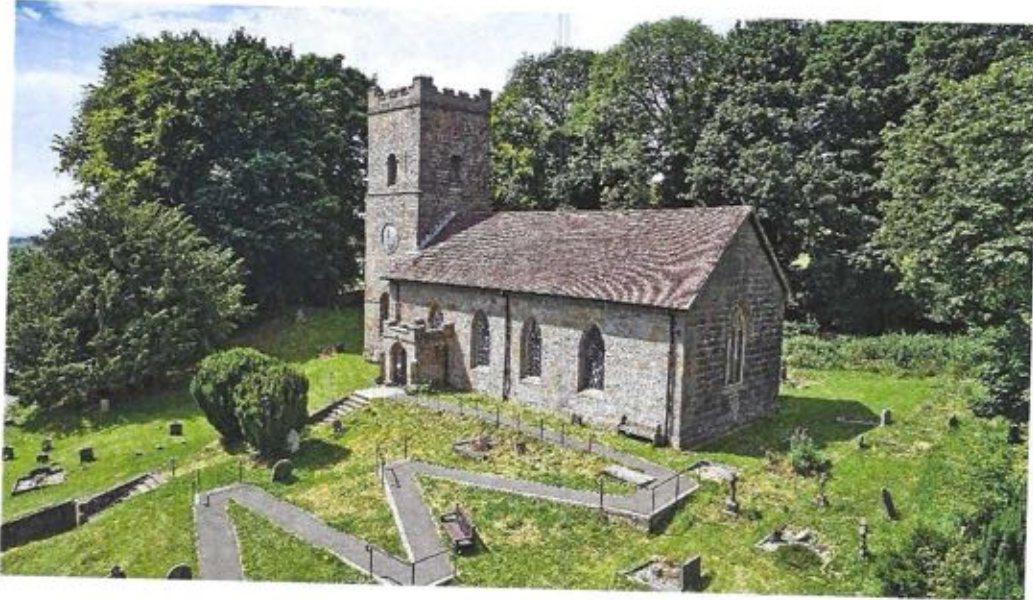


Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended
31st December 2024



The Parish of St John's Church, Doddington

Address for correspondence:
The Hon. Treasurer, Ewan Gibb, St John's Church, Doddington, DY14 0HL

Rector:
The Rev'd Prebendary Ashley Buck

Bankers:
Lloyds Bank, Broad Street, Ludlow

Independent Examiner:
Mrs. Maureen Field

Our web site:
www.stjohnsdoddington.org

The Parochial Church Council is a registered Charity, number 1208550

The Parochial Church Council of St John's Church Doddington

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024

Aim and Purpose

St John's Doddington Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Rev'd Prebendary Ashley Buck, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The Church is a Grade II Listed Building, and the PCC is also responsible for maintaining the surrounding Churchyard.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church, and to become part of our parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. The PCC also tries to ensure it adheres to best practice behaviors in respect of ecological responsibility. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family, through:

- 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; and
- Mission and community outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of both the Church and the Churchyard.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Consistent with its mission and available resources, the PCC is keen to ensure that a range of services are available each month. Currently these are held every first Sunday (morning Eucharist) and third Sunday (afternoon Evening Prayer) of the month, supplemented by festival services, as dates fall in the month. The PCC sees its mission as reaching beyond the walls of the building, out into the community in holding monthly community events. This year we have renewed the electoral Roll. On the roll prior to renewal we had 22 people registered.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. There was one funeral and two burials of ashes during the year.

A monthly Holy Communion Service is also held in Doddington Lodge Care Home. Our annual Carol Service was as usual held jointly with our friends the Methodists, this year at their Chapel.

Deanery Synod

One member of the PCC sits on the Diocesan Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with a link with the churches around us, and also with the Diocese as a whole. It also receives reports from the General Synod.

Church Fabric and our Project

We are delighted that during the year after repeated and prolonged efforts the PCC secured the required funding and permissions to start our project of repair and renewal of elements of St Johns Church building. The Beacon on the Hill Project, costing approximately £450,000, funded by a portfolio of 11 (eleven) grant making bodies, and lead by our Steering Committee started its work in October 2024. The Project will transform the West end of the Church and ground floor of the Tower and complete the repair all windows, connecting the building to mains water, fitting a toilet, improving access, fitting a small 2server area, and a drop-in refreshment area. It will also collect heritage materials, create a heritage display space. During the build elements it will hold events intended to support the community outreach and heritage learning. The Project will formally end in May 2025 with a performance of a work "The Song of the Hill" created for us by our Songwriter in Residence. The work will involve numerous local groups of all ages, and the size of the

events means it will be held in May 2025 in Ludlow St Laurence's. However, it will be constructed in such a way as to allow elements to be broken out and performed separately at later dates in smaller venues.

Once the project started work we had to move our services to the local village Hall, to whom we are also very grateful for their hospitality. We hope to be able to move back into the refurbished Church building in early April 2025.

Once the Project is finished we will aim to keep the building open from 9am till 5pm each day. The Project changes will honour and complement, and in no way detract from, the peace and simplicity of the building as a place for continued worship and contemplation.

As well as thanks to the skillful and talented contractors and project leaders we work with, we are so very grateful to all the volunteers who have helped us during the year at our events and who continue to help in all aspects of the maintenance of the building, and in the events and worship that take place there.

Mission and Evangelism

Providing support and events for the community is a demonstration of our faith. During the year to December 2024, outside of the Project we held 7 community events. In addition, we held many Project related events – including walks, talks, tile making, photography, writing events, heritage gathering. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped, and those who attended those events. Our annual Harvest Auction raised £86.50 for Help for Heroes, although payment of this to the charity was not possible until after the year end.

We continue to be active on appropriate Social Media platforms, and during the Project we built and launched our new website www.stjohnsdoddington.org, which contains information and heritage information from a wealth of talented and generous individuals, as well as details of our church events and services.

Other Activities

The PCC holds monthly meetings to organize events and sustain the workings of the Parish. Our Church Warden also attends local Parish Council meetings to provide updates as appropriate. The PCC is a member of Caring for Gods Acre; Eco Church and Shropshire Historic Churches Trust.

Financial Review

The number of activities we have been running mean that we have a number of separate Funds, each which have to be recorded separately and presented in separate fund types, in accordance with accounting best practice. Those funds fall into the categories as follows: Unrestricted, Designated, Restricted and Endowment.

Unrestricted Funds – The General Fund

The fund which manages the day to day running of the Church and Parish is the Unrestricted General Fund ("The General Fund"). Total receipts on the General Fund were £8,388, and payments from this fund totaled £5,247, giving what is for the PCC a significant surplus of £3,082. This was because of continued giving, but lower ongoing costs of the building because of it being closed for services, and so being the responsibility of the Project Contractors, during the winter months. We are grateful for regular giving, particularly through the Parish Giving Scheme. The surplus was also contributed to by the continued community events we managed to hold. In accordance with undertakings made to other match-funding providers for the Beacon of the Hill Project, this surplus will be moved to that Project fund to fulfill undertakings on the amount of self-generated funding for the Project. As we return to being able to fully use the Church once the project completes, it is unlikely that this level of surplus will be seen in 2025. We also hope that the church improvements will lead to increased use of the facilities by the community and visitors. As a result, costs will rise, but we hope that, as was envisaged when we undertook the Beacon on the Hill Project, the increased usage brings with it increased donations and earned revenue, so boosting general revenues and sustaining the building into the future.

The contribution to the Diocesan 'Parish Offer' – which helps towards the cost of stipends, training and housing costs for the clergy – increased by nearly 9% this year, a high but necessary rise to keep track with inflation. So far we have been able to pledge to increase our giving every year (to attempt to keep pace with inflation) and maintain our practice of honouring 100% of the amount pledged.

Designated Funds – Fabric Repair; Graveyard Maintenance; Flower; Clock Repair

Designated funds (funds with designated purposes, but where if those purposes cannot be met or they end, any remaining funds can then be transferred to the church Unrestricted Fund) are the Fabric Repair Fund; the Churchyard Maintenance Fund; the Flower Fund; the Clock Repair Fund.

Donations of £496 were made to start a Clock Repair Fund. The PCC has made no applications for funding for this yet, and this project will be considered once the Beacon Project is completed. Funeral and ashes burial fees are allocated by the PCC to Graveyard maintenance, and these added £1,113 to that fund in 2024. The PCC spent £1,125 on grass cutting and other maintenance work in the graveyard (which being sloping and uneven is a beautiful but challenging site, which we continue to maintain so as to be sensitive to both the needs of visitors and those using the graveyard, but also for wildlife and the interests of conservation). A small sum of money, £40, was given towards flowers for the church and £14 spent.

Restricted Funds – Beacon on the Hill Project

Restricted funds are where money has been given for a specific Restricted purposes and if that purpose cannot be fulfilled, the money has to be returned to the donor.

With 11 funders and approximate full end-to-end project expenditure of £450,000 (including contingency) this is an important project for the PCC, the Community and future users of and visitors to the building and the area. Starting the year from 1st January 2024, we had Funds of £18,122 given, and in the bank. During the year we secured additional actual outright grants of £29,000 plus drew down match funding (i.e. grants for which sums have to be spent first, before the money spent plus necessary receipts can be submitted for reimbursement) of a further £74,369 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Shropshire Council SPF Fund and The Listed Places of Worship scheme. With all plans and permissions in place the project started in October 2024. One final piece of the jigsaw was securing Bridging loan finance from the Hereford Diocese, for which the PCC are very grateful, to allow us to be able to spend the large capital sums in advance of being able to then claim money back from the main match funding providers. The PCC is tremendously thankful for the support of all funding providers.

During the year to 31st December 2024, £135,239 was spent. Starting with funds of £18,122 and with outright grants given of £29,000, plus grant drawdowns made by 31st December of £74,369, the project had a net cash outflow of £13,748. To this the PCC has also added its General Fund surplus for the year of £3,082, some of which will help pay for the interest payment on the Diocesan Bridging Loan. The PCC are assured that the Project remains on target for its agreed completing date at the end of March 2025, and is on target for costs.

Endowment Fund

The PCC has a legacy Endowment Fund the funds of which were endowed to it in the 1800's and the capital of which cannot be touched by the PCC. The money is invested with CCLA through the CBF Church of England Investment Deposit Fund. Interest generated from this fund £292 (2023 - £288) is shown as income for the General Fund. The capital value of the units changes each year and the capital value of the fund units at the end of the year 31st December 2024 were £241 higher (at £10,775 v's 10,534 in December 2023)

Reserves Policy

Once completed the Beacon on the Hill will have no reserves and the Project will be closed (after suitable snagging and retention period has elapsed). The PCC has resolved to maintain a balance on our General (unrestricted) Fund, which equates to at least one years unrestricted payments (estimated at £6,000 and that being the fund balance) to cover emergencies. In addition, we aim to build towards and then maintain the same amount in our Fabric Repair Fund (£5,154, increased from £4,152 in December 2023) and also the

Graveyard Maintenance Fund (£5,988 – a £2 fall from December 2023) . After ensuring our ongoing and other Projects are adequately funded, it is our policy to invest any surplus funds with CCLA, through the CBF Church of England Unit Funds.

Safeguarding

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

Volunteers

The members of the PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly to make our Church a lively and vibrant community. Our especial thanks go to our Churchwarden, Celia Gibb, who in addition to warden activities has worked so hard up to and during the project, on all aspects of project control, grant claiming and reporting, working with our project Heritage Officer Mr. Jim Grevatte, and supported by the Steering Committee.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the Electoral Roll, and to consider standing for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met 9 times during the year. Minutes are taken and circulated after each meeting by the Secretary. The average level of attendance was 71% (affected by the incapacity of one of our members) The PCC only has one subcommittee, the Project Steering Committee, reporting at each PCC meeting to the full PCC.

Administrative Information

The Church is situated at Doddington DY14 0HL of the Deanery of Ludlow, in the Diocese of Hereford. The correspondence address is St John's Church, Doddington, DY14 0HL.

Legal and Charitable Status

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2022) and during the year registered as a Charity with the Charity Commissioners and has registration number 1208550. Prior to registration it was an Excepted Charity covered by the broader registration of the Church of England.


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

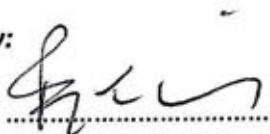
Ex Officio

The Incumbent	The Rev'd Prebendary Ashley Buck	Chair
Churchwarden	Mrs Celia Gibb	
Deanery Synod Rep	Mr. Ewan Gibb	also Treasurer to the PCC
Other Elected Members	Mrs. Virginia Robinns	
	Mrs. Carol Evans	
	Mrs. Vivian Kerry	
	Mrs. Sonia Pearsall	Secretary
	Mrs. Doris Smardon	

All members of the PCC are elected for a period of one year from the date of the APCM.

Approved by the PCC on 25th MARCH 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Rev'd Prebendary Ashley Buck (Chair)


.....
Mr. Ewan Gibb ACA, Lib (Treasurer)



Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of St John's Parochial Church Council, Doddington

On accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 **Charity no (if any)** 1208550

Set out on pages 6-10

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

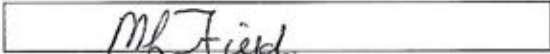
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:  **Date:** 25th March 2025

Name: Maureen Field

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): N/A

Address: 7 Titterstone Close, Cleehill, SY18 3QZ

St John's Church Doddington
Receipts and Payments Account - ALL FUNDS
For the year 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

<u>Receipts and payment all funds</u>		£	£	£	£	£	£
		Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts	Donations and legacies	4,799	536	-	241	5,576	32,515
	Income from charitable activities	2,868	1,113	-	-	3,981	5,936
	Investments	662	-	-	-	662	477
	Other income - grants	-	-	103,368	-	103,368	112
	Other trading activities	-	-	-	-	-	323
Total Receipts		8,329	1,649	103,368	241	113,588	39,363
Payments	Raising funds	115	-	-	-	115	400
	Expenditure on charitable activities	5,133	136	27,688	-	32,957	35,478
	Other expenditure	-	-	109,065	-	109,065	-
Total Payments		5,247	136	136,753	-	142,137	35,878
Net pre transfers		3,082	1,513	-33,385	241	-28,549	3,485
Transfers:							
	Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	3,082	-	3,082	-
	Gross transfers between funds - out	-3,082	-	-	-	-3,082	-
	Net Excess / (deficit) in Year	-	1,513	-30,303	241	-28,549	3,485
Net movement in funds		-	1,513	-30,303	241	-28,549	3,485
Reconciliation of fund movements							
	Excess of receipts v's payments at beginning of the year	6,000	10,152	19,637	10,534	46,323	42,838
	Excess of receipts over payments at end of the year	6,000	11,665	-10,667	10,775	17,774	46,323
Represented by the following named Funds							
Unrestricted							
	General Fund	6,000	-	-	-	6,000	6,000
Designated							
	Clock Repair Fund	-	496	-	-	496	-
	Fabric Repair	-	5,155	-	-	5,155	4,152
	Flower Fund	-	26	-	-	26	-
	Graveyard Maintenance	-	5,988	-	-	5,988	6,000
Restricted							
	Beacon On The Hill	-	-	-10,667	-	-10,667	18,123
	SHCT 16k Fund	-	-	-	-	-	1,514
Endowment							
	Endowment CCLA Fund	-	-	-	10,775	10,775	10,534
		6,000	11,665	-10,667	10,775	17,774	46,323

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals because pence are not being shown

St John's PCC Doddington: Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024
Receipts and Payments a/c –
THE GENERAL FUND - Unrestricted General Fund

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Voluntary receipts				
Regular Giving				
Planned giving	2,083		1,961	
Collections at services	493		556	
Other recurring donations	1,068		433	
Gift Aid recovered	754		997	
		4,398		3,947
Other voluntary receipts				
Grants	0		0	
Legacies	0		0	
Non-recurring donations and appeals	874		914	
		874		914
Activities for generating funds				
Gross income from fundraising events	2,395		3,094	
		2,395		3,094
Income from investments				
Interest – Bank	370		189	
Interest – Endowment Fund	292		288	
		662		477
		8,329		8,432
Payments				
Church activities				
Mission giving and donations	115		233	
Wedding fees	0		326	
Diocesan Parish Offer	2,795		2,570	
Church utility costs	56		329	
Church consumables and flowers	87		290	
Church Insurances	1,105		1,568	
Cleobury office expenses	347		303	
Membership fees	75		45	
Fire equipment and servicing, cleaning and sundry	667		582	
		5,247		6,246
Other costs				
Excess of receipts over payments		3082		2,662
Transfer to other Funds		(3082)		(2662)
		0		0
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January		6,000		6,000
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December		6,000		6,000

The surplus of £3,082 for the year had been transferred to the Beacon on the Hill Restricted Fund.

St John's Doddington: Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024
Receipts and Payments a/c – Designated Funds
Fabric, Graveyard, Flower and Clock Repair Funds

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts all Designated Funds				
Flower fund receipt	40		0	
Donations to Clock repair fund	496		0	
Funeral and Ashes Interment fees	1,113		1,469	
		1,649		1,469
Payments Designated Funds				
Flowers	14		0	
Sundry repairs	0		110	
Upkeep of churchyard and grass	1,125		1,275	
		1,139		1,385
Excess of receipts over payments		510		84
Transfer in from other funds		1,003		298
Surplus of income over expenditure for the year		1,513		382
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January		10,152		9,770
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December combined Designated Funds		11,665		10,152

Receipts and Payments a/c – Restricted Fund:
Beacon on the Hill Fund

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Connexus – outright grant			2,100	
Benefact Trust – outright grant			5,200	
Rowlands Trust – outright Grant			2,500	
Sundry funds raised			359	
Shropshire SPF- drawdown	34,712		-	
Grant from Listed Places of Worship – drawdown	9,516		-	
National Lottery Heritage Fund – drawdown	30,140		-	
Garfield Weston – outright grant	20,000		-	
Lasletts Hinton – outright grant	5,000		-	
Shropshire Historic Churches Trust - outright grant	3,000		-	
Local Parish Council Grant – outright	1,000		-	
		103,368		10,159
Payments				
Architects, Archaeologist and evaluator fees	11,835		-	
Project and Heritage Coordinator	15,339		-	
Songwriter in residence	4,604		-	
Workshops and events	2,720		-	
Building and repair work in Church	89,770		-	
Website, digital outputs and equip	8,908		-	
Signs, safety, PR, Media and sundry	3,576		-	
		136,753		0
Excess of receipts over payments		(33,385)		10,159
Transfer from other funds		3,082		4,478

Net Excess of expenditure over income	(30,303)	14,637
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January	19,637	5,000
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December	(10,667)	19,637

St John's Doddington: Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted General fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Beacon on the Hill fund £	Permanent Endowment fund £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Investments						
CCLA (Investment Fund)	0	0	0	10,775	10,775	10,534
	0	0	0	10,775	10,775	10,534
Cash Funds						
Cash in Hand	0	40	0	0	40	40
Bank Current Account – Lloyds	442	2,955	3,603	0	7,000	10,190
Bank Deposit Account - Lloyds	5,558	8,670	85,731		99,959	27,197
	6,000	11,665	89,334	0	106,999	37,427
Net Asset Surplus / (Deficit)	6,000	11,665	89,334	10,775	117,774	47,961
Less: Liabilities						
Loan from Diocese of Hereford (repayable starting April 2025)	0	0	100,000	0	100,000	1,636
Net Assets less Liabilities – Fund Totals – Surplus / (Deficit)	6,000	11,665	(10,666)	0	17,774	46,323

The **Unrestricted** fund is the church General Fund for general church use.


The **Designated** fund relates to funds set aside by the PCC to meet the cost of Repairing the Fabric. Maintaining the Churchyard, Providing Flowers, and Refurbishing the Church Clock.

The **Restricted** fund relates to the Beacon on the Hill Project

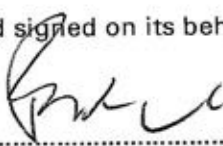
The **Endowment** fund relates to the historic Legacy. Income from the permanent endowment fund is for general church use and included within unrestricted funds.

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: moveable church furnishings held by Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
3. During the year the PCC borrowed £100,000 from the Hereford Diocese, at interest rate of Bank of England base rate plus 1.5%, to allow it to manage the large cash outflows of the Beacon on the Hill project where significant cash funds are required to be expended in advance of being able to reclaim pledged monies from grant bodies.

Approved by the PCC on the [25/03/2025] 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



 Rev'd Prebendary Ashley Buck (Chair)



 Mr. Ewan Gibb ACA, LLB (Treasurer)

St John's Doddington: Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the accounts

1 Statutory Fees

Fees paid to PCC – Wedding – to Unrestricted General Fund
 Fees Paid to PCC – Funeral and ashes interment – to Designated Graveyard fund
 War Graves commission – to General Fund
 Statutory Fees payable to PCC

	2024 £		2023 £
	0		326
	1,113		1,469
	0		15
	1,113		1,810

In 2024 the PCC paid membership fees to Caring for Gods Acre; Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and A Rocha (Eco Church) totalling £75 (2023 - £45)

2 Mission Giving and Donations

	2024 £
Ride and Stride Event	115
In addition, a sum of £87 raised at Harvest Auction event in 2024 was donated to Help for Heroes after 1 st January 2025	