

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

**Trustees Annual Report and Annual Financial Report
for the year ended
31 December 2021**

Registered Charity number: 1196796

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

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

Officers and professional advisers

Trustees:

Ex Officio:

Incumbent: Revd. Ann Alexander (Chair)
Curate: Revd. Elizabeth Green

Wardens: Mrs Caroline Edwards (Vice Chair)
Mr Roger Gibson (from 16 May 2021)

Secretary: Mr Alan Magrath*
Safeguarding officer: Mr Andy Hoare

Elected members: Mr Robert Higson
Ms Beverly Killick
Mr Andy Hoare
Mrs Jane Sharpe
Mrs Barbara Zanleoni
Mrs Tsitsi Chikukwa
Mrs Emma Humphrey
Mrs Sarah Magrath
Mrs Madeleine Taylor

Deanery Synod: Mrs Sue Richardson
Ms Beverly Killick

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

Treasurer: Mr James May
Finance officer: Mrs Sue Richardson

Charity Number: 1196796

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

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

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Our aims and purposes

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

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

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, our Vicar and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. For 2021 we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and making their experience of worship a welcoming and accessible one including the move to live streaming services online when Covid restrictions prevent attendance in person.
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community; Our outreach this year has involved widely publicising our worship and activities online through various platforms and outlets.
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers;
- Considering how services and outreach events can involve the many groups that live within the parish;
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament and helping to serve some of the needs of our local communities.
- Offering worship and prayer and learning about the Gospel in small group situations;
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- Raising money and giving material support to various charities and missionary organisations;
- Reaching out to the unchurched through the provision of a variety of outreach events;
- Maintaining the fabric of our church buildings as a focus of life for the various communities we serve.

What we achieved and how we affected our beneficiaries' lives

Attendance at worship

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

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

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The average weekly attendance at Sunday services (Christmas and Easter services excluded) during pre-pandemic times was usually around 72-75. However, after two years of pandemic lockdowns the number of people attending regular Sunday church services in person has been severely impacted. The good news is that during the latter part of the year the number of people attending in person has steadily increased again as we move towards a more normal situation although many of our vulnerable and elderly congregation still prefer to participate online. We have reached out to provide worship during the pandemic by live-streaming services on our website, on Facebook and on YouTube.

Since St Alban's is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship and become part of the parish

We have been along a couple of times now for events. A lovely church and everyone is really friendly. *Google Maps review September 2021*

It was nice to be able to join in this morning's church service, as I was still feeling not well enough to be there in person 🙏🙏🙏 *(Facebook comment)*

community the PCC have made the decision to continue to livestream the services even though 'in person' worship is taking place. This has proven to be a great opportunity to reach out further into the community, particularly to people who have not attended church services before. It is impossible to be precise on the number of people who now engage online although we can tell through the comments, messages, and live viewers that our outreach is, in fact, encouraging many newcomers.

hi there,
we have never been before but would like to know if you do a midnight mass at all?
(Facebook private message)

Hope all is well. My name is xxx and have been attending church services on line as I have a baby who is now 8 months so coming to church is a bit difficult for me as of now. I would like to know if I want to arrange for baptism, what do I need to do. I will be grateful to hear from you. Thanks
(Facebook private message)

Throughout the year we have been creative in providing worship opportunities for all ages. From January to July our Junior Church team recorded a weekly bible story for young children, which we soon discovered was enjoyed by adults too! Junior Church resumed in person in September and is well attended. Our youngsters are now confident enough to read, serve during the liturgy, lead the prayers and a group of five older children led this year's Crib Service.

Our outdoor community 'Backpack Service' at the start of the new school year reached out to the wider community with Crawley Community Youth Services and 6th Crawley Scouts helping to provide activities.

Huge thanks to everyone who made this happen! ❤️🙏❤️ Great afternoon! Great sense of community and fun. 😊😊 *(FB comment – Backpack Service)*

A special community service to remember all who had died throughout the pandemic was attended by our local Crawley Borough Councillor who planted a rose bush in lasting memory of our loved ones, Feedback has

Thank you for today's remembrance service. I know I mentioned it at the time but I just want to reiterate how therapeutic it was to attend a service that acknowledged the pain and distress of losing a loved one during the pandemic when we could not express our grief in the usual rituals. It's certainly helped my healing journey. *(Email message)*

confirmed that our worship services have not only provided the spiritual nourishment and wellbeing that people need, they have also alleviated a lot of the isolation that has affected people during lockdowns. The use of

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technology has also enabled us to build lines of communication between the church and wider community and publicity for worship and prayer reaches out through our website, Facebook, and A Church Near You.

Provision of the church buildings for people to enjoy

When the lockdown was over St Alban's was able to resume leaving the church open during the day for people to pray or just sit in a quiet and sacred space.

One of our main focuses has always been to explore ways in which our church buildings can be used for groups and events that are of value to our local community in addition to church services. Several of our usual groups at St Alban's Church, such as the computer group, the women's learning group for ethnic minority women, events such as the summer and Christmas fairs, annual International Women's Day event, all had to be put on hold due to the pandemic. However, some groups such as the Community Morning, Friday study group, and Saturday

Thanks Ann Alexander for believing in Rivers for Women and Rivers Learning Project Community when you first met with us. We look forward to the days when we can go back to St Alban's Gossops Green & Bewbush for more women's events.
Jeredyne Stanley, Rivers Learning Project (Facebook comment)

prayers resumed as soon as regulations allowed. The Mother's Union has been actively supporting various vulnerable groups as well as holding the Advent Meditation and a special service, 'No more 3 in 1', for the victims of gender based violence.

The new parent and toddler group, Tiny Toes started in September and is proving to be a very welcome wellbeing provision for the local

community. The AA group and Slimming World also began taking place again in autumn.

The Barn Church Bewbush is no longer used for regular Anglican services but as a resource centre for the parish and as a community centre. The building has been used by the Barn Pre School, Desire to Dance, and Elim Pentecostal Church throughout the year except for lockdowns. The Pre-School remained open throughout the lockdowns for keyworker and vulnerable children.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

Three funerals were held in church this year and a further eight were held at the crematorium. Pastoral care is always provided after the funeral from the clergy.

The vicar, pastoral care team and general fellowship amongst the church community continue to provide pastoral care through home communions, regular phone calls and

Very kind of you to think of me [...] Thank you again for the email and I hope the whole church can meet again soon *(Response to pastoral email)*

visits including practical help when needed. A weekly emailed newsletter (also published on Facebook and hard copies delivered to those without internet access), food deliveries to those in need, and Zoom meetings have all ensured that our pastoral care

I thought I would update you about [xxx] as she is having rather a difficult time at the moment. A few weeks ago I managed to get out for walks with her as she hadn't been out at all really since March. *(Message from member of pastoral care team)*

is extended to everyone we can possibly reach, whether they are churchgoers or not and that no one has fallen through the net, especially those who are not online.

The twice weekly Computer Group which was set up to help the elderly use online resources has proven to be a real blessing throughout the pandemic as it has provided the skills for many to stay connected online, to shop and pay bills online, as well as a means of accessing the weekly worship of the church. Although the computer

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groups have not been able to meet since the first lockdown, the social and pastoral benefits have proven just how beneficial these groups are. Everyone involved is looking forward to the groups starting again.

Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The parish has supported the Family Support Work charity throughout the year with regular food donations, Harvest donations and the annual Toy Service (donating toys and toiletries for children and their carers through Family Support Work). In addition, the St Alban's branch of the Mothers Union has also donated weekly food collections to Family Support Work. The parish also supported Link to Hope by sending Christmas shoeboxes filled with goodies and knitted items for projects in Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine.

Regular collection boxes held by members of the congregation to donate to the Children's Society were sent directly to the charity by the co-ordinator in November. We also supported the YMCA hub which supports young people as they move into adulthood through their 'Love in a Box' Christmas campaign.

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

In the early part of the year, we had to rely on Zoom to hold our Lent Course, and the weekly bible study group started after restrictions were lifted. However, we were able to hold The Prayer Course, the Confirmation Course, and the Admission to Holy Communion Course 'in person' in the latter part of the year. We were delighted that five youngsters were Confirmed, and two younger children were admitted to Holy Communion this year. We were particularly delighted to baptise six children this year.

During the lockdowns, weekly resources were posted on Facebook for the Junior Church children to use at home and Easter activities packs were distributed to local children. Although school assemblies were not allowed this year, we were able to visit three local pre-schools at Harvest, we held the Holy Trinity School's Year 8 study day at the church and held two Holy Communion services at Holy Trinity School.


The Future

We are excited that many church and community groups will be able to start again in 2022. This will enhance the lives and wellbeing of so many in our church and community and will further combat the growing problem of loneliness within society.

However, our church buildings are desperately in need of repair and development. St Alban's is currently fundraising for desperately needed improvements to the church building so that more community work can be facilitated. Although the fundraising is moving slowly we are delighted to have received a small grant from [Allchurches Trust](#) towards the building project. We aim to create a new accessible entrance, install toilets, new heating system, a refreshment area, and repair the tower. This work will benefit both the church and the local community by providing an accessible worship space as well as a usable space for community use. Crawley has been badly impacted by the pandemic and as we recover from the economic and social effects of Covid 19 there is even greater need for our buildings to be used for and by the community to provide for the spiritual, physical and mental health and wellbeing of people in our neighbourhoods and beyond.

The Buildings Development Group has continued meeting throughout the pandemic and we are working on funding applications. The building work is more pressing than ever now that we have more church activities in

Today we had a visit from the lovely Ann and Lizzy from St Albans church
The children loved singing songs and learning about harvest and how we help others less fortunate. Thank you to all our children and families for supporting us with your donations. (The Barn Pre-School)

Thank you for coming into see us the children loved all the singing and learning 

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the pipeline and more community groups needing space for their activities. 2022 is our 60th Anniversary year and a great many fundraising and community events are being planned for the benefit of the church and whole community.

Financial Review

The summary of financial activities shows an increase in receipts which is attributable to higher rental income following less Covid-19 restrictions in 2021.

The summary of financial activities also shows a decrease in expenditure as a result of decreased repair costs, which in 2019 were in relation to the church tower and this continued into 2020. As outlined in 2019's Trustees report the tower requires significant work in order to make it structurally sound and so further significant expenditure is expected to be incurred over the coming years. The PCC is fundraising restricted funds specifically for this project.

Why we hold some money in reserve

It is the PCC's policy that due to the age and condition of the buildings, it should work towards, and then maintain, a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. The closing balance on unrestricted funds at the end of 2021 was £25k (2020: £30k) which achieved this.

Risk Management

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

Safeguarding statement

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

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with HMRC and became a registered charity with the Charity Commission in 2021. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. In 2021 we held six PCC meetings and an APCM over Zoom. Five Standing Committee meetings were also held throughout the year. The members of the Parochial Church Council who served during the year are listed on page 1. Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, the churchwardens and members of the Deanery Synod), and 9 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). As of the 2021 APCM

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there are no vacancies on the PCC. All members of the congregation are encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

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

A Alexander

Date: 26 April 2022

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

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

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 1 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

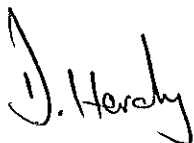
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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



Darren Harding ACA FCCA DChA

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

Date: 28/04/2022

Receipts and Payments Summary of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2021 £	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	35,422	1,563	36,985	38,567
Trading activities	2	23,624	-	23,624	19,301
Other receipts	2	2,577	-	2,577	867
Total received		61,623	1,563	63,186	58,735
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	3	178	-	178	92
Charitable activities	3	54,158	-	54,158	52,487
Other payments	3	12,024	300	12,324	16,984
Total paid		66,360	300	66,660	69,563
Reconciliation of funds:					
Net income		(4,737)	1,263	(3,474)	(10,828)
Funds at 1 January		30,098	5,246	35,344	46,172
Funds at 31 December		25,361	6,509	31,870	35,344

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2021 £	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £
Assets:				
Bank current account	25,361	6,509	31,870	35,344

Note 8 has further details on restricted funds.

Liabilities:

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Accruals	1,221	1,110
Other creditors	300	423
	<u>1,521</u>	<u>1,533</u>

This Financial Report for the period ended 31 December 2021, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Ann Alexander, PCC Chair:

A Alexander

Date: *26 April 2022*

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

1. Basis of preparation

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

2. Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2021	2021	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	24,723	-	24,723	23,402
Planned giving (no tax refunds)	893	-	893	3,045
Loose cash collections	388	-	388	571
Special appeals	3,237	1,563	4,800	5,242
Legacies	-	-	-	300
Gift aid recovered	6,181	-	6,181	6,007
Donations	35,422	1,563	36,985	38,567
Rental income	21,557	-	21,557	17,953
Goods sold	-	-	-	-
Fundraising events	2,067	-	2,067	1,348
Trading activities	23,624	-	23,624	19,301
<i>Fees for weddings and funerals</i>	2,387	-	2,387	544
Other receipts	190	-	190	323
Other receipts	2,577	-	2,577	867
Total received	61,623	1,563	63,186	58,735

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

3. Analysis of total paid

	Note	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Event costs		178	92
Raising funds		178	92
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	5	26,004	26,004
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	7	3,355	2,890
Clergy and other people's expenses		7,138	6,405
Mission costs		816	515
Insurance		4,113	4,107
Water, gas, electric, and oil		7,299	8,345
Printing and photocopying		2,127	2,033
Wedding and funeral costs		2,441	-
Other regular church running costs		865	2,188
Charitable activities		54,158	52,487
Maintenance & redecoration		9,954	12,229
Tower costs		300	1,620
Accountancy fees		1,110	1,110
Bank fees		96	60
Other payments		864	1,965
Other payments		12,324	16,984
		66,660	69,563

Of the above expenditure, only Tower costs (£300 (2020: £1,620)) were restricted and the remainder unrestricted.

4. Charitable status

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

5. Parish share to Chichester Diocese

The Parish share to Chichester Diocese of £26,004 (2020: £26,004) is for the payment of Clergy and other central costs. The full cost of the parish ministry amounts to £74,300 for the year (2020: £67,043). The shortfall is absorbed by the Diocese not payable by the parish in future years.

6. Gift aid

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

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

7. Payments to PCC employees

	2021	2020
	£	£
Gross pay	3,255	2,700
Honaria payments	100	190
Salaries and honaria per note 3	3,355	2,890

8. Restricted funds

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

	2020	Income	Expenses	2021
	£			£
Building fund	5,246	1,563	(300)	6,509

9. Related party transactions

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

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

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

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