

**CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN, NEVILLE'S CROSS, DURHAM**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
and ACCOUNTS**

**of the**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Incumbent :**

The Reverend Barnaby T. Huish  
The Rectory,  
10 Westhouse Avenue,  
Durham, DH1 4FH.

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024

*St John's Neville's Cross is a Registered Charity  
No. 1131053*

**St John's Church, Neville's Cross, Durham**  
**Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council**  
**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Administrative information**

St. John's Church is situated in Neville's Cross, Durham. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Antioch House, 66 Crossgate, Durham DH1 4PR. Since 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 the Parish has formed part of the United Benefice of Durham St Margaret, Neville's Cross St John and Bearpark St Edmund.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) was formerly exempt from registering as a charity, however in May 2009 it did register with the Charity Commission under the terms of the Charities Act 2006 (Charity No. 1131053). The members of the PCC are the Trustees of the Charity.

PCC members who have served from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

*Incumbent:*     The Revd Barnaby Huish     Chairman

*Churchwardens:*

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Mrs Jo Cundy       | Vice-chair (was also a lay representative on Deanery Synod until 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2023) |
| Mrs Kathryn Shanks |   |

*Licensed Associate Minister:*

The Revd Canon Dr Nichola Chater

*Lay Representatives on the Deanery Synod:*

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Mr Michael Chater | (PCC Secretary from 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2023) |
| Mr Adriel Yap     |  |

*Elected members:*

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Mr David Atkinson       | (PCC Secretary until 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2023) |
| Mr Michael Bullock      |   |
| Mrs Jenny Halford       | (until 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2023)               |
| Mrs Susan Massey        | PCC Treasurer                                   |
| Mr Andrew Mattches      |   |
| Mrs Janet Phillips      |   |
| Professor Thomas Shanks | (until 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2023)               |

*Co-opted member:*

Miss Amy Ward

**Structure, governance and management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC Standing Committee is empowered to transact business on the PCC's behalf outside regular meeting times if necessary; its current members are the Rector, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and PCC Treasurer.

## **Objectives and Activities**

St John's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Barnaby Huish, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and Church Centre complex of St John's, Neville's Cross. It also has responsibilities as an employer.

## **Achievements and Performance**

### ***Review of the year (January-December 2023):***

In several ways this year was one of prayer and consolidation. The church continued in its commitment to Partnership for Missional Church (PMC): a three-year programme, undertaken at the Bishop's invitation and with Diocesan support, for lay-led missional growth. The theme for most of this year was 'listening', which involved the PMC core team and others in interviewing members of the congregation and wider local community, finding and evaluating data on the parish from the 2021 census and other sources, and regularly 'dwelling in the Word' (helping us attend to God through the words of the Bible). Later in the year the focus moved on to 'experimenting' and, following a PCC away-day, a Mission Innovation Team was formed to develop ideas for engaging with our local community within the geographical area of the parish.

Since the departure of the parish's Children & Youth Worker the previous year, teams of lay people had maintained the variety of youth and children's activities in and around the church, and this continued throughout 2023: Messy Church continued to flourish under the dedicated and inspired leadership of Joan together with a committed and imaginative team of helpers; Playpeople likewise, thanks to Annette and Eleanor and others. Amy, our Music Missioner, led a regular sixth-form discussion group through the year, and for a number of Sundays she planned and led all-age services with younger members of the congregation. Meanwhile the St John's youth ministry partnership with King's Church ('LOL: Living Out Love') continued to run 'Dive' (for those in Year 7-9 on a Monday evening, which gradually grew in numbers during the year) and Super6 (which saw around thirty Year 6 children from local schools, and seven secondary school-age helpers, meeting in St John's after school on Fridays through the Spring term).

Neville's Cross Primary school held Easter, Remembrance and Christmas services in church; the Rector was invited to lead worship in the school on a number of occasions, and the school contributed artwork to the church for Easter and Remembrance Sunday. The Rector and Joan continued to serve as Foundation Governors at St Margaret's CE Primary School; the Rector led collective worship there for Infants and Juniors once a week, and Joan devised and led Prayer Spaces events at Easter and Christmas (the latter involving children from both local primary schools, with over six hundred coming to the church in the space of a week to explore the Christmas story through prayer-related activities).

On Sunday mornings, Sarah, Sarah, Janet, Robert, Joy and others maintained a provision of primary and secondary-age related activities during the 10.30 service,

albeit for much of the year there were few (or no) children in attendance. Thankfully, and following much prayer and perseverance, numbers of children returned to church in the autumn, and since then they have continued to form part of our worshipping community. At the end of the year the church proceeded to appoint a new Children, Youth and Families worker (to begin work in 2024).

Amy planned and hosted a vibrant and poignant concert in church, attended by a number of Ukrainian families, to mark the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February. In line with her contract, she continued to build on our relationship with the parish of Bearpark, being involved in the school and the church there and in various community initiatives and activities. Assisted by members of Bearpark Methodist Church, as well as people from St John's and St Edmund's, she ran a popular holiday club which was attended by children and families from the village, and she also led the Good Friday act of witness in the churchyard (which again involved a large number of children).

During the year St John's PCC committed to build on its recently-conferred Silver Eco Church award, and also committed to work towards becoming a GRT (Gypsy Roma Traveller) Friendly Church. In November, Nicky (Associate Minister at St John's) was appointed a non-residentiary Canon of Durham Cathedral in recognition of her work regionally and nationally with GRT communities.

We continued to hold two services for the most part every Sunday morning (except during August), at 8.45 and 10.30am. Between them our congregations have welcomed new members and have increased in size in the course of the year. The 10.30 service continues to be live streamed online each week, thanks to our dedicated a/v team; and similarly dedicated small teams of people work behind the scenes each week to set up for services, decorate the church with flowers and keep the building in order, as well as those who help enhance our worship through reading, leading prayers, making music, welcoming people and so forth.

Beyond Sunday mornings a good range of regular events and activities took place: over the year the monthly Taste service, led by Mike, welcomed a range of speakers from across the church community to talk about life and faith. The Mothers' Union, led by Annette, also welcomed a wide range of speakers to its monthly meeting. The Open Door Café and Community Choir continued to flourish, each run by a committed team of volunteers, hosted by the church while engaging members of the wider community. Cross Quarterly, our printed community newsletter, is delivered by a team of volunteer helpers, again from within and beyond the church, reflecting its broad appeal and readership. Home groups continue to meet regularly during the week, involving a growing number of people from across the congregations. A number of concerts took place in church during the year.

Routine and other work on the church building and grounds continued through the year; and the PCC worked to ensure that compliance with our policies, and broader good practice, was maintained. Many people worked, on a voluntary basis, to make this happen, including our parish safeguarding officer Jan, our health and safety officer Lavinia, the churchwardens, the fabric committee and others.

In the course of the year St John's was delighted to share in celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Derek, a regular worshipper here since the 1940s; it gave us occasion to reflect that while much has changed, St John's remains, as it always has been, a community hoping to welcome and sustain people as we share in Word and in Sacrament, in prayer, in worship and in service of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### ***Church Electoral Roll***

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting it was reported that there were 109 parishioners listed on the Church Electoral Roll.

### ***Financial Review, 2023***

The planned giving has seen a healthy rise of over 10% in commitment from the congregation at St John's. Well done! There was also a push to claim outstanding Gift Aid from donations which had been missed in the previous years. This has been allocated to the various funds where applicable.

Plate donations are a less convenient way of collecting income. We have invested in a Sum Up electronic device which, although slow to get off the ground, is now yielding an income by a means which many prefer to use. We can claim Gift Aid via the GASD scheme of small donations, as well as use the usual method for known donors.

Thanks are due to the Churches Estates Charity which supports the Rector's secretary and associated expenses. We also had grants to support the Missioner's work in Bearpark (£1,200) which allowed the play and lunch club to operate over six Mondays in the summer. The community magazine- Nevilles Cross Quarterly, also has a grant from the councillors to cover about half the expenses.

The church has also seen a revival in income for hire of the premises which had been affected by the pandemic over recent years.

The volatile nature of the market shows a rise in the value of investments this year to regain losses recorded last year. The capital with the Diocese is not accessible under the endowment rules but yields about £5,000 in interest.

The Parish Share to the Diocese was set at an affordable level for 2023, but the PCC felt able to make an extra one-off donation of £2,000. The PCC has already agreed to meet its pledge of £63, 525 in 2024.

St Johns's gave £8000 to outward giving. Research was carried out amongst the congregation to advise the PCC of charities they wished to support. Two new charities were A Rocha – a Christian environmental charity, and Friends Families and Travellers supporting the GRT community. We have continued the support of Catherine Lee through CMS, Transform Trade and Nepacs which supports local work with families who have loved ones in prison. The flexibility in our outward giving policy may see a reduction in this figure as our employment expenses increase in 2024.

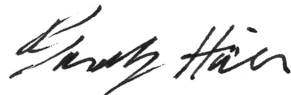
Special collections included the proceeds of a concert in aid of Ukraine in February 2023, as well as the donation of Christmas collections to DASH – a housing charity.

Inevitably the upkeep of the building has increased with higher utilities bills. We also spent more on consumables as the building was used more frequently.

The main focus in 2023 was to firm up our financial position after several years of planned deficit budgets. It feels positive to have had an excess of £29,000 of receipts over outgoing payments. There are potentially quite a few building projects to complete in the near future. Obviously, it has benefitted our finances not to have employed a full time youth worker for eighteen months. This hopefully creates a way forward in 2024.

Amy is now employed for 21 hours per week as Missioner, which is debited from the restricted fund. We charge the Sunday Service provision of Music Director (4 hours) to church expenses. With the appointment of Alex Walker as CYFW in January 2024, we are going to stretch our financial resources in the future. The congregation needs to be aware that giving into the Mission fund does need to increase to fulfil this aim. Antony Friswell has done a sterling job of preparing the accounts over several months as he gains insight to how St John's works. Next year we are hoping that tracking the finances will be easier as Antony has prepared this groundwork. So many thanks are due to Antony for this invaluable work and his patience as we have tried to simplify the system in a meaningful way. Thanks are also due to Michael Bullock who has helped and offered encouragement.

**Approved by the PCC at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024, and signed on its behalf by The Reverend Barnaby Huish (Chairman).**



## SUMMARY

### RECEIPTS

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Unrestricted Receipts      | £128,799        |
| Restricted Receipts        | £36,319         |
| <b>Total Receipts 2023</b> | <b>£165,118</b> |

### PAYMENTS

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Unrestricted Payments      | £101,648        |
| Restricted Payments        | £34,777         |
| <b>Total Payments 2023</b> | <b>£136,125</b> |

### ASSETS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Investments                  | £253,720        |
| Bank Balances                | £73,704         |
| <b>Total Monetary Assets</b> | <b>£327,424</b> |

**St John's Neville's Cross**  
Charity Number 1131053  
**Receipts & Payments Accounts for 2023**

**Receipts**

**General Fund Receipts**

|  | <b>2023</b>    | <b>Budget 2023</b> | <b>2022</b>    |
|--|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Planned Giving                         | 80,991         | 75,000             | 69,158         |
| Gift Aid                               | 17,700         | 18,000             | 12,268         |
| Gift Aid from previous year donations  | 7,733          |                    | 2,223          |
| Loose Plate Collection                 | 1,559          | 3,000              | 2,247          |
| Other Donations                        | 2,810          | 2,000              | 4,710          |
| Fees (Banns, weddings, funerals, etc.) | 191            | 500                | 646            |
| Whitby/Minsteracres weekend/day        |                | 1,000              |                |
| Sundry Church Activity                 |                | 250                | 500            |
| Hire of Premises                       | 4,898          | 3,000              | 2,673          |
| Messy Church                           | 380            |                    | 138            |
| Open Doors                             | 805            | 500                | 471            |
| Solar Panels                           | 2,479          | 2,500              | 2,383          |
| Other Income                           | 1              | 1                  | 1              |
| Interest/Dividends received            | 8,064          | 6,000              | 7,599          |
| <b>Total General Fund Receipts</b>     | <b>127,611</b> | <b>111,751</b>     | <b>105,017</b> |

**Designated Funds Receipts**

|  |              |            |            |
|--|--------------|------------|------------|
| Play People                            | 1,188        | 800        | 591        |
| Organ Fund                             |              |            | 135        |
| <b>Total Designated Funds Receipts</b> | <b>1,188</b> | <b>800</b> | <b>726</b> |

**Restricted Funds Receipts**

|   |               |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Local Mission and Grants                  | 14,743        | 20,000        | 14,062        |
| Grants (Church Estate Charity and others) | 11,638        | 14,000        | 19,889        |
| Eco Festival                              | 1,106         | 1,500         | 1,210         |
| LOL/ Whitaugh                             | 1,862         | 3,000         | 392           |
| Community Choir                           | 3,958         | 3,000         | 4,203         |
| Flower Fund                               | 214           |               | 162           |
| Special Collections                       | 2,298         |               | 1,625         |
| Cross Quarterly                           | 500           |               |               |
| <b>Total Restricted Funds Receipts</b>    | <b>36,319</b> | <b>41,500</b> | <b>41,543</b> |

|                           |                |                |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Total All Receipts</b> | <b>165,118</b> | <b>154,051</b> | <b>149,509</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|



**Payments**  
**General Fund Payments**

|  | <b>2023</b>   | <b>Budget 2023</b> | <b>2022</b>   |
|--|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Parish Share                           | 62,504        | 60,500             | 69,188        |
| Office Sundries & Book-keeper          | 3,450         |                    | 1,979         |
| Services & Music & MD                  | 3,591         | 1,400              | 2,869         |
| Organists                              | 1,445         | 1,000              | 1,120         |
| Messy Chuch                            | 843           | 400                | 885           |
| Café Church                            | 25            | 150                | 17            |
| Other mission and outreach/Open doors  | 929           | 800                | 576           |
| PCC Expenses (mainly first aid course) | 719           | 400                | 511           |
| Clergy Expenses (water)                | 396           | 1,000              | 372           |
| Maintenance                            | 2,949         |                    |               |
| Cleaning and Consumables               | 2,061         |                    |               |
| Utilities                              | 6,140         |                    | 6,460         |
| Accountancy                            | 1,387         | 1,000              | 1,009         |
| Printing                               | 110           | 50                 | 202           |
| Telephone/Wi Fi                        | 1,136         |                    | 2,414         |
| Insurance                              | 3,364         |                    | 3,186         |
| Bank Charges                           | 60            |                    |               |
| Sundries                               | 478           | 500                | 26            |
| SMDT/PMC Expenses                      | 360           | 400                | 19            |
| Fundraising (Sum up and Envelopes)     | 551           | 200                |               |
| Whitby/Minsteracres weekend/day        |               | 1,000              |               |
| Other Sundry events                    |               | 500                | 190           |
| Previous year funeral fees             |               |                    | 891           |
| <b>Total General Fund Payments</b>     | <b>92,498</b> | <b>69,300</b>      | <b>91,914</b> |

**Designated Funds Payments**

|  |              |              |               |
|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Building Major Repairs                 |              |              | 5,775         |
| Outward Giving                         | 8,000        | 8,000        | 7,000         |
| Organ Fund                             | 102          |              |               |
| Playpeople                             | 1,048        | 800          | 276           |
| <b>Total Designated Funds Payments</b> | <b>9,150</b> | <b>8,800</b> | <b>13,051</b> |

**Restricted Funds Payments**

|  |               |               |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Rector's Secretary Salary / expenses   | 11,470        | 14,000        | 12,113        |
| Missioner Salary/ Expenses             | 12,402        | 15,000        | 5,893         |
| Cross Quarterly                        | 1,059         | 1,000         | 1,065         |
| Eco Fest                               | 346           | 1,500         | 922           |
| LOL                                    | 2,418         | 4,500         | 996           |
| Nevilles Cross Community Choir         | 4,057         | 4,000         | 3,758         |
| Flowers                                | 262           |               | 115           |
| Special Collections                    | 2,298         |               | 1,625         |
| Children/Youth ministry Salaries       | 165           | 7,500         | 12,742        |
| <b>Total Restricted Funds Payments</b> | <b>34,477</b> | <b>47,500</b> | <b>39,229</b> |

|                           |                |                |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Total All Payments</b> | <b>136,125</b> | <b>125,600</b> | <b>144,194</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|

## Funds

| General Fund              | 1st Jan<br>2023 | Receipts       | Payments      | Transfers<br>IN | Transfers<br>OUT | 31st Dec<br>2023 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Investment                | 58,580          | 5,453          |               |                 |                  | 64,333           |
| Current Assets            | - 23,667        | 127,611        | 92,498        | 1,534           | 5,000            | 7,980            |
| <b>Total General Fund</b> | <b>34,913</b>   | <b>133,064</b> | <b>92,498</b> | <b>1,534</b>    | <b>5,000</b>     | <b>72,313</b>    |

### Designated funds

|                               |               |              |              |              |              |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Building Major Repairs        | 35,553        |              |              | 5,000        |              | 40,553        |
| Mission & Gifts 10% Fund      | 8,050         |              | 8,000        |              | 50           | -             |
| Solar Panels                  | 1,484         |              |              |              | 1,484        | -             |
| Playpeople                    | 2,500         | 1,188        | 1,048        |              |              | 2,640         |
| Organ Fund                    | 1,665         |              | 102          |              |              | 1,563         |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b> | <b>49,252</b> | <b>1,188</b> | <b>9,150</b> | <b>5,000</b> | <b>1,534</b> | <b>44,756</b> |

### Restricted Funds

|                               |               |               |               |          |          |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------|----------|---------------|
| Rector's Secretary & Office   | - 2,892       | 11,638        | 11,470        |          |          | - 2,724       |
| LOL Youth Ministry            | 3,610         | 1,862         | 2,418         |          |          | 3,054         |
| Environment & Community Fund  | 2,044         | 1,106         | 346           |          |          | 2,804         |
| Harold Lister Fund            | 700           |               |               |          |          | 700           |
| Flowers                       | 163           | 214           | 262           |          |          | 115           |
| Community Choir               | 2,032         | 3,958         | 4,057         |          |          | 1,933         |
| Church Youth Worker           | -             |               | 165           |          |          | - 165         |
| Cross Quarterly Newsletter    | -             | 500           | 1059          |          |          | - 559         |
| Missioner Salary & Expenses   | 13,469        | 14,743        | 12,402        |          |          | 15,810        |
| Special Collections           | -             | 2,298         | 2,298         |          |          | -             |
| <b>Total Restricted Funds</b> | <b>19,126</b> | <b>36,319</b> | <b>34,477</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>20,968</b> |

### Endowment Funds

|                   |         |        |  |  |  |         |
|-------------------|---------|--------|--|--|--|---------|
| Church Hall Trust | 172,792 | 16,595 |  |  |  | 189,387 |
|-------------------|---------|--------|--|--|--|---------|

|                    |                |                |                |              |              |                |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Total funds</b> | <b>276,083</b> | <b>187,166</b> | <b>136,125</b> | <b>6,534</b> | <b>6,534</b> | <b>327,424</b> |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|

## Assets

### Bank Accounts

|                                |               |  |  |  |  |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--|--|--|--|---------------|
| CafCash Account                | 6,038         |  |  |  |  | 8,142         |
| CafCash (LOL) Account          | 3,531         |  |  |  |  | 3,024         |
| CafGold Account                | 5,202         |  |  |  |  | 38,865        |
| Lloyds TSB                     | 24,158        |  |  |  |  | 12,472        |
| Vicarage Fund CCLA             | 392           |  |  |  |  | 404           |
| CBF Deposit fund (Church Hall) | 5,565         |  |  |  |  | 10,797        |
| <b>Total Bank Accounts</b>     | <b>44,886</b> |  |  |  |  | <b>73,704</b> |

### Investments

|                          | 1st Jan<br>2023 | Gain on<br>Valuation | Loss on<br>Valuation |  | Units<br>Sold | 31st Dec.<br>2023 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|---------------|-------------------|
| COIF Ethical Fund        | 58,580          | 5,753                |                      |  |               | 64,333            |
| CBF Investment Fund      | 172,791         | 16,596               |                      |  |               | 189,387           |
| <b>Total Investments</b> | <b>231,371</b>  | <b>22,349</b>        |                      |  |               | <b>253,720</b>    |

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>Total Assets</b> | <b>327,424</b> |
|---------------------|----------------|

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and signed on its behalf

The Revd Barnaby T Huish (Chairman)



## Notes

**Accounts Format.** In recent years the year end accounts have been presented in “Accruals” format. The 2023 accounts are presented in simpler “Receipts and Payments” format. R & P accounts record only the actual monetary transactions that have taken place during the period. They do not include a valuation of fixed assets (AV equipment, solar panels etc.) and they also do not include an allowance for year-end “debtors, creditors and accruals” (amounts owing). There has been no change in the methods of recording financial activity (book-keeping).

**Funds.** Fund values have been brought forward from the 2022 accounts with adjustments for the exclusion of fixed assets, debtors, creditors and accruals.

### Designated Funds

**Outward Giving Fund.** The stated intention has been that 10% of the previous year’s voluntary income should be transferred to this fund to be disbursed at the discretion of the PCC to local and other charities. There appears to have been some confusion regarding this definition with the result that a balance of £8,050 had accumulated in this fund before any transfer for 2023. A total of £8,000 was disbursed in 2023 and the balance of £50 transferred back to the general fund. The PCC has adjusted the policy and there is now an opportunity to make a more flexible decision regarding this.

**Solar Panels.** The £1,484 brought forward in this fund was a consequence of “accrual accounting”, whereby the value of the panels was depreciated over 15 years and a generous gift towards the original cost of the panels was written down over the same period. This residual amount has been transferred to the General Fund.

**Playpeople** is now administered by the PCC who provide premises and staff for this community activity. The Church acquired funds of £961 from this once independent group which can be used to purchase equipment as deemed necessary.

**Organ Fund.** A generous gift was designated to be spent on the organ “at some time in the future”. This year £102 was spent on organ maintenance.

### Restricted Funds

**Rector’s Secretary and Office.** The Rector’s secretary is employed by St. John’s on behalf of the PCCs of St John’s, St Margaret’s and St Edmund’s churches. The salary and general office expenses are fully reimbursed by the Church Estates Charity.

**LOL Youth Ministry Fund.** LOL (Living out Love) Youth ministry was originally a project of St. John’s, St Margaret’s, St. Oswald’s and Emmanuel churches. It continues, on a voluntary basis, with St. John’s and King’s Church. St. John’s takes legal and financial responsibility for the project.

**Environment and Community Fund.** The PCC decided to place the surplus generated from the EcoFest (and other similar events) since 2014 in a restricted fund for environmental and community projects, including the annual EcoFest.

**Harold Lister Fund.** The fund results from a legacy in the will of the late Harold Lister. It was stipulated that the sum of £1,000 shall be used for Church purposes by The Rector from time to time at his discretion.

**Flower Fund.** The fund is used for money collected for church flowers.

**Community Choir.** The PCC decided to support the formation of Neville's Cross Community Choir, allowing the choir to use the church without charge. The funds are administered by the church and the legal position is that the choir is under the control of the PCC.

**Church Youth Worker.** The PCC appointed a Children's and Youth worker early in 2024. Applications are to be made for grants in support of employment and other costs.

**Cross Quarterly.** The publication of the Community newsletter, Cross Quarterly, is a Church initiative for the benefit of the wider community.

**Local Mission Fund.** In 2020 the PCC agreed to fund a Local Mission Worker for 21 hours a week. Work is done within the parish and outreach extends to the neighbouring parish, Bearpark. The post is funded by donations and grants.

## **Endowment Funds.**

**Church Hall Trust Fund.** The fund originated from the sale of the site of the old church hall. The capital was invested in 8,378 units of the Central Board of Finance Investment Fund at a cost of £62,627. The use of the fund is restricted to the building of a new hall. As this restricted use is unlikely to be fulfilled, it is included in these accounts as an endowment fund. Dividends and interest are available for furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England within the parish and are therefore included in the assets of the General Fund. The value of the fund at the year-end was £189,387.

## **Restricted Grants Received**

**The Church Estates Charity.** One of the objects of Church Estate charity are "furthering the religious and other work of the Church of England within the area of benefit, i.e. the parishes of St Margaret's and St John's. In practice the cost of the Rector's Secretary and office expenses are paid by the Charity in arrears. In 2023, this amounted to £11,638.

**Cross Quarterly.** A grant of £500 was received from Local Councillors' Small Grants Budget for the publication of the Community Newsletter.

**Local Mission (Bearpark).** Grants were received of £500 from Believe Housing, £500 from Diocese of Durham, £200 from Councillors' Small Grants Budget.



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

#### Report to the trustees

Charity Name  
PCC of St John's Church, Neville's Cross

#### On accounts for the year ended

31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Charity no  
(if any) 1131053

#### Set out on pages

1 - 3

1 - 3 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

#### Independent examiner's statement

[ I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

*AR Friswell*

Date:

27/02/2024

Name:

Antony Friswell

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Address:

Westholme, Durham Moor, Durham. DH1 5AH