

CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN, NEVILLE'S CROSS, DURHAM

**ANNUAL REPORT
and ACCOUNTS**

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the year ended 31st December 2024

Incumbent :

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

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 11th May 2025

*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 31st December 2024

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 1st 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 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: The Revd Barnaby Huish Chairman

Churchwardens:

 Mrs Jo Cundy Vice-chair
 Mrs Kathryn Shanks

Licensed Associate Minister:

 The Revd Canon Dr Nichola Chater

Lay Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

 Mr Michael Chater (also PCC Secretary)
 Mr Adriel Yap

Elected members:

 Mr David Atkinson
 Mr Michael Bullock
 Rachel Lillycrop (from 19th May 2024)
 Mrs Susan Massey PCC Treasurer
 Mr Andrew Matches
 Mr Samuel Padfield (from 19th May 2024)
 Mrs Janet Phillips

Co-opted members:

 Mr Alexander Walker (from 13th June 2024)
 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 2024):

St John's began the year with a newly-appointed Children, Youth and Families Worker, Alex Walker, who started in post in January. Over the course of the year, he opened up new areas of work with local primary schools and established a new after-school group for secondary-age children. With his involvement, St John's continued to work in partnership with King's Church Durham: the now long-established 'LOL Youth Ministry' partnership ran regular weekday groups for youth aged 11-18, as well as an annual weekend away and the 9-week 'Super6' after school programme for Primary School leavers. Building on work done in the previous year, the church sustained and supported a steady number of children of various ages attending regularly on Sunday mornings, with age-specific groups and activities. Messy Church continued to flourish, taking place once a month (usually on a Sunday afternoon); and likewise Playpeople (on Tuesday mornings, for toddlers).

St John's Church remained strongly committed to the diocesan Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) programme, however momentum was lost when the diocese withdrew its support for the project midway through a three-year commitment. The St John's 'core group' (responsible for co-ordinating our involvement in PMC) resolved to carry forward learning from the curtailed process as much as may be possible, and to persevere with the Mission Innovation Team's intention 'to create intentional pathways of hospitality to our Neville's Cross neighbours'. In September, to help keep the congregation connected with these aims, members of the church led a much-appreciated parish away day, which took place in St Brandon's Church, Brancepeth.

St John's shared with the wider diocese in giving thanks for the ministry of Paul Butler, who retired as Bishop of Durham in February, and in praying for Bishop Sarah Clark as she took on the role of acting diocesan bishop. The parish continued to prioritise safeguarding across its activities, in accordance with diocesan and national church guidance, and prayers and support were offered for victims of abuse following publication of reports into historic failings at a national level in this area.

The parish's Music Missioner, Amy Ward, continued to work across the parishes of St John, Neville's Cross, and St Edmund, Bearpark. In Bearpark she built on links with community groups and individuals, running a very popular holiday club for families during the summer (and at other school holiday times). Her work with Bearpark Primary School included composing a musical telling the story of the village, which was performed for parents in school (with some of the songs being sung again later in

the year, at a community service marking the 40th anniversary of closure of the village colliery).

The pattern of Sunday services was maintained and strengthened throughout the year, with a regular pattern of two morning services of Holy Communion (one of which is live streamed online), a monthly all-age Service of the Word (usually following the 'Café Church' format), 'Taste' once a month on a Sunday evening, and Messy Church once a month. Lunches were shared after the morning services from time to time, one of which provided an opportunity for the Rector to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination as deacon. A special service was held in June (in Bearpark) at which the formation of the United Benefice of St John's, St Margaret's and St Edmund's was celebrated by the three congregations, and during which Canon Alan Bartlett's ministry as 'Mission Priest' for the village was formally recognised and affirmed.

The PCC continued to maintain the church building, with major work undertaken to resolve a longstanding problem of water ingress to the transept. The PCC revised and renewed its various working policies during the course of the year.

The life of the church was pursued and enhanced in all sorts of other ways: including through home groups, prayer groups, a book group and breakfast meetings; in the work of the Mothers' Union, the preparation and presentation of candidates for Confirmation, the fortnightly Open Door café and the annual Eco Festival (which remains a very significant and widely-enjoyed event for and beyond the local community); and in less visible ways, such as through pastoral care and support, individual prayer, and preparing the building for worship. The church continues to support and oversee Cross Quarterly (a community newsletter for Neville's Cross, which celebrated its tenth anniversary this year) and the local Community Choir.

Both in individual lives and corporately, the church seeks to celebrate and to serve God, through all that we offer in his name.

Church Electoral Roll

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting it was reported that there were 115 parishioners listed on the Church Electoral Roll.

Financial Review, 2024

Overall receipts and payments accounts are showing a slight deficit for 2024, but there are receipts due in arrears from the Church Estate Charity to cover the Rector's Secretary's salary and a contribution to the salary of our Children, Youth and Families Worker.

Voluntary giving has been sustained from 2023 levels, both in general giving and donations to the Mission fund.

The Church Estate Charity supports the salary and expenses of the Rector's secretary, Jane Holmes, for which St John's is very grateful. The Charity has also supported

about half the cost of employing our new Children, Youth and Families Worker, Alex Walker, who started working with us full time in late January 2024.

Our Music Missioner, Amy Ward, now works 25 hours per week and is funded from contributions from parishioners. She spends time working with musicians in St John's, as well as outreach in Bearpark, plus with many less visible mission projects.

Income from wedding and funeral fees is showing on the accounts as a large increase from the previous year, but set against payments, yields us a small amount of income. Unusually, St John's hosted two weddings in 2024 which explains this. Our usual numbers for funerals each year is about half a dozen. Most of this income is passed to the Diocese.

Lettings income is lower than 2023 but there are some overdue receipts.

St John's also manages the finances of the Community choir. Numbers attending choir have blossomed, as well as there being an increase in the weekly subscription charge.

In terms of outgoings, the PCC agreed to meet the guided pledge to the Diocese of £63,525 in 2024 and has met the increased pledge for 2025. The PCC feels that the parish share is a fundamental part of our responsibility as a parish as this supports clergy provision within the Diocese.

The PCC made a difficult decision to adjust outward giving to a more flexible but manageable amount. £6000 was distributed to A Rocha (an environmental charity), Friends Families and Travellers (Gypsy and Roma), as well as Catherine Lee (CMS), Transform Trade and Nepacs (local prison visitor services), as decided by the PCC and congregation last year. Charitable collections were passed to the Children's Society and Dash (homeless in Durham).

There was also a notable increase in expenditure on the upkeep of the building both in terms of maintenance and major projects. The roof work to prevent damp ingress into the Baptistry cost over £6000 and there was also work on trees and vegetation in the grounds. These bills came after a period when some jobs had been overlooked due to the pandemic, and the work is continuing into 2025.

We have managed to reduce the wi-fi and phone bills, as well as the utilities by signing up to better deals with those companies.

As mentioned last year, our finances are now being strained by the costs of employing an additional person. Parish members will need to address this when considering their giving.



**Approved by the PCC at its meeting on 1st May 2025, and signed on its behalf by
The Reverend Barnaby Huish (Chairman).**

SUMMARY

RECEIPTS

Unrestricted Receipts	£123,959
Restricted Receipts	£48,908
Total Receipts 2024	£172,867

PAYMENTS

Unrestricted Payments	£112,857
Restricted Payments	£62,241
Total Payments 2024	£175,098

ASSETS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Investments	£259,821
Bank Balances	£71,475
Total Monetary Assets	£331,296

St John's Neville's Cross

Charity Number 1131053

Receipts & Payments Accounts for 2024

Receipts

General Fund Receipts

	2024	2024 Gift Aid	Budget 2024	2023
Planned Giving	78,904		80,000	80,991
Gift Aid		19,292	25,000	17,700
Gift Aid from previous year donations				7,733
Loose Plate Collection	2,684		3,000	1,559
Other Donations	3,983		5,000	2,810
Fees (Banns, weddings, funerals, etc.)	3,092		500	191
Whitby/Minsteracres weekend/day			1,000	
Sundry Church Activity			250	
Hire of Premises	3,135		4,000	4,898
Messy Church	294	76	400	380
Open Doors	462	113	400	805
Solar Panels	2,482		2,500	2,479
Other Income	1		1	1
Interest/Dividends received	8,422		7,500	8,064
Total General Fund Receipts	103,459	19,481	129,551	127,611

Designated Funds Receipts

Play People	818	201	800	1,188
Organ Fund				
Total Designated Funds Receipts	818	201	800	1,188

Restricted Funds Receipts

Local Mission and Grants	11,740	2,671	15,000	14,743
Grants (Church Estate Charity and others)	21,406		27,000	11,638
Eco Festival	1,743	916	1,500	1,106
LOL/ Whitaugh	2,518	50	3,000	1,862
Community Choir	5,496	816	4,000	3,958
Flower Fund	120			214
Special Collections	932			2,298
Cross Quarterly	500			500
Total Restricted Funds Receipts	44,455	4,453	50,500	36,319

Total All Receipts	148,732	24,135	180,252	172,851
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Payments
General Fund Payments

	2024	Budget 2024	2023
Parish Share	63,525	63,523	62,504
Office Sundries & Book-keeper	4,054		3,450
Services & Music & MD	3,494	1,600	3,591
Organists	1,485	1,200	1,445
Messy Chuch	496	750	843
Café Church	156	150	25
Other mission and outreach/Open doors	115	800	929
PCC Expenses	30		719
Clergy Expenses (water)	528	1,000	396
Maintenance	7,562		2,949
Cleaning and Consumables	2,391		2,061
Utilities	5,337	16,500	6,140
Accountancy	269	500	1,387
Printing	263	50	110
Telephone/Wi Fi	580		1,136
Insurance	3,500		3,364
Bank Charges	60		60
Sundries		500	478
SMDT/PMC Expenses	350	400	360
Fundraising (Sum up and Envelopes)	106	200	551
Whitby/Minsteracres weekend/day	745	1,000	
Other Sundry events		500	
Funeral/Wedding fees Diocese	1,606		
Total General Fund Payments	96,651	88,673	92,498

Designated Funds Payments

Building Major Repairs	9,303	5,000	
Outward Giving	6,000	9,000	8,000
Organ Fund			102
Playpeople	902	800	1,048
Total Designated Funds Payments	16,204	14,800	9,150

Restricted Funds Payments

Rector's Secretary Salary / expenses	13,183	16,000	11,470
Missioner Salary/ Expenses	14,714	19,500	12,402
Cross Quarterly	1,258	1,000	1,059
Eco Fest	846	1,500	346
LOL	3,040	4,500	2,418
Nevilles Cross Community Choir	5,684	4,000	4,057
Flowers	179		262
Special Collections	937		2,298
Children/Youth ministry Salaries	22,401	26,000	165
Total Restricted Funds Payments	62,241	72,500	34,477

Total All Payments	175,096	175,973	136,125
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Funds

General Fund	1st Jan 2024	Receipts	Payments	Transfers IN	Transfers OUT	31st Dec 2024
Investment	64,333	1,766				66,099
Current Assets	7,980	122,940	96,651		11,000	23,270
Total General Fund	72,313	124,706	96,651	-	11,000	89,369

Designated funds

Building Major Repairs	40,553		9,303	5,000		36,250
Mission & Gifts 10% Fund			6,000	6,000		-
Playpeople	2,640	1,019	902			2,758
Organ Fund	1,563					1,563
Total Designated Funds	44,756	1,019	16,204	11,000	-	40,571

Restricted Funds

Rector's Secretary & Office	- 2,724	13,406	13,183			- 2,501
LOL Youth Ministry	3,054	2,568	3,040			2,582
Environment & Community Fund	2,804	2,659	846			4,617
Harold Lister Fund	700					700
Flowers	115	120	179			56
Community Choir	1,933	6,312	5,684			2,562
Church Youth Worker	- 165	8,000	22,401			- 14,566
Cross Quarterly Newsletter	- 559	500	1,258.15			- 1,317
Missioner Salary & Expenses	15,810	14,411	14,714			15,507
Special Collections	-	932	937			- 5
Total Restricted Funds	20,968	48,908	62,241	-	-	7,635

Endowment Funds

Church Hall Trust	189,387	4,335				193,722
Total funds	327,424	178,968	175,096			331,296

Assets

Bank Accounts

CafCash Account	8,142					8,608
CafCash (LOL) Account	3,024					2,553
CafGold Account	38,865					36,632
Lloyds TSB	12,472					6,713
Vicarage Fund CCLA	404					426
CBF Deposit fund (Church Hall)	10,797					16,544
Total Bank Accounts	73,704					71,475

Investments	1st Jan 2024	Gain on Valuation	Loss on Valuation		Units Sold	31st Dec. 2024
COIF Ethical Fund	64,333	1,766				66,099
CBF Investment Fund	189,387	4,335				193,722
Total Investments	253,720	6,101			-	259,821

Total Assets	331,296
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Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 1st May 2025 and signed on its behalf

The Revd Barnaby T Huish (Chairman)



Notes

Designated Funds

Major building Repairs. The PCC has continued its policy of transferring £5,000 p.a. into this fund from the General Fund. They may, from time to time, review whether this is an appropriate amount.

Playpeople is 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. There was no expenditure on organ maintenance during 2024.

Restricted Funds

Rector's Secretary and Office. The Rector's secretary is employed by St John's on behalf of St. John's, St Margaret's and St Edmund's churches. The salary and general office expenses are fully reimbursed by the Church Estate 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 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 the 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 has appointed a Children's and Youth worker. Applications are made for grants in support of employment and other costs.

Cross Quarterly News Letter The publication of the Community newsletter, Cross Quarterly, is a Church initiative for the benefit of the wider community. A grant of £500 was received from the local Councillor.

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 of 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 £193,722.

Restricted Grants Received

The Church Estates Charity. The objects of the 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 2024, this amounted to £13,406.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

PCC of St John's, Neville's Cross

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1131053

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

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**

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

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:

Date:

22/04/2025

Name:

Antony Friswell

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

(if any):	
Address:	Westholme, Durham Moor, Durham. DH1 5AH

Section B	Disclosure
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Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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