

St. Oswald's Church,
17 Malvern Way, Croxley Green, Herts. WD3 3QL

**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the
Parochial Church Council**
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Charity number: 1182850

Vicar: Rev'd Robert Riley-Braleay
The Vicarage, 159 Baldwins Lane
Croxley Green, Herts.

Bank: Barclays Bank
Church Street
Rickmansworth, Herts.

Independent Examiner: Mr David Beak FCA
South Felldyke, Lamplugh, Cumbria

Aim and Purpose

St. Oswald's Parochial Church Council is responsible for co-operating with the Vicar in promoting Christ's commission to preach, teach and live the gospel, involving pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical duties within the parish and mission projects world-wide. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St. Oswald's Church buildings and grounds.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. The PCC has taken account of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We seek to enable people to live out their Christian faith by being a joyful, prayerful and caring church, alive to the Holy Spirit, welcoming and accessible to all, building relationships with God and the community we serve.

PCC Membership

Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll, and to stand (or nominate others) for election to the PCC. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio (Vicar, Churchwardens, Readers, and Deanery Synod representatives) or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (normally for a three-year term). Because of the exceptional circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic the Annual Parochial Church Meeting was delayed from its normal time of April until 15 October 2020. Consequently, the PCC members elected in 2019 who are listed below served for most of 2020:

Vicar: The Rev'd Robert Riley-Braleay

Churchwardens: Mr Steve Carpenter and Mr Maurice Lisley

Deanery Synod Representatives: Mr Rupert Barnes, Mr Tony Barton, Mrs Jane Brading (Vice Chair)

Elected Members

Mrs Jenny Bartlett, Mrs Debbie Clifford, Mrs Elen Cook, Mrs Val Edwards, Mrs Cherith Kingsley-Smith, Mrs Lynda Marshall, Mr Guy Parks, Ms Karen Pryse, Mrs Anne Thomas, Mr Brian Thomson.

From 15 October 2020, Mr Rupert Barnes and Mrs Jane Brading stepped down from the Deanery Synod and Mr Guy Parks and Mr Richard Doughty were elected to take their places. Also from 15 October, Mrs Elen Cook and Mrs Val Edwards stepped down from the PCC and Mr Richard Griffiths, Mr Jonathan Cox, Mr Thomas Lisley and Mrs Helen McAlpine were elected.

Committees:

The PCC operates through several committees, which meet between PCC meetings:

Standing Committee: this is the only committee required by law. It has powers to act for the PCC between meetings unless directed otherwise by the PCC.

Finance & General Purposes Committee: handles financial matters, including annual accounts; deals also with practical matters relating to the upkeep and improvement of the Church, Hall, and Grounds,

Pastoral Committee: deals with a range of pastoral matters, including ecumenical links, youth work and education and allocation of donations to charities.

During the calendar year 2020, because of the exceptional circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic, the full PCC met twice in person and four times using video conferencing. The Finance & General Purposes Committee met on four occasions and the Pastoral Committee did not meet.

Church membership and attendance:

In October 2020 (*2019 in brackets*) there were 108 (*107*) names on the Electoral Roll. For much of 2020 St Oswald's services took place online - see below. Consequently it is not possible to provide attendance figures that are comparable with previous years.

Review of the year

This has been an extraordinary year in which much regular church activity has been suspended due to restrictions imposed during the coronavirus pandemic, starting with the lockdown on 23rd March. However, the life of St Oswald's Church has been maintained in the continued faithful discipleship and service of church members, in online worship and fellowship, in the encouragement and practical help given by members to one another and to neighbours, in continuing support for agencies furthering different aspects of the Church's mission and, when circumstances have allowed, the limited resumption of some of in-person activities.

The PCC met in church in January and March. Much of the latter meeting was taken up with formulating a response to the pandemic, with many of the proposed arrangements being rendered superfluous by the subsequent lockdown. The APCM which should have taken place in April was postponed in line with the dispensation issued to parishes by the Bishop of St Albans and eventually held online in October. Further meetings of the PCC were held online in May, July, September and November using Zoom video-conferencing software. This was not an ideal arrangement as some PCC members were excluded for technical reasons and for those who did participate interaction was rather inhibited. However, meeting

in this way enabled the PCC to monitor essential business. Meetings were particularly concerned with worship arrangements during and after lockdown, the reopening of the Hall and Church buildings, finance and the budget and relations with Sanctuary Housing and the use of the Church car park. An Eco-Church survey was conducted on behalf of the PCC and we have qualified for the bronze award from A Rocha. The FGPC has also continued to meet and to ensure the continuing care and improvement of our buildings, as detailed in the separate report from our hard-working Churchwardens.

In the absence of public worship, a YouTube channel for St Oswald's was set up and the first prerecorded service was downloaded for Sunday 29th March. Since then, online services have been provided for every Sunday and, in addition, services for Holy Week, a monthly Family Service, services for Remembrance Sunday and All Souls' Tide and a Carol Service and Crib Service at Christmas. The number of "views" for the weekly service range from above 50 to around 100. For Remembrance Sunday and the Carol and Crib Services these were well over 200. Of course, these figures do not indicate the duration of each "view", but they do indicate an interest and a need being met. Our online services have benefited from contributions from many church members, young and old, and when it was possible hymn recordings made by our own choir.

After the first lockdown, the church building was reopened for private prayer on Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons from 23rd June onwards. Services of Holy Communion in church resumed appropriately on St Oswald's Day, 5th August, and continued thereafter on Sundays at 9am and Wednesdays at 11am with numbers averaging around 16 on Sundays and 11 on Wednesdays. The timing of the Sunday service was subsequently changed to 10am but, apart from during the November lockdown, this pattern was maintained for the rest of the year. Although government regulations did not permit congregational singing, these services were enhanced by music played on the organ. At Harvest Festival on the first Sunday in October, we were able to welcome back children and families into the Church Hall for a Family Service, in addition to the Communion service in church. A Family Service continued to take place on each of the following first Sundays and on Christmas Day, running concurrently with the service in Church. Risk Assessments were carefully prepared and implemented for the reopening of the Church and the resumption of public worship and the precautions taken ensured that, as far as we are aware, there was no onward transmission of the coronavirus as a result.

At the beginning of the first lockdown, a letter from the Vicar responding to the pandemic emergency accompanied by a booklet of "Prayers for a Pandemic" with material from the Church of England was sent to all church members either by email or by hand delivery. Subsequently, communication took place by a weekly emailing, taking the place of the usual pewsheets. Email addresses of members and others connected to St Oswald's but not on the Church database were rapidly sought to enable almost complete coverage of interested parties. A very small number receive copies of the emailing by hand and, beginning in December, a printed copy of the Sunday service provided by the Diocese. In June, a letter of encouragement enclosing the gift of a fridge magnet (!) was delivered to families with whom we have had contact through the Family Service or Baptisms. "Superbook" DVDs were distributed to Sunday School children. The now bimonthly magazine went online from April onwards and this has also been a valuable way of communication. Again, a small number of printed copies have been distributed. Church noticeboards have been well used for displaying regularly updated posters (including some produced by a church member) hopefully communicating to a wider community that God and his Church are still "in business". The attractive Malvern Way noticeboard erected in 2019 has in particular proved

its worth in this respect. Our church website and Facebook page have also been valuable means of communication.

A significant contribution to maintaining a sense of cohesion and fellowship within the congregation has been the Sunday morning virtual coffee and chat sessions on Zoom. There have usually been four of these sessions hosted each week. The Companions have also been able to meet via Zoom and a number of them were able to participate in a September weekend retreat at Holland House, Cropthorne.

A much appreciated “Moving On” Service was held in January to mark the closing of our Mothers Union Branch. The MU continues to function in the church as a Diocesan MU Group. During the pandemic it has not been possible to continue meeting but members have kept in touch with one another by telephone. A telephone tree is in operation and the Group Co-ordinator sends out a regular emailing with news and encouragement. The Saturday morning Men’s Breakfast transferred successfully to online meetings with a good number participating and a range of interesting speakers.

The Prayer Fellowship continues to function and provides a valuable confidential service interceding for many individuals within and without the congregation. At the beginning of the year a six session START course was run. Participants appreciated the opportunity to discuss Christian basics – and enjoyed the cake kindly provided. It would be good to promote courses like this in future and to encourage interested non-worshippers to attend. This is a responsibility for the whole church and not just a select few. A series of Lent talks on Surprising Saints, supported by an excellent display in church, had to be curtailed after two sessions as a result of the pandemic but some of the prepared material was used later in online services. 2020 was to have been a year of fundraising for St Oswald’s as the Parish Project. In the event no fundraising events could be held apart from a raffle at the 58th Anniversary Bring and Share Lunch in January.

The Girlguiding groups have risen to the challenges of the pandemic, keeping in touch through emails, activity packs and eventually over Zoom, doing cooking, craft, badges and games from their own homes. In the autumn the Friday Rainbows and Brownies were able to meet for a few meetings before the second lockdown but since November all meetings have had to be on Zoom.

Eight funerals were conducted on behalf of St Oswald’s during the year, seven at local crematoria, one in church and cemetery. There were no baptisms or weddings, but the wider Church’s wedding ministry was supported by the Vicar’s responsibility as a Bishop’s Surrogate for Marriage Licences, for which there was a significant demand as a result of many churches being closed for the calling of banns.

In spite of the depredations experienced during the year, we may thank God for blessings received, many of which have been indicated above. We have been shaken out of our complacency, acquired new skills and found new ways of “being church”. As the pandemic hopefully recedes, we look forward to the gradual resumption of much missed aspects of our church life, including in addition to those already referred to in this report, Café O, Sunday School, JYC, Teen Church, TOTO Lunch, First Friday and The Network.

However, there will need to be a major reassessment of overall plans and priorities in the light of the pandemic. This should be conducted alongside the reviewing and revision by the PCC of our Mission Action Plan originally adopted in November 2017:

1. Install a contacts database and engage more with social media
2. Improve and expand both traditional and new methods of marketing
3. Plan a coherent strategy for our work with children and young people
4. Make more use of our buildings
5. Identify, recruit and support volunteers

The final heading of the MAP leads to an appropriate conclusion to this report. The Church is the people and all have their part to play. We would not be where we are today without the faithfulness, generosity and personal involvement of each church member. At the end of this very difficult year, that is something for which to be truly thankful.

Safeguarding

As a Church community St Oswald's is very aware of the need to safeguard not only all youngsters attending our activities but also all vulnerable adults. All volunteers helping with these groups have, therefore, been cleared by the Disclosure and Barring Service and have, as far as possible, undergone relevant training. Our aim is to keep all clearances and trainings up to date.

Church giving to charities

St Oswald's supports a number of charities to further our Christian mission both in this country and abroad. We continued our practice of donating 10 per cent of our congregational giving to the following charities: - United Society Partners in the Gospel, Church Mission Society, A Rocha, ASCEND, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, the Marylebone Project of the Church Army, Alternatives Newham and the Watford Schools Trust. These charities are selected according to a policy of balancing local, national and overseas beneficiaries and evangelistic, social and environmental causes. At our Harvest Festival, items were collected for needy families at the Alternatives Project in East London. These were subsequently delivered and much appreciated. We also raised money for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal supporting bee keeping in Nepal through Tear Fund, for Christian Aid and for the Children's Society through our Christingle Service.

Future plans

In addition to fulfilling its regular responsibilities, the PCC will review and revise the current Mission Action Plan. There will also need to be a major reassessment of overall plans and priorities in the light of the covid-19 pandemic.

Financial report

2020 was a difficult year financially. St Oswald's complied with the various government restrictions for covid-19 during 2020. As a result, the use of our hall by outside organisations was drastically reduced. That has cut rentals which are one of our prime sources of income. At the same time our overheads have only had minor reductions. We have had an amazing response to all the prayers in relation to our financial position with very generous donations, as well as the continuous receipt of planned giving.

Consequently, we were able to pay our Diocesan quota in full and to continue donating 10 per cent of our congregational giving to support the charities listed above. That is a considerable achievement in these difficult times. Moreover, the congregation's generosity

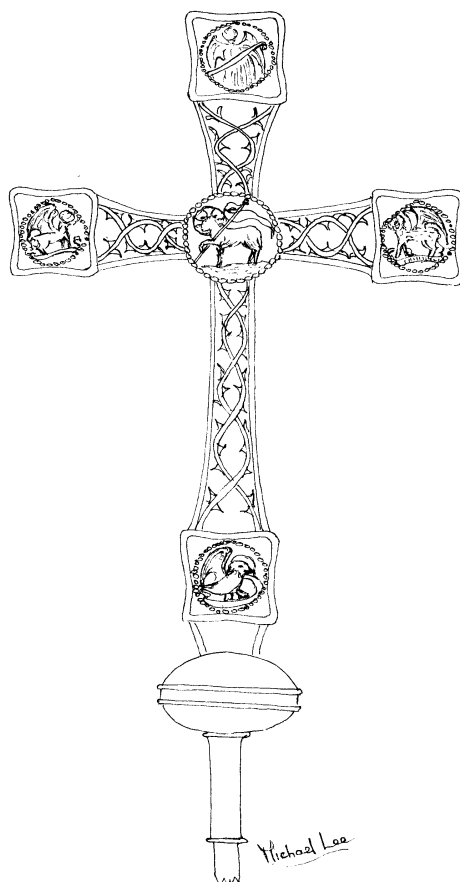
has meant that there was a small surplus which was almost sufficient to pay for the new boiler fitted in the hall.

In conclusion we again pay tribute to all those who contribute their time, talents and money to the life of St Oswald's.

The members of the PCC declare that they have approved the report, and the Accounts on the following pages, which form an integral part of this document.

Signed by the Revd Robert Riley-Braley

on behalf of St. Oswald's Parochial Church Council date



Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the St Oswald's Church, Croxley Green

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on the following pages 1 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner

The charity's trustee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustee considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustee as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustee those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustee as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustee 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 financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
 - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



David Beak FCA
Independent Examiner
South Felladyke
Lamplugh
Cumbria

2 March 2021

ST. OSWALD'S PARISH CHURCH, CROXLEY GREEN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020					
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT					
CHURCH					
		2020		2019	
RECEIPTS		£	£	£	£
Voluntary Receipts					
	Planned Giving	56,461		54,012	
	Collections & other giving	872		5,273	
	Income Tax Recovered	15,039	72,372	14,194	73,479
Other voluntary Income					
	Donations		14,228		3,643
Receipts from activities for generating funds					
	Magazine income		245		702
Receipts from Church Activities					
	Fees	1,814		2,432	
	Café O	600		2,061	
	Remembrance book	- 0		110	
	Outreach	- 0		998	
	Miscellaneous	224		1,496	
	fund raising in lieu of project	453	3,091	- 0	7,097
Receipts from Investments					
	Bank & CBF Deposit account interest		106		187
TOTAL RECEIPTS			90,042		85,108
PAYMENTS					
Church Activities	Diocesan Parish Share (Quota)	67,470		65,406	
	Missionary & charitable giving	7,348		7,489	
	Clergy expenses	1,476		1,645	
	Fees & Wages	1,191		1,554	
	Heating, Lighting, Insurance	3,048		3,820	
	Education, Books & Music	892		1,293	
	Outreach	834		2,093	
	Altar requisites	49		480	
	Laundry & cleaning	835		706	
	Magazine	45		329	
	Minor repairs	578		1,185	
	Gifts	- 0		230	
	Sundry (inc bank charges)	511		533	
	Remembrance book	29		70	
	Communications	337	84,643	400	87,233
	Administration		850		881
	Stationery & Printing		130		256
TOTAL PAYMENTS			(85,623)		(88,370)
(SHORTFALL)/EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS			4,419		(3,262)
CHURCH HALL					
Receipts	Church lettings	1,223		2,306	
	Non Church lettings	9,626	10,849	22,177	24,483
Payments	Wages & Cleaning materials	5,426		5,630	
	Heating, lighting & insurance	3,422		3,529	
	Repairs & maintenance	1,058		1,844	
	Rates	1,334	(11,240)	1,461	(12,464)
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS			(391)		12,019
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			4,028		8,757

ST OSWALD'S PARISH CHURCH, CROXLEY GREEN - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020						
OTHER FUNDS						
CHARITABLE DONATIONS FUND (RESTRICTED)						
		2,020		2019		
		£	£	£	£	
Balance at 1 January			3,376			9,413
Receipts						
	2019 Project - Playgrounds for Pal	260		3,063		
	IDEI Cyclone Appeal	-		435		
	Bishop's Harvest Appeal	-		1,006		
	Christmas tree appeal - last year	700		558		
			960			5,062
			4,336			14,475
Payments						
	Project 2012 - Festivos	-		4,527		
	Project 2019 -	3,323		-		
	Project 2018 - Through the Roof	-		4,463		
	IDEI Cyclone Appeal	-		435		
	Bishop's Harvest Appeal	-		1,006		
	Christmas tree appeal - last year	700		558		
	Christmas Crib Service - last year		(4,023)	110		(11,099)
			313			3,376
Balance at 31 December						
	<u>Represented by:</u>					
	N Swaisland remembrance		313			313
	2019 Project - Playgrounds in Palestine		-			3,063
			313			3,376
FUNDS FOR YOUTH WORK (RESTRICTED)						
Balance at 1 January			507			345
	transfer from Senior Youth Club		-			162
Balance at 31 December			507			507

ST OSWALD'S PARISH CHURCH, CROXLEY GREEN - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020					
OTHER FUNDS					

Accounts maintained separately					
CHURCH FLOWER FUND (RESTRICTED)					
Balance at 1 January			197		199
Receipts	Donations	27		189	
	Flower Box offerings	-	27	111	300
Payments	Flowers	30		265	
	Sundry	-	(30)	37	(302)
Balance at 31 December			194		197
CHURCH YOUTH CLUBS (RESTRICTED)					
Balance at 1 January			519		732
Receipts	Subscriptions	43		200	
	Donations	10		10	
	Activities and tuck	7	60	140	350
Payments	Activities		(50)		(401)
	Transfer of SYC to restricted accounts (youth wor		-		(162)
Balance at 31 December			529		519
CAFÉ-O (UNRESTRICTED)					
Cash balance at 1 January			73		65
Receipts			621		3,002
Payments	Purchases	22		280	
	Donation to St Oswalds	600		2,061	
	Donations to parish project (Revels)	-	(622)	653	(2,994)
EXCESS OF (PAYMENTS)/RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS			(1)		8
Cash balance at 31 December			72		73

ST OSWALD'S PARISH CHURCH, CROXLEY GREEN - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020						
RESERVES						
CHURCH RESERVES FUND						
		2020			2019	
		£	£		£	£
Balance at 1 January			9,247			5,227
Receipts	Transfer from General Funds	-			4,000	
	Interest	10	10		20	4,020
Payments	kitchen hot water boiler		(108)			
Balance at 31 December			9,149			9,247
HALL RESERVES FUND						
Balance at 1 January			9,854			5,777
Receipts	Transfer from General Funds	4,000			4,000	
	Transfer from Festivos 2012	-			57	
	Interest	10	4,010		20	4,077
Payments	new central heating boiler		(4,936)			
Balance at 31 December			8,928			9,854
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND						
Balance at 1 January			5,890			5,870
Receipts	Interest		10			20
Payments			-			-
Balance at 31 December			5,900			5,890
BEQUESTS & DONATIONS FUND (DESIGNATED)						
Balance at 1 January			10,202			13,040
Receipts						
			-			-
Payments						
	Hall induction loop	-			1,695	
	Black out blinds	-			688	
	Church black out blinds	-	-		455	(2,838)
Balance at 31 December			10,202			10,202
	Represented by:					
	Bequests		6,867			6,867
	Donations		2,854			2,854
	Donation -Rickmansworth Bereavement		481			481
			10,202			10,202
CHOIR FUND (RESTRICTED)						
Balance at 1 January			1,488			1,744
Payments	Cost of music		-			(256)
Balance at 31 December			1,488			1,488
CROPTHORNE FUND (RESTRICTED)						
Balance at 1 January			26			26
Balance at 31 December			26			26

ST OSWALD'S PARISH CHURCH, CROXLEY GREEN - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020							
STATEMENT OF FUNDS							
CASH & BANK				2020			2019
Cash in hand				£			£
	Flower Fund			194			197
	Youth Club			529			519
	Café-O			72			73
Bank Accounts							
	Current account			1,000			1,000
	Hall Community account			23,306			29,712
	Business Premium account			12,885			10,461
	Watford Credit Union			- 0			190
	Central Board of Finance			28,935			28,812
TOTAL CASH & BANK				66,921			70,964
FUNDS AND RESERVES							
General Fund							
	Balance 1 January			29,658			28,893
	Church Account			4,419			(3,262)
	Hall Account			(391)			12,019
	Café-O			(1)			8
	Transfers to reserves			(4,000)			(8,000)
	Balance 31 December			29,685			29,658
Restricted Funds							
	Charitable Donations Fund			313			3,376
	Choir Fund			1,488			1,488
	Flower Fund			194			197
	Youth Club			529			519
	Cropthorne			26			26
	Youth work			507			507
Designated Funds							
	Church Reserves Fund			9,149			9,247
	Hall Reserves Fund			8,928			9,854
	Capital Projects Fund			5,900			5,890
	Bequests & Donations Fund			10,202			10,202
TOTAL FUNDS AND RESERVES				66,921			70,964

NOTES									
a) These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations. The Receipts & Payments Account is a simple statement of account which summarises cash transactions in the period. They are checked by an Independent Examiner, a copy of whose full report is attached.									
b) All PCCs operate a General Fund which they use for daily transactions. This fund is 'Unrestricted'. The PCC may decide to put some of this unrestricted money aside for a 'Designated' Fund, for example the Church Reserve Fund, for administration purposes only. Designated funds are still unrestricted which can be 'redesignated' if the PCC decides. PCC's also receive money which has been given for a particular purpose. These funds are 'Restricted' and may not be used for any other purpose, for example Charitable Donations.									
c) Under the Charities Act 2011 the PCC is required to include all of its charitable funds for accounting purposes. This would include some resources such as the Flower Fund and Church Youth Club, which should be accounted for as 'Restricted' income of the PCC. All income is required to be shown gross.									
d) In addition to the funds shown in the accounts, the PCC has care and control over certain non-monetary assets, such as the Church Hall building, plus the furniture, fittings, and equipment of both Church and Hall. The bulk of such assets cannot however be disposed of by the PCC without Diocesan approval.									