



CHURCH OF ST JAMES THE GREAT, CRADLEY

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Aim and purposes

Cradley Parochial Church Council (PCC) is specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Grade II church of St. James the Great, Cradley, Herefordshire and has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Prebendary Robert Ward, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Sadly Robert's period of office comes to an end in April 2025 after 17 years of dedication to Cradley Church. We are very grateful for his devotion to St James's Church, his generosity of spirit, his reflective approach to ministry and his sincere integrity. We wish him and his wife, Mel, a long and happy retirement in Wells. Of course, our aims and purposes will not change with the new incumbent, whom we look forward to working with in the same positive spirit.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Cradley. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship seek to bring people closer to God through Word and Sacrament, prayer and music.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent 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. In particular, we try to enable everyone to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing an understanding and trust in God.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Mission and outreach work

The Diocese of Hereford (of which we are part) has identified five strategic priorities for the 2020s in its shared vision of Proclaiming Christ and Growing Disciples:

- 1. Stronger congregations - growing faith**
- 2. Schools and intergenerational mission to help us grow younger**
- 3. Equipping and supporting Lay leaders for mission**
- 4. Creating generous giving and asset development (See financial report)**
- 5. Sustainable building strategy and support for Parish offer**

The PCC has found these priorities a good basis for writing this report, with Priority 4 being addressed within the Financial Review

Priority 1: Stronger Congregations - growing faith

Diocesan Goal: Minimum 3% of the population attending a regular act of worship, i.e. approximately 42 regular attendees from the parishes of Cradley and StorrIDGE combined.

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that will be beneficial and spiritually nourishing for our community and all are welcome to attend our regular services. Up to December 2024, there were 64 persons on the Church Electoral Roll.

On Wednesday mornings Holy Communion is normally celebrated using Common Worship. Evening prayer is live-streamed from the rectory on Wednesday evenings.

A Family Communion Service is held on the second Sunday and a lay-led service of Morning Worship on the 3rd Sunday, while a Parish Communion service is held on the 4th Sunday. Where there is a fifth Sunday, a joint benefice service is held.

2024 has seen a great deal of love and effort go into developing our new Church4All service, which replaced our traditional Family Service in February of this year, with the aim of appealing to a wider demographic of worshippers. This service is held on the first Sunday of each month and aims to provide an opportunity for more informal worship. The service, together with the rector, is devised by a team of around a dozen parishioners and differs from previous services in several ways:

- Each Church4All service is based on a theme designed to generate wider interest, e.g. Peace, The Bells, Promises, etc.
- It roughly follows the structure of the previous Family Service but in a more flexible way, changing the order and modifying the words to become more inclusive.
- The hymns are selected with a mind to mix the traditional with more modern hymns that may be more familiar to younger people. Some are really lively, others are much more contemplative, using Taize chants to enhance the inter-

cessions. We have also introduced the singing of the Lord's Prayer using the same version that children at Cradley School are familiar with.

- Jimmy's Band plays a vital role with its combination of acoustic and electric instruments and we have welcomed two singers to the band to help lead the singing. The band also plays for the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve.
- We have tried to link with Cradley School, encouraging people to attend and take part. The Head Teacher led the very successful Harvest Festival in the Autumn.

Contemporary forms of liturgy are used at the Parish and Church4All services and coffee is served afterwards to encourage members of the congregation to stop and chat. Tea and coffee-making equipment is left out at all times for visitors to the church to make their own hot drinks should they wish to.

The following table shows our attendance figures for 2024, which has been compared, where possible with the two previous years. The table shows that our attendance, has not changed significantly. We continue to work on this as a PCC and initiated strategy meetings during 2024 to explore ways in which we could encourage further involvement from the community, encourage more young people to attend services and plan for succession into the future. These meetings will continue into 2025.

	2022	2023	2024
Average Overall Attendance at Regular Sunday Services	31.17	30.17	30.19
Of which adults:	29.79	29.15	29.07
Of which young people:	1.38	1.02	1.12
Average Overall Attendance at Regular Sunday Services by Type			
Parish Communion	28.80	31.36	33.42
Family Communion	35.00	32.25	30.18
Family Services/Church4All	34.80	31.60	34.22
Morning Service	24.22	23.63	23.36
Average Overall Attendance at Regular + Special Services (Adults + Young People)	44.68	41.46	41.57
Special Services vary from year to year but included are Mothering Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Ascension, Evensong, Baptisms, School Harvest, Remembrance, All Souls, Carol Service, School Carols, Christingle, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day			

One service a month continues to be live-streamed from the church to cater for those

who are unable to be physically present. On other Sundays a service is streamed either from the Rectory or elsewhere and is appreciated by those in the Benefice or beyond who join via the internet or by telephone.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of our journey through life. At baptism we thank God for the gift of life and celebrate the start of our journey as children of God. In marriage, public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief, giving thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and commending the person into God's keeping.

In 2024 at Cradley we celebrated three baptisms, four weddings, three church funerals and 1 'freestanding' Cradley burial of ashes. Two further funerals were held at crematoria.

Communication

In order to advertise services and events and celebrate our successes, the parish has its own Facebook page as well as a website, and a weekly communication similar to the paper copy traditionally available in church is distributed electronically. Information about our church can also be found on the 'A Church Near You' website. In 2023 we updated our 'Welcome Leaflet' to go to new families moving into the village to make it more colourful and welcoming.

Music

Cradley Church has a thriving and well-balanced SATB choir which normally sings at two services a month including a choral communion setting at the Parish Communion, under professionally trained directorship. The choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. A very successful carol service was again held this year, including members of the parish not regularly in the choir itself (along with musical friends from nearby). There have also been occasional choral evensong services, and the choir took part in a more secular concert along with other community groups, in the church. Three members of the congregation have taken it in turns to play the organ for services throughout the year, displaying the glorious range of sounds available from our historic Nicholson organ from the 1870s. During the year we have again been delighted to have recitals from visiting professional organists, and other music groups have presented concerts in the building. This year we have been delighted to acquire, through donation, an acoustic piano, which will increase the range of concerts possible in the building. Jimmy's Band, a group consisting of keyboard, violins, oboe and guitars, features prominently in the monthly Church 4All services (see above). In addition to this we have a thriving and accomplished handbell group who perform at events and special services.

Bells

We have a fine ring of bells, which were rehung and augmented from six to eight at the Millennium. A special service was held on the 4th of August with the theme of the service being 'Bells'. During the service the congregation were invited into the ringing chamber to see a demonstration of ringing with a brief presentation on ringing

theory and a tower bell installation. The bells were originally installed in 1724 and in order to celebrate the 300 year anniversary, an extended 'Quarter Peal of 1724 changes' was rung on the 21st of December. With the help of ringers from Mathon, our thriving group usually manages to ring at least six bells for the main services each Sunday. Visiting ringers frequently like to ring at Cradley and the space in and around the ringing chamber facilitates training and observation. Our ringers also visit other churches around the country from time to time.

Pastoral Care, mission and Evangelism

The clergy and/or members of the Three Villages Visiting Group visit members of the community who would appreciate a visit or are unable to get to church, and to take Communion.

The Rector is Chairman of the committee that produces a monthly community Newsletter for Cradley, Mathon and Storridge. This keeps our parishioners informed of important matters affecting our church as well as reporting on the numerous other organisations in the villages. The PCC is grateful to the committee, and all of its volunteer helpers.

"Coffee Stop at The Leys" meets monthly, usually on the last Thursday and provides an opportunity for residents at The Leys and their friends to meet socially. It is organised by a small group of members from the church congregation, and in recent years, has been supported financially by the local Charities of Richard Hill and Others.

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Some mission giving is organised on a benefice-wide basis, including the provision of frugal lunches in Lent.

Ecumenical Relationships

When there is a fifth Sunday in a month the three parishes in the benefice come together for a "gathered service", which may be formal or informal in nature; if non-Eucharistic, a said service of Holy Communion is celebrated, at a different time, in one of the churches in the Benefice.

Members of all three parish churches in the benefice and Cradley chapel (which belongs to The Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion) form Christians Together, which holds monthly meetings. Members of the congregation join this group for prayer, Bible Study, discussion and worship.

Deanery Synod

The PCC has three seats on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Priority 2: Schools and intergenerational mission to help us

grow younger

Diocesan Goal: Increasing the number of young people and children engaged with worshipping communities

The Chair of Governors of Cradley VA Primary School is also responsible for safeguarding in the parish church and is a member of the PCC. The Rector is on the governing body as an ex-officio member. He fortnightly visits school to lead a simplified communion service, where the children participate by taking bread. The children know it as their 'Breaking Bread' service.

'Open the Book' volunteers have grown this year and they take it in turns to deliver and act out with the children different Bible stories. The whole school frequently attends church for special services, and parents and children alike enjoy it very much.

Cradley School continues with a government initiative designed to build a sustainable pool of 'Community Champions' to actively engage young people to 'pass on the baton' and build on the foundations of trust established by groups in the community, our church being one of those groups. The church has worked closely with the school to minimise barriers, grow understanding, and improve engagement with our community. This has involved several visits from the school's Community Champions to make music with our church band, build a bug sanctuary in the churchyard and currently designing a simple 'treasure hunt' to entertain visiting children. It may be the start of bigger and better booklets.

There is a small but active branch of the Mothers' Union and they continue to raise money for MU projects, sometimes from serving coffee after the morning service. They participate in church services, Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Christingle and other events.

Stir-up Sunday is a very popular event in the parish, growing annually where children, parents and grand-parents participate. Many Christmas puddings are consumed in Cradley every Christmas!

Our Church4All services are flourishing where every effort is made for it to be inclusive. All ages join in the acting of stories about camels, sheep, dragons... However, for all the efforts made, growth in young families and children attending church services changes little.

The Chair of Governors writes weekly in the school newsletter drawing attention to events in church, services where the children would enjoy taking part.

Priority 3: Equipping and supporting Lay leaders for mission

Diocesan Goal: New voluntary or lay leaders

Lay volunteers continue to be invaluable to the life of the benefice, especially in enabling and taking part in worship, online and in church, and in co-ordinating visiting and pastoral care throughout the community. Some have taken a regular

and active role in leading lay led worship, in ensuring the continuation of our worship on-line, and developing our outreach through electronic and social media.

A number of people have been approved by the PCC as Local Worship Leaders, one of whom we are delighted to announce completed, in 2024, an 'Introduction to Local Ministry' training course with the Diocese and now takes a very active role in leading Lay worship across the benefice. We are very grateful to her for putting in so much of her own time and hard work towards achieving this qualification.

All Lay worship leaders are offered training to become authorised to take a more central and active role in the leading of worship.

Priority 5: Sustainable building strategy

Diocesan Goal: A sustainable clear future for every church

The Church Building and Churchyard

Cradley Church is in the Malvern Hills 'National Landscape', formerly known as Malvern Hills 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', and has arrangements with the AONB Partnership, and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust, for them to provide information and displays in our church as part of our commitment to involvement and partnerships within the community. This also encourages local tourism and, alongside leaflets and literature sponsored by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, brings visitors into the building, including local people who may not otherwise enter it. Brown tourism signs directing people from the main roads to the church and village hall have recently been provided.

The PCC is responsible for maintaining the church and churchyard in good condition and extends its thanks to all who volunteer to keep the churchyard in such good condition. We are grateful for the contributions from the Parish Council to the cost of employing contractors to cut the grass in the churchyard to the north side of the church.

Many thanks, yet again, to the team of 30 volunteers who regularly mow the lawns and help harvest the hay. The yellow rattle sown last year in the summer meadow did not take, but the quality of the hay improves annually. The hay was used by villagers and sheep in Cradley and Ledbury and the grass compost is available for the 2025 WI/Cradley Wild planters project. In 2024 the old petrol lawn mower was replaced by a battery model – much lighter and more ECO-friendly. The shed has been moved to just behind the village hall shed to make way for the new toilet.

Our Churchyard has many historical tombs and features that we maintain. The stone foundation of the tomb just outside the Chancel door has been repaired and saplings removed from the tomb just east of the church. The Maclean & Clementina Maxwell graves were tidied for the well attended Housman society talk in September and there is interest in the Ayscough graves. Ann and Jen's bench by the Glastonbury Thorn has been taken home, washed, winterised and re-oiled ready for St David's Day.

The SW corner of the wall by the lychgate has been repaired and the meadow flowers, sponsored by Cradley Wild, flourished. We will have a WI/Cradley Wild planter for pollinators by the lychgate.

Christmas decorations were cleared from the churchyard at Candlemas. Parishioners and those tending graves should be aware of the churchyard regulations at CradleyChurch.org.uk.

A 'consultation' article about the Garden of Remembrance has been included in the three villages newsletter. There are kerbs and a stone memorial, (which may be a tomb) a few inches under the surface and a sunken grave void. We wait for the toilet drain plans to be clarified before we obtain permissions to go ahead. We will continue to use the existing ashes memorial area and whole body burial while space remains, the Garden of Remembrance is currently an additional and alternative proposal designed to conserve other existing space for as long as possible.

Frequent, regular inspections of the church fabric ensures that early action is taken to rectify problems and help prevent the need for major repair works. As in previous years, volunteers carried out routine maintenance tasks and regular inspections of all aspects of the building were made in order to detect any deteriorating elements.

Some maintenance does, of course, need to be carried out by specialist contractors, such as checks to fire protection equipment, lightning conductors and any work at high level requiring scaffolding, etc. In 2024 it was necessary to engage contractors to carry out repairs to the vestry roof, re-pointing of open joints to the east end of the Lady Chapel and urgent works to repair and re-install the chancel cross, the base of which had been found to be fracturing and crumbling. The 5 yearly inspection of the electrical system was also carried out.

The organ was tuned twice during the year, but no other work was carried out. The tuner mentioned that the Great soundboard leaks, and that therefore the Great Fifteenth has become unstable and difficult to tune. This will need to be attended to in due course.

We are in receipt of both Planning Permission and Faculty for the new toilet facility, which we feel is key to a sustainable future for our church. We have now raised sufficient funds to enable the building work to proceed and we look forward to reporting on its completion in next year's annual report.

Overarching Priority: Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the requirements imposed by the code under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Priority 4: Creating generous giving and asset development

Diocesan Goal: Breakeven budget/sustainable benefices

Financial Review

The basis on which the financial statements have been prepared is set out in Note 1 on page 13. Total receipts and payments on unrestricted and restricted funds are shown in detail in the Statement of Financial Activities. For the year ended 31 December 2024, total income was £80593.61 (£69,203.63- 2023) and total expenditure was £70,069.45 (£55,637.19-2023).

Net receipts from fundraising events for general purposes amounted to £5775.11 which is lower than £7,139.91 in 2023. This was due to £4418.02 being raised specifically for the Toilet project.

The Village Fete contributed £2100 to the general funds and the 200 Club has raised £743 net of prized money which is lower than the £830.00 in 2023 due to a number of members moving out of the parish. The Around the world in 80minutes presentation given by Derek and Anne Carver raised a total of £2724.10 which was shared with the Midlands Air

Ambulance, St Michaels Hospice and the Church. The St David's Day Concert in March, which was held jointly with the Village Hall, raised £494.52 for Church funds. The Lent talks and Lunches raised £790.85 and were held for Mtwara and We are Farming Minds charities. The Organ recital in May raised £585.74 and the Housman talk in September, which was held for the Toilet project raised £343.74

The Summer raffle was held as part of the Village Fete so the proceeds were included in the Church share indicated above. The Cream Teas held in Church throughout the summer months raised a total £847.13 which was only slightly lower than the 2023 amount of £991.75. The Christmas Fair raised £87.50 and the Christmas Raffle raised a further £254 making a total of £341.50.

We contributed £33,000 to the Diocesan Common Fund, which pays for ministry and mission in our diocese, an increase of £1,000 on the previous year. We have pledged to contribute £33,000 in 2025 in view of the need to ensure we have sufficient funds to complete the toilet project.

The Church Yard Wall was repaired at a cost of £3000 this was funded by the insurance claim of £2500 and £500 from the general fund. The West End wall of the Church was repointed at a cost of £3,300.00 and the east gable cross was repaired at a cost of £2947.20. Further roof repairs were also required costing £1535. These repairs were funded from our Fabric and NCT Maintenance Funds which now have balances of £3308.23 and £1661.67 respectively. The electrical installation required replacing due to the heavy load placed on the supply for the electrical overhead heaters. The cost of materials for this was £1112.72 and the required inspection charge was £480. We are very fortunate to have a church warden who is a qualified electrician, and carried out the electrical installation replacement, otherwise the cost would have been considerably more.

During the year we managed to secure further funding for the disabled toilet from the Lasletts Charities, the Beatrice Laing Trust and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We subsequently went out to tender and are in the process of awarding the contract. The estimated cost is approximately £82,000 plus VAT and outstanding architect fees. However there are a number of provisional sums included in the estimate with respect to the drainage and electrical supply. The toilet fund currently stands at £67,436 with a further £30,032 in outstanding grants. This should be sufficient as we will be able to claim back the VAT from the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme.

The net result for the year was a deficit of income over expenditure of £6,018.80 (£1096.04 – 2023 surplus) on unrestricted funds. The restricted funds increased by £16,542.96 as a result of a number of donations and grants for the installation of the Disabled Toilet and the purchase of a piano. The piano is treated as a restricted asset purchase and will be depreciated over a 5 year period.

Including bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December 2024 on unrestricted funds totalled £30,508.23 (£36,572.03 – 2023) of which £32,836.09 (£35,406.50 – 2023) was in cash, current accounts and on deposit. Overall there was an increase of £11,228.34 in the financial balances mainly due to increased grants, donations, Gift Aid and fund raising activities. The restricted fund balance increased to £85,055.17 (£68,512.21 – 2023) mainly due to donations and grants for the Church Toilet. The gift aid is shown apportioned between the refurbishment and general funds as a significant amount is due to the donations for the

Toilet.

The revaluation of the Dr Webster investment saw a welcome increase in value to £14,498.07. For many years voluntary giving was insufficient to meet our contribution to the diocese. Since our successful stewardship campaign in 2017 this has been covered by planned giving, open plate collections at services, donations and the associated Gift Aid, but we continue to rely upon fees for weddings and funerals and fundraising events to cover the other costs of ministry and the running expenses of our large building and churchyard. During 2024 we saw a number of regular givers move out of the Parish so we anticipate a reduction during 2025 unless additional regular givers can be found

Within the year the Parish Council contributed £2,000 towards the upkeep of the churchyard. Expenditure on the Church Graveyard is taken from a restricted fund into which the Parish Councils' contribution is deposited along with other donations for the upkeep of the Church Yard. In 2024 a total of £4,066.66 was spent on Church Yard Maintenance, which included the purchase of new mower for £849. This partially funded by a one of donation of £400 from a member of the church. It is anticipated that the expenditure in 2025 will hopefully remain around the £4,000 mark.

The contactless payment devices have proved beneficial for donations and fundraising and in 2024 £2020.00 was paid via these devices.

The PCC tries to build on the help and guidance given by the diocese on encouraging giving within the wider context of Christian stewardship. We hope 2025 will be a year where more fundraising events are held and further regular giving can be secured. Members of the Church family will again be asked to review the giving of their time and talents as well as their financial support. Diocesan priority 4 recognises the urgent need to become financially sustainable to resource mission.

Our thanks go to Howard Painter who has again very generously given his services as Independent Examiner of the 2024 finances *pro bono*.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to at least six months' unrestricted payments, equivalent to about £25,000.00. This is less than the figure for 2024 as a result of stable running costs and Parish Share paid to the Diocese. It is held to smooth out cash flow and to meet emergencies that may arise from time to time. The cash and bank balances of £30,508.23 held on unrestricted funds at the year-end exceeded this target. The PCC also holds other funds that cannot be included as "free" reserves as they are held for restricted purposes. These represent the proceeds of donations and fund raising projects, including grants, for specific purposes.

Investments

It is our general policy to invest our funds' balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund. The Dr Webster Fund however is invested in accumulation units in the CBF Investment Fund for the Church of England. Income is reinvested within the fund itself, and not distributed in cash to unit holders.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular, we want to mention our Churchwardens Ian Bailey and Diane Roberts who worked so tirelessly on our behalf, and all the other members of the PCC for their valuable contribution to our ministry and for keeping the church running. In particular, we wish to thank Ian Bailey for his work on the electrical installation, Kevin Brewer for arranging and hosting the twice weekly live streaming of services and Tony Copp for his work in the Church Yard.

Administrative information

The church of St. James the Great is situated in Rectory Lane, Cradley. It is part of the Diocese of Hereford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Rectory, Cradley, Malvern, WR13 5LQ.

The parish forms part of the United Benefice of Cradley, Mathon and Storridge.

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

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Robert Ward (Chairman)

Churchwardens: Ian Bailey
Diane Roberts

Diocesan Synod Member: Ian Bailey

Deanery Synod Representatives: Mike Hames
Christopher Roberts

Elected members:
Sue Bailey
Eryl Copp
Margaret Edgar
John Parsons
Sue Warner
Peter Warner
Jane MacFarlane (elected April 2024)

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 16 June 2020, number 1190026. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Councils Measure. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. James' the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), Churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The full PCC met eight times in person during the year, with an average level of attendance of 75%. Business was also transacted by email. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has several committees and working parties, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include churchyard, outreach and events, repairs and development, and worship are all responsible to the PCC; their reports are received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

The following officers served during the year:

Lay vice-chair: Mike Hames
Treasurer: Christopher Roberts

Secretary Susan Warner
Minute Taker John Parsons

Approved by the PCC on 21st March 2025 and signed on its behalf by the Reverend Robert Ward (PCC chairman)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees/members of the Parochial Church Council of St James the Great, Cradley

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records, or
- statutory fees were not accounted for correctly.

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

H N Painter JP BSc FCA
The Firs
Church Road
Crowle
Worcester
WR7 4AX

21st March 2025

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JAMES THE GREAT, CRADLEY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
Income and endowments						
Voluntary income	2(a)	30,868.54	-	27,915.96	58,784.50	48,783.64
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	7,050.37	-	5,066.58	12,116.95	8,103.48
Income from investments	2(c)	1,600.43	-	3,282.73	4,883.16	3,393.51
Church activities	2(d)	2,894.00	-	1,915.00	4,809.00	8,923.00
Total incoming resources		<u>42,413.34</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,180.27</u>	<u>80,593.61</u>	<u>69,203.63</u>
Expenditure						
Church activities	3(a)	45,531.88	-	22,613.75	68,145.63	53,323.03
Costs of generating funds	3(b)	1,275.26	-	648.56	1,923.82	2,314.16
Total resources expended		<u>46,807.14</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,262.31</u>	<u>70,069.45</u>	<u>55,637.19</u>
Net incoming resources before transfers		(4,393.80)	-	14,917.96	10,524.16	13,566.44
Transfer between funds	4	<u>(1,625.00)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,625.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-</u>
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains/(losses)		(6,018.80)	-	16,542.96	10,524.16	13,566.44
Revaluation gains on investments	6	<u>-</u>	<u>704.18</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>704.18</u>	<u>1,549.00</u>
Net movement in funds		(6,018.80)	704.18	16,542.96	11,228.34	15,115.44
Balances brought forward 1 January 2024		36,527.03	13,793.89	68,512.21	118,833.13	103,717.69
Balances carried forward 31 December 2024	9	<u><u>30,508.23</u></u>	<u><u>14,498.07</u></u>	<u><u>85,055.17</u></u>	<u><u>130,061.47</u></u>	<u><u>118,833.13</u></u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
Fixed assets						
Tangible	5	-	-	2,103.20	2,103.20	0.00
Investments	6	<u>-</u>	<u>14,498.07</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,498.07</u>	<u>13,793.89</u>
		<u>0.00</u>	<u>14,498.07</u>	<u>2,103.20</u>	<u>16,601.27</u>	<u>13,793.89</u>
Current assets						
Debtors and prepayments	7	4,351.37	-	6,509.06	10,860.43	7,369.43
Short-term deposits		30,181.34	-	66,779.26	96,960.60	92,073.50
Cash at bank and in hand		2,654.75	-	11,066.21	13,720.96	10,012.68
		<u>37,187.46</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,354.53</u>	<u>121,541.99</u>	<u>109,455.61</u>
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>6,679.23</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,402.56</u>	<u>8,081.79</u>	<u>4,416.37</u>
Net current assets		<u>30,508.23</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>82,951.97</u>	<u>113,460.20</u>	<u>105,039.24</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>30,508.23</u></u>	<u><u>14,498.07</u></u>	<u><u>85,055.17</u></u>	<u><u>130,061.47</u></u>	<u><u>118,833.13</u></u>
Represented by Parish Funds						
Unrestricted					30,508.23	36,527.03
Designated					14,498.07	13,793.89
Restricted					85,055.17	68,512.21
Endowment						
					<u><u>130,061.47</u></u>	<u><u>118,833.13</u></u>

Approved by the PCC on 21st March and signed on its behalf by the Reverend Robert Ward (PCC)

Chairman)

1 Accounting policies

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on the accruals basis and under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable accounting standard FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Fund accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place. The PCC currently has no Endowment Funds.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments that is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds that are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Project funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Funds designated as invested in fixed assets for the PCC's own use are abated in line with those assets' annual depreciation charges in the SOFA. Designated funds remain unrestricted and the PCC will move any surplus to other general funds.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are readily quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with S.10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the

PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently the only items costing more than £1,000 are the chairs and tables purchased as part of the reordering of the north aisle (including the Lady Chapel) in 2019 and the purchase of an acoustic piano in 2024.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over five years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

2 Income and endowments	Unrestrict ed funds	Designat ed funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
a					
) Voluntary income					
Planned giving	16,208.38	-	-	16,208.38	17,801.71
Collections at services	5,651.54	-	813.67	6,465.21	8,051.67
Donations	1,670.90	-	9,118.65	10,789.55	8,855.35
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	500.00	-	17,792.50	18,292.50	7,000.00
Gift Aid recovered	6,709.85	-	180.93	6,890.78	6,974.91
Other voluntary receipts	127.87	-	10.21	138.08	100.00
	<u>30,868.54</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,915.96</u>	<u>58,784.50</u>	<u>48,783.64</u>
b					
) Activities for generating funds					
Fundraising	7,050.37	-	5,066.58	12,116.95	8,103.48
	<u>7,050.37</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,066.58</u>	<u>12,116.95</u>	<u>8,103.48</u>
c) Investment income					
Interest	1,600.43	-	3,282.73	4,883.16	3,393.51
	<u>1,600.43</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,282.73</u>	<u>4,883.16</u>	<u>3,393.51</u>
d					
) Church activities					
Fees for weddings and funerals	2,894.00	-	495.00	3,389.00	6,376.00
Disbursements	-	-	1,420.00	1,420.00	2,547.00
	<u>2,894.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,915.00</u>	<u>4,809.00</u>	<u>8,923.00</u>
Total income	<u>42,413.34</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,180.27</u>	<u>80,593.61</u>	<u>69,203.63</u>
3 Expenditure					
a					
) Church activity expenses					
Missionary and charitable giving		-			
Overseas	-	-	304.03	304.03	1,731.71
Home	217.00	-	3,069.97	3,286.97	2,282.10
Diocesan parish contribution	33,000.00	-	-	33,000.00	32,000.00
Other ministry costs	1,178.55	-	1,561.00	2,739.55	5,506.96
Church running and maintenance	10,305.72	-	8,992.12	19,297.84	6,799.80
Major repairs - structural renewal	-	-	3,818.88	3,818.88	0.00
Churchyard upkeep	-	-	4,066.66	4,066.66	3,807.92
Printing and stationery etc	225.73	-	-	225.73	100.14
Other payments	604.88	-	275.29	880.17	150.34
Depreciation	0.00	-	525.80	525.80	944.06
	<u>45,531.88</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,613.75</u>	<u>68,145.63</u>	<u>53,323.03</u>
b					
) Stewardship costs					
Costs of grant applications	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising costs	1,275.26	-	648.56	1,923.82	2,314.16
	<u>1,275.26</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>648.56</u>	<u>1,923.82</u>	<u>2,314.16</u>
Total expenditure	<u>46,807.14</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,262.31</u>	<u>70,069.45</u>	<u>55,637.19</u>

4 Transfers between funds

Brtfwd o/s Restricted Funds paid into General Account	2046.88
Less Corrected Disbursement and Special Collection	966.79
Unrestricted Funds paid from the Restricted Account	14
Restricted funds paid into GA account in 2024	4,441.03
Net Transfer between Funds using Creditors /Debtors	5,535.12
Transfer from General to Restricted Funds	
Transfer to Church Yard Maintenance Fund	1,000.00
Transfer of Gift Aid on Piano donations	625
Total	1,625.00

5 Tangible fixed assets	General	Restrict- ed
Cost		
At 1 January 2021	4,720.26	0
Additions	0.00	2629
At 31 December 2024	<u>4,720.26</u>	<u>2,629.00</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2024	4,720.26	0
Depreciation charged in the year	0.00	525.8
At 31 December 2024	<u>4,720.26</u>	<u>525.80</u>
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2024	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,103.20</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

6 Fixed Asset Investments

Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2024	13,793.89
Additions	0.00
Valuation changes	704.18
Disposals	0.00
At 31 December 2024	<u>14,498.07</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2024	<u>14,498.07</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>13,793.89</u>

7 Debtors	Unrestrict- ed	Restrict- ed
Gift Aid recoverable	3,982.96	180.93
DCMS Listed Places of Worship grant		
Late Raffle Ticket Sales	10.00	
Christmas Draw sponsorship		
Sponsorship of streaming licences		
CCLA Interest	358.41	793.01
Transfer from Restricted bank account		
Transfer from General bank account		5,535.12
	<u>4,351.37</u>	<u>6,509.06</u>

8 Creditors		
Dawson & MEW Invoices	84.00	111.60

Christingle & Carol Service collections		381.06
Vale Dehumidifier for Piano		265.00
Verger, Organist & Ringers Fees		
4QTR Electricity	986.51	
Printing Costs		
CY Mowing		380.00
Unpresented Cheques	73.60	264.90
Transfer to General Bank Account		
Transfer to Restricted Bank Account	5,535.12	
	<u>6,679.23</u>	<u>1,402.56</u>

9. Funds

Fund	Brought forward	Receipts	Payments	Transfers in	Transfers out	Carried forward
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>						
General	36,527.03	42,413.34	46,807.14	0.00	1,625.00	30,508.23
<i>Designated funds</i>						
Dr Webster Fund	13,793.89	704.18	0.00			14,498.07
<i>Restricted funds</i>						
200 Club	368.74	-109.00	0.00			259.74
Bell & Tower	8,328.28	517.03	0.00			8,845.31
Choir	0.00	310.21	141.00			169.21
Church fabric	9,652.57	1,162.86	7,507.20			3,308.23
Disbursements	0.00	1,950.00	1,950.00			0.00
Flower	131.23	78.02	0.00			209.25
Hassocks & Cushions	48.09	2.22	0.00			50.31
NCT Maintenance	3,113.84	144.35	1,596.52			1,661.67
Organ & Piano	300.42	2,588.38	1,050.80	625.00	0.00	2,463.00
Refurbishment	45,090.95	26,140.47	3,794.86	0.00	0.00	67,436.56
Church Yard Maintenance	194.54	2,466.00	3,801.66	1,000.00		-141.12
Restricted fundraising	472.06	1,247.71	1,719.77		0.00	0.00
Special collections	0.00	889.01	889.01			0.00
Unallocated Interest	811.49	793.01	811.49			793.01
	<u>68,512.21</u>	<u>38,180.27</u>	<u>23,262.31</u>	<u>1,625.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>85,055.17</u>
Total all Funds	<u>118,833.13</u>	<u>81,297.79</u>	<u>70,069.45</u>			<u>130,061.47</u>

The General Fund represents income to be used for the general purposes of the PCC

The Dr Webster Fund represents the residue of a legacy from the late Dr Webster, received in 1962. For many years it was thought that this was restricted to the maintenance of the church fabric, but research in 2019 has confirmed that it is for the general purposes of the church. The PCC has however earmarked it for maintenance of the fabric. It is invested in CBF Church of England Investment Fund Accumulation Units and therefore no dividend is received as the income of the fund is re-invested.

The 200 Club Fund represents subscriptions paid in advance, which are held in this fund until the month of the draw to which they refer, when they are transferred to the General (Unrestricted) Fund.

The Bell & Tower Fund represents surplus funds raised in 2000 for the refurbishment and augmentation of the bells and associated necessary work on the tower, and subsequent donations when the bells are used at weddings.

The Church Fabric Fund represents accumulated donations and appeals for fabric maintenance.

Disbursements represent fees for bell ringers, the verger and the organist at weddings and funerals, where the PCC is merely acting as agent.

The Flower Fund represents donations to be spent on the purchase of flowers to decorate the church.

The Hassocks & Cushions Fund represents funds held for the purchase of materials for making these items.

The Organ & Piano Fund represents accumulated donations and appeals for maintenance of the organ and for the purchase and maintenance of the church piano and contains the remaining value of £2103.20 for the piano. The £625 transfer into the fund is in lieu of the gift aid claimed on the donations for the piano. This will be paid

into the general fund in 2026.

The Refurbishment Fund represents donations to finance the necessary refurbishment and adaptation of church premises to facilitate greater community use. This will be used for the installation of the Disabled Toilet.

The Church Yard Maintenance Fund was setup in 2021 to hold the contribution made by the Parish Council and other donations for Church Yard Maintenance

Restricted Fundraising and Special Collections represent the proceeds of fundraising events and collections which are specifically for the benefit of some other organisation, and where the PCC is merely acting as agent.

The unallocated interest represents the interest income from the restricted CCLA account for the 4th Quarter of 2024, which is now not capitalized until January 2025.

Signed:..... Rector Signed..... Ind.
Examiner