

Parish of Lanchester and Burnhope
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR 2023

At the start of 2023 the PCC Looked forward to continuing its work throughout the coming year. Under the leadership and chairmanship of our Priest in Charge, Revd Lesley, it was able during the year to make significant progress with the agreed priorities for the year, set out in its previous Annual Report; These were the further development of ministry to families and children, including regular intergenerational worship, laying the foundations for closer working with the parish of Harelaw and Annfield Plain, facilitating spiritual growth and day to day discipleship by the provision of bible studies, small groups and working together in mission, and continuing to support and encourage the various organisations within the churches. The careful management of decreasing financial resources during the year had also been agreed to be a matter of high priority.

These activities were all practical expressions of the PCC's primary purpose for every year, that is to promote the Gospel according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, seeking God in prayer and showing his love to those amongst whom we work.

During 2023 the PCC met on eight occasions. One meeting immediately followed the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 24th May and was for the appointment of officers, and the remaining seven were for the conduct of regular business.

At the end of 2023 the PCC, chaired by our Priest in Charge, had 19 members; during the year 22 different people had served in various capacities and at various times. The PCC was pleased that Curate Revd Stephen continued to play a valuable part in its discussions and work and, from April, to welcome Revd Abbey to its meetings.

At most meetings reports were received on finance, from the Churchwardens, from the Social and Fundraising Committee and on safeguarding issues. A report of each meeting of the Deanery Synod was also provided. Many of these reports were in written form and distributed to members several days before the meeting at which they were to be discussed. Regular 'clergy reports' were also received from Revd Lesley in which she outlined her current and planned

initiatives for ministry, many of which were amongst children, including children at Lanchester EP School and Burnhope School; the reconstituted Messy Church held at All Saints' Church continued to prove hugely popular and to attract the support of a number of new helpers.

The PCC throughout the year was well aware that careful financial management was essential to the life and work of the parish and was very appreciative of Michael Horsley's continuing work in the role of Treasurer and his attendance at every PCC meeting to present the latest accounting reports. At the March meeting the accounts for the previous financial year were accepted and were, in due course, examined and approved by the Independent Examiner.. An important financial decision was made at the September meeting when the Diocese's recommended Guided Pledge contribution for the parish for 2024 was considered. After detailed discussion the PCC agreed to pledge £60,000, a little less than the Diocese's recommendation. This decision was made in the light of the increasing difficulty being experienced in meeting other financial obligations. At the same meeting discussion took place on a wide range of other possible methods of cost reduction. Each year the PCC agrees the payment of a sum of approximately £500 to each of two charities. At its November meeting it was agreed this year to support Lanchester Village Bus and Willow Burn Hospice.

During the year the PCC was very pleased to support Revd Lesley as, with Revd Stephen and Revd Abbey, she continued, and continues, with a significant number of initiatives within the community, particularly in the schools,.

Safeguarding remains a priority for the PCC and arrangements are made on its behalf to ensure that all necessary training is up to date and that any issues which arise are handled sensitively and effectively. At its November meeting it approved and adopted the latest version of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy.

The work of the Social and Fundraising Committee continued and thanks to the efforts of its chair and members raised in various imaginative and innovative ways considerable sums for charities and for church funds. The PCC was delighted at its meetings to support these activities and hear of their outcomes. Particular thanks were given to Margaret Walters as she relinquished the Committee's chair at the end of the year.

An important part of each meeting was to receive a report from the churchwardens part of whose work enables the PCC to continue to exercise its responsibility for the fabric of the two church buildings and churchyards. Issues which required the attention of the churchwardens during 2023 included

organising and supporting the Warm Space initiative at the beginning of the year, developing plans to restore the chimes to All Saints' clock, rearrangement of storage within All Saints', various issues relating to the churchyard at St John's Church, arranging inspections of the premises by statutory bodies and, at the end of the year, by the Archdeacon and responding to any recommendations. Managing the heating system at All Saints in a cost effective way was a significant part the churchwardens' role. Through the year the churchwardens in many different ways supported the clergy in their ministries.

The PCC in October responded to the Deanery Synod's invitation to parishes to comment on possible future arrangements between parishes in the light of the severe shortage of clergy within the Deanery.

The PCC looks forward in hope and faith to the opportunities and challenges which 2024 will bring. Its priorities for 2024 are,

first, the continuation of support to Revd Lesley and other clergy in their ministries, including the further development of ministry to families and children, a commitment to move to intergenerational worship and some more contemporary services;

second, a renewed discernment of our outreach and mission to those on the margins, including an examination of whether we might look to employ a parish nurse and

thirdly, the support and encouragement of the various organisations within the churches. A high priority will once again be the careful management of decreasing financial resources.

**David Baggott PCC
Secretary**

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.' *Mark 9:30-37*

We are a lively and inclusive community of Christians seeking to know the love of God more deeply for ourselves and to share it with others.

Our vision is to be a community of prayer, friendship and active compassion, celebrating Jesus' call to life in all its fullness.

In 2023 our website died. Sadly we couldn't save it; not only was it difficult to access for editing, it was also costly, and so we now use the free facility of A Church Near You as our main point of contact online, together with our very well-used Facebook pages. But we have one very important takeaway from it, and that's the strapline above. It's literally our vision statement, the vision we've aspired to and have been working towards, since my licensing in 2019.

I repeat it now because, in one of those God-incidences in which we discern the action of the Holy Spirit, the reading for the Eucharist which precedes our APCM for 2023 is the passage from St Mark's Gospel also quoted above. We are to be disciples, those who learn from Jesus; we are to be servants of all, a community of love reaching out to those in need and those on the margins; and we are to welcome everyone, adults and children alike. Jesus commissions us to service, just as surely as he does when he sends out the twelve and the seventy, and gives us an understanding of what it means to follow him.

And our vision statement is a direct echo of the Gospel. We aspire to be a **community**- united by the bonds of love. We wish to be **disciples**, learning to know God better. We know that we are sent out as **apostles** to share the most precious gift we have, the gift of Good News. When we pray to have **active compassion**, we know that we are not the greatest, but last of all and servant of all, putting others first. And when Jesus reminds his followers that God's **welcome** is for everyone, from the tiniest child to the oldest and most venerable adult, we use the word **inclusive** to describe our church family.

I hope that, reading this report, you will see the outworking of this statement, and will recognise your part in it. There is no retirement for the committed Christian, no end to the call to transformation, as individuals, as families, as church, and as the body of Christ in our villages. Following faithfully is hard work, and often change is difficult to bear; but if we are to grow and to assure the future of the church in Lanchester and in Burnhope, this is our calling. I hope you will, too, be heartened by the obvious shoots of new growth around us, and by the joy of sharing the life of Christ, in all its fullness.

Worship and discipleship

- In 2023 we completely resumed a pattern of worship that includes an 8am Sunday Eucharist, a 9.15 service at Burnhope and a 10.30 Eucharist at All Saints, as well as the Wednesday 9.45 service. Attendance at all of our services is steady, and we also offer a monthly service at Lynwood House and a monthly midweek Café Church at Burnhope community centre which are well attended;
- Our ministry team grew with the addition of Anne Lipscombe, who came to us on placement and decided to stay! Anne was a reader in training, but re-entered the discernment process during 2023 and has been selected for ordination training. Anne has a heart for mission and teaching, and has already made huge contributions to the life of the church, including re-invigorating our Bible and Bait group at St Thomas', at which all are welcome, and delivering inventive and well-received Lent and Advent courses;
- Sadly, Peter Jackson retired as reader in 2023. We thank him for the huge role he has played in preaching, teaching and as a member of our PCC, and we are grateful that he remains a well-loved member of our congregations;
- Music continues to be an area of excellence under Craig's direction;

- We continue to offer meditation, led beautifully by Sue;
- The prayer of the Julian group continues to underpin our worship.

Occasional Offices

- We continue to be a resource to the wider community for significant life events, and have a busy funeral and baptismal ministry.
- The few weddings we hold are wonderful, but we are in competition with the numerous one-stop wedding venues along the Beamish valley;

Pastoral Work

- The demand for pastoral visits is large and still growing. It is impossible for clergy to carry out all of the pastoral visiting work, and we could not manage without the considerable assistance of the pastoral visiting team. We are always looking for new volunteers, to whom training will be given. The work is vital as we have an increasing number of congregation members who can no longer get to church, and it is deeply rewarding for both volunteers and those who are visited. Please do consider whether you are called to this ministry, particularly as Stephen prepares to leave us;
- Clergy still provide chaplaincy services to Willowburn, and visit those in hospital in liaison with our hospital chaplains.

Schools and Children

- Building on foundations established in 2022, we regularly visit and deliver collective worship in four schools of the six across our two parishes. Both the EP and Burnhope Primary schools bring KS 1 and 2 children to church as part of the RE curriculum, and for the great feasts of the church.
- We ran a confirmation course in the EP school prior to Deanery Confirmations in September, and presented 14 candidates to be confirmed, who have gone on to become part of the school's worship team.
- I continue to be ex officio and vice-chair of the governors of the Ep School, and together with Rev'd Abbey and Margaret Matthews, we are a strong Christian presence on the school's governing body. The recent finding of OFSTED that the school's Christian ethos 'shines through' is

founded in our work and witness, and in the relationship of church with school;

- I delivered an after school club and Forest church in school in summer term 2023;
- There is a growing collaborative relationship between the church, Burnhope school and the community centre, and a small but mighty team of volunteers from both parishes often works in the kitchen on the community centre's holiday club days.
- The same cross-border team- with a couple of additions- now delivers our Open the Book sessions in four schools, and is much appreciated by the children.
- Messy Church continued to experiment in 2023. We used our outdoor space for activities, visited the Community Orchard for Apple Day, and in the first week of Advent we turned All Saints into Narnia, as we invited Messy Church and the whole of the EP school to step through the wardrobe. Over 500 children enjoyed our 7 prayer stations, and met Mr Tumnus, Lucy, The White Witch and Father Christmas. Huge thanks go to Hannah, Caroline, Ann-marie, Rob and Eric, Hazel, Liz, Linda, Sophie, Joel and Ian for the enormous amount of work and planning that made it such a success. Reflection and planning continues as there are undoubtedly areas for growth upon which we can build.
- 2023 saw the launch of our Sunday School, led by Caroline and Janet. Sunday school numbers are regularly between 10 and 16, bucking the national trend which is still for declining attendance of children in church. We are thankful that our Sundays are enlivened by the laughter of children, and look forward to building on the success of the Sunday School as part of our PCC objectives.

Missional Projects

- Our Warm Space in collaboration with Burnhope community centre was successful and has grown into a regular Wednesday lunch club, led by Pauline Hall and our combined volunteer team;
- At Christmas 2023 we took part in the Big Christmas Lunch at Burnhope, feeding and entertaining 50 people who would otherwise have been alone for Christmas;

- Anne led the Burnhope Supper Club in conjunction with school, community centre and Feeding families, teaching disadvantaged families the basics of cooking with ingredients from the Foodbank;
- Publicity is more and more important in engaging those who do not normally come to church. We have been blessed in 2023 by Ann, who has taken over the editing of our magazine, Trinity, and who also manages our ACNY pages. Many thanks to Rob, who stepped down after years of faithfully chasing contributors for content!

Safeguarding

- Safeguarding is of vital importance to us as a community engaged in living out our faith; we are called to love our neighbour as ourselves, to serve the last and the least, and to protect those who are the most vulnerable. We have rigorous structures in place to ensure the safety of all, and place the highest priority on acting appropriately should a safeguarding incident take place.
- The PCC has adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding is a regular agenda item at PCC meetings. Training is up to date; the PCC engages in Safer Recruitment processes; we are engaging with the Safeguarding Parish Dashboards. There were no incidents in 2023 but there were occasions on which we took the advice of the DSO and Social Services and acted upon such advice.
- Sue Smith has been an outstanding PSO, who has given faithful service to the parishes and their people. As she steps down from the role we extend our heartfelt thanks to her

Ecumenical Working

- We continue to discern a new understanding of ecumenical working in our contexts, having collaborated on a cohesive Warm Spaces offering.

Stewardship and Finance

- We continue to feel the bite of the cost of living crisis. Energy is low, families have disproportionately less disposable income and costs have risen in line with or over the inflation rate. The economic climate for churches and charities in general is now very challenging, and in 2023 we took steps to avoid running at a deficit.

- It is sobering to note that, as in 2022, and after running a month-long Stewardship campaign we were unable to meet our full pledge to the Diocese.
- We are monitoring expenditure as we move forward, are actively applying for (and securing) grants for mission, and the events staged by the Social and Fundraising group and the 100 Club continue to make a much-needed contribution to our finances.
- We made a successful application for a subsidised digital giving device in late 2023, and are grateful to the team who have been trained in its use and who now monitor it. Installation was not without its problems! We are hopeful that it will be a source of reasonably substantial donations as society relies less and less on cash.
- We are indebted to our treasurer, Michael, who dealt with significant financial and administrative difficulties in 2023 with persistence, humour and grace.

Deanery Synod and Deanery Plan

- Work on the Deanery plan was intensive in 2023, taking us on 3 Away Days. The support of our deanery Synod representatives was invaluable, and we were deeply saddened by the death of Brenda Craddock, our representative on Diocesan Synod.
- Early 2024 saw agreement on a new Deanery Plan involving the separation of Burnhope and Lanchester from St Thomas', and the inception of a new Derwentside East Group ministry involving St Thomas', St James Burnopfield and Stanley. Plans are currently being scrutinised by the Church Commissioners;

The Life of The Church

- All Saints and Saint Johns' remain vibrant communities with much to offer.
- Both churches have active MU branches, with St John celebrating its centenary in 2022 with a special evensong.
- All Saints Church Wives group continues to meet and enjoy fellowship.
- Floral decorations contribute to our sacred spaces.
- The music of the bells calls us to prayer and is much appreciated by the village, and we have new ringers in the tower learning their craft.

- We have a generous heart for those in need, and still collect items for the Consett Foodbank; we support local charities including the Village Bus.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Numbers on the Electoral Roll reported to APCM 5th May 2023

Resident	165
Non-resident	<u>30</u>
Total	<u>195</u>

Since the 2023 APCM:

- The names of six people have been added, all of whom live within the parish.
- four people have died, all of whom lived within the parish.

Numbers on the Electoral Roll as at 3rd May 2024

Resident	169
Non-resident	<u>30</u>
Total	<u>199</u>

David Baggott
Electoral Roll Officer

Treasurer's Report for 2023

Total receipts for the year were £101,149 and payments £92,865 resulting in a surplus of £8284.

Parish share was not paid in full. At the PCC meeting in September it was agreed to limit payments to £60,000 to avoid drawing on designated funds. At this meeting it was also decided not to increase the pledge for 2024. There was no further PCC meeting when the share could be adjusted although income did increase without a compensating increase in costs.

The restricted funds where appropriate were used for some payments amounting to £1592. This was more than covered by improved fund income for the year. Due to a change by CCLA that administers some of our funds only 9 months interest has been included. The final 3 months interest due to these accounts will be added to the accounts early January 2024.

The PCC nominated secular charities for 2023 were Daft as a Brush and the Village Bus. For 2024 they are Willowburn Hospice and the Village Bus with £500 for each.

St John's church receipts and payments were again recorded separately as a designated fund.

The PCC has a reserves policy to maintain a balance of three months running costs in the General Fund. At the year end the balance was £18,122 when £24,000 was required.

2023 has been a year with high inflation allowing little scope for increasing income or containing costs. Fixed price energy contracts negotiated by Steve Bailey helped significantly. These end in March 2024 and new contracts will result in much higher energy costs. It is looking increasingly likely that contracts negotiated in Steve's name by the broker Bionic will follow.

Work has been carried out on the Chapter House heating system to allow better control.

A card machine has been installed with the aim of providing an additional income stream. The only income so far is the small amount added by Church Wardens on the training day in November. These do not cover the costs incurred to date.

Michael Horsley

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Total funds funds	Restricted Prior year funds total funds	Endowment funds		
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	78,433	1,560	—	79,994	82,095
Income from charitable activities	1,967	—	—	1,967	2,875
Other trading activities	11,017	661	—	11,678	9,015
Investments	1,052	6,023	433	7,509	1,939
Total income	92,470	8,245	433	101,149	95,925
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	150	293	—	444	476
Expenditure on charitable activities	89,744	2,676	—	92,421	96,663
Other expenditure	—	—	—	—	78
Total expenditure	89,895	2,969	—	92,865	97,219
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	2,574	5,275	433	8,283	(1,293)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	87	364	—	451	104,179
Gross transfers between funds - out	(87)	(364)	—	(451)	(104,179)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds	2,574	5,275	433	8,283	(1,293)
Total funds brought forward	55,654	88,804	66,283	210,743	212,036
Total funds carried forward	58,229	94,080	66,716	219,026	210,743
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	18,122	—	—	18,122	18,149
Designated					
Energy Fund	4,069	—	—	4,069	5,372
Mission/social Action	339	—	—	339	—
Pallister legacy fund	28,266	—	—	28,266	27,388
St Johns Burnhope	7,431	—	—	7,431	4,744
Restricted					
Canon Chase Bequest fund	—	37,087	—	37,087	36,784
Clock	—	500	—	500	500
HP Thompson Tower fund	—	9,577	—	9,577	9,279
Hedley stone	—	862	—	862	862
Oliver Bequest endowment	—	27,007	—	27,007	23,168
Ruth Shotton Choir hymnal and organ fund	—	4,639	—	4,639	5,262
St Johns church yard	—	700	—	700	700
Sunday School	—	1,464	—	1,464	1,500
Sunday School endowment	—	4,146	—	4,146	3,942
Tithe Act 1936 endowment	—	217	—	217	217
Warm spaces	—	956	—	956	—
Wheldon endowment	—	6,921	—	6,921	6,585
Endowment					
Oliver Bequest endowment	—	—	60,494	60,494	60,494
Sunday School endowment	—	—	509	509	509
Tithe Act 1936 endowment	—	—	4,995	4,995	4,562
Wheldon endowment	—	—	717	717	717

Balance sheet

year funds	Total funds Prior	
Current assets		
Investments	184,945	179,203
Cash at bank and in hand	37,917	31,540
	222,863	210,743
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	3,836	—
	3,836	—
Net current assets less current liabilities	219,026	210,743
Total assets less current liabilities	219,026	210,743
Total net assets less liabilities	219,026	210,743
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General fund	18,122	18,149
Designated		
Energy Fund	4,069	5,372
Mission/social Action	339	—
St Johns Burnhope	7,431	4,744
Pallister legacy fund	28,266	27,388
Restricted		
Clock	500	500
Ruth Shotton Choir hymnal and organ fund	4,639	5,262
Canon Chase Bequest fund	37,087	36,784
Sunday School	1,464	1,500
Agency collection	—	—
Hedley stone	862	862
Oliver Bequest endowment	27,007	23,168
St Johns church yard	700	700
Sunday School endowment	4,146	3,942
Tithe Act 1936 endowment	217	217
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Wheldon endowment	6,921	6,585
HP Thompson Tower fund	9,577	9,279
Endowment		
Oliver Bequest endowment	60,494	60,494
Sunday School endowment	509	509
Tithe Act 1936 endowment	4,995	4,562
Wheldon endowment	717	717
Funds of the church	219,026	210,743

Fund movement by type

	Journals	Opening Closing	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	
Clock - Clock							
Restricted	500	—	—	—	—	—	500
Sub-total for Clock	500	—	—	—	—	—	500
Energy - Energy Fund							
Designated	5,372	—	1,302	—	—	—	4,069
Sub-total for Energy	5,372	—	1,302	—	—	—	4,069
Hedley - Hedley stone							
Restricted	862	—	—	—	—	—	862
Sub-total for Hedley	862	—	—	—	—	—	862
OilverE - Oliver Bequest endow							
Restricted	23,168	3,839	—	—	—	—	27,007
Endowment	60,494	—	—	—	—	—	60,494
Sub-total for OilverE	83,662	3,839	—	—	—	—	87,501
SJChYard - St Johns church yard							
Restricted	700	—	—	—	—	—	700
Sub-total for SJChYard	700	—	—	—	—	—	700
SchoolE - Sunday School endowm							
Restricted	3,942	923	354	(364)	—	—	4,146
Endowment	509	—	—	—	—	—	509
Sub-total for SchoolE	4,451	923	354	(364)	—	—	4,655
SocialA - Mission/social Actio							
Designated	—	500	160	—	—	—	339
Sub-total for SocialA	—	500	160	—	—	—	339
TitheE - Tithe Act 1936 endow							
Restricted	217	—	—	—	—	—	217
Endowment	4,562	433	—	—	—	—	4,995
Sub-total for TitheE	4,780	433	—	—	—	—	5,213
Warm - Warm spaces							
Restricted	—	1,470	513	—	—	—	956
Sub-total for Warm	—	1,470	513	—	—	—	956
WheldonEnd - Wheldon endowment							
Restricted	6,585	335	—	—	—	—	6,921
Endowment	717	—	—	—	—	—	717
Sub-total for WheldonEnd	7,303	335	—	—	—	—	7,638
Youth - Youth work							
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Youth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General - General fund							
Unrestricted	18,149	84,944	84,884	(87)	—	—	18,122
Sub-total for General	18,149	84,944	84,884	(87)	—	—	18,122
John - St Johns Burnhope							
Designated	4,744	6,148	3,547	87	—	—	7,431
Sub-total for John	4,744	6,148	3,547	87	—	—	7,431
Pal - Pallister legacy fun							
Designated	27,388	877	—	—	—	—	28,266
Sub-total for Pal	27,388	877	—	—	—	—	28,266
Tower - HP Thompson Tower fu							
Restricted	9,279	297	—	—	—	—	9,577
Sub-total for Tower	9,279	297	—	—	—	—	9,577
Music - Ruth Shotton Choir h							
Restricted	5,262	168	792	—	—	—	4,639
Sub-total for Music	5,262	168	792	—	—	—	4,639

Chase - Canon Chase Bequest							
Restricted	36,784	1,178	876	—	—	—	37,087
Sub-total for Chase	36,784	1,178	876	—	—	—	37,087
Wheldon - Wheldon							
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Wheldon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tithe - Tithe act 1936							
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Tithe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
School - Sunday School							
Restricted	1,500	32	433	364	—	—	1,464
Sub-total for School	1,500	32	433	364	—	—	1,464
Oliver - Oliver Bequest fund							
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Oliver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand total	210,743	101,149	92,865	—	—	—	219,026

Analysis of income and expenditure

Total

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>This</u>
<u>year</u>	<u>Last year</u>				

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

Donations and legacies

0101 - Gift Aided - Bank	21,628	—	—	—	21,628	23,93
0110 - Gift Aided - Envelopes	—	80	—	—	80	15
0111 - Parish giving Scheme	22,327	1,122	—	—	23,450	22,84
0201 - Other planned giving	1,874	312	—	—	2,186	1,96
0301 - Loose plate collections	7,809	1,955	90	—	9,855	9,66
0302 - Coffee donations	930	—	—	—	930	1,06
0303 - Credit card	7	—	—	—	7	—
0410 - Wall safe giving	18	—	—	—	18	1
0501 - Gift Aided one-off	3,705	—	—	—	3,705	1,31
0550 - Donations appeals etc	1,645	236	45	—	1,926	3,07
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	13,735	96	—	—	13,831	10,93
0701 - Legacies	—	—	—	—	—	1,00
0801 - Recurring grants	100	50	—	—	150	45
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	300	500	1,425	—	2,225	5,37
0901 - Other funds generated	—	—	—	—	—	32
Total	74,081	4,352	1,560	—	79,994	82,09

Income from charitable activities

0802 - Vicarage - St Thomas share	—	—	—	—	—	25
0803 - Curate - St Thomas share	—	—	—	—	—	28
0804 - Expenses from St Thomas	—	—	—	—	—	15
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	1,719	198	—	—	1,917	2,10
1102 - Heating for weddings/funerals	50	—	—	—	50	7
Total	1,769	198	—	—	1,967	2,87

Other trading activities

0910 - Fundraising - combined	7,085	2,098	661	—	9,845	6,95
1211 - Traidcraft sales	177	—	—	—	177	54
1220 - Fund raising - diary sales	—	—	—	—	—	3
1250 - Magazine income - advertising	280	—	—	—	280	36
1260 - Magazine sales	1,375	—	—	—	1,375	1,12
Total	8,919	2,098	661	—	11,678	9,01

Investments

1001 - Fund gain/loss	—	—	—	433	433	(468
1020 - Fund interest	144	877	6,023	—	7,046	2,32
1030 - Rent from lands or buildings	30	—	—	—	30	8
Total	174	877	6,023	433	7,509	1,93
INCOME TOTAL	84,944	7,526	8,245	433	101,149	95,92

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds

1721 - Traidcraft costs	—	—	—	—	—	45
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	46	—	293	—	339	2
1750 - Credit card machine	104	—	—	—	104	—
Total	150	—	293	—	444	47

Expenditure on charitable activities

1731 - Rent of Burnhope Community Centre	—	—	—	—	—	6
1850 - Home mission	351	40	219	—	611	31
1870 - Secular charities	1,000	—	—	—	1,000	1,67
1910 - Parish share	60,000	—	—	—	60,000	62,10
2001 - Organist / staff costs	3,000	—	—	—	3,000	3,17
2002 - Organist fee	240	—	—	—	240	15
2101 - Working expenses incumbent	139	—	—	—	139	4
2102 - Working expenses of Curate	961	—	—	—	961	1,17
2140 - Vicarage water rates	332	—	—	—	332	40
2145 - Curate water rates	430	—	—	—	430	43
2150 - Vicar's telephone	356	—	—	—	356	49
2170 - Education	—	—	236	—	236	33
2171 - Childrens education/activities	—	160	552	—	712	88
2201 - Parish training and mission	28	—	—	—	28	—
2301 - Church running - insurance	4,987	2,061	—	—	7,049	6,67
2310 - Church office - telephone	367	—	—	—	367	38
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	436	—	—	—	436	43
2330 - Church maintenance	2,925	1,560	876	—	5,362	2,43
2340 - Upkeep of services	1,899	172	792	—	2,864	3,07
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	96	78	—	—	174	1,32
2360 - Parish review, CCLI	260	—	—	—	260	1,07
2361 - Stationary	35	—	—	—	35	16
2362 - Photocopying	1,274	—	—	—	1,274	3,28
2370 - Visiting speakers / locums	56	—	—	—	56	5
2401 - Church running - electric	978	189	—	—	1,167	1,15
2410 - Church running - gas	2,373	664	—	—	3,037	3,37
2420 - Church running - water	107	84	—	—	191	12
2501 - Magazine expenses	1,649	—	—	—	1,649	1,86
2601 - Governance costs	390	—	—	—	390	—
examination/audit fee	—	—	—	—	—	—
2840 - Other PCC property upkeep	55	—	—	—	55	—
Total	84,733	5,011	2,676	—	92,421	96,66

Other expenditure

2502 - Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	7
Total	—	—	—	—	—	7
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	84,884	5,011	2,969	—	92,865	97,21
GRAND TOTAL	59	2,514	5,275	433	8,283	(1,293)

Note £3,836 shown as an amount falling due in one year is the money being held for flowers and bell ringing.

This report dated:

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts
Report to the Parochial Church Council of Lanchester and Burnhope
On accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Respective responsibilities of members and examiner

The members of the Parochial Church Council are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The members 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 to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 Commissioners. 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 matter has come to my attention

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the members have not met the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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.

Signed JD Holloway

Name JD Holloway FCA DChA
Ribchesters, Chartered Accountants
Finchale House, Belmont Business Park
Durham DH1 1TW

Date: 5th April 2024

Churchwardens Report for APCM May 21st 2024

Our Churches started 2023 not as in the previous two years with the consequences of COVID but in response to the high cost of energy prices experienced by all but especially older and vulnerable families. Both All Saints and St John's responded by offering Warm Spaces providing warmth, hot drinks and snacks and welcome, several days a week between January and April. A rota was formed with people kindly giving up their time to serve those who turned up. All Saints hub was in the Chapter House and St John's in the Burnhope Community Centre. St John's has flourished into a regular and still running Lunch Club which is still going strong.

As ever the Wardens continue to support Lesley as she balances her duties between the parishes and beyond, and all of our Clergy in the carrying out of their ministries.

At the APCM of 2023 on the 24th May, Doreen Park, Pauline Hall, Eric Gaskill and Rob Matthews were duly elected as Churchwardens for 2023/24 and were sworn in by Archdeacon Libby at All Saints on 29th June.

All of our regular servicing and maintenance work have been carried out during the year. In addition, in June, the Chapter House heating system has been drained, flushed out and refilled with all valves changed and a new thermostat controlling Chapter House and Vestries. In July the loft was cleaned and surplus items removed, junk to the tip and some items to charity organisations. Build up of 'Stuff' remains a constant problem due to lack of serious storage space. Also, in July EIG, our insurers, requested a telephone audit which took over an hour but satisfied their requirement regarding our insurance. Items which came to light was the fact that our Electrical Safety inspection and Lightning Conductor certificates were due to be carried out during 2023. Both inspections have been done, certificates issued and copies sent to EIG and acknowledged.

August saw our Archdeacon's visit and inspection which went well and all requirements have been met.

Sunday October 29th saw heavy rain and the flooding of parts of the village and All Saints opened sadly not for services, but as one of the village's emergency response centres where hot coffees and tea and biscuits and especially a warm retreat were provided for members of the emergency services and some residents who had been affected by the flooding.

November saw the usual (sadly now diminishing slightly) band of volunteers to clear the churchyard of leaves at our Annual Churchyard Clean, St Johns saw the same event the following week. We do thank all those volunteers who do turn up every year, but would be pleased to welcome new 'members' to the group.

Advent was welcomed by the Narnia Event where the Church was transformed by volunteers into the mystical world of Narnia (C.S. Lewis) which coincided deliberately with the village lighting of the Christmas Tree and carols on the green, preceded in Church by a Christingle service.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone in our churches for the support we have received throughout another year without which we could not have managed.

Rob Matthews for the Churchwardens May 2024

