

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF KIDDERMINSTER ISMERE

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF KIDDERMINSTER ISMERE
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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF KIDDERMINSTER ISMERE

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

The PCC members (the Trustees) present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 which complies with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice.

Administrative Information

The Ecclesiastical Parish of KIDDERMINSTER ISMERE is a benefice consisting of the churches of Holy Trinity, Trimpley; St. Barnabas, Franche; St. John the Baptist, Wolverley; St. Mary & All Saints, Kidderminster; St. Peter, Cookley; St. Peter, Upper Arley and the no longer in use St. Oswald, Broadwaters. The churches form a Team Ministry, in the Diocese of Worcester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: The Parish Office, Churchfields, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY10 2JN. The email address is: office.ismere@gmail.com Telephone enquiries should go to 07427 766054 (for St Mary's, Trimpley and Franche) or 07707 699952 (for Upper Arley, Cookley and Wolverley).

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) registered as a charity on 26th October 2009. The registered charity number is 1132329.

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

Ex Officio Members

Team Rector	vacant
Team Vicar	The Reverend Shaun Armstrong
Assistant Curate	The Reverend Peter Greaves (from 30 th June 2024)
Licensed Lay Minister	Louvain Beer
Licensed Lay Minister	Sue Bullock
Licensed Lay Minister	Sue MacAskill
Licensed Lay Minister and Churchwarden (St. Mary's & Trimpley)	Ian Strongman (and Parish Safeguarding Officer)
Churchwarden (Upper Arley)	Edwin Hanke
Churchwarden (Franche)	Jessica Hignell-Bradley
Churchwarden (Cookley)	Barrie Lewis
Churchwarden (Cookley)	Dudley Light
Churchwarden (St. Mary's & Trimpley)	Jackie Light
Churchwarden (Wolverley)	Barry Maybury
Secretary:	Cynthia Partridge
Joint Treasurers:	Angela Hayden (until 30 th September 2024)
	Paul Blackham & Keith Sunderland

Deanery Synod Representatives

Holy Trinity, Trimpley	Jane Twigg
St Mary & All Saints', Kidderminster	Sue MacAskill
St. Barnabas, Franche	Sue Hignell
St. John the Baptist, Wolverley	Jane Hitchens-Novelle
St. Peter's, Cookley	Barbara Pugh
St. Peter's, Upper Arley	James Clee

Elected PCC Members

Christopher Beddoes	Marlene Broomhead	Elizabeth Clee
Mariea Hickman	Jane Hitchens-Novelle	Susan Wombell

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Authorised Lay Ministers

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Children & Youth | Kirsty Williams |
| • Pastoral | Chris Lewis |
| | Sue Wombell |
| • Worship Leaders | Louvain Beer |
| | Barrie Lewis |
| | Margaret Tindal |
| | Jane Twigg |
| | Kirsty Wilkes |
| • Worship Leader & Administration | Polly Smith |
| • Authorised Funeral Ministers | Louvain Beer |
| | Sue MacAskill |

	2024	2023
Holy Trinity	20	21
St. Barnabas	32	31
St. John the Baptist	54	48
St. Mary & All Saints'	76	76
St. Oswald	00 (suspended)	00 (suspended)
St. Peter, Cookley	40	47
St. Peter, Upper Arley	13	13
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	235	236
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The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

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. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC delegates decisions regarding the day to day management of the six churches (+ that one no longer used) in the benefice to the District Church Council of each church but, where appropriate, the DCCs refer decisions to the PCC. The DCCs remain accountable to the PCC and report back regularly on activities and decisions in the respective churches. The DCCs have a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees include worship, mission and outreach and fabric and finance. Committees report back to the DCC.

The PCC has complied with the requirements imposed by the code under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 and is aware of its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. From 2017 the PCC has used the "Safeguarding Toolkit" provided by the diocese as a way of self-assessment,

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to seek to ensure it fulfils that duty. The PCC continues to comply with the duty to "have due regard" to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the many volunteers, Licensed Lay Ministers and Authorised Lay Ministers who support the parish vision to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who choose to hear it and work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is.

Kidderminster Ismere PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Clergy Team, in promoting ministry and mission in the Parish. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church buildings of Holy Trinity, Trimpley; St. Barnabas, Franche; St. John the Baptist, Wolverley; St. Mary & All Saints', Kidderminster; St. Peter's, Cookley; St. Peter's, Upper Arley plus the no longer used St. Oswald's, Broadwaters.

It has been our normal pattern that five of the remaining six churches hold a Sunday morning service each week and the seventh, Holy Trinity, Trimpley, usually has Sunday morning services twice out of four weeks together with a monthly afternoon service. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month the churches join together for a Sunday morning Team service.

The process of closing St. Oswald, Broadwaters is still ongoing; but progress remains painfully slow.

Social Action

The 'Memory Lane' dementia café continues with its broadening remit to all who are isolated, lonely or suffering from mental health needs. The Parish is committed to continuing its support of Faith at Work Worcester with continued Chaplaincy work in the town's retail sector and market.

PCCs and DCCs

The PCC is the legal body for the Team and delegates the maintenance of the church buildings and mission in the local context to the District Church Councils which each meet a minimum of 4 times per year either in person or by email or "Zoom".

Achievements and Performance

The re-organisation of Kidderminster and Stourport Deanery is now beginning to take shape and as a result the only stipendiary ordained priest in this parish is the Rev. Shaun Armstrong.

During this time of re-visioning and change, our thanks go to all the volunteers, Non Stipendiary Ministers (NSMs), Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs), Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs), officers and especially the retired clergy who support the parish's ministry and mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all who will hear it, and to make our churches the communities of love, life, freedom and hospitality that God calls us to be.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our worship puts faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We especially try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

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- **Worship and Prayer** (learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus);
- **Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish;**
- **Missionary and outreach work.** To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church buildings within the parish and also our hall buildings for community use.

Risk Assessment: The members of the PCC regularly review the risks to which the Council might be exposed and recommend action to mitigate these or to manage the risk appropriately. The PCC reviews its Child Protection and Health and Safety policies on an annual basis. Financial risks are regularly reviewed.

The scheme instigated in 2022 for the reshaping of the team, in terms of clergy and lay leadership with responsibilities to provide some stability and certainty was endorsed for another year by the PCC. However, with the departure of the Rev. Simon Archer the workload is now shared by the Rev. Shaun Armstrong and clergy from the Kidderminster West team.

We are, however, very grateful for the help of the Ven. Hayward Osborne, who has been leading ministry at St. Mary's.

Sue MacAskill remains the responsible person for Trimpley and Louvain Beer for Upper Arley

2025 will see the continuing major reorganisation of the Kidderminster and Stourport Deanery. It is expected that when all the necessary paperwork has been completed and the schemes created St. Mary's, St. Barnabas, and Holy Trinity will form part of a new Benefice with St John's Kidderminster, St Peter's Birchen Coppice and Holy Innocents and St Peter's, Cookley, St John's Wolverley and St Peter's Upper Arley will become part of another new benefice with Churchill in Halfshire, Blakedown and Broome.

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Financial Review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £359,637 (2023: £206,563) and are detailed in the financial statements.

£288,768 (2023: £223,524) was spent to provide Christian Ministry including the contribution to the diocesan parish share. This year our churches were able to pay the requested £89,118 in full; having benefited by a reduced request due to LinC & MSF grants.

Total receipts on restricted funds were £46,642 (2023: £74,480) + £8,981 Endowment income (2023: £9,191) and are detailed in the financial statements. £62,328 (2023: £42,208) was spent out of restricted funds. The principal funding sources are voluntary contributions from members of the six remaining churches in the parish; these now slowly recovering following the closure of our buildings during pandemic lockdown.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has a policy for unrestricted reserves for its 'Team Fund' to maintain a reserve to facilitate ongoing running of the team for a 6 month period. Unrestricted reserves at 31st December 2024 amounted to £284,128 (2023: £211,380) and restricted reserves amounted to £212,288 (2023: £227,880) + £223,122 Endowments (2023: £221,426).

PCC MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The PCC members are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council members by email on 12th April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Louvain Beer. (Lay Chair)