

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended
31 December 2023
for
Stokesley with Seamer PCC**

Stokesley with Seamer PCC

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for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

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Stokesley with Seamer PCC

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1131281

Principal address

The Rectory
Leven Close
Stokesley
Middlesbrough

Trustees

Ex-officio

Clergy: Rev Ben Gunter (Priest-in-Charge & Chair)

Churchwardens: Judith Turland; John Groom (Vice Chair); David Hand;

Deanery Synod Member: Jenny James (Secretary)

Elected

Jane Atha (Safeguarding); Nadine Brown; Anne Bryant (Treasurer); Guy Davies; Jennifer Finel; Colin Hinton; Hilary Kerr; Beverley Turner (PCC representative on the Standing Committee); Sue Wardle; Heather Waring; Jean Webster; Michael Westgarth-Taylor (PCC Representative on the Standing Committee).

The PCC has also appointed an unremunerated office holder who is not a PCC member: Electoral Roll - Paula Davies

Independent examiner

Gillian Duffy & Co Ltd, Chartered Accountants

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2017) and a registered charity (number 1131281). It has the responsibility, with the Priest-in-Charge (its Chair), of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. All who attend worship are encouraged to register on the Church Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC met 7 times during the year. The Standing Committee, comprising the churchwardens, treasurer and secretary plus two PCC representatives met 6 times during the year. Our Annual Parish Meeting was held on 20 March 2023.

Risk Management and Safeguarding

PCC Members, as trustees, acknowledge their duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. PCC members have also taken due regard of House of Bishops' guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults, and the PCC adopted the new 'Promoting a Safer Church' national policy in 2017 and updated policies in accordance with Diocesan guidelines in the course of 2019. No reports have been received of any incidents of concern.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Purpose and Values

Our statement of purpose and values, adopted in 2011, continues to be:

Purpose:

Our purpose is to worship God, to follow Jesus, and to show his love to all.

Values:

1. We worship the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We aim to do this through prayer, praise and study that is faithful, varied and vibrant, offered throughout the week.

2. As a reflection of God's open and inclusive love, we welcome all people of all ages, so they may develop a relationship with him.

3. As the Body of Christ, our commitment to one another is one of friendship, encouragement and support, within and beyond our organised activities.
4. We want everyone to explore their call to discipleship in daily life, and we encourage them to develop that calling in the offering of time, skills, and money within and beyond the church.
5. We ensure that the church's vision, values, activities and organisation are widely and accessibly publicised and understood.
6. We maintain and develop our buildings for worship and mission and as valued spiritual places and resources within the local community.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Membership, Worship, Study, Prayer, Mission, Evangelism, and Ecumenical Activity

The new 2023 Electoral Roll contained 118 members (2022: 122) from 96 households, 6 being non-resident.

2023 has been a year when the church has moved to notable growth. Reviewing attendance figures across the final quarter, attendance at the main Sunday service shows a fifteen per cent increase year on year from 2021-23.

By the end of the year, normal attendance at the main Sunday service was around sixty. We have more than recovered from Covid and are attracting new people of all ages. We finished the year with record numbers at all Christmas services including a joint carol service with Churches Together.

Stokesley Parish Church aims to be at the heart of its community, revitalising traditions and exploring new possibilities. The monthly "Coffee and Cakes" morning continues to see healthy numbers with the associated craft activities reaching many people from both old and new parts of the town. The Autumn Fair was very successful with increased numbers and takings. Local people were involved in a "tidy up" day in the graveyard extension and over thirty local organisations decorated trees for our first Christmas Tree Festival, including schools and uniformed groups. With its excellent acoustics, the church is hosting an increasing number of musical concerts in line with our aim to grow this revenue stream in the future.

The church plays a significant role in the town at times of national importance, this year screening the Kings' coronation, hosting a royal picnic and re-enacting the coronation with the local primary school for children, teachers and parents. We were delighted that the Archbishop of York joined us for Remembrance Sunday and the town parade, following an earlier visit in June when he admitted churchwardens in the Cleveland Archdeaconry at our church.

We continue to invest in our building to reflect the needs of our worshipping and local community which is growing younger and more diverse. The screen has become a very popular element of services of all types and occasional offices. The sound system is in the process of being upgraded to the same standard. We are very grateful for a generous legacy in memory of Hilary and Derek Frow and this will support further developments.

Finance continues to be a considerable challenge with income lagging behind expenditure. The primary strategy for addressing this must be an increase in numbers. We anticipate that giving will increase as attendance and our presence in the community grows.

Our ministry capacity has been boosted through increased lay leadership and participation. The family service is now co-led by parents, the Revitalize Group led a Blue Christmas service for those finding life hard and our Friendship Group continues to provide practical and pastoral support. Prayer ministry is offered on a one-to-one basis. We are most grateful to the Reverend Jon Dean and Reverend Paul Peverell from Great Ayton for their support.

An enormous amount of time and effort has gone into the work behind scenes to enable all this to happen. We are immensely grateful to all who have contributed, and we give thanks to God for all He has done in our church and community this year.

Public benefit

The Parish of Stokesley with Seamer-in-Cleveland, in the Stokesley Deanery of the Diocese of York, comprises the market town of Stokesley and the rural area immediately to its west and north, including Tame Bridge, Seamer, Tanton and Newby. The parish church of St. Peter & St. Paul, Stokesley and its churchyard (closed for burials, and now maintained by Hambleton DC) are on Stokesley High Street. The smaller parish church of St. Martin, Seamer and its churchyard (open for burials, maintained by the PCC) are on Hilton Road, Seamer. The Parish is also responsible for a large detached churchyard (open for burials, maintained by the PCC) on Helmsley Road, Stokesley.

The PCC, mindful of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, is committed to: enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches (and in other places, when appropriate); encouraging different groups within the parish to explore aspects of Christian faith; enabling individuals to live out their faith in the communities in which they live and work; making our buildings, land and ministers available for religious, educational and artistic purposes by schools and other community groups; encouraging the support of various charities whose aims are consistent with the

PCC's; providing pastoral care. This pastoral care includes ministry through baptisms and weddings, visiting the sick, and the conduct of funerals (and burials in our churchyards) and the care of the bereaved: it is exercised both by clergy and by lay members of the church.

Financial Review

In 2023 the General Fund decreased from £41,071 and ended the year at £15,141 (see note 9). Whilst we hold other designated funds which are unrestricted, the PCC may well have to consider transfers from these funds into the General Fund in 2024 in order to meet regular expenditure.

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £106,390 (2022 £94,932)

Unrestricted planned voluntary donations were £36,031 (2022 £41,382), and a further £11,738 (2022 £11,194) was from gift aid. We also received a legacy of £28,000, which has no restrictions on its use.

Our planned giving fell by 13% whilst we faced increased costs.

Our fundraising total remained similar £12577 (2022 £12,215) with increases in the funds raised by the Autumn Fair and other events offsetting a £759 decrease in the Grand Draw.

Our stock market-based investments increased in value by £10,887 following a fall of £9,429 in 2022.

£100,363 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide Christian ministry, including an increased Freewill offer to the Diocese of York of £70,200 (2022 £60,000).

There was a surplus on unrestricted funds of £2,570 (2022 overspend £4,666), which is after including the unrestricted legacy income of £28,000 which is not expected to recur.

Note : Since the adoption of The Parish Giving Scheme, the planned voluntary donations have been reported including the gift aid associated with the PGS. For 2023 the planned voluntary donations do not include gift aid and the comparisons above are restated to reflect the new accounts policy adopted in 2023

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £28,000. We ended the year with unrestricted funds of £74,666 of which £15,141 is the general fund and the balance of £59,525 is designated, and we are budgeting a further deficit in 2024.

We hold our unrestricted funds in our HSBC current account. Restricted funds are held in the current account, CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard for our church community. The outstanding work of the churchwardens, John Groom, Judith Turland, David Hand assisted by Bev Turner, along with many others, has been instrumental in sustaining and developing the church community and God's work in Stokesley.

Approved by the PCC on 24th March 2024 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Ben Gunter (PCC Chairman)

Rev Ben Gunter



**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Stokesley with Seamer PCC**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages seven to fourteen.

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'), and you consider that an audit is not required and that an independent examination is needed.

I have examined your charity's accounts as required under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. that accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. that the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. that the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
4. that there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Gillian Duffy & Co Ltd

26th March 2024

Stokesley with Seamer PCC
Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

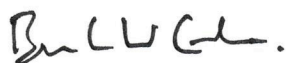
				2023	2022
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2(a)	86,985	4,954	91,939	78,308
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	12,577		12,577	12,215
Investment income	2(c)	242	5,918	6,160	2,550
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Charitable Activities	2(d)	5,728		5,728	7,352
Other incoming resources	2(e)	859	750	1,609	1,770
Total incoming resources		106,390	11,622	118,012	102,195
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
Church activities	3(a)	100,363	9,425	109,788	134,675
Raising funds		1,375		1,375	1,545
Total resources expended		101,738	9,425	111,163	136,220
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS		4,652	2,197	6,849	(34,025)
Gross transfers between funds		(2,082)	2,082		
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		2,570	4,279	6,849	(34,025)
Other recognised gains/losses					
Gains/ (losses) on investment assets		(0)	10,887	10,887	(9,429)
Net movement in funds		2,570	15,166	17,736	(43,454)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		72,096	288,955	361,051	361,051
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		74,666	304,121	378,787	361,051

Stokesley with Seamer PCC
Balance sheet
as at 31 December 2023

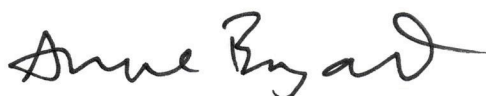
	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	6	292,204	275,400
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors		-	130
Cash at bank and in hand		87,826	86,987
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors	7	(1,243)	(1,465)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>86,583</u>	<u>85,652</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>378,787</u>	<u>361,051</u>
FUNDS			
	8		
Unrestricted funds		74,666	72,096
Restricted funds		304,121	288,955
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>378,787</u>	<u>361,051</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 24th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev B Gunter (PCC Chairman)



A Bryant (Treasurer)



The notes form part of these accounts.

Stokesley with Seamer PCC

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs and the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provisions, and under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

FUNDS

Unrestricted funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for particular projects, which are therefore not included in 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.

Restricted funds

These are income funds that must be spent on particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2	Income	2023	2022
		£	£
	INCOMING RESOURCES		
2(a)	Voluntary income		
	Donations	9,394	3,594
	Gift aid	11,738	8,049
	Legacies	28,000	11,000
	Grants	-	4,490
	Planned giving	36,031	44,527
	Collections and other giving	5,527	5,462
	Contactless giving	1,249	1,186
		<u>91,939</u>	<u>78,308</u>
2(b)	Activities for generating funds		
	Autumn fair	2,956	2,563
	Grand draw	2,541	3,300
	Other fundraising events	7,080	6,288
	Traidcraft	-	65
		<u>12,577</u>	<u>12,215</u>
2(c)	Investment income		
	Dividends and interest	<u>6,160</u>	<u>2,550</u>
		6,160	2,550
2(d)	Incoming resources from charitable activities		
	Fees retained by the PCC	5,728	7,352
2(e)	Other incoming resources		
	Contribution to costs	<u>1,609</u>	<u>1,770</u>
		1,609	1,770
	Total incoming resources	<u>118,012</u>	<u>102,195</u>

3	EXPENDITURE	2023	2022
3(a)	Church activities	£	£
	Freewill offer to Diocese	70,200	60,000
	Wages	2,324	2,700
	Insurance	5,377	4,903
	Light and heat	9,010	5,324
	Church admin costs	4,188	2,644
	Incumbent's expenses	218	167
	Organist fees	690	
	Church cleaning	1,291	1,479
	Rectory expenses	280	170
	Mission and evangelism	125	605
	Church maintenance	1,498	1,921
	Upkeep of services	2,380	2,000
	Upkeep of churchyard	5,656	6,368
	Hall hire	523	
	Other PCC property upkeep	-	4,569
	Major repairs to church	6,028	41,557
	Grants to institutions		267
		<u>109,788</u>	<u>134,675</u>
3(b)	Raising funds		
	Traidcraft costs		112
	Fundraising costs	<u>1,375</u>	<u>1,432</u>
		1,375	1,545
	Total resources expended	<u>111,163</u>	<u>136,220</u>
	Net (expenditure)/income before gains and losses	6,849 -	(34,025)
	Realised recognised gains and losses		
	Realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	10,887	(9,429)
	Net (expenditure)/income	<u>17,736</u>	<u>(43,453)</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

A parish administrator who is a PCC member provided services on a self-employed basis and was paid £2169 in 2023.

A small, immaterial proportion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

Trustees are reimbursed for expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC.

RELATED PARTIES

Unrestricted donations of £21928.63 were received from related parties (PCC members).

5. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<u>155</u>	<u>2,700</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Church organist	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>

No employee payments were large enough to attract social security costs.

6. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	£
MARKET VALUE	
Market value at 1 January 2023	275,400
Interest	5,918
Investment gain	<u>10,887</u>
Market value at 31 December 2023	<u>292,205</u>

7. LIABILITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Retentions	880	
Suppliers		1415
Collection on behalf of charities	<u>363</u>	<u>50</u>
	<u>1,243</u>	<u>1465</u>

8. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Investments		292,204	292,204	275,400
Current assets	74,666	11,917	86,583	85,651
	<u>74,666</u>	<u>304,121</u>	<u>378,787</u>	<u>361,051</u>

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1 January 2023 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted (designated) funds				
General fund	41,071	(23,848)	(2,082)	15,141
Quinquennial fund	4,933	500		5,433
Bell repair fund	1,417			1,417
Legacies	24,675	28,000		52,675
	<u>72,096</u>	<u>4,652</u>	<u>(2,082)</u>	<u>74,666</u>
Restricted funds				
Church Redevelopment	310	3,148		3,458
Churchyard	-	(2,082)	2,082	0
Fabric	1,992			1,992
Flower Fund	35	(15)		20
Media project	7,831	(4,222)		3,609
Riversdene	193,066	5,918		198,984
Sanctuary	429			429
Seamer	1,080			1,080
Church House	84,212	10,337		94,549
	<u>288,955</u>	<u>13,084</u>	<u>2,082</u>	<u>304,121</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>361,051</u>	<u>17,736</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>378,787</u>

The Restricted funds consist of:

Church redevelopment: specific donations for improvement projects at Stokesley Church

Churchyard: maintenance of Stokesley Churchyard

Fabric: specific legacies and grants for the upkeep of the fabric and fittings of the church

Flower Fund: specific donations for flowers at services

Heating: specific donations and grants for the heating systems at Stokesley Church

Media project: donations towards modernising church audio visual systems

Riversdene: a domestic property sold by the parish in 2020; the proceeds may only be used for to further the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the parish

Sanctuary furnishings: for the maintenance of the Lady Chapel at Stokesley church, for altar frontals etc

Seamer: specific legacies and donations for Seamer Church

Church House: a property sold by the parish in 1972; the proceeds may only be used for capital building projects.

The Unrestricted (designated) funds consist of:

Quinquennial: for the cost of the five-yearly architect's report and the repairs recommended

Bell repair: for bell repairs, replacement bell ropes etc.

Legacies: legacies given to further the general work of the church set aside until needed.