

Annual Report and Accounts 2024

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Barnard Castle with Whorlton: Diocese of Durham

1. Introduction

This Report has been drawn up in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

2. Aims and purposes

St. Mary's Barnard Castle with Whorlton Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, The Revd Canon Alec Harding, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

3. Objectives and activities: We have discerned the parish's overarching aim to be

Celebrating God's Love

We seek to do this by:

1. Working in partnership with those who bring life to the community.
2. Celebrating God's gifts in His creation, His children and His work in this place.
3. Creating space, time and opportunities for people of all ages to grow in faith and worship.

Our priorities in 2024 were discerned to be:

1. Growing our work with Children and young people and connecting church, schools and families together.
2. Healing and wholeness.
3. Offering 'Living water' through our worship and common life so we might grow.

Communication:

We communicate our activities through an e-letter and/or a hard copy newsletter, through the church pew sheet, through the church website and through FaceBook.

Achievements and performance

1. Growing our work with children and young people:

The parish continues to work extensively with children and young people with volunteers involved in the weekly under-fives group (Smuffies), offering Junior church provision at Barnard Castle, weekly Big Story sessions, hymn practice and church school choir sessions and (occasional) Prayer spaces at Green Lane School. Clergy conduct weekly collective worship at Montalbo and Green Lane Schools alongside involvement at Barnard Castle School and

the Prep school. Barnard Castle church hosts school visits and termly school services. Uniformed organizations visit Barnard Castle Church.

However: we continue to struggle to connect those who come for baptism into the life of the church and to give a sense of direction to the considerable amount of work that is being done with Primary School children.

What have we done?

The PCC created a small working group to investigate possibilities for increased work with local schools and uniformed organisations. Some tenuous links with Teesdale School were pursued resulting in an invitation to our curate to attend the school's 'Religion & Philosophy' club with young teenagers.

We invited the Diocesan Children's Officer to attend worship to speak to the congregation about the Diocesan priority of growing work with children. Unfortunately, Diocesan reorganization of staff roles meant this visit could not take place.

A cause for concern: Whilst the parish 'Four o'clock' / Celebrate service had run out of steam (and not resulted in any greater involvement in church life beyond occasional attendance) its demise has de-churched some younger families who had attended (including some members of the Praise Band) The movement of the 'Celebrate' service to the 10.30am worship time offers a different style of worship on these occasions but is not itself a tool for growth.

Baptism families who previously had been asked to attend the Four o'clock service are now asked to attend at least one service at 10.30am prior to a baptism. This has been appreciated by the congregation.

The Vicar has played a part in scoping the role for a chaplain to be engaged at Barnard Castle School. It may be possible for this role to be shared with a parish role in the deanery but decisions rest with the school and the diocese.

The PCC supported the creation of Panthers: a music group for children. This is led by Peter Lovatt and involves a small band of teenagers enjoying music under the church's 'umbrella'.

It was decided against holding a service of admission to communion at Green Lane CE School this year as the timetable did not permit enough preparation.

The dedication of the new porch windows at Barnard Castle (by + Sarah the Acting Bishop of Durham, on December 8th offered the opportunity for an event entitled The Christmas Family Drop in: a mixture of all age craft activities, music, Scalextric (!), refreshments, storytelling and engagement with the windows proved popular. It may be that a structured series of 'feast day' events arranged for families might enable the church to engage with a younger demographic.

2. Healing and wholeness

Healing and wholeness sits within the church's provision of pastoral care to the town. At its widest level this includes ensuring that the parish safeguarding procedures are robust; supporting people to meet together and find strength and fellowship in community through the many groups that use the Parish Hall; promoting church social activities and events; hosting concerts and continuing to offer care home services and pastoral visits (not least those surrounding the occasional offices of baptisms, weddings and funerals).

What have we done?

The ministry of healing has been incorporated into the regular service pattern at Barnard Castle and members of the congregation have taken part in online training through the Go Health organization.

Members of the congregation serve on the Parish Nursing Trustees.

The church Safeguarding Officer (Harriet Hargreaves) moved abroad with her work. A safer recruitment process saw Mr David Ewart appointed to this role. David has spent the year getting to grips with the National Church's Expectations, helping to bring the PCC 'dashboard' up to date, talking to group leaders and ensuring that the PCC fulfils what is expected of it concerning Safeguarding.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Social events

Social events this year have included the Castle Players' production of These things do happen (promoted by the Friends of St Mary's).

Barnard Castle hosted 'Organ world' for an exhibition. The Northern Dales Richard III group held their bi-ennial conference at Barnard Castle.

The Windows for the King project led by Kim Harding was brought to completion with additional fundraising through a Quiz Night, Garden Party and a Ceilidh. The new windows were installed above the porch door by the artist Rachel Phillips. Their unveiling on November 6th took place before a full church by Dr Fiona Hill, Chancellor of Durham University.

The Castle Players transformed the nave at Barnard Castle for a stunning performance of the play 'Dickon' by Josephine Tey which sold out its 4 performances.

Barnard Castle School Choral Society performed both the St John Passion and The Armed Man at Barnard Castle church.

Hymns and Pimms at Whorlton was well attended. Whorlton church promoted a display under the title of 'Whorlton Parish memory Project' in November which invited villagers to share memories of the village, the church and the Bridge.

The church bellringers' activities have seen local teams grow in Staindrop and at Cotherstone. The Tower was opened for Heritage Open Day. A small group of handbell ringers rang at Christmas services at Barnard Castle and Whorlton.

The church's ministry through music continues to flourish. Performances have taken place at a café style cheese and wine event; a Sunday 'afternoon tea', a Celebration of Song (involving local schools); a joint event with Barnard Castle Band; music making at the Bowes Museum, a Harvest event; a concert promoted alongside the Rotary Club; an evening event in support of work in Ukraine; a sparkling Christmas concert and involvement with the church's Christmas Carol service.

Fundraising included a book sale and an increasingly popular wreath making event hosted by the Flower Guild.

3. Offering 'Living Water' through our worship and common life so we might grow:

We always seek to offer the very best we can in our worship involving the gifts of as many people as possible and being true both to ourselves and our inheritance of faith through the celebration of the Liturgical Year, and the use of a liturgical approach to worship. Whilst we are not growing as a church in number we continue to welcome new members to the congregation.

What have we done?

<p>This year we have:</p> <p>Used the Celebrate service at Barnard Castle to learn about the Diocesan Priorities</p> <p>Enabled those trained through the Wings for Worship scheme to lead worship.</p> <p>Held special services: for All Soul's tide at both churches and marked the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings</p> <p>Welcomed 'members of 'Gather church' for a service to end their pilgrimage from Gainford to Barnard Castle</p> <p>Welcomed the Revd Dr Ana Moskvina as our curate following her ordination on 30th June 2024.</p> <p>Supported merchant Navy Day and Aviation Day ceremonies.</p> <p>A special service dedicated to the son of a previous vicar of the parish, Ian (Tint) Porteus was held at Whorlton</p> <p>We used 'Generosity week' material to promote Christian Giving</p>	<p>Barnard Castle hosted the County Durham WI Carol service.</p> <p>The PCC decided to support the Vicar in opting to offer (in limited circumstances) the General Synod's 'Prayers of Love and faith' for same sex couples. It was with sadness that 4 members of the congregation decided that this and other decisions made by General Synod meant they could no longer worship in Anglican churches.</p> <p>We offered opportunities for study/discipleship through a number of activities:</p> <p>Two 'discernment events' were held in church.</p> <p>A Lent course over Zoom looked at the Gospel for the week.</p> <p>A course on the Book of Romans from the Bible Society was offered through the summer.</p> <p>In the Autumn a course looked at what could be learned from the saints portrayed in the new window at Barnard Castle</p>
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Church Officers and Staff:

- Revd Dr Ana Moskvina was welcomed to the parish as assistant curate after her ordination on 30th June 2024
- Mr Astley Fenwick stepped down from his role as Reader.
- Mrs Frances Stenlake served on the nominations' committee for the new Bishop
- The parish mourned the death of Revd John Moore. Revd Moore had served churches throughout the dale since his retirement from his role as Chaplain at Barnard Castle School. He died on 29th September 2024.

The wider church:

This year: The Bishop of Durham (Rt Revd Paul Butler) retired

- Barnard Castle Deanery.
Barnard Castle and Stanhope Deaneries merged to create a new 'Durham Dales Deanery'. A service to mark the merger took place at Barnard Castle in Easter-tide.
Revd Brian Whitley retired from his position in the Gaunless Valley parishes (Cockfield, Evenwood and Lynesack)
- Churches Together
The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service took place at Barnard Castle Methodist Church.
Members of the different churches held Lent and Advent lunches in support of Christian Aid

Wardens' reports

St Mary's Barnard Castle

Major work at Barnard Castle included the removal, repair and restoration of the 'Dugard' window from the south transept. Work was carried out by Jonathan and Ruth Cooke under the direction of the church architect. The

opportunity was taken to address in situ problems with the secondary glazing of the 'Sinclair' window at the south west corner of the church. Both windows look magnificent following professional cleaning. Thanks go to Robert Stenlake for his work in fundraising for the work and guiding this project to completion.

Astley Fenwick has continued to replace the low level 'uplighters' on the pillars of the church. Towards the end of the year a number of high level spot lights began to flash intermittently. These were removed at considerable cost but a long-term solution to replace the 'drivers' in the units is still to be found. Two of the flood lights illuminating the tower need to be replaced and quotations are being sought.

In August several square metres of tiling beneath the pulpit became inexplicably dislodged and rose up from the floor. The church architect oversaw the process of obtaining a report on the problem from specialists. A quotation for repair of over £12000 was deemed unacceptable and permission sought and obtained for a more 'local solution'. Thanks go to Revd Canon Geoff Lowson for his work in removing the tiles, cleaning, repairing and relaying them - a long and arduous task.

The Windows for the King project was brought to a successful conclusion with etched and coloured glass windows installed above the inner porch doors of the church commemorating the 550th anniversary of Richard III being made Lord of Barnard Castle. Designed by the Pembrokeshire artist Rachel Phillips, the windows present the saints to whom Richard's College (based at St Mary's) was to be dedicated: the Virgin and child, Ss Ninian and Margaret of Scotland. In addition, Ss Catherine of Alexandria and Helen are portrayed: there had been a chantry of St Catherine in the church and a chapel dedicated to St Helen at Lowfields (Westwick Road). The whole is flanked by Ricardian boars based upon the stone effigy near the font which had come from the College buildings on Amen Corner.

An attempted break-in, in daylight hours, from the chancel into the vestry was foiled by the arrival in church of a parishioner. Two criminals escaped empty-handed having caused £1200 damage to the vestry door. The door was made good by Revd Canon Lowson and then professionally restored by Antony Nixon furniture. Our insurers provided prompt assistance. One of the criminals was apprehended by the police within weeks of the event having left fingerprints at the scene (and in other churches targeted for theft in the area). He immediately received a custodial sentence. The Health and safety implications of the event were discussed with those who open and shut the church and protocols agreed to minimize risks to individuals.

Ongoing problems with blocked drains from the church toilet and servery have necessitated repeated callouts of professionals. The architect's plans are being sought and a camera survey commissioned to seek a permanent solution to these issues.

Progress towards addressing the next stage of major works (east window of the south transept and repointing of the transept wall and the chancel on the south side) has stalled through lack of funds. That said, the churchwardens received a generous legacy of -£28,000 from the estate of Miss Alcock and have designated it for this project. It is clear that the funding of church projects nationally has been severely curtailed as grant sources dry up and there is an increase in the number of parishes bidding for the limited funds available. The PCC has repeatedly asserted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee its belief that the Ricardian Boar on the exterior of the transept window should be brought into church to preserve it and that a plain stone should replace it on the exterior of the church. The DAC are of the opinion that a 'carved' representation/reproduction should replace the original: this is contrary to modern heritage guidelines. As and when faculty permission is requested the Chancellor will make a binding decision on the matter.

Barnard Castle Parish Hall

The Parish Hall is in the care of the Parish Hall Association (PHA) under a lease from the PCC. A request to extend the lease of the hall was made by the PHA to the PCC. Extensive conversations about new terms have not produced agreement. The current lease expires in 2034.

The committee have overseen the refurbishment of the Guild Room to make it a much more comfortable space. A new boiler and new windows formed part of the refurbishment: the cost of works exceeded £24,000 with over £20,000 of this being obtained through grant applications. Thanks are especially given to Clare and John Trevett for overseeing this project.

Emergency lighting throughout the building has been replaced.

St. Mary's Whorlton

The next quinquennial report is not due until 2026. Some minor filling, sanding and painting repairs were carried out to the window sills during April, also the usual cleaning and oiling of the main doors, together with the belfry and vestry doors.

During August, whilst engaged in work at Barnard Castle, Jonathan Cooke inspected Whorlton windows and highlighted which were in need of repair and the relative urgency of the repairs. Towards the end of the year, the gutters and downspouts were all cleaned and painted. Exploratory work was carried out on the drainage and soak aways. Work has been suspended to clarify necessary permissions and funding. Future work to do includes Organ repairs and work to the windows.

Whorlton Village Hall:

The Village Hall is in the care of the Village Hall Association under a lease from the PCC. The association continue to make changes and improvements to the building.

Some numbers (brackets indicate 2023 numbers)

<p>Baptisms 16 (33) baptisms were conducted at Barnard Castle, 4 (2) at Whorlton</p> <p>Weddings Seven (3) weddings were celebrated at Barnard Castle, none (1) at Whorlton</p> <p>Funerals There were 20 (14) funerals at Barnard Castle and 3 (4) at Whorlton with a further 15 (11) conducted at the crematoria alone.</p> <p>Clergy conducted 7 (3) funerals in neighbouring parishes</p>	<p>Admission to communion</p> <p>No candidates</p> <p>Confirmation No candidates</p> <p>Usual Sunday attendance</p> <p>Based on the 'October count' the usual Sunday attendance at Barnard Castle is 76 (84) adults and 2 (5) children.</p> <p>At Whorlton the figure is 10 adults</p>
<p>Easter</p> <p>At Barnard Castle 126 (132) adults attended Easter worship: 114 (118) communicants. At Whorlton 10 adults attended Easter worship (9 communicants)</p> <p>Christmas At Barnard Castle 691 (611) people attended services on Christmas Day or Christmas Eve with 139 communicants (up 6 from 2023). Christingle attracted 135 (159) people and the church carol service 270 (152). In addition, two schools (approx. 400 children, 100 adults) and the Durham VI (250 adults) held their Carol services at church. The Carol singing and Christmas communion service at Whorlton was attended by 50 people (25 communicants)</p> <p>The Worshipping community Those who attend 'regularly' in church, care homes, but excluding weekly Collective worship at two Primary Schools and occasional services at Barnard Castle School</p> <p>At Barnard Castle 324: (111 under 10; 13 aged 10-17; 162 aged 18-69, 138 over 70) 17 adults joined the community, 25 left (moved away or died). 6 children moved away. The worshipping community at Whorlton is 14: 1 aged 11-17) 4 aged 18-69; 9 over 70</p>	
<p>Comment Shortages of clergy in neighbouring parishes account for the small increase in additional funerals outside the parish.</p> <p>The Worshipping community number has been adversely affected by the decision to end the Four o'clock (Celebrate) service.</p>	

Structure, governance and management

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected or co-opted by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting [APCM], in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. At its Annual Meeting in 2020 a motion was passed that came into effect in 2021:

- Churchwardens be eligible to serve up to six consecutive years (this provision to be reviewed every six years as per the Church Representation Rules).
- The balance between elected/ex officio members of the PCC be changed through

- i. removing the automatic membership of Readers to the PCC
- ii. replacing the existing 'rolling election of PCC members' with the election of 8 lay representatives (who for the purposes of continuity can serve up to 4 consecutive years).

As Charity Trustees PCC members are mindful of the Charity Commission's Guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held at Barnard Castle on the evening of Monday 22nd April 2024. The Electoral Roll was reported to stand at 138. From the APCM there were 14 members of the PCC.

Members of the PCC: PCC Standing Committee elected 22.4.24 are marked *

Incumbent & Chair Revd Alec Harding*

Churchwardens (Can serve 6 consecutive years)	Mrs Joan Kemp Ambler (elected 2020)	Mr Roy Long* (elected 2020)
	Vacancy	Vacancy

Ex Officio: Mrs Frances Stenlake* (Diocesan Synod) Lay Chair of PCC
 Deanery Synod: Mr Keith Miles Ms Abi Littlefair Mr Astley Fenwick
 (Three elected places to serve for 3 years from 2023)

Elected Members (8 places – can serve 4 consecutive years)

Carolyn Knott (2021) Geoff Knott (2021) Helen Goodman* (2021)	Liz Burdon (2022)	Seonaid Walker-Jones (2023) Catherine Wilkinson (2023)	Merrion Chrisp (2024) Vacancy
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PCC Secretary Mr Geoff Knott
 PCC Treasurer Mrs Frances Stenlake

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the members on my examination of the accounts of the PCC (registered charity 1130279) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



James Ferdinand, ACA, CTA

Address: 49 RIVERSIDE, BISHOP AUCKLAND DL14 6XT

Date: 24 April 2025

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Barnard Castle with Whorlton
Registered Charity 1130279

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2024
Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	£		£
Brought forward 01.01.2024	157,462.83	Resources used (2)	173,932.34
Unrealised appreciation	1,848.61	Unrealised depreciation	
Incoming resources (1)	162,375.34	Balance carried forward 31.12.2024 (3)	147,754.44
Total	321,686.78	Total	321,686.78

Notes 1 See Analysis of Income and Expenditure

2 See Analysis of Income and Expenditure

3 Represented by

Current Accounts	Note 4	8,179.98
Petty Cash		13.52
CBF Deposit Account		25,298.16
Co-operative Instant Access Account		41,719.74
Invested assets		72,543.04
		<u>147,754.44</u>

4 Bank current account reconciliation at 31.12.2024

	£
Balance at Co-operative bank	11,706.99
Plus: Receivables due	1,460.47
Less: paid in advance for 2025	902.00
Less: Payments not cleared	<u>4,085.48</u>
Balance at 31.12.2024	<u>8,179.98</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Canon Alec Harding
Chairman of PCC



Joan Kemp-Amoler
Churchwarden

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Barnard Castle with Whorlton
Registered Charity 1130279

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2024

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024

		2024	2023
		£	£
Invested Assets	Children's fund	3,806.00	3,721
	Whorlton	13,455.56	13,154
	Permanent Endowment	22,756.20	22,247
	Designated (ex-Church Cottage)	13,744.71	31,572
	Designated (BC Major works)	18,780.57	0
Current Assets	Current Account Co-operative	11,706.99	21,319
	Petty Cash Smuffies	5.00	5
	Petty Cash Flower Guild	8.52	19
	Deposit Account CBF	25,298.16	25,298
	Bank savings account	41,719.74	40,593
	Year end amounts due to us	1,460.47	3,699
TOTAL ASSETS		152,741.92	161,628
LIABILITIES	Paid in advance for 2025	902.00	
	Accounts payable	4,085.48	4,165
NET ASSETS	(Total Assets – Liabilities)	147,754.44	157,463
BALANCE	Starting Balance	157,462.83	141,194
	Income less Expenditure	-11,557.00	11,102
	Gains/(Losses) on investments	1,848.61	5,167
	Closing balance	147,754.44	157,462.83

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Barnard Castle with Whorlton
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2024

Movement in Funds during the Year

Fund	01/01/2024	Income	Expenditure	Revaluation	Transfer	31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Children's (including Fun night)	5,221.96	161.84	226.70	85.17		5,242.27
Clergy Travel	0.00	405.00	405.00			0.00
Fabric	13,790.75	1,586.00	1,428.00			13,948.75
Godly Play (The Big Story)	46.15		22.18			23.97
BC Major works (Restricted)	10,479.22	12,213.00	16,692.22			6,000.00
Community Music Grant	0.00	1,500.00	870.65			629.35
Community Music (Restricted)	100.00	1,571.30	1,289.08			382.22
Organ and Church Music	541.87	754.00	692.00			603.87
Permanent Endowment	22,247.00			509.20		22,756.20
PCC Reserves	0.00		0.00			0.00
Smuffies	866.08	426.44	596.71			695.81
Tower	0.00	943.05	88.34			854.71
Trinity (for incumbent's use)	928.96	572.04	1,067.75			433.25
Utilities	0.00	897.00	897.00			0.00
Windows for a King	23,216.20	6,783.80	30,000.00			0.00
Whorlton Fabric	2,567.30	6,843.52	6,370.59			3,040.23
Whorlton Endowment	13,154.48			301.08		13,455.56
TOTAL RESTRICTED AND ENDOWMENT	93,159.97	34,656.99	60,646.22	895.45	0.00	68,066.19
Unrestricted Funds	21,406.62	98,261.39	103,082.78		9,196.17	25,781.40
Fabric ex Church Cottage (Designated)	29,015.81			953.16	-10,000.00	19,968.97
Community music (Designated)	1,067.62	1,371.25	2,950.61		803.83	292.09
School music ex Church Cottage (Designated)	9,161.61		466.95		-5,000.00	3,694.66
BC Major works (Designated)	3,651.20	28,085.71	6,785.78		5,000.00	29,951.13
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED	64,302.86	127,718.35	113,286.12	953.16	0.00	79,688.25
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	157,462.83	162,375.34	173,932.34	1,848.61	0.00	147,754.44

Movement in Funds during the Previous Year

	01/01/2023	Income	Expenditure	Revaluation	Transfer	31/12/2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	4,989	142	231	323		5,222
	0	280	280			0
	14,562	905	1,676			13,791
	115		69			46
	10,279	500	300			10,479
	0					0
	0	100				100
	554	650	662			542
	20,319			1,928		22,247
	366		366			0
	934	488	557			866
	301	1,375	747			929
	0	607	607			0
	6,477	26,740	10,000			23,216
	2,013	905	350			2,567
	12,014			1,140		13,154
	72,923	32,692	15,846	3,391	0	93,160
	23,631	103,932	107,473		1,316	21,407
	32,240			1,775	-5,000	29,016
	1,346	2,425	1,387		-1,316	1,068
	9,308		147			9,162
	1,745		3,094		5,000	3,651
	68,271	106,357	112,100	1,775	0	64,303
	141,194	139,048	127,946	5,167	0	157,463

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Barnard Castle with Whorlton
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2024
Analysis of Expenditure continued

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
		Fund	Fund	Fund	2024	2,023
		£	£	£	£	£
Other Expenditure						
Church Running Costs	Maintenance: BC	2,027.45		1,428.00	3,455.45	1,854
	Maintenance: Whorlton	34.80		831.59	866.39	350
	Church equipment	789.71			789.71	392
	Church cleaning	0.00			0.00	25
	Organ maintenance	756.00			756.00	535
	Printing costs	672.77			672.77	432
	Computing	1,246.91		218.26	1,465.17	1,357
	Office supplies	322.91			322.91	206
	Photocopier costs	1,059.28			1,059.28	1,299
	Other costs	332.38	19.16	373.73	725.27	1,178
	Gifts and other payments	20.00		153.95	173.95	45
	Total Church Running costs	7,262.21	19.16	3,005.53	10,286.90	7,674
Utility Costs	Barnard Castle: gas	3,029.24	687.15	1,994.85	5,711.24	7,866
	Barnard Castle: electricity	3,289.75			3,289.75	3,838
	Whorlton: electricity	1,011.51			1,011.51	859
	Total Utility costs	7,330.50	687.15	1,994.85	10,012.50	12,564
Major Projects	Barnard Castle		6,785.78	16,692.22	23,478.00	3,994
	Windows for a King			30,000.00	30,000.00	10,000
	Whorlton			5,539.00	5,539.00	0
	Total major repair costs	0.00	6,785.78	52,231.22	59,017.00	13,994
Total		14,592.71	7,492.09	57,231.60	79,316.40	34,231
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		103,082.78	10,203.34	60,646.22	173,932.34	127,946

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Barnard Castle with Whorlton

Notes on the Financial Statements 2024

1. Basis of Statements. The Financial Statements of the PCC have been prepared under The Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities (SORP) FRS102.

The Financial Statements have been prepared using the accruals and prepayments method.

Investments included in the Financial Statements are shown at market (bid) value.

The accounts were subject to an independent examination. The Independent Examiner's Report is attached to the Financial Statements.

2. Bankers. The PCC's bankers are The Co-operative Bank.
3. Deposit Accounts. The PCC has an instant access savings account with the Co-operative Bank, accessed via the current account's dual authority portal. There is also a deposit account with CCLA Investment Management Limited's CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.
4. Property. The PCC owns the Parish Hall, Newgate and Whorlton Village Hall. These assets are not included in the Financial Statements. Both the halls are leased in return for fixed rental income.

Approximate property valuations are Parish Hall (£185,000) and Whorlton Village Hall (£145,000). These valuations are unchanged from 31st December 2009 and were confirmed as reasonable as at 31st December 2015 by Simon Nixon of Addisons. It is considered that these valuations will not have changed materially.

The Parish Hall is leased to the Parish Hall Association (registered charity no.1103536) on a 30 year lease from 2004. The quinquennial rent increase for December 2024 was postponed pending more widespread discussion of the lease.

Whorlton Village Hall was leased to the Whorlton Village Community Association, with a new 21 year lease effected from 1st August 2019. The lease provides for a formula based review of rent every 3 years, the rent is currently £590 and the next review is due in 2025.

5. Invested Assets. These are included in the Balance Sheet at current value (bid price):
 - a. Children's Fund. The fund is invested in 164.60 units of CCLA CBF Church of England Investment Fund Income Shares. The value at 31st December 2024 was £3,806.00 (2023: £3,720.83. Income is restricted for use in connection with work with children.
 - b. Permanent Endowment. The fund is invested in 984.15 units of CCLA CBF Church of England Investment Fund Income Shares. The value at 31st December 2024 was £22,756.20 (2023: £22,247.00). The income is available for general purposes (unrestricted).
 - c. St Mary's, Whorlton endowment. The fund is invested in 581.92 units of the CCLA CBF Church of England Investment Fund Income Shares. The value at 31st December 2024 was £13,455.56 (2023: £13,154.48). The income is restricted for the benefit of St Mary's, Whorlton fabric. The endowment arises from the former Whorlton Church Restoration Fund.
 - d. The proceeds of the sale of Church Cottage in December 2015 are invested in 21,811.48 units of the CCLA CBF Church of England Fixed Interest Securities Fund Income Shares, value £32,525.28 at 31st December 2024 (2023: £31,572.12).
6. Petty Cash. Petty Cash is held by the Flower Guild and by Smuffies (for subscriptions) and Smuffies (for its selected charity). Monies are regularly banked to the current account. Records of petty cash transactions for the Flower Guild, Smuffies and Smuffies (Charity) are maintained in cash books.
7. Policy for Reserves. The policy is to hold unrestricted reserves (to include any Gift Aid tax due but not yet claimed and/or received) of approximately 3 months expenditure (from general funds) to provide for uneven cash flow and for minor but necessary unbudgeted expenditure. Reserves at this level are currently held.

8. Policy for Pay to Employees. Pay is reviewed annually, with a minimum rate of payment of the Living Wage Foundation's Living Wage.
9. Pay, Employees and Pensions. The PCC employs a part-time Director of Music.

Employee costs were:

Gross pay to employees	£6,221.41 (2023: £4,616.36)
Employer National Insurance costs	-
Employer Pension contributions	-
Total	£6,221.41 (2023: £4,616.36)

There were no pension arrangements for employees and no employees qualified for Automatic Enrolment (as pay is below threshold). No employees opted in to a pension arrangement.

The payroll is managed by Susan Peat on behalf of the PCC.

For weddings and funerals, the organist is remunerated by onward payment of the organist fee received for the service. The Director of Music has first refusal but is not obliged to play at such services. The PCC acts as paying agent and these fees are therefore not included in the 2024 financial statements.

10. PCC remuneration. PCC members receive no remuneration.
 11. Payments to Connected Persons. None.
 12. Contracts with Central and Local Government. The PCC has no contracts with Central or Local Government.
 13. Grants from Central and Local Government. Grants totalling £3,913 were claimed from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. This Scheme makes grants equal to the amount of VAT paid on certain specific works relating to the maintenance of the church. The grant was in respect of St Mary's, Barnard Castle.
- A grant of £100 (2023 £100) was received from Durham County Council towards costs incurred by the PCC in respect of the churchyard at St Mary's, Barnard Castle. A further grant of £1,500 was received from Durham County Council to fund the purchase of music by the Community Choir and Orchestra

14. Other Grants received.

- a. Trinity College, Cambridge granted £572.04 to replenish the Restricted Fund available to the incumbent to meet expenses which might not otherwise be incurred or might not be reimbursed by the PCC.
 - b. A donation of £1000 was received from the Lord Crewe Fund.
 - c. The Friends of St Mary's gave £1,000 towards the costs of repairing the Dugard window in the South Chancel.
 - d. The Diocese of Durham gave £2,300 towards the costs of repairing the Dugard window in the South Chancel and £4,000 towards the cost of the "Windows for a King" project.
 - e. The Northumbrian Historic Churches Trust gave £5,000 towards the costs of repairing the Dugard window in the South Chancel.
15. Community Music. The donations in respect of concerts in 2024 are held in a designated fund and used to fund ongoing community music, including employee pay and rehearsal heating costs.
 16. "Windows for a King". This project was run in partnership with the Northern Dales Richard III Group and was completed in 2024.
 17. Legacies. The PCC received two legacies in 2024 (none in 2023). £5,000 was restricted to use in Whorlton Church and £28,085.71 was designated for the next major repair project at Barnard Castle.
 18. Parish Share. The Parish Share offered to the Diocese and paid in 2024 was £71,706 (2022 £71,706). For 2025, the PCC has reduced the Parish Share offer to £65,000.

19. Charity Giving. The Smuffies toddler group raised £589.24 for its 2024 chosen charity, Butterwick Children's Hospice, the Christingle service raised £198.30 (net) for The Children's Society, various events during the year raised £579.93 for USPG, concerts raised £382 for the Rotary Trust Fund, £556.40 for UNICEF and £421.83 for St Theresa's Hospice and the civic Remembrance Service raised £894.83 for the Royal British Legion. A further £5,435.04 was raised for other charities from funeral plate collections.
20. Photocopier. The PCC leases a photocopier from Grenke leasing. There is a separate contract with Mastercopy in respect of printing.
21. Governance Fees. No costs have been incurred in the Independent Examination of the Accounts or in other Governance.
22. Gift Aid. 93% of regular giving was Gift Aided in 2024. The other 7 % relates to non-taxpayers but part of this is eligible under the Small Donations Gift Aid Scheme. In respect of the Small Donations Gift Aid Scheme, the PCC claims separately for each of the two churches as Community Buildings.
23. Agency Monies. The PCC acts as collecting agents for certain connected parties and also where monies are raised for a specific charity at a service or event. These transactions are not included in the financial statements. The amounts are set out in the table below:

Agency	Amount received £	Expenses deducted £	Amount paid out £
Diocesan Fees for weddings and Funerals	9,151.60	-	9,151.60
Fees for verger, bellringers	732.00	-	732.00
Fees for Organist at weddings and funerals	2,235.00	-	2,235.00
Funeral collections and other charity monies	8,624.14	155.81	8,468.33

24. Accounting records. Accounting records are maintained on MyFundAccounting software supplied by Data Developments. Gift Aid and Small Gift Aid data is recorded on Donations Co-ordinator V7.12 software supplied by Data Developments. This software is used to generate and electronically submit the Gift Aid and Small Gift Aid claims to HMRC. Data on MyFundAccounting is backed up by Data Developments. Donations Co-ordinator is manually backed up at least weekly, with a security copy stored offsite. The PCC subscribes to technical support in respect of Data Developments software.
25. Review of Financial Controls. The PCC reviewed its financial controls during 2024 and agreed procedures to manage risks. The financial controls have been adopted as standing orders of the PCC.