



Holy Trinity
Amblecote

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
28 April 2024

Vicar:

The Revd Alan Williams TSSF SCP

Churchwardens:

Dennis Dipple, esq

Mrs Susan Boex

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 28 April 2024 following the 10am Mass

AGENDA

- 1 Opening Prayer
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Approval of Minutes of the 2023 APCM
- 4 Electoral Roll report
- 5 Elections: *Forms of nomination available in church. Nominations will be permitted at the meeting in accordance with the Representation Rules*
 - a) Churchwardens (2) *for the forthcoming year*
 - b) Parochial Church Council (3) *for a three year term*
Sidespeople are now appointed by the PCC, so no election
- 6 To receive the Treasurer's Report and acceptance of the 2023 Accounts
Questions may be asked of the Treasurer
- 7 To appoint the Independent Examiner and to agree remuneration
- 8 To receive the reports contained in the booklet
There will be no verbal reports. Questions may be asked about the written reports.
- 9 To receive a report about Deanery Synod
- 10 Chairman's Business *Any Other Business will only be permitted if notified in writing prior to the commencement of the Mass, such notice to include full details of the nature of the business, and will be allowed at the Chairman's discretion.*
- 11 Date, time and venue of next year's APCM (*Sunday 27 April 2025 after 10am Mass*)
- 12 Closing prayer

Fr Alan Williams
Vicar and Chairman

At a brief meeting of the new PCC following the APCM, the following business will take place:

- a] Appointment of
 - 1) A lay vice-chair of the PCC
 - 2) Secretary
 - 3) Treasurer
 - 4) One ordinary member of the Standing Committee
- b] Agreeing date of first full meeting of the PCC, and of the Standing Committee

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING SUNDAY 30 April 2023

Fr Alan Williams in the chair, there were 34 people in attendance.

Apologies received from

Mary Phillips, Philippa and Jess Hawkins, Ray Govier, Martin Taylor, Liz Walker, Brenda Deeley, Hilary Atkins and Brenda Adkins.

Fr Alan welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and opened the meeting with prayer.

1 MINUTES OF THE APCM 2022

The minutes of the APCM 24 April 2022 were **APPROVED** and duly signed.

2 ELECTORAL ROLL – Barbara Banner, Electoral Roll Officer.

The number on the roll last year was 81. We sadly lost Gladys Tolley and Diane Tranter.

There are three additions to this year's roll – Lynee Chilton, Kally O'Connor, and Jessica Hawkins.

The total now stands at 47 resident and 35 non-residents. The roll as of 30 April 2023 is 82.

The revised roll was **ACCEPTED**.

3 ELECTIONS

Forms had been available in Church and nominations were permitted at the meeting in accordance with Church Representation Rules.

(a) Churchwardens – 2 for the forthcoming year

Fr Alan from the chair, proposed Dennis Dipple

Sue Boex, proposed by Dennis Dipple and seconded by Sheila Hill.

There being no other nominations Dennis and Sue were duly elected for the coming year. (This is Dennis's third year of office, and Sue's second).

Fr Alan thanked Dennis and Sue for their work this year as churchwardens and looks forward to working with them in the coming year.

(b) Parochial Church Council Members – 3 for a 3-year term 1 for a 2-year term

There have been three retirees, following a three-year term of office; Doreen Easthope, Sheila Hill, and Philippa Hawkins, and Anne Tomlinson, retiring after one year, who we thank for their service.

A further vacancy of one year may arise if Paul Wilson is later elected as a Deanery Synod representative later in the meeting.

Sheila Hill and Doreen Easthope were willing to continue serving. Jane Fisher was proposed by Sheila and Colin Hill and was elected for a three-year term of office. Barbara Hipkiss was proposed by Paul Wilson and Dennis Dipple and was content to stand for the one-year term of office, arising from Paul Wilson's election to Deanery Synod. The two-year term of office will be held vacant until later in the year.

(c) Deanery Synod – 2 for the forthcoming triennium

Liz Walker and Mary Phillips are retiring as Deanery Synod representatives and were thanked for their work. Paul Wilson was proposed by Una Parsons and Helen Shakespeare and was

duly **ELECTED**. There being one other vacancy, and Marin Taylor having expressed his willingness to stand was duly **ELECTED**. This is for a three-year term of office.

(d) Sidespeople

This most important duty before and during services has been in abeyance during part of this year and been carried out by the following people at 10.00am Mass. The existing sidespeople were **APPROVED** for the following year, and we welcome Helen Shakespeare to the group.

As in previous years, it was **AGREED** that the PCC was permitted to engage further sidespeople as needed during the year.

4 TREASURER'S REPORT

Fr Alan expressed his gratitude to Dennis Dipple for all his hard work looking after the accounts this year as well as his role as Churchwarden.

Questions were invited – none were raised, and Church and Church Hall accounts were unanimously **APPROVED**.

5 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER (and to agree remuneration)

Mike Fisher is no longer eligible to be our independent examiner of the accounts, his wife Jane being elected to the Parochial Church Council. Mike was thanked for his work on this year's accounts. As a token of gratitude a suitable gift was proposed, despite Mike's continued insistence not to receive remuneration. **APPROVED**.

A new independent examiner will need to be found for next year's accounts.

6 REPORTS

Fr Alan thanked everyone for submitting reports. There were no questions, and the reports were approved.

7 DEANERY SYNOD

The work of the Greater Dudley Deanery is to encourage mission in the face of falling numbers and giving in churches. At working collaboratively with each other, with our differing styles of worship. To know who we are, to be the best of what we do well, and work harder in areas where we struggle.

Deanery Synod have met twice in the past year.

This report was **ACCEPTED**.

8 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A mission accompanier, Nigel Tween, will be working alongside us for the next eighteen months. Nigel is a Pentecostal minister, with historic family ties to our church. His role is to look at us, our worship and how, and what we do, and to work with us, and encourage us to be the best church we can be for our parish.

9 DATE OF NEXT APCM

Sunday 28 April 2024 following 10.00am Mass, but not before 11.15.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Signed

Date

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PCC :: 2023 – 2024

CHAIRMAN	Fr Alan Williams	<i>since 2008</i>
CHURCHWARDENS (2)	Dennis Dipple	<i>since 2021</i>
	Susan Boex	<i>since 2022</i>
TREASURER	Dennis Dipple	<i>since 2022</i>
SECRETARY	Susan Riches	
DEANERY SYNOD REPS (2) <i>Until APCM 2026</i>	Martin Taylor	
	Paul Wilson	
EX-OFFICIO	Licensed Lay Minister	Eirlyn Jenkins <i>emerita with Permission to Officiate</i>
	Authorised Lay Minister (P)	Sue Boex
COUNCILLORS (9)		<i>Term ends at apcm of</i>
	Joan Bartlett	<i>2024</i>
	Vacancy	<i>2024</i>
	Barbara Hipkiss	<i>2024</i>
	Jean Latham	<i>2025</i>
	Susan Riches	<i>2025</i>
	Helen Shakespeare	<i>2025</i>
	Doreen Easthope	<i>2026</i>
	Jane Fisher	<i>2026</i>
Sheila Hill	<i>2026</i>	
MEETINGS (<i>May 2023 – April 2024</i>)	Amblecote PCC has met on six scheduled occasions	

PURPOSE AND AIMS OF THE PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the executive body of a Church of England parish. It is constituted as a body corporate by the Church Representation Rules set out in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969, and consists of the clergy and Churchwardens of the parish, together with a number of representatives of the laity elected by the annual parochial church meeting of the parish. Its powers and duties are defined by certain Acts of Parliament and other legislation, principally the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. It has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent (rector, vicar or priest-in-charge) in promoting the mission of the Church in its parish.

Formally, the PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the Church and the care and maintenance of the church fabric and its contents. These latter responsibilities are executed by churchwardens. It also has a voice in the forms of Service used by the church and may make representations to the bishop on matters affecting the welfare of the parish.

PCCs were set up in 1919 as a successor to the Vestries, which had had their civil functions removed in 1894 with the establishment of civil parishes.

PCC members are Trustees of the religious charitable body which is the Holy Trinity Church, Amblecote, whose charitable aims are the furtherance of the Christian religion within the Parish of Amblecote.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Amblecote Holy Trinity Parish takes the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults against abuse of any kind most seriously, and likewise all of us against the possibility of abuse or bullying. To this end we fully subscribe to the diocesan policies regarding Safeguarding, Domestic Abuse and Bullying, details of which can be found on the church noticeboard and on the diocesan website.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is Liz Walker, and the Parish Safeguarding Representative is Fr Alan.

We understand how difficult it is for relationships among the congregation to initiate a discussion about possible abuse, but it is vitally important to speak up, rather than risk another person of whatever age being damaged. Please approach one of us in the first instance. Obviously, if your concern is about the behaviour of the Vicar, see Liz.

If you believe a child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger, please dial 999.

We are endeavouring to ensure that all those with a named role in the church undertake the necessary basic and foundation safeguarding training with the diocese.

You will be pleased to learn that no incidents within the purview of this parish were reported or disclosed during the past twelve months.

INCUMBENT'S REPORT

As you read through the rest of this report you will read all that I would have said. And to that I add the following:

We have been blessed by a faithful congregation with the occasional new face among us. It is often said that mission is about us going out and helping people to find God. However, it is more a case of us enabling God to find people. The Franciscan mantra is to make the name of our Lord Jesus known and loved everywhere. It is my profound belief that we best do this by being exemplars of godly living, and being seen to love and care and be bothered about others around us.

We can't do much about what is happening in Ukraine, Gaza and beyond other than make much noise and not let others forget. What we can do is be seen by our parishioners as a place that cares about them: to this end our fayres and suchlike allow us to show our neighbours hospitality; our open doors allow them to see that God is open to them and should not be afraid of stepping in; the availability of our church hall to community group displays our concern that people should have a place to meet; and so on.

Our catholicity and style of worship is unique to this part of town, and I hope that into the future we can do all we can to maintain this under straightened conditions. It is evident that when I go on holiday it will be increasingly difficult to find priestly cover for our Eucharists on a Sunday. Therefore it is agreed that we have a quarterly sung mattins in a style appropriate to our spirituality, and wherever possible to offer an evening Eucharist on that Sunday at 5pm.

Finance is always a concern, but you can read Dennis' fine report later in this booklet. I was taught that where people are convinced of the love of God for them and the importance of the place of Church in community then the contents of their purses would be better shared within a parish. If only that were true. There is much call on our cash, and less of it to go around. Amongst a congregation this can feel quite a burden but do not lose heart. We will, with God's help and a fair dollop of trust, find a way.

I am (as always) most grateful to the small army of folk who assist in making the parish system work in Amblecote, and who help with getting the church clean and ready for our services, and who participate in leading the worship, practically and musically.

I am encouraged by the help given us by Nigel Tween, our Mission Accompanier, now about half-way through his time among us.

So, thank you, thank you, THANK YOU: for your faithfulness, your service, and all that you do in God's Kingdom.

There follows a snapshot of life here at Holy Trinity – not always remarkable, but definitely most important in God's economy.

May the Lord bless us richly in the months ahead.

Fr Alan

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

CHURCH

Before commencing our report, we would like to thank Father Alan for his continued guidance and support in all matters and to all who have helped and assisted us in any way in performing our warden duties. We will refrain from naming people in case we miss anyone out. Our sincere thanks go to you all, it is very much appreciated.

Our congregation numbers attending church has reduced slightly from last year and we now have between thirty-five & forty-five regularly attending church services, in addition we have a small number attending services via zoom.

Our Quinquennial Inspection was conducted during October 2023 it highlighted a number of repairs and checks that needed being completed immediately or within 6 months of the inspection. The main ones being Electrical Installation Condition Report & Portable Appliance Testing, Gutter Clearance and Roofing Repairs/Maintenance. With the exception of roofing repairs and maintenance the other matters have been completed. Quotes are awaited in respect of the roofing issues.

Other repairs outlined in the Quinquennial Inspection will need to be completed in the next 12/18 months, some require investigation work. This will be completed asap; in case the cause of the damage needs quick attention.

We have made headway towards completing some of the recommendations on our free energy report of 2022/23, the lighting fittings have all been changed to accommodate LED lights throughout the Church and Church Hall, this will be a good energy saving on our electric bills. This work was completed in 2024.

With guiding hand of Mary Phillips, we are moving towards our bronze/silver ECO Church status, ultimately Gold. We believe Mary has submitted a report for inclusion in APCM Report & Accounts.

Fire Extinguishers have been inspected and new certificate been issued for both the Church and Church Hall. Fire Signage remains compliant with regulations in accordance with Fire Policy. First Aid kits are fit for purpose.

The annual service of the organ and the boiler were completed. The boiler was noted to need a major overall, this has been conducted and it is in good working order, hopefully for a few years to come.

Our digital giving device has continued to be available in church to accept donations, during 2023 it raised almost £1,000 despite being out of action during almost 2 months.

A new CCTV system has now been installed. At a PCC last meeting its installation and what was needed were considered, panic buttons, the cost of a monitored CCTV system as opposed to the installation of panic buttons were considered. These options were discussed with our provider Autoguard Alarms and the cost of a monitored system was way beyond our budget.

After further discussion it was agreed to install the following system that includes the installation of three new panic alarm buttons being added to the existing one in the Vestry. The new system allows for notification of the activation of the alarm, including activation of any of the panic buttons to be sent to mobile devices informing the mobile owner (via an app) of the activation. It also allows remote setting and un-setting of the alarms.

The new panic buttons have been installed in church by the main entrance door near the holy water container, to the right of the choir vestry door as you look at it and to the left of the main vestry door by the fire extinguisher. Both the red buttons on the panic buttons need to be pressed down together to activate the alarm.

Ideally, we need four people to have the alarm app on their mobile phones, Dennis, Fr Alan, Mike Fisher have agreed to respond so we need another volunteer. We will then have a response rota of two people attending church to investigate the cause of any alarm activation. For safety reasons only when both people are in attendance will they enter the church to investigate further.

CHURCHYARD

Buildings

We have established that the brick buildings adjacent to the Church Hall are not owned by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council nor do they have any freehold or leasehold claim in respect of the buildings. Therefore, in view of the Diocese information previously supplied (they belong to the PCC), and no information being available from the Land Registry in respect of the building, we can state with certainty that the buildings belong to Amblecote Holy Trinity PCC to do with what they wish.

Burial Grounds

The Churchyard is kept tidy by our volunteers, students from Glass House College and their support workers. Members of the public visiting the churchyard often pass comments of their appreciation that is looked after and a joy to visit. It is nice for those working in the churchyard to hear those comments. Our thanks to all those involved.

Equipment

No new equipment has been purchased.

Trees

The majority of work from our tree safety inspection report of March 22 has now been completed, only minor works have not been done due to costs. None of those minor works are a threat to users of the churchyard or the adjacent roads.

Silver Birch Trees subject of Vandalism in 2021

As reported last year we transplanted grass from other areas of the churchyard and we are pleased to report it has been a success.

We have had a further telephone enquiry from Mr & Mrs Barnett in respect of these trees, requesting that they be felled due to their loss of light and debris from the trees falling into their garden. Particularly the seeds falling into guttering and needing to be cleaned out regularly. These issues were discussed at a PCC meeting and with Timber Tim (tree surgeon). After consideration it was decided that the trees should not be felled.

We have responded to the Barnetts and offered them the opportunity to pay for the trees to be pruned at their expense and via our arrangements with Timber Tim. They are not willing to do this and it may be that they seek legal advice to the future.

Churchyard Perimeter Wall and Car Park Railings

It is recommended in our Quinquennial Inspection that both the wall and railing need repairs/repointing and repainting. We are in the early stages of discussions with the Community Payback team to see if they would be able to assist.

Wall in Car Park

This movement suspected since 2022, has been monitored and throughout this year no obvious changes have been noted. Measurements of the gaps have been taken and we have no current cause for concern. We have been in contact with our neighbours Mr & Mrs Ward and have provided them with a copy of the survey for

their review. The Wards have not responded to a number of requests for their comments to the surveyor's report. Should we see any evidence of movement in the wall we will contact them further as the wall is their responsibility.

Car Park

Colin and Dennis have made repairs to the tarmac in the car park and will continue to do so.

We still need to raise funds for the retarmacking of the whole carpark. We have insufficient funds in the Churchyard fund to cover even what needs to be done. We did have a successful churchyard appeal raising just over £1,500. However, due to the cost of works carried out on the trees the churchyard fund stands at £1,464. Another appeal is needed.

Working with the Community

We have two new adults working with us from our local Glasshouse College (an independent specialist day and residential establishment) providing learning and training for children and adults with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Tom and Lewis attend with their support workers and assist our volunteer in the churchyard in a variety of tasks each Monday and Wednesday respectively. It provides them the opportunity to gain experience and skills that will assist them to hopefully eventually obtain employment.

Church Hall

The hall has again maintained a steady income from rentals.

In respect of the floor repairs that were needed, a grant was obtained from The National Lottery to cover the cost of repairs just over £9,000. Our gratitude to the Church Hall committee for their efforts in obtaining this grant. The floor was repaired recently.

Fire equipment has been checked and certified as in good working order. First Aid kits are fit for purpose. The committee have updated the Fire Risk Assessment and are in the process of considering the upgrading the Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System.

GENERAL

Your wardens thank all of you, for your help and support during the last 12 months.

Dennis Dipple and Sue Boex

DEANERY SYNOD

Fr Andrew Sillis, Vicar of S Thomas in town, is now Area Dean in succession to David Hoskin.

The Synod has met twice during the past year, and has discussed matters of deanery importance, and the elected lay representatives on General Synod have reported back about their meetings. A lot of light and heat has been generated by the proposed *Prayers in Love and Faith*, which would allow for the blessing of a same-sex couple. As you appreciate the Church of England was given an exemption under the legislation bring in marriage between two men or two women, and clergy are presently forbidden by canon law from blessing such relations.

The conversation following the report from that meeting got rather unfortunate at one point.

Fr Alan

KNEELER GROUP

We continue to meet on the second Monday of each month at 2pm to enjoy making kneelers requested by various people in memory of loved ones in their family or of course church people.

Sadly, at the end of December, Beverley, our 'busiest and quickest' member died, just days after completing what was to be her last kneeler.

As well as sewing we of course enjoy refreshments and each other's company, so if you would like to join us, please do. Sheila Hill

BLACK COUNTRY TRAD SCOUTS

The leadership team is small, but we have willing helpers, so thank you to Jon and Paul. Usual activities happen, and we are planning our summer camp. We are slowly, and I mean s l o w l y moving towards registration and affiliation with the Baden-Powell Scouts' Association, and the Vicar is going to enjoy some (further) training in Glossop in late May. <smiley face>.

I am grateful for the support shown us by the parish in providing us with accommodation and a meeting place. This is noted as a cost to the parish, so we do not underestimate its value.

Alan Williams, Group Scout Master

ECO-CHURCH

Creation care is an integral part of our Christian mission. The Eco Church programme with its associated award scheme was set up by the Christian charity A Rocha UK to help churches and their individual members to take practical action on environmental matters, thereby showing love for our neighbours and becoming better stewards of the wonderful world we live in. It is open to all denominations, and in this area is supported by Anglican, Methodist, Quaker, United Reformed and other Free Church congregations.

Having registered for the programme, we have begun using the Eco Church survey to measure how well equipped we are to express care for God's creation in five key areas of our church life here in Amblecote:

- ❖ Worship and teaching
- ❖ Management of our church buildings
- ❖ Management of our church land
- ❖ Engaging with our local and global community
- ❖ The personal lifestyles of our congregation

The survey will help us to celebrate the areas where we are doing well and identify those where we could do better. Alongside the survey we have access to a free online toolkit of resources and the opportunity to learn from other churches' experiences. All our efforts will count towards a Bronze, Silver or Gold Eco Church award.

We first set up a small Eco Church display at the Bonded Warehouse Open Weekend in October. Since then we have begun informal collaboration with Wordsley Parish, with the aim of arranging a programme of speaker meetings and family events which are open to everybody (including non-church members). The first of these is a talk about Eco Church by a speaker from A Rocha UK, taking place at 7.00pm on Tuesday 9 April at Kingswinford Methodist Church. Next is an Eco Flower Festival and Craft Sale at Holy Trinity, Wordsley, from 10.00am-5.00pm on Saturday 6 July, for which we hope to submit a floral arrangement made from recycled materials as a group contribution from Amblecote. There are also ideas in the pipeline for family events such as tree identification and bird watching in our churchyard; gradually changing over to low-energy lighting in our church building; twinning our church toilets, which helps to fund sanitation programmes and toilet building in marginalised communities overseas; and running a Green Quiz Night.

***“We don't need a few people doing everything perfectly –
we need lots of people doing them imperfectly.”***

Eco Church is for everybody who takes their Christian faith seriously, so please join in as much as you are able. Be aware of environmental issues and pray about them. Help us to achieve our Bronze Eco Church award. Keep an eye on the Eco Church board on the table at the back of church for information about what's going on at our church and others in this area. Support the speaker meetings and other events, and encourage your family, friends and neighbours to come along too. We'd love you to be part of our Eco Church group here in Amblecote and help us to come up with ideas for future events and 'greener' ways of living. Maybe even sign up for A Rocha UK's Wild Christian programme and explore practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend God's creation.

You can find out more about Eco Church and Wild Christian here: www.arocha.org.uk

MOTHERS' UNION

Our group meets each month on the third Thursday of each month at 2pm. We continue to have an extremely varied programme varying from services, meditations, discussions, craft and inviting other branches and of course the Mary Sumner Day service and lunch.

Sadly Beverley, one of our members died this year. Please join us if you are able.

Sheila Hill

BELL-RINGING

I have continued to chime the bells for Sunday Service ringing throughout the year thanks to the foresight of Agnes Egan in having the necessary mechanism installed which enables one person to chime all eight bells.
[Thank you, Colin. Fr A]

Visiting bands of ringers have enjoyed the use of our bells during the year as have several learners from other local churches.

Colin Hill

150 CLUB

This monthly draw enables us to raise a little bit of money and enjoy the thrill of anticipation. The draws are on the first Sunday of the month after the 10am Mass. The cost is £1 per number per month, meaning £12 a year. You can join the pool at any point in the year and pay for the remaining months. The pool runs February to January. Thank you to Una for organising and for keeping things in good order.

SERVING TEAM

We need servers! All training will be given. I am especially keen to have a small willing band who even if they do not do much, will make our high holy days most special. I am not even concerned about the wearing of robes if you really object. Come on in – don't be shy. We manage it with an occasional *ad hoc* choir. Why not an *ad hoc* serving team. Meanwhile, thank to the two Sues, Lyn, and Paul – and Kath our book-bearer.

Fr Alan

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN STOURBRIDGE

Churches Together in Stourbridge (CTS) continues to flourish as a worship community and to serve the community of Stourbridge.

2023 began with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January.

The Walk of Witness on Good Friday in Stourbridge town centre was well attended again and it is now an annual testimony to the Easter story.

CTS continues to promote Fair Trade, encouraging churches to take part in Fair Trade Fortnight.

Christian Aid continues to be a focus at CTS. Many churches are now holding fund raising events, rather than having door-to-door collections.

The Love Stourbridge which was due to be held on 14th July was cancelled at the last minute due to inclement weather conditions.

The Quakers continue to hold their annual discussion evenings in the Autumn. 2023 saw "Church in the Community" as the topic and a discussion was held as to how churches can be "engaged, relevant and acceptable to its local community".

At Christmas, the group held carol singing in Stourbridge town centre.

The Street Pastors are back in force in the town centre on Saturday evenings, helping young people in need, both practically and pastorally. They are always grateful of new members, either to patrol or to be part of the prayer team. Your prayers for them from your home are always appreciated.

The Food Bank continues to provide food and a welcome to those in need. They appreciate our donations and if you are able to volunteer there, please ask Sheila or Helen for details.

The Life Debt Advice Centre continues to help people in debt and often has referrals from associated organisations. They welcome help from volunteers and financial donations to help with running costs and providing cups of tea etc., together with your ongoing prayers.

Please see Helen Shakespeare or Sheila Hill if you would like further information on the work of Churches Together.

Events are posted on the noticeboard at the back of the church and it would be lovely to see more of our congregation there. Do ask if you need a lift.

Helen Shakespeare

MEN'S GROUP

We meet on occasions to share time together, to speak about our lives and our faith. Dates, times and locations appear on the notice sheet. It is an opportunity to enjoy a beer and some friendship, and for one or two of us, to give the other-half a well needed break from us. All men welcome to join us.

Fr Alan





Holy Trinity
Amblecote

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2023

Incumbent

The Revd Alan Williams TSSF SCP
4 The Holloway
Amblecote
Stourbridge
DY8 4DL

Hon. Treasurer (from November 2022)

Dennis Dipple esq
70 Hagley Road
Stourbridge
DY8 1QT

Bankers

HSBC plc
114 High Street
Stourbridge
DY8 1DZ

TREASURER'S REPORT ON 2023 ACCOUNTS

Planned giving, collections at services and other voluntary donations have decreased by almost £2,000 from 2022.

Other voluntary giving included donations made in response to our Harvest Appeal to support Stourbridge Food Bank and other appeals to support Refugees and The Children's Society.

Income from life events has almost doubled from 2022 to 2023 from £3,914 to £7,631 almost 100%. After fixed payments to the Diocesan Board of Finance, the PCC retains the balance of all fees received.

There were not as many fund-raising events as in 2022, all the hard work put in organising and running the events that were held is very much appreciated and my thanks go to everyone who helped in any way in organising or supported these events including our 150 Club, raising just over £2,300 a great success.

Our Churchyard Appeal raised £1,385 and with other donations to the Churchyard Fund £1,693 was raised in total.

Our Digital Giving device raised nearly £1,000 and due to a malfunction of the device only £29 was raised during September and October. We have not used the device as it can be used and we are missing opportunities to increase our income stream. Ideally, I would like a couple of people to take on the responsibility of using the device at any fundraising events we undertake during the rest of 2024. I really cannot do it all. It is easy to use/design the fundraising graphics and I am happy to train people to use it.

Due to repairs required and known costs of upgrades to the Fire Alarm needed in the Church Hall in 2024, this year 2023, they have been unable to donate to the Church Accounts.

Our expenditure has exceeded Income by £18,000 this is explained below:

In 2023 we paid £24,000 Ministry Share towards our requested Ministry Share of £60,363. We were once again fortunate to be granted £20,088 via Lowest Income Support for our parish and an MSF grant of £16,275, at total of £36,363 going towards our Ministry Share meaning that we achieved our requested Ministry Share payment. We paid almost 40% of the total requested a slight increase on our 2022 contribution.

Our vicar's expenses were slightly higher than 2022, but in the current climate of increased prices this is no surprise. Once again due the generosity of other clergy (to whom we are very grateful) we incurred no costs for their services to cover the absence of Fr Alan's when taking his deserved rest and recuperation periods. Cost of cover for our Organist increased slightly from 2022.

The church running expenses increased by just over £10,000 from 2022. This was due to a number of factors. The main ones being Boiler repairs and service, Tower Clock mechanism upgrade (£3,131), increase in utility bills costs (£2,200), CCTV and Main Door lock upgrades (£2,000), Quinquennial Inspection (£1,728).

Churchyard expenses were almost identical to 2022 £4,500 again due to the essential costs of tree maintenance.

Payments from Restricted Funds were £7,000 higher than 2022 due to the initial payments being made to the designer of Betty Griffin's memorial window.

I know that we have repairs and works to be undertaken because of items raised from the Quinquennial Inspection, so I am uncertain of what costs we may incur during 2024. I pray and hope we can find the energy and ideas to undertake as many fundraising events as possible to try and cover those costs.

Praying for peace, love, tranquillity to all in this world of ours. Lord, send Your Spirit into the hearts of all men and women, that the world might know true peace through Your abundant mercy. Amen.

Dennis Dipple, Hon Treasurer

Independent examiner's report to PCC of Holy Trinity Church, Amblecote

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of Holy Trinity Church, Amblecote for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The PCC 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 accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept 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.

Signed: 

Name: Michael Bishop BA(hons)

Address: 23 Dorchester Road, Stourbridge DY9 0XD

Date: 11/3/2024

Receipts and Payments Accounts page 1

	Note	Unrestricted (General) fund £	Unrestricted designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts						
Planned Giving	1a	17,492			17,492	18,916
Collections at services	1b	4,857			4,857	5,164
Legacies / In Memoriam					-	-
Charity Appeals	1c			657	657	1,115
All other giving / voluntary receipts	1d			1,693	1,693	1,540
Gift Aid recovered	1e	4,715			4,715	5,533
		27,064	-	2,350	29,414	32,268
Parochial (life events) fees	1f	7,631			7,631	3,914
Fundraising activities	1g	1,514		838	2,352	3,382
Church Hall	1h	-			-	5,000
Bank Account Interest					-	-
All other receipts	1i	1,238			1,238	3,281
Total receipts c/fwd to page 2		37,447	-	3,188	40,636	47,845

Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2023

Receipts and Payments Accounts page 2

	Note	Unrestricted (General) fund £	Unrestricted designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Total receipts b/fwd from page 1	0	37,447	0	3,188	40,636	47,845
PAYMENTS						
Ministry Share	2a		24,000		24,000	23,000
Clergy expenses	2b	1,639			1,639	1,228
Parochial (life events) fees and extras	2c	1,544			1,544	1,928
Church running costs	2d	17,927	628		18,555	7,864
Church Hall running costs	2e	170			170	-
Churchyard expenses	2f			4,549	4,549	4,529
Mission giving and charitable donations	2g	40		567	607	1,009
Bank charges	2h	138			138	147
All other payments	2i	179	420	7,000	7,599	561
Sundries	2j	138			138	150
Total payments		21,776	25,048	12,115	58,939	40,416
Excess of receipts over payments		15,672	(25,048.20)	(8,927)	(18,303.60)	7,429
Transfers between funds	3	(4,829)	628	201	-	-
		10,843	(24,420)	(8,726)	(18,304)	7,429
Cash at bank at 1 January 23		17,164	20,606	68,214	105,984	27,674
Cash/cheques at bank and in hand at 31 Dec 2023		3,475	23,563	60,080	87,118	35,103
Accounts Payable at 31/12/2023						
WDBF Fees For All of 2023 (Paid 23/2/2024)					- 2,879.45	
DEC Chartiy (Harvest) Dec2023					- 394.50	
Refugee's Dec 2023					- 202.33	
Accounts Receivable at 31/12/23						
Other Fees Owed					108.00	
Total						- 3,368.28

NOTES to the Receipts and Payments Accounts 2023 page 1

NOTE	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	(General) fund	designated funds		
	£	£	£	£
1a	<u>Planned giving</u>			
	14,040.00	-	-	14,040.00
	3,451.85	-	-	3,451.85
	17,491.85	-	-	17,491.85
1b	<u>Collections</u>			
	4,857.08	-	-	4,857.08
1c	<u>Charity Appeals</u>			
	-	-	335.60	335.60
	-	-	159.64	159.64
	-	-	161.86	161.86
	-	-	657.10	657.10
1d	<u>All other giving / voluntary receipts</u>			
	-	-	308.00	308.00
	-	-	1,385.00	1,385.00
	-	-	1,693.00	1,693.00
1e	<u>Gift Aid recovered from HMRC</u>			
	4,715.09	-	-	4,715.09
1f	<u>Parochial (life events) fees</u>			
	7,631.10	-	-	7,631.10
1g	<u>Fundraising activities</u>			
	-	838.00	-	838.00
	1,514.46	-	-	1,514.46
	1,514.46	838.00	-	2,352.46
1h	<u>Church Hall</u>			
	-	-	-	-
1i	<u>All other receipts</u>			
	-	-	100.00	100.00
	200.00	-	-	200.00
	937.99	-	-	937.99
	1,137.99	-	100.00	1,237.99

NOTES to the Receipts and Payments Accounts 2023 page 2

NOTE	Unrestricted (General) fund	Unrestricted designated funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
2a <u>Parish & Ministry Share</u> Paid to WDBF for 2023	24,000.00	-	-	24,000.00
2b <u>Clergy expenses and staffing costs</u> Vicar's expenses	1,639.38	-	-	1,639.38
	1,639.38	-	-	1,639.38
2c <u>Parochial (life events) fees and extras</u> DBF fees	620.35	-	-	620.35
Sundry payments: organist/verger/sexton/etc	924.00	-	-	924.00
	1,544.35	-	-	1,544.35
2d <u>Church running costs</u> Altar supplies	1,191.31	-	-	1,191.31
Council rates: waste disposal	490.69	-	-	490.69
Insurance	3,264.34	-	-	3,264.34
Licences: CCLI, Zoom	402.42	-	-	402.42
Organ Maintenance & Fees	-	628.20	-	628.20
Printing, stationery and postage	572.73	-	-	572.73
Subscriptions: Church Times, Zoom & Visual Liturgy	168.66	-	-	168.66
Utilities: electricity, gas, water	4,881.38	-	-	4,881.38
Quinquennial Inspection	1,728.00	-	-	1,728.00
Boiler Service & Repairs+Tower Clock Upgrade	3,131.16	-	-	3,131.16
Alarm Service, CCTV & Main Door Lock Upgrade, Gutter Cleaning	2,096.20	-	-	2,096.20
	17,926.89	628.20	-	18,555.09
2e <u>Churchyard expenses</u>	-	-	4,548.50	4,548.50
	-	-	4,548.50	4,548.50
2f <u>Church Hall Costs-Electric Junction Box Replaced on Roof</u>	170.00	-	-	170.00
2g <u>Mission giving and charitable donations</u> Carols- Children's Society	-	-	159.64	159.64
Christingle-Children's Society	-	-	407.21	407.21
W&DCR Belfry Repairs-Bell Ringers	40.00	-	-	40.00
	40.00	-	566.85	606.85
2h <u>Bank charges</u> Monthly Charges HSBC Bank	137.85	-	-	137.85
2i <u>All other payments</u> Costs incurred in generating funds	179.17	-	-	179.17
Betty Griffin Memorial Window (Eden Glass)	-	-	7,000.00	7,000.00
150 Club	-	420.00	-	420.00
	179.17	420.00	7,000.00	7,599.17
2j <u>Sundries</u> Flowers & Candles	137.99	-	-	137.99
3 <u>Transfers between funds</u> Gift Aid applied to Charity donations	(201)	-	201	-
Organ & Music to Churchyard	-	(4,000)	-	-
Organist's honorarium	(2,608)	2,608	-	-
Churchyard honorarium	(1,000)	1,000	-	-
Decorating contingency	(1,020)	1,020	-	-
	(4,829)	628	201	-

Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2023

NOTE
3

FUNDS 2023

	01/01/2023				31/12/2023
	Bal b/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Bal c/fwd £
Restricted					
Altar frontal	66	0	0	0	66
Bell Tower	1,459	100	(40)	0	1,519
Betty Griffin Legacy	60,000	0	(7,000)	0	53,000
Charities	326	838	(567)	0	597
Church Improvements	2,145	0	0	0	2,145
Churchyard	1,465	0	(1,465)	0	0
Decorating	1,360	0	0	0	1,360
Family Outreach	231	0	(45)	0	186
Sound system	1,208	0	0	0	1,208
	<u>68,259</u>	<u>938</u>	<u>(9,117)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>60,080</u>
Designated					
Churchyard	1,000	1,693	(3,084)	5,000	4,609
Decorating	2,380	1,020	0	0	3,400
Organ	12,120	2,608	(698)	(4,000)	10,030
Ministry Share	4,000	24,000	(24,000)	0	4,000
150 Club	1,106	838	(420)	0	1,524
	<u>20,606</u>	<u>30,159</u>	<u>(28,202)</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>23,563</u>
Balance at Bank					87,118
Cash in Hand					45
CBF Church of England Investment Fund					12,742
Total					99,905

Independent examiner's report to PCC of Holy Trinity Church, Amblecote

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Independent examiner's statement

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2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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Signed: 

Name: Michael Bishop BA(hons)

Address: 23 Dorchester Road, Stourbridge DY9 0XD

Date: 11/3/2024

Holy Trinity Amblecote Church Hall

Receipts and Payments Account 2023

RECEIPTS

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
Receipts from Regular Lettings		18,907.50		20,931.00
Dance Classes	12,428.50		11,643.50	
Wargamers	2,780.00		3,136.00	
Theatrical Groups	3,030.00		5,507.50	
Others				
Yoga	669.00		644.00	
Receipts from other sources		8,606.00		645.00
Parties	111.00		25.00	
DMBC			600.00	3.00
Other Occasional Hirers				
Other (Donation) (LOTTERY FUND GRANT 2023)	8,495.00		20.00	
Total Receipts		27,513.50		21,579.00

PAYMENTS

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
Transfer to main church account				5,000.00
Regular Expenditures		9,913.60		10,810.11
Utilities	3,667.21		2,409.55	
Insurance	1,005.48		1,224.68	
Cleaning	4,494.13		5,268.96	
General Maintenance	746.78		1,906.92	
One-time / Irregular expenditure				
Building Work				
Misc				
Total Payments		9,913.60		15,810.11

Net of Receipts over Payments		17,599.90	5,765.89
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Account balances

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	Current Account	Reserve Account	Current Account	Reserve Account
Brought forward	9994.73	2.06	4228.84	2.06
Net transfers between accounts				
Receipts from above	27,513.50	-	21,576.00	-
Payments from above	9,913.60	0.04	15,810.11	
Interest		-		-
Closing Balance	27,594.63	2.10	9,994.73	2.06