these roles. We are all very proud of the group of children who admirably led the Crib Service.

Provision of the church buildings for people to enjoy

St Alban's Church is open during the day for people to pray or just sit in a quiet and sacred space. One of our main focuses has always been to explore ways in which our church buildings can be used for groups and events that are of value to our local community in addition to church services.

The church runs a Heart of Welcome Café which is a registered 'Place of Welcome' centre. Members of the community enjoy coming each week as it is a warm and friendly weekly meeting place, also serving as a place of warmth while energy bills are still so high. Many Outreach3Way carers bring their clients along to socialise and Age UK refer their clients as well. Local councillors, PCSO's and representatives from Age UK attend regularly to provide advice and practical help to those who attend.

Our Tiny Toes toddler group continues to attract more and more people from the whole community and has proved to be a very needed and welcome wellbeing provision. Weekly attendance is around 20+ families. Refreshments and craft activities are provided each week for the children and their adults. Christmas and Easter books are gifted to the children each year.

The Mother's Union makes good use of the church and hall for meetings and activities. Among other events and activities, each year they prepare the Mothering Sunday posies for distribution, make Christmas 'Shine a Light' stars for the very young, pack socks for Brook House Immigration Removal Centre detainees and collect food donations for Family Support Work. They also make use of the church and hall for worship, meetings and other activities.

Another highlight of the year was our Patronal bring and share 'international' lunch and BBQ. The array of food donated to the feast for everyone's enjoyment paid a wonderful testimony to the increasing diversity of our congregation members. It was enjoyed so much that we decided to do it all again for a Harvest Lunch!

Other events such as the annual Cream Tea afternoon, Christmas Fair and Tree Festival, are a source of joy for the whole community. We held three musical fundraising events which were all thoroughly enjoyed by the community. The wonderful musicians for all three events generously donated their time and expertise to bring joy to the community as well as to help the church raise funds. The wonderful cakes and refreshments offered at each event were lovingly baked by our fundraising team.

There are many other groups who use the church and hall, including the regulars, the AA group, Stimming World, and annual NHS Covid vaccination clinics.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

Trustees Annual Report for 2023

The Barn Church Bewbush is no longer used for regular Anglican services but as a resource centre for the parish and as a community centre. The building is used by regular groups who provide services that benefit the community; The Barn Pre School, Desire to Dance, and Elim Pentecostal Church; as well as being used for one off events.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

Five funerals, six baptisms and one burial of ashes were taken this year. Pastoral care is always provided after the funeral from the clergy. The vicar, pastoral care team and general fellowship amongst the church community continue to provide pastoral care through home communions, regular phone calls and visits including giving practical help when needed. A weekly emailed newsletter (also published on Facebook and hard copies delivered to those without internet access), food deliveries to those in need, and fellowship events have all ensured that our pastoral care is extended to everyone we can possibly reach, whether they are churchgoers or not.

Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The parish has supported the Family Support Work charity throughout the year with regular food donations, half of our Harvest donations and the annual Toy Service (which is the annual donation of toys and toiletries for children and their carers through Family Support Work). In addition, the St Alban's branch of the Mothers Union has also donated weekly food collections to Family Support Work. Food collections are also collected and delivered regularly to the Free Shop Crawley. Each year, the vicar visits three local pre-schools to talk to the children who then combine their harvest offerings with those collected by the church. We do ensure that the recipients of the donations know that the pre-schools donate as well. The huge amount of donations is blessed at the Harvest Service and then shared between FSW and The Free Shop Crawley.

A huge thank you to St Alban's Gossops Green & Bewbush, The Barn Pre-School and GiggleadGrow Preschools for your very generous harvest festival donation this week. Donations are vital to Freeshop so this is amazing, your support means everything to us. THANK YOU (Facebook post)

The parish supports Link to Hope by sending Christmas shoeboxes filled with goodies and knitted items for projects in Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine. Regular collection boxes are held by members of the congregation to donate to the Children's Society. We also support Open House, and the YMCA hub which supports young people as they move into adulthood through their 'Love in a Box' Christmas campaign and we have church members who help with cooking a weekly meal for the young people.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers in the Christian faith

In 2023 two more of our younger children were admitted to Holy Communion on Easter Day after completing a First Holy Communion Course. Six baptisms took place during the year. Baptism preparation sessions are held with parents and Godparents before baptism. We hold our Lent Course during Lent and hold a weekly bible study group. Junior Church provides excellent teaching for our young people and is very much enjoyed by the growing numbers of children (often up to 20 children). It is always a delight to hear from the youngsters what they have learnt during the morning. School visits to the church have begun again after the pandemic and in addition to school visits, the vicar visits three local pre-schools at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The annual Good Friday Children's Workshop is enjoyed by many local children (45 attendees) as was the Messy Christingle event (60 attendees). The school visits and the 6th Crawley beaver visits all focus on teaching the Christian faith and are very much appreciated.

The Future

Last year we reported that we were getting closer to raising the funds for installing a new heating system in St Alban's. We are delighted that this was completed in March 2023. This has enabled many more church and community groups to make use of the church. This will enhance the lives and wellbeing of so many in our church and community and will further combat the growing problem of loneliness within society.

St Alban's is currently fundraising for various desperately needed improvements to the church building so that more mission, outreach and community work can be facilitated. Although the fundraising is moving slowly, we are delighted we received a small grant of £2,000 in 2022 from <http://www.benefacttrust.co.uk/> towards the preparation costs for the building project.

The PCC's aim is to create a new accessible entrance, install toilets, the new heating system, a refreshment area, and repair the tower. This work will benefit both the church and the local community by providing an accessible worship space as well as a usable space for community use. As we recover from the economic and social effects of Covid 19 there is even greater need for our buildings to be used for and by the community to provide for the spiritual, physical and mental health and wellbeing of people in our neighbourhoods and beyond.

The Buildings Development Group continues to meet and is working on funding applications. The building work is more pressing than ever now that we have more church activities in the pipeline and more community groups needing space for their activities.

Financial Review

The summary of financial activities shows an increase in receipts which is attributable to higher rental receipts. This is driven by a mix of higher rents (to cover the higher utility bills of the premises) and greater utilisation.

The summary of financial activities also shows a decrease in expenditure as a result of regrettably cutting our payment to the Diocese. This was done in the 2022 budget when inflation was rampant and the economic forecast looked far from certain. 2023 saw the parish out perform its budget, resulting in a surplus and as a result will look to pay an increased amount to the Diocese in 2024.

Why we hold some money in reserve

It is the PCC's policy that due to the age and condition of the buildings, it should work towards, and then maintain, a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. The closing balance on unrestricted funds at the end of 2023 was £32k (2022: £19k) which achieved this.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The PCC takes a minimal risk approach to operations. PCC meetings are held every 2-3 months to discuss risks (including upcoming events) and put in place insurance. With no fixed assets or debtors, the risk of impairment is minimal. Cash handling remains a risk, with segregation of duties taking place throughout the parish where possible. There is a Safeguarding Officer in place in order to ensure that we can manage vulnerable people appropriately.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

Trustees Annual Report for 2023

Safeguarding statement

The PCC of the Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The PCC of the Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush is committed to implementing all safeguarding policies and practice guidance issued by the House of Bishops and have adopted the 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy Statement'. The PCC has implemented the new requirement to have safeguarding arrangements on the front page of the parish's website and in the porch notice board. The parish has also achieved the SQP Level 1 quality assurance assessment.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with HMRC and became a registered charity with the Charity Commission in 2021. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. In 2022 we held six PCC meetings and an APCM. Six Standing Committee meetings were also held throughout the year. The members of the Parochial Church Council who served during the year are listed on page 1. Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, the churchwardens and members of the Deanery Synods), and 9 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). As of the 2020 APCM there are no vacancies on the PCC. All members of the congregation are encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by the Revd Ann Alexander, PCC Chair.

A Alexander

Date: 20/3/24

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 1 to 12.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

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.



Darren Harding ACA FCCA DChA

Richard Place Dobson Services Limited
Registered in England
Company Number 4681154
1-7 Station Road, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1HT

Date: 20/03/2024

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

Receipts and Payments Summary of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	37,379	8,284	45,663	43,113
Trading activities	2	40,206	-	40,206	32,640
Other receipts	2	1,492	-	1,492	4,598
Total received		79,077	8,284	87,361	80,351
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	3	121	-	121	170
Charitable activities	3	44,713	-	44,713	60,805
Other payments	3	21,199	6,000	27,199	21,136
Total paid		66,033	6,000	72,033	82,111
Reconciliation of funds:					
Net income		13,044	2,284	15,328	(1,760)
Funds at 1 January		19,458	10,652	30,110	31,870
Funds at 31 December		32,502	12,936	45,438	30,110

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
Assets:				
Bank current account	32,502	12,936	45,438	30,110

Note 7 has further details on restricted funds.

Liabilities:

At the year end the following estimated liabilities existed (all to be paid from unrestricted funds):

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	2,490	1,221
Other creditors	-	300
	<u>2,490</u>	<u>1,521</u>

This Financial Report for the period ended 31 December 2023, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Ann Alexander, PCC Chair:

A Alexander

Date: 20/3/24

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments Basis.

2. Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	23,434	-	23,434	23,396
Planned giving (no tax refunds)	2,277	-	2,277	2,608
Loose cash collections	2,366	-	2,366	1,327
Special appeals	3,442	8,284	11,726	9,931
Gift aid recovered	5,860	-	5,860	5,851
Donations	37,379	8,284	45,663	43,113
Rental income	37,625	-	37,625	30,314
Fundraising events	2,581	-	2,581	2,326
Trading activities	40,206	-	40,206	32,640
Fees for weddings and funerals	1,084	-	1,084	1,499
Other receipts	408	-	408	3,099
Other receipts	1,492	-	1,492	4,598
Total received	79,077	8,284	87,361	80,351

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

3. Analysis of total paid

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
	Note				
Event costs		121	-	121	170
Raising funds		121	-	121	170
Charitable donations		-	-	-	418
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	4	15,000	-	15,000	27,000
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	6	3,525	-	3,525	3,900
Clergy and other people's expenses		3,609	-	3,609	3,665
Mission costs		942	-	942	1,687
Insurance		4,289	-	4,289	4,250
Water, gas, electric, and oil		13,400	-	13,400	16,136
Printing and photocopying		2,412	-	2,412	2,704
Wedding and funeral costs		-	-	-	854
Other regular church running costs		1,536	-	1,536	191
Charitable activities		44,713	-	44,713	60,805
Maintenance & redecoration		18,737	6,000	24,737	19,526
Accountancy fees		1,260	-	1,260	1,146
Bank fees		120	-	120	86
Other payments		1,082	-	1,082	378
Other payments		21,199	6,000	27,199	21,136
		66,033	6,000	72,033	82,111

4. Parish share to Chichester Diocese

The Parish share to Chichester Diocese of £15,000 (2022: £27,000) is for the payment of Clergy and other central costs. The full cost of the parish ministry amounts to c.£80,000 for the year (2022: £76,967). The shortfall is absorbed by the Diocese not payable by the parish in future years.

5. Gift aid

Gift aid is recoverable on donations received up to the year end. Due to the preparation on the basis of cash accounting, there is Gift Aid due on December's donation after the year end.

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

6. Payments to PCC employees

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross pay	3,300	3,300
Honaria payments	225	600
Salaries and honaria per note 3	3,525	3,900

7. Restricted funds

The PCC continues to fund raise for a building project which will take place in phases but will result in the repair of the church tower, construction of a new entrance hall, the upgrade of WCs and the kitchen area, and a new church hall. At the year end all restricted funds related to this project.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Start of year	10,652	6,509
Income	8,284	4,630
Transfer	-	(187)
Expenditure	(6,000)	(300)
End of year	12,936	10,652

During the prior year a review of the restricted fund was carried out and it was identified that £187 was not correctly classified. As a result we have transferred £187 this year between funds.

8. Related party transactions

During the year there were various donations from trustees to the parish. Due to many being in cash it is not possible to quantify the amounts.

During the period there were various expenses paid for by trustees on behalf of the church (because cash floats are not given out), which were then reimbursed.

Furthermore the utility, council tax, and phone bills of the clergy and curates are paid by the charity, with rent and wages being paid by the Diocese (for which this charity pays through contributions, see note 3).

There were no other related party payments or receipts during the year.

Accounts

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's**

**Trustees Annual Report and Annual Financial Report
for the year ended
31 December 2022**

Registered Charity number: 1196796

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

Officers and professional advisers

Trustees:

Ex Officio:

Incumbent: Revd. Ann Alexander (Chair)

Curate: Revd. Elizabeth Green (resigned 27 February 2022)

Wardens: Mrs Caroline Edwards (Vice Chair)

Mr Roger Gibson (resigned 22 May 2022)

Mrs Sue Richardson (appointed 22 May 2022)

Secretary: Mr Alan Magrath*

Safeguarding officer: Mr Andy Hoare

Elected members: Mr Robert Higson

Ms Beverly Killick

Mr Andy Hoare

Mrs Jane Sharpe

Mrs Barbara Zanleoni (resigned 15 November 2022)

Mrs Tsitsi Chikukwa (resigned 22 May 2022)

Mrs Emma Humphrey

Mrs Sarah Magrath

Mrs Madeleine Taylor

Deanery Synod: Mrs Sue Richardson

Ms Beverly Killick (resigned from Deanery Synod 22 May 2022)

**Despite being an ex-officio position this person has not taken up the role of a voting member of the PCC.*

Treasurer: Mr James May

Finance officer: Mrs Sue Richardson

Charity Number: 1196796

Registered office: St Alban's Parish Office

St Alban's Church Hall

Gossops Drive

Crawley

West Sussex

RH11 8LD

Independent Examiners: Darren Harding ACA FCCA DChA

Richard Place Dobson Services Limited

1-7 Station Road

Crawley

West Sussex

RH10 1HT

See Word document

Our aims and purposes

The Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush consists of two main neighbourhoods on the west side of Crawley. Gossops Green and Bewbush PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar, the Revd Ann Alexander, in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England;
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical.
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known.
- Practical and spiritual support and care for all people living in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or ability to pay;
- Maintaining the fabric of our buildings for worship and community life in order to facilitate our mission and outreach.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, our Vicar and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. For 2022 we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and making their experience of worship a welcoming and accessible one;
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community;
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers;
- Considering how services and outreach events can involve the many groups that live within the parish;
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament and helping to serve some of the needs of our local communities;
- Offering worship and prayer and learning about the Gospel in small group situations;
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- Raising money and giving material support to various charities and missionary organisations;
- Reaching out to the unchurched through the provision of a variety of outreach events;

What we achieved and how we affected our beneficiaries' lives

Worship and Prayer

The church family welcomes visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary to join us as members of the family. Visitors attend by personal choice and, it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of our churches. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities.

I always enjoy the church service and activities, the church is always a warm friendly environment specifically organised for friends, family and those on their own like your truly. D.A. (Comment posted on Google Maps)

Trustees Annual Report for 2022

This year, attendances at Sunday, weekday Eucharist and other services, along with all church activities have been returning to normal after the severe impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. New members have been welcomed, and baptisms and funeral services have been held. There are 80 people on the electoral roll. This number has remained static over the past few years, however, several of our elderly parishioners have died over this time and several new members have joined us. Online streaming of services discontinued at Easter 2022 when the church layout was returned to 'the round' because the layout makes it impossible to prevent capturing the worshippers on screen. It has been a delight to see the post pandemic return of so many worshippers especially at Easter and Christmas and for special services such as the Harvest Service, Mothering Sunday, Messy Christingle Service, Sunday evening Taize, Lady Day and Wave of Prayer Services for the Mothers Union and a dedicated service for Open Doors. It also gave us great joy to host the Holy Trinity School Carol Service once again. The number of children who enjoy attending church is a joy to behold. At all age services and at other times our youngsters take part in worship by being readers, serving during worship, and leading the prayers. We are all very proud of the group of children who admirably led the Crib Service this year.

Provision of the church buildings for people to enjoy

St Alban's Church is open during the day for people to pray or just sit in a quiet and sacred space. One of our main focuses has always been to explore ways in which our church buildings can be used for groups and events that are of value to our local community in addition to church services.

During the sad and moving occasion of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, St Alban's Church was a focus of the local community's grief. When the community needed a way to express their grief the church was open every day for people to come and pray, sign the book of condolences, and light a candle. Volunteers were at hand at all times to pray and console and special prayers were held during the week of mourning. It was a moving example of just how important the local church is at a time of national mourning.

The church run Thursday coffee morning was re-launched as a registered 'Place of Welcome' centre in July. Several local councillors attended the launch and it has since grown into a vibrant weekly meeting place, also serving as a place of warmth during the current energy crisis. Local councillors, PCSO's and representatives from Age UK attend regularly to provide advice and practical help to those who attend.

Our Tiny Toes toddler group, launched in 2021, has grown enormously and is proving to be a very welcome wellbeing provision for the local community. Weekly attendance is usually about 14-16 families. A highlight of the year was the celebration of Queen's Platinum Jubilee when many elderly congregation members joined the parents and toddlers for cake and celebrations.

The Mother's Union makes good use of the church and hall for meetings and activities. Each year they prepare the Mothering Sunday posies for distribution, make Christmas 'Shine a Light' stars for the very young, pack socks for Brook House Immigration Removal Centre detainees and collect food donations for Family Support Work.

There are many other groups who use the church and hall, some of which include Age UK's afternoon teas, Steppers Dance Class, the AA group, Slimming World, and NHS Covid vaccination clinics.

The Barn Church Bewbush is no longer used for regular Anglican services but as a resource centre for the parish and as a community centre. The building is used by regular groups who provide services that benefit the community; The Barn Pre School, Desire to Dance, and Elim Pentecostal Church; as well as being used for one off events.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

It was an unusually quiet year for occasion offices. Four funerals, four baptisms and one wedding took place. Pastoral care is always provided after the funeral from the clergy. The vicar, pastoral care team and general fellowship amongst the church community continue to provide pastoral care through home communions, regular phone calls and visits including giving practical help when needed. A weekly emailed newsletter (also published on Facebook and hard copies delivered to those without internet access), food deliveries to those in need, and fellowship events have all ensured that our pastoral care is extended to everyone we can possibly reach, whether they are churchgoers or not.

Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The parish has supported the Family Support Work charity throughout the year with regular food donations, Harvest donations and the annual Toy Service (which is the annual donation of toys and toiletries for children and their carers through Family Support Work). In addition, the St Alban's branch of the Mothers Union has also donated weekly food collections to Family Support Work. Food collections are also delivered regularly to the Free Shop Crawley. The parish supports Link to Hope by sending Christmas shoeboxes filled with goodies and knitted items for projects in Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine. Regular collection boxes are held by members of the congregation to donate to the Children's Society. We also support the YMCA hub which supports young people as they move into adulthood through their 'Love in a Box' Christmas campaign and two congregation members help with cooking a weekly meal for the young people.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers in the Christian faith

We were delighted that Bishop Ruth came to Confirm two of our children after they had completed a Confirmation Course. Two younger children were admitted to Holy Communion on Easter Day after completing a First Holy Communion Course. Baptism preparation sessions are held with parents and Godparents before baptism. We hold our Lent Course during Lent and hold a weekly bible study group. Junior Church provides excellent teaching for our young people and is very much enjoyed by the growing numbers of children (often up to 16 or more children). It is always a delight to hear from the youngsters what they have learnt during the morning. School visits to the church are beginning again after the pandemic and the vicar visits three local pre-schools at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The annual Good Friday Children's Workshop is enjoyed by many local children (45 attendees) as was the new Messy Christingle event (60 attendees).

The Future

We are excited that we are getting closer to installing a new heating system (we just need to raise another £6,000) which will enable many more church and community groups to make use of the church. This will enhance the lives and wellbeing of so many in our church and community and will further combat the growing problem of loneliness within society.

St Alban's is currently fundraising for various desperately needed improvements to the church building so that more mission, outreach and community work can be facilitated. Although the fundraising is moving slowly, we are delighted to have received a small grant of £2,000 from <http://www.benefacttrust.co.uk/> towards the building project.

The PCC's aim is to create a new accessible entrance, install toilets, the new heating system, a refreshment area, and repair the tower. This work will benefit both the church and the local community by providing an accessible worship space as well as a usable space for community use. As we recover from the economic and social effects of Covid 19 there is even greater need for our buildings to be used for and by the community to provide for the spiritual, physical and mental health and wellbeing of people in our neighbourhoods and beyond.

Trustees Annual Report for 2022

The Buildings Development Group continues to meet and is working on funding applications. The building work is more pressing than ever now that we have more church activities in the pipeline and more community groups needing space for their activities.

Financial Review

The summary of financial activities shows an increase in receipts which is attributable to the recovery from Covid-19 restrictions as follows:

- an increase in loose cash collections due to the enforced closure of the church in the prior year; and
- an increase in rental income as certain groups were unable to undertake their usual activities in the prior year.

The summary of financial activities also shows an increase in expenditure as a result of increased utility bills (due to global issue with prices) and repair costs (due to significant electrical repair works). As outlined in 2019's Trustees report the tower requires significant work in order to make it structurally sound and so further significant expenditure is expected to be incurred over the coming years. The PCC is fundraising restricted funds specifically for this project.

Why we hold some money in reserve

It is the PCC's policy that due to the age and condition of the buildings, it should work towards, and then maintain, a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. The closing balance on unrestricted funds at the end of 2022 was £19,461 (2021: £25,361) which achieved this.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The PCC takes a minimal risk approach to operations. PCC meetings are held every 2-3 months to discuss risks (including upcoming events) and put in place insurance. With no fixed assets or debtors, the risk of impairment is minimal. Cash handling remains a risk, with segregation of duties taking place throughout the parish where possible. There is a Safeguarding Officer in place in order to ensure that we can manage vulnerable people appropriately.

Safeguarding statement

The PCC of the Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The PCC of the Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush is committed to implementing all safeguarding policies and practice guidance issued by the House of Bishops and have adopted the 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy Statement'. The PCC has implemented the new requirement to have safeguarding arrangements on the front page of the parish's website and in the porch notice board. The parish has also achieved the SQP Level 1 quality assurance assessment.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with HMRC and became a registered charity with the Charity Commission in 2021. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. In 2022 we held six PCC meetings and an APCM. Six Standing Committee meetings were also held throughout the year. The members of the Parochial Church Council who served during the year are listed on page 1. Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, the churchwardens and members of the Deanery Synods), and 9 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). As of the 2020 APCM there are no vacancies on the PCC. All members of the congregation are encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by the Revd Ann Alexander, PCC Chair.

A Alexander

Date: 11/4/23

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush, St Alban's

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 1 to 13.

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').

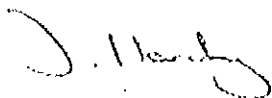
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

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.



Darren Harding ACA FCCA DChA

Richard Place Dobson Services Limited Registered in
England
Company Number 4681154
1-7 Station Road, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1HT

Date: 14 April 2023

Receipts and Payments Summary of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2022 £	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	38,483	4,630	43,113	36,985
Trading activities	2	32,640	-	32,640	23,624
Other receipts	2	4,598	-	4,598	2,577
Total received		75,721	4,630	80,351	63,186
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	3	170	-	170	178
Charitable activities	3	60,805	-	60,805	54,158
Other payments	3	20,836	300	21,136	12,324
Total paid		81,811	300	82,111	66,660
Reconciliation of funds:					
Net income		(6,090)	4,330	(1,760)	(3,474)
Transfer (note 8)		187	(187)	-	-
Funds at 1 January		25,361	6,509	31,870	35,344
Funds at 31 December		19,458	10,652	30,110	31,870

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2022	2022	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Assets:				
Bank current account	19,458	10,652	30,110	31,870

Note 8 has further details on restricted funds.

Liabilities:

At the year end the following estimated liabilities existed (all to be paid from unrestricted funds):

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals	1,221	1,221
Other creditors	300	300
	<u>1,521</u>	<u>1,521</u>

This Financial Report for the period ended 31 December 2022, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Ann Alexander, PCC Chair:

A Alexander

Date: 11/4/23

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments Basis.

2. Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2022	2022	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	23,396	-	23,396	24,723
Planned giving (no tax refunds)	2,608	-	2,608	893
Loose cash collections	1,327	-	1,327	388
Special appeals	5,301	4,630	9,931	4,800
Gift aid recovered	5,851	-	5,851	6,181
Donations	38,483	4,630	43,113	36,985
Rental income	30,314	-	30,314	21,557
Fundraising events	2,326	-	2,326	2,067
Trading activities	32,640	-	32,640	23,624
Fees for weddings and funerals	1,499	-	1,499	2,387
Other receipts	3,099	-	3,099	190
Other receipts	4,598	-	4,598	2,577
Total received	75,721	4,630	80,351	63,186

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

3. Analysis of total paid

	Note	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Event costs		170	178
Raising funds		170	178
Charitable donations		418	-
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	5	27,000	26,004
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	7	3,900	3,355
Clergy and other people's expenses		3,665	7,138
Mission costs		1,687	816
Insurance		4,250	4,113
Water, gas, electric, and oil		16,136	7,299
Printing and photocopying		2,704	2,127
Wedding and funeral costs		854	2,441
Other regular church running costs		191	865
Charitable activities		60,805	54,158
Maintenance & redecoration		19,226	9,954
Tower costs		300	300
Accountancy fees		1,146	1,110
Bank fees		86	96
Other payments		378	864
Other payments		21,136	12,324
		82,111	66,660

Of the above expenditure, only Tower costs (£300 (2021: £300)) were restricted and the remainder unrestricted.

4. Charitable status

On 26 November 2021 the Parish registered with the Charity Commission. This registration has not impacted the Financial statements and the Parish has continued as the same legal entity.

5. Parish share to Chichester Diocese

The Parish share to Chichester Diocese of £27,000 (2021: £26,004) is for the payment of Clergy and other central costs. The full cost of the parish ministry amounts to £76,967 for the year (2021: £74,300). The shortfall is absorbed by the Diocese not payable by the parish in future years.

6. Gift aid

Gift aid is recoverable on donations received up to the year end. Due to the preparation on the basis of cash accounting, there is Gift Aid due on December's donation after the year end.

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

7. Payments to PCC employees

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gross pay	3,300	3,255
Honaria payments	600	100
Salaries and honaria per note 3	3,900	3,355

8. Restricted funds

The PCC continues to fund raise for a building project which will take place in phases but will result in the repair of the church tower, construction of a new entrance hall, the upgrade of WCs and the kitchen area, and a new church hall. At the year end all restricted funds related to this project.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Start of year	6,509	5,246
Income	4,630	1,563
Transfer	(187)	-
Expenditure	(300)	(300)
End of year	10,652	6,509

During the year a review of the restricted fund was carried out and it was identified that £187 was not correctly classified. As a result we have transferred £187 this year between funds.

9. Related party transactions

During the year there were various donations from trustees to the parish. Due to many being in cash it is not possible to quantify the amounts.

During the period there were various expenses paid for by trustees on behalf of the church (because cash floats are not given out), which were then reimbursed.

Furthermore the utility, council tax, and phone bills of the clergy and curates are paid by the charity, with rent and wages being paid by the Diocese (for which this charity pays through contributions, see note 3).

There were no other related party payments or receipts during the year.