THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, YARM

England & Wales · Charity number 1130683

Details

Other names	ST MARY MAGDALENE PCC, YARM
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-07-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Mary Magdalens Church West Street Yarm Cleveland TS15 9BU
Phone	01642780323
Email	yarmchurch@yarmchurch.co.uk
Website	www.yarmchurch.co.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship open to all. The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Promoting Christianity through staging of events and meetings and the distribution of literature. Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, 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
- Stockton-on-tees

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£144,830	£135,131	-	-
2024-12-31	£137,508	£132,031	-	-
2023-12-31	£134,952	£205,832	-	-
2022-12-31	£157,749	£115,319	-	-
2021-12-31	£110,226	£86,128	-	-
2020-12-31	£79,554	£89,375	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Darren Richard Moore	Chair	2021-09-12
AVRIL MARY RHODES		
David Local		2017-04-02
Dr John Christopher Rhodes		
ELAINE HUGGINS		
Jayne Gregory		2024-05-26
Lynn Allison		2020-10-04
MARGARET NICHOLLS		2012-07-09
MARION JOHNSTON		2012-07-09
MARTIN JOHN HUGGINS		
Pamela Clare Parker		2020-10-04
ROS CARLING		2016-04-17
Rev Emma Cain		2025-05-18
Tanya Stephanie Brackenbury		2021-05-23
Valerie Patricia Meeking		2020-10-04
Victor Herbert Wood		2026-05-31
Wendy Storar Gaitskell		2021-05-23

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, Y

England & Wales - Charity number 1130683

Accounts



The Parish of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm

Address for correspondence:
The Rectory, 6 Westgate, Yarm. TS15 9QT

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2025

Rector:
The Reverend Darren Moore

Bankers:
Barclays, 23 Wellington Square, Stockton-on-Tees
Lloyds Bank, 27 High Street, Stockton-on-Tees
Co-op, PO Box 250, Skelmersdale
Darlington Building Society, 81 High Street, Yarm

Independent Examiner:
Mr Philip Sykes, Three Winds, Picton TS15 0AG

Our web site:
www.Yarmchurch.co.uk

The Parochial Church Council is an Excepted Charity

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene Church, Yarm

Trustee Annual Report
for the year ended 31st December 2025

Aim and Purpose

St Mary Magdalene Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Darren Moore, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, as well as the Church itself, which is a Grade II* Listed Building.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church, and to become part of our parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and particularly The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We have registered as an Inclusive Church as a sign that we welcome all people who want to live out their faith as part of our parish family, through:

- Worship and prayer: learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

We wish to open the church building for the benefit of the community as a safe, warm space. To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of the Church.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services, not only on Sundays, but also during the week, that our community will find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, Sunday morning 8.00am services of Holy Communion provide a traditional form of service, Wednesday mornings provide a midweek said eucharist with refreshments and other activities such as prayer time or bible reading fellowship afterwards. The Sunday 10.30am eucharist has maintained its choral basis and brings young choristers into church. We have maintained our fresh expression service on Monday mornings for babies and toddlers called Little Sparks.

At the end of 2025 there were 116 parishioners on the Electoral Roll following the full revision. The usual Sunday attendance was 75 adults and 11 children. The under 18 attendance was largely due to the work of the music director encouraging a junior choir and choral scholars. The Christmas and Easter attendance in total went up by 11% in 2025. As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. There have been 18 Baptisms, 6 weddings and 11 funerals during the year.

Those who are no longer able to come to Church are not forgotten. There is a team of Lay Eucharistic Ministers who take Holy Communion to people in their own homes.

Deanery Synod

Four members of the PCC sit on the Stokesley Deanery Synod, but sadly through the death of David Yates, our membership was reduced to three. The synod provides the PCC with a link with the churches around us, and with the Diocese as a whole. It also receives reports from the General Synod. There were three meetings. Amongst the items discussed were Generous Giving, safeguarding, creative prayer and Big Kids.

Church Fabric

The appeal for improving the sound system raised enough funds to replace the clip-on microphones costing just under £3,000 licence free. The PCC is mindful of the church's responsibility to our planet and is looking at the aim to get to carbon neutral by 2030. It commissioned a report from Emma Varney in July 2024 which made clear that the electricity supply to the site was inadequate. Northern Powergrid were asked to provide options for providing additional power and a report was received in April 2025. The cost will be prohibitive without a substantial legacy or grants. There is an issue with the current boiler system – see details below.

The plastic drain covers have been replaced with a more robust galvanized steel design. Faculty approval for the permanent removal of the south side pews was received in June 2025. We will need to fundraise to repair the wooden floor blocks in 2026 to provide a secure area for future activities.

The church architect conducted his quinquennial inspection on 21st July 2025. We are pleased to announce that all the work on the roof and windows identified as urgent have been completed and cost £2,683. The boiler reported as urgent is subject to ongoing discussions with the DAC. We are blessed that the heating system has kept the church warm over the winter months.

The PCC would like to thank the Fabric Committee for their hard work to maintain the building .

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith and our food cage which is regularly replenished by the congregation has become an established form of giving to Sprouts in Thornaby.

Our monthly magazine, 'Trident', now has a benefice print run of some 250 copies and gives details of what is coming up, and reports on previous activities. We ask for contributions of £6 per year to cover the cost of this 10 edition magazine. We are indebted to our advertisers who allow us to provide a few colour pages and retain the low subscription fee. The PCC is grateful to the editorial team for the high standard of their work.

Café Magdalene continues to be the bedrock of our mission activities to the community. The standard of cakes and service is phenomenal. There were 3,872 drinks sold and 3,649 cakes sold. Word of mouth is our best advertising and there is always a wonderful atmosphere. The PCC knows that the work put into making this a success is considerable and words cannot express our gratitude.

Other Activities

The PCC is grateful to the Co-op community fund for their grant of nearly £2,000 and Co-op funeral care for raising over £200 with a hamper raffle for the Bee Project. Along with church fundraising we have managed to provide an enclosed haven for a colony of bees in a corner of the churchyard.

Financial Review

The accounts have been transferred to a cloud based database from a spreadsheet system. This has allowed Trustees to be offered the facility to see the accounts at any time using a computer and comply with Charity Commission's CC3 guidance. The general accounts have been prepared using Receipts and Payments method and Trading (for the Magazine, Magda Music and Café Magdalene) have been prepared using Accruals (Statement of Recommended Practice SORP 2015). This means the current fixed assets of the café and café stock value has been considered in the balance sheet. There cannot be a direct comparison with 2024 accounts as last year's accounts were prepared under a "historic cost convention".

Total receipts on the unrestricted and designated General Funds were £130,718 (2024 - £118,576), and payments from this fund totalled £125,654 (2024 - £109,326), giving a small surplus of £5,064 (2024 - £9,250). The surplus is largely due to café activities which has retained £4,000 for the replacement of café assets. In addition, the PCC decided to move £2,000 from the café account to the 'designated fund' for restoration. The surplus for the unrestricted general fund used for routine spending was £428.

Income from the Parish Giving Scheme, standing orders and weekly envelopes ('Planned Giving') increased by around 4.3%, and we continue to encourage a change from envelope and standing order giving to the Parish Giving Scheme. It has been good to see that the contactless giving station and one-off Gift Aid envelopes are used by visitors and those attending occasional offices (baptisms, funerals and weddings) and the congregation for charity donations. We have replaced the Payaz terminal as the operating system

on the old tablet became obsolete and stopped working. This has only been achieved by the generosity of church members and users of the church.
We have received no legacies over the year.
We are blessed with lots of people willing to take part in church activities to provide income to run the parish from donations at church events. Included with money donated at occasional offices, refreshments, craft stall and raffles, a net income of just over £11,000 was raised.
The freewill offer to the Diocese – which helps towards the cost of stipends and housing costs for the clergy – was increased by 3.9% for 2025. The PCC feels strongly that the parish should honour its offer in full and now pays monthly by standing order. This can only be achieved by regular contributions and PGS monthly gift aid recovery.
We are very fortunate that we have people who give their time willingly to raise money for other charities. The PCC have approved these activities and therefore all gift aid money can be included with the donation. These are identified in the accounts and total £7,878. The church also supports Sprouts with food and household items; the monetary value of the gift is considerable as a full cage of goods is regularly emptied.
The fiscal governance arrangements were reviewed in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance on Internal financial controls for charities, November 2024 and CC20 Charity fundraising: a guide to trustee duties, October 2022. All money is counted by two people daily into tamper proof bags before placing in the safe. A record of all money is kept.

The church relies on regular givers and at the end of the financial period we have 64 regular donations of which 62 gift aid. 39 contribute monthly via the Parish Giving Scheme and 20 increase their offer by inflation. 23 contribute monthly by standing order and 21 gift aid their donation. 2 give weekly in a green envelope.

Reserves Policy
The PCC has resolved to maintain a balance on our General (unrestricted) Fund, which equates to at least three months' payments of free will offer (£17,000) and to cover emergencies. The Fabric Fund has its own reserve and the PCC resolved to retain £5,000 to cover the cost of emergency repairs. It is our policy to invest reserves with CCLA, through the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund, their Investment Fund units, and their Property Fund units. This way, our reserves should increase with inflationary costs. The café aims to reserve £2,000 per annum in a 95 day deposit account linked to the Co-op business account to pay for planned replacement of capital assets which are devalued in the accounts over 5 years. This year the sum of £2,000 was assigned.

Safeguarding
The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to comply with the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Volunteers
The members of the PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly to make our Church a lively and vibrant community. Our especial thanks go to our hard working subcommittees.

Structure, Governance and Management
The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, assistant clergy, the Churchwardens, Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are always encouraged to join the Electoral Roll, and to consider standing for election to the PCC.
The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met six times during the year. The average level of attendance was 75%. Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has several sub committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These include Events, Mission and Outreach (GOLD), Fabric, Café,

Health and Safety and Wild care. Each report to the full PCC, with the notes of their meetings and seek approval for any spending.

Administrative Information

The Church is situated at West Street, Yarm, TS15 9BU and is part of the Deanery of Stokesley, in the Diocese of York. The correspondence address is The Rectory, 6 Westgate, Yarm, TS15 9QT.
The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2022) and a Charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2025 until the date this report was approved were:

Ex Officio

The Incumbent	The Revd Darren Moore	Chair
Assistant Curate	The Revd Emma Cain	From April 2025
Associate Priest	The Revd Kate Brown	
Reader	Mr David Local	Diocesan synod member Deanery Synod member
Churchwardens	Mr Peter Monck	Until March 2026
	Mrs Beryl Nadin	Until June 2025
Deanery Synod	Mrs Avril Rhodes	
	Dr John Rhodes	Vice chair Treasurer to the PCC from May 2025
Elected Members	Mrs Lynn Allison	Secretary from October 2025
	Mrs Angela Beckwith	Until May 2025 and from October 2025
	Mrs Tanya Brackenbury	
	Mrs Ros Carling	
	Mrs Sue Ellis	Until December 2025
	Mrs Jean Finlay	
	Mrs Wendy Gaitskell	
	Mrs Jayne Gregory	
	Mrs Elaine Huggins	
	Mr Martin Huggins	Treasurer until May 2025
	Mrs Marion Johnston	
	Mrs Valerie Meeking	
	Mrs Beryl Nadin	From October 2025
	Mrs Maggie Nichols	
	Mrs Pam Parker	
	Mr Shaun Sutton	
	Mrs Abbie Telford	
	Mr David Yates	Secretary until September 2025

Approved by the PCC on14th April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Rev'd Darren Moore (Chair)

.....
Dr John Rhodes (Treasurer)

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of	St Mary Magdalene Parochial Church Council, Yarm		
On accounts for the year ended	31st December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1130683
Set out on pages	6 - 10		

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:		**Date:**	5th March 2026
Name:	Philip Sykes		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	ACIB.		
Address:	Three Winds, Picton, North Yorkshire TS15 0AG		

St Mary Magdalene, Yarm

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025
Receipts and Payments a/c

	Note	Unrestricted General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
RECEIPTS						
Donations and legacies	1	£86,939	£134	£10,764	£97,837	£98,691
Income from charitable activities	2	£11,662	£8,139	£2,961	£22,762	£14,131
Other trading activities	3	£2,235	£20,757	0	£22,992	£23,840
Investments	4	£853	0	£207	£1,059	£846
Other income	5	0	0	£180	£180	£0
Total income		**£101,689**	**£29,029**	**£14,112**	**£144,830**	£137,508
PAYMENTS						
Raising funds	6	£1,901	£143	0	£2,044	£2,306
Expenditure on charitable activities	7	£99,954	£22,750	£9,477	£132,181	£128,857
Other expenditure	8	£906	0	0	£906	£868
Total expenditure		**£102,761**	**£22,893**	**£9,477**	**£135,131**	£132,031
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer		**(£1,072)**	**£6,136**	**£4,635**	**£9,699**	£5,477
TRANSFERS						
Gross transfers between funds - in		£1,500	£2,367	£2,000	£5,867	£1,200
Gross transfers between funds - out		0	(£3,500)	(£2,367)	(£5,867)	(£1,200)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets		0	0	0	0	0
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use		0	£7,291	0	£7,291	0
Net movement in funds (after transfers)		**£428**	**£12,294**	**£4,268**	**£16,990**	£5,477
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		**£29,731**	**£1,595**	**£7,070**	**£38,396**	£32,919
Total funds carried forward		**£30,159**	**£13,889**	**£11,338**	**£55,385**	£38,396

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025
Notes to the Financial Statements

		Note	Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
1	**Donations and legacies**						
	Planned giving		£52,701	0	0	£52,701	£51,644
	Collections at services		£7,022	£69	£200	£7,291	£8,874
	Other donations and grants		£13,695	£65	£10,564	£24,324	£16,669
	Legacy		0	0	0	0	0
	Income tax		£13,520	0	0	£13,520	£21,504
	Total		**£86,939**	**£134**	**£10,764**	**£97,837**	£98,691
2	**Income from charitable activities**						
	Non-recurring donations and appeals		£3,452	0	£990	£4,442	£3,007
	Charity collections		0	£7,731	0	£7,731	£6,636
	Bee project		0	£408	£1,971	£2,379	£797
	Occasional office fees and charges	9	£8,210	0	0	£8,210	£3,371
	Total		**£11,662**	**£8,139**	**£2,961**	**£22,762**	£13,811
3	**Other trading activities**						
	Café Magdalene turnover		0	£18,688	0	£18,688	£19,012
	Magda Music turnover		0	£2,069	0	£2,069	£2,817
	Magazine income - advertising		£1,578	0	0	£1,578	£2,011
	Magazine sales		£657	0	0	£657	
	Total		**£2,235**	**£20,757**	**0**	**£22,992**	£23,840
4	**Income from investments**						
	Dividends and Investment income		£748	0	£207	£954	£1,045
	Interest received		£105	0	0	£105	£121
	Total		**£853**	**0**	**£207**	**£1,059**	£1,166
5	**Other income**						
	Insurance claim		0	0	£180	£180	0
	Sale of fixed assets		0	0	0	0	0
	Total		**0**	**0**	**0**	**£180**	0
	Total Income		**£101,689**	**£29,029**	**£14,112**	**£144,860**	£137,508

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

			Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
6	**Cost of generating funds**						
	Cost of Fairs and other events		£1,284	£143	0	£1,427	£2,306
	Craft group expenses		£617	0	0	£617	0
	Cash only club payments		0	0	0	0	0
	Total costs		**£1,901**	**£143**	**0**	**£2,044**	£2,306
7	**Church activities**						
	Mission giving and donations	10	0	£7,878	0	£7,878	£6,636
	Diocesan free will offer		£64,200	0	0	£64,200	£61,800
	Fees (verger, organist, choir, locum etc.)		£8,486	0	0	£8,486	£5,760
	Clergy and staff expenses		£4,140	0	0	£4,140	£4,515
	Church expenses: mission and deanery		£187	0	0	£187	£150
	Church running expenses Insurance, service books, maintenance, refreshments		£12,843	0	£4,576	£17,419	£15,822
	Examination of annual accounts		0	0	0	0	0
	Church utility costs		£8,369	0	0	£8,369	£6,495
	Expenses on parish magazine		£1,729	0	0	£1,729	£1,644
	Café Magdalene expenses		0	£10,615	0	£10,615	£10,047
	Magda Music Costs		0	£1,483	0	£1,483	£2,106
	Major repairs to the church building		0	0	0	0	£13,668
	New building work to the church		0	0	0	0	0
	Bee project		0	£2,774	£1,889	£4,663	£214
	Audio project		0	0	£3,012	£3,012	0
	Total Expenditure		**£99,954**	**£22,750**	**£9,477**	**£132,181**	£128,857
8	**Other costs**						
	Curates water rates		£391	0	0	£391	0
	Flowers		£187	0	0	£187	£214
	Church consumables		£328	0	0	£328	£654
	Total costs		**£906**	**0**	**0**	**£906**	£868
	Total Payments		**£102,761**	**£22,893**	**£9,477**	**£135,131**	£132,031

9 Statutory Fees

	2025 £	
Income for Occasional Offices	£12,430	
Fees paid to Diocese		£4,220
PCC fees		£4,671
Fees paid to verger, organist, sexton etc		£1,440
PCC other charges and unclaimed fees		£2,099
Total	£12,430	£12,430

10 Mission Giving and Donations

	2025 £
Children's Society	£24
Red Cross	£370
Oxfam	£370
Solar Aid	£196
Big Kids	£885
Stroke Association	£236
Great North Air Ambulance	£585
Diabetes UK	£689
Welsh Corgi Rescue	£161
Harbour Support	£125
Alzheimer's Society	£385
MS Society	£574
RNLI	£405
No to dog meat	£349
British Heart Foundation	£144
Macmillan	£652
Christian Aid	£93
Children in Need	£467
Teesside Hospice	£572
Women for Women International	£596
	£7,878

St Mary Magdalene, Yarm: Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Current Asset Investments					
CCLA (Investment general Fund)	£17,272	0	0	£17,272	£16,524
CCLA (Investment fabric Fund)	0	0	£4,771	£4,771	£4,564
	£17,272	**0**	**£4,771**	**£22,043**	£21,088
Current Asset Cash Funds					
Barclays business current account	£9,802	£5	0	£9,807	£4,825
Lloyds business account	£2,847	0	0	£2,847	£4,523
Lloyds restoration current account	0	0	£6,458	£6,458	£291
Co-op Magda Music business account	0	£207	0	£207	£5,534
Darlington building society treasurers account	£1,351	0	0	£1,351	£1,325
Co-op Café Magdalene account	0	£6,992	0	£6,992	£5,647
Café Magdalene cash till	0	£251	0	£251	£237
	£14,005	**£7,450**	**£6,458**	**£27,913**	£22,382
Total Current Assets	**£31,277**	**£7,450**	**£11,229**	**£49,956**	£43,470
Liabilities					
Loan received	0	0	0	0	£5,000
Agency collections	0	0	0	0	£75
Total liabilities	0	0	0	0	£5,075
Current assets less liabilities	**£31,277**	**£7,450**	**£11,229**	**£49,956**	£38,396
Fixed Assets					
Café Magdalene current assets	0	£5,429	0	£5,429	£7,291
	0	**£5,429**	**0**	**£5,429**	£7,291
Net Asset less liabilities surplus (deficit)	**£31,277**	**£12,879**	**£11,229**	**£55,385**	£45,687

The designated fund relates to funds set aside by the PCC for charity donations and collections for specific funds such as the bee fund, Café fund and Magda Music.

The restricted fund relates to the Church Fabric fund and includes grants for specified projects that must be spent only on that project. £1,971 was received in 2025 from the Co-op community fund and Co-op funeral care for the bee project.

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. The Café Magdalene fixed capital assets are recognised in 2025 accounts and depreciated at 20% per annum.
3. During the year the PCC paid off the remaining half (£5,000) of an interest free loan to start Café Magdalene.
4. All investments are re-valued each year, with the latest valuation date being 31 December 2025.
5. The trading activity amounted to 15.88% of the total annual turnover. This complies with the small trading tax exception.
6. £1,500 was transferred from the café designated account to the Barclays current account to cover utilities when the café is open. £2,000 from the café account to restoration fund as per café constitution and £2,367 from the bee restricted grant fund to the bee designated fund to pay for the hives.

Approved by the PCC on the 14th April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd Darren Moore (Chair)

Dr John Rhodes (Treasurer)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, Y

England & Wales - Charity number 1130683

Accounts

St Mary Magdalene Church
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the Year Ended 31 December, 2024

Rector's Report 2024

A new calendar year in our Church life always starts with some of the key Christian festivals that fill our Church calendar. This year saw us, as usual, make the most of Epiphany and Candlemas and I think it would be safe to say that Candlemas has now become a firm favourite as our beautiful church is decked out with candlelight and the liturgy is beautifully enhanced with our new organ and an ever-increasing church choir.

I consider our liturgical life to be a unique selling point in what we have to offer when it comes to displaying the Kingdom of God to all those who cross our threshold. As my time as Rector has evolved it feels as though we now have a very settled calendar that makes the most of the warp and weft of our worship throughout the Christian year.

2024 also saw the new church café have a full calendar year of business. It was undoubtedly a great success financially but the whole concept of the café was never aimed at mere money. The development of Café Magdalene now means that the church building is open every day except Tuesday which has made a huge difference to the accessibility of the building. Whilst many people who use the café simply want a scone or a cake and a very lovely cup of coffee there have clearly been opportunities for conversations to develop and for networks to be initiated. It has also been extremely gratifying to see some of those café regulars becoming occasional church goers. I feel certain that the café has even more potential in the way we develop its outreach and force for missional good in the parish. Of course, the café doesn't simply happen, and it relies on a relatively small pool of fabulous volunteers to keep it going. I wish to offer a huge thank you to Ros Carling and Jean Hodgkinson who are the two baking mainstays of our church café – without their combined commitment and enthusiasm we simply would not be able to run the café as we do. When Jean first stuck her head above the baking parapet she was asked to bake once a month – safe to say her tally of bakes is far exceeded on an all too regular basis! My thanks also go to all the scone bakers (Caroline Mannion, Avril Monck & Beryl Nadin) plus the occasional bakers who step up to help out on a regular basis. And of course, to all the fabulous volunteers who make the café what it is. Their welcome, cheerful smile, good humour and good grace mean that even when things go awry there is always a positive outcome. As the year drew to a close it was good to realise that the interest free loan of £10,000 would be repaid within barely 15 months of trading – which is also very positive news.

Musically our church also had an extremely productive year on a whole number of levels. Our worship was enhanced through a choir whose numbers have grown encouragingly. Janine Busbridge, our Director of Music has worked extremely hard at encouraging new members and younger members and it does feel as through 2024 was the year which saw some momentum growing regarding the direction of our choir. My thanks to Janine for all her hard work and it was so pleasing to see her reap a few rewards for the hard graft she has put in. I am sure I have quoted Pevsner or Wardle or some other notable writer before when it comes to describing our Parish Church as a Georgian Concert Hall but in any event, it has been good to open up our doors and encourage other musical styles to use our space. We have entitled the broadening out of our musical network: 'Magda Music' and under that title a number of musical offerings were made throughout the year. Some of these events were ticketed whilst others encouraged a retiring collection or donation. Certainly, it was a very positive experience being able to host such a wide variety of talent in our church. The one more sombre note on the musical front was that our outstanding Organ Scholar, Patrick Ward, decided to bring his organ tuition to a close at the end of the year in order to quite laudably concentrate on his GCSE

examinations. We said a final farewell to Patrick at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and he leaves us very much with our good wishes and blessings for the future.

This year has seen us consider, as we so often do, the ways and means by which we engage with the younger people within our parish. Little Sparks has continued to flourish and whilst we lost Noah, the absolute single stalwart of Little Sparks for so long, we do now have regular faces of children, parents, grandparents and cares who pop along on a Monday morning, but we can always accommodate more! Our relationship with all the schools within the parish has remained positive and it is always heartening to get helpful and pro-active replies back from the email that I end to every headteacher of every school in September. Clearly, we have particularly strong links with our secondary schools, both Conyers and Yarm School but it has been good to see a continuation of some of the links forged in the previous year, especially with Levendale School who returned for their school carol service in 2024. Links with Yarm Primary remain strong and I pay a few visits to various year groups throughout the academic year. The visits from Layfield School who traipse down on foot in all and any weather are also a great highlight.

2024 saw Yarm Parish Church host the 'World Day of Prayer' event thanks largely it must be said to Kath McCarthy who did a cracking job of taking initiative and getting all the various 'ducks in a row'. The theme this year was Palestine, which had clearly been in our thoughts and prayers even before the WDP event. It was a very moving and prayerful time as we invited our ecumenical friends and partners together for worship and fellowship. As ever with these things lots of the really positive stuff happened after the event and it certainly produced some very fruitful conversations for how World Day of Prayer is taken forward into 2025 and beyond.

I guess the highlight of June was the ordination to the diaconate of our curate, The Revd Emma Cain. Ordinations at York Minster are always very special occasions, and it was lovely for a handful of the congregation to be present at the Minster for Emma's special day. She was of course supported by her husband Jeremy and their children Joshua, Elena and Sarah. Following her ordination Emma was a dynamic presence at various church events and we also had the blessing of hearing her preach before heading off at the end of August for a family holiday. Sadly a few days later we received the news that Emma and her family had been involved in a road traffic accident and that her youngest daughter, Sarah had been killed. This news was met with unanimous shock and disbelief throughout the benefice, the deanery and the diocese and Emma and her family remained in our thoughts and prayers throughout the remainder of the year. A book of condolence was opened in the Lady Chapel and many from the parish offered their thoughts and best wishes at a terribly sad time.

Whilst the year from a Christian perspective assumes a fairly standard routine in so many ways there are always those moments for some innovation and for something different to take place. Our August Pet Service is possibly becoming a standard tradition, but it was certainly good to welcome well-behaved pets into church in August and their equally well-behaved owners. September saw a group from Yarm head down to north Norfolk on a parish pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. In total ten pilgrims spent the week at the Shrine and my thanks to Beryl Nadin and David Local for being so helpful in supplying additional transport. It was an extremely reflective week as we engaged with the various Shrine liturgies, and it was also lovely to share in some fellowship that saw us widen our number as we welcomed others from other parts of the country into our group. A number also made the short journey to the RC Shrine where we were able to submit prayer requests for Emma and Jeremy and the congregation of St Jospeh's, Hartlepool.

2024 also saw the departure of our beloved Bishop, The Right Revd Paul Ferguson. Bishop Paul finally stood down in July but not before a number of opportunities to say our farewells. His final service in the Archdeaconry was at Evensong at Northallerton, a service which was well attended by a number from the parish including several Mothers' Union members. Later in the summer we were greeted with the news that

The Right Revd Barry Hill was to be our new suffragan bishop. He was consecrated by the Archbishop in October. As a parish we were rather blessed to have an episcopal visit fairly on in the bishop's diary as he came to celebrate and preach on the Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete Sunday) where we also persuaded him to stay for the Christmas Cheer and pick the winning ticket of the Prize Draw.

I suspect most years are years of high points and low points. The news of Emma's accident clearly tarnished 2024 in such an unexpected way that no-one remained entirely untouched by such a significant low point in the life of the parish. And yet the reliance on the Holy Spirit that runs through our parish did allow us all to re-group and do our utmost to live out the Gospel message in a spirit of fellowship and friendship and love and my thanks to everyone for all your combined efforts. My annual report, as ever, needs to conclude with my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported my ministry throughout 2024. A huge thank you to the Officers of the PCC not least of course our Churchwardens Peter Monck and Beryl Nadin. Thanks also to our Secretary, David Yates, our Treasurer, Martin Huggins and our Vice Chair, John Rhodes. And then of course my thanks to all those who work tirelessly in so many other ways that don't always draw a great deal of notoriety or attention. Many thanks to Lynn Allison who works with such careful precision when it comes to keeping us on the straight and narrow with our Gift Aid. Lynn has also assumed responsibility for maintaining the café accounts and I know the Café Committee are extremely thankful for her diligence! And finally, Lynn has also played a role, in combination with Beryl Nadin, for taking the Minutes at PCC meetings which has been greatly appreciated by myself and all of the PCC. Thanks too to Jay Yates on the church governance front for not only supporting David in his role as secretary but for also being prepared to continue as Electoral Roll Officer, a task which may be a little more onerous in 2025 with the complete overhaul of the Roll! Thanks to Jean Hodgkinson for her fantastic role of pastoral organisation as we strive to care for our congregation. Thanks to Tanya Brackenbury for her commitment to serving in the sanctuary. Thanks to all of you who volunteer for coffee rotas and reading rotas and intercession rotas and welcomer rotas – please know that your efforts never go un-noticed, and I really do appreciate your contributions. Thanks to all of you involved in our charitable work, not least of course Avril Rhodes and her utterly tireless commitment to the cause of Christian Aid. Thank you to Avril Monck for having the ability to be everywhere all of the time and providing rock-like support as verger. Finally, finally I must pay a huge debt of gratitude to my ministerial colleagues Emma Cain, David Local and Kate Brown – my work here would be virtually impossible without their keen commitment and enthusiasm for the Gospel, their good grace and their good humour.

The Revd Darren Moore – Rector
May 2025

PCC Membership, following APCM May 2024

St Mary Magdalene Church is part of the Deanery of Stokesley in the Diocese of York within the Church of England and is situated in West Street, Yarm TS15 9BU. The parish is in the Benefice of Yarm with Kirklevington with Picton and Worsall. The PCC of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm remains the governing body for the Parish of Yarm.
PCC members who have served as Trustees between May 2024 and 31st December 2024:

		Dates
Incumbent:	Revd Darren Moore (Chair)	
	Revd Kate Brown (Assistant Priest)	
Wardens:	Mr Peter Monck	(2023-2027)
	Mrs Beryl Nadin	(2022-2025)
Elected Members:	Mr Martin Huggins (Treasurer)	(2022-2025)
	Mr David Yates (Secretary/Diocesan Rep)	(2023-2026)
	Mrs Angela Beckwith	(2022-2025)
	Mrs Elaine Huggins	(2022-2025)
	Mrs Lynn Allison	(2023-2026)
	Mrs Tanya Brackenbury	(2023-2026)
	Mrs Ros Carling	(2023-2026)
	Mrs Sue Ellis (Safeguarding Officer)	(2023-2026)
	Mrs Jean Finlay	(2023-2026)
	Mrs Marion Johnston	(2023-2026)
	Mrs Wendy Gaitskell	(2024-2027)
	Mrs Jayne Gregory	(2024-2027)
	Mrs Valerie Meeking	(2024-2027)
	Mrs Margaret Nicholls	(2024-2027)
	Mrs Pam Parker	(2024-2027)
Representatives on Deanery Synod:	Mr David Local	(2023-2026)
	Mrs Avril Rhodes	(2023-2026)
	Dr John Rhodes (Vice chair)	(2023-2026)

Churchwardens' Report on behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for 2024

Introduction

Throughout 2024 we endeavoured to support Father Darren our Rector, Emma our Curate who arrived in June, and David our Reader, in their ministries. Our aim as an Inclusive Church was to welcome everyone who visited St Mary Magdalene. We also endeavoured to maintain the church building as advised by the Fabric Team and care for the church yard with the help of the Wild Care Team.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

St. Mary Magdalene Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Darren Moore, in promoting the whole mission of the Church. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of the parish community.

During 2024 the PCC met seven times, including the short meeting following the APCM on 26th May. A total number of 22 people sat on the PCC which included clergy, a reader, wardens, Deanery Synod and Diocesan representatives and elected members from the laity.

Structure, Management and Governance

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

St Mary Magdalene Yarm PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2025 where the method of appointment of PCC members is set out. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

On 31 December 2024 there were 120 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 55 of whom were not resident within the parish. Jay Yates is the electoral roll officer for the parish. Many thanks to Jay for maintaining the role.

Worship and Prayer

During 2024, St Mary Magdalene, as the Parish Church, continued to be the focal point for Anglican worship in Yarm. A regular pattern of services was continued, to co-ordinate with the other churches in the benefice.

The 8.00am Sunday Holy Communion from BCP (Book of Common Prayer) along with the 10.30am Sung Eucharist using Common Worship continued during 2024; the first Sunday of the month being a Family Service whenever possible at 10.30am. The 9.30am Wednesday Holy Eucharist and the 7.30am Friday Holy Eucharist, both using Common Worship, also continued during 2024.

Booklets continued to be used to reflect the different times and seasons of the year.

During the year, the Ecumenical Prayer Group met on the first Wednesday of the month following the 9.30am Wednesday service and the Mothers' Union Prayer Group met on the second Wednesday of the month followed by The Bible reading fellowship.

Patrick Ward took up the position of Organ Scholar in January 2024.

We are indebted to Janine Busbridge, our organist, for her continued commitment and enthusiasm, particularly in relation to the increase in Junior Choir members, and of course for the music provided during worship. A huge thank you is expressed to all choir members for their tireless commitment.

Flowers

Flower arrangements were beautifully created by Avril Monck for special occasions during 2024; notably at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We express our gratitude to Avril for her time and expertise.

Stokesley Deanery Synod

Four members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod, David Yates being a member of York Diocesan Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Pastoral Care
Home communion continued in 2024 with David Local and Carole Wilson visiting those who had requested it either in private or residential homes.
The wellbeing of the congregation remained a priority for the PCC, and the care for the congregation network has continued to be very active through the co-ordination of Jean Hodgkinson. Much appreciation goes to Jean and her team for their care and diligence.

Safeguarding
The PCC is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in the Church's activities. The PCC takes safeguarding very seriously and does its utmost to promote sound safeguarding procedures, supporting the Rector and the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), Sue Ellis. Much appreciation goes to Sue for her diligent hard work throughout the year.

Mission
During 2024 we endeavoured to welcome everyone in the spirit of love and friendship who came to St Mary Magdalene, whether it be to attend a service, to arrange an occasional office, to take part in a group activity, to visit Café Magdalene, for a tourist's look round our beautiful church or to spend a few minutes in quiet thought and prayer. Helped by Café Magdalene, our mission and outreach continued to develop, bringing many people through our doors who we would not otherwise have had the opportunity to meet. Our benefice magazine, Trident, continued to be published keeping parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Christ.

The Harvest and weekly food contributions went to Sprouts in Thornaby and we also supported 'Love in a Box' gifts for Romania, and Christian Aid. We are grateful to Debbie Gravestock for her coordinating role with Sprouts and to Avril Rhodes for her commitment to both 'Love in a Box' and Christian Aid.

The PCC is committed to being generous to other charities and organisations and encourages the congregation to decide which local, national, and international charities we should support in any given year. For 2024 the chosen charities were Teesside Hospice (local), Macmillan Cancer Support (national) and Medicine San Frontiers (international). In Addition, we supported two local animal charities through our Pet service, Middlesbrough Cat Rescue and GRACE a charity for retired greyhounds. Our Christingle on 1st December raised in excess of £400 for The Church of England Children's Society.
With the proceeds from our Christmas Card Board we supported Solar Aid, which helps give solar power to people in sub-Saharan Africa.

Fabric - The Church Building and Churchyard
The church building was kept in good repair during 2024.
The responsibility of the maintenance of the churchyard rests with the Town Council. Thanks to Mark, the grass cutting was maintained to a high standard and some hedge trimming was also carried out.
During 2024 the PCC was granted an Archdeacon's Temporary Licence for six months to remove the South Aisle Pews. During this time a photographic record was kept to show the uses for the South Aisle. Uses were numerous and varied; Meetings, Autumn and Christmas Lunches, Summer and Christmas Fairs, a Craft Fair, charity events, craft activities for LSX, and last but not least a Christmas Tree Display.
A Faculty was submitted for the Bee Enclosure in the hope that it wouldn't be too long before Father Darren could introduce his bees to the community.
The dangerously invasive bee hive was removed, with some sadness, from the north wall/roof above the servery. This operation was coordinate with Neil Sweeting's (contractor) work on the guttering on the north and west sides of the building.
Flickering lights were renewed and minor repairs were carried out. All electrical equipment was PAT tested.

The church was kept clean by Val from Andrea's Angels who kindly adjusted his rota when funerals, school concerts and other activities impinged on cleaning times. We would like to thank both Andrea and Val for their support during the year.

SUMMARY

Without the support of our congregation our weekly worship and fellowship here at St Mary Magdalene would have been greatly hindered during 2024. A sincere thank you goes to all those people who helped in a multitude of ways: the welcomers, the readers and intercessors, the eucharistic ministers, the refreshment providers, the charity co-ordinators, the café bakers and servers, those who washed and ironed linen, the tidy-uppers and all those who quietly helped and supported with a kind word.

The Churchwardens would also like to thank all those people who graciously provided reports for this APCM and everyone who gave their time, enthusiasm and expertise to be part of one or more of our groups.

Thank you all for your generous support, your advice and your friendship, and for making it such a privilege to be part of the mission and outreach of our church.

Peter Monck and Beryl Nadin (Churchwardens)

Safeguarding Report 2024

The Diocese of York safeguarding statement.

- "It is important to recognise that safeguarding is important for the needs of any age be it children, young people, vulnerable adults including the elderly and a commitment to equal worth for all".

The Diocese of York complies with the House of Bishops and St. Mary Magdalene follows their guidelines as follows:

- We promote the diocesan safeguarding policy by safely recruiting and training church officials, trustees and welcomers. The basic awareness, foundation courses issued by the diocese are mandatory and must be completed and renewed every three years. In not doing so it will prevent them from becoming, or continuing as trustee members or welcomers.
- In so doing we are aiming to create an environment within which safeguarding concerns can be raised respectfully and with confidence and sensitivity.
- The PSO, churchwardens and Rector will work together if there are any safeguarding issue brought to their attention before reporting to any other agencies for example the Archdeacon, the Diocesan Safeguarding adviser, or social services, Any issue is totally confidential and any written information is kept locked in a safe.
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) forms for trustees are renewed as a requirement every three years and these applications have been successfully managed and collated online by John Rhodes using a dashboard website (31.8). Reminders of DBS renewal will be notified online.
- The Diocesan policy is displayed on the church noticeboard and there are copies of the" Parish Safeguarding Handbook" and of a "safer Church" available in church.
- Safeguarding is on the agenda of every PCC meeting to which the PSO will report.
- The PSO attends quarterly Diocesan Safeguarding discussion meetings (by zoom) and also via zoom topics and discussions during their safeguarding week held annually in November. These have included topics on domestic abuse, stalking and harassment. The York Diocesan team issues a monthly bulletin on safeguarding issues, policy and upcoming events. As well as the PSO and churchwardens receiving this online bulletin it can also be distributed to trustee members.

Sue Ellis (PSO)

Financial Review

General Unrestricted Funds

2024 has been a very active year and we have come out of it with a healthy balance of £32,128 (2023 – 31,919), and thanks are due to everyone who has supported us in many and various ways.

The specific detail is as follows.

Total unrestricted income was £99,487 (£93,756 in 2023) and is detailed in the financial statements. Of this, £67,163 (was £63,371) was pledged giving and includes associated tax relief, and represents a significant 67.5% (was 67.6%) of the total income. This is the fourth full year of the Parish Giving Scheme and this scheme helps to benefit our cash flow. We still have about two thirds of our supporters signed up to the scheme, with a few new users signing up during the year. It would be good if other contributors were able to join them.

Other parts of the accounts are continuing to recover. The Easter, Summer and Christmas Fairs, again held in Church, raised a very welcome £5,376 (£4,081 – Summer and Christmas only) and the Christmas Raffle yielded a further £417 (£595). This year, Choral Concerts have brought in over £700 and the bee project has raised a further £797 (was £1,707) which will allow the project to proceed in 2025. Total net fundraising (including the above) was £10,881 (£8,938), a very significant and welcome increase.

The remaining income came largely from collections, donations and fees, and is now at £16,751 (£18,377). Collections have recovered with the help of electronic donations to £5,894 (£3,390) in 2024 whilst yellow envelope Gift Aided donations have dropped again to 2022 levels at £1,518 (£2,500), as have fee earnings, now at £3,191 (£5,218). This shows a change in the way people are giving and we need to keep an eye on this.

Also, we have received £2,127 (£2,356) from the rest of the Benefice as their contribution to the expenses of the Rector, the Curate and the Rectory. There have been no legacies this year. (£1,000 in 2023). We would hope that more people in the future will give in this way. Café Magdalene has contributed to the cost of utilities consumed in running the Café with a sum if £1,200.

Total unrestricted expenditure was £99,279 (was £94,052). We have maintained our contribution to the Freewill Offer to support the Mission in the Diocese at £61,800, the same as last year. This Freewill Offer was paid in full, and is a very significant 62.1% (65.9% last year) of our total income from all sources. In addition, Diocesan fees for weddings and funerals in our Church have added £2,665 (£5,689) to our total giving from the Parish to the Mission in the Diocese, which now totals £64,465(£67,489).

The cost of running the Church building was £13,233 (£11,908), with Gas and Electricity now costing £5,589 (was £4,019). The cost of replacement lightbulbs at £1,238 (£828) continues to be an issue. The upkeep of services cost a further £9,822 (£8,510), which includes £1,536 to fell trees in the Churchyard.

Expenses for clergy amount to £4,515 (£4,606). This is offset by the sharing of these expenses with Kirklevington and Worsall who paid £2,127 (£2,356) of this amount.

Other expenditure was £5,216(£4,606), with main items being removal of the pews in the South Aisle and expenditure on Architects Fees.

Net result for the year was an excess of income over expenditure of £208, compared to an excess of expenditure over income of £296 in 2023.

The total balance of unrestricted funds at 31st December 2023 was £32,128(£31,919). This balance however includes funds designated for the Bee Project (£2,290) and for Magda Music (£712). This leaves a balance for non-designated work at £29,126, some £2,793 down on the end of 2023.

Café Magdalene

Café Magdalene has traded successfully throughout 2024 with a superb income through the year of £19,088. Expenses for the activity have been just over £10,000 and have resulted in a surplus of £9,040 for the year's trading. Half of the loan has been repaid in 2024, leaving a balance of £8,323 at the end of the year, with an outstanding liability of £5,000 from the loan. The main equipment purchased for the café is being depreciated over 5 years.

Restricted Funds

Organ Fund

The work on the organ has been completed in 2024 with a small expenditure of £2,400 and has been very successful.

Restoration Fund

Activity has continued at a much lower level than last year, with the only work being the repairs to the roof of the Chancel and North Aisle. This work has cost £13,668 which has been part funded by a Grant of £5,456 from Historic Churches Fund. We have also had income of £5,985 from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme, which was refunded VAT from previous works.

The Cash only Club has contributed £612 to the Fund and this, together with interest earned from investments, has meant only a small reduction in Funds of £1,372 to a total balance carried forward of £10,364 (was £11,737 in 2023).

Charities

Restricted funds were again collected and paid out to individual charities, coming from collections at funerals as specified by families concerned, and from special events arranged by the Church for nominated charities. The total amount was £6,636 (£6,567).

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to three months' unrestricted income, to cover emergency situations which may arise from time to time. The balance of £29,126 in unrestricted funds at the year-end exceeds this target (currently £25,750).

Additionally, we recognise that the maintenance of a historic building requires periodically significant sums of money to carry out important restoration and maintenance work. Although we had a significant legacy in 2011, we have spent considerable sums on successful restoration and renovation projects, leaving our reserves for this aspect of our work at just over £10,364. The use of this money needs to be carefully regulated and monitored, and it would be good if it could be augmented by individual efforts and some new legacies in due course.

M J Huggins - Hon Treasurer

2024 Deanery Synod Annual Report

St Mary Magdalene PCC Deanery Synod Representatives are John and Avril Rhodes and David Local. David Yates is also an ex-officio full voting member because he is Stokesley Deanery representative on Diocesan Synod. Members of Deanery Clergy Chapter are also Synod members.
In 2024 Deanery Synod met on 2 occasions: 7th February and 4th June. A third meeting planned for 23rd October unfortunately was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. St Mary Magdalene PCC was represented at each Synod.
Essentially the role of Deanery Synod is to link the Diocese with parishes and vice versa. A regular Agenda item of Synod is for Parishes to keep the Deanery as whole informed of events of particular interest taking place across the Deanery.
The Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) set the agendas and ensure the day-to-day business of Synod is undertaken satisfactorily.
The main Agenda item for each Synod is the Carousel "round table" discussions where it is possible for individual members to attend and be advised on and discuss 3 or 4 topics that are current and relevant.
At the 2024 Synods the following topics were available:-

- Technology for Churches – Led by John Dickinson, Lay Dean. Jonny Hedges, Diocesan Digital Transformation Leader addressed the June Synod and the aim was to gather ideas to brief him and to share experiences. Topics covered included the continuation of zoom on-line worship following the end of the Covid pandemic, IT licensing, difficulties with signal in some rural locations, live streaming of services (aimed at those unable to attend) and the installation of equipment such as sound systems and screens.

- Let's talk about food – Led by Revd Geoff Jacques. "Let's talk about food" is the title of a course being developed by the Diocesan Rural Life and Faith Group. A booklet was tabled comprising the questions to be discussed in 7 sessions on growing food, food sources, food and the environment, consumer buying habits, food and waste, food and health and food and spirituality.

- Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) – Led by Nick Land. Nick described the position General Synod has reached in terms of approval of prayers for the blessing of same sex relationships (where the partners have entered into a civil partnership or marriage), and the potential different legal and liturgical paths that this topic may take as it continues to be discussed nationally and advice refined.

- Messy Church – Led by our own Revd Kate Brown. She described arrangements in Kirklevington, where Messy Church sessions are held on a Saturday afternoon.

- Developments at St Francis – led by the parish priest, Brenda Forrester who explained how internal parish consultations had led to a Friendship café (to respond in particular to mental health needs), a school-based community garden, earning the bronze Eco church award, and starting the planning processes leading towards a "Potters Shed" (aimed at men socialising and pursuing hobbies/repair work), a prayer labyrinth and outdoor seating.

- Music for Mission – led by our Director of Music, Janine Busbridge talking about the development of the choir (and especially children's involvement) and expansion of the musical offering at St Mary Magdalene.

At the February Synod Information was shared about the Festival Teesside 2024 (major outdoor mission event at Stewart's Park on 8/9th June which churches and how parishes could become involved). Also

Synod was informed about our own Café Magdalene and the planned Walsingham Pilgrimage and planned Lent courses.

David Local, John Rhodes, Avril Rhodes and Fr Darren Moore.
14th April 2024.

Additional Groups within St Mary Magdalene Church, 2024

Benefice Magazine

Bible Reading Fellowship

Café Magdalene

Care for the Congregation

Cash only Club

Choir and Music

Craft Group

Deanery Synod

Ecumenical Prayer Group

Events

Fabric

GOLD

Health and Safety

Little Sparks and Little Sparks Xtra

Mothers' Union

Wild Care

Benefice Magazine: Trident

The editorial team comprises Revd Kate Brown, Ros Carling, Debbie Gravestock, Revd Darren Moore, John Rhodes and Jay Yates and 10 editions of Trident were published. During the year the editorial team met to finalise the layout and content and we are grateful to Avril Rhodes for her proof reading. We continue to hand deliver most copies of the magazine to ensure they were received just before the start of the month. Many thanks to Beryl and her dog for a proportion of deliveries. Some copies are posted or sent as an E-mail.

Thank you to all who have continued to provide contributions. The editors have never had a month without a varied and full copy. The strict cut off, introduced last year, has worked well because there were no serious errors reported. All source material was referenced in all articles submitted. We continued to prevent infringement of any copyright by following the UK Copyright Service advice for news reporting.

The editors are aware of safeguarding and did not publish unnecessary names and contact details. We also checked to ensure permission was granted for photographs to be included, especially of children. We continue to be delighted to receive contributions especially from young budding journalists.

We are indebted to our advertisers who allowed us to keep the cost at £6.00 per annum and provide four colour pages. Without colour many photographs will be dull and not be clear. We maximised the value for money by minimising text on these pages. With the improvement in smart phone cameras, we get a lot more digital photographs submitted and try our best to provide as many in colour as possible without

turning the magazine into a picture book. However, some phones reduce the quality of images when sent and the editors have had to ask for some to be resent using a different method.

Gill Waller continued to collect the advertising renewals. Without her hard work the magazine would be restricted to 28 pages with no colour. It is important that our advertisers know that you support Trident by thanking them for advertising in our magazine when you see them. We must remember that they do not do it solely to support the church, but to attract customers like us. Our printers, TopPrint, have continued to provide an excellent service.

Trident is your magazine and an important tool in our outreach. Please share your copy with your friends and encourage them to purchase a copy for themselves. We try to provide news and articles about events and activities taking place within the parishes, and to include articles about aspects of faith. We have many regular contributors and without you the magazine would not be enriched by such diversity. The lay members of the group would not be able to provide the breadth and detail of church activities without the dedicated contribution and enthusiastic support of Darren and Kate.

We are grateful for all who subscribed for the year as it does help us to minimise the number of unsold copies at the end of the month. Please do ask a friend to consider taking out a subscription so more people can learn about our church. Thank you one and all for your support.

Report provided by Trident Editorial Team

Bible Reading Fellowship Report

Bible Reading using the BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) publications continues to thrive within the congregation at St Mary Magdalene, and numbers have continued to grow. Our short monthly informal 'lay led' reading and discussion group meetings on a Wednesday morning for our BRF users and anyone else interested have continued, with some most interesting discussions on all sorts of topical and biblical subjects ensuing. We had a section on AI for the first time considering issues such as The Truth. These have been well supported and generated much enthusiasm, and have proved to be a valuable support and also another welcome chance for informal social contact by those joining in. Our Reader David has also supported and prepared material for these, and many thanks are due to him, and also to our Rector Darren's continuing support and lead whenever his other commitments allow. And now Darren and David have been supplemented by welcome help from our Curate Emma Cain.

There were 22 subscriptions (+ the Rector & Curate) to the church order for BRF bible reading notes booklets, and this implies 25-30 members of the congregation using daily readings and prayers, several being couples. 2 members are no longer with the group because of long term illness. A decrease of 2 in 2025

- All 22 read 'New Daylight', daily readings.
- None now read 'Guidelines', weekly reading and topic(s) for study.

We continue to meet monthly around the table in church with cake and coffee and this is much enjoyed by those attending, permitting increased social involvement.

Our church members who are using these the BRF publications find them valuable, often enjoyable, sometimes challenging, and always useful; and those of us who use the booklets highly recommend them to all.

Report provided by David Yates

Café Magdalene Annual Report 2024

2024 was the first full year of trading for Café Magdalene and was deemed to be a great success. It is managed by a small sub group of the PCC comprising six enthusiastic members; Ros Carling, Avril Monck, Revd Darren Moore (chair), Beryl Nadin, John Rhodes (note taker), Angela Beckwith and Elizabeth Rigg.
The operation relied solely on volunteers from the congregation, and we are pleased to report that 17 members contributed as bakers and/or servers. In addition, 2 non-congregation members came to help serve.
The café contributed to the running cost of the church and provided unsold cakes for sale by donation after the Sunday service. We also held two charity days where all the takings were donated to Macmillan at a Big Brew and Children in Need. It was good to see the north aisle decked in green for Macmillans and visited by a large Pudsey bear for Children in Need.
The Archdeacon's temporary licence to remove the south aisle pews has allowed the café to support church activities and outreach such as a craft fair and the sale of shoes for MSF.
The trade is steady and there was no need to advertise as the turnover was good and within 80% of the maximum permitted by HMRC before greater fiscal controls are required. The management group are aware that the café trading has to be accounted for in a different way to the church income and so maintained tight controls on sales to secure the integrity of the church reputation. The accounts are included within the annual report and not here. We must thank Lynn Allison for her hard work in maintaining the accounts and overseeing the café activity.
We continue to sell Rountons Coffee as the roasting house is based locally. Fairtrade tea is purchased in individually sealed packets for hygiene reasons. The quality of food is a priority for the catering team. Freshly baked scones and cakes are served daily. Customer satisfaction and repeat business is critical to the success of this mission activity. One Facebook reader commented "The best scones in the North East". Finally our biggest success has been to encourage three café visitors to become regular members of the congregation.

Café Magdalene sub-group

Care for the Congregation (C for C) Report

As any business conducted by C for C is confidential there never will be a detailed report per se; suffice to say a very efficient watching brief continues.
Care for the congregation was inaugurated in 2016 the aim published in 'Comet now Trident' the same year. Since then, the congregation has changed, people leaving balanced by newcomers, so there will always be some who may be unaware of C for C and how it works.
Care for the congregation a brief resume:
As a caring congregation it is usually easy to identify a missing regular attender not so easy with an intermittent attender. To overcome this problem C for C was established.
It is a simple system where a group of regular worshippers have agreed to keep a non-intrusive watching brief on various groups of parishioners. If they identify a missing worshipper, they will try to ascertain a reason why through simple enquiry or a discrete phone call, to check all is well and if necessary to offer assistance.
If requested, they will inform the Rector of the situation, or he can be informed directly.
C for C does not prevent anyone from watching for an empty seat and raising concerns. We are all responsible for ensuring that no one in need of aid goes unnoticed.
Most of you know, who has you on their care list, and have been reminded from information handed out. New attenders have been/or will be individually contacted with details of C for C. If is identified they are not on the Electoral Roll, this may also be mentioned.

In addition to the Annual Review, lists are updated as and when changes occur.

Jean Hodgkinson on behalf of FR Darren and Church Wardens

Cash only Club Report 2024

The 'Cash-only-Club' runs from October to September each year.
Membership costs £20 per year.
There are cash prizes of £20 and £10 each month, apart from December when prizes are £100 and £50.
55 members joined in October (or subsequent months) 2024, compared to 52 in 2023 and 53 in 2022.
Anyone can join part way through the year and pay pro-rata.

Jean Finlay.

Choir Report

The choir has had another excellent year, growing not just the front rows but the back rows. We have added a chorister parent to our ranks as well as 4 young lads from local schools, three of whom are occupying our newly founded choral scholarship roles. They are making some excellent contributions already, and we are going from strength to strength. Here's to another excellent year!

Janine Busbridge

Craft Group Report: January – December 2024

There are 18 members in the craft group who meet regularly in the Fellowship Hall every other Tuesday from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

Some members with health and mobility issues continue to attend for social fellowship. They are always ready to advise and share their expertise with others. We have members who do not attend St Mary Magdalene church but who contribute to and support the group. There are also members who support us from home.
At the meetings we all do our own crafting, some towards church events and some to support charitable causes in various ways.

During 2024 we contributed to Yarm church events including the Spring, Summer and Christmas fairs as well as, once again, joining Kirklevington church for their September fair when our stall proceeds were shared.

Over 2024 our income for church funds was about £700 and we continue to cover the rent of the Fellowship Hall through members' payments.

We ended the year with a very pleasant Christmas meal at Eaglescliffe Golf Club.

Report provided by Carole Wilson

Ecumenical Prayer Group Report for 2024

The Ecumenical Prayer Group has a long history. It was originally started by Pauline Hislop approximately 27 years ago with the intention of bringing together Christians from different denominations in order to pray as intercessors on a daily basis. Although over the years membership has changed, there remains a core group who meet in St Mary Magdalene on the first Wednesday of the month following the 9.30am Eucharist. The group update the prayer list and spend time in quiet meditative prayer.

During 2024 the group met on 10 occasions in the Lady Chapel. A total of 11 people attended from three different churches; St John's, Egglescliffe, Yarm Methodist Church and St Mary Magdalene, a new member from Yarm Methodist church having joined us towards the end of the year. A further 10 people received the intercessory list by e-mail.

The Prayer List is confidential and its content is not shared with the wider congregations of any of the churches. A person requests to be prayed for, and no names are added to the list without consent unless circumstances are such that prayers are needed in an emergency situation. Only first names are used with a very brief explanation of the reason for prayer.

Beryl Nadin (on behalf of the Prayer Group)

Events Group Report for 2024

Events Group Members: Father Darren, Angela Beckwith, Marion Johnston, Avril Monck, Peter Monck, Beryl Nadin, Maggie Nicholls, John Rhodes, Carole Wilson and Jay Yates.

The Events Group met a total of 6 times during 2024.
A number of fundraising and social events were organised during the year with the proceeds going towards Church Funds and our three chosen charities, Teesside Hospice, Macmillan Nurses and Medicine San Frontiers. Donations were also made to the choir fund and other charities, including GRACE and Middlesbrough Cat Rescue.

Our events were:

- Lent Lunch, Sunday 18th February. £333.50 raised from donations and raffle, shared between Teesside Hospice and Macmillan Nurses
- Smartie Tubes raised £500+ for charity
- Spring Fair, Saturday 23rd March – proceeds towards church funds
- Summer Fair, Saturday 27th July - £3,00+ raised for church funds
- MU & Friends Outing to Ampleforth, Monday 29th July
- Parish Outing to Ormesby Hall, Monday 7th August (including Little Sparks Xtra)
- Strawberry Tea in the Rectory Garden, 24th August – raised £300 towards church funds
- Pet Service, Sunday 1st September was well attended by 15 dogs and their proud owners – £233.60 along with donations of pet food and toys were shared between local pet charities GRACE and Middlesbrough Cat Rescue
- Harvest Festival, Sunday 6th October – donations to charity
- Autumn Quiz, Saturday 26th October – donation of £200+ to church funds

- Christmas Fair, Saturday 30th November – raised approx. £3,000 plus a further £557 from the 'Big Raffle' towards church funds
- Christingle, Sunday 1st December (First Sunday of Advent) during the 10.30am service – raised £400+ for the Church of England Children's Society
- Winter Craft Fair, Saturday 7th December – a first venture inviting outside stall holders to use our church as a venue
- Christmas Cheer, Sunday 15th December attended by Bishop Barry who drew the 'Big Raffle'
- Parish Panto, Snow White at the PPA, Sunday 15th December – attended by 10 children and 21 adults
- Tree Festival, from 18th till 30th December – 12 beautiful trees displayed around church, both real and artificial. It was decided to leave the trees in place for visitors to enjoy over the Christmas period
- Christmas Card Board – donations to charity
- The 'Cash only Club', organised by Jean Finlay, raised £500 towards Church Funds.

Other events which took place in church were a Macmillan Coffee Morning on 27th September and a Children in Need fundraiser in November, both hosted by Café Magdalene.
'Soles for Souls', selling shoes and accessories and inspired and managed by Elaine Huggins, was held on 27th/28th September during Café opening times in aid of Medicine San Frontiers.

The Events Group would like to thank everyone who contributed in making our activities a success during 2024. They would also like to thank all those people, either parishioners or members of the wider community, who came along to support one or more of our events.

Beryl Nadin (on behalf of The Events Team)

Fabric sub-committee Report

The fabric sub-committee consists of, Eric Heaviside, Martin Huggins, Beryl Nadin, Peter Monck, Darren Moore, John Rhodes and David Yates and has met 5 times in 2024.

The group is set up to assist the churchwardens in the maintenance of the building and their oversight of the maintenance of the churchyard and to consider restoration, fabric proposals and developments in the building and reports to the PCC.

Action points were recorded and presented for each meeting to the following PCC meeting for approval. 6 items from 2022 were discussed and 2 items of business were closed as follows:

- Flashing light in church
- Pruning of churchyard trees.

6 items from 2023 were discussed and 3 items of business were closed as follows:

- Lady chapel outer door lock.
- Window frame condition.
- Grant for the roof gutter levelling and repair project.

10 items of new business were discussed in the meetings in 2024 and the following were closed.

- Drainage from the servery sink.

- Woodworm in church treated

Many of the items discussed by the committee have a degree of complexity that requires extensive discussion and resolution. Funding also must be considered before moving ahead. Application for grants takes time and must be undertaken at the correct point in a project to be accepted. We received a grant from the National Churches Trust of £5,456 for the work carried out on the roof. This was the maximum they could offer (50% of the total cost) and just above their normal ceiling of £5,000. This was successful because we open the building to visitors at Café Magdalene, so the fabric committee is grateful for all their hard work.

Details of fabric activities will be presented in the churchwardens' report.

Fabric committee members

Generosity of Loving Disciples (GOLD) 2024 Annual Report

The GOLD team is made up of the following members: David Local (Chair), Beryl Nadin, Peter Monck, Maggie Nicholls, Marion Johnston, Martin Huggins, John Rhodes, Lynn Allison, Fr Darren. As necessary we invite the Diocesan Generous Giving Advisers Jan Grey and Phil McBride and the Deanery Financial Adviser ken Taylor to advise our considerations.
Our focus very much remains to encourage the worshipping community of St Mary Magdalene Church to become generous loving disciples of Jesus Christ in supporting our church to fulfil God's mission of which we are all partners.
As part of the PCC deliberations in late 2023 to approve the 2024 Budget they encouraged GOLD to consider the following issues:

- Different ways of raising regular income and where to focus our efforts;
- Possibility of creating a dedicated Giving Station;
- On-going encouragement for more use of PGS, particularly the automatic increase of gifts in line with inflation;
- How to display appropriate publicity and Information to generally promote a Generous Giving culture within our Church.

Meanwhile the Fabric Group had considered the vision of the PCC that the overall organisation of the Nave to effectively enhance the Mission of the Church, and recommended that the pews in the south aisle be removed. This was agreed by the PCC and following the approval by the Diocese of a temporary faculty the pews were removed.
As a result a dedicated Giving Station was installed and appropriate display boards were acquired to more adequately display relevant information.
In July the PCC had requested GOLD to make a proposal to the PCC of an amount for our Free Will Offer (FWO) to the Diocesan General Fund for 2025. Following an in-depth discussion by GOLD having considered what we could afford balanced against how we could be generous, it was agreed to recommend an increase of the FWO equating to at least the level of inflation: at that time it was2% and to recommend an increase of £2,400 pa (£200per month), making a total amount of £64,200. This was subsequently agreed by the PCC.
In August we were advised by the Diocesan Generous Giving Advisers of a free online learning tool 'Cornerstone' that was being rolled-out by the national Generous Giving Team to support churches to better understand and improve their giving practice and generous culture.

The benefit of Cornerstone is that the platform helps to breakdown the required tasks into clear, simple steps called 'Pathways' that distribute the workload to help the team focus their limited resources to get the best sustainable results and show a positive impact.
The team agreed for St Mary Magdalene to be part of a pilot group in York Diocese to develop this tool. As a result in September 2024 a few of our team attended a workshop at Diocesan House.
This proved very useful and gave St Mary Magdalene Church an inside track for the Cornerstone launch that was to be early in 2025.
We have, therefore, been able to undertake an early analysis of Cornerstone to begin developing a future strategy of a generous giving pathway. In this connection we will be taking appropriate recommendations for the approval of the PCC in 2025.

David Local (on behalf of the GOLD Team).

Health & Safety Report

The Health and Safety Committee has 5 members: John Rhodes (Chair), John Bancroft, David Beeton, Avril Monck and a Churchwarden.

There were four accidents reported in the accident book (kept on the noticeboard near the entrance to the large store/photocopier cupboard) and all investigated by the Health and Safety group. Reports were written and presented to the PCC.

In February and March there were two falls reported on the path outside the church. The Town Council were informed, and four paving slabs were levelled in quick time. Many thanks to the Council.

In October a hand was cut on a cupboard closer. Closers were replaced with a non-sharp design in the four cupboards at the back of church.

In November a filter coffee machine overflowed and scalded a hand. A notice has been placed on the coffee machines to check the filters are correctly located and the hole at the bottom of the filter holder is unimpaired.

The committee has prepared or commented upon four risk assessments for the PCC as listed below.

June	Café Magdalene Churchyard Wildlife count
August	Use of South Aisle following removal of pews
December	Little Sparks and Little Sparks Xtra
December	Junior Choir

Health and Safety (H&S) is an important (and much maligned) subject. If near misses are reported it can often prevent a serious accident from occurring. We all have a responsibility to look after each other and therefore informing a member of the group is important if anything untoward is observed. We are pleased that more activity has been reported this year compared with 2023.

H&S Group

Little Sparks & Little Sparks Xtra Report for 2024

Little Sparks is a group for pre-school children and their parents/carers. The group meets in church at 10.00am on a Monday morning (excluding Bank Holidays) for about an hour and a half. Activities begin in the Lady Chapel with prayer in the form of lighting candles. We then have an age-appropriate Bible story before moving to the chancel for a rousing sing, always ending with 'The Wise Man'.

Refreshments are then served giving the adults time for an informal chat while the children play with the toys in the children's area, suitably supervised.

At the beginning of 2024 we had two children with their grandparents attending on a regular basis and two further families attending occasionally. Towards the end of the year a third child and his mum joined our group on a regular basis. Although our numbers were still few during 2024, we felt there was still sufficient involvement and enjoyment for all involved to justify our continuation.

Particular thanks go to John Bancroft and Debbie Gravestock who provided the music.

Father Darren, Angela Beckwith and Beryl Nadin led Little Sparks during 2024.

Little Sparks Xtra is a group for pre-school children and primary school age children which met in church during 2024 on chosen Monday mornings during the school holidays.

These sessions occurred on the Mondays of two of the Half Terms, the first Monday of the Easter Holiday and on three Mondays during the Summer break, one of them being the Parish Trip to Ormesby Hall. A total of 9 children attended these sessions.

The format of **Little Sparks Xtra** mainly followed that of **Little Sparks** with the addition of craft activities.

John Bancroft and Debbie Gravestock provided the music for Little Sparks Xtra. We are very grateful to them for their hard work, their commitment and their enthusiasm.

Father Darren, Angela Beckwith and Beryl Nadin led the sessions with support from Anne Stainer and Avril Monck.

Beryl Nadin (on behalf of the Little Sparks Team)

Yarm Mothers' Union Report for 2024

The Yarm Branch of the Mothers' Union in the Church of St Mary Magdalene began and finished 2024 with 26 members on roll.

During the year we contributed to three Mothers' Union charitable appeals:- Make a Mother's Day, Summer of Hope, and One More Step.

Over 2024 there were nine meetings and events held on Monday afternoons. At five of these meetings we had speakers - Maureen Rigg (Fair Trade),
Fr Darren (Bees), Helen Vaughan (My Guide Dog Story), Sharon Moore (Safeguarding), and Debbie Gravestock (Horse Racing).
Other meetings included a successful fundraising Strawberry Tea, an outing to Ampleforth Abbey organised by Peter Monck, and a Members' Afternoon.

The final afternoon meeting of the year was an Advent Service with members of the congregation of our church and other local churches as well as nearby Mothers' Union Branches attending.

Through the year we were able to hold some Monday evening discussion groups led by Jayne Gregory.

The Prayer Services on the second Wednesday of each month, led by the Mothers' Union, continued throughout the year.
The Branch also led the Meditations on the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week and organised the giving of flowers to those present at the Mothering Sunday Service.

A group of members enjoyed the Spring and Autumn Retreats at Wydale Hall as well as attending the newly re-named Spring and Autumn Gatherings (formerly known as Diocesan Council Meetings).

A small group went to visit the Mothers' Union caravan on the Away From It All (AFIA) Open Day.

Marion Johnston
Branch Secretary

Wild Care Report for 2024

In 2024, the Wild Care Group, which was formed back in 2022, continued to make good progress in relation to looking after the ecology, flora and fauna of our churchyard.

During the year, areas of the churchyard designated for leaving to nature have increased with two more log piles created. Also the mowing regime has continued to leave wild areas free from mowing all year round. This helps to create a natural safe environment for all kinds of wildlife, bugs beetles, butterflies, moths and much more. Not to mention how this provides natural food and resources for birds. As well as these natural resources the birds are fed with sunflower seeds (and occasionally the squirrels receive some peanuts). The birds also have nest boxes available for use around the church yard.

Arrangements for the construction of the bee enclosure were put in place.

We saw the lovely daffodils, bluebells and other flowers which had been eagerly planted in September 2023 showing through during the springtime, which was fantastic.
Wider ranging planting was carried out but unfortunately some was lost to slugs so will be rethought for 2025.

Work continued to clear out unwanted self-seeded growth around the established trees with two of the large yew trees significantly - primarily to accommodate overhead cables. More clearing out will be required in 2025. The small team have also contributed to managing the wild areas (cutting back brambles and suckers, providing shelter for insects and birds etc).

The group very much looks forward to continuing their work in 2025 and will continue to provide updates on activities via the Trident magazine and PCC updates.

Report provided by Lynn Allison and Peter Ellis on behalf of David Yates and all the Wildcare team.

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary Magdalene Church, Yarm, PCC.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 and 2.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
    - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
    - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr Philip Atkinson

30 Nursery Gardens, Yarm

March 2025

Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31 December 2024

	Note	General Fund Unrestricted Funds £	General Fund Restricted Funds £	Café Magdalene £	Restoration Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Voluntary Income	2(a)	76,549.73	6,636.42		11,440.91	94,627.06	110,900.98
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	15,573.03		18,968.90	612.00	35,153.93	14,774.87
Income from Investments	2(c)	846.29		76.06	243.28	1,165.63	1,702.73
Income from Church activities	2(d)	6,518.15				6,518.15	7,573.61
Other income	2(e)			43.50		43.50	0.00
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		99,487.20	6,636.42	19,088.46	12,296.19	137,508.27	134,952.19
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Church Activities	3(a)						
Ministry		66,314.93				66,314.93	66,406.31
Church		13,232.79	2,400.00			15,632.79	104,068.71
Upkeep of services		9,822.72				9,822.72	8,510.37
Other ordinary expenditure		2,264.45	6,636.42	8,186.15		17,087.02	12,940.91
Extraordinary expenditure		2,951.56		1,861.55		4,813.11	1,955.60
Restoration					13,668.00	13,668.00	7,924.75
Fund Raising Costs	3(b)	4,692.20				4,692.20	4,025.83
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		99,278.65	9,036.42	10,047.70	13,668.00	132,030.77	205,832.48
NET INCOMING RESOURCES & MOVEMENT OF FUNDS		208.55	-2,400.00	9,040.76	-1,371.81	5,477.50	-70,880.29
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY		31,919.13	2,400.00	-717.29	11,736.70	45,338.54	2,907.55
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER		32,127.68	0.00	8,323.47	10,364.89	50,816.04	-67,972.74

The Notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of this account

Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

	Notes	General Fund Unrestricted Funds	General Fund Restricted Funds	Restoration Café Magdalene	Restoration Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
FIXED ASSETS	5	NIL	NIL	£9,307.76	NIL	NIL	£9,307.76
less Depreciation				-£2,016.68			-£155.13
CURRENT ASSETS							
Debtors	6	£1,725.82		£177.20	£5,456.00	£7,359.02	£5,850.51
Short term deposits		£18,045.46		£4,076.06	£4,618.28	£22,663.74	£24,008.07
Fixed term deposits		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Cash at Bank		£14,862.83		£1,779.13	£290.61	£14,862.83	£20,926.11
TOTAL ASSETS		£34,634.11	£0.00	£13,323.47	£10,364.89	£44,999.00	£59,937.32
LIABILITIES							
Creditors - amounts falling due in one year	7	£2,506.43				£2,506.43	£3,348.78
Interest Free Loan for Café Magdalene	7			£5,000.00			£11,250.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES		£2,506.43	£0.00	£5,000.00	£0.00	£2,506.43	£14,598.78
NET ASSETS less LIABILITIES		£32,127.68	£0.00	£8,323.47	£10,364.89	£42,492.57	£45,338.54
PARISH FUNDS							
Unrestricted		£29,126.41		£8,323.47		£37,449.88	£31,201.84
- Designated for Bee Fund	8.2	£2,289.75				£2,289.75	
- Designated for Magda Music	8.3	£711.52					
Restricted			£0.00		£10,364.89	£10,364.89	£14,136.70
Totals		£32,127.68		£8,323.47	£10,364.89	£50,104.52	£45,338.54

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 8th April 2025 and signed on its behalf by

D R Moore (PCC Chairman)

M J Huggins (PCC Treasurer)

The notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these accounts

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year ended 31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP FRS102 – 1/1/2015).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place. There are currently no such funds under the control of the PCC.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis. The Restoration Fund and the Organ Fund are restricted funds, and donations to Mission or other Charity are also treated as restricted, when they result from a specific donation or collection.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when received and are reclaimed for the accounting year and not the tax year. Tax refunds, other than those from the Parish Giving Scheme, due for the period January to December 2024 are identified in the notes to the accounts, but are not included in the figures. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan freewill offer is accounted for in monthly instalments. Amounts received specifically for mission or charity are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Fixed Assets for Café Magdalene have cost £9,307.76 and are being depreciated over 5 years. Other than this, no individual item has cost more than £2,000 and all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Individual items of equipment are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

2024 GENERAL FUND

2. **INCOMING RESOURCES**	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2024	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
2(a) **Voluntary Income**					
Planned Giving					
Gift Aided - Direct Payments (inc PGS 37,717.57)	45521.27			45521.27	42800.81
- Green Envelopes	2711.00			2711.00	3263.00
Not Gift Aided - Direct Payments	2005.00			2005.00	1980.00
- Green Envelopes	1407.00			1407.00	619.00
		51644.27			
Other					
Gift Aided - Yellow Envelopes (one off)	1518.42			1518.42	2500.00
Tax Reclaim on Gift Aid (2023) and PGS (£9,266.13 in 2024)	15518.84		61.00	15579.84	14707.98
Organ Grants & VAT reclaim - from Rest Fund	0.00			0.00	20741.45
Cash Collections (inc SumUp 1810.10 & Easy Funding 59.15)	5894.49			5894.49	3389.67
Special Collections & Donations (inc Warm Raffle 273.87)	1793.71		6575.42	8369.13	8396.06
Donation from fees	180.00			180.00	585.00
Legacy	0.00			0.00	1000.00
		24905.46			
2(b) **Activities for generating funds**					
Coffee Donations	1964.83			1964.83	1772.98
Raffle (incl £135 sold at the Festive Fayre)	417.00			417.00	595.40
Magazine Income	2010.60			2010.60	1425.72
Income from Flowers - weddings and memorium	148.00			148.00	157.13
Votive candles	397.67			397.67	215.30
Miscellaneous Income	504.47			504.47	313.85
Craft Guild - activities	388.76			388.76	342.60
Quiz	430.00			430.00	277.32
Choir Concerts	2817.03			2817.03	1141.78
Easter Fair	1372.57			1372.57	0.00
Summer Fair	1614.65			1614.65	1405.38
Christmas Festive Fayre	2388.99			2388.99	2675.81
Bee Project	797.16			797.16	1706.69
Cream Tea	321.30	15573.03		321.30	0.00
2(c) **Income from Investments**					
Interest on Deposit Account	818.65			818.65	1488.21
Interest on Darlington Building Society	27.64			27.64	11.02
		846.29			
2(d) **Income from Church activities**					
Fees	3191.00			3191.00	5218.00
Kirklevington & Worsall contribution to Rector expenses	1895.15			1895.15	2027.79
- Rectory Water Rate	232.00			232.00	232.50
Kirklevington & Worsall Other Income				0.00	95.32
Contribution for Café Utilities	1200.00	6518.15		1200.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		99487.20	6636.42	106123.62	121085.77

3.	**RESOURCES EXPENDED**	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2024	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
3(a)	**Church Activities**					
	Ministry - Rector					
	Parish Freewill Offer for Diocesan Ministry	61800.00			61800.00	61800.00
	Expenses	3217.62			3217.62	3569.60
	Water Rate	470.00			470.00	465.00
	- **Curate** - Expenses	827.31			827.31	571.71
	-Mission					
	Gold costs				0.00	0.00
			66314.93			
	Church					
	Gas	3545.51			3545.51	2542.86
	Electricity	2043.64			2043.64	1476.49
	Insurance	4028.34			4028.34	3915.49
	Water Rate	129.15			129.15	114.47
	Cleaning	1487.00			1487.00	1298.00
	Organ Tuning & Overhaul & Maintenance			2400.00	2400.00	92161.01
	Boiler Maintenance	240.00			240.00	180.00
	Source and replace lightbulbs	1238.30			1238.30	828.30
	Roof works	180.00			180.00	380.00
	Minor Maintenance	340.85			340.85	1172.09
			13232.79			
	Upkeep of Services					
	Candles	776.76			776.76	984.74
	Wine & Bread	224.00			224.00	224.56
	Miscellaneous	337.70			337.70	644.17
	Service Books	95.00			95.00	320.10
	Organist (inc stand in organists £360)	5760.00			5760.00	5530.00
	Organist Tuition	1000.00			1000.00	700.00
	Churchyard Upkeep	1629.26			1629.26	106.80
			9822.72			
	Other Expenditure					
	Young people	30.41			30.41	102.00
	Hire of Hall	0.00			0.00	45.00
	Baptism Cards	58.05			58.05	67.18
	Deanery Precept	150.00			150.00	120.00
	RSCM & CCLI membership	440.00			440.00	290.00
	Printing	619.96			619.96	432.89
	Gift Aid Envelopes	97.63			97.63	0.00
	Bees	214.10			214.10	0.00
	Miscellaneous	654.30			654.30	1043.28
	Charities (see Note 9) incl. Gift Aid (£61.00) yet to be claimed			6636.42	6636.42	6688.99
			2264.45			
	Extraordinary Expenditure					
	Remove Pews in Sth Aisle (2023 - Move statue in Lady Chapel)	1050.00			1050.00	400.00
	Architect Fees (2023 - Choir Robes)	1703.00			1703.00	699.86
	Quiz (2023 - Locks, keys etc.)	198.56			198.56	855.74
			2951.56			
3(b)	**Fund Raising Costs**					
	Choir Functions	2105.51			2105.51	614.38
	Magazine Printing	1644.34			1644.34	1415.47
	Cost of flowers	214.43			214.43	107.40
	Cost of coffee & biscuits (2023 incl new coffee m/c @ £157.73)	527.74			527.74	758.10
	Summer & Christmas Fayre expenses	200.18			200.18	175.31
			4692.20			
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		99278.65	9036.42	108315.07	192800.99

Cafe Magdalene

Profit and Loss

Basis: Accrual

From 01/01/2024 To 31/12/2024

Account	Total
Operating Income	
Interest Income	76.06
Other Income	43.50
Sales	18,968.90
Total for Operating Income	**19,088.46**
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of Goods Sold	4,751.67
Total for Cost of Goods Sold	**4,751.67**
Gross Profit	**14,336.79**
Operating Expense	
Bank and Card Processing Fees	129.70
Charitable Donations	910.76
Depreciation Expense	1,861.55
IT and Internet Expenses	1,049.80
Print, Postage and Stationery	144.22
Utilities	1,200.00
Total for Operating Expense	**5,296.03**
Operating Profit	**9,040.76**
Non Operating Income	
Total for Non Operating Income	**0.00**
Non Operating Expense	
Total for Non Operating Expense	**0.00**
Net Profit/Loss	**9,040.76**

2024 RESTORATION FUND

		Restricted Funds		TOTAL FUNDS 2024	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
2.	**INCOMING RESOURCES**				
2(a)	**Voluntary Income**				
	Donations				274.66
	Grant from Lottery Heritage Fund				
	VAT Refund - LPW Grant Scheme	5984.91			10623.35
	Other Grants	5456.00			
	Tax Rebate				
			11440.91	11440.91	
2(b)	**Activities for generating funds**				
	Easter Extravaganza				1416.91
	Cash Only Club (100 Club)	612.00			560.00
	Miscellaneous events				
			612.00	612.00	
2(c)	**Income from investments**				
	Interest on deposit account - CBF	226.12			192.70
	Interest on Virgin Money account	17.16			10.80
			243.28	243.28	
2(e)	**Other Income**				
	Legacy		0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL		12296.19	12296.19	13078.42
3.	**RESOURCES EXPENDED**				
3(a)	**Church Activities**				
	Restoration				
	Fee - Architect				2871.35
	Roof Repairs	13668.00			3398.40
	Wall Repairs				1655.00
			13668.00	13668.00	
	Other Expenditure				
	Disabled Toilet Alarm				360.00
	Organ Repairs - via PCC a/c				3241.45
			0.00	0.00	
3(b)	**Fund Raising Costs**				
			0.00	0.00	0
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		13668.00	13668.00	11526.20

Notes to the Accounts 2024

4. (a) **STAFF COSTS**

	2024	2023
Invoiced payments for Organist for normal services	5,400.00	5,400.00

During the year the PCC contracted in several organists, who are self employed, and as such do not attract social security costs.

(b) **PAYMENTS TO AND FROM PCC MEMBERS**

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC. Expenses were paid to the Curate.
No expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.
The two generous interest free loans totalling of £11,250 made to the PCC in 2023 to be used for the start up costs of the Café Magdalene have been partially repaid.

5. **FIXED ASSETS**

The PCC has no assets as defined in the Accounting Policies above (page 3) apart from the Café assets of £9,307.76, depreciated by £2,016.68

6. **DEBTORS**

	Unrestricted General Fund	Café	Restricted Fund	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
Other Debtors	1,725.82	177.20	5,456.00	7,359.02	5,290.51

In addition there is outstanding Tax recoverable, related to the period January to December 2024, which will be recovered during 2025. The estimated amount is £5,486, and will be accounted for in 2025 accounts. This includes reclaim for tax on small donations, which will provide £2,000 of income.

7. **LIABILITIES / CREDITORS**

Accruals for utility and other costs	2,506.43	0.00	2,506.43	3,348.78
Liabilities to discharge in 2025				
Beehive installation	2,289.75			
Loan for Café Magdalene	5,000.00		7,289.75	15,356.69

8. **GENERAL NOTES**

8.1 Net movement of General funds in the year was	Unrestricted	£208.55
	Restricted (organ fund)	-£2,400.00
Net Movement of Café Magdalene Funds		£9,040.76
Net movement of Restricted Restoration funds in the year was		-£1,371.81
8.2 Value of Organ Fund at the end of 2024 was		£0.00
Bee Fund		£2,289.75
8.3 The Choir Fund income was £2817.03, with expenditure being £2105.51. Retained for Magda Music in 2025		£711.52
8.4 Balances brought forward include historical legacies as follows:		
General Account: legacies from 2009 - there were 4		£25,000.00
legacy in 2023		£1,000.00
Restoration Account: legacies from 2011 - there were 2		£116,826.33

8.5 Assigned Fees. A sum of £2,665.00 (£5,689.00 in 2023) has been paid to the Diocese, being the Statutory Fees charged for the services of clergy to officiate at weddings, funerals and the like.

8.6 Purchase of items for sale (eg. Cards, tea towels, pens etc) are written off in the year of payment.

8.7 Value of normal stock is less than £500.00. Stock is not controlled or accounted for, other than Stock carried forward in Café Magdalene valued at £177.20.

Notes to the Accounts 2024

9. Charity Donations - 2024

The following donations were made to Charity:

	Overseas Missions & Christian Relief Agencies	Home Missions & Church Societies	Secular Charities	TOTALS
Church Sponsored Activities				
All from Restricted Income except item 9.4 and 9.6.				
9.1. Teesside Hospice (Lent collection)			418.41	
9.2. Macmillan Nurses (Lent collection)			418.41	
9.3. World Day of Prayer	160.15			
9.4. Hope Foundation		100.00		
9.5. Brake			277.23	
9.6. Pets Service - GRACE			116.80	
9.7. Pets Service - Yarm Cat Rescue			116.80	
9.8. Medecines Sans Frontieres			809.14	
9.9. Macmillan Coffee Morning			523.20	
9.10. Children In Need			387.56	
9.11. Childrens Society - Christingle service		421.79		
9.12. Solar Aid - Christmas cards			196.00	
TOTAL	160.15	521.79	3,263.55	3,945.49
Restricted Donations at Funerals				
9.13. Alzheimers Society			85.25	
9.14. NE Air Ambulance			436.23	
9.15. Maxi Mates			149.15	
9.16. Yarm Cat Rescue			149.15	
9.17. Butterwick Hospice			162.00	
9.18. My Sisters Place			650.55	
9.19. Whitegates - Wheel Chair			318.10	
9.20. Red Cross			370.25	
9.21. Oxfam			370.25	
TOTAL	0.00	0.00	2,690.93	2,690.93
TOTALS	**160.15**	**521.79**	**5,954.48**	**6,636.42**

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary Magdalene Church, Yarm, PCC.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 and 2.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

    - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or

    - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

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

Mr Philip Atkinson

30 Nursery Gardens, Yarm March 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, Y

England & Wales - Charity number 1130683

Accounts

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Yarm
Rector's Report for the year ending 31st December, 2023

The last year in many ways was both a year of consolidation on some fronts plus a year of innovation in other ways. Certainly, the year was punctuated with the usual liturgies that continue to add colour and breadth to our church calendar. From the Feast of the Epiphany through to Candlemas and then forwards to Lent and the Easter celebrations that followed there was certainly plenty to reflect upon and to celebrate. Our ecumenical partnerships were again supported with our Good Friday gathering which was held at the Methodist Chapel, and it was very generous of Martin Ramsden to allow me to preach from the pulpit once graced by John Wesley.

Later in the year we did of course ensure that other notable feast days were kept in appropriate fashion from our patronal festival in mid-August through to the Feast of the Assumption and then on to Harvest, Remembrance and Christ the King before engaging with an Advent season that led us beautifully to a very busy Christmas period that just about saw my voice survive into Midnight Mass!

Throughout our worship and our liturgy, we have continued to place a good deal of importance on the music that supports our prayers. 2023 was of course the year that saw our organ returned to us fully restored and that has indeed been a blessing. Another blessing has been the rewards that have come from Janine's, our Director of Music, hard work in recruiting to the choir and especially the junior choir. We now have a good body of youngsters who sing in the choir two Sundays a month and it has been a great joy to see just how ably they support our worship.

On the musical front there was of course one of our innovations for 2023 – the creation of Magda Music. Our church has been described as a 'Georgian Music Hall' and we have therefore honoured that description in some small way by opening up our doors and holding musical events that embrace the secular as well as the sacred. This is very much a work in progress, and we look forward to seeing just how we can take things forward in 2024. My thanks to Janine for getting this project up-and-running and for all of her efforts when it comes to our church music.

Alongside the work of Magda Music and our attempt to open the doors of the church more regularly and more widely was the idea of a church café. I mooted the idea for a café in 2022 and we spent quite a large chunk of 2023 discussing at some depth just how such a project might work in practice. I appreciate that any change to our church life comes with certain levels of anxiety, and I acknowledge that the decision to move forward with a church café was not universally popular. It has to be said however that the opening of the Church Café aka 'Café Magdalene' at the very end of the year by the Bishop of Whitby was both an anxious moment and an exciting moment. I suspect that next year's report will paint a fuller picture but suffice to say that the opening of the café was a huge success and that thus far our café plans are progressing very nicely indeed. I do want to pass on my thanks to all those who have engaged with the project so positively and especially the volunteers who have either staffed the café or who have baked scones and cakes – it would be a non-starter without their efforts, and I really am so very grateful.

Another innovation that was mooted in 2022 was the setting up of some sort of enquirers' course for those who wanted to learn a little more about the Christian faith. There are a number of options, and we could have decided to embrace a few alternatives, but we finally settled on running an Alpha Course. The course ran on Wednesday evenings from April-June. The videos

and the discussion plus the food and drink seemed to go down with all participants. It was certainly very encouraging to see a few new faces coming into church and what is perhaps even more encouraging is that we are continuing to see some of those faces, which has been so lovely. If I am being entirely honest in this report, I would have to admit having started the process being something of an Alpha cynic, but the resources produced by Alpha were really very good indeed and I for one have certainly been won over. We will I am sure be exploring Alpha Courses in the future here at Yarm Parish Church.

Our engagement with the younger elements of our community is something that continues to concern us all and there have continued to be varied ways we have approached this knotty topic over the course of 2023. Clearly our Family Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month (usually!) has continued to take place and there is no doubt that it does engage with our younger choir members and those youngsters from some of our established families. Equally our Little Sparks has continued to meet on Monday mornings where we engage with toddlers and their carers/mums through a time of prayer, bible stories, singing and fellowship, the fellowship allowing mum a coffee and a biscuit whilst their children or grandchildren have a time of play. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have made Little Sparks such a success through their good humour and through the wonderful welcome that they always provide, especially to new faces coming though the door. So, thank you Beryl Nadin, Angela Beckwith, John Bancroft and Debbie Gravestock – I really do appreciate your efforts.

Part of our engagement with younger people includes of course the way we engage with the schools within our community. That relationship is not entirely uncomplicated given the fact that all our schools have no particular religious or Christian affinity. So, I am immensely grateful to all the Headteachers in all of our schools for their good grace when it has come to responding to my various emails and messages over the course of the year. It has certainly been very positive to welcome pupils from Layfield Primary School and Yarm Primary School into St Mary Magdalene's Church in 2023. Our relationship with Yarm School and Conyers School has always been positive but it is extremely encouraging that we have now built up a much firmer relationship with Egglescliffe School and its wonderful music department. Levendale Primary School opened our Christmas season in 2023 with the very first Carol Service, and it was a total joy to have them with us.

When it comes to engaging with our wider community, social media clearly has a part to play. Whilst I appreciate that not all of our worshipping community engage through modern technology it nonetheless has a role and I would like to pass on my thanks to David Beeton for maintaining our online presence through our church Facebook page. I know that it has allowed us to connect with sectors of the community that might otherwise have missed various events across the year.

Our online presence does of course feed into other ways in which we explore our relationship with our wider community. The fellowship we have created throughout the past year through

the Coronation and a whole host of other events including our fairs, the strawberry tea, parish BBQs etc have been extremely heartening and obviously says something about ourselves and the welcome we create for those who have yet to fully appreciate the camaraderie of our church life together. None of that stuff just simply happens and I would like to thank all those who serve on a whole range of committees across the year, the work of which helps me immeasurably in my ministry here amongst you. So, a huge thank you to the members of the PCC, the Events Committee, the Fabric Committee, the Wildcare Group and the GOLD group.

Your work in so many and varied ways has benefitted the church here in Yarm immeasurably. And whilst on that subject I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the work and mission of the Mothers' Union. The MU does sterling work in the way that it gathers and keeps gathered those ladies (and men!) who appreciate the events that take place throughout the year. The prayer life of the MU with its happy knack for organisation and fellowship has contributed a great deal to the life of our parish and it was even more heartening to see it work its magic in welcoming members from Kirklevington once their own branch had been discontinued.

2023 was in many ways a year of innovation that saw us embrace 'Inclusive Church', move forward with plans for a Café in church and look more deeply at our church music. It saw us move away from the Eucharist one Sunday when we held a thoroughly enjoyable pet service and it saw us expand our fellowship and our friendship in all sorts of fun and interesting and creative ways. I have said previously none of what has taken place can happen without you – the parishioners who have worshipped here for so long and who have embraced the building and the culture and the faith in so many different ways. My thanks to everyone who has supported my ministry during the course of 2023 – I certainly never take your prayers and your support for granted. A huge thank you to the Officers of the PCC not least of course our Churchwardens Peter Monck and Beryl Nadin. Thanks also to our Secretary, David Yates, our Treasurer, Martin Huggins and our Vice Chair, John Rhodes. And then of course so many thanks from me to those who work tirelessly in so many other ways that don't always draw a great deal of notoriety or attention. Thanks to Jean Hodgkinson for her fantastic role of pastoral organisation as we strive to care for our congregation. Thanks to Tanya Brackenbury for her commitment to serving in the sanctuary. Thanks to all of you who volunteer for coffee rotas and reading rotas and intercession rotas and welcomer rotas – please know that your efforts never go un-noticed, and I really do appreciate your contributions. Thanks to all of you involved in our charitable work, not least of course Avril Rhodes and her utterly tireless commitment to the cause of Christian Aid. Thank you to Avril Monck for having the ability to be everywhere all of the time and providing rock-like support as verger. Finally, finally a huge thank you to my ministerial colleagues David Local and Kate Brown – my work here would be virtually impossible without their keen commitment and enthusiasm for the Gospel – thanks too for their sense of humour which is a bit of a pre-requisite if I'm honest.

2023 was a full year and we give thanks to God for the many blessings he continues to bestow upon us all as we plough this little bit of Christendom. I look forward to continuing the journey with you all in 2024!

The Revd Darren Moore – Rector

May 2024

Introduction

St. Mary Magdalene Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Darren Moore 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 the Church.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of the parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout Yarm and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music, and sacrament.

The GOLD (Generosity of Loving Discipleship) subcommittee continued to look at ways of making the church more robust and less reliant on occasional offices (baptisms, weddings, and funerals). It supports the mission of the church and honours its free will offer.

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. Details of our actual reserves for the year are given in the Annual Accounts.

During 2023 the PCC met seven times.

Structure, Management and Governance

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

St Mary Magdalene Yarm PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.
On 31 December 2023 there were 120 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 54 of whom were not resident within the parish. Jay Yates is the electoral roll officer for the parish. Many thanks to Jay for maintaining the role.

Worship and Prayer

During 2023, St Mary Magdalene, as the Parish Church, continued to be the focal point for Anglican worship in Yarm. A regular pattern of services was continued, to co-ordinate with the other churches in the benefice.

The 8.00am Sunday Holy Communion from BCP (Book of Common Prayer) along with the 10.30am Sung Eucharist using Common Worship continued during 2023; the first Sunday of the month being a Family Service whenever possible at 10.30am. The 9.30am Wednesday Holy Eucharist and the 7.30am Friday Holy Eucharist, both using Common Worship, also continued during 2023.

Booklets were used to reflect the different times and seasons of the year.
During our Christmas celebrations we held the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and a Christingle Service along with our Crib Service and Midnight Mass both on Christmas Eve. The Christingle and Crib services were both very well attended by young families.
Easter contained a full programme from Palm Sunday through to Easter day. There was a 7:00pm Stations of the Cross service on Wednesday. The liturgy of the Lord's supper on Thursday at 7.30pm included the stripping of the altar and a watch until midnight. The Liturgy of the Passion took place on Good Friday at 3pm and an Easter Vigil on Saturday at 8:00pm, followed by the normal Sunday worship for Easter.
We also celebrated the festivals of Epiphany, Candlemas and Pentecost and The Feast of Christ the King.

A Pet Service, well attended by dogs and their humans, was held on Sunday 27th August. The service was well received by parishioners and members of the wider community, and hopefully will become an annual occasion in our worship.

During the year, the Ecumenical Prayer Group met on the first Wednesday of the month following the 9.30am Wednesday service and the Mothers' Union Prayer Group met on the second Wednesday of the month. Both groups are supported by members of our congregation, along with people from other denominations, committed to intercessory prayer.

Our trainee organist, Joshua Greenwell played on several occasions under the supervision of Janine Busbridge (Organist and Director of Music) until he moved on in September and was replaced by Patrick Ward. Patrick took up the position of Organ Scholar in January 2024.
Thanks goes to Janine for her continued commitment and enthusiasm, particularly in relation to the increase in Junior Choir members, and of course for the music provided during worship. Through Janine our choir has been greatly enriched; and a huge thank you is expressed to all choir members for their tireless commitment.

Little Sparks, which attracts pre-school children and their carers, and Little Sparks Xtra for pre-school and primary school age children, and held during school holidays, continued during 2023.
Unfortunately, it was decided early in the year to dispense with our Sunday Sparkle group as there were frequently no children in church during the three Sundays in the month when this was held. If this situation changes, the PCC will be happy to reinstate Sunday Sparkle.

During 2023 there were a total of 10 holy baptisms, three weddings, 10 funerals and 10 interment of ashes.

Flowers

Flower arrangements were beautifully created by Avril Monck on special occasions during 2023; notably at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We express our gratitude to Avril for her time and expertise.

Stokesley Deanery Synod

Four members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod, David Yates being a member of York Diocesan Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. More information is included in the Appendix.

The Church building and churchyard

The church building was kept in good repair during 2023 (see Churchwardens' Report)

The responsibility of the maintenance of the churchyard rests with the Town Council. They continue to maintain the grass cutting to a high standard.
A large tree close to the main entrance to the church yard was deemed to be unsafe and hence felled by SBC. One of the giant red woods was also recognised as being unsafe and was scheduled to be felled in 2024, along with other tree maintenance.

Pastoral Care

Home communion continued in 2023 with the team of Eucharistic ministers visiting those who have requested it either in private or residential homes.

The wellbeing of the congregation remained a priority for the PCC, and the care for the congregation network has continued to be very active through the co-ordination of Jean Hodgkinson (see C for the C Report). Much appreciation goes to Jean and her team for their care and diligence.

Safeguarding

The Diocese provided three online courses (basic awareness, foundation, and domestic abuse) which all new PCC Trustees were required to complete.
DBS checks were carried out and renewed where necessary, on all Trustees and those in positions of responsibility. There were no safeguarding notifications at St Mary Magdalene during 2023.
Much appreciation goes to Sue Ellis, our Safeguarding Lead, for her diligent hard work throughout the year.

Mission

Our benefice magazine, Trident, continued to be published keeping parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Christ.

The Harvest and weekly food contributions go to Sprouts in Thornaby and 'Love in a Box' gifts for Romania were collected. The Christian Aid collection was largely achieved by delivery only envelope and therefore the sum that could be attributed to St Mary Magdalene was an underestimate of our overall contribution. We are grateful to Debbie Gravestock for her coordinating role with Sprouts and to Avril Rhodes for her commitment to both 'Love in a Box' and Christian Aid.

The PCC is committed to being generous to other charities and organisations and encourages the congregation to decide which local, national, and international charities we should support in any given year. For 2023 the chosen charities were Zoe's Place (local), the RNLI (national) and The Salvation Army (international). In Addition, we also supported two local animal charities, Maxi's Mates and Yarm Cat Rescue. With the proceeds from our Christmas Card Board we supported Ripple Effect, a garden twinning charity which twins our church yard with a family in rural Migori, Kenya. Thanks go to Elaine Huggins for introducing us to such a unique but important charity.

An Alpha Course took place during the Spring, attended by a number of people new to our church as well as members of the congregation. Lively discussion and fellowship were enjoyed by all, and new friendships were made.

During 2023 we endeavoured to welcome everyone in the spirit of love and friendship who came to St Mary Magdalene, whether it be to attend a service, to arrange an occasional office, to take part in a group activity, for a look round our beautiful church or to spend a few minutes in quiet thought and prayer. With the evolution of Café Magdalene, our mission and outreach will hopefully continue to develop in different ways into 2024 and beyond.

Report provided by Peter Monck and Beryl Nadin (Churchwardens) on behalf of the PCC

Appendix to the APCC Report

PCC Members for 2023

St Mary Magdalene's church is part of the Deanery of Stokesley in the Diocese of York within the Church of England and is situated in West Street, Yarm TS15 9BU. The parish is in the Benefice of Yarm with Kirklevington with Picton and Worsall. The PCC of Yarm remains the governing body for the Parish of Yarm.

PCC members who have served as Trustees between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023:

		Dates
Incumbent	Revd Darren Moore (Chair)	
	Revd Kate Brown (Assistant Curate)	
Wardens:	Mr Peter Monck	(2023-2027)
	Mrs Beryl Nadin	(2022-2026)
Elected Members:	Mr Martin Huggins (Treasurer)	(2022-2025)
	Mr David Yates (Secretary, Diocesan Rep)	(2023-2026)
	Mrs Wendy Gaitskell	(2021-2024)
	Mrs Margaret Nicholls	(2021-2024)
	Mrs Pam Parker	(2021-2024)
	Mrs Angela Beckwith	(2022-2025)
	Mrs Ros Carling	(2022-2025)
	Mrs Elaine Huggins	(2022-2025)
	Mrs Lynn Allison	(2023-2026)
	Mrs Tanya Brackenbury	(2023-2026)
	Mrs Jean Finlay	(2023-2026)
	Mrs Marion Johnston	(2023-2026)
Co-Opted members	Mrs Valerie Meeking	(2023-2024)
Representatives on	Mr David Local	(2023-2026)
Deanery Synod	Mrs Avril Rhodes	(2023-2026)
	Dr John Rhodes (Vice chair)	(2023-2026)

Groups within St Mary Magdalene

Benefice Magazine

Bible Reading Fellowship

Café Magdalene

Care for the Congregation

Choir and Music

Churchwardens

Craft Group

Deanery Synod

Ecumenical Prayer Group

Events

Fabric

Finance

GOLD

Health and Safety

Little Sparks and Little Sparks Xtra

Mothers' Union

Safeguarding

Wild Care

BENEFICE MAGAZINE: Trident

The editorial team comprises Revd Kate Brown, Ros Carling, Debbie Gravestock, Revd Darren Moore, John Rhodes and Jay Yates and 10 editions of Trident were published. During the year the editorial team met to finalise the layout and content and we are grateful to Avril Rhodes for her proof reading. We continue to hand deliver most copies of the magazine to ensure they were received just before the start of the month. Many thanks to Beryl and her dog for a proportion of deliveries. Some copies are posted or sent as an E-mail.

Thank you to all who have continued to provide contributions. The editors have never had a month without a varied and full copy. A strict cut off has been introduced because errors crept in when we tried to accommodate last minute contributions. We ask that all source material is referenced in any article submitted. We tried to prevent infringement of any copyright by following the UK Copyright Service advice for news reporting.

The editors are aware of safeguarding and do not publish unnecessary names and contact details. We also endeavour to ensure permission is granted for photographs to be included, especially of children. We continue to be delighted to receive contributions especially from young budding journalists.

We are indebted to our advertisers who allowed us to keep the cost at £6.00 per annum and provide a few colour pages. Without colour many photographs will be dull and not be clear. With the improvement in smart phone cameras, we get a lot more digital photographs submitted and try our best to provide as many in colour as possible without turning the magazine into a picture book. Gill Waller who collected the advertising renewals and the printers TopPrint have continued to provide an excellent service. It is important that our advertisers know that you support Trident by thanking them for advertising in our magazine when you see them. We must remember that they do not do it solely to support the church, but to attract customers like us.

Trident is your magazine and an important tool in our outreach. Please share your copy with your friends and encourage them to purchase a copy for themselves. We try to provide news and articles about events and activities taking place within the parishes, and to include articles about aspects of faith. We have many regular contributors and without you the magazine would not be enriched by such diversity. The lay members of the group would not be able to provide the breadth and detail of church activities without the dedicated contribution and enthusiastic support of Darren and Kate.

We are grateful for all who subscribed for the year as it does help us to minimise waste at the end of the month. Please do ask a friend to consider taking out a subscription so more people can learn about our church. Thank you one and all for your support.

Report provided by John Rhodes on behalf of Trident Editorial Team

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Bible Reading using the BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) publications continues to thrive within the congregation at St Mary Magdalene, and numbers have continued to grow. Our short monthly informal 'lay led' reading and discussion group meetings on a Wednesday morning for our BRF users and anyone else interested have continued, with some most interesting discussions on all sorts of topical and biblical subjects ensuing. These have been well supported and generated much enthusiasm, and have proved to be a valuable support and also another welcome chance for informal social contact by those joining in. Our Reader David has also supported and prepared material for these, and many thanks are due to him, and also to our Rector Darren's continuing support and lead whenever his other commitments allow.

There were 23 subscriptions (+ the Rector) to the church order for BRF bible reading notes booklets, and this implies 25-30 members of the congregation using daily readings and prayers, several being couples. An increase of 2 in 2023

- All 23 read 'New Daylight', daily readings.
- None now read 'Guidelines', weekly reading and topic(s) for study.

We continue to meet monthly around the table in church with cake and coffee and this is much enjoyed by those attending, permitting increased social involvement.

Our church members who are using these the BRF publications find them valuable, often enjoyable, sometimes challenging, and always useful; and those of us who use the booklets highly recommend them to all.

Report provided by David Yates

CAFÉ MAGDALENE

The first meeting of the Church Café sub group took place on 9th January 2023. Members were Ros Carling, Avril Monck, Revd Darren Moore (chair), Beryl Nadin, John Rhodes (note taker) and Elizabeth Rigg invited because of their support for the project and either catering or business expertise. Everyone had a job to do and carried it out with speed and enthusiasm attending monthly meetings. Rules, regulations and statutes were investigated and the first hurdle to overcome was the hygiene regulations. All bakers and lead servers were required to obtain a hygiene certificate. We were fortunate and indebted to Debbie Fixter of Sprouts who offered to provide training free of charge on 31st July and 12 people attended and all passed with flying colours. The next problem was getting kitchens certified and the church was inspected and awarded 5 stars. Sprouts gave us an oven surplus to requirements. It was at this point that the group realised that the venture was possible.

The group wished the café to serve a range of hot bean to cup beverages from a machine that was simple to operate and keep clean. A user requirement specification was drawn up requiring fairtrade or ethically

sourced ingredients and the market tested. Rountons Coffee based locally was chosen and the representative Steve Ashman invited to a meeting to explain the ethics of the company and the coffee machine they supplied. An economic water boiler was also sourced to fit neatly into the space vacated by the filter machines. Individual tea pots holding a hygienically sealed fairtrade tea bag were chosen and we were delighted to receive handmade cosies from the craft group. The café was set up using an interest free loan to be paid back as first call on profits. The name Café Magdalene was chosen by the congregation from a short list.

The final hurdle to overcome was HMRC and statute. The café cannot be called 'primary purpose' trading because it does not help or form part of our primary purpose which is conducting church worship services. However, there is a small trading exception that allows the café turnover to be up to 25% of the PCC income. As the café wished to receive customer payments by either cash or card, a point of sale (POS) was proposed to be dedicated to the café which was linked to a Co-op bank account to allow fiscal control of the trading.

Quality of food is also a priority for the catering team. Freshly baked scones and cakes are served. The business case was based on being able to serve a maximum of 3 coffees per minute and 200 per day. After much research, prices were chosen to match general retail prices. We opened on 3rd December 2023 with the Bishop of Whitby in attendance, as guest of honour who declared the start of operation. Trading was limited in December and a profit of £337.06 was made from the 6 days. It was felt that the success of the venture would not be assessed until the end of January when we would be open 3 days per week. The cafe annual accounts will not reflect the true position until we have been going for 1 year.

Report provided by John Rhodes on behalf of Café Magdalene sub-group

CARE FOR THE CONGREGATION

As any business conducted by C for C is confidential there never will be a detailed report per se; suffice to say a very efficient watching brief continues.

Care for the congregation was inaugurated in 2016 the aim published in 'Comet now Trident' the same year. Since then, the congregation has changed, people leaving balanced by newcomers, so there will always be some who may be unaware of C for C and how it works.

Care for the congregation a brief resume:

As a caring congregation it is usually easy to identify a missing regular attender not so easy with intermittent worshippers. To overcome this problem C for C was established.

It is a simple system where a group of regular worshippers have agreed to keep a non-intrusive watching brief on various groups of parishioners. If they identify a missing worshipper, they will try to ascertain a reason why through simple enquiry or a discrete phone call, to check all is well and if necessary to offer assistance.

If requested, they will inform the Rector of the situation, or he can be informed directly.

C for C does not prevent anyone from watching for an empty seat and raising concerns. We are all responsible for ensuring that no one in need of aid goes unnoticed.

Most of you know, who has you on their care list, and have been reminded from information recently handed out. New attenders have been individually contacted with details of C for C and the Electoral Roll.

During the covid crisis C for C proved an invaluable information network. Lists are updated as changes occur in addition to the annual review.

Report provided by Jean Hodgkinson on behalf of the C for C Group

CHOIR AND MUSIC

The keyword for the choir in the past 12 months has been growth. The renovation on the organ has taken place, and other than a few little tweaks still needed, it's sounding great! We have added a junior choir to our ranks, which has attracted some new and experienced singers alike, and we have a new organ scholar who is with us twice a month, as well as assisting in the training of the new juniors. The choir are going from strength to strength, performing a concert recently which was well attended, raising over £200 for our now quite healthy choir fund. This has also been added to by a series of concerts held at church, designed to help to gain traction as a concert venue locally for a variety of groups. With further plans for excellent concerts, and another 'Come and Sing Messiah' this coming Christmas, the only way is up!
Report provided by Janine Busbridge

CHURCHWARDENS

The Churchwardens for 2023 were John Rhodes, replaced by Peter Monck at the swearing in service held in Stokesley Parish Church, and Beryl Nadin. Together we endeavoured to support our Rector and Reader in their ministries.

During the year the organ was restored and upgraded by Woods of Ripon. Proceeds from our three main events (the Spring, Summer and Christmas Fairs) went towards the organ fund along with proceeds from other fundraising activities, donations and grants . Our sincere thanks go to John Rhodes who worked tirelessly during the year, procuring grants and liaising with Woods to ensure the whole operation progressed smoothly.

Necessary electrical work was carried out by Oliver Monck in preparation for the reassembling of the organ.
Two more fire extinguishers were installed in church and all electrical equipment was PAT tested.
The rear vestry gully was repaired when the walls were discovered to be damp.
Bee Keepers came to investigate our Bee infestation on the north wall/roof but were unable to help. The PCC concluded that the only option was to remove the hive. This operation is scheduled to coordinate with Neil Sweeting's (contractor) work on the guttering on the north and west sides of the building during 2024.
Wi-Fi was installed during 2023 in preparation for Café Magdalene.
Flickering lights were renewed.
The PCC decided to purchase a BBQ for parish use.
The Tranter Family donated a new bench for the church yard in memory of Frank.

The church has been kept clean by Andrea's Angels who have been very flexible when funerals and other activities impinged on the cleaning times. We would like to thank both Andrea and Val for their support during the year.

We celebrated the King's Coronation in early May with a BBQ, joining with local residents on the green outside church.

The Archdeacon's Visitation took place on 10th July. Both the Archdeacon and the Rural Dean were very impressed with the way the church is looked after and with the up-to-date paperwork. They were also appreciative of out free-will offer. Many thanks go to John Rhodes who prepared much of the paperwork and completed the Terrier while he was still churchwarden.

Due to the instigation and hard work of David Yates we received the Bronze Eco Award from 'A Rocha'. The Wild Care group were busy during the year erecting bird boxes and feeders as well as planting bee

friendly flowers in preparation for the arrival of our bee hives. Special thanks go to Lynn Allyson, Victor Wood, Peter Ellis, Pam Parker and Angela Beckwith for their hard work, as well as to David, of course, for his inspiration and enthusiasm.

Certainly the most exciting venture of the year was the preparation work for Café Magdalene, inspired and led by Father Darren. Due to an interest free loan from a parishioner, capital items were able to be purchased.
The majority of people who volunteered to either bake or serve, or do both, in the café completed and passed a hygiene course. Two members of the baking team had their kitchens inspected by SBC, both receiving 5 STAR hygiene awards, as did the church servery.
The grand opening of Café Magdalene, by The Bishop of Whitby, took place on Saturday 2nd December.
Report provided by Peter Monck and Beryl Nadin

CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group continues to meet in the Fellowship Hall every other Tuesday from 1.00pm – 3.30pm.We have 19 regular Tuesday members and 8 outworkers. We all do our own 'crafting' and enjoy a chat and a cup of tea.

During 2023 we gave knitted blankets to the Asylum Seekers based in Middlesbrough. We also knitted baby blankets for the North Tees and James Cook Hospitals. Valerie has also knitted burial gowns and blankets for still-born babies, for the charity 'Cuddles'. Members of the group attended all the St Mary Magdalene Fairs, plus the Kirklevington Fairs. We contributed at £900 to church funds.
Report provided by Valerie Meeking on behalf of the Craft Group

DEANERY SYNOD

The Parish elected lay representatives for Deanery Synod are Avril Rhodes, John Rhodes and David Local., David Yates is an ex-officio member as a Diocesan Synod representative. Our Rector Fr Darren and Revd Kate are also members as serving clergy. Synod provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church, it met 3 times during 2023 in February, June and October and generally our Parish/Benefice was well represented.
Synods are appointed every 3 years and as the 2020 – 2023 triennial came to an end In July 2023 the APCM re-elected the 3 current lay representatives for the 2023 – 2026 Synod and David Yates continued as an ex-officio member.
The routine business of Synod involves an update on the Living Christ Story Diocesan initiative, information from the Deanery Financial Adviser (DFA), Ken Taylor of Christ Church, Great Ayton about the current position of the payment of free will offers (FWO) and other interesting happenings in the Parishes of our Deanery.
The main item of Synod is a series of three or four carousel conversations in small groups. During 2023 these conversations covered the following topics:

- Next Generation of Light and Heat – hosted by David Yates
- Thriving Churches and the opportunities of the Easter season
- Children, Families and Community: 'with' not 'for'
- Creating a church eco-culture
- Mission based PCC hosted by Fr Darren and David Local
- Time to Dream. If your Church had a significant donation?
- Obtaining grants for work in your parish.

- Benefits of a parish/benefice office/administrator
- What we offer across the Deanery.
- Outdoor ministry

These carousel conversations create great deal of interest and are a mine of information.
On the 12th -15th October a Centenary Walk to mark 100 years of the establishment of the post of Bishop of Whitby took place from St Mary's, Whitby to St Mary's, Lastingham, via Egton, Goathland and Newton-on-Rawcliffe. The walk was led by Bishop Paul and Archdeacon Amanda split into 4 walkable days; in total about 40 miles. Anyone from the Archdeaconry or beyond was invited to join the walk for part or the whole. Participants averaged about 7/8 per day, Avril Rhodes completed the whole walk, Jennifer Local did one day and David Local did two. Each day began with prayer in the local church and ended with refreshments in the local Church.
Report provided by David Local on behalf of Avril Rhodes and John Rhodes.
ECUMENICAL PRAYER GROUP

The Ecumenical Prayer Group has a long history. It was originally started by Pauline Hislop approximately 26 years ago with the intention of bringing together Christians from different denominations in order to pray as intercessors. Although over the years membership has changed, there remains a core group who meet in St Mary Magdalene on the first Wednesday of the month following the 9.30am Eucharist.

During 2023 the group met on 10 occasions in the Lady Chapel. A total of ten people attended from three different churches; St John's, Egglescliffe, Yarm Methodist Church and St Mary Magdalene. A further eight people received the intercessory list by e-mail.
Report provided by Beryl Nadin on behalf of the EPG

EVENTS

Events Group Members: Father Darren, Angela Beckwith, Elaine Huggins (until June), Marion Johnston, Avril Monck, Peter Monck, Beryl Nadin, Maggie Nicholls, John Rhodes, Carole Wilson and Jay Yates.

The Events Group met a total of 6 times during 2023.
A number of fundraising and social events were organised during the year with the proceeds going towards Church Funds as well as our three chosen charities ('Zoe's Place', the RNLI and The Salvation Army). Donations were also made to the choir fund and other charities.

Our events were:

- Lent Lunch – Sunday 26th February
- Smartie Tubes raised £646 for RNLI
- Spring Fair – Saturday 25th March – raised £1,456.91 for church funds
- Coronation Celebration – Monday 7th May – organised with local residents
- Wine & Wisdom Quiz Night – Saturday 13th May – raised £280+ which was sufficient to purchase a church barbecue at a cost of £264
- Summer Fair – Saturday 15th July – raised £1,400 for church funds
- Parish BBQ following Choral Evensong – Sunday 16th July – donations were made towards new choir robes
- Parish Outing to Seaton Carew – Monday 7th August (including Little Sparks Xtra)

- Strawberry Tea – Saturday 12th August – raised £330 which was sufficient to purchase a new bench for the church yard. The Tranter family subsequently asked if they could pay for the bench in memory of Frank. This was agreed and the £330 went to church funds
- Pet Service – Sunday 27th August – donations of money and food were shared between 'Maxi's Mates' and 'Yarm Cat Refuge'
- Bring a Bulb – Saturday 30th September. Congregation donated and planted bulbs (bluebells, daffodils, snowdrops and wood anemones) in the church yard
- Harvest Festival – Sunday 8th October – raised £581.99 for 'Zoe's Place'. A further £200 was kindly donated by Wendy Gaitskill and Debbie Gravestock from their Birthday party gifts
- Christmas Fair – Saturday 25th November – raised £2,600 plus a further £595.60 from the Big Raffle
- Christmas Cheer – Sunday 10th December.
- Parish Panto – Saturday 16th December. 30 of us went along to see 'Cinderella' at the PAA
- Crib Festival – 16th / 17th December
- Christmas Card Board – raised £286 for 'Ripple', the 'Twin a Garden' charity

The 'Cash only Club', organised by Jean Finlay, raised £560 towards Church Funds.

The Churchwardens would like to thank the members of the Events Group for their hard work and continued support in making the social life of our church so varied and uplifting.
They would also like to thank everyone from our congregation who contributed so much during 2023, particularly towards our various Fairs, and also members of our congregation and wider friends who came along to support our events. Without the support of so many people, not only would it be impossible to sustain the social life of our church, but our fundraising and charitable giving would also be substantially reduced.

Report provided by Beryl Nadin on behalf of the Events Group

FABRIC

The fabric sub-committee consists of, Eric Heaviside, Martin Huggins, Beryl Nadin, Peter Monck, Darren Moore, John Rhodes and David Yates and has met 6 times in 2023.

The group is set up to assist the churchwardens in the maintenance of the building and their oversee of the maintenance of the churchyard and to consider restoration, fabric proposals and developments in the building.

Action points were recorded and presented for each meeting to the following PCC meeting for approval. 14 items from 2022 were discussed and 8 items of business were closed as follows:

- The energy footprint tool for 2022 has been closed.
- The lighting cable in the churchyard was marked on a drawing for future use.
- Church café was to be discussed by a subgroup of the PCC.
- The organ work had commenced and handed over to Woods for completion.
- Boiler condition appears to be good for a couple of years.
- Toilet was unblocked.
- Bio-tank was checked.
- Window ledges were re painted.

16 items of new business were discussed in the meetings and 8 were closed by December 2023 as follows:

- A cleaning device for high level dusting was selected and obtained.
- The church insurance was reviewed.
- The church passed the EIO independent review.
- A crack above the resurrection window was revealed during the organ renovation and repaired.
- Flickering lights were replaced.
- The alarm in the disable toilet was selected and fitted.
- Wifi has been fitted in church.
- A fridge surplus to requirements in the wellness centre was examined and found to be too large for use in the church.

  Report provided by John Rhodes on behalf of the Fabric Group

FINANCE

General Unrestricted Funds

2023 has been a very active year and we have come out of it with a healthy balance of £31,919 (2022 – 32,215), and thanks are due to everyone who has supported us in many and various ways.

The specific detail is as follows.

Total unrestricted income was £93,756 (£86,193 in 2022) and is detailed in the financial statements. Of this, £63,371 (was £64,460) was pledged giving and includes associated tax relief, and represents a significant 67.6% (was 74.8%) of the total income. This is the third full year of the Parish Giving Scheme and this scheme helps to benefit our cash flow. We still have about two thirds of our supporters signed up to the scheme, with a few new users signing up during the year. It would be good if other contributors were able to join them.

Other parts of the accounts are continuing to recover. The Summer and Christmas Fairs, again held in Church, raised a very welcome £4,081(£2,381 - Christmas only) and the Christmas Raffle yielded a further £595 (£784). This year, Choir activities have brought in over £1,100 and the bee project has raised £1,700 which will allow the project to proceed in 2024. Total net fundraising (including the above) was £8,938 (£4,815), a very significant and welcome increase.

The remaining income came largely from collections, donations and fees, and is now at £18,377 (£14,068). Collections have decreased significantly to £3,390 (£5,183) in 2023 whilst yellow envelope Gift Aided donations have increased to £2,500 (£1,595), as have fee earnings, now at £5,218 (£3,359). This shows a change in the way people are giving and we need to keep an eye on this.

Also, we have received £2,356 (£1,392) from the rest of the Benefice as their contribution to the expenses of the Rector, the Curate and the Rectory. There has been one legacy this year of £1,000. (£0 in 2021). We would hope that more people in the future will give in this way.

Total unrestricted expenditure was £94,052 (was £87,956). We have maintained our contribution to the Freewill Offer to support the Mission in the Diocese at £61,800, the same as last year. This Freewill Offer was paid in full, and is a very significant 65.9% (71.7% last year) of our total income from all sources. In

addition, Diocesan fees for weddings and funerals in our Church have added £5,689 (£4,460) to our total giving from the Parish to the Mission in the Diocese, which now totals £67,489 (£66,260).

The cost of running the Church building was £11,908 (£9,950), with Insurance rising by some £650 per year. The cost of replacement lightbulbs at £828, with roof works and miscellaneous maintenance at £1,172, are a significant outlay. The upkeep of services cost a further £8,510 (£7,701), and reflects a complete year of Organist fees, together with support for the training of our organ scholar.

Expenses for clergy amount to £4,034 (£3,153) – an increase resulting from an active year for the new Rector and the Curate. This is offset by the sharing of these expenses with Kirklevington and Worsall who paid £2,356(£1,392) of this amount.

Other expenditure was £4,606 (£2,142), with a lot of expenditure on choir robes, moving the statue in the Lady Chapel, changes to locks and keys for added security and other miscellaneous activities.

Net result for the year was an excess of expenditure over income of £296 compared to an excess income over expenditure of £1,764 in 2022, which with our carry over of £1.700 for the bee project, gives us a similar outcome to last year.

The total balance of unrestricted funds at 31st December 2023 was £31,919 (£32,215).

Café Magdalene

Café Magdalene opened in the last month of the year and has produced a deficit of £717, because of the costs of setting up the equipment needed to trade successfully. A generous interest free loan of £11,250 has allowed the purchase of the coffee machine and other capital items, valued at £9,307 at the end of the year. The loan is expected to be paid off in 2024, but shows as a liability on the 2023 balance sheet.

Restricted Funds

Organ Fund

The major repair work on the Organ has been largely completed within 2023, with income of £20,741 being received in grants during the year. We have paid out £92,161 for the works so far, leaving a small amount of £2,400 carried forward to 2024 to pay the outstanding balance when all the final works have been completed. Completion of this project has been due to all the hard work and generosity of the congregation.

Restoration Fund

Activity has continued as last year. The Quinquennial Report had shown up various significant repairs required that have been completed at a total cost of £8,285 (£20,042). Activities covered were Roof and Wall repairs, fitting a new disabled alarm in the toilet, together with Architects fees. This has been funded by a Listed Places of Worship Grant of £10,623 (£2,427), together with a Fund Raising “Cash Only Club” which made £560 and the Easter Extravaganza raising a further £1,417.

The balance of the Restoration Fund at 31st December 2023 was a stabilised £11,737 (£10,184 in 2022), but this will need to be increased by fundraising in order to be available for future work and for keeping the Church in good order.

Charities

Restricted funds were again collected and paid out to individual charities, coming from collections at funerals as specified by families concerned, and from special events arranged by the Church for nominated charities. The total amount was £6,567(£5,426).

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to three months' unrestricted income, to cover emergency situations which may arise from time to time. The balance of £31,919 in unrestricted funds at the year-end exceeds this target (currently £23,450).

Additionally, we recognise that the maintenance of a historic building requires periodically significant sums of money to carry out important restoration and maintenance work. Although we had a significant legacy in 2011, we have spent considerable sums on successful restoration and renovation projects, leaving our reserves for this aspect of our work at just over £11,737. The use of this money needs to be carefully regulated and monitored, and it would be good if it could be augmented by individual efforts and some new legacies in due course.

Report provided by M J Huggins - Hon Treasurer

GOLD - Generosity of Loving Discipleship

The Generosity of Loving Discipleship Team has the following members: David Local (Chair), Maggie Nicholls, Beryl Nadin, Martin Huggins, John Rhodes, Revd Darren Moore, Lynn Allison, Marion Johnston and Elaine Huggins.

During the year Elaine Huggins decided to resign her voluntary membership of the Group, Peter Monck joined as a result of being appointed a Church Warden at the 2023 APCM and John Rhodes agreed to continue to be a member.

During 2023 we met on 5 occasions. Towards the end of 2022 we had agreed to hold a Gift Day on the last Sunday of March 2023. However, as the Spring Fayre was scheduled for the last Saturday in March it was decided to have a 'Gift Weekend' and an appropriate brochure was designed to advertise both events. The Spring Fayre achieved an excellent result. The Gift Day was only moderately successful and it was agreed to hold future Gift Days as and when considered necessary.

We agreed the weekly pew sheet would continually be used to remind the congregation of the benefits of using the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) for their regular giving, to keep their regular giving under review and the availability of the PGS for making one-off gifts to the Church.

Janine, Church Organist who was qualified to write wills had offered to write free wills to anyone of St Mary Magdalene's congregation who wished to include in their will a legacy to St Mary Magdalene's. As a result the PCC agreed a Legacy Policy and the availability of free Wills is also advertised on the weekly pew sheet.

As a result of a report of a meeting with the Diocesan Generous Giving Advisers at a meeting of Diocesan Synod it was agreed to invite them to our group meeting to advise us on their experience of good practice. One of the Advisers was responsible for encouraging a generous culture within church, and the other for best ways of raising regular income.

We have benefited from their advice in helping us to focus our sense of direction and they have been given an open invitation to attend our regular meetings.

As a result of the opening of Magdalene Café we have since began work to create the resources to communicate St Mary Magdalene's finances, Generous Giving values and future plans for the benefit of new people visiting the Church.

The PCC Treasurer advised that there were no present serious concerns about the finances of the Parish; therefore, going forward we have continued to focus on:

- Different ways of raising regular income and where to focus our efforts;
- Possibility of creating a dedicated Giving Station;
- On-going encouragement for more use of PGS, particularly encouraging the automatic increase of gifts in line with inflation;

- How best to display activities and events in the Church and to generally promote a Generous Giving culture within our Church?
  Report provided by David Local on behalf of the GOLD Team

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Health and Safety Committee has 5 members: John Rhodes (Chair), John Bancroft, David Beaton, Avril Monck and a Churchwarden.
There is not a great deal to report for 2023 . . . maybe there ought to be more.
There was one accident reported in the accident book (kept on the noticeboard near the entrance to the large store/photocopier cupboard). This was in June and the committee considered this by email and made recommendations. It is important that any accidents or near misses are reported in the accident book so that any necessary lessons can be learned.

In February the Committee conducted a Fire Risk Assessment for the Church.

Health and Safety (H&S) is an important (and much maligned) subject. It is easy to be complacent and forget about the possible H&S implications of what we do in Church. This is particularly so when we make changes to our activities, layout and objects in and around our Church building, such as the introduction of Café Magdalene and possible changes to seating arrangements in the South Aisle. This is where the Committee comes in, to keep an eye on any H&S implications and reduce the possibility of accidents. Some members of the Committee expect that we may (and ought to) have more activity to report to the 2025 APCM.
Report provided by John Bancroft on behalf of the H&S Team

LITTLE SPARKS & LITTLE SPARKS EXTRA

Little Sparks is a group for pre-school children and their parents/carers. The group meets in church at 10.00am on a Monday morning (excluding Bank Holidays) for about an hour and a half. Activities begin in the Lady Chapel with prayer in the form of lighting candles. We then have an age-appropriate Bible story before moving to the chancel for a rousing sing, always ending with 'The Wise Man'.
Refreshments are then served giving the adults time for an informal chat while the children play with the toys in the children's area, suitably supervised.
At the beginning of 2023 numbers attending Little Sparks dwindled to only three children attended on a regular basis, and some Mondays to only one child and his grandmother. It was felt, however, that along with the church members who helped with Little Sparks there was sufficient involvement and enjoyment to keep the group going. In September we no longer had our stalwart member when he started school-based nursery. Fortunately, we were able to keep going with our two existing members and two new children and their grandparents.

Particular thanks go to John Bancroft and Debbie Gravestock who provided the music, and to members of the Mothers Union who kindly provided refreshments.

Father Darren led Little Sparks with much enthusiasm during 2023, assisted by Angela Beckwith and Beryl Nadin.

Little Sparks Xtra is a group for pre-school children and primary school age children which took place in 2023 either in church or in the Fellowship Hall, on chosen Monday mornings during the school holidays. These sessions occurred on the Mondays of two of the Half Terms, the first Monday of the Easter Holiday and on three Mondays during the Summer break, one of them being the Parish Trip to Seaton Carew. Two summer sessions were held in the Fellowship Hall as the children's corner was taken up with the organ

renovation. These sessions were well attended by a total of 26 children, many of whom came to all the sessions held in Yarm.
The format of **Little Sparks Xtra** mainly follows that of **Little Sparks** with the addition of craft activities. Families are asked to bring a packed lunch if they wish to stay until 1.30pm.

During 2023 the focus of LSX was 'Looking after our World'. A large collage depicting the natural world was created during the summer sessions and then a life size St Francis of Assisi was made over the Autumn half term. Anne Stainer, our resident artist, worked with the children to create both of these pieces which were displayed in church. Many thanks go to Anne for her patient work with the children.
The Little Sparks Xtra sessions were much enjoyed in 2023 by many children who, when younger, had attended Little Sparks, previously known as Pram Service, as well as by children attending for the first time.

John Bancroft and Debbie Gravestock provided the music for Little Sparks Xtra and the Mothers Union, once again, made refreshments. We are very grateful to them all, for their hard work, their commitment and their enthusiasm.

Father Darren led the sessions with support from Angela Beckwith, Anne Stainer, Avril and Peter Monck and Beryl Nadin.
Reported by Beryl Nadin on behalf of the Little Sparks Team

MOTHERS' UNION

Yarm Branch of the Mothers' Union began 2023 with 25 members on roll.
During the year sadly one member, Nancy Ward, died and is sorely missed and one member is no longer able to attend because of ill health.
Unfortunately Kirklevington Branch of Mothers' Union closed in December 2023 but we welcomed three of their members into Yarm Branch.
These changes mean we ended 2023 with 26 members on roll.
Over 2023 there were nine meetings and events on Monday afternoons. At four of those meetings we had speakers - Father Darren, Reverend Kate, Joan Mason and Barbara Ford. Other meetings included the 'Wave of Prayer' focussing on 5 Dioceses linked with York Diocese, a successful Strawberry Tea fundraiser, and an enjoyable day visit to Wydale Hall. This visit included lunch and a midday service in the chapel led by Reverend Ford, the Diocesan Chaplain for Mothers' Union. We had hoped to explore the grounds and gardens but the very wet weather kept us inside but gave a chance to view the accommodation and facilities indoors and enjoy talking and relaxing. The year's Monday meetings finished with a well-supported Advent Service and Faith Tea to which local Mothers' Union branches were among those who attended.
Several evening discussion meetings were held, led by Jayne Gregory, and we look forward to these resuming in 2024.
During the year members enjoyed the spring and Autumn Retreats at Wydale Hall as well as attending the two Diocesan Council meetings.
The Mothers' Union Annual Gathering this year was held in York. The meeting in the morning was held in the Barbican followed by a service in York Minster.
Reported by Marion Johnston (Mothers' Union Branch Secretary) on behalf of Yarm MU

SAFEGUARDING

The Diocese of York safeguarding statement

- "It is important to recognise that safeguarding is important for the needs of any age be it children, young people, vulnerable adults including the elderly and a commitment to equal worth for all "

To this end and following guidelines stipulated by the diocese, all trustees on the PCC have now completed successfully during 2022 and 2023 at least three online courses designated by the Diocese on basic awareness, a foundation course on safeguarding and domestic abuse.

- The Diocesan policy now states that all Welcomers must complete at least the basic awareness course to be in that role.
- In not doing so it will prevent them from becoming, or continuing as Welcomers.
- Disclosure and Barring Service [DBS] forms for trustees are renewed as a requirement every three years and these applications have been successfully done with the assistance of John Rhodes. The applications are managed online using a dashboard website called (31.8) recommended by the Diocese Safeguarding team. Reminders of DBS renewal will be sent by this dashboard website.
- The Archdeacon was satisfied with her observations on safeguarding procedures when she completed her audit in the summer of 2023.
- Opinions were given [at short notice] on the Jay and Wilkinson Report for the future of safeguarding within the Church of England which recommended that any inspection and scrutiny of safeguarding issues within the Church of England must be fully independent of the Church. A decision on this will be made in the near future.

The York Diocesan Safeguarding team issues a monthly bulletin on safeguarding issue, policy and upcoming events. As well as the PSO and churchwardens receiving this online bulletin it is now distributed online to all Trustee members as a valuable source of information.

The Diocese holds quarterly discussion forums for safeguarding officers (PSO) and the PSO has taken part in those in 2023.The PSO took part in Safeguarding week in November 2023 with an introduction and question and answer discussion with the Archbishop of York. Subjects included making risk assessments, modern slavery and record keeping.

Churches need to be safe to welcome everyone and any safeguarding issues will be dealt with respect and sensitivity. The PSO, churchwardens and Rector will work together if there are any safeguarding issues brought to their attention before reporting to any other agency for example the diocesan safeguarding adviser and social services. Any issue is totally confidential and any written information is kept locked in a safe.

The diocesan policy is on the church noticeboard and there are copies of the Parish safeguarding handbook and a Safer Church available.

Duplicated risk assessment forms for any church activities or outings are available (in a file) to be completed and kept as a record.

Reported by Susan Ellis (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

WILD CARE

Members include David Yates (Lead), Lynn Allyson, Angela Beckwith, Peter Ellis, Father Darren Moore, Beryl Nadin, Pam Parker and Victor Wood.

In 2023, the Wild Care Group, which was formed in 2022, has made some good progress in relation to looking after the ecology, flora and fauna of our churchyard.

During the year, areas of the churchyard were designated for leaving to nature, i.e. no cutting or mowing, plans were made to support the birds and insects with new boxes, bird feeders and log piles, a plan was

agreed for managing the trees, fundraising took place to enable beehives to be installed (this is due to happen in second half of 2024), the congregation kindly provided daffodils, bluebells and other flowers which were eagerly planted in September, and management of the wild areas continued (cutting back brambles and suckers, providing shelter for insects and birds etc).
The group has gained momentum in 2023 and an especially proud moment was St Mary Magdalene's attaining the "Bronze" eco award from the ROCHA UK project.
The group very much looks forward to continuing their work in 2024 and will continue to provide updates on activities via the Trident magazine and PCC updates.

Report provided by Lynn Allison on behalf of the Wild Care Team

SUMMARY

Without the support of a large number of our congregation our weekly worship and fellowship here at St Mary Magdalene would be greatly hindered. A sincere thank you goes to all those people who help in a multitude of ways: the welcomers, the readers and intercessors, the eucharistic ministers, the refreshment providers, those who wash and iron linen, and all those who quietly help in the background. Special thanks to Tanya Brackenbury for her weekly commitment and to Jane for her service as thurifer; to Kathy Wilson for her commitment at the 8.00am Sunday service; and to Kath McCarthy for her continued supply of refreshments on Wednesday mornings.
The Churchwardens would also like to thank all those people who kindly provided reports for this APCM and everyone who continues to give their time, enthusiasm and expertise to be part of one or more of our groups.
Thank you all for your generous support and for making the mission and outreach of our church so valuable.

Peter Monck and Beryl Nadin

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary Magdalene Church, Yarm, PCC.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 and 2.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
    - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
    - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr Philip Atkinson

30 Nursery Gardens, Yarm

March 2024

Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31 December 2023

	Note	General Fund Unrestricted Funds £	General Fund Restricted Funds £	Café Magdalene £	Restoration Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Voluntary Income	2(a)	72,674.55	27,308.42	20.00	10,898.01	110,900.98	144,000.93
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	12,008.46		789.50	1,976.91	14,774.87	8,264.54
Income from Investments	2(c)	1,499.23			203.50	1,702.73	312.94
Income from Church activities	2(d)	7,573.61				7,573.61	5,171.34
Other income	2(e)					0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		93,755.85	27,308.42	809.50	13,078.42	134,952.19	157,749.75
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Church Activities	3(a)						
Ministry		66,406.31				66,406.31	64,953.53
Church		11,907.70	92,161.01			104,068.71	9,950.50
Upkeep of services		8,510.37				8,510.37	7,701.48
Other ordinary expenditure		2,200.87	6,566.97	571.62	3,601.45	12,940.91	6,742.82
Extraordinary expenditure		1,955.60				1,955.60	825.54
Restoration					7,924.75	7,924.75	21,371.76
Fund Raising Costs	3(b)	3,070.66		955.17		4,025.83	3,773.13
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		94,051.51	98,727.98	1,526.79	11,526.20	205,832.48	115,318.76
NET INCOMING RESOURCES & MOVEMENT OF FUNDS		-295.66	-71,419.56	-717.29	1,552.22	-70,880.29	42,430.99
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY		32,214.79	73,819.56	0.00	10,184.48	116,218.83	73,787.84
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER		31,919.13	2,400.00	-717.29	11,736.70	45,338.54	116,218.83

The Notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of this account

Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

	Notes	General Fund Unrestricted Funds	General Fund Restricted Funds	Café Magdalene	Restoration Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
FIXED ASSETS		NIL	NIL	£9,307.76	NIL	NIL	NIL
less Depreciation				-£155.13			
CURRENT ASSETS							
Debtors	6	£2,049.06	£3,241.45		£560.00	£5,850.51	£536.33
Short term deposits		£17,199.17		£500.00	£6,308.90	£23,508.07	£51,816.14
Fixed term deposits		£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Cash at Bank		£15,533.93	-£355.70	£880.08	£4,867.80	£15,178.23	£66,445.86
TOTAL ASSETS		£34,782.16	£2,885.75	£10,532.71	£11,736.70	£49,404.61	£118,798.33
LIABILITIES							
Creditors - amounts falling due in one year	7	£2,863.03	£485.75			£3,348.78	£2,579.50
Interest Free Loan for Café Magdalene	7			£11,250.00			
TOTAL LIABILITIES		£2,863.03	£485.75	£11,250.00	£0.00	£3,348.78	£2,579.50
NET ASSETS less LIABILITIES		£31,919.13	£2,400.00	-£717.29	£11,736.70	£46,055.83	£116,218.83
PARISH FUNDS							
Unrestricted		£31,919.13		-£717.29		£31,201.84	£33,978.51
Restricted			£2,400.00		£11,736.70	£14,136.70	£39,809.33
Totals		£34,319.13		-£717.29	£11,736.70	£45,338.54	£73,787.84

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 16th April 2024 and signed on its behalf by



D R Moore (PCC Chairman)



M J Huggins (PCC Treasurer)

The notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these accounts

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year ended 31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place. There are currently no such funds under the control of the PCC.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis. The Restoration Fund and the Organ Fund are restricted funds, and donations to Mission or other Charity are also treated as restricted, when they result from a specific donation or collection.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when received and are reclaimed for the accounting year and not the tax year. Tax refunds, other than those from the Parish Giving Scheme, due for the period January to December 2022 are identified in the notes to the accounts, but are not included in the figures. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan freewill offer is accounted for in monthly instalments. Amounts received specifically for mission or charity are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Fixed Assets for Café Magdalene have cost £9,307.76 and are being depreciated over 5 years. Other than this, no individual item has cost more than £2,000 and all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Individual items of equipment are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

2023 GENERAL FUND

2. **INCOMING RESOURCES**	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2023	TOTAL FUNDS 2022
2(a) **Voluntary Income**					
Planned Giving					
Gift Aided - Direct Payments (inc PGS 34595.07)	42800.81			42800.81	41018.16
- Green Envelopes	3263.00			3263.00	3962.00
Not Gift Aided - Direct Payments	1980.00			1980.00	1980.00
- Green Envelopes	619.00			619.00	752.05
		48662.81			
Other					
Gift Aided - Yellow Envelopes (one off)	2500.00			2500.00	1595.45
Tax Reclaim on Gift Aid (2022) and PGS (£8,461.08 in 2023)	14707.98			14707.98	16747.48
Tax Reclaim on Organ Donations	0.00			0.00	10000.00
Organ Grants & VAT reclaim - from Rest Fund			20741.45	20741.45	53148.80
Cash Collections	3389.67			3389.67	5182.74
Special Collections & Donations	1829.09		6566.97	8396.06	5577.49
Donation from fees	585.00			585.00	360.00
Grant from Diocese for Energy Purchases	0.00			0.00	1250.00
Legacy	1000.00			1000.00	0.00
		24011.74			
2(b) **Activities for generating funds**					
Coffee Donations	1772.98			1772.98	1794.36
Raffle (incl £115 sold at the Festive Fayre)	595.40			595.40	784.40
Magazine Income	1425.72			1425.72	1512.00
Income from Flowers - weddings and memorium	157.13			157.13	231.00
Votive candles	215.30			215.30	329.65
Miscellaneous Income	292.35			292.35	154.67
Craft Guild - activities	342.60			342.60	267.26
Quiz	277.32			277.32	0.00
Choir Concerts (2022 - Concert)	1141.78			1141.78	190.30
Easter Fair	0.00			0.00	0.00
Summer Fair	1405.38			1405.38	0.00
Christmas Festive Fayre	2675.81			2675.81	2380.90
Bee Project	1706.69			1706.69	0.00
100 Club	0.00	12008.46		0.00	20.00
2(c) **Income from Investments**					
Interest on Deposit Account	1488.21			1488.21	226.38
Interest on Darlington Building Society	11.02			11.02	0.96
		1499.23			
2(d) **Income from Church activities**					
Fees	5218.00			5218.00	3359.00
Kirklevington & Worsall contribution to Rector expenses	2027.79			2027.79	705.32
- Rectory Water Rate	232.50			232.50	163.75
Kirklevington & Worsall Other Income	95.32			95.32	523.27
Ordination expenses from Nunthorpe and Kirklevington	0.00	7573.61		0.00	420.00
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		93755.85	27308.42	121064.27	154637.39

3.	**RESOURCES EXPENDED**	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2023	TOTAL FUNDS 2022
3(a)	**Church Activities**					
	Ministry - Rector					
	Parish Freewill Offer for Diocesan Ministry	61800.00			61800.00	61800.00
	Expenses	3569.60			3569.60	2424.10
	Water Rate	465.00			465.00	426.00
	- **Curate** - Expenses	571.71			571.71	303.43
	-Mission					
	Gold costs				0.00	0.00
			66406.31			
	Church					
	Gas	2542.86			2542.86	2571.80
	Electricity	1476.49			1476.49	1520.21
	Insurance	3915.49			3915.49	3266.31
	Water Rate	114.47			114.47	106.54
	Cleaning	1298.00			1298.00	1388.00
	Organ Tuning & Overhaul & Maintenance	0.00		92161.01	92161.01	0.00
	Boiler Maintenance	180.00			180.00	165.00
	Spare lightbulbs (2022 - Lightening Protection Testing)	828.30			828.30	138.91
	Roof works	380.00			380.00	140.00
	Minor Maintenance	1172.09			1172.09	653.73
			11907.70			
	Upkeep of Services					
	Candles	984.74			984.74	679.53
	Wine & Bread	224.56			224.56	140.58
	Miscellaneous	644.17			644.17	1271.12
	Service Books	320.10			320.10	1105.25
	Organist (inc stand in organists £130)	5530.00			5530.00	3495.00
	Organist Tuition	700.00			700.00	1010.00
	Churchyard Upkeep	106.80			106.80	0.00
			8510.37			
	Other Expenditure					
	Young people	102.00			102.00	0.00
	Hire of Hall	45.00			45.00	0.00
	Baptism Cards	67.18			67.18	108.20
	Deanery Precept	120.00			120.00	120.00
	RSCM & CCLI membership	290.00			290.00	262.00
	Printing	432.89			432.89	507.59
	Gift Aid Envelopes	0.00			0.00	86.98
	Miscellaneous	1021.78			1021.78	232.03
	Charities (see Note 9) incl. Gift Aid (£122.02) yet to be claimed	122.02		6566.97	6688.99	5426.02
			2200.87			
	Extraordinary Expenditure					
	Move statue in Lady Chapel (2022 - Lighting Repairs)	400.00			400.00	613.80
	Choir Robes (2022 - Microphones)	699.86			699.86	85.74
	Locks, keys etc. (2022 - Replace light in toilet)	855.74			855.74	126.00
			1955.60			
3(b)	**Fund Raising Costs**					
	Choir Functions (2022 inc Organ events £694.69)	614.38			614.38	1053.59
	Magazine Printing	1415.47			1415.47	1529.98
	Cost of flowers (2022 - incl £300 for artificial flowers)	107.40			107.40	502.71
	Cost of coffee & biscuits (incl new coffee m/c @ £157.73)	758.10			758.10	397.85
	Christmas Fayre expenses	175.31			175.31	289.00
			3070.66			
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		94051.51	98727.98	192779.49	93947.00

Account - Unrestricted	Total
Operating Income	
Sales	789.50
Total for Operating Income	**789.50**
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of Goods Sold	955.17
Total for Cost of Goods Sold	**955.17**
Gross Profit	**-165.67**
Operating Expense	
Advertising and Marketing	54.77
Bank and Card Processing Fees	5.73
Depreciation Expense	155.13
Print, Postage and Stationery	55.99
Repairs and Maintenance	300.00
Total for Operating Expense	**571.62**
Operating Profit	**-737.29**
Non Operating Income	
Donations	20.00
Total for Non Operating Income	**20.00**
Non Operating Expense	
Total for Non Operating Expense	**0.00**
Net Profit/Loss	**-717.29**

2023 RESTORATION FUND

		Restricted Funds		TOTAL FUNDS 2023	TOTAL FUNDS 2022
2.	**INCOMING RESOURCES**				
2(a)	**Voluntary Income**				
	Donations	274.66			
	Grant from Lottery Heritage Fund				
	VAT Refund - LPW Grant Scheme	10623.35			
	Other Grants				
	Tax Rebate				
			10898.01	10898.01	2426.76
2(b)	**Activities for generating funds**				
	Easter Extravaganza	1416.91			
	Cash Only Club (100 Club)	560.00			
	Miscellaneous events				
			1976.91	1976.91	600
2(c)	**Income from investments**				
	Interest on deposit account - CBF	192.70			
	Interest on Virgin Money account	10.80			
			203.50	203.50	85.60
2(e)	**Other Income**				
	Legacy		0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL		13078.42	13078.42	3112.36
3.	**RESOURCES EXPENDED**				
3(a)	**Church Activities**				
	Restoration				
	Fee - Architect	2871.35			
	Roof Repairs	3398.40			
	Wall Repairs	1655.00			
			7924.75	7924.75	20042.71
	Other Expenditure				
	Disabled Toilet Alarm	360.00			
	Organ Repairs - via PCC a/c	3241.45			
			3601.45	3601.45	1329.05
3(b)	**Fund Raising Costs**				
			0.00	0.00	0
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		11526.20	11526.20	21371.76

Notes to the Accounts 2023

4. (a) **STAFF COSTS**

	2023	2022
Invoiced payments for Organist for normal services	5,400.00	3,495.00

During the year the PCC contracted in several organists, who are self employed, and as such do not attract social security costs.

(b) **PAYMENTS TO AND FROM PCC MEMBERS**

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC. No expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.
Two generous interest free loans totalling of £11,250 were made to the PCC by two PCC members, to be used for the start up costs of the Café Magdalene.

5. **FIXED ASSETS**

The PCC has no assets as defined in the Accounting Policies above (page 3)

6. **DEBTORS**

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
Other Debtors	2049.06	3241.45	5290.51	536.33

In addition there is outstanding Tax recoverable, related to the period January to December 2023, which will be recovered during 2024. The estimated amount is £6,240.12, and will be accounted for in 2024 accounts. This includes reclaim for tax on small donations, which will provide £2,000 of income.

7. **LIABILITIES / CREDITORS**

Accruals for utility and other costs	2863.03	485.75	3348.78	2,579.50
Liabilities to discharge in 2024				
Organ Repairs		2400.00		
Beehive installation	1706.69			
Loan for Café Magdalene	11,250.00		15,356.69	0.00

8. **GENERAL NOTES**

8.1 Net movement of General funds in the year was — Unrestricted -£295.66
Restricted (organ fund) -£71,419.56
Net Movement of Café Magdalene Funds -£717.29
This negative movement is due to one off setting up costs. Actual trading profit was : £356.69
Net movement of Restricted Restoration funds in the year was £1,552.22

8.2 Value of Organ Fund at the end of 2022 was £2,400.00
Bee Fund £1,706.69

8.3 The Choir Fund income was £1141.78, with direct costs being £614.38.
Cost of Choir Robes was £699.86. This left a net cost of -£172.46

8.4 Balances brought forward include historical legacies as follows:
General Account: legacies from 2009 - there were 4 £25,000.00
legacy in 2023 £1,000.00
Restoration Account: legacies from 2011 - there were 2 £116,826.33

8.5 Assigned Fees. A sum of £5,689.00 (£4,460.00 in 2022) has been paid to the Diocese, being the Statutory Fees charged for the services of clergy to officiate at weddings, funerals and the like.

8.6 Purchase of items for sale (eg. Cards, tea towels, pens etc) are written off in the year of payment.

8.7 Value of normal stock is less than £500.00. Stock is not controlled or accounted for.

Notes to the Accounts 2023

9. Charity Donations - 2023

The following donations were made to Charity:

		Overseas Missions & Christian Relief Agencies	Home Missions & Church Societies	Secular Charities	TOTALS
Church Sponsored Activities					
All from Restricted Income except item 9.4 and 9.6.					
9.1.	Salvation Army (Lent collection)		343.65		
9.2.	Childrens Society - Christingle service			256.00	
9.3.	DEC Appeal - Turkey			290.00	
9.4.	RNLI - Smartie tubes			656.62	
9.5.	MU York - Make a Mothers' Day		80.00		
9.6.	Pets Service - Maxi Mates			173.68	
9.7.	Pets Service - Yarm Cat Protection			173.68	
9.8.	Zoe's Place (Harvest)			781.99	
9.9.	Ripple Effect - Christmas cards			286.00	
	TOTAL	0.00	423.65	2,617.97	3,041.62
Restricted Donations at Funerals					
9.10.	North Tees Heart Fund			121.40	
9.11.	Livernorth			121.40	
9.12.	Alzheimers Research			347.50	
9.13.	Cancer Research			280.70	
9.14.	Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute			1,036.00	
9.15.	Freeman Hospital			260.00	
9.16.	Young Lives vs. Cancer			625.07	
9.17.	Teesside Dementia			86.00	
9.18.	Teesside Hospice			265.45	
9.19.	Runswick Bay Rescue Boat			369.10	
9.20.	Coeliac UK			134.75	
	TOTAL	0.00	0.00	3,647.37	3,647.37
	TOTALS	**0.00**	**423.65**	**6,265.34**	**6,688.99**
	Additionally the following donations were made outside of the accounts, but resulting from efforts from members of the congregation:				
9.21.	Christian Aid	1,029.27			1,029.27
	GRAND TOTAL				**7,718.26**

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary Magdalene Church, Yarm, PCC.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 and 2.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

    - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or

    - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

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

Mr Philip Atkinson

30 Nursery Gardens, Yarm March 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, Y

England & Wales - Charity number 1130683

Accounts

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Yarm
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Aim and purposes

St. Mary Magdalene Parochial Church Council (PCC) had the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Darren Moore 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 the Church.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Mary Magdalene. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music, and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we gave priority to fully reopening the church safely within Church of England (CofE) guidelines and offering the chalice when safe to do so described fully in the section on Worship and Prayer below. Children's activities were resumed.

The PCC tasked its GOLD (Generosity of Loving Discipleship) subcommittee to look at ways of making the church more robust and less reliant on occasional offices (baptisms, weddings, and funerals) and fayres to support the mission of the church and in particular to honour our free will offer.

The PCC is committed to being generous to other charities and organisations and took the decision that the family of the deceased would determine where collections from funerals were donated. In addition, the congregation decided which local, national, and international charities the church should support and tasked the Events group with organising activities.

Achievements and Performance

During 2022 the PCC met 7 times; average attendance was 90%. The Standing committee met 6 times during the year to agree PCC agenda. The PCC met in person in church albeit distanced until Covid restrictions were relaxed. The priority of the PCC, Rector and Churchwardens was to develop services to a pre pandemic level and look at ways of developing the worshipping community through the 'Living Christ's Story' initiative, maintain fiscal stability whilst contributing in full to our free will offer, and maintain the church building.

The PCC decided to set up a fabric sub-committee and agreed its terms of reference in January. The first annual report of the group is included in the appendix. The major fabric issues that exercised the PCC were dealing with the woodworm in the church, tower, and ceiling void. The other major piece of work was fundraising for the organ and by the end of the year sufficient funds had been raised to obtain a faculty and engage Peter Woods and Son to start refurbishment in 2023. More details of this will be given in events group and churchwardens reports.

The congregation were surveyed during the year regarding their aspirations for the future. As a result, Café church was abandoned in favour of Church Café, ie; opening the building to those who do not attend worship to allow a better use of the space. A working group was assembled to meet in 2023.

Worship and Prayer

Church Attendance

During 2022, St Mary Magdalene Yarm as the Parish Church has continued to be the focal point for Anglican worship in the Parish. A regular pattern of services was established to co-ordinate with the other churches in the benefice.

A total of 297 services were held in church during 2022, including 52 Holy Communions, 54 sung eucharists, 67 eucharists and 6 morning prayer services. 35 children were baptised, an increase of 10 over the previous year, which reflected the general opening of the building following Covid restrictions. There were 2 weddings and 10 funerals in the Parish Church and 6 interments of ashes. 7,385 attendances were recorded in the register of which 2,535 were at occasional offices. Communion was taken 4,012 times. 61 instances were recorded of people receiving communion at home.

Worship

We started a regular pattern of worship with the 8.00am Sunday Holy Communion from BCP (Book of Common Prayer) and a 10.30am Sung Eucharist using Common Worship. On Wednesday there is a Holy Eucharist using Common Worship at 9.30am. Booklets were produced to reflect the different times and seasons of the year. Easter contained a full programme with daily services from Palm Sunday through to Easter day. There were 7:00pm Stations of the Cross services on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The liturgy of the Lord's supper was on Thursday at 7.30pm which included the stripping of the altar and a watch until midnight. There was the liturgy of the passion on Good Friday at 3pm, an Easter Vigil on Saturday at 8:00pm followed by the normal Sunday worship for Easter. Due to the Rector's sick leave following Easter, worship and occasional offices were led by visiting clergy, including Bishop Paul, Area Dean Tessa Stephens, David Local (Reader), other clergy and occasionally by a churchwarden.

We held an ordination service in June when Bishop Paul ordained Kate Brown and Lisa Opala and a confirmation service where the Bishop confirmed Gracie Rhodes-Hesketh in May. Later in the year it became possible to offer wine at Communion with the choice left to individuals regarding whether they received in both kinds. It was decided to continue the practice, as used in cathedrals, to offer both elements standing. Christmas gave us an opportunity to revive the festival of nine lessons and carols, Christingle, crib service and midnight mass on Christmas Eve. Christingle and crib services boosted the attendance of under 16s to 734 for the year.

Our trainee organist, Joshua Greenwell played on several occasions under the supervision of Dr Robin Harrison (Organist and Director of Music) until he moved on. The Rector and churchwardens were very pleased to be able to offer the position of Organist/music director to Janine Busbridge.

Our fresh expressions of worship were revived in 2022. The Pram Service, which attracts pre-school children and mainly mothers, and Pram Service+ held in school holidays was started following the relaxation of Covid restrictions. Attendance at the services totalled 283. It was renamed Little Sparks in July. 'Sunday Sparkle' was restarted in September, taking place on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month (excluding some school holidays).

Stokesley Deanery Synod

Four members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod, David Yates being a member of York Diocesan Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. More information is included in the Appendix.

The Church building and churchyard

Our architect, John Barnes, in his report on the Quinquennial made some further observations including noting the presence of woodworm in the roof void and tower. He was not able to safely observe the extent of the problem because we did not have a walkway for the roof void. The work to create the walkway was carried out by Dan Cox under the direction of John Barnes, allowing woodworm treatment to be carried out in August by Peter Cox. Following the woodworm treatment, loft insulation was laid in the roof void by Dan Cox, which enabled us to reduce the pre-heating period before the church is used by one hour. Timing of all work was arranged to minimise disruption to services and access to the church. A 20-year guarantee relating to the woodworm was issued following the work.

The Quinquennial work for the 5-year period was carried out by David France and has been signed off by John Barnes.

The responsibility of the maintenance of the churchyard rests with the Town Council. They continue to maintain the grass cutting to a high standard. The gravestones and trees have been surveyed. A box tomb was found to be unsafe due to tree root damage and measures were taken by the Town Council to prevent the structure collapsing.

Pastoral Care

Home communion continued in 2022 with the team of Eucharistic ministers visiting those who have requested it. It was not possible to visit care homes as this was initially prohibited under Covid 19 regulations, although some visiting was possible on an individual basis. Local care homes appeared to be taking a cautious approach which is understandable as Covid was still causing problems with the elderly and immunocompromised.

The wellbeing of the congregation remained a priority for the PCC and the care for the congregation network has continued to be very active, through the co-ordination of Jean Hodgkinson.

Mission and Evangelism

Our benefice magazine, Trident, continued to be published, keeping parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus.

The harvest and weekly food contributions go to Sprouts in Thornaby and 'Love in a Box' gifts for Romania were collected. The Christian aid collection was largely achieved by delivery only envelope and therefore the sum that could be attributed to St Mary Magdalene was an underestimate of our overall contribution – see annual accounts.

Financial Review

This year has ended well with a slight reduction in unrestricted income and a large increase in restricted income due to the initiative to refurbish the organ. Through careful expenditure by the churchwardens and PCC we have honoured our free will offer to the Diocese to allow it to pay clergy and staff. More details of the financial position are given in the Appendix.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. Details of our actual reserves for the year are given in the Annual Accounts.

Structure, Management and Governance

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

St Mary Magdalene Yarm PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Electoral Roll

On 31 December 2022 there were 123 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 52 of whom were not resident within the parish. Jay Yates is the electoral roll officer for the parish. Many thanks to Jay for maintaining the role.

Safeguarding

The Diocese provided three online courses (basic awareness, foundation, and domestic abuse) which all PCC Trustees are required to complete. This proved quite challenging as several members were unfamiliar with online training, and therefore they were assisted to view the programmes and complete the courses. DBS checks are being carried out on all Trustees and those in positions of responsibility. There were no safeguarding notifications at St Mary Magdalene during 2022.

Concluding Remarks

In summary, 2022 was another challenging year, however, we left the year in a much better position than we started. Church attendance was showing an upward trend as new people started attending. Members of the PCC have been very busy building the range of services and developing ideas for the future to support 'Living Christ's Story'.

Beryl Nadin, Churchwarden, John Rhodes, Churchwarden, and Reverend Darren Moore, Rector

ANNEX to the 2022 Annual Report

Administrative Information

St Mary Magdalene's church is part of the Deanery of Stokesley in the Diocese of York within the Church of England and is situated in West Street, Yarm TS15 9BU. The parish is in the Benefice of Yarm with Kirklevington with Picton and Worsall. The PCC of Yarm remains the governing body for the Parish of Yarm.

PCC members who have served as Trustees between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022:

		Dates
Incumbent	Revd Darren Moore (SC – Chair)	
Wardens	Mrs Beryl Nadin (SC)	(2022-2026)
	Dr John Rhodes (SC – Vice chair)	(2015-2023)
Elected Members	Mr David Yates (SC – Secretary)	(2020-2023)
	Mrs Tanya Brackenbury	(2021-2023)
	Mrs Lynn Allison (SC)	(2020-2023)
	Mrs Beryl Nadin	(2020-2023)
	Mr Peter Monck	(2021-2024)
	Mrs Wendy Gaitskell	(2021-2024)
	Mrs Margaret Nicholls	(2021-2024)
	Mrs Pam Parker	(2021-2024)
	Mr Eric Heaviside (until September 2022)	(2022-2025)
	Mrs Elaine Huggins	(2022-2025)
	Mr Martin Huggins (SC - Treasurer)	(2022-2025)
	Mrs Angela Beckwith	(2022-2025)
Co-Opted members	Mrs Ros Carling	(2022–2023)
	Mrs Valerie Meeking	(2022-2023)
	Mrs Marion Johnston	(2022–2023)
Representatives on	Mr David Local (SC)	(2020-2023)
Deanery Synod	Mrs Avril Rhodes	(2020-2023)
	Dr John Rhodes	(2020-2023)

SC – Member of the Standing Committee

Events Group:

Mrs Beryl Nadin (chair), Mrs Angela Beckwith, Mrs Jean Finlay, Mrs Elaine Huggins, Mr Martin Huggins, Mrs Marion Johnston, Mrs Avril Monck, Mr Peter Monck, Revd Darren Moore, Mrs Margaret Nicholls, Dr John Rhodes, Mrs Carole Wilson and Mrs Jay Yates

Fabric subgroup:

Dr John Rhodes (chair), Mr Eric Heaviside, Mr Martin Huggins, Revd Darren Moore, Mrs Beryl Nadin and Mr Peter Monck

Generosity of Loving Discipleship (GOLD) committee:

Mr David Local (chair), Mrs Lynn Allison, Mrs Elaine Huggins, Mr Martin Huggins, Mrs Marion Johnston, Revd Darren Moore, Mrs Beryl Nadin, Mrs Margaret Nicholls and Dr John Rhodes

Health and Safety Subcommittee:

Dr John Rhodes (chair) Mr John Bancroft, Mr David Beeton, and Mrs Avril Monck

Reports

Rector's Report

Benefice Magazine

Bible Reading Fellowship

Choir

Churchwardens and Fabric

Craft Guild

Deanery Synod

Events

Fabric

Finance

GOLD

Little Sparks and Little Sparks extra

Mothers' Union

Safeguarding

Sunday Sparkle

Wild Care

REPORTS TO THE APCM 2023

RECTOR'S REPORT

I would like to begin my expressing my thanks to all of you who have welcomed me as your parish priest since September 2021. The last twenty months seem to have gone very quickly and have certainly not been uneventful for a whole host of reasons!

Any new incumbent will have their own particular point of view and own way of doing things and certainly 2022 was a year that saw some change and some consolidation in about equal measure. It was of course a year which saw us emerge more fully from the effects of Covid, so it was also a year that saw us, as a church, engage and re-engage with those members of our community who had absented themselves for entirely understandable reasons.

Pandemic gloom and just general January doldrums always benefit I feel from some beautiful and well-ordered liturgy and so it was that our Candlemas celebrations took place on a Sunday evening rather than during the morning. Certainly, it was lovely to see our church looking so beautiful with candles in just about every available nook and cranny and it was also very lovely to see so many from across the benefice join us for our Feast of the Presentation.

Our Lenten journey together was spent looking at the 'Women from Holy Week' and certainly the feedback would suggest that those who took part in the Lent Course found it a beneficial and reflective experience. Since joining you as your parish priest I have been extremely impressed with the enthusiasm for the Bible Reading Fellowship group (BRF) and so it made perfect sense to incorporate that group into our Lenten discussion. Those BRF sessions have proved most diverting and thought provoking throughout the year, I just wish I could have made more sessions, but I can definitely recommend them to those who have yet to experience them – it is a good deal more fun than it might sound! My thanks to David Yates and to all the regular BRF crew for setting it up and keeping it going.

Given the fact that I trained at Mirfield and am clearly coming at things from a certain point 'up the candle' I was quite determined to curate a Holy Week that focused on the celebration of Palm Sunday and the joys of the Resurrection but that also included the pain and the suffering in between! So it was that the parish had a full Holy Week that included some wonderful liturgy (in my humble opinion!) that also encompassed services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Attendances throughout the week were somewhat mixed but again there was some very positive feedback, and I am mindful that Covid still had a significant role to play with regard to church attendance across the board. It was certainly positive joining our Methodist friends and colleagues on Good Friday outside the Town Hall for a much more visible sense of witness.

Clearly none of us could have anticipated the events of Easter Monday. The accident that befell myself and my family was awful but as I keep reminding myself and others, it could have been a good deal worse. Suffice to say that I am extremely grateful to a whole host of people within the parish who stepped up so positively to deal with the aftermath and the inconvenience of my sudden and unexpected absence. Quite simply there was an overt and genuine sense of people pulling together in prayerful and practical ways and I really cannot thank you all enough for the way you responded. The two wardens at the time, Marion and John were just exemplary in the way they held the reins and ensured that a number of key festivals and events went by with as little fuss as possible. This included of course last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, the Confirmation of Gracie Rhodes and the funeral of Father David Smith – and I am sure a whole host of other things besides! My thanks also to Bishop Paul, Archdeacon Amanda and Tessa our Area Dean for their role in keeping the 'show on the road' during my enforced absence.

Following my return to parish work at the end of May we saw some pretty amazing highlights after what had clearly been a very difficult and trying time. It was an entirely joyous event to be able to come together to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee at the end of May and then to have The Revd Kate Brown's priestly ordination the week after was just the icing on the cake. Our church was full of guests and visiting clergy who came to support both Kate and The Revd Lisa Opala and we were once again very glad to welcome our Bishop as he ordained them both. It was also very lovely to welcome The Revd Canon Paul Peverell as the preacher for the occasion. Needless to say, Kate's presence among us as Honorary Assistant Curate has been a blessing to the parish and to the wider benefice and we look forward to a long and happy relationship.

The Summer Fair and the Strawberry Tea were also very lovely summer social events within the life of the parish. Having the Fair in the Church and Churchyard seemed to be met with overwhelming positivity though perhaps the benefits of a beautiful sunny day were something of a double-edged sword when it came to the numbers attending – not that I would wish for one second a wet and rainy fair! The Strawberry Tea was also very popular, but I do hope that 2023 will see this event transferred to the Rectory Garden.

Throughout the year we have tried various approaches to encourage children and more youthful elements into our community. Some of this has built on work by my predecessors and other initiatives have been gently innovative. The Pram Service has been re-branded as 'Little Sparks' and has met on most Monday mornings throughout the year. It would of course be wonderful to see this grow and develop and we shall have to prayerfully consider how we take things forward. The more extended 'Little Sparks Xtra' (formerly known as 'Pram Service Plus') was a definite hit. More extended sessions of informal worship, crafts, games and food were organised for the beginning of Holy Week and then we had our very sunny and summery trip to Seaton Carew at the start of the school summer holidays. Needless to say, a great time was had by all, highlights being the wonderful fish and chips from 'The Mighty Cod' (where else could a church group buy their fish and chips!!) and some French cricket on the beach. Our Sparks work simply would not happen without the support and preparation of Beryl Nadin, Angela Beckwith, John Bancroft and Debbie Gravestock and I really do want to say a huge thank you to all of them for their time and effort.

Engaging youth with our liturgy and worship has not been entirely straightforward. It has however been lovely to see Jane Brackenbury join the serving team on occasions. Her confidence in dealing with the thurible goes from strength to strength and I trust we can all look forward to encouraging her as part of a team that is of course entirely held together by her mother, Tanya!

As the year soldiered on, we sadly lost our organist and Director of Music, Robin Harrison. Robin was appointed as Director of Music at St Barnabas, Middlesbrough. Clearly, we were saddened to see him, and his lovely family leave us, but we were all thankful for his incredible sterling service to St Mary Magdalene over the years. Robin's final service at St Mary Magdalene's was an emotional experience but he certainly left us in the full knowledge of our prayers, good wishes and blessings for the future.

Whilst Robin's new appointment left a considerable gap in our worship plans it was fantastic to see out two young organists, Harry Brown and Joshua Greenwell, step up so professionally in order to keep the musical life of our church at the forefront of things. Not only were they there to play the organ on Sundays and for Occasional Offices but equally their support for the choir members was also wonderful to see and was, I know, very much appreciated. Very well-done gentlemen!

They do say that as one door closes another one opens! Robin's departure saw us advertise as locally and as inexpensively as possible for a successor. There were a number of applicants but eventually we decided to interview Janine Busbridge for the role of Director of Music & Organist. Janine was duly appointed, and I think we can say that in a remarkably short time she has worked tirelessly with both our choir and the music that we engage with in church Sunday by Sunday. She has proved to be a most approachable, flexible and

innovative colleague and we look forward to continuing to progress with our music as the months and years move on.

As part of the interview process with Janine I did of course have to admit that whilst we were hoping to appoint an organist, the truth was that any new organist might not have an organ to actually play! 2022 really did see some consolidation on our organ project thanks to some incredibly generous and substantial donations. In some sense I do feel a little bit of a charlatan when it comes to describing our organ work. In all fairness those of you reading this report have put in far more time, work and effort over the years than I ever could, and I really do salute your combined resolve and effort in bringing the project almost to fruition. Certainly, the various fundraisers over the years have meant that we were able to end 2022 in the safe and sure knowledge that 2023 would be the year when our organ would finally be renovated and restored. It certainly gave your incumbent, the wardens and our new director of music something to think about and to look forward to!

Having celebrated Her Majesty's 70th Jubilee it clearly came as a shock to come to terms with her death in September. We were all very aware of her frailty and age and yet her rock-like presence had been with us all for so long that it still rather caught us unawares. We responded to events as quickly as we could and my thanks to the various volunteers who manned the church and rang the bells at appropriate times. Certainly, St Mary Magdalene became a bit of a focal point when it came to the Book of Remembrance and it was also the focus for the Proclamation of our new King, Charles III which was also a moving and reflective experience.

September also saw me hi-jack a sermon slot to present a bit of a vision plan for the future. It was a fairly ordinary Sunday in Ordinary Time, but also happened to be a Sunday that Bishop Paul chose to join us. In all honesty if I had known he was going to be there I probably would have prepared a more traditional sermon! In any event I spoke about all the many good things our community does to bring something of the love of God through his son Jesus to our town and our parish. I also suggested a handful of ways we might look radically and positively to the future. The two key elements of my talk involved people and buildings. To that end I suggested the PCC might like to take a look at our parish becoming a formal member of 'Inclusive Church'. I also suggested that we needed to think about ways and means of keeping the church building open more often and of increasing our publicity in order to make folk more aware of our presence. My vision statement (for want of a better word) was met with plenty of feedback. Those present were given postcards to write down their ideas and comments and these were then collated and presented in their entirety for all the parish to read. Everything was kept anonymous (aside from Bishop Paul's comments!) and nothing was edited – so what was read was absolutely the feeling of those who heard me speak. 2023 will perhaps be the year when we take some of those ideas and plans to the next level.

The autumn sees us all move to a different phase of our church calendar. We look forward to joining our brethren at All Saints as we come together as a Benefice for their Patronal Festival, and this has now become something of a fixture. Our church and town also have a clear commitment to remembering the fallen as we gather as a church and as a civic community to commemorate Remembrance Sunday. Our church was full on Remembrance Sunday itself and it was perhaps added an extra poignancy this year with events taking place in Ukraine. We then gathered as a wider community at the war memorial town where we were joined by The Revd Martin Ramsden and other civic dignitaries to mark the two-minute silence. As ever it was an awe-inspiring and sombre occasion and in this post-Covid world it really was very lovely to see so many in attendance.

Our Advent and Christmas plans were augmented with something of an innovation. Our Crib Service was pre-cursored with carol singing around the Christmas tree on the green (with the obligatory mulled wine also being served!). This was a remarkably successful venture and my thanks to Councillor Ian Carter and those within our own church community for making it such a success. Certainly, our Crib Service benefitted

and was supremely well supported. Other Christmas worship, not least the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and Midnight Mass were less well supported, and I look forward to liaising with Janine and others to see how we might better timetable some of what we offer. Our Christmas Fair took place in the Fellowship Hall and whilst it was lovely to be able to offer hot turkey rolls from the extremely well- resourced kitchen, I suspect there is also a feeling that our church building offers somewhat less tangible qualities which may well see a return to using it rather than the Fellowship Hall in the future. Our Christmas schedule was also amended with the Nativity Festival. It was really very lovely to see so many crib sets and nativity scenes donated for the occasion. The success of the event was probably a little under-stated and we look forward to seeing how it might be developed in 2023 and beyond.

Aside from our work with Little Sparks it has been a most encouraging year when it has come to building relationships with the young people in our schools. There has been a palpable sense in 2022 of relationships deepening and expanding especially with Yarm Primary School. It was also wonderful to have Egglescliffe School come into church over Christmas to deliver a stunning Christmas concert. Equally, our relationship with Yarm School, Yarm Prep School and Layfield Primary School remains extremely positive and I thoroughly enjoyed my stint as Santa at Yarm School's Christmas Fair (but don't tell anyone it was me!).

Finally, my thanks again to all of you who have assisted me thus far in my ministry here as your parish priest. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time amongst you since September 2021 and am looking forward very much to our future together. My work here has been made so much easier through the hard work and tireless efforts of others. My thanks to our wardens Beryl Nadin and John Rhodes whose diligence and attention to detail have helped cover my woeful inadequacies! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Marion Johnston and for the work she and John carried out in organizing so much throughout the vacancy and before my arrival. John is of course stepping down as a warden in 2023 and I can categorically state that he is probably the most diligent and well-organised Churchwarden I have ever encountered who is only ever entirely on top of his brief – thank you Dr Rhodes for all your help and support! My thanks to all the members of the outgoing PCC and to the various officers who have also helped keep me on the straight and narrow, not least of course David Yates our Secretary and Martin Huggins our Treasurer, it is of course very much appreciated. To those who Chair and serve on our various Committees: Events, Fabric, Environmental & GOLD. To Janine, our Director of Music, to David Beeton for maintaining our Facebook Page and prodding me ever so occasionally regarding our online presence! Thank you! To those who encourage our young people, to those who assist with worship, who welcome people at the door, who sing in the choir, who lead intercessions, who read lessons, who serve tea and coffee, to those who arrange flowers at the key festivals and keep the place clean and tidy, I really cannot thank you enough; your efforts really are very much appreciated. A huge thank you to Jean Hodgkinson for all her wonderful work in helping us all maintain pastoral connections with one another and with those who might need our prayers and support – it is an extremely vital and valuable part of our mission, and I really am grateful to Jean and all her team who carry out this wonderful part of our ministry. To Avril Rhodes for her work, so often behind the scenes, with reader rotas and admin and Christian Aid and Baptismal support and sermon critiques and ecumenical relations and church path sweeping and so very much more besides! To those involved in making our churchyard even greener and more environmentally friendly than it already is and a special mention to Victor Wood for his work with maintaining the memorials and in detailing the wonders of our ancient building. To Avril Monck for her verging skills and to Tanya Brackenbury for being our Swiss army knife of servers, many thanks indeed for putting up with my little ways and for being so accommodating. Finally, to my wonderful colleagues Kate Brown and David Local – I really would be lost without their support, their energy, and their commitment – I really am extremely fortunate and truly blessed to have you both at my side!

I look forward very much to the future. I look forward to us all building up the body of Christ in this place. I look forward to continuing to develop our work within the Benefice and to working closely with our brothers

and sisters in Christ. I look forward to us working together to improve the fabric of our resources and to making those resources accessible for all so that we can in some way let people know the love God has for them in the small acts of love we are able to carry out as the parish of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm.

The Revd Darren Moore

BENEFICE MAGAZINE: Trident

The editorial team comprises Revd Kate Brown, Ros Carling, Debbie Gravestock, John Rhodes and Jay Yates and 10 editions of Trident were published. During the year the editorial team met to finalise the layout and content and we are grateful to Avril Rhodes for her proof reading. We decided to continue to hand deliver most copies of the magazine to ensure they were received just before the start of the month. Many thanks to Beryl and her dog for a proportion of deliveries. Some copies are posted or sent as an E-mail.

Thank you to all who have continued to provide contributions. The editors have never had a month without a varied and full copy. We ask that all source material is referenced in any article submitted, before it is published. We tried to prevent infringement of any copyright by following the UK Copyright Service advice for news reporting.

The editors are aware of safeguarding and do not publish unnecessary names and contact details. We also endeavour to ensure permission is granted for photographs to be included, especially of children. We continue to be delighted to receive contributions from young budding journalists.

We are indebted to our advertisers who allowed us to keep the cost at £6.00 per annum. Gill Waller who collected the advertising renewals and the printers TopPrint have continued to provide an excellent service. Ros Carling received the magazine and undertook distribution. It is important that our advertisers know that you support Trident by thanking them for advertising in our magazine when you see them. We must remember that they do not do it solely to support the church, but to attract customers like us.

Trident is your magazine and an important tool in our outreach. Please share your copy with your friends and encourage them to purchase a copy for themselves. We try to provide news and articles about events and activities taking place within the parishes in the benefice, and also to include articles about aspects of faith. We have many regular contributors and without you the magazine would not be enriched by such diversity.

We thank all of you who subscribed for the year as it does help us to minimise waste at the end of the month. Please do ask a friend to consider taking out a subscription so more people can learn about our church. Thank you one and all for your support.

Report provided by Trident Editorial Team

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Bible Reading using the BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) publications continues to thrive within the congregation at St Mary Magdalene, and numbers have continued to grow. Our short monthly informal 'lay led' reading and discussion group meetings on a Wednesday morning for our BRF users and anyone else interested have continued, with some most interesting discussions on all sorts of topical and biblical subjects ensuing. These have been well supported and generated much enthusiasm, and have proved to be a valuable support and also another welcome chance for informal social contact by those joining in. Our Reader David has also supported and prepared material for these, and many thanks are due to him, and also to our Rector Darren's continuing support and lead whenever his other commitments allow.

There were 23 subscriptions (+ the Rector) to the church order for BRF bible reading notes booklets, and this implies 25-30 members of the congregation using daily readings and prayers, several being couples. This is an increase of 2 in 2022.

- All 23 read 'New Daylight', daily readings.
- None now read 'Guidelines', weekly reading and topic(s) for study.

We have been able to meet monthly around the table in church with cake and coffee and this has been most welcome, permitting increased social involvement.

Our church members who are using these the BRF publications find them valuable, often enjoyable, sometimes challenging, and always useful; and those of us who use the booklets highly recommend them to all.

Report provided by D Yates

CHOIR

Following the House of Bishops advice on opening church buildings in January and in particular the permission for choirs and music groups to perform, the choir started to support the Sunday eucharist with an anthem. In February, Dr Robin Harrison organised an Evensong jointly with St Paul's Stockton and Northallerton choirs which was very uplifting.

The choir has been supported by our trainee organist Joshua Greenwell over the year and especially when Dr Harrison left for St Barnabas, Middlesbrough. Subsequently, Mrs Janine Busbridge was appointed and coordinated with Joshua. The choir started rehearsing on Friday evenings to prepare for the Sunday sung eucharist and the nine lessons and carols Christmas service held at 7pm on Saturday 17th December. Christmas was a busy time for the choir with Midnight Mass and Christmas day being a Sunday. We are gradually increasing our numbers thanks to the work of Janine.

Report provided by J Rhodes

CHURCHWARDENS and FABRIC

The churchwardens for 2022 were Marion Johnston, replaced by Beryl Nadin at the swearing in service, and John Rhodes. Together we endeavoured to support our Rector and Reader in their ministries. Covid 19 still dominated our activities for the first half of the year albeit the use of masks and gel declined, and we did not need to order further supplies. We tried to steer a pragmatic balance to allow the congregation to worship comfortably and safely. The use of the projector and screen was gradually replaced with booklets and notice sheets.

The church has been kept clean by Andrea's Angels who have been very flexible when funerals and other activities impinged on the cleaning times. Marion and then Beryl were the contacts for Andrea and we would like to thank her and her team for their cleaning efforts.

We have been well supported by our welcomers at 10.30am Sunday services and special services at Easter and Christmas. They have had to deal with the transition from covid restrictions through to our normal pattern. Kathy Wilson has been our rock at the 8.00am Sunday service, setting up the back of church and welcoming everyone. We are grateful for all who volunteered to do readings, intercessions, and coffee. Without this quiet army of volunteers our job would be extremely difficult.

This year has been extraordinary for so many different reasons, but we must record our thanks to David Local for stepping in when the Rector and his family were injured after Easter. The churchwardens were grateful for the clergy within the Deanery including our Bishop and Archdeacon who stood in at short notice. Area Dean, Tessa, chaired the APCM after the main service on 15th May, while Bishop Paul took two eucharistic services and officiated at three baptisms on one Sunday. John Rhodes would like to thank Avril (Rhodes) for helping when we could not get cover and the congregation for being so supportive when we offered morning prayer because a sacramental service was not possible.

We started socialising again and had a splendid Platinum celebration for our late Queen Elizabeth II with a large table for a "big tea "outside church. However later in the year the church was used for the book of

condolences after our beloved queen passed away. Many thanks to all who agreed to be present to welcome and direct visitors to sign the book. This allowed the church to be open for the majority of the week of mourning. We were pleased to be able to host the proclamation for Charles III as our new King.

Home communion is available, and many thanks are due to those prepared to visit those who cannot get to church but wish to receive the reserved sacrament. Similar thanks to those who cascade news and support our congregation via care for the congregation and to Jean Hodgkinson for organising the network.

The church equipment has been maintained according to the PCC schedule and there is nothing untoward to report. The Quinquennial work was completed following the appointment last year of our new Architect John Barnes. We feel that he has done a tremendous job picking up the mantle from John Niven. The work included repointing stonework, cleaning out and repointing in the tower, replacing a cracked window in the tower, and adding a safety barrier in front of a window in the tower. The necessary permissions from the Diocese were obtained by John Rhodes before the work commenced. A fabric committee was set up to make recommendations to the PCC and assist the wardens – see report below.

John Barnes noticed there is water collecting on the roof walkway in two positions and recommended that this is investigated and corrected to allow water to run off into the drainpipes. This recommendation has been accepted in November and is being pursued.

The major piece of work was to treat the woodwork in the roof void, tower and church against woodworm, the signs of which were observed by John Barnes in the tower and roof void and by the congregation in church. The woodworm in church was treated by John Rhodes as contractors were unable to treat pews with their spray system as holes had to be filled with treatment fluid using a syringe and needle. The architect directed the construction of a walkway the length of the nave and sanctuary within the roof void to allow the specialists to spray the entire centre roof timbers. The necessary faculty (official Diocesan permission) was obtained for the introduction of the walkway. After treatment it was possible to gain access to lay loft insulation to help keep the church warm and reduce heat loss.

Following the securing of sufficient funds, including pledges from two charities, a faculty was sought for the refurbishment of the organ, and it is hoped to start work in January 2023.

Another major piece of work was to replace the outside lights which had failed due to corrosion of the bulkhead lights. A faculty was obtained to replace these with spotlights as advised by John Barnes. Oliver Monck carried out the work efficiently and the lights automatically go out after midnight to provide a natural dark space for insects and wild animals.

Conyers School again donated a Christmas tree, and this was put up and decorated by a small group. Many thanks to all involved which facilitated our carol services being made festive events. The church was well used by children at Christmas with school concerts, Christingle and a crib service taking place.

The churchyard has been maintained by the Town Council and an unsafe tomb is in the process of being made safe. The growth of vegetation over the boundary walls has been removed and the northern hedge boundary maintained. The churchwardens would like to thank the council for the maintenance work carried out.

Our church building is in good order and the congregation is very supportive of work to ensure maintenance takes place, tolerating any inconvenience. The churchwardens are grateful to all those who give their time for the work of the church on a regular basis, whether by reading a lesson, interceding, cleaning, providing refreshments, acting as welcomers, washing and ironing the linen, arranging social events, setting up for services, working in the churchyard, serving, or by volunteering to do any of the multitude of odd jobs which our parish community needs. The Terrier and Logbooks have been checked and all items accounted for.

Report provided by Marion Johnston, Beryl Nadin and John Rhodes: Churchwardens.

CRAFT GUILD

An active start to 2022. Members made contributions to all church events. A Spring fair made a welcome return. We joined Kirklevington for their September fair where income was shared. And the church Christmas fair returned to the Fellowship Hall venue. We travelled yet again to The Golden Lion at Great Ayton to enjoy a Christmas meal. This was sadly missed by a few COVID victims, so the fight is still on. Income over the year has been in the region of £725.

We continue to cover the full rent of the Fellowship Hall through member payments. Our preferential rate, because of our church commitment, is still in place and we greatly appreciate this.

Some members with health and mobility issues continue to attend for social fellowship and in an advisory capacity, which makes for lively discussion. Not all our crafters attend St Mary Magdalene church but give loyal support nonetheless. So, 2022 saw a healthy Tuesday membership of 16 and a support team of out-workers.

Report provided by Carole Wilson

DEANERY SYNOD

The Parish has four lay representatives on synod. Three are elected from the parish, namely David Local, Avril Rhodes, and John Rhodes, plus David Yates who is an ex-officio member because he is a Diocesan Synod member. Rector Darren is a representative as a Stokesley Deanery Clergy Chapter member.

Deanery Synod met in person in 2022, in February, June, July and October.

Synod meetings were mainly devoted to the development and completion of the Stokesley Deanery Plan in response to the Diocesan vision of renewal known as "Living Christ's Story". The February meeting was addressed by Archdeacon Amanda (Archdeacon of Cleveland) and Bishop Paul (Bishop of Whitby) on this topic, using a standard presentation, including a video introduction from Archbishop Stephen, and took questions. At that stage the Deanery had three months to produce the plan with a ten-year timeframe up to 2031, using a template for consistency. The June meeting discussed the then draft plan and the additional July meeting approved the final plan to "be submitted to the Bishop/Archdeacon for consideration as part of the wider diocesan planning process". Subsequently the overall Diocesan Living Christ's Story Strategic Plan 2021-2031 was endorsed by the Diocesan Synod in November 2022. A copy of the full plan or the summary may be obtained from any of your representatives. As a flavour of the scope of the plan, please see the three themes and working group objectives below:

Leading by prayer and worship: To offer as many different options for prayer, worship and ministry as we can, in order to meet existing and potential needs of our communities – so that we may become more like Christ.

Reaching out, welcoming and nurturing new and existing disciples: To reach out into our communities to tell people about Jesus Christ, our faith and our churches, listening to what they want and welcoming them into our activities – reimagining mission and ministry

Worshipping God by doing everything as well as we can: To provide, as effectively and efficiently as possible, the means and resources, ministry, financial, administrative and technical, to support what we do – transforming our structures and finances.

By the time of the final meeting in October, some feedback on the plan was starting to be received from the diocese, and steps were being taken to establish local implementation working groups. Also, in October a new approach to meetings was taken with "carousel conversations" consisting of four tables led by someone on a specific topic. Synod members could select three topics within the time available for the meeting; each session lasting fifteen minutes. This is an efficient way of covering multiple topics rather

than covering one subject in depth per meeting. Topics in October were café church, a book called "How village churches thrive", "Lego church" and open-air worship.

Deanery Synod is funded by each parish paying a levy per representative. It was agreed that the 2022 levy remain unchanged at £40.00 per representative. Martin Bailey, Deanery Finance Adviser stepped down from this role in February 2022, after fifteen years. His work was of great value to the Deanery over a long period. He was succeeded by Ken Taylor, an appointment confirmed in October. Other Officers remained unchanged and are Revd Tessa Stephens (Area Dean), John Dickinson (Lay Dean), Liz Taylorson (Secretary) and Bob Ardley (Treasurer).

Report provided by David Local, Avril Rhodes, John Rhodes, David Yates.

EVENTS GROUP

The Events Group was set up when the PCC agreed at their meeting on 28th February to amalgamate the Fundraising Committee and the Social Committee. It was felt that the roles of the committees overlapped, and the same people were members of both groups. For the benefit of this report, the name Events Group will be used when referring to activities throughout 2022.

The Events Group met a total of 10 times during 2022. Until July the group was chaired by either Father Darren or John Rhodes; from July it was chaired by Beryl Nadin who was also the note taker.

It was decided at the meeting of 14th January, 2022, that monies from all church fundraising activities until September, with the exception of the Lent Lunch, should go to the Organ Fund at which date Woods of Harrogate were due to begin work on the restoration of the organ.

The Group organised a number of fundraising events for the Organ restoration during 2022:

- Booze & Brains – Saturday 12th February raised £334
- Easter Eggstravaganza – Saturday 2nd April raised £1,286.96
- Race Night – Saturday 30th April raised £1,045
- Apollo Male Voice Choir (with thanks to Eric Heaviside) – Friday 20th May raised £800
- Robin's Gospel Event – Friday 6th May raised £187
- Platinum Jubilee Tea Party – Saturday 4th June. Primarily a celebration event but money was raised from the raffle and punch sales.
- Yarm School Concert – Thursday 16th June raised £800 (approx.)
- Summer Fayre – Saturday 9th July raised £1,200
- Strawberry Tea at St Mary Mags – Saturday 20th August raised £300+
- Christmas Fayre – Saturday 26th November and the Big Raffle drawn on Sunday 11th December together raised just short of £3,000

The 'Cash only Club', set up in September by Jean Finlay, raised £620 towards church funds.

The Lent Lunch was held after the 10.30 am service on 6th March and a donation of £500 was raised for Yarm's new Wellness Centre. A cheque for this amount was presented to Cheryl Scollay following her informative talk to the congregation.

On Sunday 9th October, we held our Harvest Lunch in aid of Water Aid and £300 was raised through donations.

All of these fund-raising activities proved to be wonderful social events for our congregation and most of them gave us the opportunity to open our church and fellowship to the wider community.

The morning of Monday 8th August dawned bright and cheery and a significant number of our church family descended on Seaton Carew for a parish rendezvous. For many years, before lockdown, this event had been organised by John and Doreen Bancroft as the 'Pram Service +' outing to Saltburn which was always a wonderful success, regardless of the weather. In 2022 there were significantly more adults than

children (about 20 adults and 7 children) but enthusiasm was far from lacking as paddling, estuary constructing, castle building, shell/stone collecting and cricketing were all undertaken in the true nature of beach loving Brits. Interesting establishments were discovered during the day where coffee and ice-cream were served, and toilets were made available by a very kind hotel landlord. Lunch was a 'proper' beach 'do' with Fish 'n' Chips from The Mighty Cod take-away.

Events Group Members: Father Darren, Angela Beckwith (from October), Elaine Huggins, Martin Huggins (until October), Marion Johnston, Avril Monck, Peter Monck, Beryl Nadin, Maggie Nicholls, John Rhodes, Carole Wilson and Jay Yates.

The Churchwardens would like to thank the members of the Events Group for their hard work and continued support in making the social life of our church so varied and uplifting.

They would also like to thank everyone from our congregation who contributed so much during 2022, particularly towards our various Fairs, and also members of our congregation and wider friends who came along to support our events. Without the support of so many people, not only would it be impossible to sustain the social life of our church, but our fundraising and charitable giving would also be substantially reduced.

Report provided by Beryl Nadin, chair

FABRIC SUB-COMMITTEE

The fabric sub-committee was set up in May 2022 to assist the churchwardens in their responsibility for ensuring the PCC cares for and maintains the fabric of the building and the Town Council cares for and maintains the churchyard. Terms of Reference were agreed by the PCC.

The first meeting was held on 2nd May and further meetings were held in June, August, September and December. Action points were recorded and presented for each meeting to the following PCC meeting for approval. 22 items of business were discussed in these meetings and 8 were closed by December as follows:

- The sub-committee has overseen the work required by the Architect in the quinquennial report of May 2020 and in particular the work carried out by David France on the outside stonework and tower.
- Dan Cox secured the rear vestry protective grille.
- A list of approved contractors for annual servicing/checks has been agreed by the PCC.
- The installation of Wi-Fi was recommended to the PCC
- A walkway was constructed by Dan Cox to obtain access to the roof void.
- Woodworm has been treated in the tower and nave roof by Peter Cox.
- The damaged perspex in the tower has been repaired by Dan Cox.
- It was recommended to the PCC that three quotes be obtained for all work over £2,000

Report provided by John Rhodes, Martin Huggins, Eric Heaviside, David Yates, Beryl Nadin and Peter Monck

FINANCE

General Unrestricted Funds

At last, 2022 became a more normal year following the disruption from Covid. We have had an active year and have come out of it with a healthy balance of £32,215 (2021 – 33,979), thanks to everyone who has supported us.

The specific detail is as follows.

Total unrestricted income was £86,193 (£97,098 in 2021) and is detailed in the financial statements. Of this, £64,460 (was £68,328) was pledged giving and includes associated tax relief, and represents a significant 74.8% (was 70.3%) of the total income. This is the second full year of the Parish Giving Scheme and this scheme helps to benefit our cash flow. We still have about two thirds of our supporters signed up to the scheme, with a few new users signing up during the year. It would be good if other contributors were able to join them.

Other parts of the accounts are continuing to recover. The Christmas Fayre, again held in Church, raised a very welcome £2,381(£2,106) and the Christmas Raffle yielded a further £784 (£1,007). Total net fundraising (including the above) was £4,815 (£2,515)

The remaining income came largely from collections, donations and fees, and is now at £14,068 (£22,088). Collections have increased significantly to £5,183 (£2,644) in 2022 and yellow envelope Gift Aided donations have held up well. However, fee earnings have decreased to £3,359 (£5,982), which is of surprise and not obviously explainable. The Diocese has given us a grant of £1,250 to help with the increased costs of energy.

Also, we have received £1,392 (£524) from the rest of the Benefice as their contribution to the expenses of the Rector, the Curate and the Rectory. There have been no legacies this year. (£0 in 2021).

Total unrestricted expenditure was £85,956 (was £83,285). We have maintained our contribution to the Freewill Offer to support the Mission in the Diocese at £61,800, the same as last year. This Freewill Offer was paid in full, and is a very significant 71.7% (63.6% last year) of our total income from all sources. In addition, Diocesan fees for weddings and funerals in our Church have added £4,460 (£2,546) to our total giving from the Parish to the Mission in the Diocese, which now totals £66,260 (£64,346).

The cost of running the Church building was £9,950 (£9,819). The upkeep of services cost a further £7,701 (£5,389), and continues to support the training of an organ scholar. It is higher this year due to more services needing supplies and also due to the printing of new service books.

Expenses for clergy amount to £3,153 (£1,831) – an increase resulting from a whole year of the new Rector and the Curate. This is offset by the sharing of these expenses with Kirklevington and Worsall who paid £1,392 of this amount.

Other expenditure was £2,142 (£2,088),

Net result for the year was an excess of expenditure over income of £1,764 compared to an excess income over expenditure of £13,812 in 2021, which is a reasonable reflection of a return to normality.

The total balance of unrestricted funds at 31st December 2022 was £32,215 (£33,979).

Restricted Funds

Organ Fund

We have concentrated most of our fundraising activities this year towards the major repair work to be done to our pipe organ. Various activities and grant applications have yielded £62,454 (£11,365) during the year, in addition to which we have grant awards which will be paid on start of the work. Thanks to all the hard work and generosity of the congregation, we have managed to raise enough funds to cover the costs and allow the work to start in 2023.

Restoration Fund

There has been much more activity here than last year. The Quinquennial Report had shown up various significant repairs required that have been completed at a total cost of £20,042. Activities covered were Woodworm Treatment, Stone wall repairs, Roof Insulation, together with Architects fees and access improvements required. This has been partially funded by a Listed Places of Worship Grant of £2,427, together with a Fund Raising "Cash Only Club" which made £600.

The balance of the Restoration Fund at 31st December 2022 was a much reduced £10,184 (£28,444 in 2021), which will need to be increased by fundraising in order to be available for future work and for keeping the Church in good order.

Charities

Restricted funds were again collected and paid out to individual charities, coming from collections at funerals as specified by families concerned, and from special events arranged by the Church for nominated charities. The total amount was £5,426 (£1,279)

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to three months' unrestricted income, to cover emergency situations which may arise from time to time. The balance of £32,215 in unrestricted funds at the year-end exceeds this target (currently £21,875).

Additionally, we recognise that the maintenance of a historic building requires periodically significant sums of money to carry out important restoration and maintenance work. Although we had a significant legacy in 2011, we have spent considerable sums on successful restoration and renovation projects, leaving our reserves for this aspect of our work at just over £10,184. The use of this money needs to be carefully regulated and monitored, and it would be good if it could be augmented by individual efforts and some new legacies in due course.

Report provided by M J Huggins, Hon Treasurer

GENEROSITY OF LOVING DISCIPLES (GOLD) REPORT

The Generosity of Loving Discipleship Team has the following members: David Local (Chair), Maggie Nicholls, Beryl Nadin, Martin Huggins, John Rhodes, Revd Darren Moore, Lynn Allison, Marion Johnston and Elaine Huggins.

During 2022 we met on 3 occasions. Following the 2022 APCM, Beryl as a newly appointed Church Warden joined the team and Marion decided to continue to be a voluntary member. Also Martin Bailey, Deanery Financial Adviser (DFA) who had acted as an Adviser for the team since its inception ceased to attend, as he had resigned his position as DFA for Stokesley Deanery Synod.

The Payaz contactless giving machine, installed in October 2021 continued working smoothly with satisfactory results. As a result, it was agreed to recommend the PCC examine the possibility of QR code giving being commenced. This was subsequently agreed by the PCC, introduced and is now a regular tool used. The PCC Treasurer at his end of 2022 review of finances reported that contactless giving had raised £1,500 for Church funds.

It was also agreed to recommend the PCC to adopt of a Legacy Policy. This was agreed by the PCC, and the Generous Giving team examined appropriate mechanisms for promoting Legacies. However, in view of the activities planned up to summer 2022 to raise urgent funds for the repair of the Organ it was agreed that consideration of the formal launch of the Policy should not take place until these activities have been completed.

It was agreed to hold a Gift Day in 2023 during the weekend 25/26 March 2023 to enhance existing church funds in 2023.

The Generosity of Loving Discipleship Team will continue to explore ways of positively developing generous loving disciples from our existing church membership and particularly new members joining us in the future.

Report provided by David Local, Chair

LITTLE SPARKS and LITTLE SPARKS EXTRA

Little Sparks, previously known as **Pram Service,** is a group for pre-school children and their parents/carers. The group meets in church at 10.00am on a Monday morning (excluding Bank Holidays) for about an hour and a half. Activities begin in the Lady Chapel with prayer in the form of lighting candles. We then have an age-appropriate Bible story before moving to the chancel for a rousing sing, always ending with 'The Wise Man'.

Refreshments are then served giving the adults time for an informal chat while the children play with the toys in the children's area, suitably supervised.

During 2022 numbers attending Little Sparks sadly dwindled. Three children attended on a regular basis at the beginning of the year with the occasional addition of older children who were not at school that day. Unfortunately, only one child and his grandma attended regularly by the end of the year. It was felt, however, that along with the church members who helped with Little Sparks there was sufficient involvement and enjoyment to keep the group going.

Particular thanks go to John Bancroft and Debbie Gravestock who provided the music, and to members of the Mothers Union who kindly provided refreshments.

Father Darren led Little Sparks with much enthusiasm during 2022, assisted by Angela Beckwith and Beryl Nadin.

Little Sparks Extra, previously known as **Pram Service +**, is a group for pre-school children and primary school age children which takes place in church on chosen Monday mornings during the school holidays.

During 2022 these sessions took place on the Mondays of two of the Half Terms, the first Monday of the Easter Holiday and on three Mondays during the Summer break, one of them being the trip to Seaton Carew (see Events Report).

The format of **Little Sparks Xtra** mainly follows that of **Little Sparks** with the addition of craft activities relating to the relevant Christian Festival. Families are asked to bring a packed lunch if they wish to stay until 1.30pm. The Little Sparks Xtra sessions were much enjoyed in 2022 by many children who, when younger, had attended Pram Service, as well as by children attending for the first time.

John Bancroft and Debbie Gravestock provided the music for Little Sparks Xtra and the Mothers Union, once again, made refreshments. We are very grateful to them all, for their hard work, their commitment and their enthusiasm.

Father Darren led the sessions with support from Angela Beckwith, Anne Stainer, Avril and Peter Monck and Beryl Nadin.

Report provided by B Nadin

MOTHERS' UNION

Yarm branch of the Mothers' Union began 2022 with 22 members on roll. During the year one member resigned because of ill health but one member transferred from another branch and three new members from our congregation were enrolled so we ended 2022 with 25 members on roll.

Over 2022 there were ten meetings and events on Monday afternoons. These included outings to Leake Church and Kirkleatham Walled Gardens and Café. Due to the cost of hiring a coach we used car sharing, which worked well. The evening discussion group has not yet settled back into a pattern but hopes to restart in April 2023.

In Holy Week we were fortunate to be permitted to lead reflections on the Stations of the Cross and were joined by several members of the congregation. The Advent Service held in November was attended by members from nearby St John's Egglescliffe, and ladies from Yarm Methodist Church. As always, the faith tea was a credit to our members.

Our short Prayer Service on the second Wednesday of each month continues to do well and attracts members of the congregation as well as members of the Mothers' Union. We welcomed visitors for various events and continued to serve on many of the rotas in church. Many of our members supported Deanery events and visited St Francis' Church in Ingleby Barwick and St Mary's Church in Nunthorpe to support their outreach. Several members attended the Spring and Autumn Retreats at Wydale – each one an excellent experience whether joining in with the whole group for the sessions and discussions or choosing to spend the time relaxing and enjoying the calm of the buildings and grounds.

Report provided by Marion Johnston

SAFEGUARDING

The Diocese of York safeguarding statement

> "It is important to recognise that safeguarding is important for the needs of any age be it children, young people, vulnerable adults including the elderly and a commitment to equal worth for all."

To this end and following the guidelines stipulated by the Diocese in December 2021, all parish trustees have completed successfully during 2022 at least three online safeguarding courses designated by the Diocese.
These are:

- Basic safeguarding awareness
- Foundation course in safeguarding
- Domestic abuse.

The PSO and two other trustees have completed a course on safer recruitment, "Dashboard" recording and one other on modern slavery.

The Diocesan courses were completed online with interactive examples and situations. Assessment questions followed each particular section. Everyone must be congratulated on their high scoring results and hope that the courses shed a light for them on the issues of safeguarding.

The Diocese holds quarterly discussion forums for safeguarding officers (PSO) and the PSO has taken part in those in 2022.The PSO and churchwardens have participated in online meetings and lectures during Safeguarding weeks held in the Spring and Autumn. These have covered subjects such as online safety for children and young adults and working with children in church settings.

There will be a safeguarding audit by the Diocese in May 2023, the first since 2018. They have stipulated that all DBS certificates issued before 2020 must be renewed. It is a requirement that the DBS certificates

are renewed every three years. All trustees who needed to reapply have now done so with the assistance of John Rhodes. We aim to have a welcoming church and raise any safeguarding issues with respect and sensitivity.

The PSO, churchwardens and Rector will work together if there are any safeguarding issues brought to their attention before reporting to any other agencies, for example the diocesan safeguarding adviser and social services. Any issue is totally confidential and any written information is kept locked in a safe.

The Diocesan policy is on the noticeboard and there are copies of the" Parish Safeguarding" handbook and" a safer church" available.

Report provided by Susan Ellis, Safeguarding Officer

SUNDAY SPARKLE

'Sunday Sparkle' is a group for Primary School age children (4 to 11 year) which takes place during the 10.30am service on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month (excluding school holidays). The group meets in the back vestry of the church at the beginning of the service and re- joins the main congregation for the Eucharist, usually at about 11.20am.

Following the welcome and a short opening prayer the children listen to a story, usually based on the Liturgy for that day (Year C for 2022), take part in a related craft activity or something similar, and end with sharing the Children's Peace and a short prayer.

At the very end of the main service the incumbent shares the children's work/activity with the rest of the congregation, when and if appropriate.

There is a team of adults who prepare and run Sunday Sparkle on a rota system: Angela Beckwith, Anne Stainer, Jayne Gregory and Beryl Nadin.

Two teenage helpers assisted when needed during 2022.

During 2022, a total of sixteen children took part in Sunday Sparkle. With the departure of the Harrison family in September, unfortunately numbers became depleted and fewer children attended towards the end of the year.

Report provided by Beryl Nadin, Leader

WILD CARE

2022 has been a notable year for Yarm and we have formed a Wild Care Group from members of the congregation to look after the ecology, flora and fauna, of our churchyard and to enable the churchyard to become a nature facility for schools, and a haven of peace for Yarm town, as well as a well kept respected resting place for the dead.

During 2022 our Wild Care group has visited other churches in the Stokesley Deanery, and saw their management of 'eco' churchyards and provision for birds, bats, and small animals; and then formulated plans for our churchyard at St Mary Magdalene, Yarm (over quite a few mini meetings with cups of coffee and tea). Also in this period we have liaised with Yarm Town Council to obtain agreement for our intended initiatives, and of course informed all our congregation via the benefice magazine 'Trident' as well as obtaining PCC consent.

So at the end of 2022 we look forward to an interesting year, ready to start activities in the churchyard commencing with installing half a dozen bird boxes on some of our many trees.

Report provided by David Yates

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary Magdalene Church, Yarm, PCC.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 and 2.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
    - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
    - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr Philip Atkinson

30 Nursery Gardens, Yarm

March 2023

Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31 December 2022

	Note	General Fund Unrestricted Funds £	General Fund Restricted Funds £	Restoration Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	73,129.35	68,444.82	2,426.76	144,000.93	97,025.79
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	7,664.54		600.00	8,264.54	6,157.00
Income from Investments	2(c)	227.34		85.60	312.94	36.54
Income from Church activities	2(d)	5,171.34			5,171.34	6,506.21
Other income	2(e)				0.00	500.03
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		86,192.57	68,444.82	3,112.36	157,749.75	110,225.57
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3(a)					
Ministry		64,953.53			64,953.53	64,067.87
Church		9,950.50			9,950.50	10,224.35
Upkeep of services		7,701.48			7,701.48	5,388.59
Other ordinary expenditure		1,446.80	5,296.02		6,742.82	2,592.66
Extraordinary expenditure		825.54			825.54	774.29
Restoration				21,371.76	21,371.76	1,208.70
Fund Raising Costs	3(b)	3,078.44	694.69		3,773.13	1,871.89
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		87,956.29	5,990.71	21,371.76	115,318.76	86,128.35
NET INCOMING RESOURCES & MOVEMENT OF FUNDS		-1,763.72	62,454.11	-18,259.40	42,430.99	24,097.22
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY		33,978.51	11,365.45	28,443.88	73,787.84	49,690.62
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER		32,214.79	73,819.56	10,184.48	116,218.83	73,787.84

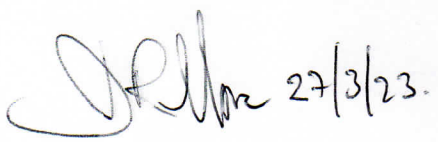
The Notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of this account

Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022

	Notes	General Fund Unrestricted Funds	General Fund Restricted Funds	Restoration Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
FIXED ASSETS		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	£536.33			£536.33	£346.38
Short term deposits			£45,699.94	£6,116.20	£51,816.14	£32,534.28
Fixed term deposits					£0.00	£0.00
Cash at Bank		£34,257.96	£28,119.62	£4,068.28	£66,445.86	£43,462.84
		£34,794.29	£73,819.56	£10,184.48	£118,798.33	£76,343.50
LIABILITIES						
Creditors - amounts falling due in one year	7	£2,579.50			£2,579.50	£2,555.66
NET CURRENT ASSETS less LIABILITIES		£32,214.79	£73,819.56	£10,184.48	£116,218.83	£73,787.84
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted		£32,214.79			£32,214.79	£33,978.51
Restricted			£73,819.56	£10,184.48	£84,004.04	£39,809.33
Totals		£106,034.35		£10,184.48	£116,218.83	£73,787.84

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by



D R Moore (PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these accounts

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year ended 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place. There are currently no such funds under the control of the PCC.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis. The Restoration Fund and the Organ Fund are restricted funds, and donations to Mission or other Charity are also treated as restricted, when they result from a specific donation or collection.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when received and are reclaimed for the accounting year and not the tax year. Tax refunds, other than those from the Parish Giving Scheme, due for the period January to December 2022 are identified in the notes to the accounts, but are not included in the figures. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan freewill offer is accounted for in monthly instalments. Amounts received specifically for mission or charity are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £2,000 and all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Individual items of equipment are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

2022 GENERAL FUND

2. **INCOMING RESOURCES**	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2022	TOTAL FUNDS 2021
2(a) **Voluntary Income**					
Planned Giving					
Gift Aided - Direct Payments (inc PGS 32426.87)	41018.16			41018.16	42278.60
- Green Envelopes	3962.00			3962.00	3136.00
Not Gift Aided - Direct Payments	1980.00			1980.00	2030.00
- Green Envelopes	752.05			752.05	1455.20
		47712.21			
Other					
Gift Aided - Yellow Envelopes (one off)	1595.45			1595.45	11175.81
Tax Reclaim on Gift Aid (2021) and PGS (£7,761.61 in 2022)	16747.48			16747.48	19428.42
Tax Reclaim on Organ Donations			10000.00	10000.00	431.09
Organ Donations (including £694.69 expenses at events)			53148.80	53148.80	10934.36
Cash Collections	5182.74			5182.74	2643.72
Special Collections & Donations (2021 inc COVID)	281.47		5296.02	5577.49	2784.59
Donation from fees	360.00			360.00	728.00
Grant from Diocese for Energy Purchases	1250.00			1250.00	
Legacy	0.00			0.00	0.00
		25417.14			
2(b) **Activities for generating funds**					
Coffee Donations	1794.36			1794.36	500.21
Raffle (incl £280 sold at the Festive Fayre)	784.40			784.40	1006.60
Magazine Income	1512.00			1512.00	1485.50
Income from Flowers - weddings and memorium	231.00			231.00	104.00
Votive candles	329.65			329.65	90.85
Miscellaneous Income	154.67			154.67	669.20
Craft Guild - activities	267.26			267.26	151.90
Craft Guild - for Hall Hire	0.00			0.00	0.00
Concert (2021 - Beetle Drive)	190.30			190.30	43.00
Christmas Festive Fayre	2380.90			2380.90	2105.74
100 Club	20.00	7664.54		20.00	
2(c) **Income from Investments**					
Interest on Deposit Account	226.38			226.38	1.66
Interest on Darlington Building Society	0.96			0.96	0.85
Interest on Gift Aid Account	0.00			0.00	0.13
		227.34			
2(d) **Income from Church activities**					
Fees	3359.00			3359.00	5982.00
Kirklevington & Worsall contribution to Rector expenses	705.32			705.32	394.17
- Rectory Water Rate	163.75			163.75	42.76
Kirklevington & Worsall Other Income(2021 Redemptorist)	523.27			523.27	87.28
Ordination expenses from Nunthorpe and Kirklevington	420.00	5171.34		420.00	
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		86192.57	68444.82	154637.39	109691.64

3.	**RESOURCES EXPENDED**	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2022	TOTAL FUNDS 2021
3(a)	**Church Activities**					
	Ministry - Rector					
	Parish Freewill Offer for Diocesan Ministry	61800.00			61800.00	61800.00
	Expenses (2021 - inc vacancy costs 775.62)	2424.10			2424.10	2096.85
	Water Rate	426.00			426.00	171.02
	- **Curate** - Expenses	303.43			303.43	
	-Mission					
	Gold costs	0.00			0.00	0.00
			64953.53			
	Church					
	Gas	2571.80			2571.80	2398.74
	Electricity	1520.21			1520.21	1318.66
	Insurance	3266.31			3266.31	3181.03
	Water Rate	106.54			106.54	97.87
	Cleaning	1388.00			1388.00	967.85
	Organ Tuning & Maintenance	0.00			0.00	222.00
	Boiler Maintenance	165.00			165.00	280.00
	Lightening Protection Testing (2021 incl 5 Year Electrical Test)	138.91			138.91	880.00
	Roof works	140.00			140.00	100.00
	Minor Maintenance	653.73			653.73	372.60
			9950.50			
	Upkeep of Services					
	Candles	679.53			679.53	240.10
	Wine & Bread	140.58			140.58	0.00
	Miscellaneous	1271.12			1271.12	497.43
	Service Books	1105.25			1105.25	461.90
	Pew Sheets (Redemptorist)	0.00			0.00	349.16
	Organist	3495.00			3495.00	3000.00
	Organist Tuition	1010.00			1010.00	840.00
	Churchyard Upkeep	0.00			0.00	0.00
			7701.48			
	Other Expenditure					
	Young people	0.00			0.00	0.00
	Hire of Hall	0.00			0.00	0.00
	Baptism Cards	108.20			108.20	390.57
	Deanery Precept	120.00			120.00	120.00
	RSCM & CCLI membership	262.00			262.00	110.00
	Printing	507.59			507.59	288.00
	Gift Aid Envelopes	86.98			86.98	80.57
	Miscellaneous	232.03			232.03	324.91
	Charities (see Note 9)	130.00		5296.02	5426.02	1278.61
			1446.80			
	Extraordinary Expenditure					
	Lighting Repairs (2021 - Rector Welcome)	613.80			613.80	368.09
	Microphones (2021 - Payaz On Line Reader)	85.74			85.74	358.80
	Replace light in toilet (2021 - Parking Post Spigot)	126.00			126.00	47.40
			825.54			
3(b)	**Fund Raising Costs**					
	Functions (inc Organ events £694.69)	358.90		694.69	1053.59	272.67
	Magazine Printing	1529.98			1529.98	1359.78
	Cost of flowers (incl £300 for artificial flowers)	502.71			502.71	98.20
	Cost of coffee & biscuits	397.85			397.85	141.24
	Christmas Fayre expenses	289.00			289.00	
			3078.44			
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		87956.29	5990.71	93947.00	84514.05

2022 RESTORATION FUND

		Restricted Funds		TOTAL FUNDS 2022	TOTAL FUNDS 2021
2.	**INCOMING RESOURCES**				
2(a)	**Voluntary Income**				
	Donations				
	Grant from Lottery Heritage Fund				
	VAT Refund - LPW Grant Scheme	2426.76			
	Other Grants				
	Tax Rebate				
			2426.76	2426.76	0.00
2(b)	**Activities for generating funds**				
	Cash Only Club (100 Club)	600.00			
	Miscellaneous events				
			600.00	600.00	0
2(c)	**Income from investments**				
	Interest on deposit account - CBF	54.52			
	Interest on Virgin Money account	31.08			
			85.60	85.60	33.90
2(e)	**Other Income**				
	Legacy		0.00	0.00	500.03
	TOTAL		3112.36	3112.36	533.93
3.	**RESOURCES EXPENDED**				
3(a)	**Church Activities**				
	Restoration				
	Fee - Architect	1641.60			
	Roof Walkway	7150.00			
	Roof Insulation	1820.00			
	Woodworm Treatment	3893.11			
	Stone Wall Repairs	5538.00			
			20042.71	20042.71	1614.30
	Other Expenditure				
	Renew Outside lights	1329.05			
			1329.05	1329.05	0.00
3(b)	**Fund Raising Costs**				
			0.00	0.00	0
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		21371.76	21371.76	1614.30

Notes to the Accounts 2022

4. (a) **STAFF COSTS**

	2022	2021
Invoiced payments for Organist for normal services	3,495.00	3,000.00

During the year the PCC contracted in several organists, who are self employed, and as such do not attract social security costs.

(b) **PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS**

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC. No expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

5. **FIXED ASSETS**

The PCC has no assets as defined in the Accounting Policies above (page 3)

6. **DEBTORS**

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
Other Debtors	536.33		536.33	346.38

In addition there is outstanding Tax recoverable, related to the period January to December 2022, which will be recovered during 2023. The estimated amount is £6,223, and will be accounted for in 2023 accounts. This includes reclaim for tax on small donations, which will provide £2,000 of income.

7. **CREDITORS**

Accruals for utility and other costs	2,579.50		2,579.50	2,555.66

8. **GENERAL NOTES**

8.1 Net movement of General funds in the year was

Unrestricted	-£1,764.68
Restricted (organ fund)	£62,454.11
Total (General Funds)	£60,689.43

Net movement of Restricted Restoration funds in the year was -£18,259.40

8.2 Value of Organ Fund at the end of 2022 was £73,819.56

8.3 Balances brought forward include historical legacies as follows:

General Account: legacies from 2009	£18,000.00
legacy in 2012	£5,000.00
legacy in 2013	£500.00
legacies in 2019	£1,500.00
Restoration Account: legacy in 2011	£116,326.33
legacy in 2021	£500.03

8.4 Assigned Fees. A sum of £4,460.00 (£2,546.00 in 2021) has been paid to the Diocese, being the Statutory Fees charged for the services of clergy to officiate at weddings, funerals and the like.

8.5 Purchase of items for sale (eg. Cards, tea towels, pens etc) are written off in the year of payment.

8.6 Value of normal stock is less than £500.00. Stock is not controlled or accounted for.

Notes to the Accounts 2022

9. Charity Donations - 2022

The following donations were made to Charity:

		Overseas Missions & Christian Relief Agencies	Home Missions & Church Societies	Secular Charities	TOTALS
Church Sponsored Activities					
All from Restricted Income except item 9.4 and 9.6.					
9.1.	Yarm Wellness Centre (Lent collection)			514.60	
9.2.	Childrens Society - Christingle service		311.58		
9.3.	Christian Aid	92.99			
9.4.	York Historic Churches		50.00		
9.5.	Woodland Trust for Green Canopy			79.00	
9.6.	Rector donation to deserving purpose			80.00	
9.7.	Diocesan Ordnand Fund		530.95		
9.8.	Water Aid (Harvest)			367.50	
9.9.	Shelter - Christmas cards			129.50	
9.10.	Great North Air Ambulance - Christmas cards			129.50	
	TOTAL	92.99	892.53	1,300.10	2,285.62
Restricted Donations at Funerals					
9.11.	Kidney Research			510.75	
9.12.	RNLI Whitby			510.75	
9.13.	Alice House Hospice, Hartlepool			124.01	
9.14.	Cancer Research			675.21	
9.15.	Alzheimers Research			146.03	
9.16.	Help for Heroes			620.72	
9.17.	British Heart Foundation			147.67	
9.18.	Pulmonary Hypertension Association			405.26	
	TOTAL	0.00	0.00	3,140.40	3,140.40
	TOTALS	**92.99**	**892.53**	**4,440.50**	**5,426.02**
	Additionally the following donations were made outside of the accounts, but resulting from efforts from members of the congregation:				
9.19.	Christian Aid	1,029.70			1,029.70
	GRAND TOTAL				**6,455.72**

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary Magdalene Church, Yarm, PCC.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 and 2.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

    - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or

    - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

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

Mr Philip Atkinson

30 Nursery Gardens, Yarm March 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, Y

England & Wales - Charity number 1130683

Accounts

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Yarm
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Aim and purposes

St. Mary Magdalene Parochial Church Council (PCC) had the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Darren Moore from his induction and collation on 12 September 2021, 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 the Church.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Mary Magdalene. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we gave priority to reopening the church safely within Church of England (CofE) guidelines described fully in the section on Worship and Prayer below. Unfortunately, children's activities could not be resumed and the aim is to restart in 2022 as set out later in this report.

The PCC tasked its GOLD (Generosity of Loving Discipleship) sub committee to look at ways of making the church more robust and less reliant on occasional offices (baptisms, weddings and funerals) and fayres to support the mission of the church and in particular to honour our free will offer to the diocese albeit that we were in vacancy.

Achievements and Performance

Café church remained on hold due to Covid with a desire to start in 2022.

The fundraising for the organ was a little slow due to the inability to hold events, however, at the end of the year 30% of the estimated cost of restoration had been raised. There is an aim to start the remedial work in 2022. A formal agreement as a training parish for new organists was made with Harry Brown and at the end of the year, Joshua Greenwell.

During 2021 the PCC met 10 times; average attendance was 85%. The Standing committee met 10 times during the year. The PCC started the year arranging meetings on line via zoom. CofE guidance was followed regarding restrictions and the APCM and subsequent PCC meetings could be held in church. All decisions requiring a vote were conducted using the M29 church representation rule to include all members when using the on line system. The priority of the PCC and Churchwardens was to maintain services during the vacancy, care for the congregation, appoint a replacement architect, maintain fiscal stability whilst contributing in full to our free will offer, and maintain the church building and rectory garden in good order. The churchwardens also co-operated with the diocese in their programme of works to prepare the rectory and its grounds for the new incumbent.

An initiative to encourage members to change their method of contribution to the Parish Giving Scheme meant that tax relief could be claimed at the same time as the monthly donation was made instead of waiting until the following year for the parish to claim. This

had the advantage of a one off 'wind fall' that we could use to increase income. This plus careful fiscal management has resulted in a very good outcome as you will see in the annual accounts. The PCC agreed to obtain a card reader and on line giving platform via Parish Buying. It arrived at the end of the year.

Lynn Allison was appointed as gift relief officer and green envelope receiver. She replaced John Dent when he and Judy left Yarm and Nancy Ward when she stepped down from recording green envelope giving. The church thanked all formally during Sunday services.

The Parish return to the Diocese for 'Living Christ's Story' was made following extensive discussion in the PCC regarding our priorities for the next 10 years.

Cohens Chemist provided free lateral flow tests for the congregation once they became available. These have helped the congregation to test themselves before a service and prevent possible cross contamination.

The vacancy was advertised in the Diocese and then more widely on line, resulting in an appointment being made. Reverend Darren Moore was inducted and collated on 12th September 2021.

Worship and Prayer

Church Attendance

During 2021, St Mary Magdalene Yarm as the Parish Church has continued to be the focal point for Anglican worship in the Parish, however, the year commenced with lockdown which prevented services in church and David Local (Reader) provided three zoom services per week and the church is most grateful for his commitment and dedication. The on line services were enhanced by music and lyrics provided by Harry Brown which allowed traditional hymns to be sung by the congregations. Congregational participation was also maintained by people agreeing to read and/or lead prayers during the zoom services. The control of the on line service was by John or Avril Rhodes. These services continued until 27th July 2021 with the Sunday service moving to 4pm when the church was open for a 9.30am service from 28th March 2021.

When the church was allowed to open for public worship it was carried out under strict national and government guidance. A big thank you is owed to the Health and Safety subcommittee for their thoughts and consideration in providing risk assessments. The sidespersons were asked to keep a record of attendance in accordance with 'Track and Trace' requirements; thanks must go to all who sat near the door in all weathers taking names and welcoming strangers.

A total of 206 services were held in church 2021, including 42 Holy Eucharists, 14 sung eucharists, 15 ante communion and 8 morning prayers. 25 people were baptised and 1 person confirmed, there were 9 weddings and 9 funerals in the Parish Church and 5 interments of ashes. 4354 attendances were recorded in the register of which 1761 were at occasional offices. Communion was taken 1596 times. 60 received communion at Home and only 10 in the Care Homes due to access restrictions. On line there were 84 zoom services at which 1294 attended.

The number of on line services remained at the same level as 2020, however, the number of services held in church has increased. The number receiving communion in the last 8 weeks of the year was 85% of the pre covid level which is a great improvement over 2020.

The well being of all has been a priority for the PCC and the care for the congregation network has been very active thanks to the co-ordination of Jean Hodgkinson.

Worship

Once regular worship could be safely delivered in church, David Local provided a 9.30am Sunday Ante-Communion Service using Order 1. The Wednesday 9.30am service was restarted in August 2021 using morning prayer. David was thanked by the congregation at a Sunday service just before the end of the Vacancy. Once the Rector was in post, the regular pattern of worship was able to change to a BCP Eucharist at 8.00am on Sundays followed by a 9.30 Common Worship Holy Communion. The Wednesday service became Common Worship Holy Communion.

Our trainee organist, Harry Brown, was awarded a scholarship at Carlisle Cathedral and was replaced by Joshua Greenwell. The congregation thanked Harry during a Sunday service.

Bishop Paul celebrated on 29th August and confirmed Jane Brackenbury.

The Pram Service, which attracts pre-school children and mainly mothers, and Pram Service+ held in school holidays could not be offered due to Covid restrictions. The restrictions for work with young people were based on school advice and conflicted with worship. Similarly, Funday Sunday Sparkle for school aged children could not be offered due largely to the death of our leader, Jo Austin, much loved and missed by all. Further information is available in the Appendix.

Stokesley Deanery Synod

Three members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. The number was added to when David Yates was voted onto York Diocesan Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. More information is included in the Appendix.

The Church building and churchyard

John Barnes was appointed as Architect following the retirement of John Niven. John Barnes provided a report on the work required following John Niven's quinquennial report of December 2020. Maintenance work has started and is ongoing into 2022.

The church building remains in good order, well maintained, lovingly tended and cleaned. We thank all those whose efforts contribute to this.

In the churchyard the Town Council continue to maintain the grass cutting to a high standard. The gravestones and trees have been surveyed. Thanks go to Councillor Monck and the Town Council for expediting the matter.

Pastoral Care

Home communion was started in August 2021 and a team of Eucharistic ministers visited those who have requested it. It was not possible to visit care homes as this was prohibited under Covid 19 regulations although some visiting was possible on an individual basis.

The Care for the Congregation team continued throughout 2021. Their intention was to offer human contact, support and keep members of the congregation informed.

Mission and Evangelism

Our benefice magazine continued to be published. The magazine kept our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus.

We have continued to help charities but the absence of fundraising opportunities has limited our effectiveness. However, we were able to organise a harvest Sunday contribution to the Thornaby Food Bank, 'Love in a Box' gifts for Romania and the congregational Christmas Card board for Shelter Box. The Christian aid collection was largely achieved by delivery only envelope and therefore the sum that could be attributed to St Mary Magdalene was reduced – see annual accounts.

We have received reports about the development of the wellness centre in Yarm to replace the Youth and Community Centre.

Financial Review

This year has ended well with several members of the congregation transferring to the Parish Giving Scheme. This has allowed extra tax relief to be received for the year by claiming tax on a monthly basis to add to the previous year's tax claimed by the church in January. The outcome is a tribute to the value we place on our church and community. Through careful expenditure by the churchwardens and PCC we have honoured our free will offer to the Diocese to allow it to pay clergy and staff. More details of the financial position are given in the Appendix.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. Details of our actual reserves for the year are given in the Annual Accounts.

Structure, Management and Governance

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

St Mary Magdalene Yarm PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Electoral Roll

On 31 December 2021 there were 124 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 53 of whom were not resident within the parish. Jay Yates is the electoral roll officer for the parish. It was noted that the rules have changed so people can be added or removed during the year as appropriate. Many thanks to Jay for the extra work.

Safeguarding

The parish has adopted and implemented the House of Bishops 'Safeguarding Policy Promoting a Safer Church'. Judy Dent was replaced by Sue Ellis during the year as the Parish

Safeguarding Officer and maintains the register of those who are DBS checked and carried out safeguarding training. Training for levels C0 and C1 are available on-line and several members of the congregation and PCC have found it easy to use and complete. DBS checks have been carried out on all Trustees and those in positions of responsibility. There were no safeguarding notifications at St Mary Magdalene during 2021.

Concluding Remarks

In summary, 2021 has been challenging. However, we leave the year in a much better position than we started. The Rector's post is filled, we have a new Architect and are holding regular services in church.

2021 has seen several deaths of members from the regular congregation and they are greatly missed. The average attendance is gradually building up, albeit not at pre pandemic level.

Churchwardens would like to thank all PCC members especially those on the Standing Committee for all their support in 2021 and to the Eucharistic Ministers for their work across the parish.

Marion Johnston, Churchwarden, John Rhodes, Churchwarden and Reverend Darren Moore, Rector

ANNEX to the 2022 Annual Report

Administrative Information

St Mary Magdalene's church is part of the Deanery of Stokesley in the Diocese of York within the Church of England and is situated in West Street, Yarm TS15 9BU. The parish is in the Benefice of Yarm with Kirklevington with Picton and Worsall. The PCC of Yarm remains the governing body for the Parish of Yarm.

PCC members who have served as Trustees between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021:

		Dates
Incumbent	Revd Darren Moore (SC – Chair)	(from Sept 2021)
Wardens	Mrs Marion Johnston (SC)	(2017-2022)
	Mr John Rhodes (SC – Vice chair)	(2015-2022)
Elected Members	Mrs Ros Carling	(2019-2022)
	Mrs Elaine Huggins	(2019-2022)
	Mr Martin Huggins (SC - Treasurer)	(2019-2022)
	Mrs Valerie Meeking	(2019-2022)
	Mr David Yates (SC – Secretary)	(2020-2023)
	Mrs Tanya Brackenbury	(2021-2023)
	Mrs Lynn Allison	(2020-2023)
	Mrs Beryl Nadin	(2020-2023)
	Mr Peter Monck	(2021-2024)
	Mrs Wendy Gaitskell	(2021-2024)
	Mrs Margaret Nicholls	(2021-2024)
	Mrs Pam Parker	(2021-2024)
Co-Opted members	Mr Eric Heaviside	(2021 – 2022)
	Mrs Angela Beckwith	(2021 – 2022)
Representatives on Deanery Synod	Mr David Local (SC)	(2020-2023)
	Mrs Avril Rhodes	(2020-2023)
	Mr John Rhodes	(2020-2023)

SC – Member of the Standing Committee

Health and Safety Sub committee:

Mr David Beeton, Mr John Bancroft, Mr John Rhodes

GOLD committee:

Mr David Local (chair), Revd Darren Moore from Sept, Mrs Elaine Huggins, Mrs Margaret Nicholls, Mrs Marion Johnston, Mr Martin Huggins and Mr John Rhodes

Organ sub group:

Mr Robin Harrison, Mr John Bancroft and Mr John Rhodes

REPORTS TO THE APCM 2022

BENEFICE MAGAZINE: Trident

The editorial team comprises Kate Brown, Ros Carling, Debbie Gravestock, John Rhodes and Jay Yates and since his appointment, Darren Moore. 10 editions of Trident were published. During the year the editorial team was able to meet in person more easily for their deliberations, as restrictions lifted, after a long period of communicating electronically to finalise each edition of the magazine. We hand delivered most copies of the magazine which ensures we can be sure that subscribers have received their copy, whether they've felt able to return to church or not. Some copies were also posted to readers. Getting the magazine to our readers is an important outreach activity, especially during a time when people have felt isolated.

Thank you to all who have continued to provide contributions. The editors have never had a month without a varied and full copy. We ask that all source material is referenced in any article submitted, before it is published. We tried to prevent infringement of any copyright by following the UK Copyright Service advice for news reporting.

The editors are aware of safeguarding and do not publish unnecessary names and contact details. We also endeavour to ensure permission is granted for photographs to be included, especially of children. We continue to be delighted to receive contributions from young budding journalists.

We are indebted to our advertisers who allowed us to keep the cost at £5.00 per annum for 2021. Gill Waller who collected the advertising renewals and the printers TopPrint have continued to provide an excellent service. Ros Carling received the magazine and undertook distribution. It is important that our advertisers know that you support Trident by thanking them for advertising in our magazine when you see them. We must remember that they do not do it solely to support the church, but to attract customers like us.

Trident is your magazine and an important tool in our outreach. Please share your copy with your friends and encourage them to purchase a copy for themselves. We try to provide news and articles about events and activities taking place within the parishes, and also to include articles about aspects of faith. We have many regular contributors and without you the magazine would not be enriched by such diversity.

We thank all of you who subscribed for the year as it does help us to provide the correct number. Please do ask a friend to consider taking out a subscription so more people can benefit from our efforts. Thank you one and all for your support.

Report provided by Trident Editorial Team

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Bible Reading using the BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) publications continues to thrive within the congregation at St Mary Magdalene, and numbers have held up well and grown a little even during these difficult times. Our short monthly informal reading and discussion group for our BRF users and anyone else interested have continued, but initially in virtual form on Zoom, but later face to face. These have been well supported and generated much enthusiasm, and have proved to be a valuable support and also another welcome chance for informal social contact by those joining in. Our Reader David has also supported and prepared material for these, and many thanks are due to him, and also our Rector Darren newly appointed in September has also led whenever his other commitments allow.

There were 20 subscriptions (+ the Rector) to the church order for BRF bible reading notes booklets, and this implies 25-30 members of the congregation using daily readings and prayers, several being couples. An increase of 2 over the previous year.

- None now read 'Guidelines', weekly reading and topic(s)for study.
- All 20 read 'New Daylight', daily readings.

Since the summer of 2021 we have been able to meet monthly around the table once again in church with cake and coffee and this has been most welcome, permitting increased social involvement. But because of general Covid precautions we were still unable to provide the usual sample books laid out in church for the congregation to peruse and consider joining in, nor to discuss joining.

Our church members who are using these the BRF publications find them valuable, often enjoyable, sometimes challenging, and always useful; and those of us who use the booklets highly recommend them to all.

Report provided by David Yates

CHOIR

Music uncertainty did not stop us at St Mary's during the pandemic. We were so fortunate to have online performances from Harry, a few improvisations from myself and then a wonderful carol service fusing live and recorded music with a lovely 'Once in Royal' solo by Gracie. No matter what music lives on at St Mary's.

Report provided by Robin Harrison: Organist and Choir director

CHURCHWARDENS and FABRIC

The churchwardens for 2021 were Marion Johnston and John Rhodes and together we endeavoured to support our Reader, David Local, during our vacancy until the collation and induction of Darren in September. PCC meetings were held virtually until the APCM in May and all voting decisions made by correspondence using regulation M29 to allow all members to participate.

The Redemptorist "Sunday" sheet continued to form the basis for Sunday readings and a big thank you to Avril Rhodes for ensuring readers obtained advance notice of their readings. The reverse of the Redemptorist sheet was used to provide notices when worship was held in church in the later part of the year. Copies were also distributed throughout the Benefice. Later in the year, when the church re-opened after lockdown the reverse of the sheets was used to remind the congregation of Covid 19 requirements. The church was cleaned in line with our risk assessment and PPE stocks maintained.

The church fabric and equipment has been maintained according to the PCC schedule. The Quinquennial work was put on hold whilst a new Architect was appointed, as it was required to allow the completion of faculty applications. The contract was signed with John Barnes in December 2021. An initial survey by John Barnes in September revealed woodworm in the roof void and lack of safe access to the space. A faculty will be required for the introduction of a walkway. Once the walkway is completed it will allow access for the woodworm to be treated and a 20 year guarantee given on the work.

Harrison and Harrison (Durham) were commissioned to provide a second report on the condition of the organ and came to the same conclusion as the Diocesan organ advisor and Peter Woods and son (Harrogate) that major work was required to provide reliable organ

music in church. Harrison and Harrison advised the PCC to look at obtaining a redundant registered organ from a village in Northumberland called Rock. Unfortunately, its shape is long and thin and so would require extensive re-ordering of the church to accommodate it and the pipes were now badly corroded due to bat urine.

Conyers School again donated a Christmas tree and this was put up by a small group in line with Covid guidance. Many thanks for all involved and it brought a welcome normality back to the season.

Churchwardens would like to thank all the sidespersons for the wonderful job they have done recording names at the door and guiding people to seats. The readers and intercessors have similarly helped deliver 9.30am Sunday and zoom services to a high standard. We would like to thank Avril Monck for helping with drawing up rotas.

Our church building is in good order and the congregation are very supportive. The churchwardens are grateful to all those who give their time for the work of the church on a regular basis, whether by reading a lesson, interceding, cleaning, providing refreshments, acting as sidespersons, washing and ironing the linen, arranging social events, setting up for services, working in the churchyard, serving, taking part in Eucharistic ministry and arranging and delivering anniversary cards or by volunteering to do any of the multitude of odd jobs which our parish community needs. The terrier and log books have been checked and all items accounted for.

Home communion started again in August and many thanks to those prepared to visit those who cannot get to church and wish to receive the reserved sacrament. Similar thanks to those who cascade news and support our congregation via care for the congregation and Jean Hodgkinson for organising the network.

The church grounds have been well maintained by the Town Council. Trees have been pruned in March especially along the north fence. A bench collapsed due to age and was replaced by the family that donated the original. A faculty was obtained to extend the cremated remains area on the opposite side of the path in front of the line of gravestones. Thanks to the Town council for the grass cutting, tree and gravestone safety maintenance.

Report provided by Marion Johnston and John Rhodes: Churchwardens.

CRAFT GUILD

2021 began as 2020 ended, lock down and crafting in our own homes but still with a small trickle of income from card sales. Knitters had been particularly busy for charitable causes. Cautious relief came in summer, but we waited until September before the Tuesday group recommenced meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Impressive new tables and large spacing, so a safe feeling. Events also opened up. We joined Kirklevington for their September fair where income was shared. It was a great relief to be able to contribute to the church Christmas fair, both through private sales and on the day, and felt like normality starting for real. After a 2-year gap we returned to The Golden Lion at Great Ayton to enjoy a Christmas meal where we were joined by the new Rector and other supporters.

Income over the year has been in the region of £550 which is very pleasing given the reduced circumstances.

From 2022 we shall be covering the full rent of the hall through member payments, albeit at a preferential rate, because of our church commitment, which we greatly appreciate.

Sadly, two members have not returned, as health and mobility does not permit, but we gained 5 new ones. So, we have headed into 2022 with a positive increased fellowship and creative spark.

Report provided by Carole Wilson

DEANERY SYNOD

The Parish has 4 Deanery Synod Lay representatives, of whom 3 are appointed by the APCM: Avril Rhodes, John Rhodes and David Local, plus David Yates who was elected to Diocesan Synod in June 2021 and as such becomes an ex-officio member of Deanery Synod. Also, Rector Darren is a Clergy representative being a member of Stokesley Deanery Clergy Chapter.

Once again because of Covid restrictions Deanery Synod only met via Zoom during 2021; 16th March, 17th June and 14th October.

The Deanery Synod of 16th March was chaired by the Area Dean, Revd Clay Roundtree who reported this to be his last Synod as he was leaving St Francis, Ingleby Barwick to be taking up a new position at Grantham in May 2021. The main item of this Synod was the introduction of the approved consultation process with Deaneries and Parishes to refresh the Diocesan vision under the banner 'Living Christ's Story. This became the dominant topic for Deanery Synod and Parishes during 2021.

At the 17th June Synod the Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) was formally elected;
Area Dean: Revd Tessa Stephens, St Mary, Nunthorpe had been appointed by the Bishop of Whitby.
Lay Dean: John Dickinson of Christ Church, Great Ayton.
Secretary: No nominations had been received for the position of Secretary. Subsequently the position was filled in a part-time capacity by the Area Dean's Parish Administrator.
Lay Representative (elected from the House of Laity): Roy Parsonage of St Augustine, Kirby-in-Cleveland.
Clergy Representative (elected by Clergy Chapter): Revd Paul Peverell, Christ Church, Great Ayton.
Co-opted: Bob Ardley, Deanery Treasurer
Deanery Financial Adviser (DFA): Martin Bailey, DFA is automatically a Member of the DLT.

At the final meeting of 14th October the Lay Dean, John Dickinson gave a presentation on a possible plan for the Deanery moving forward. Within the Diocesan vision of Living Christ's Story the Deanery was to establish small Groups to examine the Deanery finances and environmental initiatives. These groups will explore ways of encouraging, supporting and helping each other. It was thought that Parishes taking environmental initiatives was a way to connect and become active with Communities. 4 Churches across the Deanery have actually registered as Eco-Churches.

Deanery Synod is funded by each Parish paying a Levy per Deanery Synod representative. It was agreed that the Levy for 2021 remain unchanged at £40.00 per Deanery Synod Rep. Also, at each Deanery Synod the DFA reports on relevant financial issues from the Diocese that may impact on Parish finances.

Hopefully as the consultation process on Living Christ's Story concludes in 2022 and Deanery Synod develops a Deanery Plan for the implementation of the revitalised Diocesan Strategy Deanery Synod will become more pro-active, and Covid allowing once again meet in person.

Yarm deanery synod representatives successfully nominated Cheryl Scollay as someone from the community who had made an exceptional contribution to the pandemic response for a celebration hosted by Archbishop Stephen at Bishopthorpe Palace in September. The event was reported in the November "Trident".

David Local, Avril Rhodes, John Rhodes, David Yates.

FINANCE

General Unrestricted Funds

2021 has been the second year affected by the Pandemic and we have again managed quite well. Church activities have been disrupted for large parts of the year but our finances have survived, with great support from our regular congregation – our Regular Givers. We have carried on keeping control of our expenditure, which combined with less spending due to reduced activity, has given a positive outcome for the Year. We have exited the year with a balance of £33,978 (2020 – £20,166).

The specific detail is as follows.

Total unrestricted income was £97,098 (£76,506 in 2020) and is detailed in the financial statements. Of this, £68,328 (was £64,669) was pledged giving and includes associated tax relief, and represents a significant 70.3% (was 84.5%) of the total income. This is the first full year of the Parish Giving Scheme and this has helped to provide more income by way of earlier receipt of Tax Relief. About two thirds of our supporters have now signed up to the scheme and are finding it very good to use – it would be good if other contributors were able to join them.

Other parts of the accounts are showing good recovery in the second part of the year, as Covid restrictions were eased and we were able to welcome our new Rector. We reinstated the Christmas Fayre, holding it in Church and raising a very impressive £2,106. A Christmas Raffle yielded a further £1,007. Total net fundraising (including the above) was £4,815 (£2,515)

The remaining income came largely from collections, donations and fees, and has recovered to £22,088 (£7,337). Collections have increased in 2021and yellow envelope Gift Aided donations have reflected significant generosity from contributors. Fee earning has increased to £5,982 (£3,027) as more people are making more use of our services.

Also, we have received £524 (£649) from the rest of the Benefice as their contribution to the expenses of the Rector and the Rectory. There have been no legacies this year. (£0 in 2020).

Total unrestricted expenditure was £83,285 (was £82,895). We have maintained our contribution to the Freewill Offer to support the Mission in the Diocese at £61,800, the same as last year. This Freewill Offer was paid in full, and is a very significant 63.6% (80.8% last year) of our total income from all sources. In addition, Diocesan fees for weddings and funerals in our Church have added £2,546 (£3,432) to our total giving from the Parish to the Mission in the Diocese, which now totals £64,346 (£65,232). The cost of running the Church building was £9,819 (£8,517), reflecting increased activity in the Church building. The upkeep of services cost a further £5,389 (£5,573), and continues to support the training of an organ scholar. Expenses for clergy amount to £1,831 (£1,586) – an increase which resulted from appointment of the new Rector. Other expenditure was £2,088 (£2,158),

Net result for the year was an excess of income over expenditure of £13,812 compared to an excess expenditure over income of £6,390 in 2020. This is a significant turnaround, resulting from a generous response to the challenges of the Pandemic from all concerned.

The total balance of unrestricted funds at 31st December 2021 was £33,979 (£20,166).

Restricted Funds

Organ Fund

We have made a significant start in 2021 towards fundraising for major repair work to be done to our pipe organ. Various activities and grant applications have yielded £11,365 during the year, in addition to which we have a grant award of £7.500 which will be paid on start of the work

Restoration Fund

There has been very little activity here, with income restricted to a small amount of Investment Interest being credited and a Legacy of £500 being added.

We have paid Architect Fees of £1208 for the work needed for remedial work resulting from the Quinquennial Inspection, and we have paid for a report on the detailed state of the organ. This has resulted in a reduction of our balance of £1,080 (£3,432 in 2020).

The balance of the Restoration Fund at 31st December 2021 was £28,444 (£29,524 in 2020), which will be available for future work and for keeping the Church in good order.

Restricted funds were still collected and paid out to individual charities at a much-reduced level, coming from collections at funerals as specified by families concerned, and from special events arranged by the Church for nominated charities. The total amount was £1,279 (£2,963)

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to three months' unrestricted income, to cover emergency situations which may arise from time to time. The balance of £33,979 in unrestricted funds at the year-end exceeds this target (currently £21,875).

Additionally, we recognise that the maintenance of a historic building requires periodically significant sums of money to carry out important restoration and maintenance work. Although we had a significant legacy in 2011, we have spent considerable sums on successful restoration and renovation projects, leaving our reserves for this aspect of our work at just over £28,400. The use of this money needs to be carefully regulated and monitored, and it would be good if it could be augmented by individual efforts and some new legacies in due course.

Report provided by M J Huggins Hon Treasurer

FUNDAY SUNDAY SPARKLE

Unfortunately, our Sunday Sparkle group was unable to meet during 2021 due to COVID 19 restrictions. Some discussion took place regarding the possibility of a Zoom Sparkle. It was decided that this would be very difficult to instigate, primarily due to the diverse age range of the children and young people involved.

Sadly Joanne Austin, the instigator and inspirational leader of Sparkle, died on 29th January, 2021.

Report provided by Beryl Nadin.

GENEROSITY OF LOVING DISCIPLES (GOLD) REPORT

The GOLD Team was established by the PCC and its members are, David Local (Chair), The Rector, Marion Johnston and John Rhodes (Church Wardens), Martin Huggins (PCC Treasurer), Maggie Nicholls and Elaine Huggins (volunteers). During the year we added Lynn Allison to the Team and, of course our new Rector Darren joined us. The Team has been regularly advised by Martin Bailey (former Stokesley Deanery Financial Adviser) and Sammi Tooze, Diocesan Generous Giving Adviser who attended our meetings whenever possible and have been a great help.

During 2021 we met on 4 occasions and the main focus was the continued introduction of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), Contactless Giving in Church and the adoption of a Legacy Policy. It is pleasing to note that about 50% of regular givers have now signed up to the PGS and of those about 50% have agreed to an annual increase in line with inflation. Also the introduction of the Contactless Giving machine had almost paid for itself by the end of 2021.

The Team report to the PCC after each meeting to ensure their approval to all considerations, and the PCC do, of course, have to agree any recommendations of the GOLD Team before they are put into effect. The Team will continue its deliberations in the future with the approval of the PCC, particularly to examine the feasibility of our aim to cover the fixed expenditure with planned giving.

David Local, Revd Darren Moore, Marion Johnston, John Rhodes, Martin Huggins, Maggie Nicholls, Elaine Huggins, Lynn Allison.

MOTHERS' UNION

As we were in a lockdown situation in January 2021 we were unable to hold any meetings from January until August when we met in Valerie Meeking's garden for coffee and biscuits. The weather was beautiful and a good time was had by all.

We then commenced our meetings in church on Monday 27th September when we held a very enjoyable social afternoon.

As our October meeting clashed with the Wydale Autumn Retreat, Debbie Gravestock very kindly held a "Musical Afternoon" which was very much appreciated by those members who didn't go to Wydale.

On 27th November we held a service to raise awareness for Gender Based Violence against women and men in church which was led by Marion Johnston as I was due to attend York Minster to raise awareness there. Unfortunately, Storm Arwen paid us a visit and, as there were so many fallen trees and roads blocked, it was unsafe for me to travel anywhere.

Our Wednesday Morning short services have continued and been well attended. Thank you very much to all who have taken their turn at leading this short act of worship.

To finish the year we held our Advent Service at the end of November hoping that we would be able to get back to normal in 2022.

Report provided by Jennifer Local - Branch Leader

PRAM SERVICE

Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, Pram Service has not been able to operate in 2021. Our new Rector, Father Darren, is very keen to get Pram Service underway again in

2022, and meetings have taken place to this effect. We hope to get going again early in 2022, as soon as it is safe to do so.

Report provided by John Bancroft

SAFEGUARDING

I became the Parish Safeguarding Officer [PSO] taking over from Judy Dent in summer 2021I have undertaken the safeguarding training as directed by the Diocese of York and completed a foundation induction training course on the role of the parish safeguarding office

Safeguarding can be summed up as "watching over one another with love".

It is important to recognise that safeguarding is important for the needs of any age be it children, young people, vulnerable adults and the elderly and a basic commitment to equal worth for all.

- We are following the guidelines and policy advised by the York Diocese:

- Enabling those in authority, members of the PCC and any parishioner who might be asked to help with children and vulnerable adults to complete the necessary government DBS forms.

- It is imperative that Trustees complete first basic awareness, foundation and domestic abuse training is completed as stipulated by the Diocese of York in December 2021. This can be completed online in one's own time or if needed on a borrowed lap top computer. The course must be repeated every three years

- The PSO, churchwarden and rector work together if there is any safeguarding issue brought to their attention, before reporting to any other agencies e.g. diocesan safeguarding adviser and social services.

- Any confidential information is kept firmly locked in a safe!

- The diocesan policy is on the noticeboard and there are copies of
  "The parish safeguarding handbook" and "The safer Church "are available"

Report provided by Sue Ellis – Safeguarding Officer

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary Magdalene Church, Yarm, PCC.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 1 and 2.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

    - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or

    - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

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



Mr Philip Atkinson

30 Nursery Gardens, Yarm

March 2022

Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31 December 2021

	Note	General Fund Unrestricted Funds £	General Fund Restricted Funds £	Restoration Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	84,431.73	12,594.06		97,025.79	71,834.34
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	6,157.00			6,157.00	3,850.63
Income from Investments	2(c)	2.64		33.90	36.54	192.51
Income from Church activities	2(d)	6,506.21			6,506.21	3,676.09
Other income	2(e)			500.03	500.03	0.00
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		97,097.58	12,594.06	533.93	110,225.57	79,553.57
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3(a)					
Ministry		64,067.87			64,067.87	64,012.09
Church		9,818.75		405.60	10,224.35	8,517.08
Upkeep of services		5,388.59			5,388.59	5,572.89
Other ordinary expenditure		1,364.05	1,228.61		2,592.66	5,530.70
Extraordinary expenditure		774.29			774.29	840.23
Restoration				1,208.70	1,208.70	3,567.00
Fund Raising Costs	3(b)	1,871.89			1,871.89	1,335.16
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		83,285.44	1,228.61	1,614.30	86,128.35	89,375.15
NET INCOMING RESOURCES & MOVEMENT OF FUNDS		13,812.14	11,365.45	-1,080.37	24,097.22	-9,821.58
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY		20,166.37	0.00	29,524.25	49,690.62	59,512.20
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER		33,978.51	11,365.45	28,443.88	73,787.84	49,690.62

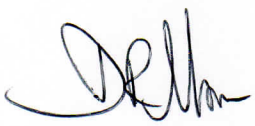
The Notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of this account

Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021

	Notes	General Fund Unrestricted Funds	General Fund Restricted Funds	Restoration Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
FIXED ASSETS		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	£337.28	£9.10		£346.38	£246.48
Short term deposits		£4,472.60		£28,061.68	£32,534.28	£32,529.62
Fixed term deposits					£0.00	£0.00
Cash at Bank		£30,975.68	£12,104.96	£382.20	£43,462.84	£18,598.98
		£35,785.56	£12,114.06	£28,443.88	£76,343.50	£51,375.08
LIABILITIES						
Creditors - amounts falling due in one year	7	£1,807.05	£748.61		£2,555.66	£1,684.46
NET CURRENT ASSETS less LIABILITIES		£33,978.51	£11,365.45	£28,443.88	£73,787.84	£49,690.62
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted		£33,978.51			£33,978.51	£20,166.37
Restricted			£11,365.45	£28,443.88	£39,809.33	£29,524.25
Totals		£45,343.96		£28,443.88	£73,787.84	£49,690.62

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 4 April 2022 and signed on its behalf by



D R Moore (PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these accounts

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year ended 31 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC' discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place. There are currently no such funds under the control of the PCC.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis. The Restoration Fund and the Organ Fund are restricted funds, and donations to Mission or other Charity are also treated as restricted, when they result from a specific donation or collection.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when received and are reclaimed for the accounting year and not the tax year. Tax refunds, other than those from the Parish Giving Scheme, due for the period January to December 2021 are identified in the notes to the accounts, but are not included in the figures. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan freewill offer is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission or charity are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £2,000 and all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Individual items of equipment are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

2021 GENERAL FUND

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2021	TOTAL FUNDS 2020
2(a) **Voluntary Income**					
Planned Giving					
Gift Aided - Direct Payments (inc PGS 29341.60)	42278.60			42278.60	39244.00
- Green Envelopes	3136.00			3136.00	6036.90
Not Gift Aided - Direct Payments	2030.00			2030.00	1840.00
- Green Envelopes	1455.20			1455.20	1968.00
		48899.80			
Other					
Gift Aided - Yellow Envelopes (one off)	11175.81			11175.81	1392.65
Tax Reclaim on Gift Aid (2020) and PGS (£7,105 44 in 2021)	19428.42			19428.42	15580.07
Tax Reclaim on Organ Donations			431.09	431.09	0.00
Organ Donations			10934.36	10934.36	0.00
Cash Collections	2643.72			2643.72	1838.75
Special Collections & Donations (inc COVID)	1555.98		1228.61	2784.59	3703.97
Donation from fees	728.00			728.00	230.00
Legacy	0.00			0.00	0.00
		35531.93			
2(b) **Activities for generating funds**					
Coffee Donations	500.21			500.21	352.08
Raffle (incl £280 sold at the Festive Fayre)	1006.60			1006.60	922.60
Magazine Income	1485.50			1485.50	1662.00
Income from Flowers - weddings and memorium	104.00			104.00	60.00
Votive candles	90.85			90.85	20.00
Miscellaneous Income	669.20			669.20	77.50
Craft Guild - activities	151.90			151.90	491.45
Craft Guild - for Hall Hire	0.00			0.00	150.00
Beetle Drive	43.00			43.00	115.00
Christmas Festive Fayre	2105.74			2105.74	0.00
		6157.00			
2(c) **Income from Investments**					
Interest on Deposit Account	1.66			1.66	53.56
Interest on Darlington Building Society	0.85			0.85	3.21
Interest on Gift Aid Account	0.13			0.13	0.72
		2.64			
2(d) **Income from Church activities**					
Fees	5982.00			5982.00	3027.00
Kirklevington & Worsall contribution to Rector expenses	394.17			394.17	459.62
- Rectory Water Rate	42.76			42.76	103.28
- Redemptorist	87.28			87.28	86.19
		6506.21			
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		97097.58	12594.06	109691.64	79418.55

3. **RESOURCES EXPENDED**	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2021	TOTAL FUNDS 2020
3(a) **Church Activities**					
Ministry - Rector					
Parish Freewill Offer for Diocesan Ministry	61800.00			61800.00	61800.00
Expenses (inc vacancy costs 775.62)	2096.85			2096.85	1669.79
Water Rate	171.02			171.02	479.30
-Mission					
Gold costs	0.00			0.00	63.00
		64067.87			
Church					
Gas	2398.74			2398.74	2037.85
Electricity	1318.66			1318.66	958.25
Insurance	3181.03			3181.03	3164.09
Water Rate	97.87			97.87	97.35
Cleaning	967.85			967.85	1064.00
Organ Tuning & Maintenance	222.00			222.00	0.00
Boiler Maintenance	280.00			280.00	235.00
5 Year Electrical & lightening Protection Testing	880.00			880.00	237.98
Roof works	100.00			100.00	520.00
Minor Maintenance	372.60			372.60	202.56
		9818.75			
Upkeep of Services					
Candles	240.10			240.10	223.81
Wine & Bread	0.00			0.00	77.85
Miscellaneous	497.43			497.43	366.47
Service Books	461.90			461.90	0.00
Pew Sheets (Redemptorist)	349.16			349.16	344.76
Organist	3000.00			3000.00	3000.00
Organist Tuition	840.00			840.00	1560.00
Churchyard Upkeep	0.00			0.00	0.00
		5388.59			
Other Expenditure					
Young people (2020 - Messy Church trial)	0.00			0.00	51.00
Hire of Hall	0.00			0.00	333.35
Baptism & Marriage Books	390.57			390.57	40.56
Deanery Precept	120.00			120.00	120.00
RSCM membership	110.00			110.00	107.00
Printing	288.00			288.00	374.63
Gift Aid Envelopes	80.57			80.57	104.50
Miscellaneous	324.91			324.91	186.69
Charities (see Note 9)	50.00		1228.61	1278.61	4212.97
		1364.05			
Extraordinary Expenditure					
Rector Welcome (2020 - COVID Supplies)	368.09			368.09	557.18
Payaz On Line Reader (2020 - Easter booklet & letters)	358.80			358.80	41.25
Parking Post Spigot (2020 - Present for Archbishop)	47.40			47.40	50.00
(2020 - Rector retirement)	0.00			0.00	191.80
		774.29			
3(b) **Fund Raising Costs**					
Functions	272.67			272.67	70.00
Magazine Printing	1359.78			1359.78	1175.69
Cost of flowers	98.20			98.20	67.00
Cost of coffee & biscuits	141.24			141.24	22.47
		1871.89			
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		83285.44	1228.61	84514.05	85808.15

2021 RESTORATION FUND

		Restricted Funds		TOTAL FUNDS 2021	TOTAL FUNDS 2020
2.	**INCOMING RESOURCES**				
2(a)	**Voluntary Income**				
	Donations				
	Grant from Lottery Heritage Fund				
	VAT Refund - LPW Grant Scheme				
	Other Grants				
	Tax Rebate				
			0.00	0.00	
2(b)	**Activities for generating funds**				
	Craft Guild Sales				
	Miscellaneous events				
			0.00	0.00	
2(c)	**Income from investments**				
	Interest on deposit account - CBF	2.15			17.52
	Interest on Virgin Money	31.75			117.50
			33.90	33.90	
2(e)	**Other Income**				
	Legacy		500.03	500.03	
	TOTAL		533.93	533.93	135.02
3.	**RESOURCES EXPENDED**				
3(a)	**Church Activities**				
	Restoration				
	Fee - Architect	1208.70			827.00
	Internal Reordering				
	- organ repairs	405.60			
	- floor repairs				2740.00
			1614.30	1614.30	
	Other Expenditure				
			0.00	0.00	
3(b)	**Fund Raising Costs**				
			0.00	0.00	
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		1614.30	1614.30	3567.00

Notes to the Accounts 2021

4. (a) **STAFF COSTS**

	2021	2020
Invoiced payments for Organist for normal services	3,000.00	3,000.00

During the year the PCC contracted in an organist, who is self employed, and as such does not attract social security costs.

(b) **PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS**

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC. No expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

5. **FIXED ASSETS**

The PCC has no assets as defined in the Accounting Policies above (1)

6. **DEBTORS**

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
Other Debtors	346.38		346.38	246.48

In addition there is outstanding Tax recoverable, related to the period January to December 2021, which will be recovered during 2022. The estimated amount is £9,039.41, and will be accounted for in 2022 accounts. This includes reclaim for tax on small donations, which will provide an estimated £1,546.31 of income.

7. **CREDITORS**

Accruals for utility and other costs	1,807.05	748.61	2,555.66	1,684.46

8. **GENERAL NOTES**

8.1 Net movement of general funds in the year was

Unrestricted	£13,812.14
Restricted (organ fund)	£11,365.45
Total	£25,177.59

8.2 Balances brought forward include historical legacies as follows:

General Account: legacies from 2009	£18,000.00
legacy in 2012	£5,000.00
legacy in 2013	£500.00
legacies in 2019	£1,500.00
Restoration Account: legacy in 2011	£116,326.33
legacy in 2021	£500.03

8.3 Assigned Fees. A sum of £2,546.00 (£3,432.00 in 2020) has been paid to the Diocese, being the Statutory Fees charged for the services of clergy to officiate at weddings, funerals and the like.

8.4 Purchase of items for sale (eg. Cards, tea towels, pens etc) are written off in the year of payment.

8.5 Value of normal stock is less than £500.00. Stock is not controlled or accounted for.

Notes to the Accounts 2021

9. Charity Donations - 2021

The following donations were made to Charity:

		Overseas Missions & Christian Relief Agencies	Home Missions & Church Societies	Secular Charities	TOTALS
Church Sponsored Activities					
All from Restricted Income except item 9.4.					
9.1.	Little Sprouts - Easter Charity			480.00	
9.2.	Childrens Society - Christingle service		300.56		
9.3.	Shelter Box - Christmas cards			251.00	
9.4.	York Historic Churches		50.00		
	TOTAL	0.00	350.56	731.00	1,081.56
Restricted Donations at Funerals					
9.5.	North Tees NHS Trust Charity Account			197.05	
	TOTAL	0.00	0.00	197.05	197.05
	TOTALS	**0.00**	**350.56**	**928.05**	**1,278.61**
	Additionally the following donations were made outside of the accounts, but resulting from efforts from members of the congregation:				
9.6.	Christian Aid	902.41			902.41
	GRAND TOTAL				**2,181.02**

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary Magdalene Church, Yarm, PCC.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 1 and 2.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

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- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

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

Mr Philip Atkinson

30 Nursery Gardens, Yarm March 2022

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, Y

England & Wales - Charity number 1130683

Accounts

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Yarm
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Aim and purposes

St. Mary Magdalene Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend John Ford until his retirement at the end of August 2020, 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 the Church.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Mary Magdalene. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we were particularly concerned that the age profile of the congregation and our style of service was inhibiting spreading the gospel message to younger people. We were also aware that it is important that we maintain the tradition and fabric of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene and in particular its tradition of organ music at services.

The PCC tasked its GOLD (Generosity of Loving Discipleship) sub committee to look at ways of making the church more robust and less reliant on occasional offices (baptisms, weddings and funerals) and fayres to support the mission of the church.

Achievements and Performance

In January we had a trial café church in the Youth and Community Centre with the PCC. It was lay led by Beryl Nadin, Avril Rhodes, David Yates and John Rhodes and well received. The group had undertaken extensive research into suitable venues and settled on the Community Centre at the Meadowings to roll out to the general public after Easter. This initiative was put on hold when the Community Centre closed due to Covid19. It will be started when the facilities are available.

The Diocesan advice on maintaining organ music in the church was accepted by the PCC and a quotation of £95k for the recommended work was obtained from our organ tuner and accepted. The church could not afford to cover these costs and has started to apply for grants. In order to secure funding the church will need to demonstrate its commitment and therefore fundraising is part of the plan.

Lockdown caused by the devastation of Covid 19 resulted in the work of the GOLD committee becoming important for the maintenance of our objectives in relation to a sound financial base. The committee was well supported by Sammi Tooze from the Diocese and Martin Bailey from the Deanery. A series of letters, emails and articles were written for Trident, by members of the group, explaining the impact of Covid 19 and the ways the congregation could help. The PCC reduced all non-essential spending and we managed to maintain the church and payment of our free will offer to support mission in the Diocese

including clergy numbers. There was a very good outcome as you will see in the annual accounts.

During 2020 the PCC met 6 times; average attendance was 83%. The Standing committee met 5 times during the year. The PCC started the year arranging meetings so that half the meetings were mainly on mission rather than business, however, when the Rector retired and Covid 19 influenced church activity, the PCC concentrated on the benefice profile (the document required before an advertisement can be placed for a new Rector) and maintaining safe operation in church. It became responsible, with the Churchwardens, for the Rectory and in particular the garden. A small team set about with loppers, secateurs and spades and worked tirelessly through autumn and winter months. The Diocese sent its surveyor, Jamie Rotherham, to help prepare the house for a new incumbent. The work continues into 2021 with a larger taskforce as the garden starts to grow again.

At the year end the vacancy was ready for advertisement in 2021.

Worship and Prayer

Church Attendance

During 2020, St Mary Magdalene Yarm as the Parish Church has continued to be the focal point for Anglican worship in the Parish, however, two periods of lockdown prevented services in church. Once it was established that services would not resume in the short term, Reverend John Ford arranged for three services per week to be held using the zoom platform for those with access to a computer with camera, microphone and speakers. These were held on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. When John Ford retired, David Local agreed to continue the format and the church is most grateful for his commitment and dedication. Congregational participation was maintained by people agreeing to read and/or lead prayers for the zoom services. These services continued throughout the year with the Sunday service moving to 4pm when the church was open for a 9.30am service. When the church was allowed to open for public worship it was carried out under strict national and government guidance. A big thank you is owed to the Health and Safety subcommittee for their thoughts and consideration in providing risk assessments.

A total of 197 services were held in 2020, including 36 Holy Eucharists and 86 zoom services. In all there were 1323 communicants of whom 244 received communion at Home or in the Care Homes. There were 1020 zoom service attendees. In 2020, 5 people were baptised, there were 3 weddings and 7 funerals in the Parish Church and 2 interment of ashes. This is a reduction in the figures when compared with 2019, but a great achievement in the circumstances. On a “normal” Sunday before the first lockdown, the average attendance was 89 including an average of 82 communicants.

The PCC decided to close the church for private prayer because it was not possible to arrange safe supervision of the church when open. The well being of all has been a priority for the PCC.

Worship

Until lockdown in March, traditional public worship was based on Common Worship patterns, the 9.30am Sunday Service using Order 1 and the 8am Sunday and 9.30am Wednesday services using Order 2. After lockdown zoom services were started, based on the Daily prayer liturgy. The Organist and Choir director and trainee organist have enhanced the services by supplying recorded music.

Classified by the Church as a 'New forms of worship', on Monday mornings the informal Pram Service was held at 10am. The Pram Service, which attracts pre-school children and mainly mothers, continued to flourish, The "Pram Service+" in school holidays could not be offered due to Covid restrictions. The "Pram Service" on Mondays at 10am continued to thrive with an average attendance of 7 adults and 6 children, until Covid 19 closed the service in March 2020 after 10 weeks. The PCC is grateful to John Bancroft, members of the Family Service planning group and the Mothers' Union for all their work and support of the Pram Service initiatives. Covid 19 intervened before café church could be started.

Some of the younger children and families attend the monthly Funday Sunday Sparkle. Further information is available in the Appendix.

Deanery Synod

Three members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. More information is included in the Appendix.

The Church building and churchyard

The church building remains in good order, well maintained, lovingly tended and cleaned. We thank all those whose efforts contribute to this. Maintenance has proceeded in accordance with the guidance of the Examining Architect's quinquennial report. Our architect Mr John Niven retired this year and the PCC is in the process of finding a replacement.

In the churchyard the Town Council continue to maintain the grass cutting to a high standard. The wall has been repaired and cleared of vegetation and the footpath levelled. Thanks go to Councillor Monck and the Town Council for expediting the matter.

Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. A team of Eucharistic ministers visited those who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in care homes until this was prohibited under Covid 19 regulations.

Once lockdown was announced our Care for the Congregation team, organised efficiently by Jean Hodgkinson, sprang into action. Their intention was to offer human contact, support and keep members of the congregation informed.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. We have managed to help the Little Sprouts response to Covid19 in the area, and also other charities, for example, NeoAngels, the Childrens Society, Love in a Box and hats for Albania. It is good that these efforts on behalf of others can be achieved in spite of restricted movement. During 2020 the Parents' group, professionally managed by Home-Start, delivered from Layfield Children's Centre was closed due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Our benefice magazine continued to be published albeit on-line for several months for some. Those who could not receive a paperless copy were sent one in the post. The

magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Financial Review

This year has been challenging and looked disastrous in May. However, letters from the Rector and conversations via care for the congregation network, encouraged and facilitated the return of green envelopes and donations to be received. The outcome is a tribute to the value we place on our church and community. We have made inroads into the aim to cover planned expenditure by planned giving. The PCC agreed to trial the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) as a tax efficient way of contributing financially to the church and the GOLD group will be looking at rolling it out to the congregation in 2021. More details of the financial position are given in the Appendix.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £24,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance of £20,166 held on unrestricted funds at the year end, was less than its target. It is the PCC's hope to increase this over time, as life gets back to some semblance of normality and the range of services can restart.

Structure, Management and Governance

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

St Mary Magdalene Yarm PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Electoral Roll

On 31 December 2020 there were 122 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 53 of whom were not resident within the parish. Jay Yates is the electoral roll officer for the parish.

Safeguarding

The parish has adopted and implemented the House of Bishops 'safeguarding Policy Promoting a Safer Church'. Judy Dent continues to serve as the Parish Safeguarding Officer and maintains the register of those who are DBS checked and carried out safeguarding training. Training for levels C0 and C1 are available on-line and several members of the congregation and PCC have found it easy to use and complete. DBS checks have been carried out on all Trustees and those in positions of responsibility. There were no safeguarding notifications at St Mary Magdalene during 2020.

Vice Chairman's Concluding Remarks

In summary, 2020 has been a difficult year and the PCC have supported the church to maintain as much normality as could be safely achieved. Implementation of the Parish Plan which seeks to interpret the Diocesan vision "Generous Churches, Making and Nurturing Disciples" had to be put on hold. The PCC subgroup to review stewardship, GOLD, looked at the potential financial consequences of lockdown and took action to secure income whilst the PCC and Churchwardens reduced unnecessary expenditure. We come out of the year in a position that allows for optimism and being able to face the future with confidence.

2020 has seen several deaths of members from the regular congregation and they are greatly missed. There has been a dramatic decline in average attendance because of lockdown though it has been mitigated to a certain extent by the zoom services. Keeping in touch has been vital to maintaining a sense of togetherness. The work of the 'care for the congregation' group and Trident editors to keep information flowing has been an essential element of keeping our spirits up. Now with the approval of vaccines by the MHRA (the medicines and Healthcare products regulatory agency) we have a way out for our church to resume its objectives and get back to some form of normality.

I would like to thank all PCC members especially those on the Standing Committee for all their support in 2020, to the Eucharistic Ministers for their work across the parish, especially in the Care Homes when it was safe to do so, to the servers, Tanya Brackenbury, and Paul Muranganwa and also to every member of the parish who supports the work of ministry in Yarm.

John Rhodes, Vice Chair

ANNEX to the 2020 Annual Report

Administrative Information

St Mary Magdalene's church is part of the Deanery of Stokesley in the Diocese of York within the Church of England and is situated in West Street, Yarm TS15 9BU. The parish is in the Benefice of Yarm with Kirklevington with Picton and Worsall. The PCC of Yarm remains the governing body for the Parish of Yarm.

PCC members who have served as Trustees between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020:

		Dates
Incumbent	Revd Canon John Ford (SC – Chair)	(2012 until August 2020)
Wardens	Mrs Marion Johnston (SC)	(2017-2021)
	Mr John Rhodes (SC – Vice chair)	(2015-2021)
Elected Members		
	Mr Peter Monck	(2018-2021)
	Mrs Doreen Bancroft	(2018-2021)
	Mrs Margaret Nicholls	(2018-2021)
	Mrs Pam Parker	(2018-2021)
	Mrs Ros Carling	(2019-2022)
	Mrs Elaine Huggins	(2019-2022)
	Mr Martin Huggins (SC - Treasurer)	(2019-2022)
	Mrs Valerie Meeking	(2019-2022)
	Mr David Yates (SC – Secretary from August)	(2020-2023)
	Mrs Jayne Gregory (SC – Secretary until August)	(2020-2023)
	Mrs Lynn Allison	(2020-2023)
	Mrs Beryl Nadin	(2020-2023)
Representatives on	Mr David Local (SC from August)	(2020-2023)
Deanery Synod	Mrs Avril Rhodes	(2020-2023)
	Mr John Rhodes	(2020-2023)

SC – Member of the Standing Committee

Health and Safety Sub committee:

Mr David Beeton, Mr John Bancroft, Mr John Rhodes

GOLD committee:

Mr David Local (chair), Mrs Elaine Huggins, Mrs Margaret Nicholls, Mrs Marion Johnston, Mr Martin Huggins and Mr John Rhodes

Organ sub group:

Mr Robin Harrison, Mr John Bancroft and Mr John Rhodes

BENEFICE MAGAZINE: Trident

The editorial team comprises Kate Brown, Ros Carling, Debbie Gravestock, John Rhodes and Jay Yates. 10 editions of Trident were published. During the first wave of lockdown on-line publication was started with some copies posted to minimise the risk of infection. We started the year by meeting a week before to assemble the edition and plan the contents of the next edition. This had to be done on-line from April and continued for the whole year. Thank you to all who have continued to provide contributions. The editors have never had a month without a varied and full copy. We continue to use Calibri 12-point font for the majority of the content to allow it to be easily read by as many people as possible. It does mean that the number of pages is slightly greater than a standard publication and a two-page article occupies three pages. We have requested that all source material is referenced in any article submitted, that was published. We tried to prevent infringement of any copyright by following the UK Copyright Service advice for news reporting.

The editors are aware of safeguarding and do not publish unnecessary names and contact details. We also endeavour to ensure permission is granted for photographs to be included, especially of children. Mentioning children, we are delighted to receive contributions from young budding journalists. We can assure readers that the work is not influenced in any way by parents, albeit that the standard is high.

We are indebted to our advertisers who allowed us to keep the cost at £5.00 per annum for 2020. Gill Waller who collected the advertising renewals and the printers TopPrint have been stars. Ros Carling received the magazine and undertook distribution. It is important that our advertisers know that you support Trident by thanking them for advertising in our magazine when you see them. We must remember that they do not do it solely to support the church, but to attract customers like us.

Trident is your magazine and an important tool in our outreach. Please share your copy with your friends, within public health guidelines, and encourage them to purchase a copy for themselves. We try and provide news and articles about events and activities taking place within the parishes. We are conscious that it is a church magazine and therefore should have some theological content. Thank you to Avril Rhodes for writing a regular column about how the bible is applicable today in a column entitled 'What the Bible says about …'. We have many regular contributors and without you the magazine would not be enriched by such diversity.

We thank all of you who subscribed for the year as it does help us to provide the correct number. Please do ask a friend to consider taking out a subscription so more people can benefit from our efforts. Thank you one and all for your support.

Report provided by Trident Editorial Team

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Bible Reading using the BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) publications continues to thrive within the congregation at St Mary Magdalene, and numbers have held up well although just a little reduced during these difficult times. Our short monthly informal reading and discussion group for our BRF users and anyone else interested have continued, but virtually on Zoom. These have been well supported and generated much enthusiasm, and have proved to be a valuable support and also another welcome chance for informal social

contact by those joining in. Our Reader David has also supported and prepared material for these, and many thanks are due to him.

There were 18 subscriptions to the church order for BRF bible reading notes booklets, and this implies 20-30 members of the congregation using daily readings and prayers, several being couples.

- 1 reads 'Guidelines', weekly reading and topic(s)for study.
- 17 read 'New Daylight', daily readings.

Unfortunately as noted above we have not been able to meet monthly around the tables in church with cake and coffee due to Covid restrictions, because the church has either been shut, or when open no social contact is permitted. Similarly we have been unable to provide the usual sample books laid out in church for the congregation to peruse and consider joining in, nor to discuss joining.

Finally I would note that our church members who are using one of the BRF publications find them valuable, often enjoyable, sometimes challenging, and always useful; and those of us who use the booklets highly recommend them to all.

Report provided by David Yates

CHOIR

The choir has continued to add to services whenever it can during the year. Harry has continued to be a huge asset, recording hymns and voluntaries for online services and I have created improvisations on various hymn tunes too. I particularly thank the choir for their staying back after services each week for a brief rehearsal. John Rhodes is putting much impetus behind trying to get the organ restoration off the ground as, sadly, it continues to be in a very poor state. We have missed John Bancroft dearly. Our Carol Service was a great event, with pre-recorded music by several members of the congregation creating a wonderful sharing occasion. We are very much hoping that music will become an elating part of services again in the not-too-distant future.

Report provided by Robin Harrison: Organist and Choir director

CHURCHWARDENS and FABRIC

The churchwardens for 2020 were Marion Johnston and John Rhodes and together we endeavoured to support Revd Canon John Ford until his retirement at the end of August and our Reader, David Local, to exercise his ministry here in Yarm.

The Redemptorist "Sunday" sheet continued to form the basis for Sunday readings and a big thank you to Avril Rhodes for ensuring readers obtained advance notice of their readings. The reverse of the Redemptorist sheets was used to provide notices when worship was held in church in the early part of the year. Copies are also distributed throughout the Benefice. Later in the year, when the church re-opened after lockdown the reverse of the sheets was used for key elements of the liturgy to replace books, in line with Covid 19 requirements.

The church was cleared in line with risk assessment and PPE purchased and provided. The layout was arranged to allow one way movement in or out of the church and 2m distance between parishioners not in a bubble. The notice boards were cleared of all non-essential items and books stored in the choir vestry.

The church fabric and equipment has been maintained according to the PCC schedule. The loose wooden blocks on the floor were repaired throughout the church and thanks go to Paul Huggins for undertaking the work. The architect completed a new Quinquennial inspection on 12th May 2020 and the report was presented to the PCC. There were no items that required substantial financial commitment and the churchwardens started to close out the items requiring attention.

The contract with Orca for cleaning came to an end due to pressures on the company created by extra work due to Covid. Andrea's Angels were engaged to replace Orca. Conyers School again donated a Christmas tree and this was put up by a small group in line with Covid guidance.

Churchwardens would like to thank all the sidespersons for the wonderful job they have done recording names at the door and guiding people to seats. The readers and intercessors have similarly helped deliver 9.30am Sunday and zoom services to a high standard. We would like to thank Avril Monck for helping with drawing up rotas.

Our church building is in good order and the congregation are very supportive. The churchwardens are grateful to all those who support the work of the church on a regular basis, whether by reading a lesson, interceding, cleaning, providing refreshments, acting as sidespersons, washing and ironing the linen, arranging social events, setting up for services, working in the churchyard, serving, taking part in Eucharistic ministry, booking in baptisms and arranging and delivering anniversary cards or by volunteering to do any of the multitude of odd jobs which our parish community needs.

Report provided by Marion Johnston and John Rhodes: Churchwardens.

CRAFT GUILD

Our Tuesday afternoon group got off to a normal start in 2020 but our thirteenth year in the Fellowship Hall turned out unlucky for us as COVID put paid to group meetings in March. Nothing daunted, members continued crafting in their own homes. When restrictions eased in summer small house groups of 4-6 met. Some of us used the time to clear out materials we were never going to use and pass them on to other charitable causes. Whilst opportunity for sales of goods has been curtailed, we have still brought in some income for church funds.

We've missed the fellowship and laughter, with celebration of important birthdays and events. So one of our chief knitters, Barbara Ford, didn't get a proper send off when she and John moved to pastures new in autumn. We headed into 2021 and more unknown…

Report provided by Carole Wilson

DEANERY SYNOD

The Parish representatives for Deanery Synod were Avril Rhodes, John Rhodes and David Local. Our Rector Revd Canon John Ford as Area Dean was the chair of Synod and Kate Brown from St Martin and St Hilary, Kirklevington with Picton and All Saints Worsall was the lay chair.

Because of the Covid pandemic Deanery Synod only met once in 2020 in February at Worsall Village Hall. Our main speaker was Revd Nik Stevenson, Multiply Minister based at St Francis, Ingleby Barwick. Nik outlined how he had approached his new ministry since being installed at Ingleby Barwick in 2019. His main activities had been identifying the groups of

people the Church do not reach at present and making himself visible in the community and listening to people's stories.

The then current triennial of Deanery Synod was due to end with effect from 30 June 2020 and the first Synod of the new triennial had been arranged for 1st July 2020. However, because of lockdown APCMs had not been able to meet and the new representatives were not appointed. As a result the current parish representatives continued in post until APCMs were able to elect new representatives.

The Diocese subsequently decided that the 2020 APCMs should meet before the end of November and the newly elected Deanery Synod representatives would commence as from 1st December 2020. St Mary Magdalene APCM met on Sunday 4th October 2020 in Church and the current Deanery Synod Representatives, Avril Rhodes, John Rhodes and David Local were elected for the triennial 2020 – 2023.

As our Rector and Area Dean Revd Canon John Ford had retired with effect from 31 August 2020 Bishop Paul Ferguson appointed Revd Clay Roundtree of St Francis, Ingleby Barwick as Area Dean. The Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) had arranged for all parishes of the deanery to contribute to a leaving gift for John and Barbara. At a socially distant private luncheon of the DLT the appropriate cheque was given.

As Deanery Synod had not been able to meet after the March 2020 lockdown the Deanery Leadership Team arranged a Deanery Service of Thanksgiving at Christ Church, Great Ayton on 21 October 2020. Although there was no lockdown in place, for those people who were still self-isolating or not sufficiently confident to attend in person, arrangements were made for the service to be streamed via Zoom. 7 clergy and 11 lay people attended in person plus 2 clergy and 5 lay people joined via zoom.

The service was specifically arranged to thank existing Deanery Synod representatives for their service over the past 3 years. Also the new Archdeacon of Cleveland, The Ven. Amanda Bloor was invited to preach and be welcomed into the area.

2020 was certainly a unique year in the life of Deanery Synod, hopefully never to be repeated.

Report provided by David Local, Avril Rhodes, John Rhodes.

FINANCE

General Unrestricted Funds

2020 has been a very unusual year and we have managed quite well during the Pandemic, when the Church activities have been disrupted for large parts of the year. As a result, our income has been reduced significantly, but fortunately our Regular Givers have stayed with us and have kept their regular commitment stable. This together with reduction in spending on many elements of our normal operations, has given us an overspend of £6,389.60, leaving us with a reduced balance of £20,166.37, well below our planned reserves.

The specific detail is as follows.

Total unrestricted income was £76,506 (£89,704 in 2019) and is detailed in the financial statements. Of this, £64,669 (was £63,500) was pledged giving and includes associated tax relief, and represents a massive 84.5% (was 70.8%) of the total income. If Tax Relief is excluded, then pledged giving has reduced by £930 (1.8%) from last year, which is an amazing result. We introduced the Parish Giving Scheme in the last part of the year and this

has helped to provide more income by way of earlier receipt of Tax Relief. It has also provided a good start for its use into the future, with future benefits expected.

Other parts of the accounts are less encouraging. Our accounts show a further £2,515 (net) (was £5,707), came from fund raising, which this year did not include a Summer or Christmas Fayre. Instead, a raffle yielding £922 and Craft activities generating some £491 helped to fill this void.

The remaining income came largely from collections, donations and fees, and at £7,337 was well down on 2019 (£15,602). This halving came from significant decreases in collections and yellow envelope Gift Aided donations, as well as a smaller amount of income from fee earning activities. Also, we have received £649 (£1,097) from the rest of the Benefice as their contribution to the expenses of the Rector. There have been no legacies this year (£1,500 in 2019).

Total unrestricted expenditure was £82,895 (was £92,300). We have increased our contribution to the Freewill Offer to support the Mission in the Diocese, from £60,000 in 2019 to £61,800 this year. This Freewill Offer was paid in full, and is a very significant 80.8% (66.9% last year) of our total income from all sources. In addition, Diocesan fees for weddings and funerals in our Church have added £3,432 (£4,675) to our total giving from the Parish to the Mission in the Diocese, which now totals £65,232 (£64,675). The cost of running the Church building was £8,517 (£9,820), a small but useful reduction. The upkeep of services cost a further £5,573 (£5,803), and continues to support the training of an organ scholar. We also continued our support of the Home-Start PLAY scheme in Yarm for the first quarter of 2020, after which they were forced to close due to the Pandemic. There are no plans to resume this support. Expenses for clergy amount to £1,586 (£3,031) – a reduction which resulted from the Rector having retired in August. Other expenditure was £2,158 (£5,123), which included COVID supplies to safeguard attendees at services.

Net result for the year was an excess of expenditure over income of £6,390 (£2,596 in 2019).

This is a significant overspend, but is remarkable given the effect of the Pandemic on our activities. We will need to carry on being prudent into 2021, to rebuild our position for the future work of the Parish. The total balance of unrestricted funds at 31st December 2020 was £20,166 (£26,556).

Restricted Funds

We have taken advantage of the lack of use of the Church, to undertake extensive floor repair work and have funded this from the Restoration Fund, our main restricted Fund, at a cost of £2,740. We have also paid Architect Fees of £827 for the work on internal schemes worked up over many months. Income only came from modest interest payments, resulting in a reduction of our balance of £3,432. The balance of the Restoration Fund at 31st December 2020 was £29,524 (£32,956 in 2019), which will be available for future work and for keeping the Church in good order.

Restricted funds were still collected and paid out to individual charities at a much reduced level from collections at funerals as specified by families concerned, and from special events arranged by the Church for nominated charities. The total amount was a pleasing £2,963 (£5,723) and was in addition to the £1,250 paid to Home-Start from our General Unrestricted Income

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to three months' unrestricted income, to cover emergency situations which may arise from time to time. The balance of £20,166 in unrestricted funds at the year-end falls short of this target (currently

£21,500). It should also be remembered that this position was made possible by the legacies in 2009, 2012, 2013 and 2019 amounting to £25,000 in total. There have been no legacies made during 2020.

Additionally, we recognise that the maintenance of a historic building requires periodically significant sums of money to carry out important restoration and maintenance work. Although we had a significant legacy in 2011, we have spent considerable sums on successful restoration and renovation projects, leaving our reserves for this aspect of our work at just over £29,500. The use of this money needs to be carefully regulated and monitored, and it would be good if it could be augmented by individual efforts and some new legacies in due course.

Report provided by M J Huggins Hon Treasurer

FUNDAY SUNDAY SPARKLE

During January and February 2020 the children met in church on the first Sunday of the month for craft activities. On the fourth Sunday we met in church and then went into the vestry for more structured learning, rejoining the congregation for the Eucharist. The craft activities on 5th January focused on Epiphany with the children making stars, camels, and lolly-stick wise men.

During our more formal FSS session on 26th January the children listened to the story of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2 v22-40) in preparation for Candlemas. The older members of the group made individual stand up Temples with the words, 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel' written across the top. Younger children decorated Simeon and Anna figures using fabric, wool, felt, etc.

The children celebrated Candlemas on 2nd February with the rest of the congregation. Most of the children attending this session had not been in church the previous week so we were able to reproduce activities from then. Other activities included making candle bookmarks and story board books.

Sadly our final official FSS before Lockdown was Sunday 23rd February. We talked about Lent, focusing on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, and getting ready for Easter. The children had great fun making Lenten Pretzel dough which they took home to bake. The older children discussed how the pretzel represents the Trinity. Those who had time wrote a Lenten prayer on a cut out heart for the prayer tree. We shared a packet of pretzels and later shared more with the whole congregation.

Many thanks to Anne Stainer and Angela Beckwith for their much appreciated support and help and we give thanks to all the contributions Joanne Austin, the instigator and inspiration behind FSS, made in 2020.

Report provided by Beryl Nadin.

GENEROSITY OF LOVING DISCIPLES (GOLD) REPORT

The parish GOLD group comprises of David Local (Chair), Marion Johnston, John Rhodes, Maggie Nicholls, Elaine Huggins and Martin Huggins. The Diocesan Generous Giving Adviser, Sammi Tooze and the Deanery Financial Adviser, Martin Bailey regularly attends the meetings.

Despite the lockdowns of 2020 as a result of the pandemic to GOLD group continued to meet in person or by Zoom as the situation required. Following the 2019 generous

campaign we continued to meet and plan for a follow-up in 2020. Arrangements were in place to undertake this in May 2020 until the effects of the pandemic lockdowns took over. However, as a result of the Church closure the parish finances were being severely reduced. As a result the GOLD group recommended the PCC to undertake an appeal direct to our church members to address this problem. As a result a letter from the GOLD group signed by Rector Revd Canon John Ford was distributed to all church members on 15th June 2020.

The Parish Treasurer's financial report and the 2020 Accounts indicate that together with prudent savings on expenditure decided by the PCC together with the encouraging result of the appeal the possible disastrous consequences of the pandemic lockdowns have been significantly avoided. Following the appeal, the GOLD group recommended the PCC roll-out the Parish Giving Scheme adopted by the Diocese. This was agreed by the PCC and arrangements were made for this to take place with effect from 11th January 2021. We look forward to seeing the result of this strategy in 2021.

The GOLD group will continue to meet to develop generous strategies for the PCC to consider during 2021.

Report provided by David Local – Chair.

MOTHERS' UNION

Yarm Mothers' Union began 2020 with 25 members. At our A.G.M. in January we presented Barbara Ford with a Mothers' Union vase and John with a bottle of wine to thank them both for everything they have done for our Branch, Barbara as Treasurer and John for supporting us with Mothers' Union Services. As COVID19 affected the whole country we were only able to hold our A.G.M. in January, our Monday afternoon meeting in February, and two Wednesday evening meetings as well as two Prayer meetings before we all went into lockdown and churches closed for the foreseeable future which meant we were unable to hold any more meetings in 2020.

However, I, together with other Branch members, kept in touch with everyone either by telephone, newsletter or zoom. It was also lovely to be able to meet and greet members from our deanery and diocese when John Ford, the Mothers' Union Chaplain, arranged special services for us.

Report provided by Jennifer Local – Branch Leader

PRAM SERVICE

Pram Service normally takes place at 10am every Monday except public holidays. It is aimed at pre-school children and their carers, and is very informal. We usually start in the Lady Chapel; occasionally the numbers make it too tight in the Lady Chapel, in which case we meet in the Nave.

After initial greetings (and a word in the ear of newcomers so they are not taken by surprise by what happens – although sometimes I am taken by surprise by what happens!), everyone is given a candle. We then each have a chance to say briefly for whom or for what situation we are going to light our candle (and "Pass" is perfectly acceptable), after which we say the Lord's Prayer together. We light our candles and place them in position on the candle stand. This leads on to a short illustrated bible story read by myself or one of the other adults present – we try to ensure that all the children can see the pictures and maybe have other visual aids or objects which help to make the story memorable. For the last part of the Pram

Service we head across to the Children's Corner and sing four or five songs together (words provided) such as 'Wide, wide as the ocean', and we always end with 'The wise man built his house upon the rock'. Many of these, including the last, have actions which add to the enjoyment. We say 'The Grace' together, and then it's time for refreshments, served by members of the Mothers' Union, and a good old chat while the children play. It has been known for some people to stay till noon.

During school holidays we often have an extended session which we call 'Pram Service Plus'. This starts with the Pram Service, and then we have crafty activities which we encourage the adults to bring for the children. This might be in the Church or in one of the nearby community halls. It usually lasts until about 2pm, and we have a break for a picnic lunch (we bring our own) about noon. In the Summer holidays we usually have one session in Snaith's Field after Pram Service in Church, and have another session where we meet at Saltburn on the beach and have a fish 'n' chip (or whatever) picnic.

Pram Service welcomes, and is attended by, people of all denominations and none. The carers who come are parents, grandparents and other recognised carers. In the school holidays older children who perhaps used to attend Pram Service come back to join us with their pre-school siblings, and then it really is all age worship. It's great to see everybody listening to the story, joining in the action songs and beavering away at the activities when it's Pram Service Plus. Most families who find their way to Pram Service for the first time come because of word-of-mouth, often using the well-known mantra: "I'm going to Pram Service, it's great, why don't you come along too". Families having children baptised at St Mary Magdalene are also told about Pram Service.

In 2020 unfortunately Pram Service activities had to be severely curtailed and we only managed to meet ten times before lockdown. One of those was Pram Service Plus and, if you can picture 17 children and 16 adults in Church you'll get some idea of what it was like before the pandemic, and hopefully what it might be like again before long.

Report provided by John Bancroft

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary Magdalene Church, Yarm, PCC.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 and 2.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
    - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
    - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr Philip Atkinson

30 Nursery Gardens, Yarm

March 2021

Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31 December 2020

	Note	General Fund Unrestricted Funds £	General Fund Restricted Funds £	Restoration Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	68,921.37	2,912.97		71,834.34	82,011.02
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	3,850.63			3,850.63	8,005.05
Income from Investments	2(c)	57.49		135.02	192.51	338.71
Income from Church activities	2(d)	3,676.09			3,676.09	6,795.54
Other income	2(e)				0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		76,505.58	2,912.97	135.02	79,553.57	97,150.32
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3(a)					
Ministry		64,012.09			64,012.09	64,205.82
Church		8,517.08			8,517.08	9,820.21
Upkeep of services		5,572.89			5,572.89	5,802.91
Other ordinary expenditure		2,617.73	2,912.97		5,530.70	13,441.71
Extraordinary expenditure		840.23			840.23	2,453.66
Restoration				3,567.00	3,567.00	216.09
Fund Raising Costs	3(b)	1,335.16			1,335.16	2,298.41
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		82,895.18	2,912.97	3,567.00	89,375.15	98,238.81
NET INCOMING RESOURCES & MOVEMENT OF FUNDS		-6,389.60	0.00	-3,431.98	-9,821.58	-1,088.49
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY		26,555.97	0.00	32,956.23	59,512.20	60,600.69
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER		20,166.37	0.00	29,524.25	49,690.62	59,512.20

The Notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of this account

Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2020

	Notes	General Fund Unrestricted Funds	General Fund Restricted Funds	Restoration Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
FIXED ASSETS		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	£246.48			£246.48	£616.35
Short term deposits		£4,470.09		£28,059.53	£32,529.62	£45,455.33
Fixed term deposits					£0.00	£0.00
Cash at Bank		£16,838.05	£296.21	£1,464.72	£18,598.98	£16,886.90
		£21,554.62	£296.21	£29,524.25	£51,375.08	£62,958.58
LIABILITIES						
Creditors - amounts falling due in one year	7	£1,388.25	£296.21		£1,684.46	£3,446.38
NET CURRENT ASSETS less LIABILITIES		£20,166.37	£0.00	£29,524.25	£49,690.62	£59,512.20
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted		£20,166.37			£20,166.37	£26,555.97
Restricted			£0.00	£29,524.25	£29,524.25	£32,956.23
Totals		£20,166.37		£29,524.25	£49,690.62	£59,512.20

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 15 March 2020 and signed on its behalf by

J C Rhodes

J C Rhodes (Acting PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 3 to 7 form part of these accounts

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year ended 31 December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC' discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place. There are currently no such funds under the control of the PCC.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis. The Restoration Fund is a restricted fund, and donations to Mission or other Charity are also treated as restricted, when they result from a specific donation or collection.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when received and are reclaimed for the accounting year and not the tax year. Tax refunds due for the period January to December 2020 are identified in the notes to the accounts, but are not included in the figures. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan freewill offer is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission or charity are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £2,000 and all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Individual items of equipment are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

2020 GENERAL FUND

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2020	TOTAL FUNDS 2019
2(a) Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving					
Gift Aided - Direct Payments inc PGS	39244.00			39244.00	37456.00
- Green Envelopes	6036.90			6036.90	6177.50
Not Gift Aided - Direct Payments	1840.00			1840.00	2540.00
- Green Envelopes	1968.00			1968.00	3844.80
		49088.90			
Other					
Gift Aided - Yellow Envelopes (one off)	1392.65			1392.65	5150.24
Tax Reclaim on Gift Aid (2019) and PGS (2020)	15580.07			15580.07	13482.13
Cash Collections	1838.75			1838.75	3841.56
Special Collections & Donations (inc COVID)	791.00		2912.97	3703.97	6215.04
Donation from fees	230.00			230.00	290.00
Legacy				0.00	1500.00
		19832.47			
2(b) Activities for generating funds					
Coffee Donations	352.08			352.08	1355.48
Raffle (2019 - Functions)	922.60			922.60	82.00
Magazine Income	1662.00			1662.00	1467.40
Income from Flowers - weddings and memorium	60.00			60.00	553.00
Votive candles	20.00			20.00	256.37
Miscellaneous Income	77.50			77.50	74.85
Craft Guild - activities	491.45			491.45	141.73
Craft Guild - for Hall Hire	150.00			150.00	160.00
Beetle Drive (2019 - Summer Fete)	115.00			115.00	1372.53
Christmas Fayre	0.00			0.00	2541.69
		3850.63			
2(c) Income from Investments					
Interest on Deposit Account	53.56			53.56	124.34
Interest on Darlington Building Society	3.21			3.21	3.20
Interest on Gift Aid Account	0.72			0.72	1.02
		57.49			
2(d) Income from Church activities					
Fees	3027.00			3027.00	5699.00
Kirklevington & Worsall contribution to Rector expenses	459.62			459.62	810.26
- Rectory Water Rate	103.28			103.28	200.12
- Redemptorist	86.19			86.19	86.16
		3676.09			
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		76505.58	2912.97	79418.55	95426.42

3.	**RESOURCES EXPENDED**	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2020	TOTAL FUNDS 2019
3(a)	**Church Activities**					
	Ministry - Rector					
	Parish Freewill Offer for Diocesan Ministry	61800.00			61800.00	60000.00
	Expenses (inc vacancy costs 86.17)	1669.79			1669.79	3241.43
	Water Rate	479.30			479.30	800.48
	-Mission					
	Gold costs (2019 - expenses - curate)	63.00			63.00	163.91
			64012.09			
	Church					
	Gas	2037.85			2037.85	2394.45
	Electricity	958.25			958.25	1219.35
	Insurance	3164.09			3164.09	3079.11
	Water Rate	97.35			97.35	106.50
	Cleaning	1064.00			1064.00	1747.20
	Organ & Piano Tuning & Maintenance	0.00			0.00	444.00
	Boiler Maintenance	235.00			235.00	150.00
	Electrical & lightening Protection Testing	237.98			237.98	77.50
	Roof works	520.00			520.00	279.00
	Minor Maintenance	202.56			202.56	323.10
			8517.08			
	Upkeep of Services					
	Candles	223.81			223.81	533.70
	Wine & Bread	77.85			77.85	221.65
	Miscellaneous	366.47			366.47	362.96
	Pew Sheets (Redemptorist)	344.76			344.76	344.64
	Organist	3000.00			3000.00	3000.00
	Organist Tuition	1560.00			1560.00	1290.00
	Churchyard Upkeep	0.00			0.00	49.96
			5572.89			
	Other Expenditure					
	Young people (Messy Church trial)	51.00			51.00	136.01
	Hire of Hall	333.35			333.35	800.04
	Baptism & Marriage Books	40.56			40.56	77.90
	Deanery Precept	120.00			120.00	120.00
	Performing Licence & RSCM membership	107.00			107.00	383.73
	Printing	374.63			374.63	607.40
	Gift Aid Envelopes	104.50			104.50	240.98
	Miscellaneous	186.69			186.69	302.76
	Charities (see Note 9)	1300.00		2912.97	4212.97	10772.89
			2617.73			
	Extraordinary Expenditure					
	COVID Supplies (2019 - Entrance Carpet)	557.18			557.18	1091.00
	Easter booklet & letters (2019 - Microphone)	41.25			41.25	628.80
	Present for Archbishop (2019 - Guillotine & stapler)	50.00			50.00	63.06
	Floor repairs	0.00			0.00	333.30
	Rector retirement (2019 - Architect Fee)	191.80			191.80	337.50
			840.23			
3(b)	**Fund Raising Costs**					
	Functions	70.00			70.00	0.00
	Magazine Printing	1175.69			1175.69	1356.19
	Cost of flowers	67.00			67.00	532.98
	Cost of coffee & biscuits	22.47			22.47	369.24
	Cost of Summer Fete				0.00	40.00
			1335.16			
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		82895.18	2912.97	85808.15	98022.72

2020 RESTORATION FUND

		Restricted Funds		TOTAL FUNDS 2020	TOTAL FUNDS 2019
2.	**INCOMING RESOURCES**				
2(a)	**Voluntary Income**				
	Donations				
	Grant from Lottery Heritage Fund				
	VAT Refund - LPW Grant Scheme				1513.75
	Other Grants - Diocese for Reordering				
	Tax Rebate				
	Legacy				
			0.00	0.00	
2(b)	**Activities for generating funds**				
	Craft Guild Sales				
	Miscellaneous events				
			0.00	0.00	
2(c)	**Income from investments**				
	Interest on deposit account - CBF	17.52			30.78
	Interest on Virgin Money	117.50			179.37
			135.02	135.02	
2(e)	**Other Income**				
			0.00	0.00	
	TOTAL		135.02	135.02	1723.90
3.	**RESOURCES EXPENDED**				
3(a)	**Church Activities**				
	Restoration				
	Fee - Architect	827.00			
	Internal Reordering				
	- decoration				
	- lighting				
	- floor repairs	2740.00			216.09
			3567.00	3567.00	
	Other Expenditure				
			0.00	0.00	
3(b)	**Fund Raising Costs**				
			0.00	0.00	
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		3567.00	3567.00	216.09

Notes to the Accounts 2020

4. (a) **STAFF COSTS**

	2020	2019
Invoiced payments for Organist for normal services	3,000.00	3,000.00

During the year the PCC contracted in an organist, who is self employed, and as such does not attract social security costs.

(b) **PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS**

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC. No expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

5. **FIXED ASSETS**

The PCC has no assets as defined in the Accounting Policies above (1)

6. **DEBTORS**

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
Other Debtors	246.48		246.48	616.35

In addition there is outstanding Tax recoverable, related to the period January to December 2020, which will be recovered during 2021. The estimated amount is £12,745.94, and will be accounted for in 2021 accounts. This includes reclaim for tax on small donations, which will provide an estimated £1,355.92 of income.

7. **CREDITORS**

Accruals for utility and other costs	1,388.25	296.21	1,684.46	3,446.38

8. **GENERAL NOTES**

8.1 Net movement of general funds in the year was -£6,389.60

8.2 Balances brought forward include historical legacies as follows:

General Account: legacies from 2009	£18,000.00
legacy in 2012	£5,000.00
legacy in 2013	£500.00
legacies in 2019	£1,500.00
Restoration Account: legacy in 2011	£116,326.33

8.3 Assigned Fees. A sum of £3,432.00 (£4,675.00 in 2019) has been paid to the Diocese, being the Statutory Fees charged for the services of clergy to officiate at weddings, funerals and the like.

8.4 Purchase of items for sale (eg. Cards, tea towels, pens etc) are written off in the year of payment.

8.5 Value of normal stock is less than £500.00. Stock is not controlled or accounted for.

Notes to the Accounts 2020

9. Charity Donations - 2020

The following donations were made to Charity:

		Overseas Missions & Christian Relief Agencies	Home Missions & Church Societies	Secular Charities	TOTALS
Church Sponsored Activities					
All from Restricted Income except items 9.6 and 9.7.					
9.1.	Neo Angels - lent activities			600.00	
9.2.	Little Sprouts - lent & Christmas Card			469.61	
9.3.	False Bay, South Africa	835.00			
9.4.	Childrens Society - Christingle service		305.00		
9.5.	NE Helplink - Harvest			500.00	
9.6.	Homestart PLAY scheme (Q1 only)			1,250.00	
9.7.	York Historic Churches		50.00		
	TOTAL	835.00	355.00	2,819.61	4,009.61
Restricted Donations at Funerals					
9.8.	Dogs Trust			176.76	
9.9.	Cancer Research			26.60	
	TOTAL	0.00	0.00	203.36	203.36
	TOTALS	**835.00**	**355.00**	**3,022.97**	**4,212.97**
	Additionally the following donations were made outside of the accounts, but resulting from efforts from members of the congregation:				
9.10	Christian Aid	500.00			500.00
	GRAND TOTAL				**4,712.97**

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Mary Magdalene Church, Yarm, PCC.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 and 2.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

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- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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Independent Examiner's statement

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1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

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    - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

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

Mr Philip Atkinson

30 Nursery Gardens, Yarm March 2021