



Financial Statements & Review of the Year 2024

Parish Church Council of St Columba, Crosspool, Sheffield.

Charity Reg No 1128336



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The PCC present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The PCC have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial and Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

Administrative Information

The Church of St Columba is situated on Manchester Road, Crosspool, Sheffield. It is part of the Sheffield Diocese.

The correspondence address is:

The Church of St Columba, 503 Manchester Road, Crosspool, Sheffield S10 5PL.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a registered charity with the Charity Commission since 2 March 2009. Registered Charity 1128336.

PCC members who have served throughout the year 2024 are:

Ex Officio members:

Vicar: The Revd Tracey Morris

Reader & Focal Minister: Steve Ellis (also chair of Finance and Fabric)

Children & Family

Worker & Focal Minister: Tara Osborne

Wardens: Jacky Hodgson
Steve Ellis

Deputy Warden: Richard Wales
Brenda Nelson (Safeguarding)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Heidi Adcock
Jacky Hodgson

Elected Members: Eddie Sherwood (Treasurer)

Clare Fowler (Secretary)
Michael Nelson (resigned)
Jan Rose (resigned)
George Wild
Andrew Burkinshaw
Heidi Adcock
Briony Broome
Rebecca Ley
Chris Ellis

Stephen Hill Representative: Trevor Wilson (resigned)

Electoral Roll Officer: Peter Brown

Structure, Governance and Management

The Standing Committee consists of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Secretary, Chair of Finance and the Treasurer. Where necessary the Standing Committee may review the planning of any major campaign, but there has been no need to meet during 2024.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll (currently 70 in number) and stand for election to the PCC. There is no formal training offered to members of the PCC but guidance can be and is provided by colleagues and the Diocese as required. The booklet, "Trusteeship: An Introduction for PCC Members" is provided and discussed with all PCC members. Allocation to sub-committees is based on their areas of interest and specialism. Currently the only sub-committee, whose membership consists of PCC members, is Finance & Fabric.

All members of the PCC give their time freely and no remuneration was paid in the year. Details of expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 5 to the accounts. The PCC met on 4 occasions in 2024 (two of those jointly with Stephen Hill Church Council), and the Finance & Fabric and Joint Leadership Team each met regularly.

Our Risk Management policy is to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for all our employees, casual labour and voluntary helpers, and to provide such information, training and supervision, as they need for this purpose. We will also endeavour to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all members of the congregation, contractors, visitors and others who may visit the church, its surrounding grounds and any associated buildings.

The allocation of duties for safeguarding and safety matters and the arrangements that we will make to implement the policies are set out in the Safeguarding and Health & Safety Documents currently in force. These policies and the way in which they operate will be reviewed regularly

and the appropriate changes made. Employees and voluntary workers will be consulted on a regular basis to seek their views on these matters.

Objectives and Values

The Primary objective of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrine and practices of the Church of England. St Columba's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

This primary objective is shared as we continue to develop our partnership with Stephen Hill under the overarching covenant between the Circuit and the Diocese.

Shared Values for St Columba and Stephen Hill

We are a community that endeavours:

- To respond to God's love through worship, prayer and service
- To be friendly, inclusive and welcoming; celebrating human diversity in all its richness
- To create space for people to ask questions and grow in their faith through openness, struggle, prayer, laughter and worship.
- To engage with our local area, city and world; committed to promoting justice, peace and solidarity.

These values were summarised by the following phrases which go on the newssheet:

Worshipping God // Including all // Space to explore // Promoting justice

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of the community of St Columba's and Stephen Hill.

When planning our activities for the year the Vicar and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Review of the year

Worship, prayer and fellowship groups

We continue to worship in Stephen Hill and St Columba's churches, alternating on a weekly basis, having settled on the first and third Sundays at St Columba, and second and fourth at Stephen Hill, and alternating fifth Sundays.

The first Sunday of the month's services have been re-titled "All Together" to reflect the fact that we do not run children's groups separately from the main worship on those Sundays, but we are all together as one community of many ages.

We are blessed to have a rich resource of folk able to lead and preach, including Rev Tracey, Steve Ellis, Neil Craig, Tara Osborne, Rev Louise Yaul, Rev Dr Chris Ellis, John Parker and the Stephen Hill Worship Team. From January to June, we were joined by Hannah Chester on a placement during her ordination training, who led services, preached, and supported Tara

with some of her children's ministry. Hannah organised and led our Easter morning daybreak service. We also welcomed occasional guest local preachers from the Methodist Circuit. As well as the usual seasonal themes, we covered Christian Aid Week. A particular highlight was the Covenant Celebration Service in November, when we were blessed to have both Circuit Superintendent, Rev Romeo Pedro, and Archdeacon Malcolm Chamberlain with us. In this service we renewed our promise to each other and were recommissioned by Malcolm and Romeo to continue together as one church on two sites.

Marilyn Ellis has been working with the leadership to develop our musical ministry. The music team is expanding, and we have welcomed several new members. We have started a new monthly music evening, on the first Thursday of the month. This is open to anyone who would like to sing or play an instrument, learning new songs and hymns, as well as practising well known ones. Marilyn is working hard to help develop a mixed, diverse music during worship, where the songs and hymns reflect the message that God is bringing to us and help us to engage with God's presence.

Our ministry to Cairn Home, a monthly home communion, continued. These are facilitated by Lis Selwood, a care worker there and former member of our congregation, and Steve Ellis leads these.

The Tuesday pastoral prayer group continues its faithful weekly prayer time.

Funerals

Steve and Tracey had the privilege of ministering to bereaved families and conducting 17 funerals in 2024. Steve also led a memorial service for bereaved families on a Sunday afternoon in October.

Focal Ministry

Steve and Tara continue this ministry, supported by the leadership team. One aspect of this ministry is driven by the term 'Community Focussed'. This is fulfilled as Tara facilitates Family Fun Friday and does a weekly lunch club as well as an assembly at Lydgate Junior School, and has led an assembly at Birkdale Prep. She has also been covering extra schools' work whilst Suzanne Nockels has been off.

As well as monthly communion at Cairn Home, Steve has been engaged in supporting Kathy Markwick's Friendship Lunches at The Sportsman, and in liaising with the Social Prescribers promoting this as well as the Living with Loss group. Steve's funeral ministry also serves the wider community, with John Heath's Funeral Directors knowing we will conduct funerals for families not necessarily connected to our churches. He has also developed relationships at the Hallam Football club, who are pleased to offer wakes and after baptism functions...we have had one baptism service as a result of this link.

Living with Loss

This group started in July 2019. The vision for it was originally to be able to provide ongoing support for bereaved relatives following funerals. However, the invitation is to anyone struggling with any kind of loss, such as loss of job or independence, as well as bereavement.

The group meets roughly once a month. There is no agenda, and we meet over drinks and snacks, and chat about life. Those attending are a mixture of folk, some who are church members, some from other churches and some who are not involved in church at all.

Some of the key features of the group are:

- It is very diverse and full of life
- It's informal and unstructured (sort of!)
- There's no pressure to attend
- There's no pressure to talk or share experiences
- It's not at church - it's in a very welcoming and loved home
- There have been a lot of laughs
- Leaders/Facilitators make ourselves available / accessible and part of the conversations
- It connects with other ministries, e.g. Funeral follow up, Cairn Home
- It sits alongside the other community focussed stuff - Tara's work, the joint pastoral prayers, the Carers' and Memory Cafés, etc - it has the same ingredients

Church and Community Development Worker

Sue's role continued to develop this year. In addition to general administration work, she strengthened friendships with hirers and community groups, took on a joint leadership role for the monthly Family Fun Friday evenings, and assumed a key role in co-ordinating the new dementia friendly 'Crosspool Memory Café' which started in December, bringing together a team of volunteers, organising dementia training, and publicity for the event. She has also been proactively promoting the monthly Friendship Lunches at The Sportsman, circulating information to local shops, care homes, surgeries etc. She also continued to be a vital help in safeguarding administration across both churches.

Links with the NHS

Our links with the Primary Care Network (PCN) remain strong and we have developed working relationships with the social prescribers who rent the Jim Johnston room (above the main church entrance) as a base. They have referred patients to our Living with Loss group, and to The Sportsman Pub's monthly Friendship Lunch which we support.

In April the PCN re-formed as W5PCN's 5-year contract came to an end. W3PCN was created, comprising Broomhill, Crookes, Lodge Moor and Selborne Road Surgeries, while City View PCN was formed comprising Manchester Road, Walkley House and Upperthorpe surgeries. The three Social Prescribers using the Jim Johnston room are now employed by City View, and W3PCN have employed another Social Prescriber. The City View team continue to rent the Jim Johnston room as a base.

A meeting is planned in 2025 with the new Clinical Director of W3PCN and their Social Prescriber to discuss developing mutual working in the community.

Community Engagement and User Groups

We were involved in the planning of the annual Crosspool Festival, Tracey blessed the well dressing, and we hosted events in both church sites.

Pilates, Imagine Theatre Company, the W.I., Bloom Baby Classes and Minimovez continued, as did the quarterly Forum meetings, occasional Local Area Committee meetings, and we were pleased to welcome a U3A fortnightly chess club.

We continued to host one-off events such as children's parties, Yoga, and fund-raising evenings for various projects.

It is fair to say that all our regular and one-off/occasional users have been hugely grateful for the love and support shown by all the church community.

Early in the year we were asked to help with a weekly Friday lunchtime event aimed at those with issues of social isolation, memory loss etc. by The Sportsman. This event did not sustain but led to us being asked to support a new monthly Friendship Lunch at the pub, also aimed at those of a certain age with issues of isolation and memory loss. This continues and links well with our dementia friendly café which had its first monthly happening in December. Supporting this new Memory Café are 16 volunteers from the community, many of whom were volunteers during our Covid vaccination clinics; staff from Zest, who have also provided some grant funding; and of course our own team including Sue, Briony, Jacky and Steve.

Looking Forward

As we look forwards into 2025, we do so with hope and enthusiasm. The community has grown and the connection between St Columba's and Stephen Hill has gone from strength to strength. The two church councils have begun working together and there will be more joint council meetings coming over the next year. With so much going on in the world and in the wider Church, our call to be a place of refuge is becoming more and more important. We will continue to focus on this as well as strengthening those connections that we have with the community, whilst also looking at where God is calling us next. We believe that every person in our church community should be valued and able to bring their gifts and passions. We will be continuing to seek ways of including others in serving. Managing finances continues to be a challenge, which is a common story for many. We are always so grateful for the money we receive from people. We will be praying for more resources to help maintain and sustain the buildings and pay for much needed support in children & youth work, and administration. We would appreciate your continued support and prayer for the councils as they look for guidance in the challenges ahead. We know that God walks with us and we seek to listen to His voice and discover His will in our place.

Rev Tracey Morris & Steve Ellis

Wardens' Report 2024

Revd Tracey Morris has continued to lead us as Priest in Charge of St Columba's, Minister of Stephen Hill and Oversight Minister for Crosspool and Lodge Moor. Congregation numbers have grown again over the year, and the addition of further musicians has continued to bring variety to our worship.

We are grateful to Steve Ellis, Tara Osborne, Louise Yaull, Neil Craig, Chris Ellis and the Stephen Hill Worship Team for their roles in leading and preaching alongside Tracey, and in the case of Steve and Tara in particular for their vital work in reaching out to our local community. We are also thankful for Tara's ongoing work on Sundays and during the week with our children and families.

Steve Ellis took over from Richard Wales as warden at the APCM in May 2024. Both Richard and Brenda Nelson have continued as deputy wardens during the year, offering much valued support and experience - thank you, Brenda and Richard, for all you have done and continue to do.

As we grow together more and more as a single congregation, we are also very appreciative of the work of Mary Parker and the team at the Stephen Hill site for all the shared activities that we take part in together.

We are also grateful to Sue Stew who has been working with us as Church and Community Support Worker since January 2023. Sue's work offers a valuable resource for the leadership team and provides essential support for the church's community-facing activities, especially Family Fun Friday and the Crosspool Memory Café.

We would like to express our thanks to Eddie, our treasurer, for the huge amount of work he continues to do for us; to Clare, our PCC Secretary, who is also part of the SacREd Space, AV, intercession and Eco Church teams; to Briony for her pastoral work; to Heidi for the beautiful flower arrangements she provides for both churches; to Debbie, our cleaner; to those who help on Sundays by operating the PowerPoint, doing Bible readings and intercessions, providing drinks after the service and so many other activities; and to all members of the congregation who have offered their unfailing support over the last year, including those who cannot take an active role but offer invaluable support, prayer and encouragement.

Jacky Hodgson, Richard Wales, Steve Ellis and Brenda Nelson

Pastoral Report

St Columba's is a warm and welcoming community. The congregation is a valuable resource, caring for and supporting each other and those in the community whether they are members of a church or not. They understand the importance of hospitality and ensure that visitors to the church as well those who use the building are looked after. Some church members have known each other for many years and conscientiously stay in touch with each other, including those who have moved away or whose situations have changed.

We are fortunate to have close links to Crosspool's many groups and activities, especially Care in Crosspool, our local good neighbour scheme that has its office at St Columba's and is a huge asset to our community.

Over the last year our Carers Café has continued to grow. The meetings are organised in partnership with Sheffield Carers Centre, and we meet every month at Stephen Hill Methodist Church. The group includes carers from Fulwood, Crookes and Stannington and sometimes further afield. This year we've welcomed a range of speakers including the Incontinence

Service, South Yorkshire Police and the Herbert Protocol and more recently, the Social Prescribing Teams working in GP practices. We've met socially and been out for Christmas lunch together. The most important part of the meeting is the opportunity it provides for our carers to share their concerns and experiences with each other.

Many of our carer's support someone living with dementia and we have become aware that dementia has become an issue that touches many lives in Crosspool. In 2023 we started to discuss the possibility of a regular afternoon where carers could bring their loved ones and have some time together, with refreshments, crafts and music. There is a great deal of support for this initiative across the community and we are delighted that a team at St Columba's has taken the initiative forward this year.

Briony Broome

SacREd Space

The theme of SacREd Space for 2024 was WEATHER. The team of Adrian Scott, Monica Sutton, Anesia Nascimiento-Cook, Heather Schofield, Fiona Watson, Clare Fowler and Tracey Morris continued to alternate simple services based on the liturgy of Compline with services including music, poetry, pictures, silence, ritual and reflective practices looking at Frost – Beauty and the ending of winter, Showers – the awakening of the earth and rainbows, Sunshine – the Longest Day and the ripening of the green world, and Storms – facing into the weather.

We have seen more people attending this year including many outside our regular Sunday morning congregation so we appear to be meeting a need for a quiet space in busy lives. SacREd Space takes place on the second Sunday evening of each month and all are welcome.

Clare Fowler

Open Room Sessions

During 2024, small groups have continued to meet regularly via Zoom to share, learn and discuss, following a rolling programme on the themes of:

- *The Bible through Middle Eastern eyes*, led by Kate Cornwell and Neil Craig
- *Hard times require furious dancing*, led by Clare Fowler and Jacky Hodgson
- *Wrestling with angels*, led by Briony Broome and Steve Ellis

We have continued to meet on Zoom rather than in person because some of those who attend are not members of the St Columba's and Stephen Hill congregation, and do not necessarily live locally.

Jacky Hodgson

House Group

Our house group meets once a month at George's home. The evening is relaxed and informal- there are around eight of us and we've been delighted to welcome a new member this year. We open with a prayer or reading and then we share the bible study. We discuss the passage and share our thoughts and questions. George often prepares handouts with maps of the places we are reading about, or we might watch a short film that illustrates the chapters we've read. This year we've studied the letters of James and Peter and John's Gospel.

George leads our final prayers and brings the study to a close.

Around 9 pm, we enjoy a welcome cup of tea and a splendid array of biscuits and catch up with everyone's news. We all value this time together and our caring fellowship.

George Wild and Briony Broome

A Church Year in Flowers Report 2024

We have continued to celebrate with flowers at the St Columba and Stephen Hill Church Community this year. These displays also generate much-needed voluntary donations to church funds and help make our churches beautiful.



A 2024 highlight was making two Advent Wreaths in the Children's Blast Kids session - wiring a frame with Crosspool moss and using home-grown bay, holly and ivy. With a little bit of Christmas tree they both looked great through to New Year.



We enjoyed a traditional Remembrance Wreath in November using bay and rosemary. In addition we welcomed a range of tributes requests during the year to remember those loved but no longer with us.



We continue to choose British flowers where possible. We have also trialled new, more sustainable, biodegradable, eco-friendly 'Oshun' pouches and chicken wire and glass vases to improve our carbon footprint having moved away from florist foam.



As part of an eco-church floristry campaign, we supported a Diocesan-wide floristry workshop event at St Luke's Lodge Moor, led by Helen at (Evolve Flowers, Lincolnshire which has provide church British flowers and foliage for many years). The event, designed to encourage all Church Flower enthusiasts to be more sustainable, was very well received. We hope to run something similar in autumn 2025.

Heidi Adcock

Safeguarding

At St Columba Church we are committed to the safeguarding and care of the vulnerable within our church

We have adopted the safeguarding policy and best practices of the Church of England, guided by the diocese of Sheffield. The St. Columba safeguarding policy was discussed by the PCC and accepted in September 2024. This is reviewed annually and displayed on the Church main notice board along with photographs on myself as Safeguarding lead and Tara Osborne – Children's advocate. Contact details are also included as well as those for the diocese safeguarding team.

On 17th November 2024 we held our annual Safeguarding Sunday service at St Columba Church. Each representative was invited up to the front of church, so the congregation were reminded who they were. It was emphasised that safeguarding is everyone's concern. We are supported by 31:8 taking its name from Proverbs 32:8 "speak out on behalf of the voiceless and the rights of all who are vulnerable" 31:8 is an organisation that give advice, guidance, training and carries out DBS checks.

All members of the PCC and relevant persons, hold a DBS. Most members of the PCC are up to date with safeguarding training CO, C1 and domestic violence awareness. Safeguarding is on the agenda of every PCC meeting.

We continue to display for all Church users, links to all our safeguarding policies and contact details.

Brenda Nelson

Sanctuary

During 2024, John Norman faithfully continued to care for the sanctuary at St Columba's by changing the frontals in the worship area to fit the changing church seasons, and providing candles as needed for Easter and Advent. John also acted as "glass collector" during services of Holy Communion, and continued to share his extensive knowledge of sanctuary matters with other members of the team.

Jacky Hodgson

Music Report

Over the past 18 months we have added to the existing team of singers and instrumentalists who help to lead sung worship at Sunday services. In the autumn of 2023 there was an open invitation to participate in a Saturday 'Music in Worship' workshop, where a range of song material was explored. Following that, there has been an opportunity for anyone who wishes to do so to share in a monthly Thursday evening session, where we have learned new songs to add to the repertoire used in worship. A few of those attending these sessions have also joined the Sunday team; others who prefer not to do that play an equally important part by helping to lead the singing from wherever they are standing in the congregation.

Thanks are due to all those who contribute to leading sung worship by sharing their musical gifts and giving their time week by week.

Marilyn Ellis

Mission and Outreach Committee and grants and charitable giving

During 2024, St. Columba's maintained its close relationship with two specific sets of overseas mission workers, currently based in Uganda and Thailand, in addition to providing more general support to a wide range of charities at home and abroad. The relationship is based not only on financial donations but on prayer and regular contacts by e-mail and other forms of communication as available.

Our support for Jason and Tracy Day, our Church Mission Society (CMS) partners and their children, Ruby and Libby, began in 2007 before they moved to Thailand from Tansen Nursing School in Nepal. Some 5 years later Jason was offered a post with OMF (Overseas Mission Fellowship), a partner organisation of CMS, using his extensive experience in human resource management to provide support for Christian mission workers in many parts of East and South-east Asia. This has been a major challenge as many of the workers are in areas where Christian evangelism is discouraged, and they may be in danger of persecution for their work. Tracy has worked in various volunteer roles as well as prioritising caring for their two children but now has extra responsibility as Child Protection Officer for OMF. They repeatedly express their thanks to St. Columba's for the support they receive from both the Church as a whole and from individual members. They have maintained close friendships with members of the congregation via e-mails and regular link-letters as well as visits to Church during their trips home. Extra financial support was provided for Ruby as she has now moved to the UK to study at Capernwray Bible School.

Links with our current East African MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) partners Geoff and Celia Linkletter began in 2015. They live near Kampala in Uganda where Geoff is an aircraft maintenance engineer at Kajansi, while Celia works in the MAF Office there and leads a local house group among her other activities. Their daughter, Mim, is at school locally. Geoff's work is crucial in MAF's efforts to develop links with remote parts of Uganda and neighbouring countries where organisations such as UNICEF provide economic, medical and educational facilities to refugee camps and other needy areas.

As in previous years, recommendations have been made to PCC concerning the annual distribution of grants from Church income given to local, national and international charities we support. Details of charities helped in this way in 2024 are given below. In addition, various other charitable donations have been made during the year in response to particular appeals.

In line with our desire to give 10% of our general income in grants, the PCC authorised £9,000 to be given to local, national and international charities which we support. Details of charities helped in this way in 2024 are given below. In addition, various other charitable donations amounting to £1,800 have been made during the year in response to particular appeals, including collections made at some special services. The Firvale food bank is an example of this, where £860 was donated by our congregation in 2024.

PCC Grants Allocation 2024

Charity	2024
Alzheimer's Society	£270
Buzz Child Contact Centre	£270
Care in Crosspool	£270
Cavendish Centre	£200
Christian Aid	£1,040
City of Sanctuary	£630
CMS (mission partners)	£2,160
Macmillan Nurses	£180
MAF (mission partners)	£1,530
Mary's Meals	£180
Open Doors	£270
Practical Action	£450
Sheffield C.C.C.C.	£540
Sheffield Downs Syndrome Support Group	£180
St. Luke's Hospice	£450
Taste	£200
UK Sepsis Trust Ltd	£180
Total allocation	£9,000

Jacky Hodgson /Eddie Sherwood

Eco Group

2024 saw the start of our Eco Group, a new activity focussed on making our Churches more sustainable and embedding eco themes in worship and decision making, whether covering finance or fabric, community activities or our own lifestyles.

The full group and various sub-groups have met several times, initially working towards accreditation of both sites as “Eco Churches”.

It’s a major job but really important. As Christians we should be thinking about the climate catastrophe, its unequal impact and the injustices generated; these will be ongoing themes in our lives. Anyone inspired to know more or be involved please contact me.

Clare Fowler

Children and Families Work 2024

Lydgate School Assemblies

The Head of the school (Mrs. Hurding) has now got a great connection with me and lets me plan and speak about any subject at all in the assemblies I take. I have been going twice a month over the year. I always plan with the Trinity in mind. I speak on something connected with the curriculum, the convention on the rights of the child, and Faith moving forward.

Family Fun Friday

This group meets once a month on the first Friday of the month and has been doing very well through 2024. The numbers of families attending are varied but it is well attended as they really do enjoy coming along. Each month has a different theme in every session from Sep 2024 going right through to July 2025 so that the families can try to relate and connect better with this group and feel like they have some ownership in it. Sue has been meeting monthly with me, and we share ideas and resources. We are truly grateful for all the volunteers and the time they take to come early and pray and stay late to tidy away. A massive thank you.

Blast Kids

Meets on the 2nd and 5th Sunday of the month in both St Columba and Stephen Hill Church. In Blast Kids in 2024 we have been following the same theme as in the main service. That way the children can connect with their family and discuss the same subject. Over 2024 we have had a hand full of children attend this group and it really does vary each week. The great news is the children's faith has developed/grown and most of them want to get baptised or are already baptised. This is really encouraging to hear and see, God’s kingdom growing. One of the young people has even got involved in volunteering in ‘Breath Deep’ 2025 to encourage other youth on their journey. This is nice that they have taken that step of Faith for themselves. So, please do continue to pray for the children. Even though they are small in numbers they are mighty in Faith.

Godly Play

Meets on 3rd Sunday of the month. This is usually at St Columba Church as we have a Godly Play stage. I really enjoy doing Godly Play with the children as I feel it really opens their faith to wonder and ask questions. We are hoping for the Children to help lead an All Together Godly Play session in January 2025 about the Church Clock. It is nice to be able to do an All Together services with Godly Play in, so more of the congregation can connect more spiritually and do some faith wondering. Godly Play Resource Centre is open all the time to borrow from and if anyone wanting to borrow resources, just needs to get in contact with me. Then we arrange to meet and let the person borrow a Godly Play Story. Please pray for this to be a support to others and a space to connect with the wider community.

Lydgate Junior Craft with Meaning Lunch Club

Since September 2023 I have been invited into School on a permanent basis to run a lunch time club on whatever I wanted. So, I came up with Craft with Meaning this is a lunch time club open to all pupils to come and make a craft but with a meaning behind it. I go to Lydgate school every Thursday and to do lunch Club. This has been a great engagement with the children and staff. It is a different craft every week with real meaning behind it. It has shown connection/explore with in the Faith aspect.

This happens in the main canteen area where I see all the children in the school, and they get to connect with me over craft and talk about their life and God and their week. This is such a blessing to be involved in. Please do pray that it can continue to grow in conversations about faith. Going into 2025 I have encouraged the children to share their talents in craft and together we are sharing it with the rest of the school for everyone to enjoy. This has really connected the children and invested them into the group.

Bumps, Babies and Bairns Playgroup

This group meets every Tuesday during term time. This group is something I am a part of and enjoy seeing and connecting with so many carers and babies. They enjoy play time, craft time and snack time with nursery rhymes at the end, it is great that Chloe has been involved more on a volunteer basis and Val enjoys leading the singing. We all work together as an effective team to put on this great playgroup. You can really tell this helps so many people connect and talk and encourage each other. It is a joy to be a part of.

All Together Service

I have just started back in the All Together service since September 2024. It is nice to be involved in a great new leadership team and share our talents with the wider congregation.

Please do pray for all the children and family work seen and unseen.

Many Thanks Tara :-)

Financial Review 2024

The unrestricted funds income for 2024 totalled £105,787. (2023: £106,994) and this is detailed in the financial statement. Planned Stewardship Giving through envelopes and bankers orders has seen an increase from 2023, reflecting increased numbers attending church regularly. Planned Giving, excluding tax recoverable, was £55,287 (2023: £50,826); and gift aid giving, including tax recoverable, was £56,496 (2023: £52,936). Our income from cash collections was close to last year, being £2,061 compared to £2,109 in 2023.

This year, we have continued to promote the hire of our facilities for community use. This has led to income in 2024 of £13,371 compared a total of £11,986 in 2023.

A total of £112,530 (2023: £103,526) was expended from unrestricted funds before exceptional items, including the common fund contribution to the diocese of £40,751 (2023: £38,272). Our partner, Stephen Hill Methodist church also contributed to the cost of ministry via the common fund. The church's overall giving in support of charitable work within and beyond the parish, both church and secular, was £11,352 (2022: £10,378), which accounts for around 10% of our ordinary income. Beneficiaries receiving £500 or more are detailed in the financial statement. The gross income from the flat at 20 Moorbank Rd in 2024 was £7,055 (2023: £7,599).

The investment portfolio value at year end 2024 was £275,734 (2023: £284,708). This consists of shares and cash managed by Finn & Co, and the CBF Church of England investment and Deposit funds., Finn & Co continue to manage our portfolio with our requirement to avoid being associated with any direct investment in tobacco, gambling, fossil fuels, arms, and weaponry. We continue to strive for an ethical and eco-friendly portfolio.

Full details of all these investments can be provided to church members on request.

The net result for the year was a deficit on unrestricted funds of £3,555 (2023: £13,503 surplus); this after accounting for gains of £3,188 on investments (2023: £10,035 gains)

The net result on restricted funds was £328 deficit (2023: £nil). The balance carried forward on restricted funds totalled £6,045 (2023: £6,373)

The total amount of unrestricted funds has decreased the last year to £484,593 (2023: £488,508); and the total amount of restricted funds at £6,045 (2023: £6,373). Combined, our total funds as at 31/12/2024 were £490,998 compared to £494,881 in 2023.

Reserves and Designated Funds policies.

In November 2020 the PCC introduced a designated funds policy to replace the legacy policy. It also reviewed and updated the reserves policy. Both policies determine how we spend the investments held by the church. It is PCC policy on reserves to maintain a balance on funds which equates to six months payments. This is equivalent to around £55,000. We have retained investment of £64,454 in the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

In 2024 we anticipated a high drawdown of around £41,000 of our designated funds to help towards the costs of children's work and other mission and capital priorities. However, we only required £20,000 to ensure we were able to meet all our financial commitments. This use of £20,000 of designated funds (other than that held in our current account) compares to £0 in 2023, £15,000, in 2022, £0, in 2021, £15,000 both in 2020 and 2019; £35,000 in 2018 and £62,000 in 2017.

Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF)

Church of St Columba (Crosspool) (PB 2014) participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. The Scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has a section known as the Defined Benefits Scheme, a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic and a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

The Pension Builder Scheme of the Church Workers Pension Fund is made up of two sections, Pension Builder Classic and Pension Builder 2014, both of which are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension for members for payment from retirement, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Bonuses may also be declared, depending upon the investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum that members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. This account may have bonuses added by the Board before retirement. The bonuses depend on investment experience and other factors. There is no requirement for the Board to grant any bonuses. The account, plus any bonuses declared, is payable from members' Normal Pension Age.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The employer and employee contributions to the pension's costs charged to the SoFA in the year are £1,659 (2023: £2,429; 2022: £1,797; 2021: £1035; 2020: £946).

A valuation of the scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent scheme valuation completed was carried out as at 31 December 2016. A valuation as at 31 December 2019 was under way as at 31 December 2020.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a deficit of £14.2m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose not to grant a discretionary bonus, which will have acted to improve the funding position. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £1.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, the Church of St Columba (Crosspool) (PB 2014) could become responsible for paying a share of that employer's pension liabilities.

Members' responsibility for the financial statements

The members of the PCC (Members) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the members to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The members are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on _____ and signed on their behalf by

...../ Church Wardens

Parish Church Council of ST. Columba, Crosspool, Sheffield

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of

Parish Church Council of ST. Columba, Crosspool, Sheffield

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 21 to 28

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- ☐ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- ☐ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: _____

Craig Williamson
White Rose Accounting for Charities
The Ghyll
Threapland
Aspatria
CA7 2EL

Date: _____

Parish Church Council of ST. Columba, Crosspool, Sheffield

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Notes			£	£
Income					
Income from					
Donations and legacies	2	73,213	-	73,213	72,379
Charitable activities		16,985	-	16,985	14,049
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-
Investments		18,089	-	18,089	20,566
Total Income		108,287	0	108,287	106,994
Expenditure					
Charitable activities		115,030	328	115,358	103,526
Total expenditure		115,030	328	115,358	103,526
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(6,743)	-	(7,071)	3,468
Net gain/ (losses) on investments		3,188	-	3,188	10,035
Net income / expenditure		(3,555)	0	(3,883)	13,503
Total funds brought forward		488,508	6,373	494,881	481,378
Total funds carried forward		484,953	6,045	490,998	494,881

Parish Church Council of ST. Columba, Crosspool, Sheffield

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

		2024	2023
	Notes	£	£
Fixed Assets	4	-	
Tangible fixed assets		160,000	160,000
Investments		275,734	284,708
		<u>435,734</u>	<u>444,708</u>
Current assets			
Debtors and prepayments	5	11,443	11,139
Short term deposits	6	27,728	27,728
Balance at bank and cash		18,013	13,970
Total current assets		<u>57,184</u>	<u>52,837</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(1,921)	(2,665)
Net Current assets		55,263	50,172
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>490,998</u>	<u>494,881</u>
Total net assets		<u>490,998</u>	<u>494,881</u>
Represented By			
FUNDS			
Unrestricted income fund		484,953	488,508
Restricted		6,045	6,373
		<u>490,998</u>	<u>494,881</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on _____ and signed
on their behalf by

Church Wardens

Parish Church Council of ST. Columba, Crosspool, Sheffield

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (effective from January 2015 and updated with effect from January 2016) - (the Charities SORP (FRS102)), as modified for smaller charities.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined under FRS102.

Income

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid or otherwise is recognised only when received. Collections are recognised when received by, or on behalf of, the PCC. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income to which it relates is recognised.

Grants and legacies are counted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is probable. Income from the use of the church's premises and investment income is recognised when it becomes due and payable.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets the criteria is identified to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Funds are other income received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded if the award creates a binding obligation on the Parochial Church Council. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in the accounts as an operational (though not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounts for gross of VAT.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated property is excluded from the financial statements by s10 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Unconsecrated moveable furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trusts for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted for as inalienable property. Such property is listed in the church inventory, which can be inspected at any reasonable time

Most of the church's inalienable property was acquired well before the year 2001 and, as there is insufficient cost information readily available, such property has not been valued in the counts.

Items acquired since 1 January 20012 are capitalised and depreciated in the financial statements on a straight-line basis over their currently anticipated useful life.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Major items of equipment acquired for us within the church premises are capitalised and depreciated in the financial year statements on a straight lined basis over four years. Other items of equipment costing £2,000 or less are written off in the financial statements in the period in which they are acquired

Parish Church Council of ST. Columba, Crosspool, Sheffield

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2024

2 Income

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and legacies		
Planned giving:		
Gift Aid donations	45,291	43,114
Income tax recoverable	11,905	11,482
Other planned giving	9,996	7,713
Cash collections on plate	2,061	2,109
Donations unrestricted	1,460	3,311
Grants	2,500	4,650
Donations. Collections and appeals for charities	-	-
Soup run	-	-
	73,213	72,379
Charitable activities		
Church Hall lettings	13,371	11,986
Fees	3,614	2,063
	16,985	14,049
Other trading activities		
Womens Empowerment Day	-	-
Luncheon Club takings including trips	-	-
	-	-
Investments		
Dividends and interest	11,034	12,967
Flat rental income	7,055	7,599
	18,089	20,566

Parish Church Council of ST. Columba, Crosspool, Sheffield

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2024

3 Expenditure	Total 2024	Total 2023
Charitable activities		
Grants		
Church overseas: (note 11)		
- Missionary societies	5,079	4,753
- Relief & development agencies	450	606
Home missions and other church societies	2,628	1,874
Secular charities	3,195	2,944
Ministry:		
Diocesan Parish Share and fees	41,908	38,837
Vicar's discretionary fund and expenses	447	529
Children & Family Worker	12,769	15,224
Superannuation	1,659	1,425
Buildings:		
Caretaking and cleaning	7,160	6,419
Gas, electricity and water	9,899	7,243
Insurance	1,672	1,646
Equipment	-	331
Repairs and maintenance	4,096	2,346
Flat expenses	2,256	1,766
Worship expenses	157	618
Organists' fees	-	919
Teaching and training	-	486
Children and young people's activities and worship	398	874
Messy Church	-	-
Luncheon Club	-	-
Soup run	-	-
Sundry expenditure	1,712	1,058
Communications project	5,906	-
Vaccination Centre	-	343
Printing, stationery, publications & postage	401	528
Telephone	1,356	1,557
Remuneration of secretarial assistant	11,203	10,228
Independent examination fees	575	575
Payroll	432	396
	115,358	103,526

Parish Church Council of ST. Columba, Crosspool, Sheffield

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2024

4 Fixed assets

4a Tangible Fixed Assets

Investment
properties

£

Valuation at 1 January 2024

160,000

At 31 December 2024

160,000

The investment properties comprise a flat within 20 Moorbank Road which was received as part of a legacy during 2009. This was originally capitalised at its estimated valuation of £100,000. A valuation as at 31 December 2015 was carried out by Blundells who valued the property at £160,000 based on current use value. Blundells are a professional valuer with recent experience in the location and class of investment property being valued.

4b Investments

2023

£

Market value and cash at 1 January 2024

284,708

Additions

-

Dividends

7,838

Net (loss)/gain on revaluation at 31 December 2024

3,188

Transfers

(20,000)

Market value at 31 December 2024

275,734

Investments at Market Value comprised:

CBF Church of England Investment Fund

64,454

Equities

201,425

Cash held by Stockbrokers

9,855

275,734

These investments are shares in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund and a share portfolio managed by JM Finn & Co. The original cost of the CBF shares retained at 31 December 2015 was £6,835 and the original cost of the other shares is £nil as they were given to the PCC.

No holdings in the investments represent more than 10% of the value of the portfolio at 31 December 2022.

Parish Church Council of ST. Columba, Crosspool, Sheffield

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

5 Debtors	2024	2023
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	11,200	10,500
Hall charges and other receivable income	-	407
Fees	243	232
	11,443	11,139

6 Short term deposits	2024	2023
	£	£
These are funds deposited in the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and relate to:		
General Fund	27,728	27,728

7 Liabilities: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	2024	2023
	£	£
Liabilities for goods and services	1,921	2,665
Prepayments	-	-
	1,921	2,665

8 Analysis of net assets by fund	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	160,000	-	160,000
Investments fixed assets	275,734	-	275,734
Current assets	51,139	6,045	57,184
Current liabilities	(1,921)	-	(1,921)
	484,953	6,045	490,998

Parish Church Council of ST. Columba, Crosspool, Sheffield

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2024

9 Funds

Restricted Funds	Balance b/fwd £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Balance c/fwd £
Luncheon Club	3,725	-	-	3,725
Covid 19 Community Hub	1,612	-	-	1,612
Communications Project	328	-	(328)	-
Soup Run	608	-	-	608
Sacred Space	100	-	-	100
	6,373	-	(328)	6,045

There has been no income or expenditure with our restricted funds. The Lunch Club has not resumed after Covid but the soup run has started up again.

Transfers are made from unrestricted funds to cover any restricted funds in deficit.

10 Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	21,472	22,562
Pension costs	1,859	1,425
	23,331	23,987

There were no payments in excess of £60,000 p.a. (2023: Nil).

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member or their relatives. One payment of £70.00 was paid to Sherwood Building & Maintenance Services for dealing with blocked drains and sewerage spillage. This business is owned and run by Mr. D Sherwood who is the son of the PCC treasurer. Mr. E Sherwood made this relationship known to the PCC and takes no part in the decisions relating to this work and its costs, which were made by members of the Finance & Fabric Committee, on behalf of the PCC.

11 Beneficiaries receiving £500 or more were:

	Unrestricted funds £
Christian Aid	1,040
Church Mission Society	2,160
City of Sanctuary	630
Firvale Food bank	860
Mission Aviation Fellowship	1,530