

## **Administrative information**

The Parish of Great Aycliffe is made up of four churches, St. Clare's Church, St. Cuthbert's Way, Newton Aycliffe; St. Elizabeth's Church, Woodham; St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village and St. Francis' Church which is a part of St. Francis Church of England aided Junior School, Horndale. The parish is a part of the Durham Diocese within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office. St Clare's Church. St. Cuthbert's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 5NT

## **Structure, governance and management**

PCC's are governed by two "Church of England Measures"; the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. In the Parish of Great Aycliffe, the PCC consists of the Incumbent (At the moment Priest in charge) who acts as chair, any other clergy licensed to the parish, Licensed Lay Minister, Church Wardens, three deanery synod representatives and nine elected members, which according to the 2017 scheme 3 should come from each church. Up to two co-options are also permitted. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC is the governing body of the DCC's and therefore any faculty applications or other major decisions need to be approved at the PCC meetings. Both PCC and DCC's meet bi-monthly and therefore six times each year. Subcommittees at DCC level have certain responsibilities and are able to deal with the ongoing development, upkeep and maintenance of the church. These committees include pastoral care, hall management, buildings committee, funding application committee, communications, and missional leadership for growth. They are responsible to the PCC and DCC's and report back regularly with minutes of their decisions being received and discussed as necessary.

## **Aims and purposes**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of Great Aycliffe has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent (or at present the Priest in Charge, Rev John Musson) in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the promotion of the Christian faith in the Church of England Aided School of St. Francis, Horndale and appoints foundation members to its governing body.

## **Objectives and activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at each of our churches of St. Clare, St. Andrew, and St. Elizabeth. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We have tried to fulfil the aims of the church for the benefit of our church and the wider community.

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

## **Membership in 2024**

Rev John Musson, priest in charge since 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Churchwardens David Blair, Helen McCormick, Miriam Wilson  
Deanery Synod Reps Annette Bowmer, David Blair  
LLM Jim Walsh, Eileen Bowman (resigned August 2024)

Elected members  
Cath Halford  
Ric Hargreaves

Co-opted members  
Tony Carr  
Julia Fay

## **STANDING COMMITTEE**

It is a requirement by law that a Standing Committee is appointed. It sets the agenda for the PCC meeting and deals with business in between meetings.

## **SUMMARY OF PCC MEETINGS**

The PCC met six times during 2024. The PCC has been very busy throughout the year with a range of topics discussed. More detail may be found elsewhere in this report, and in the Minute File available on request. In summary, these were:-

Safeguarding – Safeguarding matters are discussed and policies and best practice is followed. Unfortunately the PCC has so far been unable to find a replacement Parish Safeguarding Officer since Lyn Vincent stepped down.

Warden's report – each PCC meeting receives reports from each church/DCC

which include matters relating to buildings and worship.

Youth and children – reports comment on how Messy Church is growing, and good contact continues to be made with Parish Youth, as well as Shine

Vacancy – PCC received notice of the Bishop suspending the living; Duncan Podbury conducted a Vacancy Audit report, which resulted in the parish being allocated Rev John Musson as Interim Change Minister (priest in charge). He was licensed in November. An interim team vicar is also promised to support the ministry. John reported that one of his tasks is to conduct a review of how the structure of PCC/DCC might best work in the future.

Finance – reports were regularly received from DCC's as well as the PCC account. Decisions were taken about the quota for 2025 and PCC hope that through good stewardship and advice from the Diocese this will be met.

Community development – the PCC received reports about outreach both to the schools and through groups operating in the churches.

Mission and outreach - The parish website is kept up to date, and regular posts are made to the Facebook page. Rev John Musson started work with the PCC at the first meeting he attended to see how our mission to the parish can grow. PCC will start work on priorities soon.

Approved as the 2024 annual report from the PCC to the APCM.

Rev W J Musson, Chair

**THE PCC OF GREAT AYCLIFFE**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Armstrong Accountancy  
68 Leander Drive  
Boldon  
Tyne and Wear  
NE35 9LS

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**THE PARISH OF GREAT AYCLIFFE**  
**CHURCH INFORMATION**

<b>Diocese ORD Number</b>	248711
<b>Charity Commission Registration Number</b>	1131381
<b>Priest in charge</b>	Rev'd J. Musson
<b>Bank</b>	Barclays Bank plc 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Mrs L Armstrong Armstrong Accountancy 68 Leander Drive Henley Grange Boldon Colliery NE35 9LS

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### To the PCC of the Parish of Great Aycliffe

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 2 to 10, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993.

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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 Commission. 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 requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act, which has not been met.

Signed

Mrs L Armstrong  
Armstrong Accountancy  
68 Leander Drive  
Henley Grange  
Boldon Colliery  
NE35 9LS

Independent Examiner

31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

**The Parish of Great Aycliffe**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024**  
**Receipts and Payments Accounts**

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**Receipts**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Voluntary receipts</b>					
Planned Giving	21,545	-	-	21,545	31,010
Income Tax Recovery	6,668	-	2,000	8,668	9,143
Open Plate collections	10,121	-	-	10,121	11,698
<b>Other voluntary receipts</b>					
Donations and Appeals	2,183	-	16,272	18,455	12,769
Sundry donations	-	-	1,590	1,590	11,565
Community fund	-	-	-	-	1,500
Legacies	-	-	-	-	30,000
	40,517	-	19,862	60,379	107,685
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>					
Fetes Bazaars, other fund raising events	9,171	-	2,386	11,557	14,179
Welcome café	3,379	-	-	3,379	4,804
Church Hall lettings etc	34,242	-	-	34,242	24,248
Candles	52	-	-	52	344
Baptism/wedding certificates and banns	-	-	-	-	258
Headstones	-	-	-	-	349
Sundry income	-	-	-	-	320
	46,844	-	2,386	49,230	44,502
<b>Investment income</b>					
Dividends	52	-	-	52	48
Interest	282	-	30	312	167
Surplus/-Deficit on investments	-	-	166	166	33
	334	-	196	530	248
<b>Church activities</b>					
Fees	13,102	-	1,217	14,319	20,069
Diocese clergy cover	1,958	-	-	1,958	-
Magazines	104	-	-	104	236
Grants	500	-	500	1,000	14,741
Refunds	-	-	8,940	8,940	181
Advertising	-	-	-	-	375
Memorial book	75	-	-	75	84
Gifts	-	-	-	-	1,639
Parish youth	50	-	-	50	70
Sundry Receipts	434	-	46	480	1,273
	16,223	-	10,704	26,927	38,668
<b>Total receipts</b>	103,918	-	33,147	137,065	191,103
<b>Excess/-Deficit of receipts over payments</b>	-28,116	-	169	-27,946	42,339
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	-538	-	538	-	-
<b>Cash at bank at 1 January 24</b>	38,338	-	72,942	111,281	68,942
<b>Cash at bank at 31 December 24</b>	9,685	-	73,649	83,335	111,281



**The Parish of Great Aycliffe**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024**  
**Receipts and Payments Accounts**

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**Payments**

**Church activities**

**Mission giving and donations**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Missionary & charitable giving	-	-	64	64	3,667
Church Overseas	-	-	-	-	-
Home missions & Church Societies	-	-	928	928	-
Secular charities	511	-	448	959	683
	511	-	1,440	1,952	4,350

**Activities : related to church work**

Ministry : Parish share	76,736	-	-	76,736	39,600
Clergy Expenses	-	-	-	-	460
Visiting clergy	6,732	-	-	6,732	1,297
Clergy house (water)	100	-	-	100	403
Church running expenses	14,367	-	-	14,367	19,572
Rent	-	-	-	-	978
Church maintenance	3,673	-	9,503	13,176	9,790
Upkeep of churchyard	1,266	-	300	1,566	-
Hall running costs	9,181	-	-	9,181	844
Major Repairs and decoration	720	-	10,118	10,837	33,749
Upkeep of church services	955	-	-	955	833
Copyright Licence	472	-	-	472	459
DBS checks	67	-	-	67	14
Holiday grant	-	-	-	-	180
Parish children	110	-	159	269	523
Salaries	3,778	-	-	3,778	3,458
Pensions	780	-	-	780	780
Sundry Expenses	1,362	-	126	1,488	1,487
Fees paid	2,273	-	-	2,273	8,919
Organist	840	-	-	840	840
Vergers	775	-	-	775	913
Hampers and gifts	74	-	4,490	4,564	5,651
Equipment purchased	-	-	-	-	756
	124,262	-	24,696	148,957	131,506

**Cost of generating funds**

Costs of fetes, bazaars etc	637	-	-	637	1,194
Welcome café	2,069	-	2,510	4,579	4,581
	2,706	-	2,510	5,216	5,775

**Church Management & administration**

Accountancy	1,700	-	-	1,700	1,500
Professional fees	910	-	4,332	5,242	1,856
Bank and sum up charges	46	-	-	46	20
Training	-	-	-	-	775
Advertising printing and stationery	493	-	-	493	1,271
Telephone	1,405	-	-	1,405	1,712
	4,554	-	4,332	8,886	7,134

**Total payments**

	132,034	-	32,978	165,012	148,765
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**The Parish of Great Aycliffe**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**  
**as at 31 December 2024**

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	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Cash Funds</b>					
Bank accounts churches	4,934	-	70,970	75,904	104,269
Cash accounts	154	-	-	154	214
CCLA	4,598	-	-	4,598	4,315
<b>Other monetary assets</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Investment assets</b>					
Investment funds (at market value)	-	-	2,679	2,679	2,483
<b>Assets retained for Church use</b>	-	-	-	-	-
	9,686	-	73,649	83,335	111,281
<b>Liabilities</b>	-	-	-	-	-
	9,686	-	73,649	83,335	111,281

Approved by the Parish of Great Aycliffe, and signed on its behalf by Mr S. Ingram (Treasurer)

**Rev'd J. Musson (Chairman)**

**The Parish of Great Aycliffe**  
**Notes to the financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

2 Fixed assets under £5,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

3 Movements in designated and restricted funds were:-

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Excess/-Deficit of receipts over payments	-28,116	-	169	-27,946	42,339
Transfers between funds	-538	-	538	-	-
Cash at bank at 1 January 24	38,338	-	72,942	111,280	68,942
Cash at bank at 31 December 24	9,685	-	73,649	83,334	111,281

**The Parish of Great Aycliffe**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024**  
**Movement in Funds**

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	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Surplus & (Deficit)	Interest	Closing Balance	
							Designated	Restricted
<b>St Andrew</b>								
Fabric fund	42996.16	9641.18	12888.00					39749.34
Fabric fund - WC	10633.28	197.83	1332.00					9499.11
Churchyard	932.68	1232.00	300.00					1864.68
Bells	1235.00							1235.00
General Maintenance	0.00							0.00
Service requisites	0.00							0.00
Organ	685.60							685.60
Heritage fund	311.80							311.80
T Chapman	115.72					4.53		120.25
Tithe Act	384.29				8.80			393.09
AH Bowen	638.57					24.99		663.56
T Gibson	1344.04				157.66			1501.70
<b>St Clare</b>								
Youth ministry	89.62		34.84					54.78
Fabric fund	2901.76	12259.77	8437.50					6724.03
Messy church	240.00		123.95					116.05
Church garden.	10.00		10.00					0.00
Places of welcome	10.00		10.00					0.00
Tiddles and toddlers	54.31		6.56					47.75
Charities	2.03	1438.38	1440.41					0.00
<b>St Elizabeth of Hungary</b>								
Fabric fund	2490.44			-1748.67				741.77
Fabric - church carpet	0.00			1905.00				1905.00
Fabric - hall carpet	0.00	1261.33	1105.00	-156.33				0.00
Mother & Toddlers	26.04			-26.04				0.00
Deanery weekly welcome	184.40	860.98	190.00	-120.00				735.38
Grants	524.85							524.85
<b>St Francis</b>								
Fabric	960.39							960.39
<b>Parish</b>								
Community fund	1971.76	6060.00	7099.98	683.63				1615.41
Wardens fund	4046.00							4046.00
Holiday	127.30							127.30
Open the book	17.55							17.55
Pastoral care	8.17							8.17
	72941.76	32951.47	32978.24	537.59	166.46	29.52	0.00	73648.56