



# Vicar's Report

2022 was a year of a great deal of change, challenges and lots of growth. Every year contains highs and lows, from my perspective the highs in 2022 were particularly wonderful and the lows particularly painful. We set out into the year to grow as disciples of Jesus and over the course of the year I believe that happened in all sorts of ways amongst all generations in St Chads. During the year we adopted the strapline 'more people, more like Jesus', measuring it that way, 2022 was a good year!

The year began with some trepidation, following the multiple 'false starts' in moving on from Covid and the late surge of the Omicron variation of Covid in 2021. We anticipated that the year ahead would be a time of settling, recovery and new beginnings and we believed God was calling us to build on a foundation of discipleship.

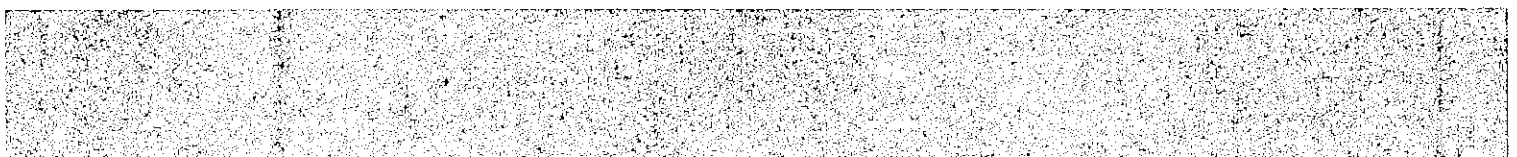
Early in January we welcomed Bishop Sam, Bishop of Stockport, who gave a memorable sermon on the timeline of Peter's life, setting up our series on the life of Peter and then the book of 1 Peter. Peter's life was hardly a glowing flow of achievements and yet with resolute determination to know Jesus and with the power of the Holy Spirit, he changed the world!

January began our review process. Our reviewer Andy Bagwell gave a very thorough review of St Chads, as well as celebrating our strengths he identified what he believed to be areas of weakness for development. Whilst recognising the subjectivity of his report, I am hugely grateful for his insight and the honesty we showed as a church family. It set us off on a fruitful journey, leading to many positive conversations, lots more listening and a shared clarity of vision. The review team adopted an implementation plan to make developments based on Andy's review. The four parts of this plan were: Vision, Team building, re-imagining my role and Admin/Ops. Working on that plan has been the backbone of the ongoing strategic work to restructure how we resource the ministry we are called to.

A key highlight from January to Easter last year was Alpha, the group bonded so well and have made lifelong friendships, the stories of God at work in that course are amazing. Some of those who joined us through that course are so much part of our family its extraordinary to think they've only come to know Jesus and joined St Chads this year. There was a mixed response to our 'whole life discipleship courses', many people were still adjusting to life after Covid and struggled to find the time for short courses. The largest of the courses was the Inner Life Course which I wrote fresh for St Chads and will hopefully repeat and develop.

Easter Sunday was, as always, a joyful occasion, with some stunning baptisms and testimonies and we enjoyed having Bishop Mark Tanner with us for our second visit from a Bishop in 3 months. At Easter we also had the opportunity to thank Jan Anthony for her many years of serving as our church administrator. Following Easter we headed into warmer weather and began our vision review as part of the implementation plan.

It was hugely encouraging process to listen to what we value as a church and the Holy Spirit guided us through the process to find shared themes and to see what we value and believe God is calling us to invest in. The prayer day, suppers consultations and survey resulted in a 30 page document which the PCC and Staff were each given, leading to two Saturday mornings together (1st July and 1st October). At the first of those mornings, we consolidated the data and key themes and then at the second the review team consulted the PCC on our new vision statement. There was such joy and a real sense of the Holy Spirit leading us and unified embracing of our new vision statement. More people more like Jesus, and three vision 'anchors'; Glorifying God, Loving Community and Following Jesus.



# Vicar's Report

In May we were delighted when Will was appointed vicar of St Lawrence Biddulph, a job which God had clearly called him to. Before we headed into the summer holidays, we had to say "Goodbye" to Will and his family, and we miss them.

The highlight of the summer for many of us was our time at NewWine United. With groups at both weeks, (most of those at 'A' were serving on team) camping together and encountering God together deepens friendships; we laughed, cried, saw God move and reflected on great talks together. For me a personal highlight which continues to bear fruit is the way God moved amongst our young people. It launched a new seasons for our older youth and they continue to be a vibrant, noisy, confident and most importantly God-pursuing group. They are so full of life and are making life-long friendships. We are loving having our DY student Zeke with us, who has also brought so much to our youth and children's ministries. In the autumn Elle and a team relaunched TBN (To Be Named) which goes from strength to strength. (See Y&C report).

The start of the autumn is typically a very busy time, adjusting from the summer, welcoming new people and launching new initiatives. In addition we were making preparations for Elle moving on from her role, finalising our vision, helping many new people to know they belong, and running both Chadsfest and our comedy night.

Then the Queen died!! A moment of real sadness for our nation, but also an amazing celebration of a life lived with integrity. Her life glorified God as she followed Jesus and grieving her together did highlight the value of a loving community. We made the challenging call to continue with Chadsfest on the weekend after her death, and included a very moving time of memorial for the Queen's life with everyone gathered on the Saturday. We also added a special more formal service on the Sunday morning which was very well received.

Through the autumn we started our 26 week AtoZ of discipleship preaching programme, we found regular patterns of praying together, including our month of prayer and we have continued to welcome new people to St Chads. We said an initial 'Goodbye' to Elle Bird as she stepped down from her staff role as head of youth & children. We then found that she could stay for two and half months as our ordinand, which was a great joy and blessing both to Elle and our church family. Elle threw herself into serving in new ways, specifically learning a great deal through serving at the 9.15am service and Wednesday communion.

In October we are required to count attendance at all our services and submit numbers to the Church of England. I was delighted to hear that attendance in October 2022 was 23% higher than October 2021!

Two different groups from St Chads thoroughly enjoyed time of fellowship at Bassenfell Manor, one at the end of the summer and another in early November. We are so grateful from Liz & Frank Moseley (summer) and Jill Hookway (autumn) who have worked so hard to coordinate these groups. Sadly we haven't found anyone to replace the Moseleys so the August week won't run next year, but we are grateful to the new team who will run the autumn weekend.

In November we celebrated 20 years of the LifeCentre. It was inspiring to remember why we do what we do, and think of all those who's lives are touched by God's love through his church every week. It was a real joy to welcome back Katie Wade as our guest preacher and also to hear from Tim Barlow my predecessor who founded the LifeCentre.

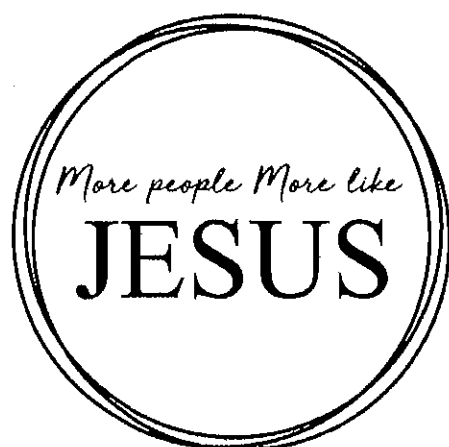
# Vicar's Report

As I mentioned at the start, as well as many highs, they were many painful lows amongst us as a church family in 2022. There are great challenges in living in a fast changing, broken world and increasingly secular society. We grieve the situations in Ukraine, in Iran and many other places where war, injustice and persecution of Christians causes great pain. For many in our church late November and December seemed to be a time of real lament and we also felt the pressures of a reduced staff team.

My (very subjective) recollection however was that we experienced a real lift and new found joy in the Holy Spirit in our Christmas services. This was my twelfth St Chads Christmas, they are special every year, but 2022 felt especially full of life, laughter, creativity and joy.

The world around us is in darkness, the news we are fed with incites a sense of anxiety and there is a great deal of injustice. But as I reflect on the year past, the highs for St Chads far outweigh the lows, there is so much love in our community in all generations, there are more people following Jesus than this time last year and I believe those two things really do glorify God.

**Richard Pennystan.**



Glorifying  
God

Loving  
Community

Following  
Jesus

# PCC Report

St Chads PCC is a registered charity with the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. (The PCC (Powers) Measure 1956).

The PCC is responsible for the oversight of St Chads: budgeting and finances, the management of our buildings and facilities, health and safety, safeguarding, employment and recruitment, volunteers, policy matters and Ecumenical and Diocesan Engagement.

PCC members and Deanery Synod Representatives are elected for three year terms. Officers to the PCC (e.g. Treasurer) and the Standing Committee (SC) are elected annually following the annual meeting. The Standing Committee meets regularly and can make decisions and discharge business between PCC meetings where necessary.

St Chads PCC has adopted the Church of England's Safeguarding policy, Promoting a Safer Church and has complied with its duty under section five of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. All staff and volunteers in roles which involve working with children or vulnerable adults are recruited according to the House of Bishops Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance and training is followed under Church of England requirements.

Role	Name	Term length	Office held
Incumbent	Richard Pennystan		SC Chair
Curate	William Drain	Left July 22	SC
Wardens	Andrew Goddard	Annual	SC
	Janet Ford	Annual	SC
Elected Reps to Deanery Synod (4)	Helen Bray	2023	SC Treasurer
	Kirstie Goddard	2023	
	Ruth Otto	2023	
Elected & Ex Officio Members	Paul Adshead	2024	
	Alan Bancroft	Reader	
	Hilary Bentley	2023	
	Rob Bucknall	2023	
	Rachel Dixon	2024	SC
	Molly Dow	Reader	
	Craig Fairfield	2023	
	Marilyn Gregory	2023	
	Carl Grimsditch	2023	
	Jeanette Simpson	2023	
	Mark Warburton	2023	
Secretary	Rob Williams	2024	
	Jane Higginbottom	Annual	SC Secretary

## Main items discussed at PCC meetings

- 'Whole Church Strategic Review'.
- New vision and strategic anchors.
- Staffing and succession planning with the departure of Jan, Will and Elle this year.
- Appraising finances and stewardship of resources including a change of accounting software and finance system.
- Fabric of our building; including new boilers for church and green options.
- Reviewing Safeguarding.
- Oversight of activities, policies and risk assessments.

## Sidespersons

Church Representation Rules mean Sidespersons are elected by the PCC following the APCM.

Thank you to Malcolm Booker, Frank Moseley and Geoff Walton for their willingness to serve for another year.

# Wardens' Report

As we reflect on 2022, we give thanks for God's goodness and faithfulness. At times we have wondered how we would cope as treasured members of staff have left and moved on to new adventures, but we recognise how God knows the future and he holds us in his hands.

We started the year with a visit from Andrew Bagwell to help us with the strategic review of all we do at St Chads. He met representatives of all areas of ministry at St Chads, spent a morning with the PCC and staff, and everyone was invited to give their views. The review team have met on numerous occasions and reported to PCC. On the back of this work a new vision statement was introduced, and we continue to reflect on what God is calling us to do. The next part of this journey is finding new staff members to fill some of the gaps left by those who have left us.

Our two Sunday Services (9.15am Parish Communion and 11am Informal Worship) and our mid-week communion (Wednesday 11am) have continued to flourish, providing our parish with diverse ways to worship and meet together. The 11am service is still live-streamed on YouTube. The Sanctuary continues to provide a special place for personal or corporate prayer; a place where members of the public can also experience God's presence. On weekdays, there is a morning prayer time, 9-9.20, which is a great way to start the day. 7am prayers on Zoom also takes place on Monday and Thursday mornings led by Clare Warburton and Sharon Hogg.

As the Anglican Parish Church we welcomed those from our local community and beyond for weddings and funerals. Infant thanksgivings and baptisms for church family usually take place in our 11am service, although, following on from the pandemic, some for non-church family are still carried out on Sunday afternoon, if requested.

Will and a team led an Alpha course in the LifeCentre in the run up to Easter. We continue to see people who attended growing in their relationship with God and becoming key parts of our church family. We are so grateful to God for Will's Curacy and pray for him and his family as they further God's Kingdom in Biddulph.

We continue to bless our church and local community through our many varied ministries and we thank all those who lead and serve week in, week out, to make these happen. (Please see separate reports for some of these.)

Oasis (Monday lunchtime) continues to meet a real need in our community for those who are lonely. Thank you to Ken and team for serving this community.

Prampushers, our ministry to adults with babies/toddlers continues to grow. Our thanks go to Vicky and her teams for all they do to meet this need in our community.

We are blessed that so many of our church family serve across the week in our events and ministries and are involved in leading our Sunday services. It is sometimes a challenge to fill all the spaces, so if you feel you can help serve on any of our teams, please speak to Vicky Reedy, Jan Ford or Jane Higginbottom.

We are so grateful for all the work Elle has done with youth and children over the last 10 years and pray God's blessing over her as she follows God's leading towards Ordination.

Our APCM was held in person for the first time since the Pandemic during a joint Sunday morning service.

The PCC has met bi-monthly and held 2 vision mornings, to pray and think through God's vision for St Chads.

The PCC has recently commissioned the forming of an Eco-Group to look at ways that we might better stewards God's creation as a church, so thanks to Clare Warburton, Kate Pigott and Craig Fairfield for stepping up to lead this new work.

In the summer New Wine United was an opportunity for many of the Church family to spend quality time together, enjoy worshipping with thousands and receive great teaching. ChadsFest in early September was another opportunity to come together as a family. The Saturday fun day was a wonderful day filled with fun, friendship and giant inflatable games, much enjoyed by the vicar and others. Thanks go to the Goddard family for allowing us to use their garden.

# Wardens' Report

In late August Liz and Frank Moseley once again organised and led a group (mainly from the 9.15 congregation), where they enjoyed beautiful scenery and good fellowship at Bassenfell Manor in the Lake District. Liz and Frank have decided it's time to retire, so we want to thank them for all the years they have organised these trips, and put their heart and soul into it. In November, another group of around 70 people (mainly from the 11am congregation) returned to Bassenfell for a weekend away again enjoying much fellowship and fun in the beautiful surroundings.

The Pantry/Food provision moved back to the Guywood Centre and continues to provide emergency food parcels for many in our community. On Thursday mornings a warm space has been opened, following funding from the Council, during the winter months, serving tea and toast giving us another way to connect and serve our community at this time. Thank you to all our amazing volunteers.

We delight in our partnership with the Cherry Tree Project which continues to serve the needs of those in our community running kids clubs, holiday groups, youth Alpha and much more. Thank you to Rachel Bresnahan and Jill Hookway for their incredible work.

Our thanks also go to Jane, Ian and Alys for serving us in so many ways. And a special thank you to Jan Antony who retired this year after serving in the St Chads office for a very long time!

We continue to thank God for Richard's ministry at St Chads; we are so grateful for his and Nells' leadership and encouragement.

Reports on finances, facilities and other changes are covered elsewhere but we close by thanking God for everyone at St Chads who has furthered God's Kingdom here in Romiley.

Jan Ford & Andrew Goddard

## Treasurer's Report

God continues to bless our finances and we are grateful for his provision during 2022.

We are also grateful for the generosity of our church family.

We thank Jane Higginbottom who manages the daily financial affairs of our church and John Simpson our Examiner.

Helen Bray

## Fabric and Facilities

A huge thank you to Ian Otto and for all that he does, seen and unseen, ensuring that our buildings are in good working order. Ongoing upkeep of our buildings includes: PAT testing, fire safety, lightening conductor inspections, piano and organ tuning, gas safety checks, air-conditioning, insurance and much more.

We are working on a programme of building maintenance for Church and The Guywood, including in 2022: new lining of the Guywood car park and installation of new speakers, phone and Wi-Fi system. In early 2023 a major cost has been fixing the heating in the Guywood and reviewing the fabric of the building which has a major damp issue. 2023 Q1 will see major repointing and structural works to try and rectify this. Q2 2023 will also see the installation of new boilers in church and repair to the roof.

We are still awaiting the report on our five year church building inspection (the Quinquennial) that took place in 2020/21. All major works highlighted in the last report have been completed and the Diocese is pleased with our stewardship of St Chads.

Jane Higginbottom

## Finance

<b>Income 2022</b>	
Donations	£281,199
Other Income	£21,028
	<b>£302,227</b>
<b>Expenditure 2022</b>	
Grants & World Mission	£25,603
Church Activities	£114,769
Church Maintenance & Admin	£119,999
	<b>£260,371</b>
Surplus Expenditure over Income	£41,851
Cash at Bank	£100,483



# Missional Giving

Each year the PCC sets a Mission budget based on 10% of St Chads Income of the previous account year. This is given to missionary organisations, activities and individuals at home and overseas. The Missions Committee oversees how we distribute these funds, together with PCC.

The majority of the Mission Budget is given as regular support to organisations and individuals where there is a link with St Chads. As a general rule, we review this regular giving on a two yearly basis, unless something significant changes. Each year we retain a smaller part of our Mission budget to be used flexibly during the year. This fund has been used to support members of the church family who are undertaking short term mission trips. The fund also supports local community needs and occasional gifts to other charities.

This year we were delighted to support both local and worldwide charities with gifts at Christmas.

We have seen people filled with overflowing love in our church family this year; contributing abundantly in both money and time. Your Christmas generosity was again overwhelming with nearly £4000 given in support of our initiatives. Your giving enabled us to buy gifts for local children most in need and to distribute food hampers. Children's gifts were distributed on both the Cherry Tree Estate through the Cherry Tree Hub and Brinnington via the local Health Workers.

The Christmas hampers enabled us to bless both our church family and the wider community, including families highlighted through our local schools. Over 50 were distributed this year. We have received beautiful and heartfelt thanks from so many who have been blessed by this. Money was more than matched with people's time, food donations and prayer for our church family and community through Sundays and mid week outreach activities losing God's love over our local Romiley community and beyond.

## Regular support £ in 2022

Alexandria Library	£1500
Bible Society	£1000
Christians Against Poverty (CAP)	£1000
Christians in Schools Trust	£2500
CMS / Hugo & Techy Vergara	£1500
Fusion	£1000
GLO	£3000
The Hamiltons (CMS)	£2000
Message Trust	£1000
Naked Truth Project	£1000
New Wine	£1000
Norah Sturges Health Centre	£1000
Open Doors	£1000
Sarah	£1125
Tear Fund	£2000
<b>TOTAL Regular support</b>	<b>£22,125</b>

## One-off gifts of support £ in 2022

Brinnington Health Centre	£475
SPEAR (Resurgo)	£400
World Vision	£500
Oasis Centre Gorton	£300
Boaz Trust	£400
<b>TOTAL One off gifts</b>	<b>£2075</b>

THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU

### Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod is the group of our 10 local Anglican churches that provides an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Deanery Synod met four times this year across our Deanery. Four members of the PCC currently sit on Deanery Synod.

### Electoral Roll

In 2019 the roll was fully revised. Following our 2023 review, we currently have 245 people on the Electoral Roll of St Chads.

During this last year one person has died, 20 people have moved away and 17 people have joined the Roll.

### Staffing

The PCC employs three part time members of staff:  
Head of Operations: Jane Higginbottom  
Facilities Manager: Ian Otto  
Operations Assistant: Alys Bassett  
Verger: Ernie Cooper (unpaid)  
New Wine DY Student: Zeke Watts

There are also many, many volunteers across all areas of church life. **Thank you to EVERYONE who serves.**



# Following Jesus

## Mini Church, Kids Church & Youth Church

### Mini Church & Kids Church – Jan Ford

What a year. My thanks go to Elle for all the organisation and support she has done for last 10 years. Even if we didn't know until July she was going, she had set up rotas for the year and left us teaching materials we could use to keep Mini and Kids Church running. I am also grateful to our amazing teams who encourage our children and help them as they grow in their faith.

**Mini Church** – A report from Lorna (one of our volunteers.)

A small but perfectly formed group of usually 6-10 children aged between 3-6 years of age, supported by a team of 9 volunteers (3 per session). This year we have watched our mini churchers grow in confidence as they are starting post-covid to operate as a unique mini Jesus-loving community. A highlight this year has been seeing our little ones grow in their understanding that God knows them, loves them and is with them through sharing special truths each week. Together through fun activities, craft, worship, stories, prayers and play we aim to sow seeds of faith in these little lives ready to be nurtured by God's Holy Spirit and grace.

At **Kids Church**, (upstairs in the LifeCentre) Sunday mornings are a mix of games, sharing and exploring what God is saying to us. We regularly have 12-18 children aged 7-11, (although if everyone on the register turned up at once there would be a lot more). We have a team of 10 volunteers, split over the 3 weeks. This year we have explored our identity using the film *Robots* and how God can use us by exploring Bible Characters. We are regularly encouraged by the children, who share their experiences of how God is working in their lives and in the situations they face.



---

### Youth Church – Zöke Watts

Overall youth church has continued to thrive and grow with the young people becoming more and more eager to learn about God and build on their relationship with him. We are currently looking at freedom in Christ and how we can feel free to be ourselves in this ever-changing world and continue to look to him as our one true God. Moreover the group continue to bond with the older ones becoming great role models for the younger ones in both living for Christ and the way they serve each other and other people.



# Following Jesus

## Hangout, Break Out & TBN – Zeke Watts

**HangOUT!**, our place for secondary school kids to come and relax and escape the rigours of school life, continued to thrive and grow with new kids coming every week. Since September we have had great fun creating new relationships with the kids and building on pre-existing ones, whilst also giving them the chance to explore faith and be open about how their lives are going. We are so grateful to the team who continued to run HangOut! after Elle and Paul moved on, there was much encouragement seeing God at work. However by mid-February it became clear to the team that God was bringing this season to an end and calling us to create space for new opportunities. We made the tough decision to stop HangOut! in February. Knowing God loves these teenagers we are seeking him about how best we can help them come to know him.

When it comes to primary school outreach groups (**SchoolsOUT!** and **BreakOUT!**). We have seen both highs and lows this past season.

With BreakOUT we sadly had to close our doors at Christmas due to dwindling numbers of kids and not having the leaders to continue running it.

But we are constantly praying for revival for that group and praying that someone will be able to step in to help. On the other hand, with SchoolsOUT!, the group has continued to thrive and grow, and the kids are so eager to engage and help in so many ways. Which is just incredible to see how servant hearted they all are at such a young age.

**Youth Discipleship** has continued to grow in both Youth church and TBN, which has just been incredible to see with more new people coming along to both and so many people exploring faith and making it their own. In TBN the numbers have continued to grow. Then with youth church the group continues to thrive and learn more about our great and wonderful God. We are also planning to hold our first youth weekend away post covid, in the coming year, which is very exciting and is sure to be a great opportunity for the young people to grow in their faith.

## Worship – Mark Warbuton

In the summer Will Drain moved on, and I have taken over the oversight of the musical side of our worship plus some of the technical operations. At 9.15 we are incredibly grateful to Audrey and Judith who play, and Craig who is on the sound desk most weeks, supported by Ian Otto when needed. At 11am thanks go to all who voluntarily serve as musicians, sound and visuals. We've seen some people move on – such as students going to University and those whose work has taken them away – and other new people have joined us. Adrian and Alys Bassett and Matt Pitt have become regular 11am worship leaders, and Kirsty Pitt re-joins us this springtime after a maternity break.

Thank you to Richard for overseeing the renewed visuals infrastructure. John Rockley now oversees the visuals team – it's brilliant to have his wisdom and knack for a good flowchart! – and his note follows below. Sometimes the technology falters but ultimately our worship shouldn't be reliant on it: on Christmas Morning the 9.15 congregation sang unaccompanied – unplanned but joyful.

It's good to broaden our worshipping horizons – so if a hymn or song you've heard elsewhere has inspired and blessed you, let me know the details.

At 9.15 this year we are aiming, gently, to broaden the musical repertoire to keep it fresh, and to discover what people enjoy singing. At 11am we try out new songs regularly, and add them to the YouTube and Spotify playlists I created last summer – if you'd like to be sent those playlist details, let me know.

An important Psalm for me is 130 – “I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, more than watchmen wait for morning” – an expectant, active waiting. And as we come to church each week, let's be prepared with open hearts, spiritual hunger and expectation. And if you're up for a good sing, that passion will radiate to the people in front, behind and next to you!

John Rockley adds:

Thanks to all those who serve in helping God's people to worship by using the projection equipment to display words and other graphics. The visuals team are seeking to be better aligned to the worship teams each week so that God is glorified as we worship Him without unnecessary distractions. The team are also grateful to the church for investing in new equipment to replace some of the ageing technology. This has been installed by Richard in January and we are now getting to know it better.

# Loving Community

**Early Essentials** is now in its eighth year and referrals to us have increased by 75% over the past year. Our team in Stockport sent out over 116 baskets in 2022. Referrals come mainly from midwives and go to vulnerable mums, including those fleeing domestic violence, young care leavers, refugees, and very low income families.

We don't meet the mums but as a group we serve and love these women, praying over each basket that they will come to know the one who loves them perfectly.

People are so generous and we always have more than enough to fill the baskets, but the need is great and we long to do more.

We are very grateful to St Chads and The LifeCentre for their support and generosity as we use the cellar and they act as our main drop off point, but we are in desperate need of bigger premises. Please pray that the right place becomes available.

**Sally King**

## **Prampushers - Vicky Reedy**

We have had an incredible year at Prampushers. Our Wednesday group continues to thrive, with 2 sessions and approx 40 families attending each one. We do a mixture of free play, refreshments, craft activity and a short bible story and some nursery rhymes. The wiggle song gathers the families together to begin the story and singing time, Kirstie introduced this song 10+ years ago, and we have had several mums recently have a second baby and return to Prampushers and they were so excited that the wiggle song is still a big part of the group. "I wanna hear the story. It's gonna be fun. Hearing about Jesus is for everyone." Another mum sings the 'wonderfully made' song to her daughter every night. So she is singing these words to her as she closes her eyes. "I am wonderfully made, and I thank you God"

Kirstie ran an Alpha course for the mums, and one lady made a commitment to follow Jesus.

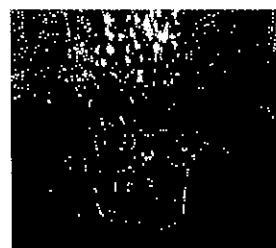
We hosted 2 meals/nights in at The Guywood during the year, for the mums to enjoy a night out by themselves or at the Christmas one a few with very young babies came along too, the team enjoyed cuddling the babies whilst mum ate! The team are fantastic at serving drinks, chatting with the families, setting and clearing away the toys.

The Friday baby group has increased in numbers to the point it is full, and there is a waiting list.

There are currently 100 mums part of these groups on Friday with approx 70 attending each week. The friendships and support that comes out of these groups is beautiful to see.

They meet up outside of the Friday group, at other groups or the LifeCentre. Word is being spread through the mums and the Health Visitors have made a good connection with us, so much so they are coming along to our group to see how we can help support the mums even better.

We are extremely thankful for the team who make the drinks and homemade cake and serve the mums. Providing a drink and piece of cake makes such a difference to a busy mum.



# Loving Community

## Just for Dads - Vicky Reedy

This group has grown so much in the past 12 months. January 2022 we had approx 15 dads each week, which was brilliant. January 2023 we are welcoming almost 50 dads each week. The numbers are incredible. The Dads that come have really taken ownership of the group and they invite others into the WhatsApp group; they organise social activities like pool, football, walks, trips to museums etc. It has been wonderful to see so many friendships being formed through the group. Lots of dads often say, I haven't got any dad friends, and after coming to the group for a year local Dad said he was walking around Romiley in December and he shocked himself how many other dads he bumped into and stopped for a chat. He feels such a part of the group now.

We organised a dads football tournament last July. We had teams join us from Liverpool, Wythenshawe and Bury. It was a fun afternoon with families joining us for refreshments and playing. The money raised from that tournament has paid for a bouncy castle, a trip to Castaway Play and the Wild Roadshow where they brought snakes, spiders and insects for the children to look at, and touch when appropriate. We are hoping to run the tournament again this year.

Dad Matters UK work with us, by attending once per month to specifically support new dads, to let them ask questions and offer support with their mental health. This is a great addition, and again the Health Visiting team are hoping to join us once per month to provide extra support for Dads as they often can't make appointments during the week.

We were very excited to be a finalist in the BBC Radio Manchester 'Make a Difference' award. Attending the award night with some of the team was a great night out. We didn't win, but we still received a trophy!

Stockport Council Warm Spaces gave us a grant to provide the midweek group free of charge providing a light lunch and a family fun afternoon on some Saturdays until the end of March.



# Loving Community

## **Pastoral Visiting Team – Irene & John Rockley and Ann Russell**

Church family members in Care Homes or who no longer attending church – I have been visiting 4 people in care homes during the last year together with several people who have not returned to church since the pandemic. It was a privilege to visit one lady during her last days of life and to attend her funeral, and also a privilege to remind all those visited that they still belong to our church family. On occasion I have been able to take other church members with me, so that their friendships can be maintained and restored. The families of those in care homes are so grateful that their relatives have not been forgotten by St Chads and they have really appreciated the visits.

Housebound Church family members – I have also been visiting and phoning church family members who are totally housebound. They have been interested to hear about St Chads and receive the newsletters and on occasion sing hymns together. A church member came with me on several occasions and sang a few hymns and this was enormously appreciated.

Practical Visits – Most visits are 'long term' and people are visited on a regular basis but some visits are 'short term' or 'one off' visits if someone needs some practical help. It is good to promote independence as much as possible. However, sometimes people have needed help with shopping, lifts to appointments or other practical help until they can return to being relatively independent again.

Stepping Down – It has been a privilege to serve as Parish Visitor for 4.5 years, but I am 'stepping down' and handing over to Irene and John Rockley. I will continue to do some visiting as part of the "new" team.

**Ann Russell**

Ann and Neil (together with many others) have been faithful in caring for and serving the King's "brothers and sisters" in St Chads over many years. We are grateful to everyone for graciously sharing their wisdom and experiences as we commence the task of co-ordinating the Visitation ministry.

The church leadership have asked that we focus on:

- Supporting and co-ordinating the activities of those visiting St Chads' people who are isolated and/or unwell
- Joining up with other church ministries such as Oasis, Pastoral prayer, taking communion into homes etc

Our initial activities have focused around:

- Meeting and building relationships with both those who visit and other church ministries which support and care for those in need (like Oasis, Pastoral prayer)
- Compliance and reporting (especially for Safeguarding requirements)

Please note that the above work may result in a requirement for more people to help out on a short-term basis to help with ferrying to medical appointments, urgent shopping – and in so doing, serve our Lord Jesus Himself as the verse below says!

**Irene & John Rockley**

"Lord...when did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'"

**Matthew 25 v 36-40**

## **Alpha – Kirstie Goddard**

It was such a delight to be able to run Alpha again in person in the run up to Easter 2022. A group of about 15 of us met weekly in the LifeCentre; ate together and then did the Alpha videos and discussion groups. The whole group bonded immediately and have since then become very good friends.

Many of the participants encountered Jesus for the first time and have never looked back. It is absolutely wonderful to see them in church on a regular basis and becoming an integral part of the church family. Doing the Alpha course really is life changing. If you have never done it, we highly recommend it!

# Glorifying God

## Oasis – Ken Earith

Oasis continues to be a blessing to so many people and it's a joy and delight to share the love of Jesus with all those who come week by week.

This year we have started to get back to normal after the disruption of the lockdown and as people get more used to mixing in larger numbers once again. We have seen the numbers grow with on average 70 to 80 folk all enjoying lunch and time together.

Chairobics is now a regular feature and Lindsey does so well in encouraging and guiding 20 to 30 of the group to stretch to move and to keep active.

There have been two highlights that stand out this year. In July, we had a day trip to Southport on a glorious sunny summers day. The coach dropped 57 of us off at The Bold Hotel where we were booked in for lunch. The dining room was amazing. It was for our exclusive use and was set out as if it were for a high class wedding. The food and service was excellent and the afternoon provided free time to stroll, to shop or just to sit outside the hotel with a drink and to watch the world go by. The request on our return journey was 'Can we do it for a week next time'.

The other highlight was the Oasis calendar. We started this project without knowing how it would develop. The initial idea was simply to produce some illustrations that showed the Oasis people doing some of the exciting and adventurous things that they had done when they were younger. We did not know at that time that we had a cartooning genius who joined us week by week. Stan produced a whole range of cartoons for us and lots of our people were involved in adding colour and eventually their memory quotes. Later someone had the bright idea to make it into a calendar. With the help of a talented graphic designer it was formatted and we had 250 printed which were sold in just a few weeks. After some consideration we decided to be generous and to give away the profits rather than to keep them for our own funds. The outcome was that we had a wonderful session in January when Stan, our cartoonist, presented a cheque for £330 to the community and events representative from Age UK. They were delighted with the gift and so impressed with the calendar that they have asked for permission to use the calendar pages in their newsletter each month.

As we look forward, the challenge is that our volunteers are all getting older and there are fewer of us while the demand is still growing. Sadly, this ministry will only continue to flourish if we find new ways to support it.

---

## Cherry Tree Project & Food Provision – Jill Hookway

The Cherry Tree Project exists to support our local community, with a particular focus on young people and those in need – whether for food, company, community or a warm space. We do this from our HUB on Cherry Tree, where our young people and older people meet, and through two food provisions based at the HUB and the Guywood Centre.

Funded through the support of several partners including FareShare, Morrisons, St Chads Romiley, and a handful of local individuals who provide regular financial support, together with making regular applications for funding and enabled by the hard work of a mighty band of volunteers.

In 2022 we:

- Provided over 2000 food parcels & 50 slow cookers
- Ran 4 weekly youth groups
- Provided 100 cooked meals a week for young people
- Offered 2000 holiday club places, with 50 children registered each day
- Ran a group to help young people understand identity and relationships
- Ran our first Youth Alpha
- Set up 3 warm spaces, including food and a job/benefits drop in
- Set up a weekly lunch for the elderly, which includes chair-based exercise
- Provided ongoing free fruit & veg
- Set up a pet food bank



# Loving Community

## **The LifeCentre – Lesley Cranwell**

Although a separate charity, the Romiley LifeCentre is a key part of our ministry and mission to Romiley. Set up to bless our community, the LifeCentre continues to go from strength to strength, staffed almost entirely by a team of over 80 volunteers. Thank you! Romiley LifeCentre celebrated 20 years of service within the community with a cake competition, free cakes on the anniversary day and a party to thank our volunteers.

The café is busier than ever. The shop is stocked with gifts, cards, Christian books and a new range of babywear; so the shop now offers something for every user of the LifeCentre.

The conference facilities on the upper floor of the LifeCentre continue to be a popular venue for local institutions and businesses, in addition to being a valued asset acting as a home to several St Chads ministries. It also provides a meeting point for local groups that support the wellbeing of our community. Christians Against Poverty – a Christian Debt Counselling Service recently ran a money management course in the LifeCentre and we are hoping to run this course on a more regular basis going forward. Stockport Credit Union also make use of these facilities for various meetings.

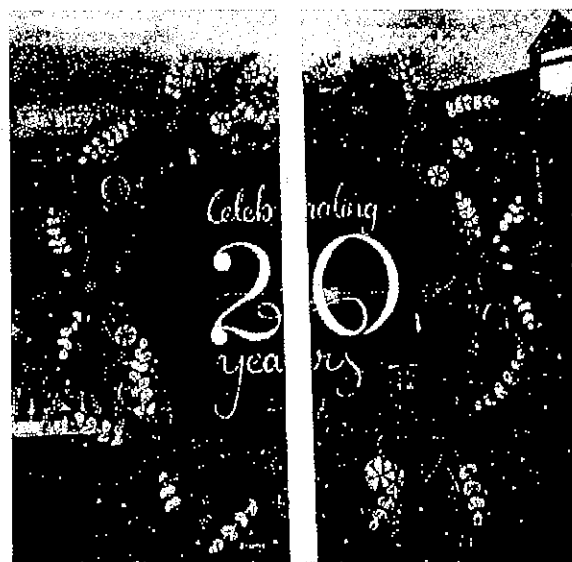
We also support the local Foodbank by collecting & delivering donations and issuing vouchers. We are the HQ of Early Essentials, who work with professionals and volunteers distributing hampers of essential items directly to new mums and their babies in need within our local communities.

Other users include Hear & Now, a bi-weekly free listening service run in tandem with Stockport Christian Counselling (SCC) – all our listeners are volunteers who undertook the Acorn Listening Course in 2019. We hope to resume this weekly service during 2022. SCC have been also granted greater use of the counselling room during 2022 whilst their HQ is refurbished.

Knit & Gather continues to use the LifeCentre as a meeting point and encourages the acquisition of new skills whilst building community. This group encourages diverse age groups, enriching the collective creativity of our community and has been an invaluable support network for the group coming out of lockdown.

The Sanctuary, our prayer room, is for anyone looking for a quiet space, as well as for St Chads prayer groups who meet there each week. It has recently returned to this use after a period of supporting our Pantry community food provision during 2021/22.

Al Anon began using the LifeCentre after lockdown and have recently moved to the Sanctuary, so we can now fully support their need for anonymity with the use of the front door of No. 5.



---

## **Warm Spaces – Vicky Reedy & Jan Ford**

As a church we were able to open 3 Warm Spaces from November – March, in the Guywood. We are thankful to Stockport Council for the grant.

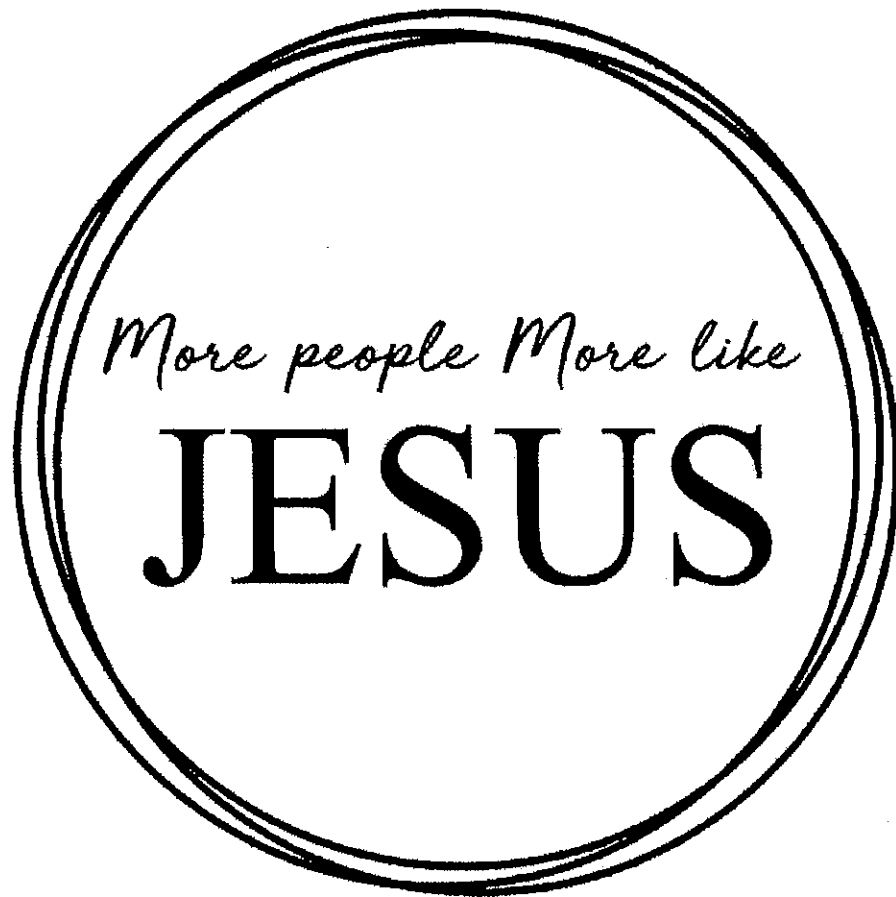
Warm Spaces were on

**Wednesday 12.30 – 2.30** – Just 4 Dads included lunch and play

**Thursday 10 – 12.30** – for anyone, an opportunity to chat over Tea and Toast

**Saturday 12.30 – 3pm** – For families and included a film. Our thanks go to all the volunteers who helped over the many weeks.





*Hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done - Matthew 6. 9-10*

**St Chads Romiley (Chadkirk)**  
In the Diocese of Chester

**Financial Statements  
of the  
Parochial Church Council  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2022**

**St Chads Church Office 1 - 5 Stockport Road Romiley  
Stockport SK6 4BN 0161 430 4652 Fax 0161 406 0354  
Email: [office@stchadsromiley.co.uk](mailto:office@stchadsromiley.co.uk)**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES/MEMBERS OF ST CHADS CHURCH, ROMILEY, PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 8.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that under s144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) an audit is not required and an Independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for Independent examination, 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 the Independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 the seeking of explanations from you as 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 below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the Charities Act 2011
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of s132 of the Charities Act 2011 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities
  - have not been met; or
- 2 To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John A Simpson  
Chartered Accountant  
48 Bredbury Green  
Romiley  
Stockport  
SK6 3DN

*JAS*

Date 27/3/23

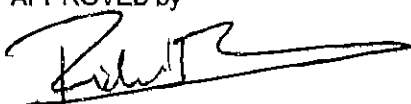
**St Chads Parochial Church Council, Romiley**  
**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st December 2022**

<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>	
		<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Voluntary Income</b>					
Donations and legacies	6	256,199	25,000	281,199	229,130
<b>Generated Income</b>					
Activities for generating funds					
Receipts from Church activities	7	0	16,413	16,413	8,226
<b>Other Incoming resources</b>	8	4,610	0	4,610	6,646
		<b>260,809</b>	<b>41,413</b>	<b>302,222</b>	<b>244,002</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Grants	9	25,603	0	25,603	25,635
Activities directly related to church work	10	99,924	14,845	114,769	101,425
Church maintenance and administration	11	119,999	0	119,999	119,086
		<b>245,526</b>	<b>14,845</b>	<b>260,371</b>	<b>246,146</b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>15,283</b>	<b>26,568</b>	<b>41,851</b>	<b>-2,144</b>
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD 1ST JANUARY 2022/21		<b>656,998</b>	<b>2,810</b>	<b>659,808</b>	<b>661,952</b>
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD 31ST DECEMBER 2022/21		<b>672,281</b>	<b>29,378</b>	<b>701,659</b>	<b>659,808</b>

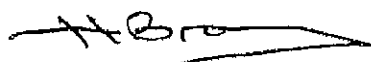
**St Chads Parochial Church Council, Romiley**  
**Balance Sheet at 31st December 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		£	£	£	£
Tangible Assets	5	595,532	0	595,532	597,666
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors		6,375	0	6,375	10,431
Cash and Bank		71,006	29,378	100,383	54,596
		<u>77,380</u>	<u>29,378</u>	<u>106,758</u>	<u>65,027</u>
<b>Creditors falling due within one year</b>		<u>631</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>631</u>	<u>2,885</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		76,749	29,378	106,127	62,142
<b>Total Assets less current liabilities</b>		672,281	29,378	701,659	659,808
<b>Creditors falling due after more than one year</b>		0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u>672,281</u>	<u>29,378</u>	<u>701,659</u>	<u>659,808</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Restricted		0	29,378	29,378	2,810
Unrestricted		672,281	0	672,281	656,998
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>672,281</u>	<u>29,378</u>	<u>701,659</u>	<u>659,808</u>

APPROVED by



Richard Pennystan (PCC Chairman)



Helen Bray (PCC Treasurer)

Date 13.3.2023

**St Chads Parochial Church Council, Romley**  
**Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2022**

**Notes**

- 1 The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards, and the Church Accounting Regulations. The historical cost convention is used. The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted. The principal accounting policies are applied consistently.

	2022	2021
2 Fees for Financial Statements examination	0	0
3 Paid employees		
Gross wages and salaries	79,522	84,110
Staff training	1,675	983
Staff expenses	573	455
Employer's national insurance costs	1,748	2,395
Pension contributions	2,187	2,415
Total staff costs	<u>85,705</u>	<u>90,358</u>

- 4 Payment to Trustees - no payments other than for church expenses have been paid to trustees.

		Equipment	Land and Buildings	
5 Tangible Fixed Assets				
Cost	Balance at 1st January 2022	21,339	578,461	599,800
	Additions during the year	0	0	0
	Disposals during the year	0	0	0
	Balance at 31st December 2022	<u>21,339</u>	<u>578,461</u>	<u>599,800</u>
Accumulated	Balance at 1st January 2022	2,134	0	2,134
Depreciation	Charge for the year	2,134	0	2,134
	Balance at 31st December 2022	<u>4,268</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,268</u>
Net Book	Balance at 31st December 2022	<u>17,071</u>	<u>578,461</u>	<u>595,532</u>
Value	Balance at 31st December 2021	<u>19,205</u>	<u>578,461</u>	<u>597,666</u>

The visualis equipment was purchased in 2020 and cost £21,339. This figure is included in total fixed assets. The equipment is to be depreciated over 10 years

Note		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>Income</b>					
6	<b>Donations and legacies</b>				
	Non gift aid	32,300		32,300	38,868
	Gift Aid	148,989		148,989	141,380
	Loose Receipts	5,215		5,215	1,270
	Grants	2,448		2,448	-
	Donation re boiler	0	25,000	25,000	-
	Gift Days/One Off Donations	10,845		10,845	9,926
	Tax recovered and recoverable	48,424		48,424	37,886
	Legacies	10,000		10,000	-
		<b>258,199</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>281,199</b>	<b>229,130</b>
7	<b>Activities for generating funds</b>				
	Oasis		4,684	4,684	
	Prampushare		11,719	11,719	8,226
			<b>16,413</b>	<b>16,413</b>	<b>8,226</b>
8	<b>Other Activities</b>				
	Weddings/Funerals	2,568		2,568	5,331
	Hall Lettings	1,510		1,510	1,300
	Miscellaneous Income	534		534	15
		<b>4,610</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,610</b>	<b>6,646</b>
	<b>Total Incoming resources</b>	<b>280,809</b>	<b>41,413</b>	<b>302,222</b>	<b>244,002</b>



Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2022	TOTAL FUNDS 2021
			£	£
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<b>9 Grants</b>				
Missionary and charitable giving				
World Mission	25,603		25,603	25,635
	<b>25,603</b>		<b>25,603</b>	<b>25,635</b>
<b>10 Activities directly related to the work of the Church</b>				
Ministry - Parish Share	69,687		69,687	68,132
Church maintenance	15,495		15,495	10,268
Youth & Childrens' activities	4,021	11,897	15,718	8,741
Church societies/General expenses	1,108	3,148	4,254	4,139
Pastoral care	3,979		3,979	5,279
Worship	5,166		5,166	3,706
Teaching Resources	490		490	160
	<b>99,924</b>	<b>14,845</b>	<b>114,769</b>	<b>101,425</b>
<b>11 Church maintenance and administration</b>				
Clergy	729		729	1,051
Clergy house running costs	6,800		6,800	6,861
Church buildings running costs	5,696		5,696	1,887
Church Hall running costs	9,554		9,554	7,817
Depreciation	2,134		2,134	2,134
Insurance	4,885		4,885	4,954
Postage				182
Printing and stationery	3,216		3,216	2,901
Staff salaries and expenses	85,705		85,705	90,368
Telephone and internet	1,480		1,480	941
	<b>119,899</b>		<b>119,899</b>	<b>119,086</b>
	<b>245,526</b>	<b>14,845</b>	<b>260,371</b>	<b>246,146</b>