

# **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.**

**SUNDAY 12 May 2024.**

## **Finance Report.**

### **2021.**

The Independent Examination of the 2021 Accounts was completed and the Financial Statements had been filed along with the Annual Report with the Charity Commission.

### **2022.**

Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 had been compiled and handed over to the Independent Examiner for examination.

The value of our Investments fell by **19K** thus resulting in a Net Loss of **22K** for the year.

PCC would be presented with the accounts on completion of the Independent Examination.

### **2023.**

The Final Accounts for 2023 are being compiled and should be ready soon.

During the year 2023, there were increased demand for expenditure which continue to overshadow the encouraging improvement in our Income.

However, a general overview of the Revenue & Expenditure Accounts shows that the Improved Income during the year assisted in ensuring that the actual deficit is a little lower than the budgeted deficit. We also envisage that movements within our Investment portfolio may not change this position materially.

### **2024.**

A fairly difficult year 2024 is anticipated and PCC approved a budget deficit of **42K** for the year.

An appeal was made for donations/pledges to boost our Income and parishioners are responding.

Actual activities for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year cautiously suggest a slightly better result for 2024.

**Nehemiah Akinyele.**  
**Honorary Treasurer.**

## Vicar's Report 2024

Thank you for, firstly, for your love and prayers for Sarah and I over the last year. We're very grateful for your messages of encouragement and for your friendship.

Hanging over 2023 was the ending of the Interim Vicar role – officially March 2025. AD Barry said I needed to know whether the role would be made permanent or not by the end of 2023, so that, if required, I had a clear year to move on.

My call to Coventry was not just for 3 years. I trusted that God would provide for this role to become permanent. At the end of 2023, AD Barry had consulted with the wardens, the PCC and me. There was clear agreement that the role should be made permanent.

Sarah and I are excited to continue serving you and the people of this historic city.

That joyful news, for us and I believe for you, was among many other wonderful things that God was doing amongst us in 2023:

- Appointment of Vino and Thilini brought strength to our Verging Team and the running of Trinity House.
- The stronger Verging Team enabled our midweek Welcome Team to open this amazing church 6 days/week.
- Appointment of Sophie to manage our social media has revolutionised our presence on-line.
- Our Welcome Team grew in numbers – there's always room for you to join them too – and in confidence: we

had a great training session on how the Doom Painting is actually good news for everyone.

- The formal lighting of the East and West windows – paid for by the City Council. The West window at night reveals the glory of Christ to our City.
- Our worshipping community has grown in numbers – may it grow in discipleship as well.
- We have rejoiced in a good number of baptisms and confirmation candidates.
- We welcomed many students, especially from Coventry University. The Table on Sundays and The Walk on Tuesdays both see a committed group of students and young adults attending.
- Carlyne's arrival in August was key to that strengthened student and young adult ministry – she brings excellent personal and relational skills.
- Alex has overseen the enrichment of our music and worship:
  - Our 2 choral scholars, Georgi and Seren.
  - Music group's new musicians and singers.
  - New choir members, both children and adults.
  - Choir highlights: Llandaff Cathedral visit, Aural Histories Evensong, Coronation Evensong, Advent and Christmas services.
  - Both morning services are inspiring acts of worship as the worship team has grown in depth and breadth.
  - and Civic services for the Lord Mayor, the Freeman's Guild, Remembrance and the Armed Forces.

- Improved resourcing of all our ministry. The number of donors and the amount donated have grown, which further enables our expanding mission in the heart of this historic city.
- Increasing numbers of young families and children. It's stretching the manpower resources for our children's and youth ministry – a nice problem to have!
- Trinity House being on a firmer footing financially, though we still need more rental income.

There have been sadnesses. We mourned the loss of Sue Shepherd, a much loved member and Lay Reader of many years. We prayed for those – it seemed too many – who suffered serious illness or set-backs, but we rejoice with those for whom the gift of God's healing was given. We miss Bishop Christopher and his episcopal ministry: he loved Holy Trinity and prayed for his parish church.

In all this good news, tough news and sad news, I want to thank the Wardens for their co-leadership with me. Alison, Chris, Nehemiah and Andrew have sustained and encouraged me, offered wisdom and practical involvement, and been an example to us all of daily faithful discipleship.

They care greatly for this church, and you its worshipping community. They serve you unstintingly and I thank them for all they give to us.

They and I are proud of our paid staff:

- ✓ Jack and Megan in serving our children and young people;

- ✓ Colin, Vino and Angela in the office and around the buildings;
- ✓ Alex serving our worship;
- ✓ Sophie in our social media;
- ✓ and Thilini coordinating Trinity House.

You are all much appreciated, by me (even when I am not good at showing it) and this congregation. Thank you for your love for Holy Trinity and your commitment to letting our mission and ministry shine brighter.

Thank you too to Carolynne for coming among us last summer, for bringing your prayerfulness, and your commitment to lives devoted to following Jesus in the richness of community. Your impact is already seen in the lives of the students and young adults, who worship with us.

Thank you also to you, the worshipping community of Holy Trinity. You encourage us and one another by your presence Sunday by Sunday. You delight to offer your gifts and skills in the service of God and his church. You release more mission and ministry by your prayers and your deeds. Thank you for being part of Holy Trinity.

As I look forward to being your Vicar for some years now, I want to make the reality of our Values more and more evident in all we do and offer to one another and to our City:

- Welcome – this is the task of each of us. Someone once welcomed you and you made Holy Trinity your worshipping home. Now you can welcome those who come through our doors, not just formally by being on the Sunday and Midweek Welcome Teams, but just

looking out for those you don't know. The power of being welcomed is a key enabler of people coming into our worshipping community.

- Warmth – this builds on welcome and takes it to the next level. This is about how we rejoice in one another, support one another, unite around the whole mission and ministry of Holy Trinity. Sustaining one another by building friendships across our life is key to being one spiritual family under one God.
- Worship – this is a rich part of our heritage and our offering to God's people and our City. We probably have some personal preference on worship styles. Our call, as members of Holy Trinity, is to support and bless all our worship, uniting in one desire for all to find ways to worship God here.
- Witness – linking with the parish through leaflet drops at Easter and Christmas saw parishioners come to our Festival services. We are their parish church and I long that we serve them well. We also see huge numbers of people walk past Holy Trinity each day, who don't know and worship their Heavenly Father. We have not yet found the best way to touch the lives of these ordinary Coventry people.
- Wealth – God has provided again and again. We have prayed for God to resource His mission and ministry amongst us, and He has answered our prayers through the generosity of His people – thank you. Holy Trinity has then been able to be generous to others, tithing our PCC's income towards our 12 mission partners.

I am prayerfully pondering if there may be a new Value to add: Walk – to create space for our discipleship, that we may know and appreciate more the reading of God’s Word and a life of prayer. Let me know if that resonates with your heart.

God has been very good to us in 2023. We are called to be faithful to Him in 2024, to seek His will for our lives and to pray for His Kingdom to come to our City.

There is a prayer I often return to:

God of Mission

Who alone brings growth to your Church,

Send your Holy Spirit to give

Vision to our planning,

Wisdom to our actions,

And power to our witness.

Help Holy Trinity grow in numbers,

In spiritual commitment to you,

And in service to our community,

May this prayer inspire us, unite us and send us on in faithful service.

Thank you.

# Social Media Review

## What went well last year?

- Facebook reach **26.2k** this is up by **794%** and Instagram reach is at **2.6k**, which is up by **100%**
- Profile visits are up for both Facebook and Instagram; **4.5k** on Facebook and **1.2k** on Instagram, that is **287%** and **100%** increase over the last year.
- **36** new likes on Facebook this is **89.5%** increase and **50** new followers on Instagram.
- **Over 300** posts on Instagram and **297** posts on Facebook! All with content sharing Holy Trinity Church Coventry this past year!
- Of our current followers over **50%** are local to Coventry, so we are reaching the right geographical area.
- Interestingly we also have significant audience from:
  - Pakistan
  - Uganda
  - United States
  - South Africa
  - Australia
  - Hong Kong
  - Italy
  - And many more.....
- Our Audience percentage of people **under age 34** has increased to **18.9%** (Facebook) and **39.1%** (Instagram)
- **Big thank you** to all who have provided content for our socials over this past year!!!

## What needs prayer?

- Messages from people engaging - we have many people see our content but not many direct messages about this. May we be missing an opportunity for online missionary work?
- Followers and likes on all platforms can be increased, as this will help the algorithm of each platform to share our page far and wide.
- Increased growth on our page reaches, in order to share the message of God's love and our Church family.

## Going forward?

- Diversify content even more, in order to highlight all areas of our church life.
- Keep up with current trends to engage more people and further our message of God's Love.
- Continued support from Church members in helping create content.