# JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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# JOINT COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

### Objectives and activities

### **Objectives and Aims**

The Primary objective of the Joint Council is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The Joint Council excercises all the functions of the PCC's of the parishes of Westwood and Canley, which went into abeyance when the Jount Council was created.

### **Public Benefit**

The Joint Council have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and consider that the charity complies with the requirements

### **Volunteers**

The Joint Council, would like to thank all staff, volunteers and supporters, without whose efforts the work of the charity would not be possible

# JOINT COUNCIL REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### Achievements and performance

### Charitable activities

The Joint Council of the Bridge Benefice, Coventry has now been in operation for 3 years. The Charity Commission has sanctioned that the existing charity registration of St John's can be re-named 'The Bridge Benefice Coventry' whilst keeping the existing charity number. The accounts of the two Parishes of St John's Westwood and St Stephen's Canley were transferred to the Joint Council on 1st January 2021 and this is the report of the combined accounts. The Bridge is three bases namely St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley and Trinity Burton Green.

The Bridge Benefice was in deficit by £4,654 (all funds) for 2023. The performance for unrestricted funds only is as follows: -

In comparison to 2022 and the forecast budget income the following changes occurred: -

- Planned giving was £214,016 including Gift aid which was below the budget of £259,500 (82% of budget). In 2022 giving was £209,519.
- Gift Aid was £39,575 of the planned giving. In 2022 Gift Aid was £36,297.
- The trading activities of Occasional Offices, room hire and Car park rental, totalled £16,571 (2022 was £12,269) ahead of their combined budget by £6,055 or 58%.
- Overall income at, was £230,684, this is £39,316 or 14.6% below the planned budget of £270,000 income but was £8,796 above 2022. In 2022 overall income was £221,888.

In comparison to 2022 and the forecast budget expenditure the following changes occurred: -

- The total cost of staff was £75,561 (19%) below the budget of £93,500. In 2022 it was £88,443.
- Groups and meetings expenditure was £12,075 The budget was £13,540, so an underspend of £1,465. In 2022 it was £11,153.
- Spend on buildings, equipment etc was £55,671, versus the budget of £50,060. In 2022 £43,974 was spent on buildings etc.
- Parish Share was as planned at £80,000. (2022 was £76,225)
- Gifts to supported organisations was on budget at £32,400. In 2022 £22,000 was given to these
  organisations.
- Overall expenditure was £258,303, (2022 was £243,865) versus a budget of £270,000, so an underspend of £11,697 or 4%.

Overall, this resulted in a deficit of £27,619 in 2023 on unrestricted funds. In 2022 the deficit was £21,978. This leaves cash in the bank at year end of £28,505 in the general account plus £21,913 in a designated building fund for St John's, so a total of £50,418 in unrestricted funds.

Thus, the finances of The Bridge Benefice are in a weaker position at the end of 2023 with unrestricted and designated funds representing 19.5% of the turnover in 2023 which is above the target range of 10% to 15%. In 2024 the Bridge needs to at least cover cost to sustain a stable financial position.

# JOINT COUNCIL REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### Financial review

The charity has a reserves policy to maintain reserves to a level where adequate working capital is available, but not to allow excessive reserves being maintained or for funds to go into deficit. The total amount of reserves held at the year end amounted to £100,169.

The results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. The year-end position is shown in the balance sheet.

The Trustees has assessed the major risks to which they are exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

### Structure, governance and management Governing Document

The Joint Council's governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, as amended, and the Church Representation Rule (which are contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969, as amended), A scheme made in November 2020 under section M38 of the Church Representation Rules modified how the Rules apply in the Bridge Benefice and created the Joint Council.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

D Hammond

J Smailes

T Hickinbottom

M Jermyn

J Martin

L Dawson

S Ashelby

A Mahtani

A Smith (Resigned 30 June 2023)

ASIIIIII

J Sayer

M Robinson

E Gilmour

C Hammond

B Packwood G Thomas (Appointed 30 April 2023)

(Resigned 30 June 2023)

(Appointed 30 April 2023)

### Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The membership of the Joint Council is set by the Church Representation Rule, as modified by the 2020 scheme.

### **Organisational Structure**

Decisions made in formal Joint Council meetings are communicated to staff who perform direct and administrative roles and overseen by the Joint Council.

### TB

### JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

# JOINT COUNCIL REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### **Commencement of Activities**

The charity registered with the Charity Commission on 6th April 2009.

**D** Hammond

Dated: 7/4/24

J Smalles

Dated: 4

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACA, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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 financial statements to be reached.

Robert Anderson FCA Azets Audit Services

3Mc Middlemarch Business Park

Siskin Drive Coventry CV3 4FJ

**United Kingdom** 

Dated: 10/4/24

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							-
Donations and							
legacies	3	214,016	34,307	248,323	209,519	20,698	230,217
Charitable activities	4	16,571	1,286	17,857	12,269	1,184	13,453
Other Income	5	97	5,030	5,127	100	-	100
Investments	6	_	_	-		75	75
Total income		230,684	40,623	271,307	221,888	21,957	243,845
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	258,303	17,659	275,962	243,865	23,386	267,251
	-					25,500	207,231
Net (expenditure)/ir	come						
for the year/	icome						
Net movement in fu	ınds	(27,619)	22,964	(4,655)	(21,977)	(1,429)	(23,406)
		(27,010)	22,004	(4,000)	(21,377)	(1,420)	(23,400)
Fund balances at 1 J	lanuary						
2023	andary	78,037	26,786	104,823	100,014	28,215	128,229
				101,020		20,213	120,223
Fund balances at 3	1						_
December 2023	•	50,418	49,750	100,168	78,037	26,786	104,823
		====	====			20,700	

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

### **BALANCE SHEET**

### AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

		· 202	3	202	2
	Notes	٤	£	£	£
Current assets					
Debtors	12	17,980		11,586	
Cash at bank and in hand		91,578		100,221	
		109,558		111,807	
Creditors: amounts falling due within					
опе уеаг	13	(9,390)		(6,984)	
Net current assets			100,168	<del></del>	104,823
Income funds					
Restricted funds	14		49,750		26,786
Unrestricted funds	150				
Designated funds	15	21,913		35,654	*
General unrestricted funds		28,505		42,383	
		•	50,418	***************************************	78,037
-					
			100,168		104,823

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on

D Hammond

Trustee

J Smailes

Trustee

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

### **Charity information**

Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry is an unincorporated charity registered in England

### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

### 1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

### 1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

### 1.7 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

### Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

### Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

### Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

### 1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

### 1.9 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

# 3 Donations and legacies

Total	2022 £	230,217
Restricted funds	2022 £	20,698
Unrestricted funds	2022 2022 E E	209,519
Total	2023 £	248,323
Restricted funds	2023 £	34,307
Unrestricted Restricted Restricted funds	2023 £	214,016
		Donations and gifts

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Charitable activities

•					
				Other Trading Activities 2023 £	Other Trading Activities 2022 £
	Parochial Fee Income			3,038	2,682
	Car Park Rental Income			7,971	6,811
	Room Hire Income			6,832	3,960
	Other Income			16	<u> </u>
				17,857	13,453
				===	
	Analysis by fund				
	Unrestricted funds			16,571	12,269
	Restricted funds			1,286	1,184
				17,857	13,453
				===	
5	Other Income				
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted
		funds	funds		funds
		2023	2023	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
	Building repair fund	97	-	97	100
	Mission Hub Grant	-	3,175	3,175	-
	Coventry South Deanery Fund	-	855	855	-
			4 000	4 000	

### 6 Investments

T Walters Funeral

Other Income

Tot	al	Restricted funds
20:	23 £	2022 £
Interest receivable	-	75 ———

1,000

5,127

100

1,000

5,030

97

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 7 Charitable activities

8

						Charitable Activities 2023 £	Charitable Activities 2022 £
	Staff costs					66,611	80,323
	Staffing Costs - Clergy Exp	enses				6,690	6,370
	Staffing Costs - Training					2,152	1,820
	Staffing Costs - Other					108	(71)
	Groups & Meetings					12,075	11,153
	Building, Equipment & Adm	inistration				55,671	52,380
	Diocesan Payments					80,000	76,625
	Supported Organisations					32,400	22,000
	Charitable Activities					17,659	14,851
						273,366	265,451
	Share of governance costs	(see note 8)				2,596	1,800
						275,962	267,251
	Analysis by fund						
	Unrestricted funds					258,303	243,865
	Restricted funds					17,659	23,386
						275,962	267,251
3	Support costs					_	
		Support Go costs	vernance costs	<b>2023</b> Sup	port costs	Governance costs	2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
	Examiners fees	-	2,596	2,596	_	1,800	1,800
		<del>-</del>	2,596	2,596 		1,800	1,800
	Analysed between						
	Charitable activities		2,596	2,596		1,800	1,800

Governance costs includes payments to the examiners of £2,596 (2022: £1,800) for examination fees and other services

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 9 Trustees

### Trustee remuneration and benefits

The Clergy received in total £6,689 in expenses, David Hammond was paid £3,600, Sarah Ashelby £689, Erin Gilmore £1,200 and Caroline Hammond £1,200. No other member of the Joint Council received any remuneration, either directly or indirectly.

### Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year to 31 December 2023, nor for the year to 31 December 2022.

### 10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	6	3
Employment costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	63,719	75,469
Social security costs	-	2,721
Other pension costs	2,892	2,133
	66,611	80,323
	<del></del>	

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

### 11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxationof Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

### 12 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	2,265	874
Other Debtors & Accrued Income	13,170	8,997
Prepayments	2,545	1,715
	17,980	11,586

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

13	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
		2023	2022
		£	£
	Trade creditors	1,804	3,192
	Accruals and deferred income	7,586	3,792
		9,390	6,984

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

# 14 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

			Movement in funds	spunj u			Movement in funds	spunj u	
	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming	Resources expended	Transfers R	Transfers Revaluations, gains and1.	aluations, Balance at gains and1 January 2023 losses	Incoming	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2023
	લા	43	ы	બ	G)	Ⴗ	c)	фì	ф
Church Growth in Deprived Areas (St									
Stephens)	2,417	•	1	,	•	2,417	1	•	2.417
Church Live Development Fund	1,149	1	•	t	1	1,149	1	1	1.149
Cost of Living	1,523	328	(366)	ı	1	856	168	(778)	246
Coventry South Deanery Funds	1	•	•	ı	•	1	855		855
Funeral Deposits	228	ı	•	ı	ı	228	•	•	228
Honest to God	2,437	•	1	•	1	2,437	,	1	2,437
Investment Fund	1	000'9	•	1	•	6,000	•	1	000'9
Mission Hub Grant 2023	830	ı	ı	1	1	830	•	•	830
Mission to Children	•	ı	ı	1	1	1	3,175	(2,855)	320
Garden of Hope	104	15	•	1	1	119	•	•	119
St Stephens Building Fund	471	1,851	(2,112)	•	1	210	12,838	(2,348)	10,700
Tom Walters Funeral	18,654	75	(8,535)	1	ı	10,194	ı	1	10,194
Trinity Room Carpet Fund	•	1	•	1	ı	1	1,000	1	1,000
Youth & Student Work	402	221	1	ı	ı	623	26	1	720
	ı	1,723	•	•	•	1,723	11,621	(808)	12,535
	28,215	10,213	(11,642)	•	ı	26,786	29,754	(6,790)	49,750
	THE PART OF THE PA								

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 15 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

			Movemen	t in funds				
	Bala 1 Janua	ance at ry 2022	Incoming resources		Balance at January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Building Repair Provision							
	Fund 3	36,181	100	(627)	35,654	97	(13,838)	21,913
	3	86,181	100	(627)	35,654	97	(13,838)	21,913
16	Analysis of net asse							
		Uni	restricted funds	Restricted funds	Total U	nrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
			2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
			£	£	£	£	£	£
	Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:							
	Current assets/(liabiliti	ies)	50,417	49,751	100,168	78,037	26,786	104,823
			50,417	49,751	100,168	78,037	26,786	104,823

### 17 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).