

# St Chad's and St Alkmund's Shrewsbury



## The Parish Profile for A United Benefice

Autumn 2022



# An overview

## The United Benefice comprises

St Chad's with St Mary's (redundant) and St Alkmund's.

**Nature of Post:** Full time Incumbent for two churches having a significant wider ecumenical ministry in the town centre.

**Context:** Urban. Market town, tourism, light industry, farming.

**Location:** County Town, Shropshire. Welsh border, River Severn.

**Traditions:** Eucharistic, inclusive.

**Websites:** <https://stchadschurchshrewsbury.com/>  
<https://stalkmundschurchshrewsbury.wordpress.com/>



## Foreword from the Bishop of Shrewsbury

The Diocese of Lichfield is a diverse, rich and exciting place to live and work. It lies at the heart of England, not just geographically but culturally and socially. There are areas of spectacular natural beauty that sit beside the legacy of centuries of industry and commerce; areas of urban deprivation and rural poverty beside places of aspiration, growth and hope.

What unites us as a Diocese is the invitation to “Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad”. St Chad, the first Bishop of Lichfield, challenges us to humble, faithful and courageous mission in this part of the Midlands and in this generation. We are committed to the mutual flourishing of faithful Anglicans of all traditions, and to welcoming and honouring people of all backgrounds. We are inspired by our Diocesan Vision:

“As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the two million people in our diocese encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find God already at work in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities. We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as people of hope.”

We have identified three priorities as we seek to realise this vision more fully: to developing discipleship, encouraging vocation and inspiring evangelism. These priorities help us focus our work in all the varied forms of Christian life in the Diocese, in our parishes, Fresh Expressions, Schools, Chaplaincies and the Cathedral.

The priest appointed to the post of Vicar in the benefices of St. Chad, St. Mary and St. Alkmund would be accepting an invitation to join us in this pilgrimage of faith. We will do all we can to support you to grow as a disciple, deepen your vocation and be a confident bearer of the good news of Jesus Christ so that you are equipped and ready to do the same for those with whom you are called to share in ministry. Is God calling you to join us?

†Sarah, Shrewsbury



## Foreword from the Archdeacon of Salop

A Jesuit priest was once visiting Mother Teresa of Calcutta. He was invited to celebrate the early morning Holy Communion for the Sisters and as he came to place the sacramental bread in Mother Teresa's mouth he noticed a slight tilt in her head and a look of adoration in her eyes. Later that day he accompanied Mother Teresa when she went into the slums to visit the sick and frail in one of the centres run by the Sisters. As she knelt at the bedside of a dying man, he noticed the same tilt in her head and the same look of adoration in her eyes. He realised that the Christ whom she was adoring in the sacrament was the same Christ whom she was adoring in the needy.

St Chad's and St Alkmund's are looking for a Vicar who will show the same dual forms of adoring Christ. They need someone who will see Christ in the sacramental worship of the church; who will delight in the rich liturgical tradition of these two churches; who will encourage others to worship and adore him in the beauty of holiness. They need someone who, holding in creative tension the preaching of the Word and presidency of the Sacrament will nurture and inspire the people of God.

But equally importantly they need a Vicar who will tirelessly go outwards looking for the lost, the least and the last. A priest who will initiate and sustain new ways of expressing compassion towards the needy whatever form their vulnerability might take – spiritual, material, mental or emotional. A priest who will draw others who bear the name of Christ to embrace and enlighten the needy with a new awareness of God's love for them.

Let me change the analogy but not the emphasis on a two-fold tension. Ben Zander, sometime conductor of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, once expressed his disappointment in a pianist's performance of Chopin. It was wooden and formal. 'The problem with you,' he blurted out, 'is that you are a two-buttock player.' He could see that the pianist was not passionate and excited by the music but sat bolt upright as he played. 'You need to become a one-buttock player' he added, 'swaying with the music in your whole body.'

If you are passionate enough to sway to the music of Christ's presence both in the sanctuary and the street, we want to hear from you. But if you are settled in pursuing one form of ministry at the expense of the other you will not be in step with these two churches. They are on the move and want to honour Jesus both in their worship and in the world beyond it.



**Paul W. Thomas.**

## Foreword from the Area Dean, Shrewsbury and Wrekin Deanery

The last two years have been a real challenge. We have been discovering new ways of doing church and working out how to respond to the changes in the world around us. In our newly formed deanery, we have seen some wonderful examples of reaching out and serving our communities. This is an exciting time to be thinking about moving to Shropshire.

Shrewsbury is a beautiful and historic town. It is a gem in an area that is close to the Welsh border, but equally only two and a half hours away from London using local rail links. This opportunity would bring the right candidate to the centre of a vibrant community, to work alongside two parishes who are ready for the challenge ahead. You will get to live in a well maintained 4-bedroom vicarage at the heart of the town centre.

In the wider deanery you will meet supportive and kind colleagues. We have just joined two deaneries together and this allows us to build on the solid relational foundations that have been built over many years, but deepened significantly during covid. Our deanery has been looking at the challenge of ‘Shaping for Mission.’ As a deanery we have highlighted five priorities which we will be working on together going forward – new housing, fresh expressions, deepening our spiritual life, collaboration and partnerships, and ministry to children, youth and young adults.

You will meet a benefice who have faced recent adversity, met it head on, and have come out the other side with a renewed passion, a sense of unity and a sizable heart for mission. This profile will give you the differing flavours of both worshipping communities. It will show that they are committed to collaborative ministry and expect to be working with you in a collegiate manner. We need someone who can help move these communities forward in worship, discipleship and mission. Both buildings are open, and both communities are open to what the future may bring.

I believe that this appointment brings with it a significant pioneer and missional opportunity. It is a great location for anyone who has a passion to make Christ known. We want someone who is kingdom focused, missionally motivated, and who can work strategically, ecumenically and with the wider community to bring ‘value added’ to the centre of Shrewsbury. The opportunities are many, the needs significant, and the co-workers in these parishes assure me they are ready for the challenge.

As one worshipper recently commented: ‘The Holy Spirit seems to be on the move.’ What a great opportunity to come and join in with what God is already doing? If you would like to have a chat about this post, then please do ring me on 01952 252078.



**Rev. Andy Ackroyd**

# Introduction from the Wardens

Thank you for reading this profile and for considering whether God is calling you to our benefice.

St Chad's and St Alkmund's have embarked on a journey during the current vacancy following our previous incumbent's unexpected return to her native New York. The whole landscape has shifted since the last parish profiles were written in 2018, witness among other things that this is the first ever unified Profile for the two parishes. Much of what was written then is no longer true and the churches find themselves in a very different place. This is partly the result of the pandemic plus the fact that there was a vacancy in 2018, and the incumbent who arrived in 2019 left in the summer of 2021 having spent most of her time living within Covid restrictions. The current vacancy has given the churches a wonderful opportunity to confront fundamental and longstanding challenges. These were not just simply financial issues related to some of the buildings and fabric but involved asking existential questions about who and what St Chad's and St Alkmund's were for within 'the economy of God'.

The good news is that we believe God's Spirit has been at work and that the churches, emerging from a complacent decline, are in the process of being remade. Though remaining separate, the two PCCs have been collaborating in the interregnum; aided and abetted by whatever is the collective noun for a team of experienced retired clergy, we have addressed these questions and begun to discern where God is leading.

The Benefice is now addressing all five of the Diocese of Lichfield's mission themes:

· Discovering the Heart of God · Growing Disciples · Reaching New Generations · Transforming Communities · Practising Generosity

We pray that the next incumbent will be a God-led person who is excited by the idea of building our faith, of praying with us, and helping us to discern and take the next steps on our journey.

*Joanna Hepper, Susan Kelly, St Chads Church*

*John Clark, Liz Raven, St Alkmund's Church*



# Recent Initiatives and Future Possibilities I

**Daylight - Discovering the heart of God and growing disciples.** The formation in August 2021 of this group called Daylight was really the lynch-pin from which so much other recent growth has emerged. Loosely based on the Lichfield-based Community of St Chad and led by Chris Walker, about 18 of the congregation committed themselves to, broadly, *lectio divina*. We aim to meet monthly. Seeking to discern the activity of the Holy Spirit in our own lives and in others, members of the group have experienced a deepening of their individual and corporate life of prayer and worship.

**Discipleship initiatives** during the vacancy include:

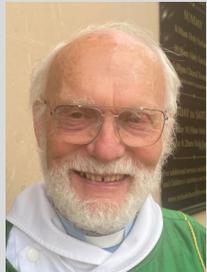
*Along the road with Jesus.* In Advent 2021 some Zoom meetings to discuss incidents in Luke's gospel, with Gavin Williams.

*The Gospel Weekly* – Since Advent 2021, two of our clergy have written a commentary on the gospel for the week. It is emailed to members of Daylight and posted on St Chad's website.

*Zoom prayer group* - Meets on Wednesdays at 7.50am.

**Sunrise – Transforming communities and practising generosity.** Growing out of Daylight has developed a desire to be more deeply involved in the life of the town and to pray for it. Links have been renewed with the local Council, social services, Street Pastors, the Food Hub, and the Shrewsbury Ark (a charity working with the homeless and most vulnerable). In January 2022, more than fifty volunteers from 8 different churches came together in rotas to provide breakfast for rough sleepers in Shrewsbury. This ecumenical venture has evolved as the needs of the homeless have changed, and this year there is also a Ukrainian refugee situation to address in Shrewsbury, as well as the cost of living and energy issues in the last month or two. Hence....

Helping the **homeless, lonely, impoverished:** following Sunrise, an initiative is under way, working alongside the URC and Baptists, again with the agencies listed above, to try to establish a multi-agency response to any in need. One church cannot do it all. The initial meeting in St Chad's was on October 8<sup>th</sup> 2022; it is in its infancy and is under development. Existing provision is being mapped out and once the gaps have been identified we will try to fill them.



Chris Walker

Gavin Williams

Alex Aldous



# Recent Initiatives and Future Possibilities II

**Yellow Ribbon Community Chaplaincy and 8SC – Transforming lives.** St Chad's has recently offered food, prayer and financial support to Alex and Rachel Cama and the ex-offenders they are mentoring on a nearby housing estate. Rachel works part-time for Yellow Ribbon. Alex is a lay pioneer.

**Refugees:** both churches continue to support work with Ukrainian refugees - hosting, feeding, working with other support networks, fundraising. This is ongoing.

**Schools and Colleges – Reaching new generations.** Two local schools now regularly use St Chad's for services at the start and end of their school year. Chester University (Shrewsbury Campus) and Shrewsbury FE College have both come for graduation ceremonies. St Alkmund's has links with a junior school. We believe there is scope for further development here – to involve more schools (there is a list in the 'living in Shrewsbury' section) and to invite smaller groups to explore the churches and to learn about the Christian faith and some history of Shrewsbury. It would be good to explore whether we could work with the Rev Fi Iddon who is the Chaplain to the University Centre in the town centre. She is also Assistant Area Dean and Associate Vicar at Trinity, Meole Brace.

**Ecumenical work with other churches and other faiths.** As well as Sunrise, we work with CTIS (Churches Together in Shrewsbury) and contact is growing with the Imam of a nearby mosque.

**Pastoral Care.** A team drawn from both churches was hard pressed during the pandemic to maintain the level of care previously offered, but it is renewing its sense of direction; at bi-monthly meetings a list of contacts and concerns is reviewed and a visiting rota established. Liz Raven (warden, St Alkmund's) and Anne Flint (St Chad's) can say more.

Both churches have good acoustics and flourishing **concerts programs**. Anyone inclined to do so can enjoy two free professional lunch time concerts a week; the stage is also given to rising stars. We hope to host a music festival for schools and to provide more opportunities for university students to perform music.



# Human Resources

More great news for the new incumbent is that both churches are experiencing renewal and change even without an incumbent. Nettles have been grasped. Responsibilities have been embraced. This means there are teams in place and both are a going concern. Volunteer succession will always be a challenge, but if loved and supported, we are blessed with the most valuable part of any church, good human resources. Each parish has its own PCC, which includes a member from the other church and both PCCs have reps on Deanery Synod and other bodies.

**The Retired (and semi-retired) Clergy** vary in age from 89 to 61 and are a wonderfully mixed bunch in terms of churchmanship (from high to low), musical ability (from choral singers to the tone deaf) and are amazingly willing to continue to serve God's people to the best of their ability. Alex Aldous, Jason Clarke, David Jenkins (exclusively at St Alkmund's), Robert Parsons, Stan Swift, Chris Walker, Gavin Williams, and Martin Wilson.

## Some St Chad's office holders

Churchwardens – Susan Kelly and Joanna Hepper, Treasurer – Susan Kynaston, Parish Secretary – Philip Lapage, Safeguarding Officer – Martha McKirdy, Director of Music and the Choir – Tony Pinel and assistant Richard Walker.

## St Alkmund's office holders

Churchwardens - John Clark and Liz Raven, Treasurer - Andrew Cross, Honorary Secretary - Stuart Sutton, The organist - Jeremy Lund and Events manager - Caroline Thewles.

There are many more volunteers in both churches: our thanks go to them all.

**Staff:** St Chad's has nine part time members of staff whom the Incumbent will manage. The Director of Music works for 25 hours a week,. The Parish Administrator works for 20 hours a week. There is also an Assistant Director of Music who voluntarily arranges the Friday Concert programme and who plays at services. Five part-time paid Car Park Attendants work mornings, Mon-Sat; they open up the church and are a friendly presence as well as collecting valuable income. A church cleaner is employed for nine hours a week and a hall cleaner for three hours a week. Neither St Alkmunds nor St Mary's have any paid staff.



**The Vicarage** is immediately adjacent to St Chad's church, within easy walking distance of the town centre. It is also directly beside the lovely Quarry recreational ground, which hosts the annual Flower Show and other events through the year as well as being a delightful open space bordered by the river in the middle of the town. A walk through the Dingle garden within the Quarry is particularly attractive.

Standing within its own walled and fenced garden, it is a purpose built 1960s two-storey brick and tile construction. There are 4 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen and a dining area. There is double glazing and gas central heating. The large office and downstairs WC are separated from the living quarters. There is ample car parking for up to four cars and a garage.

The vicarage has a wonderful location for town ministry. The Diocese has let out the vicarage commercially during the vacancy; fittings and maintenance are good.

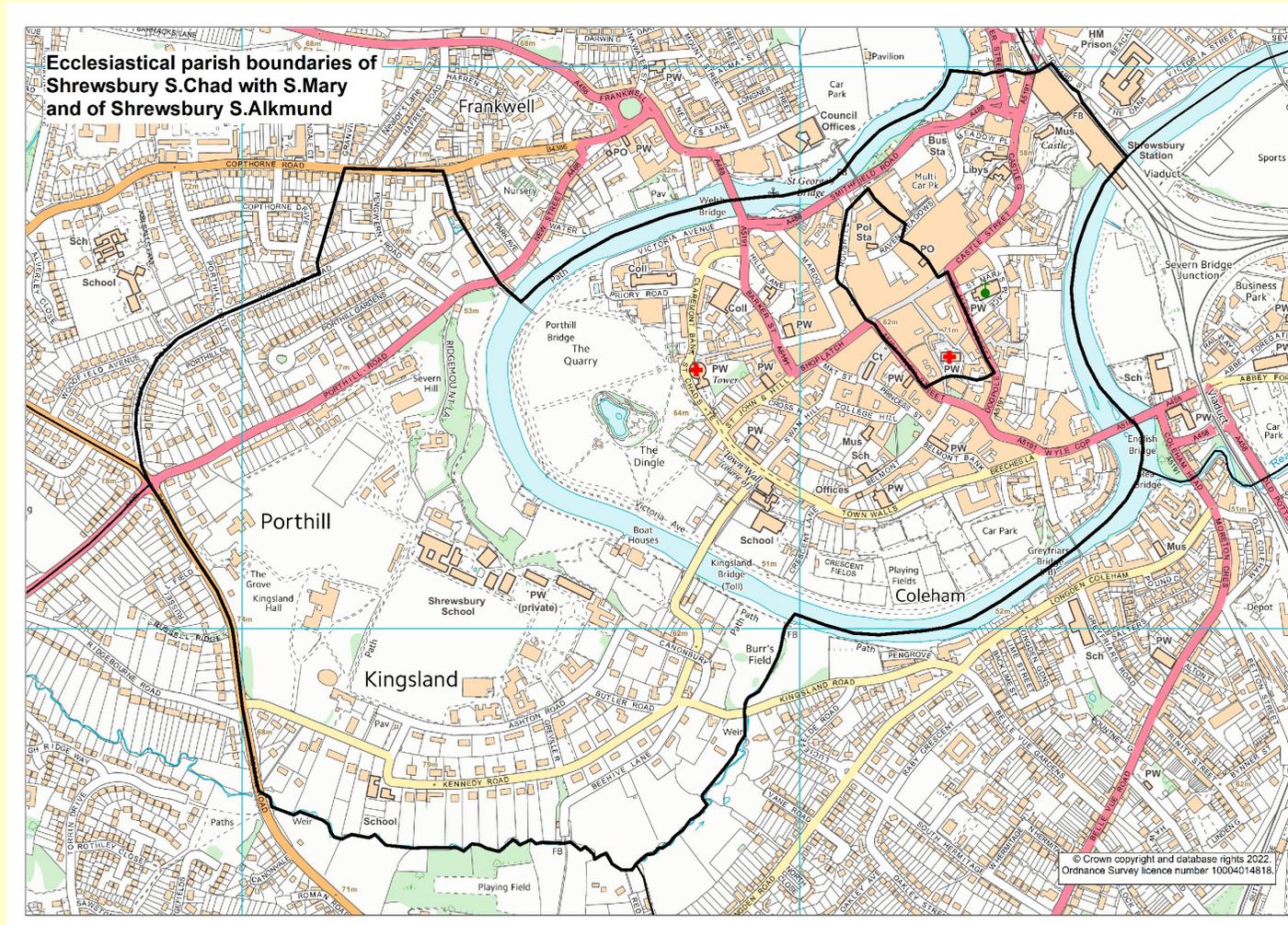


# The Parish boundaries

Shrewsbury is the county town for Shropshire. Its population is increasing. There are marked contrasts in economic and social wellbeing within the parishes.

The United Benefice covers the town centre and St Chad's boundary, curiously, entirely encircles St Alkmund's. Most of the property within the river oxbow is retail, commercial and hotel, with some established town houses, flats and a few new residential properties. Over the river there is a small residential area, which includes property for elderly residents, and a large school. By 2035, one third of Shropshire's population will be over 65, against a national average of one quarter.

Although the population of the combined parishes is small (around 3,000) the footfall of tourists, visitors and more recently the needy is very significant; before covid St Chad's had an annual visitor footfall of about 50,000 and St Alkmund's about 10,000. With the Ukrainian war and the death of Her Late Majesty, numbers are back up again, possibly in excess of that.



It is worth noting that the majority of the congregations in both churches come in from outside the parish boundaries! There is plenty of evangelistic scope within them.

## St Chad's

**Spiritual activities:** What has grown out of the pandemic has been a renewed commitment to prayer which has brought about much of the recent church growth. There is a renewed spiritual hunger in and around the church: visitors and volunteers are drawn in. As well as the initiatives mentioned above, we have responded to national and world events by organising special services that have offered comfort and welcome in a place of peace. These have been well attended. There are opportunities yet to develop further teaching, study and growing disciples within the church as well as wider outreach in the town, schools and hospitals.

**The Congregations** on Sunday total about 100, with an increasing number of itinerant members swelling the numbers. Regular members of the congregation say they have enjoyed the rich variety of ideas and differing worship styles offered by the rota of retired clergy during the vacancy. Although some walk to church, a significant proportion drive from outside the parish. Some come from as far as Wem (11 miles) or Church Stretton (13 miles). There is about the same number again – perhaps more – who attend the Friday concerts and lunch; there may be evangelistic scope here.

The Electoral roll stands at 134.

### **Worship on Sundays:**

8am Eucharist. Common Worship, Order One (traditional).

10 am Sung Eucharist. Common Worship, Order One (contemporary). Coffee is served in the church hall afterwards. Once a month there is a joint 10am service with St Alkmund's; its location alternates between the two churches. It works well.

6pm Choral Evensong. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month is different, eg a Taize style service.

Teams of servers, stewards and sides people help and there is a rota for reading lessons. Just as important are the sound team, flower arrangers and volunteers for the coffee rota.

**On Wednesdays**, 10.30am Morning Prayer (led by a churchwarden). Before the vacancy this was a Eucharist. Also, the Daily Office was said at 8.00am and 5.00pm before the pandemic; the PCC are working to restore both of these.

We are registered as dementia friendly.



**Occasional Offices.** 2021: 5 weddings, 2 baptisms, 3 funerals, 2 committals.

2022 to date: 7 baptisms, confirmation of 2 adults, 4 weddings, 2 blessings, 3 funerals, 1 committal.

**Special Services and the Christian Year:** The Incumbent of St Chad's is Chaplain to the Town Council, to offer prayers at Full Council meetings; also to preside at annual Civic Services in St Chad's, such as the swearing in of the Mayor, and a Remembrance service with military representatives. Because of the pandemic and the interregnum, this may take some rebuilding. In 2022 a Methodists' Ordination service took place in church. At a Platinum Jubilee service the Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor were joined by the local Imam and his son. The Mayor also attended a service in memory of Her Late Majesty. There are well attended Advent and Christmas carol services, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services. Ascension Day and Corpus Christi are also celebrated.

St Chad's was the first parish church to sign the **armed forces covenant** and annual events such as Remembrance, Battle of Britain, and others give us the opportunity to welcome serving and retired personnel to the church. **St Aidan's Chapel** is the memorial chapel for our local regiment; it contains the revised Great War Roll of Honour for Shropshire, commissioned by the church in 2014.

**The Choir** plays an important role in both our worship and civic function. It is the responsibility of Tony Pinel, the Director of Music in consultation with the Vicar. The Choir has some very accomplished singers and produces music of high quality. It is hoped that a youth choir with both boys and girls can be restarted.

**Visitors** are always welcome; many come to the Sunday services. A stewards' rota provides a welcome and information during the week. Prayer requests via a drop-box are incorporated into Sunday worship.

**Concerts:** On Fridays from February to Christmas there is a lunchtime concert which usually features visiting musicians. With an audience of between 70 and 100, it is followed by a light lunch in the church hall, giving an important social opportunity for some of those who are older and live alone. Though few of the regulars attend services, they have formed a supportive community. On **some weekends**, we also welcome highly acclaimed international performers, and play host to groups including Shrewsbury Choral Society, Cantata choir, etc. There are close links between St Chad's and the Shropshire Music Trust who promote many of these concerts. There was an annual **Darwin Lecture** in the recent past, put paid to by the pandemic. It is hoped to restart this.

Being in the **Greater Churches Network**, St Chad's offers much, though this can be developed.

We are a member of the **Inclusive Church** network.



**Bell ringing:** There is an excellent ring of 14 bells and an enthusiastic team of ringers for both the Sunday services and practice on Tuesday evenings.

**Visits and Volunteering** - we are pleased to host school visits and to provide volunteering opportunities for young people.

**The PCC** - The relatively new PCC is forward looking and optimistic in faith. It comprises two dedicated wardens, a proficient treasurer, an energetic secretary and four enthusiastic others. We are helped by a paid part-time parish administrator, and a very efficient volunteer book-keeper. Prayer has helped us to develop a new outward looking vision for ministry in the town which is evolving and growing fast. Special collections and other donations are part of our mission.

**Safeguarding** is taken seriously. Transparency and collective ownership underpin the approach. A full statement is on the website; we are working in line with current guidelines from the diocese.

**Communications:** The website is kept up to date. The Twitter account **@StChadsShrews** is active with around 3000 followers; the Churchwardens and Administrator post. The Parish Administrator maintains email databases for the distribution of electronic pew sheets and details of concerts. The parish office is staffed most mornings, otherwise there is an answer machine **01743 365478** or email on **[info@stchadschurchshrewsbury.com](mailto:info@stchadschurchshrewsbury.com)** Urgent pastoral concerns can be phoned to a mobile carried by a warden on duty; the number is on the pew sheet and the website.

**The church building** is a Grade I listed Georgian building with a circular nave. It is a unique airy space, built in the 1790s using the then new-fangled cast iron as pillars. Seating around 1200 people it has the largest capacity of any building, sacred or secular, in Shropshire. The beautiful iconic building is visible from almost all over Shrewsbury and is open daily.

The **Church Hall:** is a 30m walk from the church, through the car park. It provides space for church activities like coffee after the 10am on Sundays, lunches for the Friday concert audience, or teas during the annual Flower Show in the Quarry. Sunrise use the hall for work with the homeless; its kitchen area is registered with and certificated by the Food Standards Agency. It is often hired out commercially.



**Two other properties:** we have the beneficial use of 1 St Chads Terrace, a town house in the Georgian terrace close to the church; the Director of Music currently rents a flat in this house in connection with his role in the parish, and the ground floor of that building is the parish office. The St Chad's Cottage, yard and garages, just below the vicarage, provide a useful source of income.

Much has been done to the **Building and the Fabric** of the church in recent years and we have an ongoing maintenance and repairs programme. The current project is updating the boiler and heating controls. Attention will soon turn to the outer vestibule roof which needs major repair and re-leading; the ceiling will also need to be replaced. We are assisted financially in all this by the **The Friends of St Chad's**, a registered charity set up in 1982 to preserve, adorn and maintain the fabric, furnishings and ornaments of the church in-co-operation with the PCC. That said, a significant fund raising effort for the church roof will be necessary to supplement the financial assistance offered by the Friends. The Friends also promote public interest in the building.

For further details, please see their website <http://www.thefriendsofstchadsshrewsbury.uk/> or ask Ian Somervaille, one of its trustees, who is also a member of the congregation.

**Finances:** The newly elected PCC inherited a balance sheet which showed historic arrears owing to the diocese. Thanks to a comprehensive financial review (ongoing), significant help from the diocese and the fact that our contribution to the Common Fund is less by about £1000 per month than the old Parish Share, the projection is for us to be clear of debt by March 2023. A steady income is generated by the car park, two properties, the hiring of the church and the hall, and individual giving; however The Common Fund, wage bills, energy bills, insurance and other outgoings pretty much swallow up all the income, and we are keeping a very close eye on things. Further details from the treasurer, Susan Kynaston. There is a spreadsheet in Appendix 1 giving a breakdown, and the annual return to the Charities' Commission is on the website. Charity number: 113244



Three of our friendly car park attendants, Jeff, Phil and Scott.

# St Alkmund's

**Spiritual Activities.** Further to the Initiatives (above) in which many St Alkmund's people participate, there is a monthly interdenominational meeting in the church for meditation, involving between 15 and 25 people. Lenten classes and spirituality teaching programmes are organised by the PCC and the churchwardens - these frequently feature the views of different Christian traditions or of other faiths. During Lent 2021 these took place on-line. Pastoral care to elderly and others is provided jointly with St Chad's – our churchwarden Liz Raven is a good contact for this.

We are open daily and we regard the provision of a peaceful place for prayer and contemplation in a busy town centre as a major part of its purpose. Following lockdown we ensured that the building reopened daily as soon as permitted. There is a significant daily footfall. Opening and closing is shared between various local supportive business individuals in return for parking. We encourage visitors to make prayer requests and these are incorporated into our Sunday liturgy.

## Our worship

Sunday 10am: Eucharist, Common worship with hymns.

A young school choir sings once a month in term time.

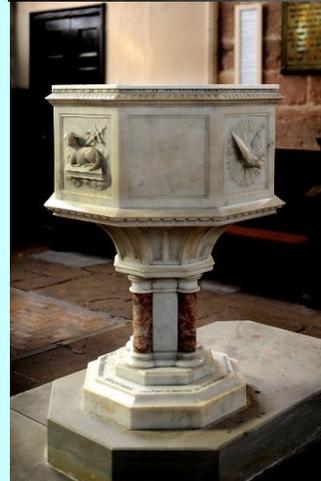
There is a core of 25 or so regulars and visitors can swell the numbers to twice that.

Coffee is served afterwards.

Thursday 10.30am: Eucharist, Common Worship. Attendance varies between 5 and 12.

Occasional baptisms, weddings, funerals, thanksgiving services.

We have valued and enjoyed the broad range of churchmanship provided by the retired clergy. We also value the joint services, held monthly with St Chad's. Special services include a Town Centre carol service (100+ attending, held outdoors in the churchyard), Stations of the Cross and a Harvest Festival. We are also registered as a 'Dementia Friendly Church'



**The congregation.** We seek to form a strong community into which visitors are welcomed. Our congregation is one in which everyone contributes and in which healthy and vibrant discussion takes place after the service. All who can, take part in preparing for special services and events and to assist in church cleaning. The annual Summer Fair generally involves virtually all members of the congregation, and most of us also take part in our annual Parish Outing and Harvest Supper.

More than half the congregation is over 50. Very few live within the town centre, but we are united by a mixture of historic family loyalties, preference for an unadorned form of worship and recognition of the importance of maintaining a church building that enhances the area in which it is set.

The Electoral roll is close to 30 but there has been a recent inflow of new worshippers.

**Cultural and outreach.** In May 2021 lunch time concerts and talks restarted. Audiences have expanded considerably once released from the pandemic-controlled maxima and there has been a lunch time concert or talk on nearly every Tuesday. There is no charge but donations have been incredibly generous; in 2021 we raised close to £1000. We have supported the Disasters Emergency Fund in aid of the people of Ukraine to the tune of £6000. The Tuesday concerts continue successfully thanks to the skill and enthusiasm of our Organist (Jeremy Lund) and Events Coordinator (Caroline Thewles), supported by willing church members. We actively support the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust through the arrangement of Open Gardens events every second year.

We have also continued to make the church available for hire to local choirs, orchestras and charities at minimal cost.

**The organ** was placed in St Alkmund's in 2007 on long term loan from the Royal School of Church Music. A children's choir is being developed and at present takes part in special services.

St Alkmund's is the church of the Shropshire Army Cadet Force and maintains strong links with the Shrewsbury Draper's Company.

**The PCC** meets formally about 5 times a year, and informally most Sundays. Input from any member of the congregation is always welcome.



**The large rectangular church building**, Grade 2\*, dates from 1795, though its tower is 14<sup>th</sup> Century; it is the sole remaining property of St Alkmund's. It has been well restored and the present condition of the building is good. It also has a study room, a modern kitchen area, toilets and two disused upstairs rooms. Its location in a green and peaceful churchyard set in the heart of the town encourages its use for quiet contemplation as well as regular worship. Replacement of the gas boiler is an active project.

**Finances:** The Church is debt free with a modest positive bank balance and the Parish Share is fully paid. Our overall financial policy is to maintain a balance of the order of £20,000 to ensure that matters can be dealt with before they become emergencies. For major works targeted fund raising is necessary. Apart from some solar panels on the roof (yielding about £700 pa) we do not have any regular external sources of income and rely on regular collections and our own fund-raising activities to meet our financial objectives.

The website is kept up to date.

## St Mary's - redundant

**St Mary's** is a magnificent mediaeval church with notable stained glass. Situated between St Alkmund's and the railway station, it was made redundant in 1987 and is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. The PCC of St Chad's retains responsibility for the churchyard and the incumbent decides who can hold services in the building. Up to six services are held each year, for example by the Friends of St Mary's and the Shrewsbury Drapers Company; more than six would require special permission.

<https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/visit/church-listing/st-mary-shrewsbury.html>



# The New Incumbent: The Post

The full time Incumbent is appointed to both St Chad's and St Alkmund's, and it is anticipated that a proportion of the post will be taken up with Town Centre ministry: chaplain to the Town Council, supporting The Ark, Street Pastors and other Ecumenical initiatives. A willingness and ability to engage with other leaders and field-workers in this respect is essential.

We are excited to welcome someone who can lead us in a changing church. Our new incumbent is not expected to do it all, indeed there is a widespread realisation that that would be undesirable and probably impossible. Importantly, having taken a good look at ourselves, our prayer life and worship has led us to look outwards. There is now a growing appetite for prayerful Spirit-inspired change, albeit a significant number of the congregation are not as young in body as they used to be, and consideration of volunteer succession is relevant. An ability to lead and manage a team in a changing church is very important.

We would also love to discover what ideas you can bring to our evolving churches. It is a notable feature of the vacancy that it has released people to take initiatives, and other initiatives are yet to emerge. Together, how can we help them to grow? And, we need to ask where the gaps are in the mission. How can we engage more with the (few) residents? We pray for a person having the God-led vision for the parishes in the context of the town centre.

St Chad's financial turnover is given in Appendix 1, and there are a good number of paid employees. A grasp of finances and an understanding of appraisal processes would be an advantage. St Alkmund's finances are given in Appendix 2.

We would welcome applicants from a wide spectrum of experience and sectors.

Days off, parish expenses, time for retreats, holidays and spiritual direction are, of course, available.



# The New Incumbent: The Person

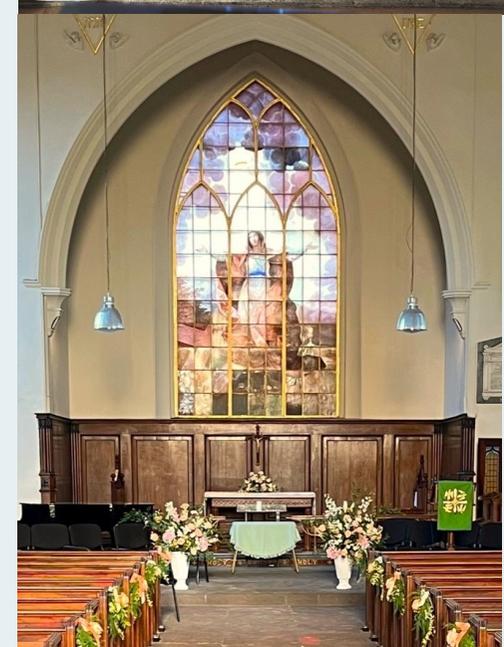
With Galatians 5.22-23; Colossians 3.12-17 and Romans 12 in mind:

We hope and pray for a gifted communicator who, by the way in which they live as well as by what they say, teaches us to grow in love and service of God and our neighbour.

We hope and pray for a pastor who visits the sick and elderly and works with others involved in the wider ministry of the churches to the town.

We hope and pray for a wise steward of all resources - people, buildings and parish finances, with the ability to bring about change when this is considered necessary.

The ability to work collaboratively, encouraging and enabling others to use their gifts is essential. An eye for detail and the ability to use electronic communication are desirable.



# Living in Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury is a delightful place to live and work, so much so that, once having moved here, most people stay. Others who were brought up here and have worked in London or elsewhere return to the area to bring up their family. The departure of the last two incumbents to other roles, one to be an Army Chaplain and the other to be an Associate Dean at Berkeley Divinity School, may be the exceptions that prove the rule. There are some very good reasons why people move to Shrewsbury:

**Education** - Shrewsbury has schools rated by Ofsted as good or excellent.

[Woodfield Infant School](#), [Coleham Primary School](#), [St George's Junior School](#), [The Priory School](#), [Meole Brace School](#), [Shrewsbury Colleges Group](#). Local independent schools include [Prestfelde](#), [Packwood](#), [Shrewsbury School](#) and [Shrewsbury High School](#).

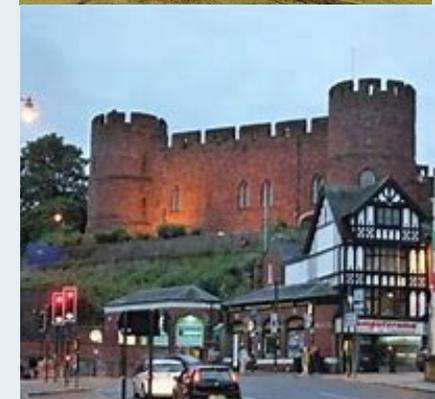
**Cultural** – There are two cinemas, a theatre and a growing number of places to eat. Shrewsbury Town FC has a smart new stadium. There is an annual Flower Show in August and summer concerts (Madness and Belinda Carlisle played in July 2022) in the Quarry. The annual Shrewsbury Folk Festival takes place over the late August Bank Holiday weekend at the Showground.

**Retail** – There are excellent independent shops and a market hall a short walk from the vicarage. The big supermarkets (Sainsbury's, Aldi, Lidl, Morrisons, Tesco) are in various retail parks on the edge of town. Waitrose will deliver.

**Sport and the great Outdoors** – The Vicarage is a stone's throw from a rowing club, a tennis club, gyms and the town swimming pool. For ramblers or more serious scramblers and climbers, it is a short drive to the beautiful Shropshire Hills; Snowdonia and the Black Mountains are an hour or two by car. There are cycling clubs to suit all abilities.

**Transport links** – The station is a ten-minute walk. Trains to Birmingham New Street take one hour. There are direct trains to London Euston once a day (2h30m) or regular services via Crewe or Birmingham. There are direct lines to Chester, Aberystwyth, Hereford and Cardiff, mid-Wales and Swansea. Airports in Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester can be reached by car in an hour and an hour and a half respectively; there is a convenient train service direct to Birmingham International airport.

For more about the joys of living in Shropshire see <https://www.visitshropshire.co.uk/>



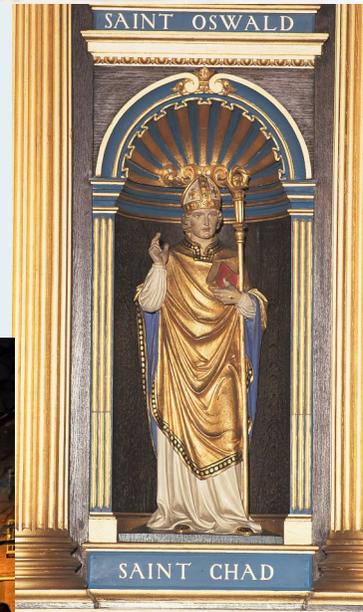
**We very much hope you will apply.**

We would encourage you to talk to one of the churchwardens.  
Please ring

Sue Kelly (St Chad's)  
07890 920376

or

John Clark (St Alkmund's)  
07939 236150.



## Appendix 1: Finances, St Chad's (1)

<b>ST CHAD'S - INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2020 (£)</b>	<b>2021 (£)</b>	<b>2022 (est £)</b>	<b>2022 (est %)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Collections, donations, stewardship & gift aid	83,368	77,539	93,000	53.8%	Lent Appeal donations counter reduced stewardship. Post Covid increases in collections and donations No repeat of large 2020 legacy income
Legacies	27,000		1,000	0.6%	
Car park income, net of post furlough staff costs	20,427	17,313	28,000	16.2%	Rates increased & staff hours cut by 40% from May 22
Investment income from property rentals	20,185	21,010	21,000	12.1%	Rental of No 1, St Chad's Cottage & car parking spaces
Income from fees and Church and Hall hire	3,334	13,174	20,000	11.6%	Fee and hire income depressed during Covid lockdowns
Net concert income, after concert expenses	1,700	3,265	10,000	5.8%	Reinstated Friday concerts are a great outreach activity
Christmas Tree income/(costs)	(588)	(153)	0	0.0%	Outreach, rather than a fund raising, activity
<b>INCOME, NET OF DIRECT GENERATING COSTS</b>	<b>155,426</b>	<b>132,148</b>	<b>173,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	
Parish Share/Common Fund payments*	62,874	65,868	58,500	36.9%	Common Fund lower than previous Parish Share
Post-furlough music, admin & cleaning salaries	41,423	40,409	42,500	26.8%	Director of Music, Administrator and two cleaners
Gas, electricity and water	13,795	9,963	15,000	9.5%	Increases due to higher costs and increased usage
Repair and premises costs	14,862	12,370	12,000	7.6%	Budget runs at £1,000 per month
Insurance	9,450	9,542	10,500	6.6%	Increased insurance premium
Office, phone and computer costs	5,031	4,374	6,000	3.8%	Post Covid - Church open for most of 2022
Music and choir costs	3,151	4,985	6,000	3.8%	Post Covid - Church open for most of 2022
Other costs	2,866	6,730	4,000	2.5%	Candles, wine, wafers, Clergy and other Parish expenses
External examination of accounts	2,220	2,250	2,500	1.6%	Provides independent review of volunteer accounts team
Mission giving			1,000	0.6%	St Chad's re-instated mission giving in 2022
Interest paid	863	608	600	0.4%	On Diocesan loan which is due to be fully repaid by Mar 24
<b>EXPENSES, NET OF FURLOUGH RECOVERIES</b>	<b>156,535</b>	<b>157,099</b>	<b>158,600</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	
<b>NET EARNINGS/(LOSS) BEFORE DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>(1,109)</b>	<b>(24,951)</b>	<b>14,400</b>		
<b>DEPRECIATION OF BUILDINGS</b>	<b>(13,000)</b>	<b>(13,000)</b>			<b>Property revaluation due so no depreciation in 2022</b>
<b>EXCEPTIONAL WRITE OFF OF ARREARS</b>			<b>14,839</b>		<b>Lichfield Diocese £1 for £1 match repayment benefit (est)</b>
<b>EARNINGS AFTER DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>(14,109)</b>	<b>(37,951)</b>	<b>29,239</b>		

\* St Chad's pays 90% of the benefice's Common Fund, St Alkmunds pays 10%.

## Appendix 1: Finances, St Chad's (2)

ST CHAD'S - ASSETS & LIABILITIES	2020 (£)	2021 (£)	2022 (est £)	Comment
<b>Buildings - Church Hall and No 1 St Chad's Terrace</b>	<b>585,000</b>	<b>572,000</b>	<b>620,000</b>	<b>Property revaluation due in 2022 - assumed Church Hall valued at £200,000 and No 1 at £420,000</b>
<b>Current assets</b>				
Stock	3,000	3,000	3,000	Stationery, wine, books, candles etc
Debtors	15,601	17,438	17,000	Mostly Gift Aid recoverable and some outstanding fees
Cash at bank	51,832	40,753	35,000	Balances reduced by repayment of Parish Share arrears
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>70,433</b>	<b>61,191</b>	<b>55,000</b>	
<b>Creditors (short &amp; long term)</b>				
Parish Share arrears	11,738	32,678	3,000	St Chad's is paying about £1,100 a month off the arrears and has received a few one off gifts to reduce the balance. Lichfield Diocese is matching 2022 repayments £1 for £1
Diocesan loan from 2014 Building & Beyond campaign	15,530	10,579	5,500	Final instalment due to be paid in Feb 2024
Other creditors	10,806	11,274	10,601	Outstanding bills due at end of year
<b>Total creditors</b>	<b>38,822</b>	<b>54,531</b>	<b>19,101</b>	
<b>NET ASSETS (EXCLUDING BUILDINGS)</b>	<b>31,611</b>	<b>6,660</b>	<b>35,899</b>	<b>Assets have reduced but liabilities have reduced more</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS (INCLUDING BUILDINGS)</b>	<b>616,611</b>	<b>578,660</b>	<b>655,899</b>	<b>Much of this increase is due to property revaluations</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds	436,611	402,660	455,899	Representing est £420,000 value of No 1& net assets of £35,899
Endowed funds (Parish Hall)	180,000	176,000	200,000	Representing est £200,000 value of Parish Hall
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>616,611</b>	<b>578,660</b>	<b>655,899</b>	
* Although No 1 is treated as an unrestricted asset, it cannot be disposed of without the permission of the Diocese and some sale proceeds would have to be shared with the National Church. The Trust under which it is held also has Covenants as to what use can be made of the building.				

### Outlook for 2023

Current and anticipated inflation in utility bills, staff costs and contract prices will put considerable pressure on Church cashflows if there is no matching increase in income. Income is sensitive to the loss of one or two major donors and loss of property rental income should one or more of the leases be surrendered. The prospects of being able to save any significant amounts in non-staff related costs are limited.

## Appendix 2. Finances, St Alkmund's church (1)

<b>ST ALKMUND'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL</b>				
<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021</b>				
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Bank Current Account		21992.27		6924.96
Bank Deposit Account		19125.41		19123.50
Bank Current- Restoration Account		53.65		44.65
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>41171.33</u>		<u>26093.11</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><b>£41,171.33</b></u>		<u><b>£26,093.11</b></u>
 <b>Represented By:</b>				
<b>General Fund</b>				
Brought forward at 1 January 2021	12348.82		30438.60	
Surplus (2020 Deficit) for the Year (page 2)	<u>15069.22</u>		<u>-18089.78</u>	
Carry forward at 31 December 2021		27418.04		12348.82
<b>Vicar's Contingency Fund</b>				
Brought forward at 1 January 2021	665.00		665.00	
Received in year	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
	665.00		665.00	
Spent in year	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
Carry forward at 31 December 2021		665.00		665.00
<b>Restricted Fund (Restoration Fund)</b>				
Brought forward at 1 January 2021	13079.29		13043.29	
Surplus for the year (page 3)	<u>9.00</u>		<u>36.00</u>	
Carry forward at 31 December 2021		13088.29		13079.29
<b>Accumulated Funds as at 31 December 2021</b>		<u><b>£41,171.33</b></u>		<u><b>£26,093.11</b></u>

## Appendix 2. Finances, St Alkmund's church (2)

ST ALKMUND'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL				
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021				
General Bank Accounts				
	2021	2021	2020	2020
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
<b>Church Collections</b>				
Ordinary	13962.54		10654.22	
Donations	7135.92		301.00	
Special collections/christenings	100.00		0.00	
Funeral Donations	120.00		0.00	
Funeral fees-net	340.00		217.00	
Wall Boxes	681.66		402.22	
		<b>22340.12</b>		<b>11574.44</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>				
Harvest Supper	205.50		0.00	
Fair	120.00		0.00	
		<b>325.50</b>		<b>0.00</b>
<b>Sundry Receipts</b>				
Insurance claims	8189.36	-	-	0.00
Gift Aid /Covenants/tax refunds	2426.50		3285.84	
Bank Deposit Interest	1.91		10.52	
Key deposits	0.00		55.00	
Room Hire and Sundry Receipts	1585.00		430.00	
Concerts/Lectures	2984.00		250.20	
Photovoltaic FIT payments	319.20		452.54	
Organist fees	0.00		100.00	
Sequestration monies received	270.00		0.00	
		<b>15775.97</b>		<b>4584.10</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£38,441.59</b>		<b>£16,158.54</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Water charges	3.95		99.72	
Gas	545.28		1547.81	
Electricity	291.64		363.93	
Repairs/Renewals/Organ Tune/safety testing	10783.40		19606.33	
Parish Share	5814.00		6343.00	
Printing/Stationery Inc Magazine	57.89		223.53	
Subscriptions	150.00		100.00	
Insurance	4374.82		4368.49	
Flowers	0.00		67.70	
Candles/Wafers/Wine/Palm crosses	0.00		135.13	
Organist expenses	560.00		485.00	-
Clergy expenses/sequestration	373.00		0.00	
Funeral fees	46.00		0.00	
Cleaning	12.50		0.00	
Vicarage repairs/gardening	0.00		560.00	
Sundries/bank charges	359.89		115.68	
Website/advertising	0.00		232.00	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£23,372.37</b>		<b>£34,248.32</b>
<b>Excess of payments over receipts</b>		<b>£15,069.22</b>		<b>-£18,089.78</b>

## Appendix 2. Finances, St Alkmund's church (3)

<b>ST ALKMUND'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021</b>		
<b>Restoration Bank Accounts</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Donations	9.00	36.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>£9.00</u></b>	<b><u>£36.00</u></b>
<b>Payments</b>	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>£0.00</u></b>	<b><u>£0.00</u></b>
<b>Excess of Receipts over payments</b>	<b><u>£9.00</u></b>	<b><u>£36.00</u></b>