

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
of
ST MICHAEL and ST PAUL
ALNWICK**

**Annual Report and
Financial Statements**

**for the year ended
31st December 2023**

**Incumbent
Revd Christian Mitchell**

**St Michael's Vicarage
Howling Lane
Alnwick, NE66 1DH**

**Bank
Barclays Bank plc
Alnwick**

**Independent Examiner
Mr George Clark FCPFA**

Registered Charity Number 1131297

Annual Report of the Parish of St Michael and St Paul, Alnwick 2023

Parochial Church Council 2023

The PCC is the governing body of the parish of St Michael and St Paul Alnwick. The PCC is a team made up of members of clergy and lay members of the church. Together they are responsible for the overall wellbeing, practical as well as spiritual, of their church, the church members, and the church buildings. The PCC also has a duty to promote the mission of the church within the wider community.

The PCC is also responsible for the internal maintenance and running of the Parish Hall. The Hall is leased from the Northumberland Estate which is responsible for the external fabric.

Ex officio members:

Chairman: Mrs Jean Darby (to 12th May 2023)
Revd Christian Mitchell (from 13th May 2023)

Churchwardens: Mrs Pat Taylor and Mrs Anne Blades (to 20th March 2023)
Vacant since 20th March 2023

Deanery Synod Members: (elected in 2023 for 3 years)

Mrs Annette Playle	Mrs Jean Darby
Mrs Patricia Tweed	Mrs Pat Taylor (to 20 th March 2023)

Elected Members:

Mrs Rosie Buxton	(re-elected in 2022 for 3 years)
Mr Richard Allsop	(re-elected in 2023 for 3 years)
Mr John Cooke	(re-elected in 2021 for 3 years)
Mr Richard Dale	(re-elected in 2023 for 3 years)
Mrs Judy Jobson	(elected in 2022 for 3 years)
Mrs Susan O'Neill	(re-elected in 2023 for 3 years)
Mr Henry Playle	(re-elected in 2023 for 3 years)
Mrs Susan Trafford	(elected in 2023 for 3 years)

PCC Officers:

Vice Chairman:	Mrs Jean Darby
PCC Secretary:	Mrs Rosie Buxton
PCC Treasurer:	Mr Richard Dale

Assistant Church Wardens:

Mrs Pat Tweed
One vacancy

PCC Committees and other groups:

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings (subject to any directions given by the Council). Its members are Revd Christian Mitchell (from 13th May 2023), Mrs Jean Darby, Mr Richard Dale, Mr Henry Playle (from 20th March 2023), Mrs Pat Taylor (to 20th March 2023) and Mrs Anne Blades (to 20th March 2023).

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Clergy with permission to Officiate:

Revd Canon Sue Allen, Revd Canon Philip Bourne, Revd Robert Chavner, Revd Martin Roff

Readers:

Mr John Cooke, Mrs Annette Playle, Ms Sal Howard

Safeguarding Officer

Dr Patty Everitt

Church attendance:

Statistics as reported to the Diocese for 2023 (2022 figures in brackets where available)

Baptisms	15 (15)
Confirmation	0 (0)
Weddings	6 (4)
Funerals	25 (26) in Church, and 4 (6) at the crematorium or cemetery only.

Average attendance: 95 adults and 7 child (93 adults and 1 child)

Christmas: 126 communicants, 486 attendees (76 communicants, 81 attendees)

Easter: 84 communicants, 99 attendees (85 communicants, 97 attendees)

People in our "worshipping community" at the end of 2023:

Total	Children (Age 0-15)	Adults (Age 16+)
84	3	81

Review of the Year 2023

The Parochial Church Council

Volunteers:

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly to make our church the lively, welcoming and vibrant community that it is. There are many committees carrying out work in a variety of areas and many parishioners are members of more than one group. Without everybody's contribution we would not be able to keep the church running.

Church and School Links:

The links between the Church and St Michael's C of E Primary School remain strong. The foundation governors are John Cooke, Victoria Molnar-Brown and Katja Purvis.

Communication:

The Church Web Site is www.alnwickanglican.com. It contains information about service times, church location, activities accessibility, and contact details. There are also details about the history of St Michael's and information about Denwick Chapel and the parish hall. In addition, there are weekly pew sheets, photographs and details of events. The parish magazine, 'Gateway', is normally published every month.

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Deanery Synod – Annette Playle

We last met on 24th February 2024 and there was a further update on the Deanery Development Plan which is focusing on Building, Growing younger, Governance, Generous Giving and Lay training.

To enable these groups to work successfully Synod are still looking for volunteers to join these teams, if you think this is something you would like to get involved in and are on the Electoral Role, then please speak to Mitch, Annette Playle, Jean Darby or Pat Tweed.

As a Deanery Synod we have been focusing on sharing talents, ideas and resources. The February meeting concentrated on how we engage children. Mitch spoke about Mini Michaels which takes place each Thursday morning during term-time and representatives of Amble church spoke about 'Experience Easter' which is now in its 10th year. School children visit the church which is set in stations and learn in a fun, interactive way the importance of Easter as they watch the story being acted out. Representatives from Chevington parish described their visits to the schools there with workshops at Easter and Christmas; this is a growing ministry which feeds into Messy mornings in their church.

Safeguarding – Patty Everitt

The PCC believes that it has complied with its duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Introduction:

As a church we want to welcome all those who come through our church doors. We want to make sure, in the best way we can, that we are a people who create a safe and respectful place for all who come to us and all those with whom we come into contact.

Our commitment to safeguarding is demonstrated by and led through the church leadership and the church officers: the Incumbent, Retired Clergy and Readers certainly, but mainly through the leadership shown by the PCC.

The Parish Dashboard:

The PCC continues to support our commitment to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. Through the dedication of our volunteers who take seriously their safeguarding training and take steps to provide a safe physical environment too, we have reached Level 3 on the Parish Dashboard. This is a significant achievement to be celebrated!

At Level 3 we know we have in place the policies and procedures and, importantly, the ways of working that help us to keep on being the safe and welcoming place we already are and support us as we continue, confidently, to build our presence in the local community. Our work this year will be to make sure we maintain our position at Level 3 and build on our achievements.

Safeguarding Training:

Safeguarding training is available online, but it is often a richer and more fun experience to train with someone else or together as a group.

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This year some of our volunteers have chosen to work through the safeguarding training material with me rather than completing it online. It really is a pleasure to do this, and I will continue to offer this training option this year.

In 2024 there will be organised group safeguarding training events for new volunteers or those who are refreshing part of their training. Training dates will be included in the Pew Sheet when they have been decided.

Of course, online training remains an option when this is more convenient.

Parish Incidents:

There have been no safeguarding incidents reported during the year.

Thanks:

We are grateful to all our volunteers who commit themselves, their time and effort to understanding what safeguarding is, and maintaining an environment where the vulnerable, particularly children, can experience the love and presence of God with those they meet.

Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about what safeguarding is or how to access training or what volunteering in any capacity would mean, please talk to Patty Everitt!

If you would like to find out more about what a Parish Safeguarding Officer does or about being a Parish Safeguarding Officer, again please talk to Patty Everitt!

Fabric – Jean Darby and Henry Playle

There were three highlights of 2023 regarding the fabric of the church:

- A legacy from Margaret McFarlane provided a new Laudian for the high altar in purple silk and contributions from her family and the congregation added a matching pulpit fall, an aumbry curtain and a Bible marker ribbon. These were blessed at the Parish Eucharist on Advent Sunday in the presence of Lorraine McFarlane, Margaret's daughter.
- Carved oak candle holders for the nave altar, designed by George Ives and made by Andrew Beckwith were gifted by Sue Porteous in memory of her husband Trevor. They were blessed during Parish Eucharist with Sue and close friends of Trevor's present.
- The long-awaited arrival of the oak cabinet to house the lead graffiti. The soft glow of the interior lighting draws people to the exhibits. We look forward to a sensitive locking system which will allow sufficient security to publicise the graffiti and widen the possibilities of interpretation.

There have been significant changes to lighting both in the church and in the churchyard. All the interior light bulbs have been exchanged for greater brightness and reduced expense. A timer has been installed to allow the lights to be lit to allow greater safety on the uneven drives to the church.

A fault with the electric blower for the organ was repaired although major work will be required to restore the instrument fully. We were fortunate in being able to hire at very short notice an electronic organ from Allen Organs which proved invaluable over the Christmas

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season. Costs were covered by an organ recital by Linden Innes-Hopkins and donations from the congregation.

Capping stones which had fallen off the wall to the rear of the north side of the church into the grounds of the Parish Hall below have been retrieved and replaced.

The electrical devices and the fire extinguishers have been tested and the boiler has been serviced.

Tower – *Jim Crowther*

Bell Fabric:

Time flies, the bells and their framework/fittings are 2 years old. Thanks to a new tower roof and heavy sound control on the inside of all 4 louvres the belfry is weather tight which means no ingress of bird mess, autumn leaves or rain/snow. This, in turn, protects the bell frame, fittings and the bells. Consequently, no major bell maintenance or restoration costs should be anticipated for at least 50 years, other than nominal running costs e.g. bell ropes which are easily covered by donations from local and visiting ringers.

Bellringing Visitors:

Although there are over 5,000 church towers in England with a peal of bells, only 15 of them are in Northumberland. This statistic, coupled with Alnwick being a popular holiday destination, has created a significant number of ringing visitors throughout the year, this high level of ringing visitors was never anticipated. The good tonal quality of the St. Michael's bells along with the friendly welcome given by the local ringers have also been major factors, these combinations have quickly given the tower a national reputation! During 2023, apart from numerous holiday bellringers, St. Michael's tower had visits from the ringers of Sheffield, Durham and Exeter Cathedrals as well as St. Paul's, London.

Service Ringing:

This has always been a priority and was largely achieved during 2023 by the local band and visiting ringers. Other services and occasions have also been rung for, e.g. the coronation of H.M. King Charles III.

The Local Ringers:

The local ringers have become a strong social group without divisions. For example, Alnwick bells are perfectly "hung" and require minimal physical strength, consequently the band has an equal mix of females/males, ages range from 10 years to 80 years plus.

Tutors:

Four principal tutors travel from Shilbottle and Slaley, they have, between them, some 200 years of "bellringing know how" to ensure that pupils are taught properly and safely.

Ringling Times:

Apart from ringing after Sunday Morning Service, generally practice on Wednesday afternoon and evening, occasionally on Saturdays and other ad hoc times. Members of the congregation, their families and friends are encouraged to visit the belfry by contacting Jean Darby.

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South Aisle Exhibition – Jean Darby, Project coordinator

The bespoke cabinet to house the graffiti brought down from the roof is now in place alongside the two medieval bells and the Flemish chest. Because the cabinet is sensitively lit it is drawing more people to look at the exhibits. The display in the top of the cabinet is changed regularly and there is information and some basic activities available. We recognize that promoting interpretation of the graffiti could be the catalyst for a wider interpretation of the church as a whole. For this reason, we have engaged Jo Scott, an interpretive expert, and Katherine Williams, a fundraiser, to help us proceed professionally. As the result of detailed consultation with Jo, the aims for the interpretation of the graffiti and its associated stories are to:-

- Help make visitors and local people feel welcome, whatever their reason for visiting
- Encourage and engage target audiences with the graffiti and the stories it tells about local people, the church and town
- Convey the key messages about the graffiti: its significance and its relevance and connections to people past, present and future
- Ensure that this interpretation fits within a wider strategic vision for the church as a whole

We anticipate that exciting developments to encourage this will be in place in time for the summer visitors 2024.

Foundation Governor – John Cooke

Our school formally joined the Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust (NCEA) on 1st July 2023.

Celebrating the successful outcomes from our OFSTED and SIAMS inspections in 2022 which gave the school a Good rating, our staff are now working on the improvements highlighted in the report. The results of the July 2023 Key Stage 2 SATS were the best the school has ever achieved with at least 65% of the cohort achieving the standard in Reading, Writing and Maths. Our disadvantaged learners achieved particularly well which was a credit to the children and the staff supporting them.

The number of SEND pupils and pupils with English as an additional language within the school is increasing, and we have had valuable additional support from the Academy to help our children towards achieving their potential. The school is now working very closely with the families using the Family Hub to increase the number of children in early years.

Mission Group – Annette Playle

A small sub-group met and made recommendations to the PCC for distribution of our missing giving budget for 2023. The monies were divided between the following after approval from the PCC:

Gallery Youth	£1,000
Alnwick Food Bank	£1,000
*A particular need for St Michael's School	£2,500
Ignite	£ 785
Total	£5,285

*St. Michael's school are receiving the largest portion of our giving because the school is desperate for Early Years imaginative play resources for their two to five year old pupils to support development of early language skills.

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Messy Church – Jane Brown

Messy Church has continued to run monthly throughout the year except for July and August. We do not run Messy Church in July and August because our number of families attending drops over the summer term and it gives time for the team to have a break.

We have had two new volunteers - Sal Howard and Susan O'Neill who have helped our Messy team. Sue Wiltshire, Eve Jarvis and Carol Roth along with the team, provide food each month. Our numbers each month vary from 18 to 32 children (plus accompanying adults) since September. Our sessions include welcoming hot drink for adults, storytime, songs, crafts, and sharing a meal together.

It would be great to continue to see regular families come each month.

Mini Michael's – Pat Tweed

Mini Michaels goes on every week during term time in church every Thursday at 9.30am for 1 hour 30mins as it has done now for ten years.

We had our tenth birthday celebration in October and invited former leaders and members of the church who had helped in any way with the group over the years. It was a super morning with lots of fun and laughter and some very silly photographs.

We also had to allow Alan to step down as our leader at Christmas but have persuaded him to come along as a 'helper'. He has now been taught how to serve tea and coffee!! Seriously though he has done sterling work with the group since it started and we are very grateful for everything he has achieved. I know he will say that it's not just him and I know that's true but we, the rest of the helpers, have relied on him and we would like him to know how much he has been (and still is) appreciated.

Our numbers have stalled a little over this winter but we still have a good number each week and it continues to give joy to mums, grandparents and of course our lovely little ones. They give us great Thursday mornings and we always leave with a smile on our faces.

Our annual plea for more helpers still stands!

St Michael's on-line - Revd Sue Allen

First Sunday Eucharist:

The First Sunday service was suspended in May 2023 and work is ongoing to introduce a replacement in 2024.

Livestreamed Sunday Worship:

A small team works the Sound and Camera to ensure that the 10am Parish Communion is available online. It is very much appreciated by those who are unable to attend church in person, as it enables them to continue to feel part of the St Michael's community. The service is normally watched live by around a dozen people, and with those who watch later it is seen by around 20 people each week. A recorded version is also taken into one of the local Care Homes and watched in the Lounge there.

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Zoom Compline on Thursday evenings:

Around 9 people attend regularly for this more interactive service which includes intercessions, and lasts about half an hour.

Sunday Zoom Cuppa and Chat:

This monthly gathering is usually held on the first Sunday. It gathers those who are housebound, as well as those out and about locally, and includes contributions from USA. Each person is invited to catch up on their news and to share ideas, normally around a theme. The session finishes with a short prayer which all can join in.

Sidespersons

There is a group of parishioners who willingly give of their time and energy to be sidespersons, readers and intercessors. Those who have volunteered are on a rota which is put together every three months. If you would like to be on this rota please speak to Sal Howard.

The Mothers' Union – *Anne Cooke*

The Mothers' Union meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm in church. Our year finishes in December with the Deanery Advent service which is open to members and non-members alike. We do not meet in the months of January and February.

Our meetings start with a short service to include a Bible reading and occasionally a hymn. The business part of the meeting comes next when we discuss anything that needs to be done within our branch and we hear of any news from the Deanery or Diocese.

This year we have admitted two new members and have had some important birthdays. We had a most enjoyable visit in November from Ann Cairns the Vice President who talked to us about her nursing career and her journey through Mothers' Union. We remain a small friendly group at a time when MU branches are having to close and so would welcome any new members. You don't have to be a mother or indeed a female to join MU, so don't be shy, come along and give us a try.

Eco Church – *Annette Playle*

As mentioned in last years' APCM we are now the proud holders of Eco Church bronze status for St. Michael's church. With PCC approval, we are hoping to get a plaque to put in church so that we have a visual acknowledgement in order that people become more aware of the work being undertaken to make our church and the surrounding churchyard eco-friendly. The next target is to reach the silver award. We are always happy for people to join the Eco team and if this is of interest to you, please do speak to either Mitch, Annette or Sue Wiltshire. After meeting with Mitch on 5th March, we have put some ideas together to bring the environment issues more to the fore beginning with a coffee morning in June.

As part of the Alnwick Deanery Environmental Group (ADEG), our last meeting was held in February, where part of the discussion was to hold on the first Sunday Deanery Evensong service an environmental themed service, which is being held on Sunday 2nd June at Whittingham church. I am also attending a workshop on Saturday 27th April entitled "Inspired by Creation" which I hope will be beneficial to our church

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Churchyard Project – Sue Allen

The group received a gift of wildflower seeds from Alnwick in Bloom, and these were sown by Messy Church. Apart from ongoing maintenance and continuing efforts from Ant Allen to subdue the nettles, there is little else to report from 2023. There are plans for the Churchyard project to be integrated into the ongoing Eco Church project.

Social events – Pat Taylor

We have held two ceilidhs in the church hall during the past year. The first one was the night before our Harvest Thanksgiving. Gavin brought a ceilidh band from school and Catherine from Rothbury was an excellent caller. Supper, consisting of sausages in buns, was provided and enjoyed!

The second ceilidh was held around Burns night and poetry from Robbie Burns was enjoyed. Both social events were well attended and very enjoyable.

The annual Winter Market was held in November in church. It was an excellent community event as well as a good fund raiser. Two of our younger members are interested in planning and organising social events so hopefully we can get back to holding more events this year.

Financial review – Richard Dale, PCC Treasurer

Financially, this was a very unusual year for the Parish and for the reasons set out below 2024 will be a similarly unusual year.

Two very large donations have been received from the Bill Hugonin Trust: £85,000 in December 2023 (reported in the 2023 accounts) and £318,000 in January 2024 (which will be reported in the 2024 accounts). Last year's donation was used to complete funding for the South Aisle project; reduce the loan balance funding the Tower project, provide funding for a lasting tribute to Daphne and Bill and work to develop the church's branding and website; and to start a development fund for the future (which may in time include a pump priming donation to a potential Friends of St Michael's). This year's donation will be added to this development fund.

Very sadly, we learned of the death in January 2024 of Richard Allsop. Under the terms of his £120,000 loan to the church, which was used to fund repairs to the tower, this loan was converted to a restricted donation to the Tower Fund on his death which means that the Tower project is now fully funded.

These two amazing examples of generosity have had a very significant impact on our financial position. We no longer have the liability of a loan to repay on our balance sheet (although as you will see from the balance sheet, the loan was still in place at 31st December 2023) and we now have a development fund totalling some £390,000 which we can use to invest for the future of our church. We have much to be thankful for.

Against this backdrop, it is important to draw out that the General Fund recorded a deficit of £2,534 in 2023 reducing the balance from £6,475 to £3,941. This was in turn distorted by a couple of offsetting one-off items – a back dated claim from the Governments Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (£4,658) and a transfer of £4,000 from the General Fund to the Tower Fund to start to repay the loan balance during 2023.

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Adjusting for these two items, the underlying General Fund deficit was £3,192.

Reported General Fund deficit	£2,534
Less: Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme	- £4,658
Add: Tower Fund transfer	£4,000
Underlying General Fund deficit	£3,192

The underlying deficit is caused by a progressive loss of regular giving, as people have died or moved away from the parish, which has not been offset by increased giving or new arrivals. For several reasons we have not had a focused generous giving campaign for some years, but we will need to address this during 2024. The impact of this lower income has been mitigated by lower Parish Share payments to the Diocese (in turn funded by the Diocese selling off surplus property) but we now need to significantly increase our Parish Share payments if the Diocese is to be able to maintain current levels of stipendiary clergy and mission activity. Our parish is not alone in this challenge.

As you will be aware, energy prices have stabilised from the very high levels seen early last year and our new photocopier is distinctly cheaper than its predecessor.

I am grateful to my Standing Committee colleagues for their support to me through the year. I want to thank our small band of counters who turn up every Monday morning to count the week's cash. We are also grateful to the many individuals and organisations who have continued to support us through this period.

Independent Examiner's Report

To the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Michael and St Paul, Alnwick

This report on the attached financial statements of the PCC of St Michael and St Paul for the year ended 31st December 2023 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act).

Respective Responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements: you consider that the audit requirement under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 does not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiners Statement

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


1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.

have not been met;

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

George Clark FCPFA
Independent Examiner

March 2024


15/3/2024

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Statement of Financial Activities
For the period 1st January to 31st December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	2022
Incoming Resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	2	171,409	23,712	0	195,121	119,431
Fundraising	3	24,471	0	0	24,471	26,530
Income from investments		448	3,639	0	4,087	2,983
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Church activities	4	8,022	0	0	8,022	8,078
Other incoming resources		28	0	0	28	184
Total Incoming Resources		204,378	27,351	0	231,729	157,206
Resources used						
Cost of generating funds						
Cost of generating voluntary income	5	738	450	0	1,188	164
Fundraising costs	6	16,183	1,244	0	17,427	10,932
Church activities						
Parish Share		67,700	0	0	67,700	72,300
Church running expenses	7	39,345	14,733	0	54,078	283,024
Charitable giving	8	5,666	0	0	5,666	6,900
Governance costs	9	902	0	0	902	952
Total Resources Used		130,534	16,427	0	146,961	149,292
Transfers between funds		(4,000)	4,000	0	0	0
Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources		69,844	14,924	0	84,768	7,915
Balances Brought Forward		9,167	43,936	51,350	104,453	96,538
Balances Carried Forward						
General Funds		3,941	0	0	3,941	6,475
Designated Funds		75,070	0	0	75,070	2,692
Restricted Funds		0	58,860	51,350	110,210	95,286
Total		79,011	58,860	51,350	189,221	104,453

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Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	10	154,546	158,828
Forster Bequest Capital		40,640	40,640
		195,186	199,468
Current Assets			
Barclays Community Account		(60)	6,544
Barclays Business Premium Account		98,798	33,550
Cash in hand		0	0
CBF Fabric Capital account		10,710	10,710
CBF Fabric Income account		28,035	24,396
Accounts receivable (Debtors)	11	4,471	13,103
		141,954	88,303
Accounts payable (Creditors)	12	27,919	33,318
Loans		120,000	150,000
Total assets		189,221	104,453
Represented by			
Balance at 1st January 2023		104,453	96,538
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		84,768	7,915
Balance at 31st December 2023		189,221	104,453
Distribution of total equity by funds			
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund		3,941	6,475
Designated Funds		75,070	2,693
Restricted funds			
Fabric Fund	26,497		32,616
Parish Hall Fund	6,524		5,097
Church Tower Fund	25,839		6,222
Endowment funds		58,860	43,935
Forster Bequest	40,640		40,640
D E Reavell Fund	10,000		10,000
A Hogg Fund	710		710
		51,350	51,350
		189,221	104,453

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Christian Mitchell

Revd Christian Mitchell
Chair

R Dale

Richard Dale
PCC Treasurer

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31st December 2023

1 Accounting policies

1.1 General

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

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body (e.g. the Mothers' Union), nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.2 Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

The parish's endowment funds consist of:

- The Forster Bequest. The capital for this fund is held by The Newcastle Diocesan Society and is invested in The Investment Fund of the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England. The book cost is as shown on the Balance Sheet (£40,640) and its market value at 31st December 2023 was £90,914 (2022: £83,096).
- The Fabric Capital Fund (CBF 625063004D). This consists of the D E Reavell Fund (£10,000) and the Alan Hogg Fund (£710).

The income from all these funds is paid into The Fabric Income Account (CBF 625063003D) which is a **Restricted fund** (see below) and is only available towards the maintenance and repair of the fabric of St Michael's Church, Alnwick as the Vicar and churchwardens in their absolute discretion think fit. This was laid down by those who gave the endowments.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

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

Designated Funds are **unrestricted** funds set aside by the PCC for a specific purpose. They may be "undesignated" by the PCC at any time.

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1.3 Receipts

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resource, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable.

Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, and interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for Gross.

1.4 Payments

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for as and when (and if) it is paid. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

1.5 Fixed assets

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

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time.

Office equipment and similar items used within the church premises are written off when the asset is acquired.

Capitalised assets are stated at cost and depreciated over their expected useful life as follows:

Parish Hall boiler	10 years
Church bells	50 years

Investments are valued at historical cost with a note of the value at 31st December if available.

1.6 Current assets and liabilities

Amounts owed to the PCC on 31st December are shown as "Accounts Receivable" commonly referred to as Debtors. Amounts owed by the PCC on 31st December are shown as "Accounts Payable" and are commonly known as Creditors.

Short term deposits are held either at Barclays or with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.

1.7 Staff costs

During the year the PCC paid an honorarium to a parish hall caretaker and fees and expenses to two organists. None of these persons are members of the PCC.

Fees were also paid to organists and vergers in respect of Occasional Offices (funerals, weddings etc) but these amounts do not form part of these financial statements.

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2 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2022
Regular giving				
Gift Aid	42,306	0	42,306	45,192
Non Gift Aid	3,281	0	3,281	3,229
Parish Giving Scheme	17,409	0	17,409	15,859
Income tax recovered	23,766	0	23,766	16,157
Sub-total	86,762	0	86,762	80,437
Collections				
Regular services	3,125	0	3,125	2,443
Occasional services	2,350	0	2,350	3,820
Sub-total	5,475	0	5,475	6,263
Legacies	72,145	13,455	85,600	1,000
Donations and grants	7,027	10,257	17,284	31,731
Total	171,409	23,712	195,121	119,431

3 Fundraising

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2022
Fundraising activities				
Winter Market	2,435	0	2,435	2,084
Market stalls	0	0	0	1,119
Flower Festival	0	0	0	941
Other events	836	0	836	840
Sub-total	3,271	0	3,271	4,984
Parish Hall	18,189	0	18,189	18,480
Magazine	1,073	0	1,073	1,256
Catering income	286	0	286	240
Other	1,652	0	1,652	1,570
Total	24,471	0	24,471	26,530

4 Church activities

This income relates to PCC fees relating to weddings and funerals. During 2023, we collected £2,108 for weddings (2022: £1,524) and £5,914 (2022: £6,554) for funerals. Fees for clergy, vergers and organists are handled by the PCC on an agency basis and are excluded from these accounts.

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5 Cost of generating voluntary income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2022
Fundraising expenses	608	450	1,058	727
Planned giving expenses	130	0	130	116
Total	738	450	1,188	843

6 Fundraising costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2022
Parish Hall				
Gas, electricity and water	9,533	0	9,533	6,429
Maintenance	832	0	832	2,554
Caretaker	4,200	0	4,200	4,200
Depreciation	0	1,244	1,244	1,244
Other expenses	1,418	0	1,418	1,097
Sub-total	15,983	1,244	17,227	15,524
Other	200	0	200	439
Total	16,183	1,244	17,427	15,963

7 Church running expenses

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2022
Church				
Gas, electricity and water	12,819	0	12,819	13,794
Insurance	6,740	0	6,740	6,181
Repairs and maintenance	1,425	232	1,657	3,201
Refurbishment	1,447	11,463	12,910	19,056
Wine, wafers and candles	682	0	682	489
Organists	1,905	0	1,905	920
Organ maintenance	2,438	0	2,438	1,392
Worship	1,957	0	1,957	1,396
Depreciation	0	3,038	3,038	3,038
Other costs	976	0	976	123
Sub-total	30,389	14,733	45,122	49,590
Clergy				
Council Tax	2,369	0	2,369	(91)
Expenses and other costs	1,247	0	1,247	60
Sub-total	3,616	0	3,616	(31)
Administration				
Photocopier	3,418	0	3,397	4,731
Office supplies etc	1,199	0	1,199	1,101
Telephone and internet	723	0	723	694
Sub-total	5,340	0	5,340	6,526
Total	39,345	14,733	54,078	56,085

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8 Charitable giving

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Giving	2022 from PCC Funds
St Michael's School	2,500	0	2,500	2,000
Alnwick Foodbank	1,000	0	1,000	1,000
Gallery Youth	1,000	0	1,000	0
Contagious	785	0	785	1,000
Children's Society	381	0	381	0
Alnwick Community Centre	0	0	0	1,000
Crisis Newcastle	0	0	0	500
West End Refugee Service	0	0	0	500
Ukrainian Refugees	0	0	0	450
Total	5,666	0	5,666	6,450

Special collections, donations and fundraising events which are specifically on behalf of another charity are not included in the accounts.

9 Governance costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2022
Bank charges	582	0	582	622
Independent examination	180	0	180	180
Treasurer's expenses	140	0	140	150
Total	902	0	902	952

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Church Bells	Parish Hall Boiler	Total Assets
Cost			
Balance at 1 st January 2023	151,915	12,438	164,353
Additions	0	0	0
Balance at 31 st December 2023	151,915	12,438	164,353
Depreciation			
Balance at 1 st January 2023	3,038	2,487	5,526
Charge for year	3,038	1,244	4,281
Balance at 31 st December 2023	6,076	3,731	9,807
Net Book Value at 31st December 2023	145,839	8,707	154,546

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11 Accounts receivable

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2022
Income tax recoverable	3,386	0	3,386	12,244
Electricity refund	492	0	492	174
Parish Hall rental income	59	0	59	626
Other	534	0	534	50
Total	4,471	0	4,471	13,094

12 Accounts payable

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2022
Parish share	0	0	0	7,300
Gas	1,312	0	1,312	3,258
Charitable giving	25,235	0	25,235	22,620
Other	1,355	0	1,355	140
Total	27,902	0	27,902	33,318

13 Events after the reporting period

In January 2024, the PCC received a final payment of £318,000 from the Trustees of the Hugonin Trust. This was credited to the Legacy Fund, an unrestricted but designated fund.

In January 2024, the loan of £120,000 on the balance sheet as at 31st December 2023 was converted to a restricted donation to the Tower Fund.

Both of these events were unknown at the end of the financial year and are therefore treated as non-adjusting post balance sheet events.