THE PARISH OF ACTON with BEDNALL



The Church of St James, Acton Trussell



The Church of All Saints, Bednall

A PROFILE FOR THE PARISHES OF

ACTON with BEDNALL
AND DUNSTON with COPPENHALL
FOR THE JOINT PART TIME POST (0.5) OF TEAM VICAR

The Church of St Leonard, Dunston



The Church of St Lawrence, Coppenhall



THE PARISH OF DUNSTON WITH COPPENHALL

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1. A WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Thank you for showing interest in the profile of the Parishes of Dunston with Coppenhall and Acton with Bednall. The church wardens and members of the PCCs hope the profile will provide you with an insight to our parishes and what it might be like to be part of the family of St James', All Saints, St. Leonard's and St. Lawrence's.

We are looking for a good shepherd to work with us to grow a welcoming and vibrant Christian presence in our communities. We seek to appoint a part time (0.5) Team Vicar within the Penkridge Team Ministry.

We are confident that we have many strengths to offer to our next minister and we hope you may find this post attractive because:

- * we are very friendly and good-humoured congregations who come from welcoming communities;
- we are caring churches with a strong tradition of pastoral care including monthly 'drop in' coffee mornings and care for the elderly;
- we have many supportive and active members of the churches with many committed officers and hardworking volunteers who complete administration and care for the church buildings and their grounds;
- we are well organised and have experienced and efficient PCCs which manage much of the parish administration:
- we are part of a very supportive Team Ministry which supports collaborative working as well as providing fellowship for both lay and ordained ministers;
- we are good at communicating with our local communities with monthly parish and community magazines, good publicity and a developing electronic mailing system;
- we are pleasant rural parishes located in glorious Staffordshire countryside yet very close to the county town of Stafford and the thriving village of Penkridge which offers all the amenities needed for everyday living;
- we are located in an area which offers a wide variety of recreational and educational opportunities
 with good transport links to Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Wolverhampton, Stoke and
 London which is only 1 hour 20 minutes by train from Stafford;
- we are realistic in our expectations of our part time minister actively encouraging lay involvement to support the work of the minister.
 - BUT we also recognise that we do have some challenges to face:
- we are ageing congregations but do warmly welcome new worshippers, particularly families and children;
- we are small congregations but we do reach out to our local communities, and we are prepared to try new expressions of worship in an attempt to attract new worshippers;
- we are keen to increase engagement with young children, teenagers and families and Dunston with Coppenhall are actively considering appointing a part time parish worker to support this work.

2. A WELCOME TO THE DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD FROM BISHOP MICHAEL

The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave

Bishop's House, 22 The Close, Lichfield WS13 7LG
T: 01543 306001. E: bishop.michael@lichfield.anglican.org



A word of welcome to the Diocese of Lichfield

Cradled at the intersection of the Midlands and the North, and the interface between England and Wales, the Diocese of Lichfield is the ancient centre of Christianity in what was the Kingdom of Mercia.

We are rightfully grateful for the inheritance we have from our first bishop St Chad that leads us to focus on Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism as we live and serve among the communities of Staffordshire, northern Shropshire and the Black Country.

By answering God's call to minister in Lichfield Diocese you will benefit from being part of a wide family, mixing with people serving in a variety of contexts — from the grittiest inner-city neighbourhoods of Stoke and the Black Country, to the leafiest rural parishes of Staffordshire and Shropshire, to the sparsest upland communities of the Staffordshire Moorlands and Welsh Borders.

And we embrace the widest spectrum of church traditions — evangelical and catholic, liberal and conservative, choral and charismatic — as we journey together in mission. As a colleague recently put it, it is our goal to be a 'spacious and gracious diocese'.

It is my determination and that of my episcopal colleagues that your calling to minister with us in Lichfield Diocese will be a time of encouragement, fulfilment, challenge and joy. You will not be alone in your ministry; as part of the wider team our colleagues among the diocesan staff keenly bring their various specialisms both spiritual and practical to offer resource and support as you serve our parishes, fresh expressions, schools and chaplaincies.

+ Michael

3. THE CONTEXT

Our Parishes

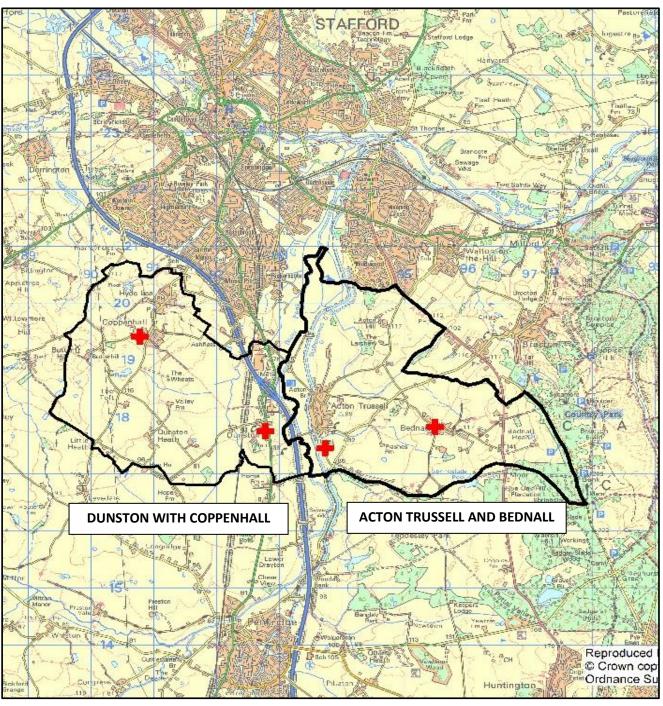
Both parishes are small, rural and close to the large thriving village of Penkridge and near to the county town of Stafford. Each Parish is served by two churches - St. Leonard's, Dunston and St. Lawrence's, Coppenhall for Dunston with Coppenhall and St James, Acton Trussell and All Saints, Bednall for Acton Trussell and Bednall.

Both parishes are part of the Penkridge Team Ministry which comprises of three parishes:

- 1. The Parish of Penkridge which includes Stretton, Pillaton and Levedale;
- 2. The Parish of Acton Trussell with Bednall;
- 3. The Parish of Dunston with Coppenhall.

The Team and Parishes are seeking to appoint a part time (0.5) Team Vicar.

The Location of the Parishes



4. THE CHALLENGE

Both PCCs recognise that the churches in the four villages face a number of challenges in the future as noted in the PCCs' mission action plans. A major challenge is as a consequence of having ageing congregations at a time when there is a greater need for involvement by the laity to compensate for the loss of clergy time.

Priorities identified by the PCCs include:

- 1. reviewing and refreshing our worship;
- 2. empowering members of the churches to use their God given gifts and talents to support the ministry of the churches;
- 3. further developing our mission to children and young families;
- 4. playing an active role in the life of our communities, providing pastoral care and fellowship as well as promoting Christian teaching and spiritual guidance.

5. ROLE DESCRIPTION

As we pray and seek God's guidance in the appointment of a new minister, we trust that they will be a person with a vibrant and real faith, a person of prayer who is committed to his/her own spiritual journey from where her/his service in ministry flows.

We seek a half time (0.5) team vicar who would:

- 1. lead our churches to achieve the vision set out in our mission action plans;
- 2. plan and lead worship appropriate for the vision and ministry needs of the churches, including use of resources, music, teaching and preaching;
- 3. enthuse, teach and challenge us with God's word in order to help us grow in faith and fellowship, as well as attracting new members to join our congregations;
- 4. inspire, motivate and empower lay members to get them actively involved in the life of the Church and to work collaboratively to help them make good use of their God given gifts and talents;
- 5. be a good shepherd and have a positive presence in the local community, promoting Christian teaching and providing pastoral and spiritual support;
- 6. develop a positive working partnership with our retired clergy and lay readers;
- 7. have a presence in both St. Leonard's School, Dunston and All Saints School, Bednall;
- 8. attend meetings of the PCCs and optionally chair these;
- 9. be part of the Penkridge team of clergy and readers and to share in the ministry across the team, particularly in occasional offices.

The PCC's recognise that this is not a full-time post and are keen that the skills and talents of Church members are developed to enable them to share the ministry with the new minister. For a number of years worship has been led by clergy and readers from across the Penkridge team and so there will not always be the need to preach and lead worship every Sunday. The final details of how this will work practically will be reached as a result of negotiations with the Team Rector, Ministry Team, Churchwardens and PCCs.

6. THE PERSON SPECIFICATION

We seek someone who will be:

- 1. a strategist in mission someone who is able to discern the key areas for achieving the visions of both parishes:
- 2. collaborative in style but also able to be directive when necessary;
- 3. a leader who is able to recognise gifts and talents in others and has the skills to help them to grow, develop and use them, through training, encouragement and review;
- able to relate to a wide range of people and sustain effective working relationships;
- 5. a good Shepherd of all God's people both members of the congregations and those outside the church, particularly providing pastoral and spiritual support to those in need.

7. THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP

The Penkridge Deanery

Both parishes are members of the Penkridge Deanery which is a compact and friendly group, incorporating the small towns and villages located in the area between Stafford, Wolverhampton, Cannock and western rural Shropshire. The Penkridge Deanery is in the process of completing its shaping for mission (SFM) review, with our focus being on improving communication, making better use of resources, assessing how to reach out to new housing estates and considering how to encourage young people to be involved in church.

No pastoral re-organisations have been proposed as a result of SFM, but as a number of parishes face considerable financial issues, it is possible that there may be some in the future.

We have a combination of in-person and on-line deanery meetings, as travel within the deanery can sometimes be time-consuming along narrow country roads. There are three Deanery Synod meetings a year - one to discuss a current Christian issue, another on Shaping for Mission, with the third frequently including holy communion and a social event.

Over the past four years, the chapter has shrunk quite significantly because local retired clergy have become less active. The five incumbent-status clergy meet on an irregular basis, normally for lunch or other social events. We are often in contact with one another on the deanery WhatsApp group and Zoom. As there are so few clergy, we often support each other by taking funerals and weddings in other benefices in the deanery.

Rev Greg Yerbury (Rural Dean)

The Penkridge Team Ministry



Background:

The parishes are part of the Penkridge Team Ministry. The Team Council acts as a co-ordinating and information sharing body across the Team. Its aim is to develop a collaborative and shared ministry across the benefice.

The Covenant:

The Team has developed a Covenant with a focus on collaborative working at its heart and mutual support for all those in ministry but without unnecessary bureaucracy and extra meetings.

Team styles and traditions of worship:

Church tradition across the Team is diverse and open with Eucharistic services being mostly in line with the central church tradition but with St. Michael's, Penkridge, having a slightly more evangelical feel.

Staffing:

The Team's current staffing includes one full time stipendiary clergyperson, the Team Rector, based at St Michael's Parish Church, Penkridge, a curate, also based at St. Michael's, a 0.5 vacancy of a Team Vicar serving Acton with Bednall, Dunston with Coppenhall. In addition, there are five readers and active retired clergy across the Team.

The minister appointed will receive support from two active team clergy and three Readers in the parishes as well as assistance from the Team staff in the covering of services and occasional offices so that the workload does not exceed that expected of this appointment.

Team Co-ordination:

There is a Team rota meeting which also aims to support collaborative working as well as providing fellowship for both lay and ordained ministers.

8. THE MISSION ACTION PLAN 2021 - 26

The mission action plans for both PCCs aim to:

- 1. identify the way forward for the four churches in the two parishes during a time of change;
- 2. promote a shared and collegiate approach to ministry through the development of the Penkridge Team and growth of individuals from our congregations and communities;
- 3. help the parishes move forward in response to the diocesan strategy of Developing Discipleship, Encouraging Vocation and Inspiring Evangelism.
- 4. support the Deanery's Shaping for Mission strategy by maintaining a focus on improving communication, making better use of resources, assessing how to reach out to new housing developments near to St. Leonard's Church and considering how to encourage young people to be involved in church.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Our Shared Vision:

Our shared vision is to live by the commandments given to us by Christ:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

To this end we endeavour to grow a welcoming and vibrant Christian presence in our communities, providing a spirituality that is accessible for all and offering the opportunity to fully participate in God's mission in the world.

We aim to:

- i. be a welcoming Church;
- ii. be vibrant, active and caring places where all can come for Christian spiritual fellowship and pastoral care;
- iii. be His disciples and take the message of the Gospel into the local communities which we serve;
- iv. provide Christian teaching and worship which are accessible and understandable:
- v. be good neighbours, both as churches and as individuals;
- vi. encourage the work of the laity;
- vii. spread the Word to children and young people;
- viii. stand for justice and fairness;
- ix. support progress in our individual faith journeys;
- x. listen and be ready for whatever is asked of us ready to offer our time, talents and skills.

To fulfil our shared vision, we will:

- identify ways to grow the number of both occasional and regular worshippers, learning from our own experiences and other churches both within and outside of the Penkridge Team;
- ii. make sure our church buildings are fit for purpose and are welcoming and comfortable;
- iii. enrich services by building on participation by the congregation and including a wider range of music;
- iv. be prepared to try fresh expressions of church;
- v. provide opportunities which support church members in making progress in their individual faith journeys;
- vi. raise the profile of the churches in the life of the local community;
- vii. reflect on how our churches and individuals within them are already involved in acts of grace and on what further support and encouragement are needed;
- viii. refresh the pastoral support teams and ensure all congregations are aware of the roles they fulfil, the needs they need to meet and the opportunities they provide for discipleship;

- ix. recognise the need for the laity to take on more roles within the life of our churches and make full use of the skills and talents of church members;
- x. provide training and support to help lay people who take on roles within the life of the churches:
- xi. continue and strengthen our work with children;
- xii. reach out to young people in their teens so they know they are part of the family of the Church;
- xiii. improve communications by maintaining a database of contacts, including email addresses:
- xiv. encourage stewardship to support our churches and generosity to help those in need.

9. ENQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS

Enquiries regarding the post of part time Team Vicar should be made to:

The Venerable Dr. Susan Weller,

The Archdeacon of Lichfield

24 The Close, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 7LD

Tel: 01543 306145 or Mobile: 07583 119740

E-mail: archdeacon.lichfield@lichfield.anglican.org

Informal Inquiries

Informal inquiries about this post, prior to making an application, would be welcomed by the Team Rector – Revd. Greg Yerbury:

email: rector@stmichaelspenkridge.co.uk;

or telephone: 01785 714344

Application Form:

For an application form please email the Archdeacon's PA:

Jimm Rennie. jimm.rennie@lichfield.anglican.org

Completed Application Form:

Completed applications, with the names and addresses of two referees, should be returned to:

The Venerable Dr. Susan Weller, The Archdeacon of Lichfield – address as above

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHURCHES, WORSHIP, FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES AND THE LOCAL AREA

10. CHURCH FINANCES

The parish finances are in a healthy state and well managed by our Treasurers. A summary of the 2022 accounts for both parishes is attached as Appendix 1 at the end of this profile. Accounts for 2023 will be available when they have been approved by our independent examiners.

Our contributions to the Common Fund for 2023 were:

Acton with Bednall - £12,993.

Dunston with Coppenhall £12,993

It is paid by monthly instalments with each of the churches paying an equal share.

Regular givers use our envelope scheme or pay by standing order. The two Gift Aid Secretary's claim tax rebates on our regular giving and also now on our loose plate collections through the Small Cash Donations Gift Aid Scheme.

Fund Raising Events:

All churches organise fund raising events throughout the year to raise additional funds. Fund raising activities have included social evenings, coffee mornings and fete stalls, flower festivals, open gardens, concerts, lunches, dinners, teas, craft fayres carol singing, selling garden produce, homemade cards and cakes and handicrafts.

Giving:

Each year Church members support various charities. There are monthly collections of food and cash for Stafford Christian Food Help and the Cannock Food Bank and a cash collection for the Staffordshire Women's Aid. In addition, other fundraising events, retiring plate collections after special services and collecting boxes are used to raise funds for a range of organisations.

In recent years we have financially supported -

The Childrens' Society – donating £670.

The Appeal for Ukraine – donating £1,270.

The Staffordshire Women's Aid - £2,215

The Stafford Christian Food Bank - donating £127.

Historic Churches Ride and Stride - donating £540.

Medicine Sans Frontières - donating £726.

Samaritans - donating £726.

House of Bread - donating £726

Every Child Sponsorship – donating £237.

World Vision Child Sponsorship £312.

as well as donating on average each year 60 Christmas gift boxes to young people leaving the care of the local authority.

Donations to the Cannock Food Bank has totalled over £15,000 since 2020.

11. CONGREGATIONS

Dunston with Coppenhall							
Electoral Roll							
Number on Roll:	Resident in Parish	Non-resident in Parish	The majority of the congregations				
Dunston - 41	Dunston - 29	Dunston - 12	are aged 50 years and over.				
Coppenhall - 65	Coppenhall - 56	Coppenhall - 9	The ethnicity is white British.				
Total - 106	Total - 85	Total - 21					
		Weekly Attendance					
The average weekly	attendance during	This number increases	at all major festivals and invitation				
2023 was:		services.					
Coppenhall - 18 add	ults and 1 child	During 2023 services were live streamed on Facebook and					
Dunston - 10 adults	and 1 child	had over 1000 views.					
		Acton with Bednall					
		Electoral Roll					
Number on Roll:	Resident in Parish	Non-resident in Parish	The majority of the congregations				
Acton Trussell - 25	Acton Trussell - 13	Acton Trussell - 12	are aged 50 years and over.				
Bednall - 43	Bednall - 34	Bednall - 9	The ethnicity is white British.				
Total - 68	Total - 47	Total - 21					
Weekly Attendance							
Currently one service	e is held in the	This number increases at all major festivals and invitation					
Parish each week a	nd alternates	services.					
between the two Ch	urches.	The 11 am service is broadcast on Zoom and over 200					
The average weekly	attendance during	services have been broadcast. The service is generally					
2023 was 25		watched by an average of 18 people per week.					

12. STYLES AND TRADITIONS OF WORSHIP

All congregations belong to the central tradition of the Church but have a broad and open attitude to worship - enjoying a variety of styles and traditions of worship from BCP to Celtic Services and welcome new experiences. Before the pandemic a successful Café Church was held in Hyde Lea and Coppenhall Village Hall. Bednall have continued to hold a very successful Café Church throughout the year, especially on All Saints Day. Bednall traditionally have an Agape service on Maundy Thursday. Both Acton and Bednall have service takers who can step in if needed and printed service sheets to cover special services. Acton and Bednall continue to offer a Zoom service each week and a number of people do still prefer this style of Worship.

13. SERVICES

Services at Acton with Bednall:

St. James' Church, Acton



Both churches tend towards an Anglican "middle of the road" style of worship with each hosting a variety of services. The churches are recognised for providing a warm welcome with coffee and biscuits served after each service.

All Saints Church, Bednall



St James is more traditional in worship with a BCP Eucharist Service held several times a month on a Friday.

The Church services offered have changed following the retirement of the previous Assistant Minister and the closure of church buildings under Covid regulations.

Every Sunday there is a 9:30 service. The service varies between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion depending on the minister leading the service. The service alternates each week between the two villages. Attendance at each Church is from both villages and the wider community. We also continue to offer a Zoom service every week and this has proved to be extremely popular post Covid times.

All Saints School hold a weekly service in Bednall Church during term time and a leavers service at the end of the academic year. They also put staging up and perform a Nativity or other Christmas play or musical for family and friends.

Special services take place throughout the year. The harvest services are extremely well attended in both villages by local families and members of the farming community. At a number of services a local choir group, BATS, performs as part of the worship. At Christmas and Easter there are many additional services including our popular Messy Church offering.

Many young couples attend regularly at both churches in preparation for their wedding ceremony. There are strong links between the Moat House Hotel in Acton Trussell and our congregations. Some wedding couples having a service in one of the Churches followed by a reception at the Hotel. Some wedding couples continue to be a part of the congregation following their wedding and have had children baptised.

The parish also holds an annual community service for the residents of the villages at the community centre which was attended by over 70 people in 2023.

Services at Dunston with Coppenhall:

St Leonard's, Dunston:



Sunday services are held at 11.00am each week with a monthly programme usually consisting of two Communion Services and a mixture of Morning Prayer and All Age Worship.

The Church has a range of prepared service sheets for use at all age worship and other special celebrations.

In addition to the recognised festival days, special invitation services are held for Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday. Christmas celebrations include a Christingle Service combined with lessons and carols.

St Leonard's School also holds end of term and major festival services in the church.

St Leonard's has a welcoming congregation which includes some families.

St Lawrence's, Coppenhall:



Sunday services are held at 9.30am each week and follows an established pattern of worship each month:

- first Sunday a family/all age service;
- second and fourth Sundays CW Communion Services;
- third Sunday Morning Prayer;
- fifth Sunday BCP Communion.

Members of the congregation lead the intercessions and there is a weekly rota for the reading of the lessons. Four members of the congregation have regularly led Morning Prayer and preached. There are also special themed and invitation services for Mothering Sunday, Easter, the Patronal Festival, Community Sunday, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday, Memorial Sunday and at Christmas we had Carols with Christingles, Midnight Mass and a Christmas Morning Family Service.

When the villages of Hyde Lea and Coppenhall hold a village festival a Songs of Praise Service is held in a marquee in the grounds of the village hall. St Lawrence's is also proud of its friendly and welcoming congregation. Coffee, biscuits and cake are served after each service and members of the congregation stay behind to socialise.

14. MUSIC

Our congregations enjoy singing. St. Leonard's, All Saints and St James have a pipe organ and St. Lawrence's has an electric organ. We are fortunate enough to have members of the congregations who play the organ for weekly Sunday services. In addition, at St James there is a guitar group who accompany the worship at many services.

When an organist is not available all churches use a C D player that feeds into their P.A. systems. Prior to the pandemic, a worship band played at Dunston and there is a desire for this to continue as part of all age worship on the first Sunday of the month at Dunston.

15. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES

Education:

- Both Lent and Advent Courses, led by the vicar or a lay reader, are held most years.
- A number of successful courses have been run over the last five years and resulted in some active house groups being formed.
- A SACRED (Simply a Chapter Read Each Day) Group met monthly over a period of four years and completed the scheme to read and discuss the whole Bible.
- Recently a Bible Study group, led by a lay reader, has begun to meet monthly and is studying the Gospel of Mark
- Pastoral care training workshops were held for a number of years and it is hoped they can be revived.
- There are occasional courses offered by the Penkridge Team.

Community activities include:

- Church members are regularly involved in activities at both St. Leonard's School, Dunston and
 All Saints School, Bednall
- An annual Lent Lunch is held in each of the parishes as a fund raiser for the Bishop's Lent
 Appeal or another charity.
- Harvest services are followed by a Harvest Supper or Breakfast in each parish, with proceeds from a raffle going to a local charity.

Acton and Bednall:

- Acton with Bednall has a monthly pew sheet called Cornerstone.
- The Tea Room held weekly in Acton Community Centre is a very popular fellowship event and is extremely well attended.
- The parish of Acton with Bednall support many community activities at the Community Centre in Acton Trussell and holds its annual community service there.
- St James holds several fund-raising events, including an annual Sunday Luncheon an annual
 Candlelight Supper together with open garden events, quiz nights and Patronal Festivals.
- o The Friends of St James also hold events to raise funds for the church building and churchyard.
- In Bednall, the social committee regularly organise parish breakfasts, lunches, quiz nights and musical events.
- All Saints Church is also supported by the Friends of Bednall, a village community group.
- Bednall have held Rogation Services when local farms have been visited with prayers and a hymn at each stop. This does attract a few more people to participate. The same applies to a Pet Service held in a barn and a barn dance in a barn.
- A book and jigsaw swop are available in the church porch at All Saints Church.
- Easter Egg hunts in the churchyard and carol singing outside round a lit Christmas tree (weather permitting) followed by mulled wine, warm squash and mince pies inside church are held at Bednall.
- o Bednall Church have an old-fashioned cart situated in the churchyard at the front of the church with a secure cash box attached to it. The cart is stocked with garden produce, drinks, crisps, sweets, homemade jams, pickles, greeting cards etc, and on Friday's homemade cakes. Many non-churchgoers both provide for and buy from the cart and cakes on Friday are very popular!
- An annual fete is run in Bednall each year and raised over £1,500 in 2023.

Dunston and Coppenhall:

- In Dunston and Coppenhall a team of volunteers produce and deliver 'Contact' a monthly Church and community magazine.
- The Pastoral Care Team in Coppenhall meets on the second Wednesday of every month and holds a popular coffee drop-in.
- o In Dunston and Coppenhall a team of volunteers produce and deliver 'Contact' a monthly Church and community magazine.
- St. Lawrence's Church participates in the Hyde Lea and Coppenhall Village Festival having a

stall at the festival fete and organising a Festival Songs of Praise and a bring and share afternoon tea in a marquee in the grounds of the village hall.

- St. Lawrence's has held several Flower Festival which have included a Songs of Praise service.
- o The annual Historic Churches Cycle Ride & Stride is supported by both churches.
- At Christmas members of the congregations from Dunston and Coppenhall sing carols at the local nursing homes, at the Crown Public House in Hyde Lea, and during the last three years arranged community carol singing at Hyde Lea and Coppenhall Village Hall.
- St. Leonard's Church has held social and fund-raising events including a fish and chip supper and a George Formby evening.
- The churches are represented at the Churches Together group in Penkridge.
- o All churches are proud of the 'neighbourly concern' shown by their members, and this was particularly evident during the pandemic.



Festival Songs of Praise



Village Fete



Flower Festival



Messy Church



Tree Planting



Advent Market

16. CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORK

Both PCCs recognise the need to increase engagement with young children, teenagers and families. The PCC at Dunston with Coppenhall are actively considering appointing a part time parish worker to support this work.

School Work:

Work undertaken with All Saints C.E. School, Bednall and St. Leonard's C.E. First School, Dunston is an important part of the ministry of the minister. Regular services both in the schools and the churches, informal contacts with teachers and parents, together with some input into classroom activities, are all successfully established.

Dunston with Coppenhall:

A successful Messy Church was held four times a year but we are seeking a new leader to reinstate the activity.

Acton with Bednall:

Members of both congregations organise a very successful Messy Church which runs several time a year. These sessions are well attended and held in church or at the Acton Community Centre.

17 SCHOOL WORK

Acton with Bednall

All Saints C.E. (VA) School, Bednall:

The Church enjoys good links with the one primary school in the village of Bednall which is part of Staffordshire University Academies Trust and the Diocese of Lichfield.

Children from the school attend Church every week and invite parents, friends, relatives to a number of special services during the year. Members of the congregation and clergy also run various sessions in school.

The school opened in 1856 paid for by subscription from the local Christian community. The school has grown since then from a single Victorian class into three classes.



In 2006, All Saints celebrated its 150th anniversary. To mark the occasion a new date stone was laid. The original date stone had a time capsule left by the Victorians containing coins of the realm and a list of dignitaries attending the opening of the school. In keeping with our predecessors, a new time capsule was placed behind the new stone, containing the original coins of the realm and coins from today, letters from the children to the future, work stored on microfiche and on DVD.

All Saints School is in the two-tier County system and feeds into the highly popular Walton High School which is a year 7 to year 13 school. The school has a Christian distinctiveness advisor and has recently appointed a school chaplain. There were 44 children on the school roll aged from 3-11 years at the last published census.

Further information about the school can be found on the school website: http://www.allsaints-bednall.staffs.sch.uk

Dunston with Coppenhall

St. Leonard's C.E (VC) First School, Dunston:

There is one school in the parish - St. Leonard's C. of E. First School Academy. The school is part of the Staffordshire University Academies Trust and the Diocese of Lichfield. It is part of a three-tier system in which children leave at the end of Year 4 for Penkridge Middle School and then progress onto Wolgarston High School at the beginning of Year 9. Wolgarston School has a Sixth Form Centre. The school enjoys strong links with St. Leonard's Church and its Christian distinctiveness and values are evident inside and outside of the school curriculum. It has recently developed an outdoor worship area and has appointed a school chaplain.



At present it has over 70 children on roll including the Reception Class.

The school has undergone some major building work in recent years with 2 new modular classrooms being built and the interior of the old building being completely refurbished.

These developments were needed due to the popularity of the school which attracts pupils from a wide area outside the designated catchment area.

The Team Vicar is expected to play an active role within the school.

Further information about the school can be found on the school website:

https://www.st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk

18. THE CHURCH BUILDINGS

St James Church, Acton Trussell:



The Church of St James the Great was originally built in 1212. It was enlarged and rebuilt in 1869 under the direction of G.E. Street. The main additions were the combined vestry and organ chamber on the north side and a new south porch. The church may well be older than suggested as it stands on the foundations of a Second Century Roman Villa with some evidence of even earlier Iron Age remains.

The Bell Tower was refurbished in 2009 with the aid of Lottery funding and in 2010 a water supply was installed, enabling the provision of a toilet and tea-bar within the building. The church can accommodate 70/80 people. There is a car park for a number of cars. Recently new lighting has been installed which has seen a great improvement to the ambiance of the building. The Church has recently begun the process of upgrading the heating system and the funding to achieve this has been possible due to a recent legacy.

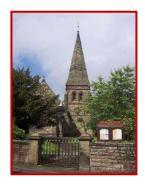








All Saints Church, Bednall:



The existing church building dates from 1846 with the tower and spire being added in 1873. Bednall records go back to 1086, with Acton with Bednall becoming a separate parish in 1671. An older building occupied the site and the current ringing bell dated 1681 originally hung in the old church. A gravestone in the churchyard is also dated 1681.

In 2003-4 the roof was repaired and the church was internally redecorated in 2005. Both projects were funded through grants and fundraising. The church can accommodate 250 people.

A Steering Group is currently working on detailed plans to install a toilet and more flexible space to meet the future needs of the congregation and wider community. These plans have been approved by the DAC and the project has a Faculty granted. Approximately £90,000 of the cost (approximately £200,000) is available so far and now the Faculty is granted applications for grants becomes a possibility.









Both Churches in Acton and Bednall had Quinquennial inspections in 2022 where no immediate repairs were identified. The PCC will use the architect's recommendations to form the basis of maintenance plans for the next five years. Both churches have a regular team of volunteers who clean the church, decorate it with flowers, wind the clock at Bednall, ring the church bells and maintain the building and churchyard.

Broadband has recently been installed at All Saints Church to facilitate the streaming of services. The Wi-Fi signal at St James Church is deemed sufficient to offer a similar facility. Sound systems are available in both churches and an upgrade is planned for St James.

St Leonard's, Dunston:

A chapel has occupied the site of St. Leonard's since 1445. The current church was built between 1876 and 1878. The church can seat 180.

A sound system, which includes lapel and fixed mics and a CD player has been installed.

There is a carillon of eight tubular bells, rung from a keyboard, which needs restoration.



A new heating system for the church was installed in 2018 and repairs to the tower completed.

The quinquennial report completed in 2019 recommended repairs to the roof and guttering be prioritised. Since the quinquennial the guttering has been repaired.

There is a team of villagers who provide flowers and clean the church.









St Lawrence's, Coppenhall:

St. Lawrence's church is a small stone building dating from around 1220 and described by Pevsner as -

"a perfect 13th century village church, small but of great dignity."

It remains largely unchanged by any restoration and is Grade 2* listed. The church can seat 56



A sound system, which includes lapel and fixed mics, a CD player and a hearing loop, has recently been updated.

There is a dedicated group of villagers who clean the church and provide flowers each week.

The latest quinquennial inspection was completed in June with no major issues.

The Quinquennials for all churches can be inspected if required.









19. THE CHURCHYARDS

St. Leonard's Churchyard:



The original churchyard is now full but an attached extension burial ground, which includes an area for cremated remains, has been consecrated and provides additional plots.

The churchyard is maintained by a contractor on a regular basis.



St. Lawrence's Churchyard:



The churchyard still has a large number of plots. It is in excellent order and maintained by volunteers who are rostered throughout the growing season to mow and strim the grass. Visitors regularly comment on the well-kept churchyard.



The PCC recently purchased a piece of land opposite the church and has created a car park. Additional land will provide a future extension to the graveyard.

Parish of St James and All Saints:

St. James' Churchyard

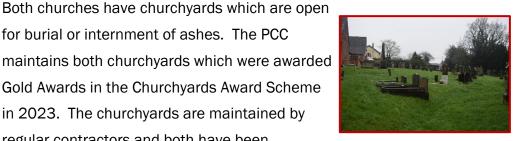


plant and prune where necessary and generally

maintain the churchyards.

for burial or internment of ashes. The PCC maintains both churchyards which were awarded Gold Awards in the Churchyards Award Scheme in 2023. The churchyards are maintained by regular contractors and both have been recognised as being nature friendly by the Diocese. Volunteers look after the graves and working parties meet throughout the year to

All Saints' Churchyard





20. THE VILLAGE HALLS

None of the four churches have a church hall but there are village halls in Acton Trussell, Dunston and Hyde Lea and Coppenhall which are used by the churches for meetings as well as a variety of social and fund-raising activities.

Dunston Village Hall:



Dunston Village Hall consists of two function rooms, which can be hired together or individually and a fully equipped kitchen.

The Hall provides a useful facility for the adjacent Church School and many other local organizations.

The Trustees and Management Committee of the Hall regularly provide social evenings for the local people.

The Hall is available for use by the Church for meetings and annually hosts the joint Harvest Supper.

Hyde Lea and Coppenhall Village Hall:



Hyde Lea and Coppenhall Village Hall consists of a large function room and a kitchen. It is the only community facility in the villages and provides a range of social, educational and recreational services to the local community. Its grounds provide a grassed play area for local children.

The hall and grounds are the base for the annual village festival in which the Church takes an active role, organising a Festival Songs of Praise and a 'bring and share' afternoon tea.

The church uses the Hall to host a monthly coffee morning and drop in for local people.

Bednall, Acton Trussell and Teddesley Hay (BATTH) Community Centre:



The villages benefit from a modern community centre, built some 25 years ago on the edge of Acton Trussell, which has a large function room with a stage, an adjoining smaller meeting room, changing facilities and a playing field large enough for cricket and football. The centre is run by the local government Parish Council of Acton Trussell Bednall with Teddesley Hay.

There is also a children's playground and exercise equipment. Both villages use the hall to host social events, concerts and quizzes on a regular basis.

The centre is also host to a bowls club and is the facility for a well-attended and much loved tea room held every Thursday. As well as holding sporting events, the outdoor area is also used for celebration events, and an annual Barbeque.

21. THE VICARAGE







A vicarage has been recently acquired in the popular residential area of Moss Pit, Stafford. It is a four-bedroom detached house situated in a small and quiet cul-de-sac near local shops, amenities and schooling with the town centre a short distance away with a wider array of restaurants and shops. Its location is also equidistant from three of the villages with Bednall just being slightly further away.

Accommodation comprises of a lounge, dining room, conservatory, study, kitchen, utility, downstairs cloakroom, four bedrooms, master with ensuite and a family bathroom. Externally to the front there is a spacious driveway and to the rear a landscaped and easily managed garden.

22. COMMUNICATIONS

Dunston with Coppenhall:

A free monthly parish and community magazine called Contact is delivered to every home in Dunston, Coppenhall, Hyde Lea and surrounding hamlets. It contains Church notices and other village information and is edited by a member of St. Lawrence Church at Coppenhall.

Good use is made of village notice boards, A Church Near You and our Facebook page to advertise church services and other activities and in addition the parish has a website which the PCC is currently upgrading. The current parish website is – https://www.dunstonwithcoppenhall.org

Acton with Bednall:

A free monthly pew sheet is prepared and contains details of events and other information relative to the villages. A group of ministers contribute a reflection to each edition. Both of the villages have an email system that keeps in touch with members of the local community to advertise events. In addition there is a group for Bednall, Acton Trussell and Teddesley Hay. Our activities are well publicised in both villages through A Church near you and our Facebook page. Posts on Facebook are reposted on other community pages also. In addition there is a group email for the Parish Council covering Bednall, Acton Trussell and Teddesley Hay areas which is used to advertise church events and services.

Bednall also produces its own full colour, bi monthly magazine called Bednall Banter. It is not produced by the church, but carries all the church adverts, information, photos etc and is distributed free to all households in Bednall.

23. PASTORAL OFFICES

Occasional Offices in the Parish During the Last Three Years								
	Baj	otisms	Weddings		Funerals			
	Dunston	Coppenhall	Dunston	Coppenhall	nhall Dunston Coppenha			
2023	1	1	1	0	3	1		
2022	3	1	0	0	2	3		
2021	2	2	0	0	3	3		
2020	0	1	1	1	0	3		

Occasional Offices in the Parish During the Last Three Years								
	Вар	tisms	Weddings		Funerals			
	Acton	Bednall	Acton	Bednall	Acton	Acton Bednall		
2023	4	2	6	0	14			
2022	9	3	5	3	12			
2021	3	2	7	0	18			
2020	5	0	2	1	10			

The number of funerals includes services which took place at the local crematoria only and internment of cremated remains.

Both parishes follow the policies agreed by the Penkridge Team Council.

Policy for Baptism:

In the Team we baptise adults or children of parents who live in the parish or who are members of the congregation or have some proven connection to a church such as the parents were married at the church or grandparents live in the parish. If the connection is based on something other than regular attendance or living in the vicinity (i.e. not strictly in the parish) then they should get a letter or e-mail from the vicar of the parish in which they live consenting to the service being held elsewhere.

Each church arranges the timing of their own baptism service according to local needs. Adults, young people and parents of children coming forward for baptism are required to attend a baptism preparation session. Currently a joint Team preparation session is held monthly and led by the clergy from St Michael's, ably supported by the baptism team also from St Michael's. It would be expected that the minister would accompany any baptism families to this preparation evening.

Policy for Marriage:

This follows Church of England guidelines.

The vestry hour at St Michael's, held on a Wednesday evening and provides the opportunity for wedding arrangements to be made, although the timing of the ceremony and the local fees are arranged by each parish in the Team. There is a 'Space to Think Day' held twice a year to which all couples planning to marry in a team church are invited and all clergy who are taking marriage services are expected to attend if possible.

Marriage of divorcees is carried out within the Team according to the Bishop's guidelines. Sunday weddings are discouraged as the clergy are committed to regular Sunday acts of worship.

Prayers of Love and Faith:

Currently both Parochial Church Councils are considering their response to the publication of the House of Bishops recommended Prayers of Love and Faith and pastoral guidance for use in regular services where same sex couples wished to mark their love before God.

Policy for Funerals and Churchyard Burials:

This follows Church of England guidelines.

We carry out funerals for those who live in the parishes or have some link to the parish. The right of burial in the churchyard is determined by individual PCCs and is set out in their Churchyard Policy.

24. THE PARISHES

The Parish of Dunston with Coppenhall

The Parish of Dunston with Coppenhall is a split rural parish with two churches -

 St. Leonard's - serves the small village of Dunston together with the hamlets of Dunston Heath and Drayton and is adjacent to open countryside. It lies along the A449 (Stafford/Wolverhampton Road) and is close to Junction 13 of the M6. The heart of the life of Dunston is the small church school & the adjacent village hall. There are also two rural business parks which have been developed in former farm buildings.

o **St. Lawrence's** - serves the larger villages of Coppenhall and Hyde Lea together with the hamlet of Butterhill. Hyde Lea and Coppenhall have seen new developments of private housing built in recent years but retain the feel of close village communities. This community has a pub and a village hall which provide a sense of community spirit. The villages are surrounded by open countryside with many beautiful country walks.

Sources of employment in the area are agriculture and the rural business parks, although most villagers commute to work.

The Parish of Acton Trussell with Bednall

The Parish of Acton Trussell with Bednall is also a split rural parish with two churches -

- St James Acton Trussell is located 4 miles south east of the county town of Stafford. It is a reasonable affluent village with a number of large homes. The village has excellent views of farmland looking across to Cannock Chase and Stafford Castle. The Staffordshire and Worcester Canal borders the village and leads south to the market town of Penkridge where many amenities, hotels and restaurants are to be found.
 - Acton Trussell's close proximity to the M6 motorway (junction 13) makes it a very convenient location for commuters south to the West Midlands' conurbation and north to Stoke and Manchester. There is a limited bus service to Stafford and Penkridge and train stations are located in both towns. The village has won the title of Best Kept Small Village in Staffordshire in 2014 and won the equivalent title for South Staffordshire in 2014, 2015 and 2016. The village was highly commended in 2023.
- All Saints All Saints Church in Bednall serves the communities of Bednall and Teddesley Hay and several outlying properties. The communities are traditionally agricultural with 5 working farms, with the former Teddesley Hay Estate being one of the largest integral estates in the Midlands. The village school in the centre of Bednall serves the whole parish and also attracts many families from further afield. There is no pub in the village although the Chetwynd Arms is on the main A34 which separates Bednall from Cannock Chase. There is a direct footpath, just across the lane from Bednall Church, that takes you across the fields to the Chetwynd Arms and the bus stop for Stafford and on the other side of the A34, to Cannock. Bednall won the Best Kept Village in South Staffordshire in 2018 and 2019 and was highly commended in 2023.

The A34 separates Bednall from Cannock Chase, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with a footpath up to a popular tearoom on the edge of the forest. Bednall is very much smaller than Acton and has only about 150 households, including Bednall Head and outlying properties.

There are no other faith groups within the Parish. Both villages have a mix of ageing long-term residents and younger families where both parents work, and time is short.

25. WHAT THE AREA HAS TO OFFER

Location:

The parishes are situated between 3 and 6 miles south of the county town of Stafford in beautiful unspoilt countryside. The vicarage is located in the residential area of Moss Pit, Stafford close to Rising Brook community village which has all the facilities required for everyday living with larger shopping facilities available in the county town of Stafford.

Accessibility:

Both parishes and the vicarage are close to the A449 and a short distance from junction 13 of the M6. Good rail links are also available from both Penkridge and Stafford. The vicarage is also close to a bus route.

Rising Brook:

All the facilities for everyday living are available in the nearby Rising Brook community village.



Shops – there is a Cooperative Supermarket, pharmacy, Post Office, butcher, off license, hardware store and an Esso filling station with a Tesco Express outlet. There is also a much loved, family run Fish and Chip shop, which regularly provides fish suppers for some of our fund-raising ventures.

Education – there are nurseries, a primary and a secondary school and a library.

National Trust – Shugborough is located at Milford, another local village south of Stafford

Health – there is a medical centre, two pharmacies and a dentist.

Recreational – there is a public house and a sports and social club offering tennis and badminton. There are also a number of local football, rugby and cricket clubs and a running club.

Religious groups – there is a Methodist Chapel and a large and very active Baptist Christian Centre.

The Market Village of Penkridge:

The nearby market village of Penkridge, which the Parish has very close connections with, being part of the Penkridge Team Ministry, has a wide variety of independent local shops and two supermarkets. There are two car sales and maintenance garage businesses. Every Wednesday and

Saturday Penkridge has a long-established market which is very popular with people living in the wider area. Every November, for one night, the village centre becomes a Victorian Christmas Market.

Education - there are several playgroups and nurseries in the village together with three first schools, a middle school and a high school. One of the South Staffordshire College's campuses is located just outside the village and offers a range of adult and community education courses.

Health - the modern Penkridge Health Centre offers a wide range medical services. There are also a number of dentists, an optician and a chiropractor in the village as well as two pharmacies.

Railway - Penkridge has a railway station with direct services to Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Stafford and Liverpool. Stafford has a mainline station with many intercity services on the west coast mainline.

Recreational - there are several pubs in the village and hotel accommodation is also available. There are a number of sports clubs in Penkridge which include well-respected cricket, football, rugby union and tennis clubs. Also canal boat hire and afternoon tea cruises are available on the outskirts of Penkridge. Plenty of tow path walks locally and Bednall is actually part of the Staffs Way.

The Penkridge Leisure Centre, which is adjacent to Wolgarston High School, offers a sports hall and a swimming pool. The River Penk and the Staffs-Worcester Canal are enjoyed by both fishermen and walkers. Walkers also have easy access to the Staffordshire Way. There is a well maintained, well used bowling green in the heart of the village.

The County Town of Stafford:







The nearest town is the county town of Stafford which offers a wide range of health, recreational and retail facilities.

There is a good mix of national and independent retailers found in picturesque, cobbled streets or modern indoor shopping centres. In addition, there are also several out-of-town retail parks and a town centre market which trades on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday each week.

Other facilities available include:

- for education the College of Further Education,
- for health the County Hospital
- for recreation The Gatehouse Theatre and Odeon Luxe multi-screen cinema together with a wide range of places to eat and wide variety of sporting activities.

The nearby city of Wolverhampton and the new town of Telford also provide shopping centres and a wider range of recreational opportunities. There also a McArthurGlen Designer Outlet in Cannock.

Activities within Ten Miles of the Parish:

Sports enthusiasts are well catered for, and facilities include the following:

Gailey Pools - $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the south of Penkridge, has facilities for sailing, fishing, bird-watching (including herons and egrets.)

Cannock Chase - is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with rolling hills, heath lands, and abundant wildlife.

In the area there are many recreational opportunities including Birches Valley Visitors' Centre and Chasewater Country Park









Golf Courses - there are several golf courses near to the vicarage, the nearest club's being the Chase Golf Club or the Brocton Hall Golf Club.

Theatres - nearby theatres include - The Gatehouse, Stafford, The Grand, Wolverhampton, The Regent, Hanley (Stoke) and The Vic, Newcastle (Stoke)

26. USEFUL WEBSITES

Website for St. Leonard's, Dunston and St. Lawrence's, Coppenhall:

https://www.dunstonwithcoppenhall.org

Facebook page for Acton and Bednall:

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064477490484

Website for St Michaels Church, Penkridge:

www.stmichaelspenkridge.co.uk

27. CONTACTS - CHURCH WARDENS

Churc	chwarden of	Churchwardens of				
St James	, Acton Trussell	All Saints	, Bednall			
Roge	er Howarth	Grete Willacy	Phil Clayton			
16, W	/ulfric Close	Meadow View	23 Follows End			
Pe	enkridge	Joyces Lane	Burntwood			
S	Stafford	Bednall Head	WS7 3QZ			
ST	19 5EW	Stafford	01785 682141			
0178	35 714527	ST17 OSQ	Email			
E	mail:	01785 661939	phil@phil-clayton.uk			
roger.howa	arth@ifdev.net	Email:				
		mmwillacy@gmail.com				
Churcl	nwardens of	Churchwa	Churchwardens of			
St. Lawrer	nce, Coppenhall	St. Leonard's, Dunston				
Mr. Robert Lawrence	Mrs. Amanda Horne	Mrs. Linda Pliva	Mr. Gary Pliva			
Croft House,	Kenilworth House,	2 Longridge Farm	2 Longridge Farm			
The Lane,	The Lane,	Levedale Road	Levedale Road			
Coppenhall, Coppenhall,		Dunston	Dunston			
Stafford.	Stafford.	ST18 9AL	ST18 9AL			
ST18 9BS	ST18 9BS	01785 715833	01785 715833			
01785 251293 01785 246960		Email:	Email:			
Email: Email:		lindapliva@aol.com	garypliva@aol.com			
robert@netfront.co.uk	horne1320@btinternet.com					

Appendix 1:

Acton Trussell and Bednall PCC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

(Accounts for 2023 will be available once approved by the independent examiners.)

	Unrestricted funds	Designated Funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Donations and Legacies	£43,850	-	£1,613	-	£45,463	£37,139
Charitable Activities	£11,166	-	£184	-	£11,350	£11,464
Other trading Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income from Investments	£1,647	£212	£131	£13	£2,003	£124
OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES	£1,183	-	-	-	£1,183	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£57,846	£212	£1,928	£13	£59,999	£48,727
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Cost of generating funds	£2,176	-	-	-	£2,176	£1,318
Charitable Activities	£42,633	£2,178	£549	-	£45,360	£37,700
Other costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	£44,809	£2,178	£549	-	£47,536	£39,018
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources	£13,037	(£1,966)	£1,379	£13	£12,463	£9,709
Net Gain/(Loss) on Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	£13,037	(£1,966)	£1,379	£13	£12,463	£9,709
Transfers Between Funds	- £45,204	£2,662	£42,548	- £6	-	-
Net Movement in Funds	- £32,167	£696	£43,927	£7	£12,463	£9,709
Total Funds Brought Forward	£124,160	£16,550	£13,155	£1,005	£154,970	£145,261
Total Funds Carried Forward	£91,993	£17,346	£57,082	£1,012	£167,433	£154,970

Dunston with Coppenhall PCC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

(Accounts for 2023 will be available once approved by the independent examiners.)

	Unrestricted funds	Designated Funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
RECEIPTS						
Planned giving	14,400	-	404	-	14,804	13,938
Collections and other giving	2,075	-		-	2,075	1,843
Other voluntary receipts	86	-	50	-	136	190
Gift Aid recovered	5,061	-	-	-	5,061	3,047
Other receipts	-	-	11,870	-	11,870	117
Activities for generating funds	496	-	266	-	762	470
Investment income	-	-	12,460	-	12,460	9,615
Receipts from church activities	2,956	-	1,738	-	4,694	3,080
TOTAL RECEIPTS	25,074	-	26,788	-	51,862	32,300
PAYMENTS						
Cost of generating funds	215	-	16	-	231	-
Parish Share	7,146	-	5,847	-	12,993	17,008
Clergy and Staffing costs	1,319	-	-	-	1,319	2,011
Church Running Expenses	1,636	-	6,656	-	8,292	4,614
Church Repairs and Maintenance	1,387	-	11,310	-	12,697	6,311
Governance Costs	-	-	68	-	68	128
TOTAL PAYMENTS	11,703	-	23,897	-	35.600	30,072
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	13,371	-	2,891	-	16,262	2,228
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December	62,573	2,374	19,674	127	84,748	68,745