THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST STEPHEN ACOMB YORK

England & Wales · Charity number 1130667

Details

Other names	ACOMB PCC, YORK
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-07-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	231 Boroughbridge Road York YO26 6AY
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Website	www.acombparish.org

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Promoting the whole mission of the Church. The Parish Hall are available for use by the community. The church members help in local schools, visit those who have been bereaved or are ill.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- City Of York

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£149,734	£237,356	-	-
2023-12-31	£140,861	£229,954	-	-
2022-12-31	£138,382	£147,216	-	-
2021-12-31	£130,422	£126,247	-	-
2020-12-31	£113,181	£117,380	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Timothy Graham Marvell	Chair	2020-11-22
CARYS ELIZABETH TEW		2018-04-16
Fiona Louise Langley Parr		2024-11-28
JENNIFER ANNE DEAMER		2018-06-04
Louise Jane Finch Firth		2024-05-12
Lyn Elisabeth Sangster		2023-05-14
Nigel Atkinson		2023-05-14
RACHEL PARKER		2023-05-14
Robert Dawson Swallow		2025-05-12
Susan Oxlade		2024-05-12
Valerie Jane Atkinson		2020-11-22

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST STEPHEN ACOMB YOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1130667

Accounts

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity Registration No. 1130667

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Church Buildings

St Stephen's Church
York Road
Acomb
York
YO24 4NW

St Aidan's Church
Ridgeway
Acomb
York
YO26 5DB
Closed for public worship.

Bankers

HSBC Bank
13 Parliament Street
York
YO1 8RS

Independent Examiner

Judith Summerfield BA FCA
5 Bowyers Close
Copmanthorpe
York
YO23 3XW

Church Architect

Loise Priestman
Shaw & Jagger Limited
1 Cardale Park
Harrogate
HG3 1RY

Administrative Information

The Parish of Acomb is in the Diocese of York. The address for correspondence is The Parish Office, Acomb Parish Church Hall, 18 Front Street, Acomb, York, YO24 3BZ. The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commissioners. The Registered Charity Number is 1130667.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Exofficio

Priest in charge — The Revd. Matthew Woodcock (from 23rd May 2024)
Churchwardens — Mr Timothy Marvell (*from 2022 APCM)*
Mrs Carys Tew *(from 2024 APCM)*

Representatives on the Deanery Synod

Mrs Val Atkinson (*resigned at 2024 APCM)*
Mrs Jennifer Deamer *(from 2023 APCM for 3 years)*
Mrs Rachel Parker *(from 2023 APCM for 3 years)*
Miss Sue Oxlade (*from 2023 APCM)*

Elected and co-opted Members of the Parochial Church Council:
Until 12th May 2025:

Mr Nigel Atkinson (3 years from 2023)
Mrs Anne Barker (3 years from 2023)
Mrs Lyn Sangster (3 years from 2023)
Mrs Carys Tew (Until 12th May 2024)
Mr Tony Tew (Until 12th May 2024)
Mrs Sue Trotter (Until 12th May 2024)
Mr Paul Deamer (Until 12th May 2024)
Mr Ian Sangster (co-opted until 12th May 2024)

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Mrs Val Atkinson (from 12th May 2024)
Mrs Louise Firth (from 12th May 2024)
Mrs Fiona Parr (co-opted from 28th November 2024)

AIMS & PURPOSE

Every Church of England church has the same aim: 'To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'. Acomb Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Priest in Charge, the Reverend Matt Woodcock, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. Stephen's Church, St. Aidan's Church, Acomb Parish Church Hall and 36 Fellbrook Avenue.

ACOMB PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

'Loving God - Serving Others - Growing Together'

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

Please see all the individual reports appended below.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Part of the church ethos is to encourage all members to contribute to the community in the wider parish, thus helping to build social capital, such as by undertaking practical activities with charities. For example, some members of the congregations undertake voluntary work as part of Prison chaplaincy, as School Governors, while others are Trustees of various local Christian charities. Some members link in with the Food Bank which is held on the premises of another church in Acomb.

St. Stephen's churchyard is open at all times and is popular place for people to visit, tend graves or benefit from gardens and wildlife found within the Churchyard. There is a footpath running through it which many use as a short cut. The Community Payback Teams has again been able to work in the Churchyard. A number of faith focussed 'family trails have been set up and well attended. The churchyard is full, but we have been able to extend its community use for some years with the recent introduction of a new area for cremated remains.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a body corporate with perpetual succession and has a legal existence apart from the members who compose it. The composition and procedure of Parochial Church Councils is regulated by the new and completely rewritten *Church Representation Rules 2020* which constitute Schedule 3 (as since amended) to the *Synodical Government Measure 1969*. Their functions and powers are contained in the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* as amended by the 1969 Measure which defines the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church". These include:

(a) co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

(b) the consideration and discussion of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest.

The Parochial Church Council is also responsible for the functions that were formerly vested in Churchwardens in relation to (a) the financial management of the Church, (b) the care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church and (c) the care and maintenance of the churchyard.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Elections to the Parochial Church Council are held annually and appointment is for three years, after which there must be a break of at least one year before standing for election again. Members who have been on the Church Electoral Roll for at least six months are entitled to stand for election and all members may vote. Licensed clergy, Churchwardens and members of the Deanery Synod are *ex-officio* members of the Parochial Church Council, and the Chairman is Mr Timothy Marvell. There is provision for unlicensed clergy and lay members to be co-opted to the Parochial Church Council.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL AND CHURCH ATTENDANCE

A new Electoral Roll was completed in Spring 2025, in accordance with the rules of the Church of England. The new roll stands at 121, 60% of whom live within the parish. A list of members can be found on the church and parish hall notice boards.

- *Jill Shaw Parish Electoral Roll Officer*

Please note: If the number on the roll drops below 100 the number of members elected to the PCC and representatives at Deanery Synod would be reduced.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR) - Following the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR), the Acomb Parochial Church Council (PCC) complies with the GDPR fully making careful and very limited use of personal information. As required, we have agreed a data privacy notice – *Jill Shaw Data Protection Officer*

Vicar's Report

A spiritually-minded philosopher called Alan Watts once said that ***'The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.'*** In this year of fresh starts, significant changes and exciting, rapid growth in the life of St Stephen's I have been greatly encouraged to see so many people plunge, move and dance along with all that has gone on!

Embracing change and going for growth is never easy. The Church of England has historically been very poor at encouraging it to happen - and teaching churches how to do it.

Generally speaking, since arriving at St Stephen's about a year ago, I have seen faithful, prayerful people hungry for growth and supportive in what I've been trying to do and bring. I know it's not easy sometimes being led by a loud and excitable Vicar like me. I know it can be exhausting. I know it can be infuriating. Try living with me! But people have been patient, kind and encouraging - at least to my face! St Stephen's feels like a very different place from when I first started. I've tried to remain faithful to the things I said I'd do when I applied for the job. In my application I wrote:

'If you're interested in growing St Stephen's Parish - in numbers, spiritual depth and service to the local community - then I hope, God-willing, - that I would be someone worth considering. I know thing one for certain - it wouldn't be dull!'

Scripture tells us that you can tell a tree by the fruit it bears. I hope you agree that in those three key growth areas you've seen the fruit. Here's some encouraging headlines:

Growth in Numbers:

Looking back at the figures before I started there was one Sunday service which averaged about 40 adults and 2 children. Now we average about 30 adults and 3 children at the 8.30am service and 70 adults and 15 children at the 10.30am service. Welcoming about 120 people into church every Sunday is such an encouragement and we should thank God for all he is doing amongst us. This level of growth wouldn't have been possible without all our amazing

volunteers and the incredible vision of Abigail and Louise in starting our Oasis ministry. Our faithful Thursday congregation has also seen a bit of recent growth to take it to about 25 people. It is such a lovely gathering and I thank God for all who serve at the Hall every week.

Our special services and events at Christmas and Easter also saw unprecedented numbers which shows that all our improved communications, outreach and prayers for growth are paying off. We won't get complacent with all this and there are big challenges in making sure people feel supported, included and part of the church family.

Growth in Spiritual Depth:
I hope our different worship styles and ways of connecting to God are helping people in their faith. It's always a work in progress.
Aside from the house groups and prayer groups that were happening when I arrived, I've worked hard in growing our discipleship offerings. Leading the Start Course was significant in helping to grow people's faith. I want us to do more this year. The Monday Grow Group - where we discuss the Bible, debate, pray, support and socailise - has been helpful in encouraging many of the new folk to grow in faith.
We've also had occasional Monday night gatherings to look at areas like evangelism and prayer and worship together in different styles like Taize. Under the wonderfully gentle guidance of Nigel, I've been really heartened to see our prayer ministry growing on Sundays and at other times. You can't have enough prayer.

Growth in Outreach:
Jen and the Outreach team have played a blinder again this year. They make such a difference. You'll also see from this report that new outreach ministries have started like the Churchyard Friends and Community Choir. We've put on exciting new events and used the churchyard in creative ways as well as made the church a music venue thanks to Steam Pigeon. Getting Philip on board on the sound desk has been a huge blessing and he is working well with Tony. I want us all to see that everything we do can so often be a little stepping stone on someone's journey of faith. Our administrator, Anna, is already making a big difference to how things are communicated and organised. Abigail is taking things to the next level in our youth and children's outreach.
Special thanks to Val and Tim for their relentless work in making the Hall and Church function as they should - and for reining me in just enough to keep everyone sane.

Challenges remain, of course. There are always growing pains. I still wish some things were different and moving quicker but I'm learning to be patient. Above all, I want to ensure that we make it easy for everyone who comes into the life of St Stephen's the opportunity to explore and respond to the good news of Jesus - and then grow in Him. We always need more volunteers. I want more people involved in our worship offerings - leading, preaching, playing and praying. I'm mentoring a few people who are stepping into these areas.
There are too many people to thank for the way you've supported myself, Anna, Esther and Heidi. We thank God for all of you.

Ever Onwards in Christ - keep joining the dance!
Matt

Churchwardens' Report

This extraordinary year in the life of St Stephen's Church began with the licensing of Rev Matt Woodcock on 23 May. Matt said he would hit the ground running, a promise he has certainly lived up to. A new pattern of services has allowed Matt more flexibility to create the very lively 10.30 service which has attracted so many new and returning people whilst still offering a more traditional service at 8.30 which has also attracted new faces to our congregation. Many thanks to Beth Savage for her devotion in making sure the 8.30 service runs smoothly. Matt has not stopped running since he arrived; new initiatives, better publicity and twinkly lights brought

record attendance at all of the Christmas services, so much so we will need to think carefully how we manage such a crowded church in future.

At the end of last year the church had been closed, whilst our kitchen and toilet area were refurbished. This facility was completed just in time and we were able to re-open the church for Matt's licensing. We now have two toilet cubicles, one with an accessible toilet and baby changing facilities. Above the kitchen is also some much-needed storage space currently housing everything required for the Christmas period.

Shortly after, Furness and Son's completed their excellent work on the South Transept roof so preventing further deterioration of this area. We are now waiting for the plaster work in both transept ceilings and upper walls to dry-out before redecoration can be carried out.

We are delighted to welcome so many new faces to the church, especially families. To facilitate work with children and young people the upper rooms have been cleared out and refurnished. The smaller with sofa's and beanbags (where youth can 'chill') and the other with tables chairs and storage for activities of our new Sunday children's group Oasis. Our thanks to Abbi Savage and Louise Firth who masterminded this initiative and also created the excellent 'busy boxes' which I know are appreciated by parents and children alike.

Our extensive church yard can cause us a few headaches, we are so grateful to Don Savage for his tireless efforts managing the church yard for us making it a blessing for us and the community around as a place of peace and to walk the dog. We are connecting with those who value this green space through the hotly contested 'dog of the month' and also Dan Savage's newly formed Friends of St Stephen's Churchyard.

We have been blessed with a rapid growth of our congregation. We have had to respond to this pleasing change; everything from serving coffee and managing Eucharist and notices and communications is being rethought and adapted. It is very pleasing that so many new members have been quick to be involved; augmenting the rotas so capably organised by Jill and Bath. I pray that this trend continues and it will not be long before we see more new faces on PCC and in leadership roles. In which context I take this opportunity to welcome our new PSO, Fiona Parr. We are also delighted that Abby Savage was appointed as Children and Schools Creative Co-ordinator to manage our ever growing team of volunteers for the newly founded Oasis Sunday activities.

Acomb parish is the largest in York and St Stephen's church is an important physical and spiritual landmark for the whole community of Acomb. It is wonderful that more and more people see St Stephen's Church as relevant and significant even if for those who only attend occasionally or for important life events. The business of a growing church and meeting the needs of our community will be greatly aided by our new administrative assistant Anna Armstrong whose quiet efficiency will help us be more effective in our mission. **Tim Marvell**

Financial Review

The Stewardship and Cash Collection income was higher than the previous year at £45,331 (2023 £42,366). Towards the end of the year, we installed a credit card machine which has proved popular. We also joined the Parish Giving Scheme, although this wasn't formally launched until January 2025. We also received a legacy of £8,065 which has been earmarked for the garden at the Church Hall. The Freewill Offering totalling £48,000, a reduction of £20,000 on the previous year, was paid in full. The parish continues to be dependent on income from fees, lettings of the Parish Hall and Fellbrook Avenue, together with refunded payment of Income Tax via the Gift Aid Scheme to meet the freewill offering and other expenditure. The PCC general account benefited in 2024 by £12,348 from the Gift Aid Scheme (2023 £11,114), without which difficulty would have arisen in meeting all expenses and agreed charitable donations.

We agreed to continue to support charities. The total amount of money donated by the PCC in 2024 was £5,579 (2023 £5,896) of which £1,279 was from special collections (2023 £1,316) however we have reserved £1,000 from 2024 income to be paid in 2025 once we have reviewed which charities we give to.

The bank balance in the main account on 31st December 2024 was £17,084 (2023 £7,658).

The Young Peoples Fund continues to be supported by reducing numbers. The fund's balance decreased by £1,931 to £42,849 at the year-end. This fund contributed £3,039 to the resources for the Oasis group which started in the year.

Lettings income from the Parish Hall increased by £3,883 to £28,355. The Parish Hall cash and bank balances at the end of year increased to £28,931.

The value of investments, both general and restricted, increased to £125,464. The restricted investments included in this figure amount to £58,687 (2023 £57,393).

Only the accrued income from the investments of The William Lee Endowment Funds held by the Diocese is available for use in respect of insurance and maintenance of the fabric of St Stephen's church. The St Aidan's fund was transferred into the St Stephen's fund. We utilised £38,354 of the balance towards the cost of the roof repair to the North Transept. On 31st December 2024, £5,406 was available.

The St Stephen's Church Fabric Fund bank balance decreased to £64,019 due to spending £83,607 on the roof repairs on the North Transept and the new Kitchen and Toilets at St Stephen's Church.

Reserves Policy
It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to approximately 6 months unrestricted payments excluding the Freewill offering, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £46,015 on unrestricted bank and cash deposits was almost in line with this policy.

It is our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and Virgin Money Bank.

Oasis Group and Children's Work
We set up the Oasis Children's group in the Summer of 2024. Since then, the groups have grown steadily and now within the Oasis groups on a Sunday morning, there are regularly over 10 children attending, ranging from under 3 (with a parent and carer) up to 14 years of age.
We now offer the group each Sunday and are also in the position of being able to offer Oasis Youth (for the secondary school age group) every week. It is hoped that in the near future it might also be possible to split the Children's Oasis group between a pre-school and primary age group.

The Bible Busy Boxes have been a huge success - thank you to Louise Firth for setting all of these up.

During last Summer the Children and Youth rooms were also revamped with new furniture and resources. Huge thanks to the team that helped to do this.

Abigail Savage was appointed and began the role of Children and School's Creative Coordinator from 1st April 2025.

She is looking forward to beginning work in the local primary schools. Abigail has met with Acomb Primary and is currently in discussions with them about offering a creative project for the summer term.

The Oasis Groups have also worked on Creative Projects for the Christmas and Easter services. These have involved drama, dance and singing. In the future we hope to widen this to further Art projects and Sport projects too.

The Oasis team are currently planning the Summer Fun activities which will be offered in the Summer Holidays.

Thank you to all those that give so generously to the Children and Youth work at St. Stephen's and also to everyone that helps and leads the different groups. We would not be in such a position to offer so much without you all - we really do appreciate it! - **Abigail Savage**

Worship

It has been a year of exciting changes and growth in our worship music offerings. Our organist Philip Sangwine has done a great job in growing our 8.30am choral music output. It has blessed our worship time. He has overseen the formation of a new choir which we hope to grow more in the future. The hymn singing is improving as our repertoire gets more realistic and defined. Renate Sangwine has been a total joy in supporting Philip's ministry. They are both key people in our Thursday worship offerings which will hopefully develop further this year. Sam Minton has stepped up to lead and organise our 10.30am contemporary worship band. New songs have been introduced and lots more people are involved in playing and singing. He is ably supported by the other key leader, Ian Walker, on keyboard. We are slowly introducing percussion and have invested in a bass guitar. Philip Bewers and Tony Tew are doing a wonderful job with the sound system. Helen, her husband (and now Jonathan) faithfully head-up the audio visuals. Aside from Sundays, Carys has returned from her sabbatical to head up a more reflective worship band. They provide soothing music for the soul at some of our Monday gatherings and have formed a new Taize group. Great job everyone! - **Revd. Matt Woodcock**

Thursday Morning Worship in the Parish Hall

The 10:00 am Thursday Communion services held at Acomb Parish Church Hall, are attended by 20-25 people on a regular basis. This is significant growth in numbers. The first Thursday of each month is a Mother's Union service led by the Reverend Phillip Cousins and Ann Barker. The other Thursdays are led by the Reverend Matt Woodcock, and occasionally there is a Service of the Word led by Sue Oxlade. Members of the congregation take turns in doing intercessions, readings and serving. Phillip Sangwine is our resident pianist, and refreshments are served after each service.

Baptisms

Six baptisms took place at St. Stephen's in 2024 and until the date of this report:
William Henry Legg - 02.06.2024
Daisy Grace Carney - 18.08.2024
Poppy Rose Nickson - 22.09.2024
Eleanor Mathilda Ketzer Dunk - 01.12.2024
Isaac Bayston - 27.04.2025
Luca Bayston - 27.04.2025

The system for arranging baptisms now, is that an enquiry is responded to by an initial 'chat' and the sending of a letter from the Vicar explaining our desire to welcome new members of God's family and St. Stephen's family. To this end, the family is expected to start coming to church; after three visits, the process of arranging a date, etc. can be started. **Sue Oxlade**

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Community Choir
The idea of meeting to do some soul-full singing in the church was formed with a small group of women who met in December 2024. From that St Stephens Community Choir was formed, first meeting on the 8th January with 12 people, growing to an average of 25 people from a group of currently 37. The choir meets on a Wednesday evening between 7.30 and 9.00pm and is currently led by Manton Dumville, supported by his daughter Bethany Wheeler on the keyboards. A range of songs are included, some faith-based, with the aim of appealing to all in Acomb who welcome some time to sing in a warm and welcoming environment, making St Stephens a place to be enjoyed. The 'term's' singing will culminate in a performance on Wednesday 25th June. **- Lizzie Tulip, choir coordinator**

Outreach Committee
Our very popular **Craft Fair & Coffee Mornings** are held on the 3rd Saturday of the month (except July and December). Church members run our community café and local crafters book stalls. We welcome regulars plus new faces and there is a lovely, friendly atmosphere with lots of chat over drinks and cake plus retail therapy, supporting local crafters. The family room has baby and toddler toys and is well-used. Our Christmas event in November was very successful and the 'Prize every Time' Tombola, family games, craft activities and Christmas treats were enjoyed by everyone. Recent additions are our parish Fair Trade stall and card machine for payments.
Social Events – We organized a Free Family Barn Dance last May along with Quiz Nights in June, November and April with our brilliant Quizmaster. It was wonderful to welcome families and friends, both from church and the local community, to all these events and have fun together. There will be a Family Ceilidh on Saturday 21 June.
Church Events – The Outreach Team organized refreshments to welcome Rev Matt and his family after his Licensing Service and mince pies and mulled wine after the Community Carol Service.
We have been able to contribute around £2,500 towards church funds over the last year.
Many thanks to the Outreach Team plus everyone who has helped, donated and supported the events. We welcome anyone who would like to join the team. A few outreach events and gatherings were also organised by Rev Matt and a little team to try and reach a different demographic and try new things. These included:

- Community carols under the Christmas lights and afterwards in The Crooked Tap
- Christmas Lights Switch on gig at The Tap
- Church gig fundraiser with Steam Pigeon which raised £500
- Start Course at the vicarage

Jen Deamer, Chair of Outreach

Friends of St Stephen's Churchyard and Eco Church
When St Stephen's signed up to 'A Rocha' to work towards an EcoChurch Bronze Award, a large part of the survey regarded the management of land and nature. In response Friends of St Stephen's Churchyard was launched in October by the Eco Group. Since then, the Friends of St Stephen's Churchyard have met monthly to maintain the churchyard and ensure it remains both a peaceful sanctuary for the local community and a welcoming habitat for wildlife.
Group Composition and Engagement
The Friends group currently consists of 21 members, including 13 members of the church and 8 individuals from the wider community. The group has proven to be a successful blend of church members and local residents, all of whom share a passion for preserving the churchyard and enhancing its role as a community asset. The diverse membership has brought valuable perspectives and skills to the group, strengthening its capacity to make a positive impact on the churchyard's upkeep and the broader environment.
Activities and Accomplishments
Since October, the group has carried out a variety of tasks to maintain and improve the churchyard. These have included:

1. **Winter Maintenance**
   Over the winter months, the group undertook several important tasks to prepare the

churchyard for the colder weather and maintain its appearance. This included sweeping fallen leaves to keep paths clear and prevent slip hazards, as well as staining benches to ensure they remain in good condition for visitors.

2. **Planting**
   In the autumn the group planted daffodil, crocus, hyacinth and scilla in the upper churchyard, which are currently providing spring colour and have attracted many positive comments from churchyard users. Wildflower seeds have been planted on the north side of the church in the area where scaffolding had killed off the grass. The Friends have been offered 600 daffodil bulbs by York and Ainsty Rotary Club, which will further enhance this area for next year.
3. **Pruning and Horticultural Work**
   Regular pruning of bushes and trees has been essential to keep the churchyard tidy and ensure that the growth remains manageable. This work has also encouraged healthy growth and provided opportunities for seasonal blooming.
4. **Wildlife Initiatives**
   One of the key focuses of the group has been promoting the churchyard as a haven for wildlife. Members put up bird boxes and bird feeders throughout the churchyard, creating safe spaces for birds and attracting a variety of species. These initiatives have helped foster a thriving ecosystem and provided a valuable resource for local wildlife, particularly during the winter months when food can be scarce. Small signs reminding visitors that the churchyard is a wildlife area and requesting that dogs be kept on leads have been installed at either end of the churchyard.
5. **Lighting and Aesthetic Enhancements**
   In an effort to make the churchyard more inviting and accessible during the darker months, the group installed winter festoon lighting. This addition not only improved visibility for those visiting the churchyard but also created a warm and welcoming atmosphere, particularly for our Community Carol Service.
6. **Working in Collaboration with the Community Payback Team**
   The Community Payback Team have been engaged in keeping the upper churchyard presentable, sweeping and pruning as well as clearing the ditch behind the boundary wall of the lower churchyard. They are now starting to mow and strim key areas.

Future Plans and Churchyard Maintenance Strategy

The group has developed a churchyard maintenance plan with assistance from a member of the group who is an entomologist, to ensure that work is prioritised and organised effectively throughout the year and that key areas are left unmown to promote biodiversity. Additionally, there are plans to expand the group's efforts by increasing engagement with the local community through the installation of new interpretation signage. These signs will provide information about the history of the churchyard, the biodiversity of the space, and the importance of preserving such natural habitats.

Formalisation of the Group

As the group has grown and its activities have expanded, members have begun to consider whether formalising the group's structure would be beneficial. One of the main reasons for formalising the group would be the opportunity to apply for funding to support the group's ongoing work. This could include grants for additional lighting, equipment for maintenance tasks, or funding for the new interpretation signage. Currently, the group operates informally, but there is a recognition that formalisation could provide the group with additional resources, stability, and the ability to plan for long-term sustainability. This would need further discussion within the PCC before proceeding.

Conclusion

The Eco Group is delighted with the success of The Friends of St Stephen's Churchyard, who have made significant strides in maintaining and enhancing the churchyard since its formation. Regardless of the decision on formalising its current structure, its success in engaging the local community, maintaining the churchyard, and promoting environmental awareness should be recognised and celebrated as a valuable asset to the local area. As part of its commitment to

the 'A Rocha' EcoChurch initiative, the Eco Group will also be meeting separately in due course to discuss other aspects of the church's environmental impact, including worship and teaching, buildings and energy use, community engagement and lifestyle with a view to achieving an Eco Church Bronze Award. **Dan Savage**

Acomb Parish Hall

During 2024, the Church Hall continued to be well used by both the local community and for Church based events and outreach. This has resulted in an income of £28,600 and an overall surplus for the year of just less than £9,700.

Although we lost two long established regular bookings during the year, this income has been more than recouped by a big increase in one off bookings, especially children's birthday parties and family celebrations.

Although a direct payment was not made to the PCC this year, the hall has been self-sufficient in managing its own expenses. A new water heater was installed at a cost of £2,200 and later in the year we had CCTV installed at a cost of £1,300 as part of an ongoing effort to improve safety for all people using the site.

Moving forward into 2025, bookings are very buoyant and one of our priorities as part of our safeguarding programme is to get a safer door entry and exit system installed during the year.

Val Atkinson

Prayer

Thursday Morning Prayer meeting

A small group meet on a Thursday morning at 7am for half an hour to pray as the Lord leads us. There number varies between 3 and 6 members of the church, but anyone is welcome to join us. We meet in The Ellis Room in the Parish Hall. We start the meeting by reading a psalm together and then we have open and quiet prayer for the remainder of the meeting usually finishing with the Church of England's prayer for the day and The Lord's Prayer.

Prayer email chain

We have a prayer email chain for any church member who would like to receive it. This is circulated on an ad hoc basis by Nigel Atkinson when someone sends a request for prayer. Please contact Nigel if you would like to be added to the chain.

Prayer Ministry

We offer prayer ministry at each 10.30 service, if it is a communion service then it takes place during communion otherwise it happens after the service has finished. We also offer prayer ministry at the 8.30 service once or twice a month during communion.

Nigel Atkinson

Parish Safeguarding Report

In recent years the Church Warden has also been the Parish Safeguarding Officer. This has never been a satisfactory arrangement. With the growth of work with children and a greatly increased congregation, it is now essential that the Safeguarding at St Stephen's Church is properly overseen by a volunteer with that sole task. I am therefore delighted to report that Fiona Parr has volunteered to be our Safeguarding Officer. She has undertaken the extensive training required by the Church of England and the Diocese of York and officially started as PSO in March 2025. I know that she will receive support and cooperation from everyone.

PCC Secretaries Report

The Parochial Church Council met on 9 occasions during 2024: 8th January, 10th March, 15th April, 26th May, 13th June, 11thJuly, 5th September 3rd October and 28th November. With 3 in 2025, [This equates to 9 meetings between the APCMs of 12th May 2024 and 12th May 2025 – 26th May,13th June, 11th July, 5th September 3rd October and 28th November 2024, 9th January, 13th February and 3rd April 2025. Many items were discussed at these meetings including

reports from all the committees, looking after the fabric and running of the church buildings. the sale of St Aidan's Church building.
The Finance, Outreach, Staffing, and Property had meetings between PCC meetings, but less frequently in order to make recommendations to the Council. The staffing committee met as required, to specifically deal with any staffing matters. The Standing Committee has also communicated by email and in person in respect of any urgent matters. A folder of PCC minutes is available to view.
The Council received and discussed regular reports from the Treasurer relating to collections and planned giving and the balances in the General, Fabric and Young People's Funds. Parochial Church Fees which are the responsibility of the Council are also reviewed annually. Recommendations by the Finance Committee as to which Missions and Charities should receive donations from Council funds were accepted. The Parish agreed that its freewill offering to the Diocese in 2025 to assist the Diocese in its mission and ministry financial requirements would be £52,000. **Anne Barker**

Squeals on Wheels Baby and Toddler Group
We are a community toddler group and aim to build relationships with families in a safe and secure environment. We meet every Tuesday morning during term-time and welcome parents, grandparents and carers with children from babies to 4 years olds from 9am to 11am in the Parish Hall. We welcome between 17 and 23 children per session.

Our volunteer staff are Maria and Phil Bewers, Clare Bewers, Nigel Atkinson, Jennifer Keenan, Claire Marvell, Maggie McDonald, Jen Deamer, Carys Tew and Jo Shaw.

We have various play activities such as construction toys, car garages, home corner with cooker, a book area with floor cushions, playdough, jigsaws, physical play with a slide, trampoline, rocking boat, and balancing blocks, sit and ride toys and small world play. We also provide a themed craft area with a relevant story each week.

We have snack time when the children sit together to enjoy their snack which consists of cut up fruit for the children and a hot drink and biscuits for the adults. We are looking forward to being able to use the new garden area at the side of the hall. **Jen Deamer**

Men's Group
The men's group coffee and cake mornings are held on the first Tuesday of every month, alternating between Acomb library and the Bluebird Bakery. We meet at 11:00 and all men are welcome to attend. There are usually about half a dozen or so who attend on a regular basis. Topics of conversation vary between holidays, general health, past experiences, families, or just whatever .....

When the weather improves, we'll start the pub evenings again. These are held on the third Wednesday of each month, and are always at a local pub, meeting from 7:30 pm onwards. Attendance varies from between five to ten of us. **Ian Sangster**

Missions Partners
It was decided to not have a special group meeting, but to pray regularly for the missionaries we support (Anna and Chris Hembury in Hull with CMS, Ben and Kirsten Nobbs in Durban with YWAM and Rev Rachael in Hull as vicar of the parish of St Michael and All Angels).

Sat - 7
SAT-7, the Christian satellite television broadcaster, beams programmes across the Middle East and North Africa 24/7 in Arabic, Turkish and Farsi (Persian). The programmes, including childrens' programmes, are produced and hosted by Christians in the region to encourage Christians and to overcome ignorance and prejudice among members of the majority religion. SAT-7 has been among the mission agencies with which Acomb parish has had links for

several years. A few members of St Stephen's are regular supporters of SAT-7, others have used the special prayer guides produced from time to time. In Lent 2024 many church members bought the beautifully produced £5 undated paperback entitled '40 days of Prayer for the Middle East' (which is still available), while in Advent the fifteen free copies of 'A is for Advent: an A-Z of Christmas in the Middle East' were quickly snapped up, and copies of a revised edition are already ordered for the whole church for Advent 2025! I'll gladly give more information about SAT-7 to anyone interested. **Andrew Bailey**

Fair Trade

We are a Fair-Trade church. We support the Fairer World shop in Gillygate, where Charlie and Moira work tirelessly to ensure that producer groups in Africa, Asia and Latin America can support a more sustainable living in their communities and increase their health care and education.

To this end, at St Stephen's we run a Fair-Trade stall each month at the Craft and Coffee sessions in the Parish Hall.

Property Report

St Stephens

Work on the North Transept roof has been completed. The plaster in the upper walls of both transepts is being allowed to dry prior to redecoration.

The upper rooms have been cleared and refurnished; the larger for groups involving younger children, the smaller as a youth room.

The loft above the kitchen and toilet area (created when that was renovated last year) has been boarded out and is now storing our resources for Christmas. This area is easily accessible through the loft hatch using the installed loft ladder.

The Vestry has been decluttered allowing furniture to be moved from the chancel which has enabled greater flexibility for worship and created a sanctuary area for quiet prayer after the service.

St Aidans

A 'heads of terms' contract has been agreed for the sale of St Aidans building and land to be sold to the Salvation Army.

36 Fellbrook

The current tenants, a Ukrainian refugee family have remained in the property for a second successive year, paying a much-reduced rent of £ 875.00 per month.

The property has been well looked after and maintained so remedial works and property expenses have been relatively minor for the year.

Tim Marvel and Val Atkinson

Continuing Care for St Aidan's Church, Ridgeway.

We have made great progress on the sale of St Aidan's. We will keep you updated as and when we can.

Deanery Synod

The minutes of the first Deanery Synod meeting of 2024, at which St. Stephen's was not represented, report an Update on Living Christ's Story by Sam Nichol, who is leading this Diocesan initiative. Plans were in place to continue to initiate Deanery participation. At the May meeting, the main topic was the challenges involved in delivering Living Christ's Story, bearing in mind the five points of mission (Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure) and how this will work in our different areas of the deanery. At the October meeting, Jan Grey, the Generous Giving Advisor, was present and she introduced Viv Cooling and Peter Phillips who gave a presentation "Generous Giving in the Diocese of York"

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Mothers Union Report

When our member numbers dwindled after the Covid pandemic it was decided that we would drop our monthly meetings and that we would increase our fellowship during our monthly Mothers Union Corporate Communion services on the first Thursday of each Month. So, between the months of October and April we provide a shared lunch of homemade vegetable soup with bread rolls along with hot drinks and biscuits This has become very popular with all those who attend the service, members and non-members. Take away mugs of soup have been provided for those who want to take theirs home.

Between May and September scones with jam and cream, and cheese scones and cream cheese are provided.

We continue to be blessed by Rev Philip Cousins as he leads the monthly Mothers Union Communion, and this service is well attended with Mothers union members from other parishes also joining our service. **Anne Barker**

Discipleship

Weekly Tuesday Evening Homegroup

The meetings were discontinued on 7th January as it was felt the group had run its course and participants had different expectations from a home group. **Paul Deamer**

Tuesday Fortnightly Homegroup

Our home group meets fortnightly on a Tuesday evening except for in the major school holidays. The group has 5 faithful, long-term members--we lost a dear member about a year ago when he died--and is still missed. We study scripture, share thoughts, listen to each other and pray together. We have a heart for listening to God. The fellowship from the group is a prayerful and loving support. **Susan Erridge**

Fortnightly Thursday evening Home Group

2024 was the second year of this group, which has been meeting at 7.30 in the lovely living room of one of our members. In the spring 'term' we used notes prepared by the Bible Society to go with a series of 15 minute films broadcast on BBC1 during Holy Week in the year 2000 entitled 'Tales from the Madhouse'. Each film is a moving, imaginary monologue by a character from the Gospels who have become mentally disturbed as a result of missing an opportunity to respond to Jesus. Very thought-provoking. We had several 'one-off' meetings during the summer and a very interesting outing to the Bradford Faith Trail. In the autumn, on the basis of our appreciation of the Bible Society's 'The Bible Course' in 2023, we studied 'the Romans Course', which took us through this important Letter of Paul to the Christians in Rome, with the similar pattern of videos (filmed in Rome) and discussion. The Romans Course (now available for other groups) was challenging, but worthwhile. It took us to Christmas, when our last meeting was a pleasant social gathering. One of our members sadly couldn't attend because of ill-health, another has taken a 'break'; but we have welcomed three new members.

Andrew Bailey

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Acomb Parochial Church Council (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

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 financial statements to be reached.

Judith Summerfield BA FCA
Chartered Accountant

5 Bowyers Close
Copmanthorpe
York
YO23 3XW

Dated: 12 May 2025

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds general £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	73,111	6,346	13,739	-	93,196	80,832
Charitable activities	3	42,935	-	-	-	42,935	43,390
Investments	4	2,293	-	6,963	4,347	13,603	16,639
Total income		118,339	6,346	20,702	4,347	149,734	140,861
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	99,510	-	99,492	38,354	237,356	229,954
Net gains on investments	10	973	50,000	1,295	-	52,268	6,063
Net movement in funds		19,802	56,346	(77,495)	(34,007)	(35,354)	(83,030)
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		93,556	2,160,832	240,287	88,532	2,583,207	2,666,238
Fund balances at 31 December 2024		113,358	2,217,178	162,792	54,525	2,547,853	2,583,208

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		2,207,566		2,157,836
Investments	13		174,582		172,315
			2,382,148		2,330,151
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		166,720		253,082	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,015)		(25)	
Net current assets			165,705		253,057
Total assets less current liabilities			2,547,853		2,583,208
Capital funds					
General endowment funds	17		54,525		88,532
Income funds					
Restricted funds	16		162,792		240,287
Designated funds	18		2,217,178		2,160,833
General unrestricted funds	18		113,358		93,556
			2,547,853		2,583,208

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 3 April 2025

Mr T Marvell

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Acomb Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements for 2024 have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

The unrestricted fund is available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time the claim is made.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate. Governance costs represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements. As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold property	Nil
Equipment	15% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Taxation

The church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving	42,362	-	1,390	43,752	48,172
Donations and legacies	18,321	5,096	590	24,007	4,358
Gift aid tax relief	12,349	1,250	203	13,802	13,272
Other income	79	-	11,556	11,635	15,030
	73,111	6,346	13,739	93,196	80,832
For the year ended 31 December 2023	55,964	-	24,868		80,832
Donations and legacies					
Legacies	8,066	-	-	8,066	-
Donations	10,255	5,096	590	15,941	4,358
	18,321	5,096	590	24,007	4,358

3 Charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Service fees	2,141	3,155
Lettings	28,356	24,473
Rent	9,700	10,751
Special efforts	2,308	3,741
Sale of Assets - St Aidan's	430	1,270
	42,935	43,390
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	42,935	
For the year ended 31 December 2023		
Unrestricted funds		41,530
Restricted funds		1,860
		43,390

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endowment funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income from listed investments	1,976	2,503	2,622	7,101	3,310	2,399	5,611	11,320
Other income	317	4,460	1,725	6,502	90	3,342	1,887	5,319
	2,293	6,963	4,347	13,603	3,400	5,741	7,498	16,639

5 Charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs	6,182	15,932
Depreciation and impairment	1,120	147
Acomb Parish Church Hall expenses	15,416	15,438
Church running expenses	10,296	11,015
Church yard expenses	995	1,474
Bank charges	301	310
Freewill offering	48,000	68,000
Parish expenses	8,408	3,607
Donations to charities	5,579	5,896
Church major repairs	132,672	87,167
Church maintenance	2,503	1,389
Professional fees	697	5,298
Gifts	382	2,071
Clergy expenses	708	331
Clergy housing	(14)	228
Rental property expenses	3,641	11,201
	236,886	229,504
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	470	450
	237,356	229,954
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	99,510	
Restricted funds	99,492	
Endowment funds - general	38,354	
	237,356	
For the year ended 31 December 2023		
Unrestricted funds		160,826
Designated funds		370
Restricted funds		32,090
Endowment funds - general		36,668
		229,954

6 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Costs of independent examination	-	470	470	450
	-	470	470	450
Analysed between				
Charitable activities	-	470	470	450

7 Net movement in funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	470	450
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	740	147
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	380	-

8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
	3	3

Employment costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	6,182	15,932

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

10 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023	2023
Gains/(losses) arising on:	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revaluation of investments	973	50,000	1,295	52,268	4,858	-	1,205	6,063

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 January 2024	2,157,000	6,314	2,163,314
Additions	-	850	850
Disposals	-	(4,345)	(4,345)
Revaluation	50,000	-	50,000
At 31 December 2024	2,207,000	2,819	2,209,819
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2024	-	5,478	5,478
Depreciation charged in the year	-	740	740
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	(3,965)	(3,965)
At 31 December 2024	-	2,253	2,253
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2024	2,207,000	566	2,207,566
At 31 December 2023	2,157,000	836	2,157,836

13 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Unlisted investments	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2024	167,315	5,000	172,315
Valuation changes	2,267	-	2,267
At 31 December 2024	169,582	5,000	174,582
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2024	169,582	5,000	174,582
At 31 December 2023	167,315	5,000	172,315

14 Financial instruments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Equity instruments measured at cost less impairment	174,582	172,315

14	**Financial instruments**	2024	(Continued) 2023
	Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
	Measured at amortised cost	1,015	25

15	**Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**		
		2024	**2023**
		£	**£**
	Trade creditors	1,015	25

16 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Young People's fund	40,948	1,621	(3,553)	-	39,016
St Stephen's Fabric fund	199,091	18,002	(95,680)	1,295	122,708
Angel Tree fund	248	490	(258)	-	480
Contribution to Administrator	-	588	-	-	588
	240,287	20,702	(99,492)	1,295	162,792

Previous year:	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Young People's fund	43,372	1,530	(3,954)	-	40,948
St Stephen's Fabric fund	192,280	20,266	(14,659)	1,204	199,091
St Aidan's Fabric fund	1,856	35	(1,891)	-	-
AV Sound system	500	-	(500)	-	-
Gifts	-	1,860	(1,860)	-	-
Angel Tree fund	148	311	(211)	-	248
Diocese of Liverpool fund	135	-	(135)	-	-
Contribution to R Garland Costs	412	8,468	(8,880)	-	-
	238,703	32,469	32,090	1,205	240,287

17 Endowment funds

The movements in endowmant funds during the year were as follows:

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowments					
York St Stephen - William Lee Bequest	19,647	-	-	29,471	49,118
York St Aidan - William Lee Bequest	29,471	-	-	(29,471)	-
Expendable endowments					
York St Stephen - William Lee Bequest	16,893	4,347	(29,354)	13,521	5,407
York St Aidan - William Lee Bequest	22,521	-	(9,000)	(13,521)	-
	88,532	4,347	(38,354)	-	54,525

Previous year:	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowments					
York St Stephen - William Lee Bequest	19,647	-	-	-	19,647
York St Aidan - William Lee Bequest	29,471	-	-	-	29,471
Expendable endowments					
York St Stephen - William Lee Bequest	44,699	3,279	(31,085)	-	16,893
York St Aidan - William Lee Bequest	23,885	4,219	(5,583)	-	22,521
	117,702	7,498	(36,668)	-	88,532

The St Aidan endowment was combined with the St Stephen endowment during the year.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
At 31 December 2024:					
Tangible assets	566	2,207,000	-	-	2,207,566
Investments	66,776	-	58,688	49,118	174,582
Current assets/(liabilities)	46,016	10,178	104,104	5,407	165,705
	113,358	2,217,178	162,792	54,525	2,547,853

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
At 31 December 2023:					
Tangible assets	836	2,157,000	-	-	2,157,836
Investments	65,804	-	57,393	49,118	172,315
Current assets/(liabilities)	26,916	3,833	182,894	39,414	253,057
	93,556	2,160,833	240,287	88,532	2,583,208

19 Designated funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

		Movement in funds		Movement in funds	
	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Balance at 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Balance at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Property fund	2,157,000	50,000	-	-	2,207,000
Young People's fund	3,833	-	-	-	3,833
Contribution to Administrator fund	-	-	-	6,250	6,250
Flower fund	-	-	-	95	95
	2,160,833	50,000	-	6,345	2,217,178

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST STEPHEN ACOMB YOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1130667

Accounts

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity Registration No. 1130667

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Church Buildings

St Stephen's Church
York Road
Acomb
York
YO24 4NW

St Aidan's Church
Ridgeway
Acomb
York
YO26 5DB
Closed for public worship.

Bankers

HSBC Bank
13 Parliament Street
York
YO1 8RS

Independent Examiner

Judith Summerfield BA FCA
5 Bowyers Close
Copmanthorpe
York
YO23 3XW

Church Architect

Loise Priestman
Shaw & Jagger Limited
1 Cardale Park
Harrogate
HG3 1RY

Administrative Information

The Parish of Acomb is in the Diocese of York. The address for correspondence is The Vicarage, 32 Carr Lane, Acomb, YO26 5HX. The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commissioners. The Registered Charity Number is 1130667.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Exofficio

Incumbent	The Revd Peter Vivash (Until 31st August 2023)
Assistant Curate	The Revd Rachael Garland (Associate Priest until 1.8.23)
Churchwardens	Mrs Jill Shaw *(from APCM 2023)*
	Mr Timothy Marvell *(from 2022 APCM)*

Representatives on the Deanery Synod (from 2023 APCM for 3 years)

Mrs Val Atkinson
Mrs Jennifer Deamer
Mrs Rachel Parker

Elected and co-opted Members of the Parochial Church Council):
Until 12th May 2024:

Mr Nigel Atkinson (3 years from 2023)
Mrs Anne Barker (3 years from 2023)
Mrs Lyn Sangster (3 years from 2023)
Mrs Carys Tew (3 years from 2022)
Mr Tony Tew (3 years from 2021)
Mrs Sue Trotter (3 years from 2021)
Mr Paul Deamer (3 years from 2021)
Mr Ian Sangster (co-opted for 1 year from 2023)

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

AIMS & PURPOSE

Every Church of England church has the same aim: 'To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'. Acomb Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Pete Vivash, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. Stephen's Church, St. Aidan's Church, Acomb Parish Church Hall and the Curate's house (36 Fellbrook Avenue).

ACOMB PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

'Loving God - Serving Others - Growing Together'

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

Please see all the individual reports appended below.

This has been a year of change. We said 'goodbye' to Rev Pete and Mo Vivash as Pete retired; Rev Rachael Garland and Jesse as Rach was inducted as Vicar of St Michael and All Angels in North Hull and to Lyndon and Julie Parker who had served Acomb Parish as churchwardens and leaders for many years. We had bitter-sweet gatherings as we said goodbye to such loved members of our community. We also had the joy of attending Rach's collation in Hull at the beginning of September.

Pete's retiral meant that we moved into vacancy in September, with the necessity of producing a Parish Profile. Information from the diocese in June focussed the attention of the PCC. Pete graciously allowed us to hold two days of prayer in July and August in order to discern the Lord's will for us. The July day took the text 'unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain'. (Ps 127 v1). The second day in August built on the discernment from the first and used the questions raised as a basis for further discernment. The questions were: Who do we trust? Whose are we? What are we?

At the cafe church in September, the congregation considered these questions and where we wanted to go. All the prayer and discernment contributed to the discussions of the PCC at its Away Day at the end of September, which Archdeacon Sam Rushton facilitated. The profile was ready by the end of October. The post was advertised over Christmas 2023. Interviews were held on 28th February 2024. The chosen candidate was offered and accepted the post and on 3rd March 2024 it was announced that the Rev Matt Woodcock will be Priest-in-Charge at Acomb St Stephen's. His licensing will take place on 23rd May 2024 at St Stephen's.

We are very grateful to Archdeacon Sam Rushton who guided us through the process.

We are also very grateful to Rev Luke Tillett, Vicar of St James the Deacon, who was Area Dean at the time who helped compile a rota of visiting priests and to Rev Andrew Bailey, and Rev John Marvell of this Parish. We have been very blessed by the ministry of such a diverse cohort of clergy. We continue to be blessed by Rev Philip Cousins as he leads the monthly Mothers' Union Communion.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Part of the church ethos is to encourage all members to contribute to the community in the wider parish, thus helping to build social capital, such as by undertaking practical activities with charities. For example, some members of the congregations undertake voluntary work as part of Prison chaplaincy, as School Governors, while others are Trustees of various local Christian charities. Some members link in with the Food Bank which is held on the premises of another church in Acomb.

St. Stephen's churchyard is open at all times and is popular place for people to visit, tend graves or benefit from gardens and wildlife found within the Churchyard. There is a footpath running through it which many use as a short cut. The Community Payback Teams has again been able to work in the Churchyard. A number of faith focussed 'family trails have been set up and well attended. The churchyard is full, but we have been able to extend its community use for some years with the recent introduction of a new area for cremated remains.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Stewardship and Cash Collection income was lower than the previous year at £42,366 (2022 £45,884). The Freewill Offering totalled £68,000 and was paid in full. The major expenditure funded by the PCC main account was the new audio visual and sound system and the repair of the roof at 36 Fellbrook Avenue. The element funded by the main account was £21,205. The Parish continues to be dependent on income from fees, lettings of the Parish Hall and Fellbrook Avenue, together with refunded payment of Income Tax via the Gift Aid Scheme to meet the freewill offering and other expenditure. In addition to this we used £43,000 from our investments to fund expenditure. The PCC general account benefited in 2023 by £11,114 from the Gift Aid Scheme (2022 £11,467), without which difficulty would have arisen in meeting all expenses and agreed charitable donations.

We agreed to continue to support charities. The amount of money donated by the PCC in 2023 was reduced to £4,580 due to the lower level of income (2022 £5,700). In addition to this we donated £1,100 to Rev Rachael Garland's new church from the surplus contributions received towards her salary and paid a further £215.60 (2022 £157.00) from collections for specific charities.

The bank balance in the main account on 31st December 2023 was £7,658 (2022 £13,160).

The Young Peoples Fund continues to be supported but by reducing numbers. The fund's balance decreased by £2,424 to £44,780 at the year-end. We funded one-third of the costs of employing Rev Rachael Garland from this fund. The balance of the cost of employing Rachael until she moved to Hull was met by donations designated for this purpose.

Lettings income from the Parish Hall decreased by £1,937 to £24,472. The major expenditure was the replacement boiler which cost £15,235. The Parish Hall also contributed £3,000 to the main PCC account. The Parish Hall cash and bank balances at the end of year decreased to £19,259.

The value of investments, both general and restricted, decreased to £123,197, due in part to the withdrawal of £43,000 to fund the running of the parish. The restricted investments included in this figure amount to £57,393 (2022 £56,188).

Only the accrued income from the investments of The William Lee Endowment Funds held by the Diocese is available for use in respect of items of maintenance to the fabric of the churches. During the year the terms of the St Aidan's fund were altered to allow us to use the income for St Stephen's Church. We utilised £31,085 of the St Stephens's balance towards the cost of the roof repair to the South Transept and £5,583 of the St Aidan's balance towards the audio visual and sound system. On 31st December 2023, £16,893 was available to St Stephen's Church and £22,521 in the St Aidan's fund.

The St Aidan's Church Fabric Fund balance decreased to £Nil as we have paid some of the insurance from this fund. The St Stephen's Church Fabric Fund bank balance increased to £141,697 due to a £15,000 grant received in the year which will be used for the roof repairs on the North Transept at St Stephen's which are taking place in 2024.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

RESERVES POLICY

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to approximately 6 months unrestricted payments excluding the Freewill offering, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £26,917 on unrestricted bank and cash deposits was below this policy. We aim to hold gift days in the next 12 months to help bring the balances back in line with the policy.

It is our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and Virgin Money Bank.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a body corporate with perpetual succession and has a legal existence apart from the members who compose it. The composition and procedure of Parochial Church Councils is regulated by the new and completely rewritten *Church Representation Rules 2020* which constitute Schedule 3 (as since amended) to the *Synodical Government Measure 1969.* Their functions and powers are contained in the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* as amended by the 1969 Measure which defines the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church". These include:

(a) co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

(b) the consideration and discussion of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest.

The Parochial Church Council is also responsible for the functions that were formerly vested in Churchwardens in relation to (a) the financial management of the Church, (b) the care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church and (c) the care and maintenance of the churchyard.

Elections to the Parochial Church Council are held annually and appointment is for three years, after which there must be a break of at least one year before standing for election again. Members who have been on the Church Electoral Roll for at least six months are entitled to stand for election and all members may vote. Licensed clergy, Churchwardens and members of the Deanery Synod are *ex-officio* members of the Parochial Church Council and the Incumbent is the Chairman. There is provision for unlicensed clergy and lay members to be co-opted to the Parochial Church Council.

The Parish Office has remained closed since the arrival of covid in March 2020. Long term, when the time is right, it is hoped to reinstate this.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL AND CHURCH ATTENDANCE

The Church Electoral Roll currently stands at 108. Five new members have joined this year; 4 have been removed, 3 have died and 1 has moved to another parish. Details of church attendance can be found in the Churchwardens' report. A new Electoral Roll will be compiled in 2025.

- Jill Shaw Parish Electoral Roll Officer

<u>Please note</u>: Prior to 2019 there were 153 on the roll. If the number on the roll drops below 100 the number of members elected to the PCC and representatives at Deanery Synod would

be reduced.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR) - Following the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR), the Acomb Parochial Church Council (PCC) complies with the GDPR fully making careful and very limited use of personal information. As required, we have agreed a data privacy notice – *Jill Shaw Data Protection Officer*

PCC SECRETARYS REPORT - The Parochial Church Council met on 6 occasions during 2023: 9th January 27th March, 12th June, 7th July, 30th September (Away at Haxby), 6th November. [This equates to 7 meetings between the APCMs of 14th May 2023 and 12th May 2024 – 14th May, 12th June, 7th July, 30th September (Away at Haxby), 6th November, 8th January 2024, 15th April 2024.] Many items were discussed at these meetings including reports from all the committees, looking after the fabric and running of the church buildings. the sale of St Aidan's Church building.

The Finance, Outreach, Staffing, and Property had meetings between PCC meetings, but less frequently in order to make recommendations to the Council. The staffing committee met as required, to specifically deal with any staffing matters. The Standing Committee has also communicated by email and in person in respect of any urgent matters. A folder of PCC minutes is available to view.

The Council received and discussed regular reports from the Treasurer relating to collections and planned giving and the balances in the General, Fabric and Young People's Funds. Parochial Church Fees which are the responsibility of the Council are also reviewed annually. Recommendations by the Finance Committee as to which Missions and Charities should receive donations from Council funds were accepted. The Parish agreed that its freewill offering to the Diocese in 2024 to assist the Diocese in its mission and ministry financial requirements would be £48,000. *Anne Barker PCC Secretary*

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPORT - It is unacceptable that the role of PSO is currently undertaken by the Church warden. It is not possible to fulfil the obligations of both roles properly. Prior to the vacancy with the support of the then incumbent it was possible to take time and attention away from one role to focus on the other. However, the additional burdens imposed by vacancy have meant that insufficient attention has been given to the important issues of safeguarding. It is imperative in future that the role of PSO is an exclusive role undertaken by an individual who does not already have significant other responsibilities. This is especially important if we achieve the growth, we hope for over the coming years, which will increase the workload of the Parish PSO.

Thanks to everyone's cooperation DBS checks and all required training has been completed. Also volunteer role descriptions for those volunteering with young people and those in ancillary roles for our young people's groups (refreshments etc) have been approved by PCC, distributed and signed by the relevant individuals. In this area we now comply with Diocesan guidelines on safer recruitment.

However, we still have not developed role descriptions for those volunteering with vulnerable adults, which has become urgent as we seek to revive our home communion team.

Also unfortunately, the PSO has not been able to keep informed. The PSO was unable to attend training offered by the diocese during 'safeguarding week' or attend meetings for PSOs organised by the Diocesan safeguarding team.

Also, regretfully the significant initiative introducing Safeguarding Services and regular prayers on the topic of safeguarding have fallen by the wayside, reducing the effectiveness of our safeguarding measures as it reduces awareness of the issue. - Tim Marvel PSR for Acomb Parish PCC.

PRAYER

Thursday Morning Prayer meeting - A small group meet on a Thursday morning at 7am for half an hour to pray as the Lord leads us. There number varies between 3 and 6 members of the church, but anyone is welcome to join us. We meet in The Ellis Room in the Parish Hall. We

start the meeting by reading a psalm and then we have open and quiet prayer for the remainder of the meeting usually finishing with the Church of England's prayer for the day.

Monthly Parish Prayer – Despite most of the church family being involved in the Days of Prayer, it has been disappointing that only a small but faithful group of parishioners attend. Prayer is 'the backbone of the church' and this is an opportunity for the whole church to come together just once a month.

THURSDAY MORNING WORSHIP IN THE PARISH HALL - This is regularly attended by between 16 and 25 people. Since Rev Pete retired all the services have been Holy Communion. The first Thursday in the month is the regular MU Communion.

Philip Sangwine plays the piano for us on most Thursdays, and refreshments are served by Geoff and Hilary Waiting, plus helpers. For the monthly MU service, Anne Barker assists Reverend Philip Cousins at Communion and provides refreshments with helpers. This is a very friendly, intimate service, and we all enjoy the social side afterwards.

HOMEGROUPS

Weekly Tuesday Evening - We meet weekly on a Tuesday evening and share any news. Even though there are only 6 of us we do have some interesting conversations on where we are on our walk with God. We know our weaknesses and our strengths. *Paul Deamer*

Fortnightly Tuesday evening homegroup – Barlow Street. - Our homegroup continues to meet fortnightly on a Tuesday at Susan's house. We have studied Acts 2:42-47 and considered the five Marks of Life in the Early Church, The Church in the Acts of the Apostles and recently The Missionary Journeys of Paul. We are grateful to David for spending time putting together the course notes. We felt that The Church in the Acts of the Apostles was a useful study as we went into the vacancy period and reflected the new beginnings we now have as a church. We are very supportive of each other and although our numbers have reduced due to George Hamber's recent illness we are still growing together as a group. *Nigel Atkinson & Susan Erridge*

Wednesday Ladies Homegroup - We meet alternate weeks, 13.30 till about 15.00 during term time in the Ellis room at the Parish Hall. There are about 9 or 10 ladies regularly meeting together to pray for each other, Acomb and the world.
We also have a short time of bible study, led by different members of the group. During Lent and Advent, we use special booklets; recently we were working through a booklet called 'The Twelve Disciples'. At the end of each term, we share 'Church at home', AGAPE liturgy.
I think we all appreciate the times of fellowship, fun, laughter and the knowledge that we can share matters for prayer, thanks and answers to prayer. *Rachel Parker*

Fortnightly Thursday evening Home Group - After a slow start, this group, meeting at 7.30 in the lovely living room of one of our members, got under way in January. Members suggested we study one of Jesus' parables, and we continued with a new parable each meeting until well after Easter! Our evening pattern has been sharing news since we last met, study, and ending with a time of prayer. Holidays and other activities interrupted the sequence of meetings in the summer, and we resumed again in September to study 'The Bible Course' produced by the Bible Society. The course gives an overview of 'the big picture' of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation with the help of input from videos and opportunity for discussion. The course, available now to other groups, was much appreciated. It took us to Christmas, when our last meeting was a social gathering for morning coffee in a local garden centre recommended by a member. Numbers of the group grew over the year: we now have nine 'on the books', with regular attendance between six and eight. *Andrew Bailey*

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Music Group - The music group fluctuates in numbers, but we really enjoy leading the worship in church each week. We are very grateful to Ralph Williams for providing occasional, solid support on the organ/keyboard at the 9.30 service.
We are very happy with the new audio-visual system put in place by Rev Pete last year at St Stephen's, but we could do with more support in operating the sound levels and PowerPoint used in the services. As always, we would welcome any other singers or musicians who would like to join the group. *Carys Tew*

OUTREACH COMMITTEE - Despite the committee agreeing that we would limit activities this year due to everyone's other commitments we do seem to have been quite busy. Nevertheless, it's always great to welcome and serve both our church and community to share God's love and hospitality.

Our Monthly **Craft Fair & Coffee Mornings** continue to do well with regulars and new faces. Lots of chat and cake-eating going on plus retail therapy, supporting the local crafters. The family room also seems to be always full of fun and laughter (and crumbs and toys!) Our Christmas event was very successful with families enjoying games and free Christmas craft activities. It was definitely worth extending the opening hours to include serving lunch, as well as cakes and Christmas treats. We are delighted to have been able to donate over £1,500 towards church funds since the last APCM and help fund free community events.

Social Events - It was wonderful to welcome families from our community and church members to our Barn Dance, Riding Lights Christmas production and Pancake Party. Huge numbers attended each one (100+) and everyone, young and old, had great fun, even though we did not raise large sums of money. After the Pancake Party we were pleased to send Rev Rach £300 (including extra donations) for which she was very grateful. Our Quiz Night in January, though taxing on the little grey cells and not that well-attended, was an enjoyable evening with church family and friends (humility prevents me from saying who won!). Thanks to Quizmaster Extraordinaire Ralph Williams. Our Barn Dance will be repeated on Saturday 11 May and Ralph would be happy to organise another quiz for us.

As part of our sad 'goodbyes' to Rev Rach, Jesse, Julie, Lyndon, Pete and Mo the Outreach team organized and served refreshments – coffee and cakes after church for Rach, Julie and Lyndon, and an afternoon tea in the hall for Pete, Mo and their family – much appreciated by everyone and "better than Betty's" according to one church member!

Due to the workload involved with Christmas Cards the Outreach Committee decided not to do them last year. However, we had some excellent posters and fliers designed by Jen's son Jon which were distributed all around the community and the services were more well-attended – maybe the way to go?

Our most recent 'event' was providing and serving lunch to around 24 people, including the interviewees, their spouses and Bishop John before the formal interviews took place, which was a great privilege.

Many thanks to the Outreach Team – Jill, Kay, Pam, Lyn, Paul, Carys – plus all those who have helped and supported at Craft and Coffee and our social events. We always welcome others who would like to join. *Jen Deamer, Chair of Outreach*

BAPTISMS (CHRISTENINGS) - There were five Baptisms during the year, including one where the parents celebrated their wedding. At the moment, parents who wish to have their child baptised contact the church. I have been following these up with an email inviting the family to attend a service with us as the first step towards baptism. I then arrange preparation for baptism, explaining the service and answering questions after the family have attended the 'welcome service'. After this preparation a date is agreed for the baptism to be held if parents want to continue. *Sue Oxlade*

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

'SQUEALS ON WHEELS' (baby & toddler group) - Firstly, let's hear from our parents & carers: "Good interaction between the children, very good facilities and balance between free play and organised fun". "Lovely friendly, helpful volunteers who make you feel looked after, very inclusive and not at all cliquey". "My favourite pre-school/toddler group" "The snacks are healthy and delicious." One little boy is always asking, "Toddler group, can we go?".

And secondly, from our team: "The numbers are not as high in the past but nearly everyone seems happy. It's nice to have so many grandparents now". "Squeals is a very friendly, vibrant group that welcomes both parents, carers and children. Our team work well together and complement each other with our different skills".

As you can see, Squeals continues to thrive and yet we are running on a 'shoe string'. If even one person cannot do their session, for whatever reason, we can really struggle to cover their absence. Jill has been out of action for several months and may not return, one team member is struggling a chronic health flare-up, to say nothing of occasional minor illnesses and unavoidable absences, and Carys and Tony will be jetting off to the antipodes later in the year for 3 months.

Say 'hello' to the team – Carys, Jennifer, Maria, Claire and Ally help in the main hall. Maria and Ally every Tuesday, Carys, Jennifer and Claire alternate Tuesdays. Jennifer and Maria plan crafts and stories and we are blessed with two musicians – Carys and Claire. Jo, Jen and Claire serve in the kitchen on a rota basis and, last but not least, Tony and Tim help to set up first thing alternate Tuesdays.

All sessions are organised on a rota basis and can be fitted around existing commitments. There are many different ways to serve and I'm sure if you offered or just came along to a session to find out more, there would be a place just for you. Please do pray about it otherwise there is a very real chance that Squeals will have to close which would be a shame when it has been running for over 30 years and is such a blessing to the families in Acomb as well as an opportunity for us to share the love and good news of Jesus. *Jen Deamer, Squeals Team*

MEN'S GROUP - We all used to enjoy the men's group that Lyndon organised, so when he and Julie moved, I decided to take it on. We have had two meetings so far, and I am planning one for some time after Easter. We use local pubs, all within walking distance, and have had about eight at each meeting. We try to meet every other month, and so far it's looking good. I plan to continue with this event. *Ian Sangster*

MISSION PARTNERS - It was decided to not have a special group meeting, but to pray regularly for the missionaries we support (Anna and Chris Hembury in Hull with CMS, Ben and Kirsten Nobbs in Durban with YWAM and Rev Rachael in Hull as vicar of the parish of St Michael and All Angels) once a month during the Sunday services, at the Monday monthly services and during the Thursday am prayer meeting. *Rachel Parker*

SAT-7 - SAT-7, which broadcasts Christian television programmes across the Middle East and North Africa 24/7 in Arabic, Turkish and Farsi (Persian), has been among the mission agencies with which Acomb Parish has had links for several years. A few members of St Stephen's are regular supporters of SAT-7, others have used the special prayer guides produced from time to time. In 2023 eighteen church members took the Advent Prayer Guide entitled 'Silent Night' which focussed on the way Christian witness is silenced by the authorities in many Middle Eastern countries with dangerous consequences for those who break the silence. I'll gladly give more information about SAT-7 to anyone interested. *Andrew Bailey, SAT-7 Parish Ambassador'*

ECO CHURCH -
Over the last year, three members of the St Stephen's Eco Group (Tim, Andrew and Dan) have been busy working together with representatives from other local churches (Acomb Methodists,

Gateway, Quakers) to develop the 'ACT NOW!' group - local Christians raising awareness of climate change and our need to act as stewards of God's creation. We hosted our first conference last year which was a huge success and received very positive feedback and our second conference, featuring an amazing line-up of speakers and workshop leaders is due to take place on 27th April followed by lunch in Acomb Parish Church Hall. The same 'ACT NOW!' Group is also planning a Community Eco Fair in the Autumn as a pop up street fair in Front Street.

Within our own church, we took part in Churches Count on Nature between 4th and 10th June, where Tim did a fabulous job at organising workshops for the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers throughout the week, including making a bug hotel, doing nature surveys and identifying trees. Several members of our congregation kindly assisted and the children thoroughly enjoyed the exercise. It was a great way to engage our young people in the nature of the churchyard but also to connect with the church itself more. The links we made allowed Andrew to lead our Harvest Festival as an environment service on 1st October in conjunction with the Scouts, exploring how the food we give thanks for, depends upon a flourishing biodiversity and how our greed is making us ignore the plight of the planet and one another.

There is plenty of work still to do at St Stephen's. Firstly our focus on the conference/fair and our work with the Scouts has meant that our A Rocha Eco Church survey has fallen behind. We would welcome more people with an interest in the environment to join us and assist in filling in sections of the survey. Also, General Synod recently passed a resolution calling on parishes to create a land management plan for their churchyards, which is also something we need to discuss in more detail this year, particularly as the churchyard may soon be closed. *Dan Savage*

FAIRTRADE - As everyone will know Acomb Parish is a Fairtrade Parish. We serve only Fairtrade tea/ coffee and usually can obtain Fairtrade sugars too.
About three times a year we will have a Fairtrade stall following Sunday and Thursday church. We also have a stall at the Christmas Craft and coffee Saturday and latterly during the annual Eco church Fair.
These are hugely popular with folks buying cards, eco products, tea, coffee, bamboo socks and many other products. We obtain our goods from Fairer World on a 'sale or return' basis.
Thank you very much to everyone for your support and ensuring people receive a fair wage and employment working conditions. *Rachel Parker*

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - The property committee has met 3 times during the year. The property committee oversees the maintenance, upkeep and safety of all properties and land that Acomb Parish is responsible for. This includes, St. Stephens Church and Churchyard, St Aidan's Church and land, the Church Hall, and the house in Fellbrook Avenue.
During the year with the help of other Church members we have overseen the south transept roof repairs at St Stephens, clearing of the Church yard and had the monolith for cremated remains installed, a new roof on the house in Fellbrook Avenue, flat roof repairs and additional sockets at the Church Hall and the emptying of St Aidan's Church.
Projects planned for this coming year include, work on the north transept at St Stephens, refurbishment work on the toilets to give proper disabled access and improved lighting inside and outside the Church, ongoing negotiations to achieve a successful sale of St. Aidan's, continued upkeep of the Churchyard and St Aidan's garden especially throughout the summer months and ad hoc maintenance work at both the Church Hall and the property in Fellbrook Avenue to ensure they are always in a good state of repair and safe for all users. *Val Atkinson*

Continuing Care for St Aidan's Church, Ridgeway - There is a weekly check inside and outside of the building and grounds to comply with insurance regulations. The internal fabric of the building continues to worsen due to rainfall etc. The fire alarms and fire hydrants are checked monthly.

During the garden growing season last year John Parker and Rob Swallow faithfully cut all the lawns fortnightly. The privet hedges were cut three times in the year, the last cut assisted by Vola. The area of the millennium garden which has copious amounts of horsehair was cut back by Don Savage many times. In November all the trees and shrubs in the millennium garden were pruned and cut back.
Antisocial behaviour over last year seems to have been less, although we often have to collect litter, plastic bottles, footballs and broken glass. Police are informed as necessary. *John and Rachel Parker*

Maintenance of St Stephen's Churchyard - The Probation Service and their Community Service Teams have, once again, been responsible for most of the effort required to maintain the churchyard through the last twelve months.

There was, however, a significant interruption to the grass cutting programme early in the season, when an accident involving a strimmer, which was being operated elsewhere, by another Community Service Team, led to a halt in the use of all garden machinery.

After further assessment, mowing was again permitted, which enabled the upper part of the churchyard to be kept tidy, but grass in the lower part of the churchyard was not cut. Strimming only recommenced at the end of 2023, well after the grass had stopped growing, and only when all supervisors in the region had received additional training. This training was hosted in the churchyard at St Stephen's on several occasions, which enabled us to catch up with grass cutting, to some extent.

Despite these problems on the grass cutting front, teams have still been in attendance, approximately twice a month, and have undertaken a range of tasks aimed at improving the appearance of the churchyard and ensuring that the paths have been safely maintained. This work has included the relaying of some paving slabs that had been disturbed by tree roots, and the resetting of some of the pathway curb stones, as well as sweeping the paths, pruning shrubs and removing ivy from the church walls.

Following a tree safety inspection in July, William Steel, a local tree surgeon was engaged to remove dead limbs from several trees, and also to reduce the height of a holly tree in the lower churchyard, following a complaint from a resident about the leaves shedding over their property. He also reduced the overgrowth of ivy and wisteria to wall height on the path, by the lych gate. This was done in cooperation with the residents at the neighbouring School House, who shared the bill. The robinia and some of the pine trees are still to receive remedial work by the tree surgeon. He has been paid for the work that he has done to date.

The protracted work on the church transept roof resulted in the shrubs by the South Door dying, due to lack of light and moisture. The Community Service Team removed the dead shrubs, and I have replanted the area at the base of the wall with some plants that I had at home. I also re-seeded the areas of grass in front of the shrubs – with the help of a little girl who was with her parents, and who asked if they could look round the church, whilst I was working. I also took the opportunity to varnish the handrail by the steps and paint the shoe scraper by the South Door.
Further repairs to the churchyard walls have been kindly undertaken voluntarily by Lee who has already done considerable work on the repair of the walls in the past.

The Community Service Teams will be unable to maintain the churchyard whilst the church is closed due to lack of toilet facilities, but they hope to resume work once the church has reopened. *Don Savage*

Acomb Parish Church Hall Accounts 2023 - The Parish Hall continues to be busy with bookings almost every day of the week. This has resulted in receipts of just over £24,500 being taken during 2023. This sum of money was then used to make a £3,000 contribution to the PCC and pay for the new boiler at a cost of £15,200, have an electric shutter fitted in the kitchen and

a new water heater. These expenses meant in 2023 the Church Hall account overall expenditure was £35,800, reducing the reserves (balances in the bank accounts) by c. £11,000. Going into 2024 bookings are strong with a new regular booking starting too, therefore it is expected a donation will be made during the year to the PCC and the Church Hall will be able to meet all its own maintenance obligations. *Val Atkinson*

Churchwardens' Report - As mentioned at the start of this report we have been in Vacancy since the end of August 2023, so your Churchwardens have been doing the admin work which would normally fall to the incumbent. We have struggled to meet all of the many requests and demands that arrive in our in-box and maintain the record keeping required. It is clear that this burden is a distraction from the important work on which we would want our priest to concentrate. We are even more determined that we, as a church body, should give our new Priest-in-Charge all the admin help he needs. We either need to raise the money to employ someone or volunteer our services consistently with a high level of expertise. This means that some of the duties of a Churchwarden have not been able to be fulfilled. This must be an urgent priority in the immediate future.

We are very grateful for all the help that you have given us over the last few months, for the prayers and moral support. We thank the members of the PCC, Anne Barker, PCC secretary, Nigel Atkinson, PCC treasurer and the finance committee, Val Atkinson and the Property Committee and Don Savage, for fielding all the questions about the churchyard (and there have been many). We are extremely grateful to Jennifer Deamer who, with her Outreach Committee, has seamlessly continued the important outreach work. Thank you to Carys Tew for organising the music for the Sunday services and to Phillip Sangwine for doing the same on Thursdays. Thank you, too, to all the Sides people, readers, intercessors, prayer ministry team and the coffee team. Please speak to either of us if you would like to offer to minister in any of these positions.

When Vicar Pete left, we had hoped to continue with all the services as they were. We are grateful to Rev Rachel Bailes who stepped in to support us with Splurge and Rev Gill Myers, who stepped in to support us with Breathe. Unfortunately, there was little or no support, and, despite sending reminders to the Splurge and Squeals families, after a very disappointing attendance at the Splurge Nativity it was decided to drop Splurge pro tem. Similarly, it was decided to cease the Breathe services pro tem. It was also decided not to continue with SOS from September 2023 - again there were not enough volunteers to continue with it. We also decided not to deliver Christmas and Easter cards to the majority of the parish as we had in the past, again because of fewer people able to deliver. Members of the public have said that they missed them this year and have valued them in the past. Is this something we should re-visit?

However, there are many positive things to report.

Jen and Paul Deamer were licensed as Authorised Lay Ministers by the Bishop in the Autumn. Sue Oxlade, who is a licensed Reader, is in the process of transferring to become a Licensed Lay Minister in York Diocese. We look forward to their ongoing ministry with us.

You'll have read in Dan's report of the involvement of the Scouts in the Count on Nature week and the positive relationships which are building. Consequently, the Scouts were involved with the Harvest Festival and Christingle services, as well as their usual input to the Act of Remembrance at the Acomb War Memorial. It was led this year by Rev Simon Biddlestone, Vicar of Holy Redeemer.

We had an invitation to join Acomb Methodist Church for the Carol Service, Holy Redeemer for Maundy Thursday evening worship, St James the Deacon for the World Day of Prayer in March and the evening service on Holy Saturday. We hope these links will continue.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Members of the congregation have been active in leading the Cafe Church services, since the retiral of Vicar Pete. Your Churchwardens led the September one on contributing to the Parish Profile; George and Grace Hamber led us in October for Bible Sunday; we had a visit from our mission partners, Chris and Anna Hembury from Hull in November. January 24, we heard from Sammi Tooze, talking about the Rhythm of Life, with testimony from Dave Gardner and a prophecy from Paul Deamer. Our Mothering Sunday service was a very joyful time, led by Jennifer Keenan. We are very grateful to all those who, when asked, said yes.

We have also been able to welcome new people and are very pleased to see returning faces. The number of people attending has stayed around forty for the Sunday service and twenty for the Thursday service. We have a solid base on which to grow, so we are looking forward to this new season.

We have welcomed five children through baptism this year. There were three weddings and 16 funerals, 11 since Vicar Pete retired. We have lost three members of our community during the year - Joy Pickering, Geoff Shirbon and Allan Armstrong.

Meanwhile, the work on maintenance of the church building continues. The repairs to the roof of the south transept have been completed. The work on the north transept should not take as long as all the problems uncovered as the work progressed on the south transept have been anticipated for the north. The work on refurbishing and installing another toilet has begun.

Your Churchwardens were also involved with the ongoing negotiations re: the sale of St Aidan's. The original organisation who offered to purchase it withdrew from negotiations, so it was almost back to square one. We are very thankful to Bevil Edwards from the Diocese and Elizabeth Nelson from Savills who have been supporting us in this matter.

Finally, our thanks go to all the visiting clergy who have led our worship services, baptisms and funerals. We have been very blessed through their ministry. *Tim Marvell and Jill Shaw*
Churchwardens

DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod is a meeting of clergy and representatives from each Parish in York Deanery. We have had three Deanery Synod meetings this year, meeting together for worship, networking, encouragement, support and dissemination of Deanery information.
At the first meeting Rev Luke Tillett mentioned that he would be stepping down as Rural Dean after serving for 5 years. He was thanked for his service. A new Rural Dean will be appointed in the future.
At the second meeting we had an update regarding St Michael the Belfrey's reordering. We also had an excellent informative talk by Professor Colin Beale, who spoke about the climate crisis and the church's response through ARocha/ Eco Church.

Unfortunately, none of your Deanery representatives was able to attend the third Deanery synod. We await the minutes. *Rachel Parker, PCC Deanery Synod Rep*

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Acomb Parochial Church Council (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

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 financial statements to be reached.

Judith Summerfield BA FCA
Chartered Accountant

Dated: 9 May 2024

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds general £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	55,964	-	24,868	-	80,832	79,702
Charitable activities	3	41,530	-	1,860	-	43,390	52,046
Investments	4	3,400	-	5,741	7,498	16,639	13,361
Total income		100,894	-	32,469	7,498	140,861	145,109
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	160,826	370	32,090	36,668	229,954	155,717
Net gains on investments	9	4,858	-	1,205	-	6,063	(21,786)
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(55,074)	(370)	1,584	(29,170)	(83,030)	(32,394)
Other recognised gains and losses							
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	335,000
Net movement in funds		(55,074)	(370)	1,584	(29,170)	(83,030)	302,606
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		148,630	2,161,203	238,703	117,702	2,666,238	2,363,631
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		93,556	2,160,833	240,287	88,532	2,583,208	2,666,237

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		2,157,836		2,157,983
Investments	11		172,315		209,252
			2,330,151		2,367,235
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		253,082		299,644	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(25)		(642)	
Net current assets			253,057		299,002
Total assets less current liabilities			2,583,208		2,666,237
Capital funds					
General endowment funds	14		88,532		117,701
Income funds					
Restricted funds	15		240,287		238,704
Designated funds	16		2,160,833		2,161,202
General unrestricted funds			93,556		148,630
			2,583,208		2,666,237

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 15 April 2024

Mr T Marvell

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Acomb Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements for 2023 have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

The unrestricted fund is available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time the claim is made.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate. Governance costs represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements. As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold property	Nil
Equipment	15% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Taxation

The church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving	40,782	-	7,390	48,172	50,918
Donations and legacies	4,038	-	320	4,358	5,543
Gift aid tax relief	11,114	-	2,158	13,272	11,961
Other income	30	-	15,000	15,030	11,280
	55,964	-	24,868	80,832	79,702
For the year ended 31 December 2022	61,972	100	17,630		79,702
Donations and legacies					
Donations	4,038	-	320	4,358	5,543
	4,038	-	320	4,358	5,543

3 Charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Service fees	3,155	6,145
Lettings	24,473	26,410
Rent	10,751	12,053
Special efforts	3,741	2,292
Diocese of Liverpool	-	5,146
Sale of Assets - St Aidan's	1,270	-
	43,390	52,046

Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	41,530	
Restricted funds	1,860	
	43,390	

For the year ended 31 December 2022	
Unrestricted funds	46,752
Restricted funds	5,294
	52,046

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endowment funds general 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds general 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income from listed investments	3,310	2,399	5,611	11,320	3,307	2,344	5,820	11,471
Interest received	90	3,342	1,887	5,319	26	957	907	1,890
	3,400	5,741	7,498	16,639	3,333	3,301	6,727	13,361

5 Charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs	15,932	13,407
Depreciation and impairment	147	174
Acomb Parish Church Hall expenses	15,438	17,240
Church running expenses	11,015	11,397
Church yard expenses	1,474	353
Bank charges	310	329
Freewill offering	68,000	68,000
Parish expenses	3,607	5,171
Donations to charities	5,896	5,857
Church major repairs	87,167	8,700
Church maintenance	1,389	8,259
Professional fees	5,298	4,947
Gifts	2,071	251
Clergy expenses	331	467
Clergy housing	228	9,076
Rental property expenses	11,201	1,659
	229,504	155,287
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	450	430
	229,954	155,717

Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	160,826	
Designated funds	370	
Restricted funds	32,090	
Endowment funds - general	36,668	
	229,954	

For the year ended 31 December 2022		
Unrestricted funds		122,102
Designated funds		550
Restricted funds		24,564
Endowment funds - general		8,501
		155,717

6 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Costs of independent examination	-	450	450	430
	-	450	450	430
Analysed between				
Charitable activities	-	450	450	430

7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	3	4

Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	15,932	13,407

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £
Revaluation of investments	4,858	1,205	6,063	(17,242)	(4,544)	(21,786)

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 January 2023	2,157,000	6,314	2,163,314
At 31 December 2023	2,157,000	6,314	2,163,314
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2023	-	5,331	5,331
Depreciation charged in the year	-	147	147
At 31 December 2023	-	5,478	5,478
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2023	2,157,000	836	2,157,836
At 31 December 2022	2,157,000	983	2,157,983

11 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Unlisted investments	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2023	204,252	5,000	209,252
Valuation changes	6,063	-	6,063
Transfer to bank	(43,000)	-	(43,000)
At 31 December 2023	167,315	5,000	172,315
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2023	167,315	5,000	172,315
At 31 December 2022	204,252	5,000	209,252

12 Financial instruments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Equity instruments measured at cost less impairment	172,315	209,252
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	25	642

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	25	642

14 Endowment funds

The movements in endowmant funds during the year were as follows:

		Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowments				
York St Stephen - William Lee Bequest	19,647	-	-	19,647
York St Aidan - William Lee Bequest	29,471	-	-	29,471
Expendable endowments				
York St Stephen - William Lee Bequest	44,699	3,279	(31,085)	16,893
York St Aidan - William Lee Bequest	23,885	4,219	(5,583)	22,521
	117,702	7,498	(36,668)	88,532

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investments gains/losses	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investments gains/losses	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Young People's fund	44,565	1,932	(3,125)	-	43,372	1,530	(3,954)	-	40,948
St Stephen's Fabric fund	189,228	13,161	(5,565)	(4,544)	192,280	20,266	(14,659)	1,204	199,091
St Aidan's Fabric fund	3,426	187	(1,757)	-	1,856	35	(1,891)	-	-
AV Sound system	500	-	-	-	500	-	(500)	-	-
Gifts	-	-	-	-	-	1,860	(1,860)	-	-
Angel Tree fund	30	369	(251)	-	148	311	(211)	-	248
Diocese of Liverpool fund	3,838	5,146	(8,848)	-	135	-	(135)	-	-
Contribution to R Garland Costs	-	5,430	(5,018)	-	412	8,468	(8,880)	-	-
	241,587	26,225	(24,564)	(4,544)	238,703	32,470	(32,090)	1,204	240,287

16 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds						
	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investments gains/losses	Balance at 1 January 2023	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
St Stephen's Churchyard fund	720	-	(350)	-	370	(370)	-
Property fund	1,822,000	-	-	335,000	2,157,000	-	2,157,000
Squeals on wheels fund	100	100	(200)	-	-	-	-
Young People's fund	3,833	-	-	-	3,833	-	3,833
	1,826,653	100	(550)	335,000	2,161,203	(370)	2,160,833

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Designated funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Endowment funds 2023	Total 2023	Unrestricted funds 2022	Designated funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Endowment funds 2022	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:										
Tangible assets	836	2,157,000	-	-	2,157,836	983	2,157,000	-	-	2,157,983
Investments	65,804	-	57,393	49,118	172,315	103,945	-	56,188	49,119	209,252
Current assets/(liabilities)	26,916	3,833	182,894	39,414	253,057	43,702	4,202	182,516	68,582	299,002
	93,556	2,160,833	240,287	88,532	2,583,208	148,630	2,161,202	238,704	117,701	2,666,237

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST STEPHEN ACOMB YOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1130667

Accounts

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Charity Registration No. 1130667

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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ACOMB PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Church Buildings

St Stephen's Church
York Road
Acomb
York
YO24 4NW

St Aidan's Church
Ridgeway
Acomb
York
YO26 5DB

Bankers

HSBC Bank
13 Parliament Street
York
YO1 8RS

Independent Examiner

Judith Summerfield BA FCA
5 Bowyers Close
Copmanthorpe
York
YO23 3XW

Church Architect

Loise Priestman
Shaw & Jagger Limited
1 Cardale Park
Harrogate
HG3 1RY

Administrative Information

The Parish of Acomb is in the Diocese of York. The address for correspondence is The Vicarage, 32 Carr Lane, Acomb, YO26 5HX. The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commissioners. The Registered Charity Number is 1130667.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Exofficio

Incumbent	The Revd Peter Vivash
Assistant Curate	The Revd Rachael Garland (Associate Priest from 1.8.23)
Churchwardens	Mrs Rachel Parker *(from APCM 2021 – APCM 2022)*
	Mr Tim Marvell *(from 2022 APCM)*
Representatives on the Deanery Synod (from 2020 APCM for 3 years)	
	Mrs Anne Barker
	Mrs Jennifer Deamer
	Mrs Mo Vivash

Elected and co-opted Members of the Parochial Church Council):

Until 22nd May 2022

Mrs Val Atkinson	(term ends 2023)
Mr Paul Deamer	(term ends 2024)
Mrs Julie Parker	(term ends 2023)
Mr Lyndon Parker	(term ends 2024)
Mr Ian Sangster	(term ends 2023)
Mrs Jill Shaw	(term ends 2023)
Mrs Carys Tew	(Co-opted for 1 year - term ends 2022)
Mr Tony Tew	(term ends 2024)
Mrs Sue Trotter	(term ends 2024)

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

From 22nd May 2022

Mrs Val Atkinson	(term ends 2023)
Mr Paul Deamer	(term ends 2024)
Mrs Julie Parker	(term ends 2023)
Mr Lyndon Parker	(term ends 2024)
Mr Ian Sangster	(term ends 2023)
Mrs Jill Shaw	(term ends 2023)
Mrs Carys Tew	(term ends 2025)
Mr Tony Tew	(term ends 2024)
Mrs Sue Trotter	(term ends 2024)

AIMS & PURPOSE

Every Church of England church has the same aim: 'To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'. Acomb Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Pete Vivash, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. Stephen's Church, St. Aidan's Church, Acomb Parish Church Hall and the Curate's house (36 Fellbrook Avenue).

ACOMB PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

'Loving God - Serving Others - Growing Together'

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

Please see all the individual reports appended below.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Part of the church ethos is to encourage all members to contribute to the community in the wider parish, thus helping to build social capital, such as by undertaking practical activities with charities. For example, some members of the congregations undertake voluntary work as part of Prison chaplaincy, as School Governors, while others are Trustees of various local Christian charities. Some members link in with the Food Bank which is held on the premises of another church in Acomb.

As confidence continues to grow post-Covid, most of our activities are open to the wider community - both to supporting and encourage and to share the Christian faith. Two PCC reps are now liaising with the Scouts executive committee. Both Churches and the Parish Church Hall are well used by the community, the church and numerous other organisations eg: dance groups, flower Guilds, blood banks etc.

Other social cohesion took place this year through 'ACT' (Acomb Churches Together) held both an Acomb community service on Remembrance Sunday at the Acomb green War Memorial and early 2022 a prayer vigil for Ukraine. There was a very popular flower festival to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Church activities such as the monthly Craft & Coffee, Squeals on Wheels and SOS attract a broad cross section of the community and are well supported offering a good place for people to find friendship and support. We provide storage and function space for a community run 'clothes swap' each month. Our annual community carol service and other Christmas services were held in church in 2021 and were well supported services throughout the year.

St. Stephen's churchyard is open at all times and is popular place for people to visit, tend graves or benefit from gardens and wildlife found within the Churchyard. There is a footpath running through it which many use as a short cut. The Community Payback Teams has again been able to work in the Churchyard. A number of faith focussed 'family trails have been set up

and well attended. The churchyard is full, but we have been able to extend its community use for some years with the recent introduction of a new area for cremated remains.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Stewardship and Cash Collection income was lower than the previous year at £45,884 (2021: £48,918). The Freewill Offering totalled £68,000 and was paid in full. The parish continues to be dependent on income from fees, lettings of the Parish Hall and Fellbrook Avenue, together with refunded payment of Income Tax via the Gift Aid Scheme to meet the freewill offering and other expenditure. In addition to this we used £10,585 from our investments to fund expenditure. The PCC general account benefited in 2022 by £11,467 from the Gift Aid Scheme (2021: £12,318), without which difficulty would have arisen in meeting all expenses and agreed charitable donations.

We agreed to continue to support charities. The amount of money donated by the PCC in 2022 was reduced to £5,500 due to the lower level of income (2021: £6,365). In addition, in 2022 we gave £157 by way of special collections.

The bank balance in the main account on 31st December 2022 was £13,160 (2021: £19,161).

The Young Peoples Fund continues to be supported but by reducing numbers. The fund's balance decreased by £1,193 to £47,205 at the year-end. We funded one-third of the costs of employing Rev Rachael Garland from this fund. The balance of the cost of employing Rachael in the period 1st August to 31st December were met by donations designated for this purpose.

Lettings income from the Parish Hall increased by £8,265. The Parish Hall cash and bank balances at the end of year increased to £30,541.

The value of investments, both general and restricted, decreased to £160,134. The restricted investments included in this figure amount to £56,188 (2021: £60,732).

Only the accrued income from the investments of The William Lee Endowment Funds held by the Diocese is available for use in respect of items of maintenance to the fabric of the churches. During the year the terms of the St Aidan's fund were altered to allow us to use the income for St Stephen's Church. We utilised £6,237 of the St Stephens's balance and £2,263 of the St Aidan's balance. On 31st December 2022, £44,699 was available to St Stephen's Church and £23,885 in the St Aidan's fund.

The St Aidan's Church Fabric Fund balance decreased to £1,856 as we are now paying the insurance from this fund. The St Stephen's Church Fabric Fund bank balance increased to £136,090.88 due to a £10,000 grant received in the year which will be used for the roof repairs at St Stephen's which are taking place in 2023.

RESERVES POLICY

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to approximately 6 months unrestricted payments excluding the Freewill offering, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £43,701 on unrestricted bank and cash deposits was in line with this policy.

It is our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and Virgin Money Bank.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a body corporate with perpetual succession and has a legal existence apart from the members who compose it. The composition and procedure of Parochial Church Councils is regulated by the new and completely rewritten *Church Representation Rules 2020* which constitute Schedule 3 (as since amended) to the *Synodical*

Government Measure 1969. Their functions and powers are contained in the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* as amended by the 1969 Measure which defines the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church". These include:

(a) co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

(b) the consideration and discussion of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest.

The Parochial Church Council is also responsible for the functions that were formerly vested in Churchwardens in relation to (a) the financial management of the Church, (b) the care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church and (c) the care and maintenance of the churchyard.

Elections to the Parochial Church Council are held annually and appointment is for three years, after which there must be a break of at least one year before standing for election again. Members who have been on the Church Electoral Roll for at least six months are entitled to stand for election and all members may vote. Licensed clergy, Churchwardens and members of the Deanery Synod are *ex-officio* members of the Parochial Church Council and the Incumbent is the Chairman. There is provision for unlicensed clergy and lay members to be co-opted to the Parochial Church Council.

The Parish Office has remained closed since the arrival of covid in March 2020. Long term, when the time is right, it is hoped to reinstate this.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL AND CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Electoral Roll as at 16th May 2023: The Electoral Roll stood at 108 at the APCM in 2022. There have been three new enrolments and three people have died. The number on the Electoral Roll is therefore unchanged at 108. Jill Shaw Parish Electoral Roll Officer April 2023

Vicar's note: It's worth noting that prior to 2019 there were 153 on the roll! If the number of the roll drops below 100 the number members elected to the PCC will be reduced.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR) - Following the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR), the Acomb Parochial Church Council (PCC) complies with the GDPR fully making careful and very limited use of personal information. As required, we have agreed a data privacy notice - *Peter Vivash Data Protection Officer*

PCC SECRETARYS REPORT - The Parochial Church Council met on 6 occasions during 2022 - 25 Jan,17 Mar, 22 May, 13 June, 10 Sept (Away Day at Wigginton) & 7 Nov. [This equates to 6 meetings between the APCMs of 22.5.2022 and 14.05.2023: 22 May, 13 June, 10 Sept (Away Day at Wigginton), 7 Nov, 9 Jan 2023 & 27 Mar 2023]

Many items were discussed at these meetings including the worship and outreach of the church, reports from all the sub - committees, as well as ongoing care of the fabric and running of the church buildings. The PCC sub-committees Finance, Outreach, and Property, met between PCC meetings -but less frequently - in order to make recommendations to the Council. The Staffing Committee met as required, to specifically deal with any staffing matters. The Standing Committee has met in respect of any urgent matters and there was also an Emergency PCC Meeting following the 9.30am service on 11 December 2022 to expedite the removal of the Parish Hall boiler and fitting of a new boiler.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

The Council received and discussed regular reports from the Treasurer relating to collections and planned giving and the balances in the General, Fabric and Young People's Funds. Parochial Church Fees which are the responsibility of the Council were also reviewed annually. Recommendations by the Finance Committee as to which Missions and Charities should receive donations from Council funds were accepted. The Parish agreed that its free will offering to the Diocese in 2022 to assist the Diocese in its mission and ministry financial requirements would remain at £68,000 - *Mo Vivash PCC Secretary*

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPORT - 2022 has been the first in the new three-year cycle of DBS checks and training. From now on all DBS checks will need to be repeated every three years and training also refreshed every three years. As a result, it has been a busy year ensuring we were all up to date. All necessary DBS checks have now been completed and all but two people are up to date with their training.

Diocesan guidance makes it clear that although they have an important role to play DBS checks by themselves are not sufficient to ensure our church is a safe place to 'love God, serve others and grow together'. There are fewer of us who are able to be active and we are keen to say yes to new volunteers. An individual may offer to make coffee at the end of church, then easily move to helping with refreshments at Splurge and because of shortages find themselves helping out with an activity, without any questions asked. It is therefore important to follow Diocesan guidance and put in place a 'safer recruitment and volunteer management process' for those who wish to volunteer. As is recommended by the Church of England safeguarding team.

However, the recommended procedure from the Church of England has 19 steps. We need more people to help and so we do not wish to deter people by confronting those who volunteer with burdensome and intimidating paperwork and procedures. Additionally, many volunteer for several similar roles. When SOS was started the volunteers already had roles in Squeals and or Splurge. It makes unnecessary work to repeat a recruitment procedure. We therefore needed to develop a safer recruitment protocol that was appropriate for our parish and our circumstances.

Diocesan training (see below) highlighted the central role of the 'volunteer role description'. This document informs volunteers exactly what might be expected and what support will be given to keep themselves and others safe. Therefore, overseen by the PCC the Parish Safeguarding Representative for Acomb parish has developed a volunteer role description for volunteers working with children and young people in the Parish of Acomb. These role descriptions are enhanced by our Parish Safeguarding guidelines approved by PCC at the meeting on 7th November 2022.

In 2023 all existing volunteers working with children and young people will be given a pack consisting of; a welcoming thank-you letter, two copies of the volunteer role description (one to sign and return) the parish safeguarding guidelines and details of where to seek further guidance and information. In addition, for new volunteers a safer recruitment process will be used; they will be provided with a role description prior to completing a brief application, providing references, and attending an informal interview.

In November TM attended several sessions during the Diocesan Safeguarding week including the all-day face to face conference at the Bishops Palace. The session on 'safer recruitment' was particularly helpful. Several others also took the opportunity to attend sessions in this free training. The diocese has made recordings of some of the sessions available on the safeguarding section of the Diocesan website.

In 2023 it is anticipated that we will develop volunteer role descriptions for those working in ancillary roles for our young people's groups (refreshments etc) and those working with vulnerable adults - *Tim Marvel PSR for Acomb Parish PCC.*

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

PRAYER

Thursday Morning Prayer meeting - A small group meet on a Thursday morning at 7am for half an hour to pray as the Lord leads us. There number varies between 3 and 6 members of the church, but anyone is welcome to join us. After the closure of St Aidan's we have met in The Ellis Room in the Parish Hall. We start the meeting by reading a psalm and then we have open and quiet prayer for the remainder of the meeting usually finishing with the Church of England's prayer for the day.
Monthly Parish Prayer – If prayer is seen as 'the backbone of the church' it has been disappointing that only a small but faithful group of parishioners attend. This is an opportunity for the whole church just once a month.

THURSDAY MORNING WORSHIP IN THE PARISH HALL - This is regularly attended by between 16 and 25 people, give or take a couple. We often get one or two mums with small children in the congregation as well. These figures include Communion and the MU service. Philip Sangwine plays the piano for us on most Thursday's, and refreshments are served by Geoff and Hilary Waiting, plus helpers. For the monthly MU service, Anne Barker assists Reverend Philip Cousins at Communion and provides refreshments with helpers. This is a very friendly, intimate service, and we all enjoy the social side afterwards. We have recently had at least one newcomer, and one lady said how much she enjoys the friendly atmosphere. These figures have been more or less constant since we reopened after Covid, and I am confident that these figures will remain about the same – *Ian Sangster*

HOMEGROUPS

New group - Several members of St Stephen's expressed interest in forming a new home group in the autumn of 2022. After a false start, a viable group came together and an ideal home was offered for a proper start at the beginning of 2023. Watch this space! *Andrew Bailey*

Fortnightly Wednesday afternoon homegroup - A group of women meet alternate Wednesdays, term time in the Ellis room at the Parish Hall from 13.30 till approx 15.00 / 15.30 hours. We begin our time sharing our prayer requests, joys, concerns and answers to prayers, followed by a time of prayer, praise and thanks. This is a very important part for us in meeting together. We then spend time on a bible study, led by different members of our group. We have delved into 'The fruits of the Spirit', 'Amos', 'Joel' along with church Advent and Lent studies. All are welcome to join us, tea/coffee available alongside our fellowship - *Rachel Parker*

Weekly Tuesday evening homegroup - Our Tuesday Home group meets weekly (mostly) during 'term time' at 7.15 for fellowship, prayer and learning. We have studied various topics during the past year, ably led by some members of the group. There has been much interesting and helpful teaching – sometimes challenging - and the ensuing discussions are often lively, but always rooted in love. Some evenings are spent in worship and prayer, and we also make time for relaxing and socializing. Sadly, three of our group are moving away in the near future. They will be much missed - *Jill Shaw*

Fortnightly Tuesday evening homegroup - Our homegroup meets fortnightly on Tuesday evenings. We previously met by 'zoom' but now meet as a group at Susan's house.
We have looked at passages from the Bible chosen by group members and have just finished a Lent course based on 'our hearts were burning within us' (Emmaus Road). Our focus as a homegroup is always to have prayer time each session - to share and be supportive of each other - *Susan Erridge & Nigel Atkinson*

OUTREACH COMMITTEE - Firstly, I would like to thank the Outreach Committee and every one of our church members who have helped and supported our events, in whatever way, serving our community and demonstrating the good news of Jesus here in Acomb. There are

many ways to help so please do come forward if you would like to join the Outreach or Craft & Coffee teams.

The Outreach Committee decided last year to limit the number of events we organize as most of the members are involved with other ministries in the church and the remainder work full-time. Having said that, it was wonderful to welcome and share God's love and generosity with huge numbers of people in our community. A very successful Flower Festival to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee was held in early June with wonderful flower displays, created by Acomb Flower Guild, representing the Queen's 70 year reign. We served afternoon teas and there were displays about the Queen's life and faith.

The Outreach committee organized the afternoon tea for our final service at St Aidan's in July. It was a wonderful, if poignant, service, the church was full and everyone enjoyed tucking into afternoon tea prepared by Kay Stephenson and her sister Karen. In December, the Outreach committee and church members were involved with the ACT Christmas event at Gateway where we enjoyed making Christmas angels and chatting with the many families who came along. At both Easter and Christmas 5,000 cards were designed, printed and delivered around the parish by church members - *Jennifer Deamer, Outreach Chair*

BAPTISMS (CHRISTENINGS) - 2022 was a busy year for baptisms as we 'caught up' with those who had delayed due to the pandemic. We baptised 18 children, with a bigger proportion of 1-5 years old than usual. We also started giving the family a prayer book at the baptism service and encouraging them to use it to pray with their children, as well as the usual encouragement to stay connected with Acomb parish.

Going forwards we really need people to volunteer to:

- Answer baptism queries coming into the parish. I have been following these up with an email inviting the family to attend a service with us as the first step towards baptism. I am happy to explain this role to anyone interested and answer questions.
- Continue to welcome families when they join us at a service.
- Arrange preparation for baptism, explaining the service and answering questions after the family have attended the 'welcome service'. In the last few years, I have done the preparation online via Teams (or similar) but previously we met face to face. After this preparation we agree a date for the baptism to be held if parents want to continue.
- Be present in church for the baptism services. They are usually held on the first and third Sunday of the month at 11am, following on from our 9.30 service. Jill Shaw is usually there if you want to ask about what this role entails - *Julie Parker*

'SQUEALS ON WHEELS' (baby & toddler group) **-** offers a friendly and supportive group for babies and toddlers and their parents or carers and continues to be very popular and well-attended. We currently have 27 families on the register and several on the waiting list. The Parish Hall could perhaps accommodate a few more families but with our small team of helpers we have to be very mindful regarding health and safety and safeguarding. We said a sad goodbye and expressed our gratitude to Daphne for her many years of faithful service at Squeals.

We have been delighted in recent months to welcome a significant baby boom of 7 new babies born to our current families. We have 3 regular childminders who, though they have been attending Squeals for many years, their 'littlies' change from time to time. It's wonderful to see relationships building and growing amongst the team and our families.

The biggest challenge we face at Squeals is having sufficient team members to run the sessions. Our current team do a marvellous job, but we will lose 2 members very soon and potentially face Squeals having to close if we do not get more helpers. There are many ways to help – setting up toys/equipment, welcoming, registering families, taking money on arrival,

chatting to parents/carers, playing with and talking to the children, running a craft activity, reading a story or singing, preparing drinks and fruit in the kitchen. Please get in touch if you would like to help or come along to a session to see what goes on. Full training and support will be given, and new members will need a DBS check - *Jennifer Deamer, Squeals Team*

CRAFT FAIR AND COFFEE MORNINGS - The numbers of people attending has varied and certainly not been at pre-Covid levels. Nevertheless, we provide a welcoming atmosphere and a warm space for people to meet, chat with us and one another, as well as enjoying delicious home baking and some retail therapy. Relationships with our regular stallholders continue to grow and it's wonderful to welcome new stallholders. There is a wide and varied range of beautifully crafted items and produce and it's great to be able to support local crafters. We have introduced a couple of changes during the year, creating a new family space in the Ellis room and introducing an earlier start time of 10am.

Our Christmas special in November was very successful and well-attended with many families participating in the free Christmas craft activities, Christmas carol treasure hunt and Angel peep board. Alongside the usual craft stalls, we ran our own parish stalls – crafts, Angel Tree and Fair Trade/Eco – plus with the café area. We have recently welcomed a few new team members and are working towards organising a rota each month - *Jennifer Deamer, Outreach Chair*

FROM CURATE TO ASSOCIATE MINISTER - In January 2022 in preparation for my Curacy contract coming to a close in August 2022 I attended a CAP (Curacy Assessment Panel). This panel decided to recommend at that time that I be signed off as fit to take up Associate Minister posts in future ministry. Knowing that my stipendiary contract was coming to its end and that such Associate Posts were few and far between the PCC very generously offered to keep me on as Associate Locally Supported Minister from August 2022. I cannot express how much this has meant to me, it has enabled Jesse and I space to heal, grow and develop in a Church family we both love and feel incredibly blessed to have been placed in. I have therefore since August 2022 been working three days, flexibly spread over the week, but predominantly on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This has enabled me the time and space to pick up Friday funeral ministries and establish SOS, to participate in community outreach events on Saturdays and to assist Pete in leading worship on a Sunday. The flexibility has meant that I have also picked up work and meetings on other days as needed when I could and has enabled me to work evenings on administrative and leadership tasks from home.

In March 2023, I attended CAP again and this time was signed off as fit to take up Incumbent posts in future ministry. I am so grateful for all your prayers and encouragement, for Pete's wise, constructive and caring line management and Mo's very generous and supportive provision of Jesse care which has released me to meet and pray with Pete regularly as a leadership team.

<u>What I am thankful for</u>:

- ALL your support as a Church family, Jesse and I feel so welcome and blessed to know each and every one of you. Your care, prayer and love are incredible.
- Your patience and understanding nature, amidst the demands of balancing leadership and toddler care when conducting services!
- Your encouragement, your constructive critique, your practical, emotional, and spiritual support.

<u>If you could spare a pray for the future about</u>:

- For the right post to come up, at the right time, for us as a family.
- For there to be appropriate childcare available for Jesse when that time to move on to stipendiary ministry happens and for him to adapt well to the changes that will mean for him.
- Creating a new community of support where-ever we may end up, another move seems like a huge prospect right now having done seven moves in five years!

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YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

SPLURGE - Splurge was established as a new service, once monthly, in the Pariah Hall rather than Church, in the September of 2021. It came out of consultation with the PCC on an away day as to how to foster a new pattern of worship post covid. Its aim is to try to re-establish lost links specifically with children and families and provide some degree of classic 'Sunday - schooling' without any paid youth or children's worker (as there had been pre-pandemic). Its timing of 4pm and location in the Hall rather than Church are both intentional decisions so to try to provide a stepping stone for those who had become disengaged (or had never engaged) back into the worshipping community of Church.

We use role play, videos, songs, team and individual games, a trip to the local Green, quizzes, team challenges, Godly play, graffiti walls, crafts, cooking, big questions and private and corporately led prayer to worship over the course of around an hour to teach around a set Biblical theme or passage. However, Splurge always ends with cake and generally a free for all with a football in the Hall as we mingle and share fellowship together. It is a beautiful, noisy, untidy Godly mash-up of ages, backgrounds, spiritual commitment, and life experiences all united in trying to be a better child of God and learn a little about him in a fun, accessible, engaging way.

Splurge has seen a growth in the number of families and younger people engaging with God in a more interactive, practical, physical way. It has a very distinctive once a month congregation. It has enabled those not ready or not able to participate in an 8:30 (or more recently 9:30 service) to access teaching and fellowship. It is always well supported by volunteers who are keen to get stuck in and engage with the activities, fun, and fellowship time, thanks go to them for their commitment and care.

<u>Points to be thankful for</u>:

- New faces alongside those who have attended from the beginning including those who came to Christmas services and baptism families.
- Young leaders; two young people helped plan and lead the Christmas 2022 Splurge-tivity. This is encouraging and thanks be to God for their stepping up and service.
- In 2023 a special Easter Splurge holiday morning was very well attended and fruit for future holiday club ministry.

<u>Points to pray about for the future</u>:

- The need for Splurge to develop into two separate teaching groups with a shared fellowship and worship time. The age range is now so spread and diverse that it is impossible to fully engage and teach all age ranges as one group. We have toddlers up to nearly young adults in attendance as well as parents, carers and other worshippers. More resources are needed to approach this moving forwards.
- The possibility of developing a discipleship group for the Splurge parents and carers.
- More Splurge holiday clubs.

SOS – 'Schools Out Splurge' or perhaps more aptly Save Our Souls - was born in September 2023. Its aim is to provide a stepping stone into Splurge (or any other Church community events) through providing a welcoming, family - friendly relaxed space after School on a Friday. The premise is twofold. One to have a missional heart in the provision of a warm place in light of the present economic climate and energy crisis. Secondly to pastorally be an available and non-judgemental listening ear to the challenges faced by families and parents, and if appropriate offer the hope of Christ into that. Although still in its infancy SOS has gathered a following of several new families, some have then moved on to attend other Church events such as the Christingle or Craft and Coffee mornings whilst others remain solid SOS attendees alone.

SOS has developed over the last six months from being larger craft and board game based into providing more physical activities so to cater to the needs of the attendees including a basketball and football zone. Participation numerically varies week on week but there is on

average four families weekly, some who travel significant distance so to come. There is a beautiful blend of carers and children including grandparents and grand-children, cousins and their aunts, and Splurge families too. SOS could not run without its dedicated and committed volunteers who give up their time selflessly so to help with quite significant setting up and packing down duties and offer such a hospitable and caring welcome to those who attend, thanks go to all who have helped in any way.

Points to be thankful for:

- The generosity of many who have gifted resources such as games, crafts and toys to make SOS possible.
- The committed attendance of families and their encouragement and engagement.
- Volunteers, so willing to step up and in at short notice and with such giving hearts and hands.

Points to pray about for the future:

- For the SOS families to come to Splurge or other Church services / outreach.
- Outreach to more locally based families and their children.
- How to best approach SOS over the Summer months when the weather is better and families don't necessarily want or need to be inside.

MEN'S GROUP – Over the last twelve months there have been four socials, all at *The Sun Inn*, Acomb Green. We met (in 2022) on May 23, Sept 4, Nov 9 and (in 2023) on March 8. The aim is to provide opportunities for the men of our church to socialise together and provide support and encouragement to each other as part of our Christian witness - *Lyndon Parker*

MISSION PARTNERS

Yanez (CMS) - Felipe continued at the Malaga Food Bank until September 2022. Sarah was helping at their Church and doing one to one counselling. Sarah was also selling furniture from their home and packing ready to move back to England. Sarah returned with Samuel and Aaron in August having spent 15years in Spain and 22years+ with Church Mission Society. Samuel has received a conditional offer to study Physiotherapy at University, Aaron continues with BTEC in Art and Design and GCSE English. Prayer is appreciated for all the family and especially for jobs for Felipe and Sarah. (It was special to have Sarah and her 89 year old dad with us recently. Her dad enjoyed a bus tour of York – *Grace Hamber*

Ben & Kirsten Nobbs - work for Youth With A Mission **(YWAM)** in Durban, South Africa, with their children Eilidh-Jane (8), Ethan (6) and Caleb (4). In the last 12 months they have worked to support local church partners in sharing the love of Jesus in the area. The YWAM team are building new infrastructure at their base so they can have an even greater impact in Durban and run regular Discipleship Training Schools. Ben also visited USA for 3 weeks to build new partnerships in order to grow and develop the YWAM Durban ministry. Kirsten went to Slovakia for an Authors Training School with YWAM Europe, she plans to write a novel but also to empower and equip artists in South Africa to use their gifts to the glory of God.

The family visited Britain in December for the first time since the pandemic. It was great to hear their news shared with us at Acomb parish the week before Christmas. They asked for continued prayer around their visa renewals - *Julie Parker*

Anna & Chris Hembury (CMS) - 'Sharing life with people on the margins and supporting them to connect with themselves, with each other, with the planet and with God'. Working with the Christian Mission Society, **Anna and Chris Hembury** and their 2 children, Elijah (22) and Kavita (20), continue to live on a large, run-down estate in Hull, as they have done for the last 25+ years. Kavita is busy and happy at University and Elijah is carving out a role for himself through photography and a local gardening job. Anna says that they didn't intend to stay so

long, but it makes sense to them to continue to build relationships with new generations of families in their area, through activities such as the Orts sewing club, Breakfast club and young people's camps. In the last year, Chris has started a fitness club for men, which includes refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as long-standing residents of the estate, in which they share a short Bible passage and, if they want, their stories and physical and mental health challenges - *Carys Tew*

SAT-7 - broadcasts Christian television programmes 24/7 in Arabic, Turkish and Persian to hundreds of thousands of viewers across the Middle East and North Africa. A few members of St Stephen's are regular supporters of SAT-7; others have valued using special prayer booklets produced for both Lent and Advent in 2022 featuring the lands of the region and recording wonderful stories of lives transformed by God's grace through the programmes. As the parish's SAT-7 'ambassador', I can supply more information - *Andrew Bailey*

ECO CHURCH REPORT - The Eco Team met on Monday 9th May at St Stephen's to develop the EcoChurch project further. Part of this discussion centred around fostering links with local churches as part of Acomb Churches Together. We set up a meeting with eco representatives of the other Acomb Churches in June 2022 at Acomb Methodist Church to discuss how we might work together to run events in the future. Our first event, the ACT Now! Eco Fair at Acomb Parish Church Hall took place on Saturday 12th November and was a resounding success. We are now planning our second event, a conference entitled 'ACT Now for a Greener Future', which is due to take place on 13th May and we will be repeating our Eco Fair in the Autumn.

We repeated our Churches Count on Nature event between the 4th and 12th June 2022, which included a photography competition. The event wasn't as well attended as the previous one, but we still managed to add to our species list. The start of the event coincided with a flower festival at St Stephen's. This year we are planning to work with the Scouts on our Churches Count on Nature event and would appreciate volunteers to help facilitate this.

Churchyard management in 2022 included leaving two areas where the grass is longer to encourage insects and seeding flora; leaving a large patch of nettles in the top corner of the lower churchyard to encourage Peacock Butterflies. A Rowan tree was also planted for the Queen's Jubilee.

Andrew led two services on the environment in 2022:

1) Environment Sunday on 26th June 2022, which had a focus on biodiversity. We distributed a simplified version of the questions under the EcoChurch 'Lifestyle' section.

2) Advent 1 on 27th November 2022 which included Tearfund videos on the effects of climate change and young people's plea. We distributed A Rocha's 12 tips for a Greener Christmas – *Dan Savage*

FAIRTRADE - I am pleased to say we continue to be a Fairtrade church. We serve only Fairtrade tea, coffee and usually sugar at all our church and social events. I also have a large stall around Christmas, Fairtrade fortnight and in November 2022 for the first time at the Eco fair held in our Parish Hall. We source products for the stalls from Fairer World in Gilligate, usually on a 'sale or return 'basis.

Unfortunately, due to closure of their main supplier Traidcraft in early 2023, they now have to order from a number of suppliers to obtain goods which we previously purchased in one delivery from Traidcraft. And because of the need to meet a number of order value thresholds in order to obtain free carriage for the goods which are being ordered from multiple suppliers, sometimes it is tricky to hold the same variety of stock. Mo Vivash and the Outreach committee are vigilant ensuring our cupboards always have tea and coffee available - *Rachel Parker*

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Basic maintenance work has been ongoing at St Stephen's, the Parish Hall and 36 Fellbrook Ave, which has been let.

Parish Hall – The boiler has been replaced as well as a fire door in the Barlow room. The lights have all been replaced with LED. As the PCC decided the new boiler should be prioritised over a kitchen refit some smaller works have been carried out in the kitchen – water heater, new screen to hatch, more plug sockets. There will be some other works needed in the kitchen in the coming year. Clearing out under and behind the stage is ongoing.

St Stephen's – Work to improve the sound, lighting and projection systems is hopefully going to start early in 2023. The roof work should also begin then. Grants to the value of £25,000 have been received towards the cost of this work. The architect continues to help with looking to improving the toilet and kitchen facilities. The new cremation memorial has been installed. The next steps will be taken towards closing the churchyard.

The work identified in the QI, from 2021, is ongoing. After the roof work is finished some interior plastering and decoration will be needed.

St Aidan's – The PCC decided to close the building on 17.03.2022. Since then, work has been done to empty the building of contents, in liaison with the Diocese. Pete Vivash has been working with the solicitors and estate agents to secure the sale of the building.

Fellbrook Ave – After many years use as a private rental the PCC decided that when the current tenants moved out, the building should be offered for housing for a refugee family. York council will help with arranging this and give ongoing support through the tenancy. The Diocese offer a QI inspection of church owned houses and we will take up on this to establish the general condition of the building - *Julie Parker*

MAINTENANCE OF ST STEPHEN'S CHURCHYARD FROM MAY 2022 TO MAY 2023
During the past year the Parish has once again relied heavily on the Probation Service and their Community Service Teams for ensuring a good level of churchyard maintenance at St Stephen's.

We have been a substantial beneficiary of this service for a number of years, and the savings to the church both in terms of cost and time have been considerable.
Teams have been in attendance every Thursday right through the summer and early autumn during the grass cutting season, and continued through the winter on a fortnightly basis, maintaining paths, and occasionally scattering seeds. On two occasions recently the teams have extended their activities beyond the church boundary to Fishponds Wood on the other side of Rosedale Avenue, as a result of discussions that have taken place with Friends of Fishponds Wood following Eco-church initiatives, and after consultation with York Council.

Specific work undertaken at St Stephen's during the period has included:

1. Mowing the grass around the upper churchyard with our own mowers.
2. Strimming the grass in the lower churchyard, apart from the areas marked as conservation areas.
3. Hedge trimming and shrub and branch trimming.
4. Tidying of the cremation plaques and surrounding areas.
5. Path weeding and sweeping, and the resetting of path kerbs where necessary.
6. Repairing boundary walls – one team member with bricklaying experience took great pride in this task and did some excellent repair work spread over a number of weeks.
7. Removing excess soil from the inside of the Rosedale Avenue wall in response to advice by an architect in an earlier Quinquennial Inspection.
8. Setting in kerbs to delineate the new area designated for the interment of ashes.
9. Repainting the bollards and handrails at the lychgate and the Parish Hall.

10. Clearance of vegetation at both sides of the Parish Hall.
11. Cleaning the inside of the church on several wet days, when working outside proved difficult.

It is my observation that the supervisors who have been in attendance at St Stephen's this year have been adept in engendering a positive outlook among Community Service participants to the benefit of all concerned. This is evidenced by members of the team coming to the churchyard in their own time to inspect their work and to show family members what they have been doing - *Don Savage*

ACOMB PARISH CHURCH HALL - 2022 saw the Parish Hall returning to its pre pandemic capacity in terms of bookings. Almost all previous clients returned, and we embedded the Community Clothes Swap as a regular monthly event. In addition, we welcomed many one-off clients such as various band practices and some amateur dramatic groups and charity events. In terms of finance the Parish Hall made a surplus of just over £6,700, that is an excess of receipts over payments. This was due to the hall being fully opened again, and demand for the space being high. This revenue is a valuable asset in supporting the overall Church financial situation. The Parish Hall account holds an average of £25,000 in its general running account.

The Hall is maintained to an excellent standard, a matter on which clients often comment very positively. Work carried out during 2022 includes renewal of the kitchen lighting, a replacement electronic roller shutter in the kitchen and a new water heater. A new door was also put in leading to the outside in the Barlow room.
Early 2023 has seen a new gas boiler being installed which will be much more energy efficient and allows programming of the heating to be more precise. The hall continues to be popular for community events and is busy for most days of the week. There are also 2 wedding receptions booked in for this year.
There are a team of people who help look after and maintain the hall without which it wouldn't run as well as it does, thank you! Thanks must also go particularly to Lynn for her meticulous cleaning and obvious care for the hall, plus Paul and Tony who set the heating every week - *Val Atkinson*

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT (Fabric, goods, and ornaments) - In contrast to the previous two years in which our activities were so severely restricted, we thank the Lord that in 2023 there has been uninterrupted worship throughout. It has been with great joy that once more we have been able to welcome people to regular worship every week of the year.

We are so grateful to the energy and commitment of our ministry team that this important nourishment has been further enriched by variety of forms that services take; from more traditional Morning Prayer and Holy Communion to more relaxed 'cafe church' to the new ways of worshipping provided by the evening services of Splurge and Breathe. Additionally, I know that the return of special services such as; Christingle, Scouts Parade services, the Act of remembrance around the war memorial and the community carol service has been much appreciated. Our worship has been further enhanced with themed services inviting us to focus on the environment, the Bible and prisoners. At the same time many of our other activities properly recommenced; face-to-face house groups and prayer meetings, craft and coffee, squeals. Also, we have been able to host special events such as the very popular flower festival to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Initially not everyone felt confident in mingling with others. Although attendance figures slowly increased the PCC has had to address the thorny issue that numbers attending our church are decreasing, this is particularly true of younger people and families and reflects national trends.

The year also saw the nervously anticipated closure of St Aidan's, marked by a celebratory service and tea party on Sunday 10 July. The Thursday morning service has successfully relocated to the parish hall as have some Sunday services.

With these issues in mind the PCC gathered for an away day in September and made the decision to consolidate services to a single service each week at 09.30. I personally feel that these two factors are bringing us together as a single united congregation and that we are now in a strong position to move forward into the future. As I write this (now three months into 2023) I see the green shoots of new growth in new faces and new connections and new initiatives.

There have been a number of projects in development; repairs to the transept roofs, installation of screens with a new sound system and an area of the graveyard for the interment of ashes. With some hiccups faculties have now been obtained and we eagerly anticipate the start and completion of these works in 2023. Using a few items from St Aidan's the vestry area has been much improved without the need of a faculty. Leaving lighting on the main path and changes to the toilet and kitchen area to be addressed in the future.

I am greatly indebted to Don Savage who has continued his work with 'the payback team' to maintain the church yard, most noticeably improving the pathways, restoring the lichgate, planting a tree in honour of the Queen, and making safe a few wobbly gravestones.

The winter saw a steep rise in fuel prices. Attempts to mitigate the cost of heating have led to a few chilly services, I apologise.

St Aidan's, though closed remains in our possession. Thank-you to John and Rachel Parker who still keep an eye on the building - T*im Marvell 2022 Church Warden*

YORK DEANERY SYNOD REPORTS - This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church in York Diocese and the wider Church of England through General Synod Updates etc. Meetings provide a forum for discussion on topics such as 'Live Christ's Story, the Racial Justice Charter, the West Area Deanery Plan giving direction for prayer and worship together.

The Vicar plus Anne Barker, Jennifer Deamer and Mo Vivash represent the parish at meetings. Only two meetings took place in the year, one on 10.2.22 by Zoom and the other on 26.7.22 at Heslington Church. Revd Luke Tillett remains Area Dean. Whereas the previous Archbishop of York acted as Bishop of York itself, Bishop John (Selby) now provides episcopal oversight of York Deanery and care of the churches within it. The new Dean of York Minster (The Very Revd Dominic Barrington) provides for the civic roles.

In June 2022 in conjunction with local Anglican churches in West York we ran a course exploring the Church of England Report - 'Living in Love & Faith. The take up was small. You will no doubt be aware of the recent General Synod vote (Feb 2023) to offer prayers and blessings for those in same-sex relationships/marriages. Some were delighted with this step forward while others feel that this is a step too far. The fallout across the church of England and the global Anglican communion is causing fragmentation with the fear of a major schism. We now await the Bishops guidelines promised for July 2023 as to what can or cannot be acted upon within local churches to see how this develops. General Synod upheld the Biblical view of marriage as being only between a woman and a man.

VICAR'S REPORT

February 2022 saw the 70th anniversary of the accession to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II, the same month that the Russo-Ukrainian War commenced. We celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June with the planting of a tree in St Stephen's Churchyard to commemorate this, and with a Flower Festival at St Stephen's in conjunction with the skills of Acomb Flower Guild. In September the nation mourned the death her majesty and with her funeral. Charles III became King and Camilla, Queen Consort.

Rev Rachel Garland's curacy here (sponsored by Liverpool Diocese) concluded at the end of July 2022. Unfortunately, she then fell between two stools – Liverpool Diocese could not offer

her a suitable parish with stipend and York were not in a position to assist either which would have meant her leaving ministry and finding secular employment after all her training. A number of people asked the PCC to consider if as a parish we could employ her direct so she could remain and work in the parish. We explored the viability of this with both the Bishop of Selby and York Diocese. With generosity from a number of parishioners we were able to employ her as a half time Associate Priest from 1st August 2022 for a maximum of 2 years to end no later than 31st July 2024. She was licensed as Associate Priest by Bishop of Selby via Zoom on 25th July 2022.

With Covid abating we began increasing our 'in church services' and ceasing our 'online services' from Easter. The new pattern of worship introduced after last year's PCC Away Day in Haxby included the two new services of 'Splurge' and 'Breathe' which have continued to become established. 'Splurge' has continued to grow month on month and though largely held in the church hall, for example one of them being a particularly well attended Nativity, some also took place on the Green and at St Stephen's. We now have an attendance, which consistently has around 12-19 children including some attending secondary school plus a similar number of parents. We also held a Riding Lights drama 'Nearly the Goat' before Christmas which included puppets and was attended by around 130 adults and children. The 'Breathe' services were initially well attended but the numbers dropped a little across the year and we realise that long term it might be better to hold this across the Spring/Summer period in future. Those attending, hugely value the quieter, gentle and varied approach to worship, such as in June we held a Taizé service led by Louisa Taylor from Acomb Methodist Church who had lived in their community for a number of years. We have also used prayer stations at some services.

During our services we spent some months reflecting on 'Superheroes of the Old Testament' and unpacked our mission statement: 'Loving God - Serving Others - Growing Together'. The latter shares our purpose with the wider community as well as keeping us focused on *our* Mission as a church family. We have maintained both Sunday and Thursday worship, prayer, fellowship, and administrative and management tasks easing away from Zoom meetings and back to face-to-face gatherings. As confidence grew in what was becoming a post covid world we gradual recommenced Squeals on Wheels (Mothers & Toddlers), Monthly Coffee Mornings & Craft Fair & etc across the year. We also restarted services with the residents of Vyner House Services and the community led monthly clothes swap. We marked Generosity Week and Harvest, Bible Sunday and held the annual memorial service in St Stephen's. John Goodrich again organised Carol singing at York Station for Christian Aid. Attendance at some of our Christmas services was somewhat patchy but the Family Crib Service was well-attended as was the Community Carol Service.

A huge thank you to all who have helped maintain much in the parish through these changing times, no matter how large or small your support has been. Thanks to all who continued to assist with the delivery of Parish Update letters, and to those who helped deliver 5000 Easter and Christmas cards across the parish, and to Jill Shaw who ably coordinated this. Jill also shared with us about her ongoing prison ministry (inc. Angel Tree, the Sycamore course, Prison Week and 'In2Out' bringing a speaker for this latter one. Julie Parker shared about Compassion UK. The parish also provided each church member with a Lent booklet: 'Live Lent: Embracing Justice'. An Easter prayer trail took place in the churchyards and a spring-cleaning day was held at St Stephen's in May being joined by 'Good Gym' for part of this.
After much detailed investigations of the structural integrity and condition of St Aidan's Church, an open public meeting was held there on 6th March 2022 at which a number of options were considered and hopes, concerns, memories and stories shared. The meeting concluded that it was time to close the church. The PCC then formally agreed to close the church and look to sell the site. A formal press statement was released, and the Bishop of Selby attended a thanksgiving service at St Aidan's on Sunday 10th July 2022 which was followed by a 'bring and share' tea. St Aidan's Licence for Public Worship was revoked by the Archbishop of York and furniture is gradually being moved on.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

To compensate for the loss of services at St Aidan's Church a Licence for Public Worship was granted Hall by the Archbishop of York for Acomb Parish Church (this also includes for baptisms and funerals but not weddings). We are now beginning to see this as not just a church hall but as a parish worship centre too. We have moved our growing Thursday congregation to the parish hall as there is good access and some parking for those with disability. These services continue to be very well supported and always followed by coffee with the first of each month held as a Mothers' Union corporate communion followed by a snack lunch.

After a sustained period of receiving communion in 'one kind' (bread only), initially forced by covid restrictions, we reintroduced communion in both kinds from our Harvest Festival onwards. The Bishop of Selby re-licenced a number of folk to assist with distribution of the Eucharist (Communion) for both Thursday and Sunday services and to assist with home communions. Previous licenses had elapsed during covid.

Thanks to all who have assisted in leading worship in any way, especially our readers, intercessors, musicians along with Julie Parker, Anne Barker and Mo Vivash, Revds Rachel Garland, Andrew Bailey, Philip Cousin, Jane Speck and Bishop John. I am grateful to Tim Marvell for all he does as churchwarden, to Nigel Atkinson as PCC treasurer, Mo Vivash as PCC Secretary. I remain grateful to those in the PCC Sub committees and various forums for their ongoing work across the year and to Val Atkinson for coordinating bookings at the Parish Hall. The PCC attended an annual Away Day at Wigginton in September, where it was agreed to continue with the present pattern of services and events but also begin building on and extending our contacts with families (given the rise in cost of living and to provide a warm space) by starting a new weekly term time space called 'SOS' (Schools out Splurge) each Friday late afternoon for children and parents. We introduced 'Grapevine' a monthly newsletter available at all services in church and the hall.

In 2022 there were 18 Baptisms, 8 Weddings. We took 24 Funerals - 11 at St Stephens, 1 at St Aidan's and 12 at York crematorium with **a total of 16 burials** - 3 at Fulford Cemetery and 13 interments of cremated remains in St Stephen's churchyard. From our fellowship this year we saw the deaths of Penny Smith, Geoffrey Bailey, Anne (Margaret Atkinson, Doreen Park, Deborah Ormiston, Dot Gell, John Ramsden and Anna Lewis. John Elwick's delayed memorial took place at St Stephen's with his ashes being interred in the churchyard.

We have been delighted to welcome new folk among us as the year progressed as well as two church families welcoming refugees from Ukraine into their homes. We were delighted to celebrate Vanda and Gareth's wedding during the course of the year. Others have connected with the church through worship or other activities, some connecting as a result of watching our earlier online services during covid or connecting through social media or prompted by the Easter and Christmas cards. We have a Parish Website: www.acombparish.org and Parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/acombparish which continue to be our main way of communications and church enquiries. There are numerous hits on these each week.

As part of ACT (Acomb Churches Together) we run assemblies at Westfield School, held a Prayer Vigil for Ukraine at the Acomb War Memorial, we ran an extremely well attended and poignant (ACT) 'Act of Remembrance' at Acomb War Memorial and ran a successful Christmas Event at the Gateway Centre. The Eco-Church group has continued, ably led by Dan Savage, with several activities - Count of Nature, assisting with services for Environment Sunday (26/6) and Climate Sunday (27/11) and running a highly successful and well attended Eco Day in Acomb Church Hall. We still hope to obtain a bronze EcoChurch award from A Rocha and consider the possibility of installing solar panel on St Stephen's Church roof. All were hugely concerned for Dan through his life threatening illness and give thanks for his progress.

As 2023 began we held a very well supported Christingle and a celebration of 90 years of the 2nd Acomb (St Stephen's) Scout Group with a huge gathering in St Stephen's at which they sealed a large time capsule. They have asked that this be held by in the church as the troop

was initially started by the then Vicar all those years ago. We have just delivered 5000 Easter Cards again, been through Lent and Holy Week using a lent book 'From Glory to Glory' by Tom Parsons. We also ran 'Splurge: Easter' which attracted a few regular families as well as a number of non-church attendees. The Easter Day service was very well attended. As part of ACT (Acomb Churches Together) along with other churches we all displayed Holy Week and Easter Poster's around the parish designed by Dan Savage. By the time you will have received this report the King & Queen's Coronation will have just taken place on Saturday 6th May 2023. The church house in Fellbrook Avenue is now about to be let to a Ukrainian family through York council initiative. We have just enjoyed a BCP Choral Evensong with the chamber choir 'The Clerkes of All Saints' as a Breathe service which was well supported. Sadly, we heard of the recent death of Mrs Pat Marvel, a member of our congregation.

Having received the required faculty we have just erected a single memorial stone to which individual names can be carved in a new area for cremated in the churchyard. You will be aware that the churchyard is almost full. The above is a way of us trying to continue to inter ashes as long as possible. We will now, as planned, formally apply for the churchyard to be closed. The churchyard will remain accessible to all, but long term, this will transfer the responsibility of its general maintenance to the local authority - something which many churches do. We are also moving forward with plans to upgrade the kitchen/toilet area at St Stephen's to include the installation of a toilet for disabled people as well us some lighting upgrades both inside and outside the church.

I recently announced, that after more than a year's reflection, I would be retiring from full time church leadership at the end of August 2023 after nearly 7 years here in Acomb and just over 31 years in ordained ministry. Mo and I have loved our time here amongst you. 'Retirement' is of course a strange concept for all God's people - as disciples of Christ, we all continue throughout our lives as fulltime Christian workers. All disciples are called by God to exercise ministry. If we are to continue growing as a church, not only do we need to continue with our various activities, but we also need to encourage those regulars back who have never returned post-covid. Additionally, may I encourage all to consider the frequency of their church attendance. It is hard to see how we can grow together with just an occasional service and sermon. If you only attend occasionally, how are you being fed spiritually the rest of the time?

I would love to see every church member attached to a home group and connecting with one of the prayer groups too. It is in these groups that we will see growth in our Christian walk as we seek to become more Christlike. As members of the Body of Christ we need to spend time listening to God together, praying for and caring for one another, and encouraging one another with the Word. Consider Paul's words, 'I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.' *(Galatians 2:20).* If you are not part of a group, please consider joining one or more of them.

There is an oft used analogy of a church as being like a cruise ship, where only some of those on board do the work while others relax. The other is of the church as a battleship on which the entire company are trained and ready to work together for the same purpose. I leave you with this question; Which of these two models should we, as God's church here in Acomb, ascribe to?

Revd Pete Vivash

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Acomb Parochial Church Council (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

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 financial statements to be reached.

Judith Summerfield BA FCA
Chartered Accountant

Dated: 8 May 2023

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds general £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	61,972	100	17,630	-	79,702	74,943
Charitable activities	3	46,752	-	5,294	-	52,046	49,718
Investments	4	3,333	-	3,301	6,727	13,361	11,334
Total income		112,057	100	26,225	6,727	145,109	135,995
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	122,102	550	24,564	8,501	155,717	130,956
Net gains on investments	9	(17,242)	-	(4,544)	-	(21,786)	13,731
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(27,287)	(450)	(2,883)	(1,774)	(32,394)	18,770
Other recognised gains and losses							
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		-	335,000	-	-	335,000	85,000
Net movement in funds		(27,287)	334,550	(2,883)	(1,774)	302,606	103,770
Fund balances at 1 January 2022		175,917	1,826,652	241,587	119,475	2,363,631	2,259,863
Fund balances at 31 December 2022		148,630	2,161,202	238,704	117,701	2,666,237	2,363,633

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**10**		2,157,983		1,823,157
Investments	**11**		209,252		241,623
			2,367,235		2,064,780
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		299,644		299,247	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**13**	(642)		(394)	
Net current assets			299,002		298,853
Total assets less current liabilities			2,666,237		2,363,633
Capital funds					
General endowment funds	**14**		117,701		119,476
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**15**		238,704		241,588
Designated funds	**16**		2,161,202		1,826,652
General unrestricted funds			148,630		175,917
			2,666,237		2,363,633

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 27 March 2023

Rev P Vivash

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Acomb Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements for 2022 have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

The unrestricted fund is available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time the claim is made.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate. Governance costs represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements. As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold property	Nil
Equipment	15% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Taxation

The church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving	44,023	-	6,895	50,918	49,774
Donations and legacies	5,222	100	221	5,543	5,231
Gift aid tax relief	11,447	-	514	11,961	13,101
Other income	1,280	-	10,000	11,280	6,837
	61,972	100	17,630	79,702	74,943
For the year ended 31 December 2021	70,520	720	3,703		74,943
Donations and legacies					
Donations	5,222	100	221	5,543	5,231
	5,222	100	221	5,543	5,231

3 Charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Service fees	6,145	5,316
Lettings	26,410	18,145
Rent	12,053	15,869
Special efforts	2,292	213
Diocese of Liverpool	5,146	10,175
	52,046	49,718
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	46,752	
Restricted funds	5,294	
	52,046	
For the year ended 31 December 2021		
Unrestricted funds		39,543
Restricted funds		10,175
		49,718

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds general 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Endowment funds general 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income from listed investments	3,307	2,344	5,820	11,471	3,110	2,136	5,533	10,779
Interest received	26	957	907	1,890	10	508	37	555
	3,333	3,301	6,727	13,361	3,120	2,644	5,570	11,334

5 Charitable activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs	13,407	12,351
Depreciation and impairment	174	204
Acomb Parish Church Hall expenses	17,240	11,978
Church running expenses	11,397	7,288
Church yard expenses	353	124
Bank charges	329	195
Freewill offering	68,000	68,000
Parish expenses	5,171	3,720
Donations to charities	5,857	6,784
Church major repairs	8,700	-
Church maintenance	8,259	9,075
Professional fees	4,947	2,202
Gifts	251	403
Clergy expenses	467	466
Clergy housing	10,735	7,741
	155,287	130,531
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	430	425
	155,717	130,956
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	122,102	
Designated funds	550	
Restricted funds	24,564	
Endowment funds - general	8,501	
	155,717	
For the year ended 31 December 2021		
Unrestricted funds		109,739
Restricted funds		16,509
Endowment funds - general		4,708
		130,956

6 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Costs of independent examination	-	430	430	425
	-	430	430	425
Analysed between				
Charitable activities	-	430	430	425

7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
	4	4

Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	13,407	12,351

9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £	2021 £
Revaluation of investments	(17,242)	(4,544)	(21,786)	7,045	6,686	13,731

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 January 2022	1,822,000	6,314	1,828,314
Additions	300,000	-	300,000
Revaluation	35,000	-	35,000
At 31 December 2022	2,157,000	6,314	2,163,314
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2022	-	5,157	5,157
Depreciation charged in the year	-	174	174
At 31 December 2022	-	5,331	5,331
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2022	2,157,000	983	2,157,983
At 31 December 2021	1,822,000	1,157	1,823,157

11 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Unlisted investments	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2022	236,623	5,000	241,623
Valuation changes	(21,786)	-	(21,786)
Disposals	(10,585)	-	(10,585)
At 31 December 2022	204,252	5,000	209,252
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2022	204,252	5,000	209,252
At 31 December 2021	236,623	5,000	241,623

12 Financial instruments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Equity instruments measured at cost less impairment	209,252	241,623
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	642	394

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	642	394

14 Endowment funds

The movements in endowmant funds during the year were as follows:

		Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowments				
York St Stephen - William Lee Bequest	19,647	-	-	19,647
York St Aidan - William Lee Bequest	29,471	-	-	29,471
Expendable endowments				
York St Stephen - William Lee Bequest	48,107	2,829	(6,237)	44,699
York St Aidan - William Lee Bequest	22,250	3,898	(2,263)	23,885
	119,475	6,727	(8,500)	117,701

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds					Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investments gains/losses	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investments gains/losses	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Young People's fund	46,041	3,159	(4,635)	-	44,565	1,932	(3,125)	-	43,372
St Stephen's Fabric fund	185,084	2,627	(5,168)	6,686	189,228	13,161	(5,565)	(4,544)	192,280
St Aidan's Fabric fund	3,189	237	-	-	3,426	187	(1,757)	-	1,856
AV Sound system	500	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	500
Gifts	75	193	(268)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Angel Tree fund	-	30	-	-	30	369	(251)	-	148
Hardship fund	-	100	(100)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diocese of Liverpool fund	-	10,175	(6,337)	-	3,838	5,146	(8,848)	-	136
Contribution to R Garland Costs	-	-	-	-	-	5,430	(5,018)	-	412
	234,889	16,521	(16,508)	6,686	241,587	26,225	(24,564)	(4,544)	238,704

16 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2021	Incoming resources	Investments gains/losses	1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investments gains/losses	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
St Stephen's Churchyard fund	-	720	-	720	-	(350)	-	370
Property fund	1,737,000	-	85,000	1,822,000	-	-	335,000	2,157,000
Squeals on wheels fund	100	-	-	100	100	(200)	-	-
Young People's fund	3,832	-	-	3,832	-	-	-	3,832
	1,740,932	720	85,000	1,826,652	100	(550)	335,000	2,161,202

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022	Designated funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Endowment funds 2022	Total 2022	Unrestricted funds 2021	Designated funds 2021	Restricted funds 2021	Endowment funds 2021	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:										
Tangible assets	983	2,157,000	-	-	2,157,983	1,157	1,822,000	-	-	1,823,157
Investments	103,945	-	56,188	49,119	209,252	131,771	-	60,733	49,119	241,623
Current assets/(liabilities)	43,702	4,202	182,516	68,582	299,002	42,989	4,652	180,855	70,357	298,853
	148,630	2,161,202	238,704	117,701	2,666,237	175,917	1,826,652	241,588	119,476	2,363,633

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST STEPHEN ACOMB YOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1130667

Accounts

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Charity Registration No. 1130667

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Church Buildings

St Stephen's Church
York Road
Acomb
York
YO24 4NW

St Aidan's Church
Ridgeway
Acomb
York
YO26 5DB

Bankers

HSBC Bank
13 Parliament Street
York
YO1 8RS

Independent Examiner

Judith Summerfield BA FCA
5 Bowyers Close
Copmanthorpe
York
YO23 3XW

Church Architect

Loise Priestman
Shaw & Jagger Limited
1 Cardale Park
Harrogate
HG3 1RY

Administrative Information

The Parish of Acomb is in the Diocese of York. The address for correspondence is The Vicarage, 32 Carr Lane, Acomb, YO26 5HX. The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commissioners. The Registered Charity Number is 1130667.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent The Revd Peter Vivash
Churchwardens Mrs Rachel Parker *(Vice-Chair of the PCC)*
Mr Tim Marvell *(from 2021 APCM)*
Representatives on the Deanery Synod (from 2020 APCM)
Mrs Anne Barker
Mrs Jennifer Deamer
Mrs Mo Vivash

Elected and co-opted Members of the Parochial Church Council):
Until 16th May 2021

Mrs Val Atkinson	(term ends 2023)
Mr Paul Deamer	(co-opted for 1 year)
Mrs Julie Parker	(term ends 2023)
Mr Ian Sangster	(term ends 2023)
Mrs Jill Shaw	(term ends 2023)
Mrs Carys Tew	(term ends 2021)
Mr Gordon Wise	(term ends 2021) – resigned/moved away

From 16th May 2021

Mrs Val Atkinson	(term ends 2023)
Mr Paul Deamer	(term ends 2024)
Mrs Julie Parker	(term ends 2023)
Mr Lyndon Parker	(term ends 2024)
Mr Ian Sangster	(term ends 2023)

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Mrs Jill Shaw (term ends 2023)
Mrs Carys Tew (Co-opted for 1 year - term ends 2022)
Mr Tony Tew (term ends 2024)
Mrs Sue Trotter (term ends 2024)

From 1st September 2021
Revd Rachael Garland Assistant Curate (exofficio)

ACOMB PARISH MISSION STATEMENT
'Loving God - Serving Others - Growing Together'

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT
The Parochial Church Council is a body corporate with perpetual succession and has a legal existence apart from the members who compose it. The composition and procedure of Parochial Church Councils is regulated by the new and completely rewritten *Church Representation Rules 2020* which constitute Schedule 3 (as since amended) to the *Synodical Government Measure 1969.* Their functions and powers are contained in the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* as amended by the 1969 Measure which defines the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church". These include:

(a) co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;

(b) the consideration and discussion of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest.

The Parochial Church Council is also responsible for the functions that were formerly vested in Churchwardens in relation to (a) the financial management of the Church, (b) the care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church and (c) the care and maintenance of the churchyard.

Elections to the Parochial Church Council are held annually and appointment is for three years, after which there must be a break of at least one year before standing for election again. Members who have been on the Church Electoral Roll for at least six months are entitled to stand for election and all members may vote. Licensed clergy, Churchwardens and members of the Deanery Synod are *ex-officio* members of the Parochial Church Council and the Incumbent is the Chairman. There is provision for unlicensed clergy and lay members to be co-opted to the Parochial Church Council.

The Parish Office is normally open from 10 am till 12 noon on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, where volunteers continue to assist with a number of administrative tasks. In 2020 the office was only open from January until mid March being closed since the first lockdown onwards.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL AND CHURCH ATTENDANCE
Electoral Roll as at 22nd May 2022: The Electoral Roll stood at 111 at the APCM in 2021. There have been three new enrolments; 4 people have died and 2 have asked to leave the roll giving a net loss of 3. One person has changed their surname. The number on the Electoral Roll is now therefore 108. *Jill Shaw* Parish Electoral Roll Officer

Vicar's note: It's worth noting that prior to 2019 there were 153 on the roll! If the number of the roll drops below 100 the number members elected to the PCC will be reduced.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

ACOMB PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPORT

John Goodrich was Parish Safeguarding officer. At the start of 2021 John decided that it was time for him to hand on this responsibility. We thank him for all his hard work over many years. Following discussions at the start of the year, at the PCC meeting on 16 May 2021, it was agreed that Timothy Marvell should take up the position of Parish Safeguarding Representative.

Since then;

1. Parish safeguarding Policy now printed, signed and displayed in all church buildings next to the Parish Safeguarding Poster
2. Current records now digitised and checked. TM now has an accurate record of DBS checks and when they are due for renewal. TM also has an accurate record of who has completed what training and when that is due for renewal.
3. TM's own DBS check has been completed
4. TM has now completed all training required of a PSR

5. TM is now able to access and administrate Thirtyoneeight online DBS Checks.
6. A system has been established to guide people through the DBS application process. Thank-you to those who provided feedback this has helped refine the procedure.
7. A dedicated Gmail account has been established for all Safeguarding communications
8. Safer recruitment procedures have been used in inducting two new members of the Squeals co-operative. This has provided valuable insights that will be helpful in future developments - see below

9. All outstanding DBS checks are completed.
10. Most PCC members have complete required training
11. TM has meet with leaders and helpers at squeals to refine our safer recruitment procedures for volunteers and is creating a system which demonstrates that safeguarding is at the forefront of our concerns whilst still being welcoming and grateful for the help offered.

There remain a number of issues to be addressed which were set out in a development plan presented to PCC in January 2022. The PCC has the PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Timothy Marvell Parish Safeguarding Representative

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

Following the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR), the Acomb Parochial Church Council (PCC) complies with the GDPR fully making careful and very limited use of personal information. As required, we have agreed a data privacy notice.

Peter Vivash Data Protection Officer

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Parochial Church Council met on 8 occasions during 2021 mostly by Zoom: 25 Jan, 22 Mar, 24 Apr with the Archdeacon of York, 14 June, 5 Jul, 13 Sept, 18 Sept (Away Day at Haxby), 8 Nov. [This equates to 7 meetings between the APCMs of 16.5.2021 and 22.5.2022 - 14 June, 5 Jul, 13 Sept, 18 Sept (Away Day at Haxby), 8 Nov, 31 Jan 22 & 17 Mar 22.] Many items were discussed at these meetings including reports from all the committees, looking after the fabric and running of the church buildings, repairs to St Stephen's transept roofs and considering the future of St Aidan's Church building.

The previous 4 PCC sub-committees (Finance, Outreach, Parish Hall, & Property) changed to Finance, Outreach, Staffing, and Property meeting between PCC meetings, but less frequently,

some of these have been via Zoom and some were in person in order to make recommendations to the Council. The staffing committee met as required, to specifically deal with any staffing matters.

The Standing Committee has also communicated by Zoom in respect of any urgent matters. A folder of PCC minutes is available to view in each church, though the churches have been partially locked down with covid restrictions for some of the year. The Parish Magazine has been on hold since March 2020 so we have been unable to publish brief reports of Council meetings and financial statements.

The Council received and discussed regular reports from the Treasurer relating to collections and planned giving and the balances in the General, Fabric and Young People's Funds. Parochial Church Fees which are the responsibility of the Council are also reviewed annually. Recommendations by the Finance Committee as to which Missions and Charities should receive donations from Council funds were accepted. The Parish agreed that its free will offering to the Diocese in 2021 to assist the Diocese in its mission and ministry financial requirements would remain at £68,000. *Anne Barker* PCC Secretary

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Engagement with schools during 2021 has improved since 2020 though is still limited. 'Squeals on Wheels' (a Mothers & Toddlers group) 'gently' started up again for the second part of the year. Our part-time Children's & Youth Worker left her post towards the end of 2021 and the parish has continued to liaise as best it can with church connected families and youth. Two PCC reps are now liaising with the Scouts executive committee. The effect of the pandemic may leave permanent damage to our connections with many in the parish thus hindering the opportunity for people to learn about the Christian faith.

Part of the church ethos is to encourage all members to contribute to the community in the wider parish, thus helping to build social capital, such as by undertaking practical activities with charities. For example, some members of the congregations undertake voluntary work as part of York Hospital chaplaincy providing pastoral support to those in need, Prison chaplaincy, as School Governors, while others are Trustees of various local Christian charities. Some members link in with the Food Bank which is held on the premises of another church in Acomb.

Both Churches and the Parish Church Hall are normally well used by the community, the church and numerous other organisations (eg: Child contact centre, dance groups, flower Guilds etc., but this has been severely reduced by covid. St. Stephen's churchyard has remained open at all times and is popular place for people to visit, tend graves or benefit from gardens and wildlife found within the Churchyard. A number of faith focussed 'family trails have been set up and well attended. There is a footpath running through it which many use as a short cut. The Community Payback Teams has again been able to work in the Churchyard.

Towards the latter part of the year our Parish monthly Saturday 'Craft Fair and Coffee Morning' in the Parish Church Hall began again. This attracts a broad cross section of the community and is well supported offering a good place for people to find friendship and support. The community run 'clothes swap' has also recommenced. We have done the best we can give in the circumstances in supporting those who have been recently bereaved. Our annual community carol service and other Christmas services were held in church in 2021 and were well supported with offerings also provided online as were services throughout the year. Social cohesion has vastly improved this year as some activities have begun gradually post covid. 'ACT' (Acomb Churches Together) has begun again and held both an Acomb community service on Remembrance Sunday at the Acomb green War Memorial and early 2022 a prayer vigil for Ukraine.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

VICAR'S REPORT

What a year! Covid continued to disrupt life and the church, though the Tokyo Olympics actually took place. For us, the year divided roughly into two parts. The first half with continuing covid restrictions with the latter half seeing various services and activities gently and gradually recommencing – thanks to our growing confidence further to the ongoing national programme of vaccinations and boosters etc. January started with snow and a collapsed grave vault in St Stephen's churchyard which took considerable time, effort and finance to resolve and repair. The organ in St Stephen's also issued forth smoke at one point resulting in the fire brigade being called. All was well and the organ was repaired. I have not requested many individual reports of groups as normal this year as there has been less activity than normal, but I remain grateful to those in the PCC Sub committees and various forums for their ongoing work across the year. Some reports have been volunteered and these have been included.

We did our best with the changing rules and guidelines as covid fluctuated across the year with a mixture of some live worship, some online services and various Zoom gatherings as we maintained both Sunday and midweek worship, prayer, fellowship, and administrative and management tasks. It was a delight to be able to hold services in church by Easter 2021. The PCC attended an Away Day at Haxby during the year. As a result of this we have established a new mission statement: 'Loving God - Serving Others - Growing Together'. This shares our purpose with the wider community as well as keeping us focused on *our* Mission as a church family. We also introduced a new pattern of worship which includes two new services of 'Splurge' and 'Breathe'.

A huge thank you to all who have helped maintain much in the parish through these difficult days no matter how large or small your support has been. Thanks to all who assisted in delivering update letters, and especially those who helped deliver around 5000 Easter and Christmas cards across the parish ably coordinated by Jill Shaw. The parish also provided each church member with a Live Lent booklet: 'God's Story, Our Story'.

Ali Speed left her post of Children's and Youth Worker at the end of August and has since moved and married! In September, we were delighted to welcome Rev Rachel Garland and her son Jesse from Liverpool Diocese as Assistant Curate for her final year. The PCC are currently exploring
the possibility of funding Rachel so that she could remain in the parish to work alongside us at the end of her curacy in either a full - time or part time capacity. In December we were joined by Revd John and Pat Marvel who have moved back to Acomb from France.

Thanks to all who have assisted in leading worship in any way, especially our readers, intercessors, musicians plus Julie Parker, Anne Barker and Mo Vivash, Revds Rachel Garland, David Erridge, Andrew Bailey, Philip Cousins, Jane Speck and Archdeacon Sam (Mothering Sunday). I am grateful to Rachel Parker and Tim Marvell for all they do as churchwardens, to Nigel Atkinson as PCC treasurer, Anne Barker as PCC Secretary, Carys Tew and Val Atkinson for coordinating bookings at St Aidan's and the Parish Hall and to everyone coping with Zoom meetings at times. The PCC changed architects this year.

In 2021 there were 18 Baptisms, 6 Weddings and 18 Funerals - 10 at St Stephens, 1 at St Aidan's and 7 at York crematorium. We took a total of 7 burials - 6 at Fulford Cemetery 1 in York Cemetery. There were 8 interments of cremated remains in St Stephen's churchyard.

The new marriage legislation became law on 4.5.21. Church weddings can still take place, but we no longer have marriage registers or issue marriage certificates, thus ending the tradition of the signing of the registers and providing historical church records.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Doreen Park and Deborah Ormiston each moved into care homes while Anna Lewis remains in care. Sadly, a number of our congregation have died during 2021 including Margaret Iles, Jack Welburn and Jean Burdett.

In the absence of a Parish Magazine since March 2020 I have continued to provide information through my regular Parish Update letter roughly monthly since the start of covid. I will be stopping these later in 2022. Our Parish Website: www.acombparish.org, Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/acombparish and Twitter account: twitter.com/acombparish are now the main avenues of church enquiries and communications. It is staggering and encouraging to see how many look at these pages each week! Some have connected with the church through these or having watched our online services during lockdown and we are always delighted to welcome new folk amongst us.

We were delighted to see a number of our activities begin again later in the year – Squeals on Wheels, Assemblies at Westfield (as part of 'ACT'), Vyner House Services, Monthly Craft & Coffee Mornings (plus the community led monthly clothes swap, who also organised a collection of goods for Ukraine). We also marked both Generosity Week and Harvest in church as well as celebrating Bible Sunday and Prisons Week with Jill Shaw. We held an extremely well attended and poignant 'Act of Remembrance' at the Acomb War Memorial with the wider community plus an annual memorial service in St Stephen's. Thanks to John Goodrich who again organised Carol singing at York Station for Christian Aid. Our Christmas services were held in church in 2021 with a well-attended Community Carol Service, during which we enjoyed a couple of sung solos by Gareth Rees a member of the congregation.

The Eco-Church group, ably led by Dan Savage has continued apace with several activities (Count of Nature and a Bat walk) as well as assisting with services for Environment Sunday and Climate Sunday. We continue to look to obtain a bronze EcoChurch award from A Rocha, and the possibility of installing solar panel on St Stephen's Church roof.

As 2022 begins to unfold, sadly, four members of our congregation have died Peter Lewis, Penny Smith, Geoff Bailey and Ann Atkinson. Revd David Erridge has felt the time was right to step back from ministry and we thank him for his years of faithful service among us. We hope for better times ahead, for all who used to regularly connect to the church here to return, for ourselves as a church to be bolder in faith and for all to connect through our home groups. We have now ceased our online services as of Easter 2022. A tree has recently been planted in St Stephen's Churchyard to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and we hope to have a flower festival during the celebration weekend in early June in conjunction with Acomb Flower Guild.

You will all be aware of the recent decision to close St Aidan's Church and I append the press statement on this below for the record. Please pray for this transition period and the work which we will have to undertake as we look to sell the site. We hope to have a thanksgiving service at St Aidan's with the Bishop of Selby on Sunday 10th July 2022 at 3pm followed by a 'bring and share' tea.

Revd Pete Vivash

***NEWS* from THE DIOCESE OF YORK**
The Church of England from the Humber to the Tees
Amy Johnson Way, Clifton Moor, York YO30
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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Closure of St Aidan's Church, Acomb, York

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Acomb, York, has made the difficult decision to close its structurally- deteriorating second church building, St Aidans, Ridgeway, in order to focus its worship and resources at thehistoric Parish Church of St Stephen's, Acomb Green.

Built in 1964 as part of plans to serve the expanding housing areas of Green Lane, Gale Lane, Askham Lane and Chapelfields, St Aidan's stands just half a mile from St Stephen's, parts of which are believed to date back to the 12th Century with adaptations through the Victorian age and up to the present day.

Conceived sixty years ago as a multi-purpose building, St Aidan's has been well-used for worship and social purposesat times, but despite remedial work in recent years, the condition of its roof and walls was confirmed to be poor in 2021 through the statutory five-yearly architect's inspection of Church of England churches, with persistent water leakage as both a cause and a consequence of structural issues.

A public meeting on Sunday 6th March 2022 heard that the building's condition meant that doing nothing was not an option. It considered a number of alternative courses of action. These ranged from the minimum necessary repairs costing £100,000 as a short-term measure only, up to demolition and replacement with a new building costing between £750,000 and £1.5 million (in addition to demolition costs).

The final option presented was to close the building, on the assumption that it and its site would revert to the Diocese of York; following the public meeting, Acomb Parochial Church Council (PCC) agreed unanimously on the17th March 2022 to close St Aidan's.

Acomb PCC has since been advised that any proceeds of the sale of St Aidan's site will accrue to the Parish of Acomb to support its future work and worship, and to assist in the church's service to the community, including the ongoingmaintenance of the existing church hall and St Stephen's church.

Although St Aidan's is neither the Parish Church nor a consecrated building, its closure will involve a number of legal stages and the Diocese of York will support Acomb PCC through this process.

Vicar of Acomb the Revd Pete Vivash said, "Our public meeting heard many happy Christian and community memories of St Aidan's along with stories of faith shared and taught, with a lot of very positive comments about past worship there. We acknowledge and give thanks for the past but we must live in the reality of the present as we look to the future. Deciding to close St Aidan's has been painful and sad, but it will end a growing drain on the parish's resources to proclaim Jesus Christ and meet present-day needs in Acomb, and this will help us to face thefuture with gratitude and confidence."

7 April 2022
ENDS

For further information contact Martin Sheppard on 07377 356621 or martin.sheppard@yorkdiocese.org.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

We appointed a new architect, Louise Priestman, who completed the Quinquennial Inspections for St Stephen's and St Aidan's buildings. Copies are available and plans are in place for completing the work identified.

Basic maintenance work has been ongoing at both church buildings, the Parish Hall and 36 Fellbrook Ave, which is currently let. The PCC agreed to use eco cleaning products going forward, we are waiting for COSHH sheets for each product.

Parish Hall – the fire doors have been replaced. The kitchen roof has been replaced and a group are looking at refitting the kitchen to meet current standards.

St Stephen's – faculty approval was given for work on several gravestones as well as the churchyard paths, which the Payback Team are helping us with. The collapsed vault has been made safe although the work highlighted major issues with the drainage around the church. Work to improve the sound, lighting and projection systems is being investigated, as well as installing a disabled toilet and updating the kitchen facilities. We need to look at how all this work will be funded.

The architect is working towards replacing the transept and vestry roofs. Grants will be applied for to partly fund this work.

St Aidan's – a major amount of work has been carried out in order to help us decide the future of this building.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group has recommenced! These are our events so far…

December 17th - We had a Parish Walk.
January 15th – We visited the National Railway Museum.
March 5th – We spent the day at the Yorkshire Air Museum.
March 30th – We had a meal at The Indian Ocean restaurant.

We plan a good mixture of outdoor and indoor socials to appeal to the wide range of men in our church. Our aim is to provide opportunities for the men of our church to socialise on a monthly basis and to provide support and encouragement to each other on our Christian journey. Importantly we want to encourage outreach by inviting other men (neighbours, friends) along to our events.

Lyndon Parker
organiser

MISSION PARTNERS

Felipe and Sarah Yanez (CMS) have been working in Spain for the past fifteen years, Felipe mostly helping at a food bank in Malaga and Sarah in a food bank in Alhaurin. They have sought to be helpful and befriend folk and to lead them wherever possible to faith in the Lord Jesus. Felipe and Sarah have also made a good contribution in loving service to their local church. Samuel, aged 18, has been studying at a local Ipswich college for the past year. Aaron, 16, has been doing GCSE equivalent in Spain. Since Sarah's visit to us in the autumn of 2021, they have decided to move back to the United Kingdom in 2022 and be nearer to Sarah's 88 year old father, Sarah and Aaron in August and Felipe in mid-September, to help a smooth transition in the Malaga food bank.
Grace Hamber

Anna and Chris Hembury (CMS) and their 2 children, Elijah (21) and Kavita(19), have lived in a run-down area of Hull for 25 years. They are CMS Mission Partners working with Hull Youth for Christ (and other groups) being salt and light in the community and coming alongside local people with their often messy and painful life-stories. Anna and Chris support their neighbours

in many different projects, such as looking after the CMS Community House of Mission, Matt's House, running a Breakfast Club, a Friday Sofa Church, a sewing collective/safe space (Orts) and a men's fitness club. Above all, through much listening and sharing, they are building relationships in the local neighbourhood, forming a more hopeful and joyful community and encouraging some of their neighbours to be more open to a loving and creative God.
Carys Tew

Ben and Kirsten Nobbs (YWAM) work for Youth With A Mission in Durban, South Africa.
In the last 12 months they have worked with their permanent team of 20 full time staff, and hosted over 50 visitors, to support local church partners in sharing the love of Jesus in the area. This has included helping those on the coast who were affected by storms and more recently tidying up after severe flooding, as well as supporting local businesses after looting and rioting back in June 2021. The YWAM team have also run their first post covid Discipleship Training Scheme where young people from around the world are empowered to lead others in missions. The focus of the outreach was sharing Gods word and bible distribution. Ben and Kirsten's three children Eilidh-Jane, Ethan and Caleb are all thriving.
Rachel Parker

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT OF 2021
2021 began with the difficult decision. Although services (with social distancing and sanitising measures) had recommenced in the later part of 2020 rising cases of Covid 19, Delta variant had caused the government to re-introduce 'lockdown' restrictions. Track and trace data had shown that very little transmission of the virus had occurred in places of worship. As a result of this proven record of careful management Churches were not included in the mandatory restrictions. It was left to each individual parish to assess risk and choose whether to open for services or not.

It was with a heavy heart that in an extraordinary meeting on 7/01/21 the PCC took the decision to close both churches and once more. It was felt that we not in a position to predict the consequences of remaining open and closure was our only safe course of action that would avoid placing people at unnecessary risk. This decision was kept continually under review, as the national situation changed

The buildings were closed, but the church was very busy. We must thank Peter Vivash for his excellent initiatives and tenacity in overcoming technical glitches that allowed us to continue to worship and pray together through weekly you-tube services, also zoom prayer meetings, coffee and fellowship and home groups.

On Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday; with great relief and joy we were able to cautiously reopen our buildings for worship together. Since when our Churches have remain open. Thanks to the miracle of vaccinations and fortuitous viral mutations we have been able to slowly ease the social distancing and hygiene measures and reintroduce after service coffee and the fair trade stall. Intrusive signs and instructions are gone and we are more relaxed and able to concentrate on our worship. Attendance is steadily increasing as people feel more confident.

We are now getting used to the new pattern of services agreed by the PCC and introduced on the last Sunday in October. So far the church wardens have managed to open the correct Church at the correct time. The new 4.00pm Splurge and Breathe Services have been a successful and refreshing addition.

St Stephen's Church
The Church Building: At the start of the year the problems with the roofs of both transepts had not been resolved. The PCC's decision in June to seek a new church architect was most welcome. Following her appointment, a long overdue Quinquennial inspection was conducted 03/08/21. A thorough investigation of the issues with the transept roofs has identified the faults

that have led to the problems. A specification has been prepared and we are hoping work will commence soon.

The Churchyard: The entrance to the Barstow grave vault had collapsed leaving a dangerous opening. The vault opening was immediately fenced off for safety but remained an unfortunate eyesore for too long. A structural engineer's specification for the repair of the grave vault was prepared and completed by Furness and Sons. This site will have to support scaffolding whilst repairs to the transept are completed.

Gravestones have been inspected for safety and appropriate actions taken.
We are grateful to Don Savage who has expertly guided the payback team to maintain the church yard. Amongst much else they have dealt with excessive growth of ivy, a fallen tree, cleared blocked drains and thanks to fundraising by Darren Walker laid gravel paths.
Our church yard is an important point of contact with the community there have been a number of prayer trails organised by the outreach committee and I am pleased to report that passersby do stop and read and contemplate. The Churchyard has also hosted two events arranged by the eco church group; a church yard nature survey week in June and an evening bat walk in August.

St Aidan's Church
January 2021 started with no resolution regarding the leaking roof at St Aidan's church with the original parish architect. There was quite a lot of antisocial behaviour and criminal damage to the outside of the building in the spring. We had excellent support from the local police service and councillor. The matters were resolved eventually.

Very popular community dancers, palates, tai chi and children's drama groups plus the weekly Thursday service re commenced in the spring when government Covid guidance allowed. All keeping the church and hall very busy much to the appreciation of the local community, church parishioners and businesses.

The Thursday morning service has proved to be very popular for believers requiring accessible worship, those who cannot worship on a Sunday and those who worship elsewhere on a Sunday. Thank you to Hillary and Geoff Waiting for serving drinks weekly after each service. Mothers Union continue to have a communion service Monthly within the Thursday service followed by soup. We are very grateful to Anne Barker for leading this group.

We are grateful for the appointment of a new parish architect and the QI in August. Sadly, this revealed serious structural problems with St Aidan's church. This was followed by structural engineers reports and these were presented to the PCC for discussion in spring of 2022, Parish and community meetings resulting in the very sad decision to close St Aidan's.
We are very grateful to our Vicar, property committee, PCC and our parishioners for their ongoing discussions and communication with the diocese regarding the closure of St Aidan's.

Thank you to the very faithful gardeners Rob Swallow, Lyndon Parker, Jonny Philips, John Parker for cutting the extensive lawns, weeding and cutting the hedges. Also, to Lynn Sangster for gardening at the front of church and Ian Sangster was being such a willing assistant church Warden. Timothy attended his Church Warden Training on 23.10.21.

Rachel Parker & Timothy Marvell

YORK DEANERY SYNOD REPORTS
This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. Owing to covid restrictions just 3 meetings took place mostly by Zoom:

10.2.21 – The start of the new triennium period saw the nomination of officers etc. for both houses (Laity & Clergy) plus nominations to Deanery Leadership Team (DLT). The meeting

spent some time in virtual groups to look at covid related issues and how we can continue to 'Live Christ's Story.

30.6.21 postponed from 19.5.21 – Bishop John and Archdeacon of York on LCS.

20.10.21 – Election of members to York Diocesan Synod.

The Venerable John Day is currently acting as Archdeacon of York while the Venerable Sam Rushton has been released to spearhead work on the Diocesan Strategic Plan. Revd Luke Tillett remains Area Dean. Whereas the previous Archbishop of Yok acting as Bishop of York itself, now Bishop John (Selby) provides episcopal oversight of York Deanery and care of the churches within it. The Acting Dean of York Minster (The Revd Canon Michael Smith) provides for the civic roles.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Despite the lifting of the Covid-19 restrictions the Stewardship and Cash Collection income was lower than the previous year at £48,918 (2020 £54,709). The Freewill Offering totalled £68,000 and was paid in full. The parish continues to be dependent on income from fees, lettings of the Parish Hall and St Aidan's Church, together with refunded payment of Income Tax via the Gift Aid Scheme to meet the freewill offering and other expenditure. The PCC general account benefited in 2021 by £12,318 from the Gift Aid Scheme, without which difficulty would have arisen in meeting all expenses and agreed charitable donations.

We agreed to continue to support charities. The amount of money donated by the PCC in 2021 was £6,365 (2020 £6,250). In addition, in 2021 we gave £319 by way of special collections.

The bank balance in the main account on 31st December 2021 was £19,161 (2019 £19,716).

The Young Peoples Fund continues to be supported but by reducing numbers. The fund's balance decreased by £1,476 to £48,398 at the year-end. The costs of employing our part time youth leader until 31st August 2021 were met by the fund.

The Parish Hall had an excess of receipts over payments of £4,204 in the year. Lettings income increased by £6,997 due to the lifting of restrictions. The cash and bank balances at the end of year increased to £23,826.
The value of investments, both general and restricted, increased to £192,505. The restricted investments included in this figure amount to £60,732 (2020 £54,046).

The market value of the William Lee Endowment Funds held by the Diocese also increased. Only the accrued income from these investments is available for use in respect of items of maintenance to the fabric of the individual churches. We utilised £1,586 of the St Stephens's balance and £3,122.02 of the St Aidan's balance. At 31st December 2021, £48,107 was available to St Stephen's Church and £22,251 to St Aidan's Church.

The St Aidan's Church Fabric Fund balance increased to £3,426. The St Stephen's Church Fabric Fund bank balance decreased to £128,496.

RESERVES POLICY

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to approximately 6 months unrestricted payments excluding the Freewill offering, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £42,987 on unrestricted bank and cash deposits was in line with this policy.

It is our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and Virgin Money Bank.

Nigel PCC Treasurer

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Acomb Parochial Church Council (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

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 financial statements to be reached.

Judith Summerfield BA FCA
Chartered Accountant

Dated: 20 May 2022

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds general £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	70,520	720	3,703	-	74,943	95,008
Charitable activities	3	39,543	-	10,175	-	49,718	25,582
Investments	4	3,120	-	2,644	5,570	11,334	12,591
Total income		113,183	720	16,522	5,570	135,995	133,181
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	109,739	-	16,509	4,708	130,956	117,380
Net gains on investments	9	7,045	-	6,686	-	13,731	(1,316)
Net incoming resources		10,489	720	6,699	862	18,770	14,485
Other recognised gains and losses							
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		-	85,000	-	-	85,000	48,126
Net movement in funds		10,489	85,720	6,699	862	103,770	62,611
Fund balances at 1 January 2021		165,428	1,740,932	234,889	118,614	2,259,863	2,197,252
Fund balances at 31 December 2021		175,917	1,826,652	241,588	119,476	2,363,633	2,259,863

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**10**		1,823,157		1,738,361
Investments	**11**		241,623		227,891
			2,064,780		1,966,252
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		299,247		294,050	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**13**	(394)		(439)	
Net current assets			298,853		293,611
Total assets less current liabilities			2,363,633		2,259,863
Capital funds					
General endowment funds	**14**		119,476		118,614
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**15**		241,588		234,889
Designated funds	**16**		1,826,652		1,740,932
General unrestricted funds			175,917		165,428
			2,363,633		2,259,863

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 17 March 2022

Rev P Vivash

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Acomb Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements for 2021 have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

The unrestricted fund is available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time the claim is made.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate. Governance costs represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements. As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold property	Nil
Equipment	15% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Taxation

The church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving	47,334	-	2,440	49,774	57,763
Donations and legacies	4,381	720	130	5,231	17,233
Gift aid tax relief	12,318	-	783	13,101	15,056
Other income	6,487	-	350	6,837	4,956
	70,520	720	3,703	74,943	95,008
For the year ended 31 December 2020	89,459	-	5,549		95,008
Donations and legacies					
Legacies	-	-	-	-	12,971
Donations	4,381	720	130	5,231	4,262
	4,381	720	130	5,231	17,233

3 Charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Service fees	5,316	3,051
Lettings	18,145	11,148
Rent	15,869	10,965
Special efforts	213	401
Diocese of Liverpool	10,175	-
Sale of magazines	-	17
	49,718	25,582
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	39,543	
Restricted funds	10,175	
	49,718	
For the year ended 31 December 2020		
Unrestricted funds		25,582

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds general	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds general	Total
	2021	**2021**	**2021**	**2021**	2020	2020	2020	2020
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	£	£	£	£
Income from listed investments	3,110	2,136	5,533	10,779	3,630	1,969	5,287	10,886
Interest received	10	508	37	555	50	1,375	280	1,705
	3,120	2,644	5,570	11,334	3,680	3,344	5,567	12,591

5 Charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Staff costs	12,351	12,579
Depreciation and impairment	204	240
Acomb Parish Church Hall expenses	11,978	8,095
Church running expenses	7,288	7,790
Church yard expenses	124	780
Bank charges	195	263
Freewill offering	68,000	68,000
Parish expenses	3,720	3,809
Donations to charities	6,784	7,247
Parish magazine	-	123
Church maintenance	9,075	4,547
Professional fees	2,202	202
Leaving gifts	403	225
Clergy expenses	466	501
Clergy housing	7,741	2,559
	130,531	116,960
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	425	420
	130,956	117,380
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	109,739	
Restricted funds	16,509	
Endowment funds - general	4,708	
	130,956	
For the year ended 31 December 2020		
Unrestricted funds		110,405
Restricted funds		6,975
		117,380

6 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Costs of independent examination	-	425	425	420
	-	425	425	420
Analysed between				
Charitable activities	-	425	425	420

7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
	4	4

Employment costs	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	12,351	12,579

9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021 £	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £	2020 £
Revaluation of investments	7,045	6,686	13,731	3,343	(4,659)	(1,316)

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 January 2021	1,737,000	6,314	1,743,314
Revaluation	85,000	-	85,000
At 31 December 2021	1,822,000	6,314	1,828,314
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2021	-	4,953	4,953
Depreciation charged in the year	-	204	204
At 31 December 2021	-	5,157	5,157
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2021	1,822,000	1,157	1,823,157
At 31 December 2020	1,737,000	1,361	1,738,361

11 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Unlisted investments	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2021	222,891	5,000	227,891
Valuation changes	13,732	-	13,732
At 31 December 2021	236,623	5,000	241,623
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2021	236,623	5,000	241,623
At 31 December 2020	222,891	5,000	227,891

12 Financial instruments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Equity instruments measured at cost less impairment	241,623	227,891
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	394	439

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	394	439

14 Endowment funds

The movements in endowmant funds during the year were as follows:

		Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 January 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowments				
York St Stephen - William Lee Bequest	19,647	-	-	19,647
York St Aidan - William Lee Bequest	29,471	-	-	29,471
Expendable endowments				
York St Stephen - William Lee Bequest	47,527	2,166	(1,586)	48,107
York St Aidan - William Lee Bequest	21,969	3,403	(3,122)	22,250
	118,614	5,569	(4,708)	119,476

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds					Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investments gains/losses	Balance at 1 January 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investments gains/losses	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Young People's fund	47,434	5,149	(6,542)	-	46,041	3,159	(4,635)	-	44,565
St Stephen's Fabric fund	186,738	3,113	(108)	(4,659)	185,084	2,627	(5,168)	6,686	189,229
St Aidan's Fabric fund	2,958	231	-	-	3,189	237	-	-	3,426
AV Sound system	500	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	500
Gifts	-	200	(125)	-	75	193	(268)	-	-
Angel Tree fund	-	200	(200)	-	-	30	-	-	30
Hardship fund	-	-	-	-	-	100	(100)	-	-
Diocese of Liverpool fund	-	-	-	-	-	10,175	(6,337)	-	3,838
	237,630	8,893	(6,975)	(4,659)	234,889	16,521	(16,508)	6,686	241,588

16 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

				Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 January 2020	Investments gains/losses1	Balance at January 2021	Incoming resources	Investments gains/losses	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
St Stephen's Churchyard fund	-	-	-	720	-	720
Property fund	1,688,874	48,126	1,737,000	-	85,000	1,822,000
Squeals on wheels fund	100	-	100	-	-	100
Young People's fund	-	-	3,832	-	-	3,832
	1,692,806	48,126	1,740,932	720	85,000	1,826,652

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Designated funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Endowment funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Designated funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Endowment funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2021 are represented by:										
Tangible assets	1,157	1,822,000	-	-	1,823,157	1,361	1,737,000	-	-	1,738,361
Investments	131,771	-	60,733	49,119	241,623	124,727	-	54,046	49,118	227,891
Current assets/(liabilities)	42,989	4,652	180,855	70,357	298,853	39,340	3,932	180,843	69,496	293,611
	175,917	1,826,652	241,588	119,476	2,363,633	165,428	1,740,932	234,889	118,614	2,259,863

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST STEPHEN ACOMB YOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1130667

Accounts

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Charity Registration No. 1130667

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Church Buildings

St Stephen's Church
York Road
Acomb
York
YO24 4NW

St Aidan's Church
Ridgeway
Acomb
York
YO26 5DB

Bankers

HSBC Bank
13 Parliament Street
York
YO1 8RS

Independent Examiner

Judith Summerfield BA FCA
5 Bowyers Close
Copmanthorpe
York
YO23 3XW

Church Architect

Mr Graham Saxton
Potts Parry Ives & Young
94 The Mount
York
YO24 1AR

Administrative Information

The Parish of Acomb is in the Diocese of York. The address for correspondence is The Vicarage, 32 Carr Lane, Acomb, YO26 5HX. The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commissioners. The Registered Charity Number is 1130667.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent	The Revd Peter Vivash	
Churchwardens	Mrs Rachel Parker	*(Vice-Chair of the PCC)*
	Mr Tim Marvell	*(from 2020 APCM)*
Representatives on the Deanery Synod		*(from 2020 APCM)*
	Mrs Anne Barker	
	Mrs Jennifer Deamer	
	Mrs Mo Vivash	

Elected and co-opted Members of the Parochial Church Council):
Until 22nd November 2020 (APCM delayed from April 2020 due to covid)

Mr Nigel Atkinson (PCC Treasurer)	(term ends (2020)
Mrs Chris Chittock	(term ends 2021)
Mr Paul Deamer	(co-opted for 1 year)
Mr John Haslam	(co-opted for 1 year)
Mrs Anne James	(co-opted for 1 year)
Mrs Beth Savage	(term ends 2020)
Mrs Carys Tew	(term ends 2021)
Mr Gordon Wise	(term ends 2021)

From 22nd November 2020

Mrs Val Atkinson	(term ends 2023)
Mr Paul Deamer	(co-opted for 1 year)

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Mrs Julie Parker	(term ends 2023)
Mr Ian Sangster	(term ends 2023)
Mrs Jill Shaw	(term ends 2023)
Mrs Carys Tew	(term ends 2021)
Mr Gordon Wise	(term ends 2021)

ACOMB PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

'To worship God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit; sharing his love with all in the community through relevant worship, teaching, witness and practical service.'

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a body corporate with perpetual succession and has a legal existence apart from the members who compose it. The composition and procedure of Parochial Church Councils is regulated by the new and completely rewritten *Church Representation Rules 2020* which constitute Schedule 3 (as since amended) to the *Synodical Government Measure 1969.* Their functions and powers are contained in the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* as amended by the 1969 Measure which defines the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church". These include:

(a) co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;

(b) the consideration and discussion of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest.

The Parochial Church Council is also responsible for the functions that were formerly vested in Churchwardens in relation to (a) the financial management of the Church, (b) the care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church and (c) the care and maintenance of the churchyard.

Elections to the Parochial Church Council are held annually and appointment is for three years, after which there must be a break of at least one year before standing for election again. Members who have been on the Church Electoral Roll for at least six months are entitled to stand for election and all members may vote. Licensed clergy, Churchwardens and members of the Deanery Synod are *ex-officio* members of the Parochial Church Council and the Incumbent is the Chairman. There is provision for unlicensed clergy and lay members to be co-opted to the Parochial Church Council.

The Parish Office is normally open from 10 am till 12 noon on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, where volunteers continue to assist with a number of administrative tasks. In 2020 the office was only open from January until mid March being closed since the first lockdown onwards.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL AND CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Prior to a full revision in 2019 there were 153 people on the ER. At the 2019 Annual Parochial Church Meeting the number had dropped significantly to 112 people following complete revision as required every sixth year. Normally this builds up over the next 6 years, however, there has only be a small real increase in 2020 to 114 and with further deletions and additions the electoral roll for 2021 now remains at a low of 111.

Gordon Wise Parish Electoral Roll Officer

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Our Parish is concerned to ensure that we adhere strictly to national safeguarding standards designed to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults with whom we have contact.

It should be noted that Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility. Procedures and formal processes alone although essential, will not protect those at risk. All members of the church community, not just those in leadership positions, need to be aware of the dangers and be prepared to report concerns so that appropriate action can be taken, and we can ensure that good practice is being implemented. The Parish Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually.

John Goodrich Safeguarding Officer

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

Following the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR), the Acomb Parochial Church Council (PCC) complies with the GDPR fully making careful and very limited use of personal information. As required, we have agreed a data privacy notice.

Peter Vivash Data Protection Officer

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Parochial Church Council met on 7 occasions during 2020: 3 Feb at St Aidan's Church with the following being online via 'Zoom': 23 Mar, 10 June, 30 Jun, 21 Jul, 28 Sept, 30 Nov. [5 times between the 22.11.2020 APCM and the planned 16.5.2021 AGM: on 30 Nov, 25 Jan, 22 Feb, 22 Mar, 26 Apr (with the Archdeacon of York).] Many items were discussed at these meetings including: Reports from all the committees, looking after the fabric and running of the church buildings, looking to close St Stephen's churchyard, repairs to St Stephen's transept roofs and St Aidan's roof.

Four committees (Finance, Outreach, Parish Hall, & Property) met between PCC meetings, but less frequently due to covid and were forced to do this via email, phone or Zoom to make recommendations to the Council. The staffing committee met as required, to specifically deal with any staffing matters.

The Standing Committee were also forced to communicate, in respect of matters needing decisions between Council meetings, by email, phone or Zoom. A folder of PCC minutes is available to view in each church, though the churches have been locked down for much of the year with covid. Covid also meant that we were unable to publish brief reports of Council meetings and financial statements as the Parish Magazine was suspended after the March 2020 issue.

The Council received and discussed regular reports from the Treasurer relating to collections and planned giving and the balances in the General, Fabric and Young People's Funds. Parochial Church Fees which are the responsibility of the Council are also reviewed annually. Recommendations by the Finance Committee as to which Missions and Charities should receive donations from Council funds were accepted. The Parish agreed that its free will offering to the Diocese in 2020 to assist the Diocese in its mission and ministry financial requirements would be £68,000, an increase on 2019 - *Anne Barker PCC Secretary*

PUBLIC BENEFIT

As you can imagine engagement with schools for the majority of 2020 has been extremely limited due to covid. 'Squeals on Wheels' (a Mothers & Toddlers group),

Sunday School, a children's Music Group all had to cease meeting. Our part-time Children's & Youth Worker has also been restricted in what she can do but has kept regular contact with church connected families and youth and the latter have managed a few outdoor gatherings as covid regulations fluctuated. Similarly, there has been little opportunity to work with uniformed organisations. The effect of the pandemic may leave permanent damage to our connections with many in the parish thus hindering the opportunity for people to learn about the Christian faith.

Part of the church ethos is to encourage all members to contribute to the community in the wider parish, thus helping to build social capital, such as by undertaking practical activities
with charities. For example, some members of the congregations undertake voluntary work
as part of York Hospital chaplaincy providing pastoral support to those in need, Prison chaplaincy, as School Governors, while others are Trustees of various local Christian charities. Some members volunteer regularly at Acomb Explore (Library) and link in with the Food Bank which is held on the premises of another church in Acomb.

Both Churches and the Parish Church Hall are normally well used by the community, the church and numerous other organisations (eg: Child contact centre, dance groups, flower Guilds etc..but this has been severely reduced by covid. St. Stephen's churchyard has remained open at all times and is popular place for people to visit, tend graves or benefit from gardens and wildlife found within the Churchyard. A number of faith focussed 'family trails have been set up and well attended. There is a footpath running through it which many use as a short cut. The Community Payback Teams has been unable to work in the Churchyard through the effects of covid.

The Parish monthly Saturday 'Craft Fair and Coffee Morning' in the Parish Church Hall which attracted a broad cross section of the community and was well supported offering a good place for people to find friendship and support, and included a 'clothes swap' run by the local community have all had to cease. We have done the best we can give in the circumstances in supporting those who have been recently bereaved. Our annual community carol service and other Christmas services were offered online this year alongside some services held in church. As a church we this year been able to offer little by way of social cohesion as most joint activities with local community groups and 'ACT' (Acomb Churches Together) had to cease.

MISSION PARTNERS

Ben and Kirsten Nobbs (YWAM)

Ben and Kirsten and family are well. They have restarted all their local ministries, but are not sending or receiving teams internationally. Eilidh-Jane has completed her first term at primary school. She has enjoyed it and made some new friends.
The building has now been bought outright PTL! They are now praying about when their next Discipleship School should be, and when to run their next Discipleship Bible School. Both schools require a number of people to pause some of the other responsibilities they have, to give 90% of their time to the schools. They can see that their team do not have the passion for this at present, so are praying God will stir the hearts of the people. Ben and Kirsten hope to recast the vision for this in the coming weeks.

Hembury Family (CMS)
The Hembury Family are well. Both very busy during the week, but have managed to find a much better rhythm and have time without obligations most weekends. Chris is doing four days with a building firm and enjoying living out his faith, the daily, honest "God conversations" quietly ministering in that very different context. He is also supporting the folk in Matt's House, their CMS Community Mission House.
Anna is doing a variety of things: including running Orts; part of a group working to ensure better support for women involved in survival sex work; helping develop some resources for schools around childhood trauma; and working on a worship performance about the Annunciation (with puppets) as part of a community arts group. They are looking forward to Selby Street Mission opening up in June where they can share food, faith and life together with some of the most vulnerable in their neighbourhood.
Elijah and Kavita are in their first year at Uni.. Kavita is in Leeds and Elijah is at home studying online with Manchester University.

Felipe and Sarah Yanez (CMS)
Felipe and Sarah, Samuel and Aaron are well. Schools are closed, but classes continue on Google Classroom. Facebook and WhatsApp are a lifeline and essential for work and connection. They find the constant messages and expectation to keep in contact with so many people somewhat overwhelming.
The Centro Diez foodbank is closed due to uncertainties Covid-19. The ABC foodbank has continued and the workload has increased. They have had a 100+ new referrals from Social Services in two weeks.
The Protestant Church is encouraging a personal engagement with the message and a growing realisation of the need to personally connect with other members of the Church community. The Church has often been inward focused but now Facebook and social media are communicating the message of Christ into the wider community, into people's homes where they can more easily engage with the story on a personal level.
Felipe and Sarah say "let's ask the Spirit to guide and inspire us and help us take advantage of this unusual, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage with our neighbours, friends and wider community in a different way. May the Holy Spirit touch the lives of many during this season, bringing faith where there is doubt; joy where there is sadness; and hope where there is despair."

Grace Hamber

FABRIC, GOODS & ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCHES: CHURCHWARDENS REPORT
As everyone will be aware on 23/3/20 the British Government announced a national Lockdown in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. All places of worship had to be closed from this date and the nation had to follow very strict government guidelines to protect the NHS and effectively everyone living in GB from the effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic. In the weeks leading up to the different Lockdowns we also had to follow very strict and fast changing government guidance regarding worship in church and in society, and in the communal use of all our premises. Our parish office closed from March to date.

I am so very grateful to the whole church community, our Vicar, children's and youth worker, caretakers, verger and the PCC for the way we have adapted and implemented the government guidelines. This has enabled us to have services online, Zoom meetings, parish letters, care telephone calls, shopping, essential weekly checks to our

church buildings, gardening and essential property maintenance to our buildings. It has been a huge learning curve to us all in many different ways.

I think Rev Pete and the online service team have done a wonderful job with enabling us to have a service online for the whole world to view, volunteers have taken around Parish Letters, and supported those alone, isolating, moving into different care/nursing accommodation and those who have been bereaved over the past year. The weekly Thursday morning early prayer (7-7.30pm) continued in St Aidan's while it could but then by email during the pandemic but hopes to return to St Aidan's soon.

I am particularly grateful to Val and Carys for helping with the many risk assessments we have had to draw up in order to have services again, open church for prayer and the many community groups that are using our church buildings. For Nigel and the money counting team as they continue to count the giving in a Covid secure way. For the many church members and especially the retired vicars, Revd's Anne Freestone, Andrew Bailey and David Erridge who have helped to ensure we have been able to have 'in church worship' at both of our churches.

Regarding the church buildings and outside spaces, they have all been maintained and when closed have been checked weekly as per guidance from the Church of England and insurance company. There has been no broken windows or antisocial damage at either church building. Fire, central heating and boilers have been checked yearly by the relevant professionals. **St Aidan's Church**: there has been water ingress into the church from the roof, into the main hall area and especially the four gullies causing more damage to the plasterwork in the disabled toilet, vicars vestry, cleaners area and the 'committee room'. A piece of plaster board has fallen down in the disabled toilet area.
We are awaiting architect drawings from the dioceses architect since January 2020. The gardening team have done fantastic work mowing the lawns and the final 'rough area' in the rear garden is about to be seeded.

St Stephen's Church: there is water ingress into both transepts, an upper room and the vicar's vestry. Work is to commence this June on the areas. Don Savage and a team of helpers from the community have been able to mow the top half of the church Yard and commence strimming in the lower church yard until Don's illness in the late summer. Letters of thanks have been written to the community helpers. The Community Payback Team could not help this year due to Coronavirus restrictions. Good Gym, have been fantastic helping clear, in a Covid secure way one of the paths in the graveyard. We have had prayer trails in the church yards during summer, Christmas and Easter for individuals and families.

We are so very grateful to Tim Marvel who felt able to serve as a second Church Warden for Acomb Parish and was officially admitted as such in December 2020. He was already actively helping, unofficially, from summer 2020. Tim was thrown in to being the only Church Warden from Christmas onwards as Rachel had to go and care for her mum following her broken arm and was then herself admitted to hospital for surgery. The log book, terriers and inventories were updated and all buildings appropriately insured and gas, electrics and fire safety were all inspected.

In early **2021** we continue to adhere to Government Coronavirus regulations; strict Risk Assessments are in place inside and outside of our buildings. The inside and outside of St Aidan's Church continues to suffer effects of water ingress. Community groups, drama, keep fit, and a martial arts group meet most days of the week as restrictions

allow. St Stephen's churchyard had a collapsed family grave vault, made safe and awaiting building works at the same time as the transepts in June 2021.

Following the death of HRH Prince Philip, and following Church of England guidelines, we were able to respond by ringing the bells at St Stephen's the following day. Both St Stephen's and St Aidan's churches were opened and a candle lit for an hour on both the 10.4.21 & 11.4.21 in case any people locally wanted to call in and pray. Intercessions for the Royal family were said on Sunday 11.4.21 in church. On 17.4.21 the bell was again rung at St. Stephen's church and the church opened for public prayer at the time of Prince Philips funeral. Thanks to Tim Marvel and Ian Sangster for facilitating the arrangements.

Rachel Parker and Tim Marvell Churchwardens

VICAR'S REPORT

What a bizarre and unexpected year!

Unfortunately, I was rather unwell over the Christmas/New Year period having been hospitalised, so was initially out of action but grateful for all who maintained things in my absence. The year began well for the church with Christingle (Jan), Pancake Party at St Aidan's, United Service with Parish Lunch with Archdeacon of York (Feb), planned Men's Group trips, Rev's Andrew and Anne ran a 'Refresher' course for parish readers and intercessors. We hosted the local World Day of Prayer Service at St Aidan's, we had begun a series of ACT Lent Lunches which were going really well and had also arranged for Riding Light's to perform in the church hall; when all of a sudden – COVID! Because of this our report will be shorter as I have not asked for individual reports this year as less has taken place!

Everything ground to a halt, including my work with local schools, care homes, visiting and home communions etc. Squeals on Wheels (Mothers & Toddlers), Sunday Supper (Youth work) and Sunday School all had to cease. We were unable to celebrate Easter together in Church because of lockdown. Regular letters to all on the electoral roll every few weeks or so kept people in touch with what was going on, offered various resources for worship etc, and set up a buddy system for people to keep in touch with each other and for them to keep an eye on us too. Lockdown is not easy and we were all aware of the danger of isolation and loneliness and how this could affect our mental health. Two newly retired clergy and other halves moved into the parish as well as Christine Hanby who moved here with her son from Dringhouses during this time.

'Zoom' became a new, valuable tool for all those with internet. Using this medium we have been able to maintain some contact through Monday evening fellowship and compline, Thursday morning coffee and fellowship, occasional Parish Quiz Nites and our monthly Parish Prayer which has continued throughout the year. Some of the home groups continued on Zoom, as have PCC meetings and our delayed APCM held late in November instead of in April. Tim Marvell became our second churchwarden along with Rachel Parker.

Eventually, alongside of all the above, I worked out how to provide recorded video services online via YouTube (Acomb Parish York channel) which have been well received and I thank all those who have been and continue to be involved. We have reached well beyond our usual congregation with these. Carys & Tony Tew, Jonny Philips and Renate & Phillip Sangwine have assisted greatly in helping us to continue to 'sing along' in worship at home along with other online music resources from St

Martin's Singers, London and Newcastle Cathedral. Somewhere along the line the organ at St Stephen's went up in smoke necessitating the fire brigade's arrival. This has since been repaired at a cost of around £1000. Through our online services we were able to have some celebrations such as Harvest, Prisons Week, Climate Sunday, Bible Sunday as well as our (All Soul's) Annual Memorial Service. As a way of reaching out to those in the wider parish we also delivered 4000 Christmas cards in the parish with willing volunteer deliverers (despite the cold and covid). We provided a book for Advent 'The Radiant Dawn' by Tom Parsons. We began, under covid restrictions, to hold some Thursday and Sunday services for some weeks before further lockdowns.

Baptisms ceased, and for many couples planned weddings became a bit of a nightmare with the setting and resetting of dates a number of times. Many planned **weddings** have either been postponed indefinitely or moved to next year (2021) or 2022. Nevertheless 4 still took place in 2020 with small congregations under covid regs, including a wedding of Dominic (Maureen & Pete Horsley's son – Peter had previously been vicar here) and Mo & I were delighted that I could officiate at the wedding of our son Sam to Beth at St Stephens, with just 13 people attending!

Funerals continued with a total of 23 mostly being held at the crematorium or York Cemetery Chapel because of covid with only 6 being held at St Stephens and 1 at St Aidan's with 4 burials elsewhere (York or Fulford Cemetery). There was 1 burial in St Stephen's churchyard along with 3 interments of cremated remains. Sadly a number of our congregation have died in the year including Ariaantje (Jan) Manson, Marsha Milward, John Elwick, Ursula Bishop, Fred Cornish, Eileen Walbridge and most recently Jack Welburn in 2021. Having moved to a home in the South near her family, Rev Pam Cooper also sadly died (some from the parish attended her funeral by Zoom).

Evelyn Wroe has recently moved to a care setting near family 'up North'. Her nephew Mark also became Bishop of Berwick. I am grateful to all who have helped us to hold together as a church during the pandemic in the many different ways that each has served. We have grieved alongside others who nationally through covid have experienced the deaths of well over 127,000 people. We rejoice over all the NHS provide and for the availability of vaccines whilst longing for this to rollout globally.

As we moved over into **2021** we did not run our usual Christingle Service this year. For lent we provided each member with the excellent, 'Live Lent' booklets. Spurred on by the issue of our Christmas card in 2020, 2021 saw us delivering 5000 Easter cards from which we have had some positive comments and responses. Rev Anne Freestone has now also moved away and we were grateful for all she offered while in the parish.

The PCC have agreed change to the structure its **PCC subcommittees**. The Outreach committee will remain untouched while the Parish Hall committee will cease with parish hall maintenance elements being absorbed by the Property committee and parish hall finances by the Finance committee. In that as a parish we currently employ 4 people (organist, 2 cleaners, and a children's and youth worker) the staffing committee will become our fourth committee. These changes will come into effect from the APCM on 16.5.21.

Parish Office The parish are grateful to all who over recent years have helped keep this functioning 3 mornings per week prior to the pandemic. However, there have been significant changes in the circumstances and availability of volunteers, brought to a head for some with covid. On top of this the amount of administration required in parish

continues to become ever more demanding, and we need a more permanent and consistent set up, ideally employing someone to take over responsibility for a number of aspects of parish ministry. We will also still need volunteers.

Our Parish Website: www.acombparish.org, Facebook: www.facebook.com/acombparish and Twitter: twitter.com/acombparish are now the main avenues of church enquiries and communications. It is staggering and encouraging how many look at these pages each week!

Eco Church – I am grateful to Rev Andrew Bailey for running with this item and for drawing together a growing band of enthusiastic folk. This agenda is beginning to impact into our worship, we are currently running a 'Caring for Creation' course, and the group are exploring how we can look to obtain a bronze ecochurch award from A Rocha. They are also beginning to drive a number of initiatives particularly in relation to St Stephen's churchyard and are beginning to look at the possibility of installing solar panel on St Stephen's Church roof. Watch this (roof) space!

New marriage legislation becomes law from 4.5.21. Though weddings can still take place, churches will no longer have marriage registers or issue marriage certificates ending the tradition of the signing of the registers and providing historical records. This modernisation of the 1949 Marriage Act primarily affects marriage registration (which will eventually become digital) and further to Brexit the legalities of those who are EEA nationals.

The PCC have recently been exploring across the parish the question as to whether we have too many buildings to be effective in our mission. The PCC were recently joined by the Archdeacon of York to discuss this. How should we 'Live Christ's Story? What is our mission as Christ's church here in Acomb? Do we need to reformulate our Mission Statement as a way of prayerfully exploring how the Lord wants us to be his church today? Covid has brought many changes and one of them might be that we too need to change in our direction as a church, and the way that we are church.

Perhaps it is pertinent that both the Archbishops of York and Canterbury said that, 'We are all having to get used to being the Church differently' and 'Moreover, to pray from and in the home may help us to show that the church is, as we all know, us, the people of God, not our buildings.'

Teach us, good Lord,
To serve thee as thou deservest;
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not for seek for rest;
To labour and not to ask for any reward
Save that of knowing that we do thy will.

(St Ignatius Loyola)

Rev Pete Vivash Vicar

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Due to Covid-19 the Stewardship and Cash Collection income was lower than the previous year at £54,709 (2019 £59,559). The Freewill Offering totalled £68,000 and was paid in full. The parish continues to be dependent on income from fees, lettings of the Parish Hall and St Aidan's Church, together with refunded payment of Income Tax via the Gift Aid Scheme to meet the freewill offering and other expenditure. The PCC account benefited in 2020 by £13,963 from the Gift Aid Scheme, without which difficulty would have arisen in meeting all expenses and agreed charitable donations.

We agreed to continue to support charities. The amount of money donated by the PCC in 2020 was £6,250 (2019 £6,140). In addition, in 2020 we gave £797 by way of special collections and £200 from a specific donation.

The bank balance in the main account at 31st December 2020 was £19,716 (2019 £13,626).

The Young Peoples Fund continues to be supported but by reducing numbers. The fund's balance decreased by £1,393 to £49,874 at the year-end. The costs of employing our part time youth leader in the year were met by the income received from all sources.

The Parish Hall had an excess of receipts over payments of £2,445 in the year despite lettings income reducing by £12,614 due to the restrictions of Covid-19 The cash and bank balances at the end of year decreased to £19,623.

The value of investments, both general and restricted, decreased to £178,774, however the General fund saw an increase in value of £3,343 and St Stephen's Fabric Fund saw a decrease of £4,659. The restricted investments included in this figure amount to £54,046 (2019 £58,705).

The market value of the William Lee Endowment Funds held by the Diocese also increased. Only the accrued income from these investments is available for use in respect of major items of maintenance to the fabric of the individual churches. At 31st December 2020, £47,527 was available to St Stephen's Church and £21,969 to St Aidan's Church.

The St Aidan's Church Fabric Fund balance increased to £3,189. The St Stephen's Church Fabric Fund bank balance increased to £131,037.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to approximately 6 months unrestricted payments excluding the Freewill offering, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £39,339 on unrestricted bank and cash deposits was in line with this policy.

It is our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and Virgin Money Bank.

Nigel Atkinson PCC Treasurer

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

YORK DEANERY SYNOD REPORTS

This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. Owing to covid restrictions just 2 meetings took place:

12.2.20 at St Luke's York and 18.11.20 online

The Archbishop of York, John Sentamu retired in June and the new Archbishop Stephen Cottrell was enthroned in October 2020. Further to this, things will now work in a different way in relation to York Deanery. Instead of the Archbishop as before, Bishop John (Selby) will now provide episcopal oversight of the Deanery and care of the churches within it. The new Dean (The Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Frost) of York Minster will provide for the civic roles.

York Diocese continues to be grateful to parishes for their generous free will offerings. However, the Diocese is now eating into its reserves as income across the diocese is down 15% since the covid pandemic. This will have a long term impact.

We were reminded that 'Synod' means 'walking together'. We are all encouraged to consider what this might mean post covid as we learn to be church in new ways, including digital. The new will not be normal – see God is doing a new thing!

The Venerable Sam Rushton became Archdeacon for York, the Revd Paul Millard is now Vicar of St Paul's Holgate & St Barnabas and the Revd Simon Biddlestone as Vicar of Holy Redeemer & Upper and Nether Poppleton.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Acomb Parochial Church Council (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

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 financial statements to be reached.

Judith Summerfield BA FCA
Chartered Accountant

Dated: 14 May 2021

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds general £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	89,459	-	5,549	-	95,008	95,792
Charitable activities	3	25,582	-	-	-	25,582	37,119
Investments	4	3,680	-	3,344	5,567	12,591	13,786
Total income		118,721	-	8,893	5,567	133,181	146,697
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	110,405	-	6,975	-	117,380	154,235
Net gains on investments	9	3,343	-	(4,659)	-	(1,316)	20,319
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		11,659	-	(2,741)	5,567	14,485	12,781
Other recognised gains and losses							
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		-	48,126	-	-	48,126	78,469
Net movement in funds		11,659	48,126	(2,741)	5,567	62,611	91,250
Fund balances at 1 January 2020		153,769	1,692,806	237,630	113,047	2,197,252	2,106,003
Fund balances at 31 December 2020		165,428	1,740,932	234,889	118,614	2,259,863	2,197,253

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ACOMB PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**10**		1,738,361		1,690,475
Investments	**11**		227,891		229,207
			1,966,252		1,919,682
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		294,050		277,925	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**13**	(439)		(354)	
Net current assets			293,611		277,571
Total assets less current liabilities			2,259,863		2,197,253
Capital funds					
General endowment funds	**14**		118,614		113,047
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**15**		234,889		237,631
Designated funds	**16**		1,740,932		1,692,806
General unrestricted funds			165,428		153,769
			2,259,863		2,197,253

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 22 March 2021

Rev P Vivash

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Acomb Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements for 2020 have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

The unrestricted fund is available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time the claim is made.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate. Governance costs represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements. As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold property	Nil
Equipment	15% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Taxation

The church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving	53,976	-	3,787	57,763	59,832
Donations and legacies	16,763	-	470	17,233	14,558
Gift aid tax relief	13,964	-	1,092	15,056	14,797
Fundraising events	-	-	-	-	1,570
Other income	4,756	-	200	4,956	5,035
	89,459	-	5,549	95,008	95,792
For the year ended 31 December 2019	87,080	198	8,514		95,792
Donations and legacies					
Legacies	12,921	-	50	12,971	5,522
Donations	3,842	-	420	4,262	9,036
	16,763	-	470	17,233	14,558

3 Charitable activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Service fees	3,051	4,228
Lettings	11,148	23,762
Rent	10,965	7,755
Special efforts	401	1,106
Sale of magazines	17	268
	25,582	37,119

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Endowment funds general 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Endowment funds general 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Income from listed investments	3,630	1,969	5,287	10,886	3,250	2,287	6,088	11,625
Interest received	50	1,375	280	1,705	752	1,409	-	2,161
	3,680	3,344	5,567	12,591	4,002	3,696	6,088	13,786

5 Charitable activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Staff costs	12,579	13,958
Depreciation and impairment	240	283
Acomb Parish Church Hall expenses	8,095	33,327
Church running expenses	7,790	7,658
Church yard expenses	780	425
Bank charges	263	184
Freewill offering	68,000	66,000
Parish expenses	3,809	4,723
Donations to charities	7,247	7,476
Parish magazine	123	624
Church maintenance	4,547	7,850
Professional fees	202	192
Leaving gifts	225	277
Clergy expenses	501	733
Clergy housing	2,559	10,107
	116,960	153,817
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	420	418
	117,380	154,235
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	110,405	
Restricted funds	6,975	
	117,380	
For the year ended 31 December 2019		
Unrestricted funds		144,925
Restricted funds		8,924
Endowment funds - general		386
		154,235

6 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£
Costs of independent examination	-	420	420	418
	-	420	420	418
Analysed between				
Charitable activities	-	420	420	418

7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2020 Number	2019 Number
	4	4

Employment costs	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	12,579	13,958

9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2020 £	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £	2019 £
Revaluation of investments	3,343	(4,659)	(1,316)	12,379	7,940	20,319

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 January 2020	1,688,874	6,314	1,695,188
Revaluation	48,126	-	48,126
At 31 December 2020	1,737,000	6,314	1,743,314
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2020	-	4,713	4,713
Depreciation charged in the year	-	240	240
At 31 December 2020	-	4,953	4,953
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2020	1,737,000	1,361	1,738,361
At 31 December 2019	1,688,874	1,601	1,690,475

11 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Unlisted investments	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2020	224,207	5,000	229,207
Valuation changes	(1,316)	-	(1,316)
At 31 December 2020	222,891	5,000	227,891
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2020	222,891	5,000	227,891
At 31 December 2019	224,207	5,000	229,207

12 Financial instruments

	2020	2019
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Equity instruments measured at cost less impairment	227,891	229,207
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	439	354

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	439	354

14 Endowment funds

The movements in endowmant funds during the year were as follows:

	Balance at 1 January 2020	Movement in funds: Incoming resources	Balance at 31 December 2020
	£	£	£
Permanent endowments			
York St Stephen - William Lee Bequest	19,647	-	19,647
York St Aidan - William Lee Bequest	29,471	-	29,471
Expendable endowments			
York St Stephen - William Lee Bequest	45,234	2,293	47,527
York St Aidan - William Lee Bequest	18,695	3,274	21,969
	113,047	5,567	118,614

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds					Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2019	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investments gains/losses	Balance at 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investments gains/losses	Balance at 31 December 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Young People's fund	46,499	7,726	(6,790)	-	47,434	5,149	(6,542)	-	46,041
St Stephen's Fabric fund	177,193	3,462	(1,857)	7,940	186,738	3,113	(108)	(4,659)	185,084
St Aidan's Fabric fund	2,713	245	-	-	2,958	231	-	-	3,189
AV Sound system	-	500	-	-	500	-	-	-	500
Gifts	-	277	(277)	-	-	200	(125)	-	75
Hardship fund	-	-	-	-	-	200	(200)	-	-
	226,405	12,210	(8,924)	7,940	237,630	8,893	(6,975)	(4,659)	234,889

16 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds					
	Balance at 1 January 2019	Incoming resources	Investments gains/losses	Balance at 1 January 2020	Investments gains/losses	Balance at 31 December 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Young People's fund	3,634	198	-	3,832	-	3,832
Property fund	1,610,405	-	78,469	1,688,874	48,126	1,737,000
Squeals on wheels fund	100	-	-	100	-	100
	1,614,139	198	78,469	1,692,806	48,126	1,740,932

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2020	**Designated funds 2020**	**Restricted funds 2020**	**Endowment funds 2020**	**Total 2020**	Unrestricted funds 2019	Designated funds 2019	Restricted funds 2019	Endowment funds 2019	Total 2019
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2020 are represented by:										
Tangible assets	1,361	1,737,000	-	-	1,738,361	1,601	1,688,874	-	-	1,690,475
Investments	124,727	-	54,046	49,118	227,891	121,384	-	58,705	49,118	229,207
Current assets/(liabilities)	39,340	3,932	180,843	69,496	293,611	30,783	3,933	178,926	63,929	277,571
	165,428	1,740,932	234,889	118,614	2,259,863	153,768	1,692,807	237,631	113,047	2,197,253