

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF NEWSOME & ARMITAGE BRIDGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1131703

## Details

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Other names	NEWSOME & ARMITAGE BRIDGE PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-09-18
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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## Activities

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**Objects:** Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

**Activities:** Religious Activities

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Kirklees

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£63,910	£50,652	-	-
2024-12-31	£63,722	£59,656	-	-
2023-12-31	£52,402	£52,999	-	-
2022-12-31	£59,119	£48,356	-	-
2021-12-31	£39,418	£43,680	-	-
2020-12-31	£52,620	£55,363	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Rev Frances Margaret Nunn</b>	Chair	2025-04-16
Alan Graeme Williams		2024-04-08
Antony Crawshaw		2020-10-27
BRUCE NIGEL GREENWOOD		
Christopher Denis Storey		2020-10-27
Helen Denise Pearson		2025-04-30
Helen Margaret Hales		2020-10-27
Ian Richard Hales		2018-05-01
Katherine Huggett		2020-10-27
MELODY ANN HIRST		2011-06-22
Naomi Pinkney		2022-03-28
PAM KENT		
PAMELA THOMAS		2011-06-22
Paul Coldwell		2025-04-30
Sarah Pope		2022-03-28

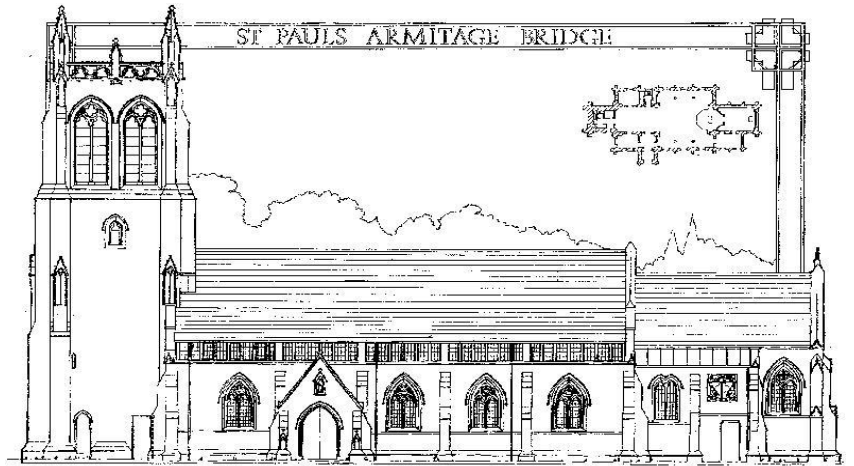
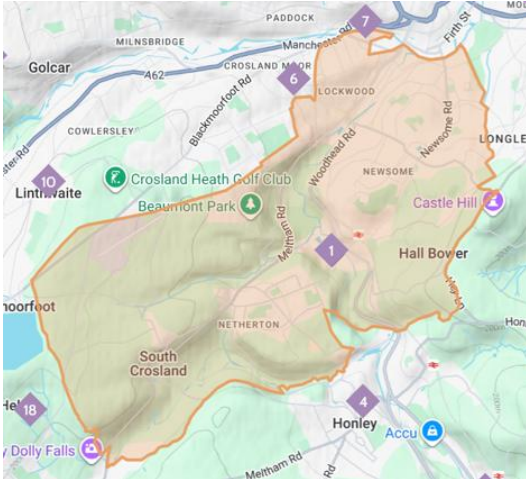


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# Accounts

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# The Emmanuel Benefice of Newsome, Armitage Bridge and Netherton St Paul's Armitage Bridge



**Registered Charity Number: 1131703**

## **Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council 2025 And Financial Statements to the year ending December 2025**

Interregnum: January – April 2025 [Area Dean Rev Julie Anderson]

**Priest-in-Charge from May 2025**

Rev Frances Nunn

### **Bank:**

Virgin Money  
40 New Street, Huddersfield

HSBC Bank  
Kingsgate Centre, Huddersfield

Central Board of Finance of the Church of England  
80 Cheapside, London

### **Independent Examiner:**

Chris Jones

# **Notice of Meetings:**

7.30pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026

At St Paul's Church, Armitage Bridge, HD4 7PD

## **Annual Meeting for the election for Church Wardens:**

### **1. Opening Prayer:**

Lord, as we open this meeting,

we recognise we can do nothing apart from You.

Please grant us wisdom to rightly represent You  
and to faithfully follow Your purposes.

Let the Spirit of Wisdom dwell within us and guide us into greater  
knowledge, conviction, Christ-like love and unity.

We pray this time would be fruitful and encouraging to those in attendance,  
as we seek to serve you here - through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

### **3. Approval of the minutes of the last annual meeting held 30/04/25**

### **4. Election of Church Wardens**

### **5. Election/appointment of deputy wardens**

### **6. Close of meeting**

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting:**

### **1. Apologies for absence**

### **2. Approval of the minutes of the last APCM held on 30/04/25**

### **3. Report on the revision of the Electoral Roll**

### **4. Annual Report**

### **5. Clergy Report**

### **6. Treasurers Report on the accounts year ending 31/12/25**

### **7. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

### **8. Church Warden and Fabrics Report**

### **9. Election of PCC Members**

### **10. Deanery Synod Report**

### **11. Election of Lay Members to the Deanery Synod**

### **12. Safeguarding Report**

### **13. Additional Reports**

### **14. Any matters of parochial or general church interest**

### **15. Concluding Prayers**

**Appendix A:** Accounts for the year ending 31/12/26 and independent examiners report.

## Electoral Roll Report 2025

It is pleasing to report that since the preparation of a new Electoral Roll in 2025, twelve people have been added as a result of the revision carried out in 2026.

The number now on the Electoral Roll for the **Benefice/Parish of Newsome, Armitage and Nethererton** is:

Total **92** Residents **60** (65%) Non-residents **32** (35%)

David Hirst, Electoral Roll Officer

## Annual Report for 2025

### Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During this Period, the following served as members of the PCC

#### Ex-officio:

Antony Crawshaw (**Church Warden**)

Pamela Thomas (**Church Warden**)

Bruce Greenwood (**PCC Treasurer and Deanery Synod**)

John Kent (**Deanery Synod**)

Helen Pearson ( **Deanery Synod**)

From May 2025:

Rev Frances Nunn (**Priest in Charge for the Emmanel Benefice**)

#### Elected Members:

Paul Coldwell (elected 2025)

Helen Hales (elected 2022)

Ian Hales (**Lay Vice Chair** – elected 2025)

Katherine Huggett (elected 2024)

Pamela Kent (**Secretary** – elected 2024)

Naomi Pinkney (elected 2022)

Sarah Pope (**Minute Secretary** - elected 2022)

Chris Storey (elected 2024)

Graeme Williams (elected 2024)

**Co-Opted Member:** Melody Hirst (2025) **Children and Families Lead**

**Electoral Roll Officer:** David Hirst

**Safeguarding Officer:** Pamela Thomas **Lead Recruiter:** Helen Pearson

**Environmental Committee Chair:** Rev Debby Plummer

**Fire Safety Officer:** Ian Hales

**Health and Safety Officer:** Sarah Pope

## **Clergy Report:**

Between January and May 2025 the benefice was held and supported by our amazing team of retired clergy, Rev Angela Dick, Rev David Kent and Rev Debby Plummer. David writes:

*"It was a great privilege and pleasure to work with my colleagues Angela and Debby in order to keep everything running smoothly at St Paul's during the vacancy. I was pleased that we didn't need to call on any outside support during the whole 18 months or so.*

*We were also able to maintain our good relationship with the Methodist churches during this time and continue to take services at the Methodist churches along with united services. We were obviously relieved to have recruited a new incumbent and it was with great pleasure and anticipation that we welcomed Fran in May. Since then we have worked really well together and are delighted that Fran has settled in so well and been so visible around the parish."*

### **Rev Frances Nunn was licenced to the Benefice in May 2025:**

*'I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.'*      *Philippians 1:3-6*

Since being licenced as Priest-in-Charge, I have been hugely encouraged by the support and commitment of this community of faith in working together to serve across the Benefice in so many different ways. There are huge opportunities for connection and partnership – not least with our brothers and sisters at Berry Brow Methodists, with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and formation of the Partnership Management Committee. We continue to work with other Christian Churches in the area as part of the South Huddersfield Churches Together forum. We are developing close links with Brooks Mill (where I have been asked to act in a chaplaincy capacity for the businesses and community there), the Newsome Centre, our Local councillors and Community Plus workers, and Newsome (St Johns) Scouts. It was a privilege to have the Scouts take an active role in our Remembrance Service in November.

We have also marked other seasons including Creation Tide – linked to our commitments to Eco Church and Net Zero, Harvest, All Saints, Christ the King,

Advent and Christmas – including Christingle, Family Nativity, Blue Christmas and Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve. In addition to following the lectionary, we have enjoyed focused sermon series on Philippians and deepened our discipleship through the 24/7 Be Still Course.

As part of discerning together Ministry and Missional priorities moving forward, the congregation and PCC were invited to reflect on the following 5 themes drawn from Acts 2:42-47:

‘They devoted themselves to the apostles’ **teaching [and learning]** and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer [and worship]**. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **[Radical Generosity]** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.’

The PCC are working through these responses to inform next steps. I attended the LYCiG (Leading Your Church Into Growth) conference in October which was particularly helpful in thinking through how Preaching and Teaching; Prayer; Presence; Proclamation (outreach) and Pathways (growing Discipleship) might develop.

We have had support from the Diocesan Stewardship team, Barnabas Discipleship team and Growing Faith Teams – all of which are helping our thinking for next steps.

Our principle Sunday Worship gatherings are 10am at St Paul’s Armitage Bridge, where we are supported by our wonderful organists Ian and Tony, the music group and church choir. Prayer continues to be an integral part of our discipleship with weekly Morning Prayer on a Wednesday and Contemplative Prayer on a Thursday. We took part in the Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative between Ascension and Pentecost and will do so again next year.

We continue to work across the Benefice with joint and united services with our brothers and sister from the local Methodist Churches in Newsome and Netherton, further presence in Netherton through the monthly South Crosland [Holy Trinity] Coffee Mornings, the Pop-up-Shop in Newsome in partnership

with the Scouts as part of South Huddersfield Churches Together and extensive schools ministry (see report). We look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for us in the year ahead.

*Rev Fran Nunn.*

### **Treasurers Report on the accounts year ending 31/12/25:**

During 2025 the Church was able to meet all its obligations and achieve a surplus of Income over Expenditure of £14,000. The surplus was mainly due to a carry over to 2026 of Exceptional Expenditure which had been planned for 2025, and which we hope to complete in 2026. We have an outstanding application with the Diocese for permission to place a machinery store in the church grounds (£3200) and there is still an expected cost of at least £4,000 in making trees safe in the three churchyards for which we have responsibility. Once South Crosland's and Newsome's churchyards are in an acceptable condition then we can apply to Kirklees Council to pass on responsibility.

We have completed Budgets for the years 2026 to 2028. In 2026 we expect a shortfall of Income against Expenditure of £6,000 due to the delayed work from 2025 being completed and looking further ahead there is the possibility of increased deficits as Parish Share increases and Planned Giving stalls or decreases. Looking so far ahead allows us to take steps to mitigate this.

#### **Income**

Our congregational giving increased in 2025, collections by £3,000 and Planned Giving by £2,600, with Gift Aid tax refunds also increasing by £1,200. Donations fell by £1,000 and lettings by £800. The church hall showed a surplus of £1,200 and the Art & Craft Exhibition donated £2,400 to the Fabric Fund.

#### **Expenditure**

We paid our Parish Share in full to the Diocese including the annual 10% increase of £1,700. Due to the mild spring and autumn of 2025, our Gas costs reduced by £2,000. Maintenance costs reduced by £1,800 as we held over repairs identified in the Quinquennial Report to 2026 when we hope to complete the remainder.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The Church Council has agreed that the church should hold a Revenue Reserve of 50% of normal annual expenditure. This sits at £18,000 based on 2024 figures. This is to cover fluctuations in income and expenditure over the year and also sudden unexpected incidents such as the pandemic. The Council also

agreed to set up a Heating Reserve to provide towards the eventual demise of our elderly boiler and any changes the Council decides to make on the source of energy. £20,000 has been provided so far and this figure can be adjusted in the future as the prospect of expenditure draws closer.

### **Depreciation**

Expenditure on individual assets of £1,500 or less are written off on purchase. Items costing more than this, such as the Sound System have their value written down over their expected useful life. The Sound System value is reducing by 10% fixed per annum and will therefore have no value ten years after purchase.

The Church Council is grateful for the continuing generous giving of the congregation which is enabling us to meet our obligations to the Diocese which will continue to increase by 10% per annum until we reach our assessed figure. The figure for 2026 is £20,249, but by 2028 will be £24,501 against a 2028 assessment of £49,507, £25,000 more than we will actually pay.

We begin 2026 with a good balance in the bank but with substantial exceptional expenditure planned. We remain in a satisfactory position and able to back our Mission ambitions financially.

*Bruce Greenwood, Treasurer*

*Chris Storey, Assistant Treasurer*

**Appointment of Independent Examiner:** to be agreed at this APCM.

### **Church Warden and Fabrics Report:**

We were very pleased to welcome Frances Nunn as Priest in Charge of the Benefice.

As well as the routine maintenance i.e., Servicing Fire Alarms, PA testing, boiler maintenance and lot of cleaning was completed to ensure the church is kept in good repair. The inventory and logbook are both up to date. We are working through the Quinquennial inspection work.

The churchyard grass areas and cremated remains areas, have all been well maintained by our team of dedicated gardeners.

As church wardens we would like to thank everyone for the help and support over the last year which has enabled our services and maintenance of the building to continue seamlessly.

*Tony Crawshaw and Pamela Thomas, Church Wardens*

**Election of PCC Members:** *3 members to be elected at this APCM.*

**Deanery Synod Report:**

Bruce Greenwood, John Kent and Helen Pearson have served a third year as Deanery Representatives for the Parish on the Almondbury and Kirkburton Deanery. Bruce has continued to serve as Deanery Treasurer and Helen as Deanery Secretary.

Five synods have been held, all of which have been joint with Huddersfield Deanery. Four have been meetings, three in person and one on Zoom. In December the synod was in the form of a prayer meeting on Zoom. There have been discussions on the main issues concerning Parishes, on Parish Share, and on the Church of England Covenant for the Care and Wellbeing of Clergy document. PCC's have been asked to reflect on this document.

Deanery have been kept up-to-date on the process of electing a new Bishop of Leeds. A shortlist of candidates is to be interviewed in the first half of 2026. The Bishop elect is not expected to be licenced until early 2027.

We have had presentations from the Single friendly Church Network- a charity who supports people who come to church alone, and from the Maintenance Collective initiative – currently operating in Huddersfield Deanery and not yet Almondbury and Kirkburton. This project encourages parishes to look after church buildings. A coordinator, paid for by the national church, will give guidance on grants available and have parishes form a collective. Joining together to appoint contractors and take advantage of bulk procurement scaling.

*Helen Pearson*

**Election of Lay Members to the Deanery Synod:** The triennium for Deanery is coming to an end and Deanery Synod Representatives have to be re-elected, and/or new Reps be elected at this APCM.

**Safeguarding Report:**

Pamela Thomas was appointed as Safeguarding Officer for 2025. The Diocese continue to give guidance on Safeguarding, and warning of people of concern to be aware of potentially visiting our church, via regular newsletters and bulletins. There have been no issues of concern at St Pauls to report during the last 12 months.

Pamela reports to every PCC meeting on Safeguarding issues. Helen Pearson continues to work as “Lead Recruiter” for the Benefice with Pamela Thomas as the Additional Recruiter. Our task in addition to overseeing all Safeguarding aspects of our benefice is to ensure timely DBS checks are carried out on people volunteering to work with children or vulnerable adults. Currently the Diocese advises that DBS checks should be carried out every 3 years. The relevant people are up-to-date with their checks.

PCC members and officers are up-to-date with their safeguarding training. The Parish Safeguarding Policy was renewed and approved by PCC in March 2026.

*Pamela Thomas and Helen Pearson*

## **Additional Reports:**

### **Lay Worship Team Report:**

The lay worship team organise worship every other month. This is usually on the 3rd Sunday of the month to coincide with Rev Fran preaching at Berry Brow and so provides cover, though sometimes the lay worship team choose to cover a different service or event. The music group usually play at the lay-led services. The lay worship team cover leading the service, providing children’s activities, leading prayers, reading the Bible and giving a talk or address based on the theme of the service and those readings.

In 2025, we have led 7 services, being every other month plus an extra one in December for the Christingle service. Themes covered include the baptism of Christ, temptation, Christian Aid, joy, Harvest, light and the Christingle service. Themes to be covered in 2026 include Christian Unity, Mother’s Day and Christian Aid.

We have had a couple of overarching planning meetings to fix the upcoming dates, and each next service planned in detail straight after the last one over a cuppa and a biscuit or two. The group is quite fluid (it must be the tea!) as not everyone is available for every service, but this keeps it interesting and ensures that many people can get involved, if they wish. Would you like to be involved? You would be most welcome!

*Caroline Jones*

### **Music Group Report:**

The Music Group have continued to lead some songs/hymns in our Morning Worship services, usually on alternate third Sundays of the month. We endeavour to play hymns/songs which suit piano and instruments. We also lead new or songs less familiar to the congregation. Our children enhance the

group when joining us with percussion instruments for our going out song. This is always a most enjoyable feature of the Morning Worship service.

In addition this year we have “gone on the road” and played at joint services on two of our fifth Sundays. We led all the music at Berry Brow Methodists at the end of August. This was very much appreciated by the combined congregation and especially the Berry Brow regulars. Many thanks to Carol Waters for opening up on the Friday for us to set up and rehearse. On the last Sunday in November, Advent Sunday, we led the music at Netherton Methodist church. Again our contribution was appreciated and we thoroughly enjoyed playing/singing Advent Hymns/songs, which we have not done for a few years now.

Many thanks to all contributors to the music in our church, and those who open up for us to rehearse on Fridays or early on the Sunday mornings for us to set up. It truly is a team effort. The Music Group is a small but dedicated, enthusiastic group, and new instrumentalists are always welcome to join us. I enjoy arranging the music parts for the instruments and all abilities are catered for!

*Helen Pearson Music Group co-ordinator*

### **Bell Ringers Report:**

The past 12 months have been steady rather than spectacular. Numbers remain steady and most Sunday services have been rung for along with any special services the church have asked us to do.

4 quarter peals were rung from the 15th March to 27th June, after which various folk have suffered with various ailments which prevented us progressing in that direction in the second half of the year. One full peal was successful in November which included Sally, Lorraine and Alan.

Weddings have been thin on the ground but we were asked to ring the bells for a couple of funerals during the year which included that of Agnes Bowles.

VE day was rung for on the 8th of May along with Remembrance Sunday in November. We were also asked to ring in the new year, starting at 11:45pm Wednesday 31st December until 0:10am Thursday 1st January. Its the first time in 20 years we have met to perform this traditional act.

Halifax Archdeaconry have continued to hold their monthly Monday evening learners practice at Armitage Bridge. It would seem that having settled here the attendance has gradually increased as has the standard of ringing.

Our own Wednesday practice is usually well attended and everyone would seem to be making steady progress. Although this does not particularly help us it does perform a service for other towers by helping their ringers. Maintenance has not been as regular as it should have been albeit the bells remain in good order. We have scrapped a rope or two and have sent a couple off for repair along with an order for a new replacement rope.

*Alan Trebble*

### **South Crosland CofE (VA) Junior School:**

The work in school continues with everyone focused on the education and wellbeing of the children as their priority. The school is very well led by Head Clare Brewster and her dedicated staff

**Staffing:** Year 4 teacher , Mrs Kenyon –Green took maternity leave in March 2025. An experienced and capable year 4 teacher, Mrs Hitchen was recruited to cover the leave until February this year, when Mrs Kenton- Green was welcomed back into school. In September another Teaching Assistant was appointed to the team and the school is now fully staffed.

**Governors:** Rev Fran was welcomed to the Governing Body on her appointment. School had been looking to appoint another four Foundation Governors to ensure Foundation Governors formed the majority on the Governing Board. An appeal was made to the parish for Governors. Two appointments were made. Dawne Day who worships at Netherton Methodist church and Valerie Hieatt, who worships at Cathedral House. Kirklees then informed school that the Governing Body was too large. Two staffing governors stepped down from the Governing Body and hence the correct balance of Foundation Governors to other Governors, without making any further Foundation Governor appointments, has been maintained. The Governors are very dedicated to the school. They make visits to school and assist with taking the children out on visits. Some have the opportunity to read with children regularly.

**School Development Plan:** Focus on the School Development Plan has continued. The plan includes the Maths Mastery Programme across school, the curriculum, reading, phonics and behaviour.

Church School Status Quality daily collective worship takes place in school. Fran leads this worship once a week.

Children have enjoyed being at St Paul's, the link church to the school, as part of their Christmas celebrations. A number of school children contributed to Fran's licencing service.

**Teaching and learning** has continued to be underpinned by a Christian ethos and the four core values; friendship, forgiveness, honest and respect. Our school vision Together, as one, we support each other to flourish and succeed, has never been more important.

Our children continue to show real resilience and continue to work hard and act as kind, caring individuals. They have raised money for charities and collected gifts to be distributed to those living alone at Christmas. All in all South Crosland is a really good school.

*Helen Pearson - Foundation Governor at South Crosland CofE (VA) Junior School*

### **Schools Ministry Across the Benefice:**

My principal commitment is to South Crosland C E V A Junior School. I deliver a weekly Collective Worship and work alongside the SLT, RE Lead and pupil Worship Team to plan additional worship throughout the year. In addition, I have established a pattern of worship with the following schools: Berry Brow (weekly worship working in partnership with the Community Worker and Minister from Berry Brow Methodist Church), Newsome Primary and Hillside Primary (half termly), Castle Hill Special School (termly plus festivals) and Mount Pleasant (invitation basis). The aim is to connect staff, children, and their families to the other events and opportunities in the Benefice including Workshops, Services and Junior Church.

*Rev Fran Nunn*

### **Children and Families – Junior Church:**

As a result of some Joint services and school holiday periods we only held six sessions of Junior Church in 2025. We have taken the decision to hold Junior Church on the first Sunday of the month at 10 am from January 2026 to avoid school holidays. Also leaving the service, to go upstairs straight after the Notices gives the children more time for their activities before returning to join the congregation for Communion, a blessing and to share and discuss their work with the congregation at the end of the service.

Where possible we follow the Lectionary readings for that week.

Some of the themes covered with the children: **February: Jesus calming the storm, March: Lent, April: The Easter Story, June: Pentecost, September: Creation, November: Advent**

A Risk Assessment for Junior Church which is completed and reviewed every year was presented to the PCC in March for their approval

There must always be two adults with the children, and we have two main leaders, Sam McGregor and myself (both with DBS). If one of us is unable to attend, then we have several people with a Self-declaration who can assist, (these forms are updated annually).

A rota for members of the congregation to attend and assist at our Junior Church sessions will begin in January 2026. It is hoped that from this some will want to help/lead regularly and then we may be able to offer the children two sessions a month.

There is now no longer a need to have a PCC Authorisation form, but attendances must be reported to the PCC.

The number of children attending in 2025 increased

<b>January</b>	No Junior Church
<b>February</b>	7 children
<b>March</b>	14 children
<b>April</b>	6 children
<b>May</b>	No Junior Church
<b>June</b>	4 children
<b>July</b>	No Junior Church
<b>August</b>	No Junior Church
<b>September</b>	7 children
<b>November</b>	6 children
<b>December</b>	No Junior Church
<b>Average:</b>	<b>7 children</b>

**Children's Corner:** An area close to the choir at the side of the church has been designated as a space for children to use during the service on weeks when there is no Junior Church or supervised activity during a Lay led worship.

Removable soft flooring, a small table, and chairs are provided along with books, jigsaws, quiet toys and drawing materials. It has been well used by the children. Some adjustments have been made already but it is felt that some drawers for crayons, pencils and paper may be required.

**Christmas and Easter Craft workshops:** Both workshops have been very well attended and have been enjoyed by children and adults alike. They are busy events incurring a lot of preparation, but we would not be able to go ahead

without the help and support of the many helpers who give up their time to make it a very enjoyable experience for the children.

**Annual Family picnic at Beaumont Park:** Our Annual Family picnic in July 2025 took place in Church because of the rain. Nevertheless, it was an enjoyable event.

**Risk Assessments** for the Craft workshops and for the annual Family Picnic were approved by the PCC.

Our thanks to all those involved in the children's activities for their work and support.

*Sam McGregor and Melody Hirst*

### **Compassion:**

We have had regular contact with Dafne our Compassion child. She still appears to be enjoying her time on the project that we sponsor.

Collections have been steady from St. Paul's, Berry Brow Methodist Church and Community Centre and Hall Bower. Thank you to all our congregations for their support in their giving to help Dafne.

*Melody Hirst*

### **Benefice link to the Diocese of Royra, Tanzania:**

St Paul's continues its link with a church in the diocese of Royra in Tanzania. The church we link with in Royra is a small village called Sokorabolo. News and updates for the last 12 months from Sokorabolo and the surrounding parishes of Royra include the following:

#### **Some ongoing challenges**

- Work has finished on the roof of the vicarage house. The rest of the house still needs to be finished in terms of plastering, floor and electricity.
- The church buildings need repairs to the roof, wall and floor. The roof of the church also needs to be painted.

#### **Some success stories**

- The kindergarten is going well with 30 regular students attending and they aim to increase this to 50 students over the next 12 – 24 months.

- The number of parishes remain the same at 45 although the number of Christians in the region has grown with the average now between 8,000 and 9,000 which is fantastic.
- Construction is going well for St Peter's Pre School and Primary School in Kowak.
- The Dorcas Sewing & Tailoring Project for which St Pauls donated funds to buy sewing machines is up to 20 girls in the college and is proving to be a huge success, as is the Ryagoro Agricultural Project.

**Bishop Moses would like to ask for our prayers for the following:**

- They are looking for funding to finish Nyang'ombe girls Secondary School and the Bishop Adiema Institute of Science and Technology.
- The St Peters pre-school and primary school continue to need funding if they are to develop though 2026.
- Funds of approx. TZS 10,000,000 (approx. £2800) are required to complete the remaining work on both church buildings and the vicarage house.

The village send their prayers and best wishes to the people of St Pauls. The work remains challenging but Bishop Moses Yamo believes in what he is doing and has plenty more ideas to develop the village and surrounding area further.

The Bishop has also sent through a proposal for the works they have left to do and as well as a breakdown of costs to support their appeal for the TZS 10,000,000. This has been submitted alongside this report as well as some photos.

*Sarah Pope*

**Community Worker's Report:**

My First report was in May 2015. At that time I was full of trepidation. I had massive shoes to fill in the person of Pam Kent who added so much to the lives of local people and I felt I knew nothing apart from the fact that I wanted to be of service to the community. Whether I have achieved that is for others to judge, but thanks to Pam's indefatigable support and guidance, I feel I have grown. I have seen the best in people and constantly been amazed by the continuing kindness of people. The community (from within and without the Churches) has come together time and time again, giving time, energy, food, donations and encouragement, and using a massive amount of skills through a variety of events.

Focussing on this year, much of the outreach work in the community has continued:

### The Bread and Butter Thing

This has increased in clientele, with new members joining. We still regularly prepare 240 bags which are picked up with great enthusiasm by 80 members. This initiative continues 52 weeks a year and so far we have not run out of volunteers who are very loyal and committed, but we have come close. If anyone fancies helping unload the van or packing the bags they would be most welcome to join.

### Warm welcome

Regular donations of delicious soup and other dishes and amazing cakes has made this venture more popular. The regulars enjoy it so much. For some it is a wonderful change from their 4 walls. The people who help are so caring, as well. I can't thank enough those who regularly take the time and effort to turn up to serve, make food and enable this to carry on. There will be a break in April, but we hope to continue monthly on the second Tuesday each month from May.

### Simeon Wood concert

The Simeon Wood concert was a great success, enjoyed by many raising necessary funds. We were able to take the pressure off our wonderful bakers by 'hiring' outside caterers from another church who were glad for their own church's funds. Many thanks to St Paul's for hosting when Berry Brow Church had potential heating problems.

### Pop up sale for the Together Shop

The 'Pop up shops' continue to be successful and to bring in finance to support the outgoings of the Together shop, thanks largely to the skills and the enthusiasm of our band of volunteers. It has also been good to support the scouts who add to their funds with the catering. Their contribution is a definite draw.

### Film Café

These occasions always bring a smile to the attendees. We show a range of films, some thought provoking some just entertaining from a range of eras. The interval refreshments have been wonderfully enhanced by home baking from Cath.

Shrove Tuesday This was a most successful event. The kitchen 'staff' were amazing as were the many volunteers who were serving. We raised over £300 on the day, and had many people through the doors who had not been before.

Regular events for everyone I support:

Crafty Chatterers continues every other week on a Tuesday morning from 9.30 at Berry Brow

Coffee and homemade cake at Hall Bower the first Wednesday each month (with a chance to pick up the impossible quiz). From 10 am.

Soup at Hall Bower the second Monday Each month from 12 noon.

Hall Bower Ramblers who meet on the Third Monday each month (9.30)

Itinerary posted on the notice board.

Warm Welcome at Berry Brow. Second Tuesday from May to October.

Coffee mornings every Wednesday in the Scout Hut from 10 am

Hearts and Hands Community Gospel Choir 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month 5.30. Berry Brow Church.

Coffee morning at South Crosland School on the Second Saturday morning, each month.

Film Café Third Saturday each month

Newsome Forum every other month to share our work and glean what is happening in the area.

Assemblies at Berry Brow Infant and Nursery School

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a community worker for churches together. I have had the most wonderful and gratifying experiences. I have seen God's love working in the community and it has been an honour to do so. Huge thanks to everyone who has supported me. I could not have achieved anything without your support and help. I wish the Churches and our community the very best. I will obviously continue to support all as a volunteer as I step back from this wonderful post.

*Carol Waters*

## **Comms and Focus in 2025**

During 2025 the parish magazine continued to serve both Anglican and Methodist congregations. Contributions from parishioners flowed to such a degree that each monthly edition usually consisted of 20 pages, with hopefully something for everybody.

Regular features included:

- Service information at St. Paul's, Berry Brow Methodist Church and Netherton Methodist Church plus special services as appropriate
- A View from the Clergy
- Dates for diaries
- Event reports
- Bellringing reports

Occasional contributions included environmental articles, quizzes and jokes. The magazine normally has 4 pages of full colour, front and back with the on-line version being in full colour. Special editions are in full colour, but cost constraints limit the frequency of these.

Each month 120 copies are printed, of which 25 go to Berry Brow and 20 to Netherton. In addition, 37 on-line copies are distributed, a figure which is gradually increasing.

The editor would like to thank all those who contribute articles to the magazine – the problem of finding space is much nicer than struggling to find copy!

*Graeme Williams, Editor*

In addition to Focus, work on developing the Website and better use of notice boards across the Benefice has helped raise the profile of the Church's ministry and mission across Newsome, Armitage Bridge and Netherton, including discipleship courses, seasonal services such as Remembrance, Advent and Christmas, and the monthly South Crosland Coffee Morning.

### **38<sup>th</sup> Art & Craft Exhibition**

Our aim is to provide an attractive exhibition space for artists and crafters in the Huddersfield area to display their creations, to draw the local community to our church providing a warm and friendly atmosphere, and finally, raise capital for our Fabric Fund.

We displayed 275 pictures, a 50% increase, and a 25% increase in Craft exhibits over 2024. We had a 20% increase in attendance to 362. We were able to donate £2,400 to the Fabric Fund up from £2,000 in 2024.

We received a number of complements from exhibitors on the displays and believe that the welcome to our visitors was up to scratch.

All church members contributed to this result in some way and we are grateful for your wholehearted support.

*Bruce Greenwood.*

### **Eco Church and Parish Environment Officer Report 2025**

Last spring there were few eco-events until June, so this report covers Fran's time with us so far, which is very appropriate. I led the 8th Big Blessing service at Stirley Community Farm YWT and Fran and Richard were among those who joined us. The speaker was Jo Rawson, Community Engagement Officer for Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and Helen Pedley, Deanery Champion for Halifax and Calder Valley, assisted me. Also in June we held a local Churches' Count on Nature in our churchyard, aided by David Barker, and held our 3<sup>rd</sup> Well Dressing

in Armitage Bridge, thanking God for the gift of water – this was organised by Robin Bowles.

The 4 Sundays of September, Creationtide, were well marked. Fran preached on 3 aspects of God as Creator on 7,14 and 28 September and, following a litter-pick on the 20<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> was a joyful celebration of the Harvest, led by the musicians and worship group . I preached on our call to work with God to serve and renovate this beautiful planet.

We started to reform the EcoChurch group in September and since January there have been 3 good constructive meetings of a team, now including some of those who were there from the beginning and some new volunteers. Work in progress is updating our EcoChurch account and who represents us on that account. We propose adopting the EcoChurch simple policy as a working template and will ask the PCC to accept this – with a simple headline or strapline that expresses our hopes and aims - and work with them as we aim for Gold award.

Graeme is using Focus as a platform for EcoTips and also has created a noticeboard for upcoming ways to become part of our sustainability journey. So far this year, church members have taken part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch and we are planning a Litterpick on April 25<sup>th</sup>, just after Earth Day.

A film summarising the National Emergency Briefing, which took place last November in London and involved many leading experts in areas affected by climate change and biodiversity loss – the current “polycrisis” – will be available to screen in every constituency in April. Fran has signed up to be a Host and I have signed up to be a Connector for this event.

God bless you all as we work together to promote creation care and sustain the life of the Earth.

*Rev Canon Debby Plummer*

### **Gardening Team Report:**

I think it would be fair to say that we have not felt we have totally been on top of the grounds over the last 12 months. Having just about managed to keep the grass cut retaining control of the various plots. 3 main reasons for this, the weather has not been kind to us, plus a smaller team coupled with a few health issues here and there. As we have progressed into 2026 we have not really been able to make much of a start as the weather has been poor, mainly rainy wet conditions. It has enabled us to help with a few jobs inside though along with trips to the tip, generally helping to keep things tidy.

Our "Garden of Remembrance" is looking good. Maureen, Cath and Lorraine continue to work hard on this part of our grounds. Clearing up and removing dead flowers, plants etc. Looking today we have again noticed a couple of glass jars making an appearance which for safety reasons we don't want.

Helen does her weekly round of checking on deposits a few of the dog walkers leave behind, evacuation of the 2 blocks of flats seem to have eradicated some of the problem.

A little work has been done up at South Crosland, more a case of tidying up and removing rubbish to the tip. There is also a slight Japanese Knotweed problem, River Holme Connections have been up there to spray the offending plants and were over the moon to receive our donation.

A number of trees continue to give us concern, these are kept under review with Kevin Stephenson and the arborists. We understand there is a tree on the drive to come down in the near future.

As and when the depth of the water allows we do make regular walks in the river, keeping our eye on invasive plants (Himalayan Balsam), importantly taking out any rubbish etc that gets dumped or ends up in there.

The car park has been subject to a lot of standing water over the last few months. We are trying to locate a supplier of "road panings" with no success to date. Kirklees council no longer supply this material as confirmed by local councillor Andrew Cooper.

Andrew has also promised to keep us informed to the repairs needed on the stone bridge which has taken a mighty whack from a vehicle dislodging a number of large stones into the river.

We are now starting to produce compost we started at the end of 2024. It looks ok with a bit being used in the churchyard and Tony using some for the various gardens he tends. Donations of veg peelings etc would be most welcome to mix in with grass cuttings and leaves.

One of our lawn mowers had to be scrapped after 30 years of use, replacing it with a Stihl Mower in 2024 - which needed a major repair under warranty in 2025. Along with a number of items passed onto us from South Crosland our storage capacity is full until we secure the container we are waiting for.

*Alan Tebble*

## **Health & Safety 2025:**

Various church members take on safety inspections and subsequent work in their own areas of responsibility and all inspections and maintenance have been recorded centrally and updated as part of the H&S role during 2025/26.

A revised risk assessment covering all aspects of the Church, its services, and buildings has been conducted in this period. The following categories were reviewed and a brief note of the outcome is provided below. The outcome indicates if any changes have occurred to the risk gradings since the last full review:

**Personal Safety** – No change to risk grades

**Building (internal)** – No change to risk grades

**Building (Kitchen)** – No change to risk grades

**Building (Electrical Safety)** – No change to risk grades

**Building (External)** – No change to risk grades

**Churchyard** – No change to risk grades

**Plant & Machinery** - No change to risk grades

**Manual Handling** - No change to risk grades

**Fire Safety** - No change to risk grades

**Safeguarding** - No change to risk grades

In addition to the full risk assessment the list of who is responsible for carrying out the various safety measures as well as the list detailing the schedule of inspections and testing's have been reviewed and are in the process of being updated for 2026.

The Ecclesiastical Church Health & Safety Policy has also been updated and is due to be presented for approval at the next PCC.

In addition to the full risk assessment and revision of the policy documents, 4 risk assessments have been completed this year by Melody Hirst/ Sam McGregor and reviewed and approved by Sarah Pope. Details of these are as follows:

## **Risk Assessments 2025-2026**

April 2025 – Easter Craft Workshop – approved

Sept 2025 – Annual Family Picnic – approved

Dec 2025 – Christmas Craft Workshop - approved

*Feb 2026 – Junior Church Annual Risk Assessment – approved*

*Feb 2026 – Big Family Party Risk Assessment - approved*

All H&SE policy documents and the risk assessments are available should anyone wish to view these.

*Sarah Pope*

**Any matters of parochial or general church interest:** To be raised at the APCM

### **Concluding Prayers:**

Spirit of God, you call us to celebrate our past,  
to live consciously in the present and to follow you into the future.  
You invite us to new ventures, new challenges.  
You invite us to new ways to care,  
and new ways to touch the hearts of all people.  
When we are fearful of the unknown, give us courage.  
When we worry that we are not up to the task,  
remind us that you would not call us if you did not believe in us.  
When we are tired or feel disappointed with the way things are going, remind  
us that you can bring change and hope out of the most difficult situations.  
Breathe into us new life and new meaning,  
especially as we leave this gathering.  
Endow us with energy and give us the strength needed to do our part to  
transform the world and to empower each other and those around us.  
We make this commitment in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship  
of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen

## St Paul, Armitage Bridge

### Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
0001: Sound System	1,560.00	1,950.00
002: Kitchen	-	-
<b>Total Fixed assets</b>	<b>1,560.00</b>	<b>1,950.00</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
CASH: Cash	45.00	-
CBFCAP: CBF Leeds DBF Trust Capital Account	9,678.46	10,081.50
CBFCHURCH: Churchyard CBF Account	-	-
CBFFAB: Fabric CBF Account	18,729.23	17,918.32
CBFGEN: General CBF Account	3,503.26	3,351.59
CBFINC: CBF Leeds DBF Trust Income Account	4,460.38	3,996.92
DEBTORS: Year End Debtors	1,156.79	2,242.90
HSBCBANK: HSBC Bank Account	9,114.34	11,528.00
HSBCBBM: HSBC BBM Account	39,218.10	23,378.10
JAMSTOCK: Jam Stock in Hand	231.00	231.00
NEWSMRG: Newsome Virgin Money	-	-
PREPAY: Prepayments	-	-
TRADSTK: Traidcraft Stock in Hand	40.00	40.00
VRGIN: General Account Virgin Money	735.46	615.46
YORKDGT: David Gilroy Trusr Yorkshire Bank	-	-
YORKFAB: Fabric Account Yorkshire Bank	-	-
Z05: Accounts Receivable	415.00	370.00
<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>87,327.02</b>	<b>73,753.79</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
6699: Agency collections	148.61	126.80
ACCRUALS: Accruals	785.91	882.33
Z04: Accounts payable	-	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>934.52</b>	<b>1,009.13</b>
<b>Net Asset surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>87,952.50</b>	<b>74,694.66</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Excess/(deficit) to date	13,257.84	4,065.90
Z01: Starting balances	74,694.66	70,628.76
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>87,952.50</b>	<b>74,694.66</b>

<b>Represented by Funds</b>		
General (Unrestricted)	24,622.48	53,210.18
Designated	38,298.33	309.20
Restricted	25,031.69	21,175.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>87,952.50</b>	<b>74,694.66</b>

St Paul, Armitage Bridge

Analysis of Receipts and Payments  
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
<b>Receipts</b>						
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>						
COLLCASH - Collections Cash	7,141.96	-	-	-	7,141.96	4,019.49
COLLCHQ - Collection Cheque	-	-	-	-	-	3.00
COLLGA - Collections Gift Aided	-	-	-	-	-	130.00
DONATEGA - Donation Gift Aided	531.00	-	-	-	531.00	100.00
DONNONREC - Donations Non-recurring	1,390.00	-	73.00	-	1,463.00	3,194.70
DONRECUR - Donations Recurring	100.00	20.00	-	-	120.00	200.00
PGCHQ - Planned Giving Cheque	4,856.04	-	-	-	4,856.04	3,974.53
PLANGIVA - Planned Giving Gift Aided	16,685.09	-	960.00	-	17,645.09	15,890.00
TAXREFUND - Gift Aid Tax Refund	6,123.48	-	240.00	-	6,363.48	5,125.59
ARTIN - Art & Craft Exhibition Income	-	-	5,785.39	-	5,785.39	4,123.52
FUNDJAM - Jam Sales	314.86	-	-	-	314.86	316.27
FUNDOTH - Fundraising Sundry	65.50	-	-	-	65.50	-
HALLIN - Church Hall Receipts	5,292.00	-	-	-	5,292.00	5,236.00
LETTINGS - Lettings	6,415.00	-	-	-	6,415.00	7,261.20
DIVD - Dividends	-	-	280.12	-	280.12	273.58
INTEREST - Interest on Deposits	629.67	-	1,194.25	-	1,823.92	1,689.90
PROFIT - Profit on valuation of Investments	-	-	-	-	-	225.59
JUNIOR - Junior Church	-	-	-	-	-	153.71
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds Totals</b>	<b>49,544.60</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>8,532.76</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,097.36</b>	<b>51,917.08</b>
<b>Other incoming resources</b>						
CAPIN - Capital Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	6,138.53
FEESIN - Fees	5,663.00	-	-	-	5,663.00	5,456.45
RENT - RENT	150.00	-	-	-	150.00	210.00
<b>Other incoming resources Totals</b>	<b>5,813.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,813.00</b>	<b>11,804.98</b>
<b>Receipts Grand Totals</b>	<b>55,357.60</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>8,532.76</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>63,910.36</b>	<b>63,722.06</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>						
ARTEXP - Art & Craft Exhibition Expenditure	-	-	3,390.96	-	3,390.96	4,126.68
HALLOUT - Church Hall Expenditure	4,071.27	-	-	-	4,071.27	4,970.55
BANKCHGE - Bank Charges	159.27	-	-	-	159.27	126.82
<b>Cost of generating funds Totals</b>	<b>4,230.54</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,390.96</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,621.50</b>	<b>9,224.05</b>
<b>Charitable activities</b>						
CHARITY - Charitable Payments	1,935.00	-	-	-	1,935.00	2,035.00
FEEMUSIC - Fees for Musicians	1,000.00	-	-	-	1,000.00	580.00
MISSION - MISSION EXPENDITURE	498.28	-	-	-	498.28	-
UPKEEP - Upkeep of Services	848.20	-	-	-	848.20	1,571.00
<b>Charitable activities Totals</b>	<b>4,281.48</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,281.48</b>	<b>4,186.00</b>

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
<b>Governance costs</b>						
ADMIN - Administration Expenses	576.87	-	-	-	576.87	469.45
CLERGY - Clergy Expenses	252.45	-	-	-	252.45	-
COMFUND - Diocesan Common Fund	18,408.00	-	-	-	18,408.00	16,734.00
INSURPREM - Insurance Premium	4,023.40	-	-	-	4,023.40	3,459.95
JUNCHURCH - Junior Church Expenses	94.70	-	-	-	94.70	66.15
LOSS - Loss on Valuation	-	-	403.04	-	403.04	-
MAGCOSTS - Magazine Costs	995.15	-	-	-	995.15	685.55
REPMAN - Repairs Maintenance	3,412.57	-	-	-	3,412.57	4,868.24
TELEPHONE - Telephone	669.91	-	-	-	669.91	572.30
<b>Governance costs Totals</b>	<b>28,433.05</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>403.04</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,836.09</b>	<b>26,855.64</b>
<b>Other resources used</b>						
CHYARD - Churchyard Expenditure	141.85	-	105.35	-	247.20	241.45
Depretn - Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	390.00
DOB - Dobrowski Memorial Garden	-	-	777.00	-	777.00	383.00
ELECT - Electricity	1,550.22	-	-	-	1,550.22	1,824.24
FABEXCEP - Fabric Exceptional Expenditure	3,211.26	-	-	-	3,211.26	10,438.55
GAS - Gas	3,455.16	-	-	-	3,455.16	5,541.60
JUNOUT - Junior Church	-	29.97	-	-	29.97	65.81
REFRESH - Refreshments	168.46	-	-	-	168.46	162.03
WATER - Water Rates Church	474.18	-	-	-	474.18	343.79
<b>Other resources used Totals</b>	<b>9,001.13</b>	<b>29.97</b>	<b>882.35</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,913.45</b>	<b>19,390.47</b>
<b>Payments Grand Totals</b>	<b>45,946.20</b>	<b>29.97</b>	<b>4,676.35</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,652.52</b>	<b>59,656.16</b>

**St Paul, Armitage Bridge**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds	-	-	-	-	153.71
Voluntary income	36,847.57	1,273.00	-	38,120.57	32,637.31
Activities for generating funds	12,087.36	5,785.39	-	17,872.75	16,936.99
Investment income	629.67	1,474.37	-	2,104.04	2,189.07
Other incoming resources	5,813.00	-	-	5,813.00	11,804.98
<b>Total income</b>	<b>55,377.60</b>	<b>8,532.76</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>63,910.36</b>	<b>63,722.06</b>
<b>Resources used</b>					
Cost of generating funds	159.27	-	-	159.27	126.82
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	4,071.27	3,390.96	-	7,462.23	9,097.23
Charitable activities	4,281.48	-	-	4,281.48	4,186.00
Governance costs	28,433.05	403.04	-	28,836.09	26,855.64
Other resources used	9,031.10	882.35	-	9,913.45	19,390.47
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>45,976.17</b>	<b>4,676.35</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,652.52</b>	<b>59,656.16</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer</b>	<b>9,401.43</b>	<b>3,856.41</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,257.84</b>	<b>4,065.90</b>
<b>Transfers:</b>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	38,000.90	2,400.00	-	40,400.90	2,842.00
Gross transfers between funds - out	(38,000.90)	(2,400.00)	-	(40,400.90)	(2,842.00)
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>9,401.43</b>	<b>3,856.41</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,257.84</b>	<b>4,065.90</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>53,519.38</b>	<b>21,175.28</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>74,694.66</b>	<b>70,628.76</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>62,920.81</b>	<b>25,031.69</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>87,952.50</b>	<b>74,694.66</b>

## **DEPRECIATION**

Cost		3884.20	
Depreciation to 31/12/2024	1934.20		
Depreciation 2025	390.00	2324.20	
Net Value 31/12/2025			1560.00

## **MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

### **Designated Funds**

#### **Revenue Reserve**

Allocation 2025		18000.00	18000.00
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#### **South Crosland Churchyard**

Balance			220.40
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#### **Heating System**

Allocation 2025		20000.00	20000.00
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#### **Junior Church**

31/12/2024		87.90	
Donation	20.00		
Resources bought	29.97	-9.97	
Balance 31/12/25			77.93

### **Restricted Funds**

#### **Art & Craft Exhibition**

31/12/2024		430.35	
Sales	5785.39		
Expenses	3390.96		
Donation to Fabric Fund	2400.00	-5.57	
			424.78

**Dobrowski Memorial Garden**

31/12/2024		802.00	
Gardening costs	777.00	-770.00	
Balance 31/12/2025			25.00

**Churchyard Fund**

31/12/2024		105.35	
Donations	73.00		
Expenditure	105.35	-32.35	
Balance 31/12/2025			73.00

**Fabric Fund**

31/12/2024		20243.10	
Donation	960.00		
Gift Aid	240.00		
Art & Craft Exhibition Donation	2400.00		
Dividends	280.12		
Interest	1194.25	5074.37	
Loss on valuation of Investment	403.04	-403.04	
Balance 31/12/2025			24914.43

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF NEWSOME AND ARMITAGE BRIDGE**

I report on the accounts for 2025

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent 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(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;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 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 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**

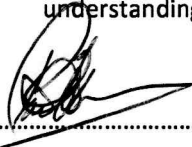
1 In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and 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.



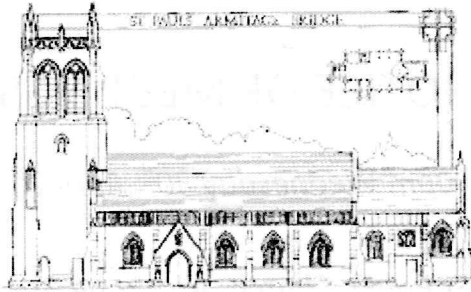
27-02-2026

CHRISTOPHER JONES

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# Accounts

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Registered Charity Number 1131703

# THE PARISH OF NEWSOME, ARMITAGE BRIDGE & NETHERTON

(Part of the Emmanuel Benefice)

## Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

For the period April 2024 to April 2025

**And**

## Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

**Incumbent**

Interregnum

(Julie Anderson resigned 31 December 2023)

**Bank:**

Virgin Money

40 New Street, Huddersfield

HSBC Bank

Kingsgate Centre, Huddersfield

Central Board of Finance of the Church of England

80 Cheapside, London

**Independent Examiner**

Sally Avery

**Newsome, Armitage Bridge and Netherton APCM**

# NOTICE OF MEETINGS

*7.30pm Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025*

*at St Paul's Church, Armitage Bridge*

## **ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDENS**

- 1 Opening prayers
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Approval of the minutes of the last annual meeting held on 08.04.24
- 4 Election of Churchwardens
- 5 Election/appointment of Deputy Churchwardens

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Approval of the minutes of the last APCM held on 08.04.24
- 3 Report on the revision of the Electoral Roll
- 4 Annual Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024
- 6 Churchwarden & Fabric Reports
- 7 Election of 5 PCC members (4 others are within their 3-year term)
- 8 Election of lay members to the Deanery Synod (maximum of 2)
- 9 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 10 Deanery Synod Report
- 11 Safeguarding Report
- 12 Additional Reports
- 13 Any matters of parochial or general church interest
- 14 Concluding prayers

### 3. Electoral Roll Report 2025

Every six years we are required by the Church of England to produce a new roll which only includes those who have completed application forms.

It is fortuitous that this revision coincides with our need for a single integrated roll after the closure of Holy Trinity at South Crosland, and the earlier closure of St John's Newsome.

The total number for the newly named Parish of Newsome, Armitage Bridge & Netherton is 80, comprising 52 from Armitage Bridge, 23 from South Crosland and 5 from Newsome now attending the Methodist Church in Berry Brow.

At this particular time I think it is relevant to report the breakdown of numbers as above, but that in future years it will not be necessary to do so.

However I think it will always be worth mentioning the numbers within - and outside - our combined parish area. On this occasion 53 are residents and 27 are non-residents.

David Hirst  
Electoral Roll Officer

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

*During the period, the following served as members of the PCC:*

#### **Ex officio**

Pamela Thomas Church Warden  
Antony Crawshaw Church Warden  
Bruce Greenwood PCC Treasurer and Deanery Synod  
Helen Pearson (from September 2024 Deanery Synod)

#### **Armitage Bridge elected members**

Ian Hales (co-opted 13 May 2024)  
Melody Hirst (co-opted 13 May 2024)  
Helen Hales (elected 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022)  
Naomi Pinkney (elected 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022)  
Sarah Pope (elected 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022)  
Catherine Day (elected 24 April 2023)  
David Hirst (elected 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024)  
Chris Storey (elected 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024)  
Graeme Williams (elected 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024)  
Pamela Kent (elected 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024)  
Katherine Hugget (elected 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024)

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The principal event of the year was the regrettable closure of Holy Trinity, South Crosland. In order to perpetuate the memories of the Church and Congregation we have accepted the priest's stall from Holy Trinity as an additional piece of furniture. We also display the Memorial Book and are arranging for a light box to show photographs of the stained glass of the East Window.

The PCC met 6 times during the year under the Lay Chair. With the help of retired clergy the PCC has ensured that the Church continues to make its presence felt in the community as shown in the separate reports in this document.

We continue to support the Church School at Netherton plus keeping contact with other schools during the interregnum. The local Nursery School held its Nativity Service at St Paul's. The Christmas Services were well attended, particularly the Nativity Service when the church was full. The annual Art & Craft Exhibition was also well attended with a good atmosphere and many new relationships established. It was also financially successful.

We have appointed Frances Nunn as our new priest and she takes up her post in May 2025. We look forward to welcoming her to the Parish where we hope to make progress in establishing our presence in the large parish we represent. During the year we discussed the Barnabas project which could be a way forward for us.

Our Services continued to be held on alternate Sundays until Holy Trinity, South Crosland closed when we reverted to every Sunday. The PCC, after discussion, agreed to change the time of the Sunday Service to a more community friendly 10.00 am. We continue with the Prayer Service each Wednesday at 9.15 am.

### **Risk Management**

The PCC is aware of risks to which it is exposed and steps have been taken to mitigate such risks, for example having insurance cover. Sarah Pope is Health & Safety Officer, Ian Hales is Fire Officer, and Pamela Thomas is Safeguarding Officer.

### **Environment**

The church holds a silver award for reducing its effect on climate change and is working towards achieving the Gold Award.

Tony Crawshaw and Pamela Thomas  
Churchwardens

## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT**

As well as the routine maintenance i.e Servicing Fire Alarms, PA testing, Boiler maintenance, cleaning and repairing this is to ensure the church is kept in good order.

The Christmas services were all well attended.

The inventory and logbook are both up to date.

The churchyard grass areas have all been well maintained by our team of dedicated volunteers.

As Church Wardens we would like to thank everyone for their help and support over the last year which has enabled our services and maintenance of the building to continue seamlessly.

We would also like to give our grateful thanks to the retired clergy David Angela and Debbie who have made our job so much easier.

Tony Crawshaw and Pamela Thomas  
Churchwardens

## **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

On the Almondbury and Kirkburton Deanery, John Kent and Helen Pearson have served the second year of three as South Crosland Representatives, and Bruce Greenwood has served his second year as Newsome and Armitage Bridge Representative. Bruce has continued to serve as Deanery Treasurer and Helen as Deanery Secretary.

At the time of writing, five synods have been held, all of which have been joint with Huddersfield Deanery. A sixth is scheduled to be held 28 April.

Reports from General Synod and Diocesan Synod have been made to Deanery Synod throughout. The topics of the common cup, lack of clergy, lack of young people and financial problems have been discussed throughout the year.

Bishop Smitha attended our synod of last April and the main business was a session chaired by the Bishop for parishes to report on both the challenges they face and also the opportunities/good news they feel they have. The main challenges faced are lack of clergy (there have been several vacancies in the Deaneries this year), financial/property issues and overburdened lay people. Good news stories included stories of local churches working together and having a strong prayer life, churches working in the community and outreach projects.

Bishop Smitha recognised the “volunteer fatigue” evident in churches especially since covid. She felt that by making good appointments, there will be new opportunities to engage with our communities and reverse the challenges created by long term vacancies.

At the July synod, Jude Smith gave a presentation on the Barnabas Project – church revitalisation. At September synod, Debby gave a presentation on Ecochurch which included how St Mary’s of Embsay with Eastby achieved Gold award, and where resources for putting together an environmental service can be obtained.

The December Synod was held on Zoom and was a “drop in” prayer session.

In February discussions were held on the outcomes of the October Diocesan Synod. These included funding to support parishes in the installation of net zero carbon infrastructure, all parishes being requested to engage with Fairtrade and all PCC’s to reflect on the “Clergy Wellbeing document which has been circulated.

Reports from General Synod and Diocesan Synod have been made to Deanery Synod throughout.

Helen Pearson

### **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

Pamela Thomas was appointed as Safeguarding Officer for St Pauls at the PCC meeting following the APCM 24 April 2024. The Diocese continue to give guidance on Safeguarding in our churches via regular newsletters. There have been no issues of concern at St Pauls to report during the last 12 months. Pamela reports to every PCC meeting on Safeguarding issues.

Helen Pearson continues to work as “Lead Recruiter” for the Benefice with Pamela Thomas as the Additional Recruiter. Our task in addition to overseeing all Safeguarding Aspects of our respective churches is to ensure timely DBS checks are carried out on people volunteering to work with children or vulnerable adults.

Currently the Diocese advises that DBS checks should be carried out every 3 years, and our relevant people are requiring new checks this year. All of these have commenced with four of these being completed at the time of this report.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy was renewed and approved by PCC in March

Pamela Thomas/Helen Pearson

### **SOUTH CROSLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT**

The school continues to progress well under the leadership of Clare Brewster and her dedicated staff. School is a happy place and Christian ethos continues to underpin all teaching and learning in the school.

The school continued to worship at Holy Trinity, once a term, until closure early September.

The whole school were welcomed to St Paul’s Church 24 September for a lively service with Rev

Debby Plumber. Services took place in two halves (due to fire regulations), with upper school attending in the morning and lower school attending in the afternoon. Debby spoke about St Paul and Angels. The children were enthusiastic and enjoyed their trip out to Armitage Bridge and the worship.

Debby has led worship in school once each half term. The school is very grateful to Debby for her support of the Children's worship.

The whole school were welcomed, again in two halves, by Debby Plummer to St Paul's in December for their Nativity Service. The school had prepared the service – the Nativity Story as told by the animals. The school choir led the enthusiastic singing of both traditional carols and Christmas songs. The school is very grateful to the Wardens at St Pauls and Debby for their continuing support of the Children's worship.

St Paul's is now formally the link church for South Crosland Junior School.

Sadly in September, Rev Julie Anderson resigned as the chair of school Governors. In addition to this ex officio vacancy there were already vacancies for 4 Foundation Governors. A plea was made to the congregation both in church and via the Focus magazine for Governors.

In December, the school Governing Body resolved the issue of the vacant Chair. Foundation Governor Karen Hobson and LEA Governor Christine Lancaster were appointed to co-chair the Governing Body.

Recently we have received two nominations for Foundation Governors – a worshipper from Netherton Methodists and a lady known to our co-chair who worships at Cathedral House. Rev Frances has already visited school and will also act as an ex-officio Governor.

Helen Pearson

## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

Junior Church meets on the fourth Sunday of the month at 10 am. The children go upstairs for their activities and return to join the congregation for Communion and a blessing. They share and discuss their work with the congregation at the end of the service.

Where possible we follow the Lectionary readings for that week.

Some of the themes covered with the children:

*Simeon and Anna in the Temple, Parable of the Sower, Nativity, Advent, Lent, Trinity, Harvest, Jesus calming the storm, Jesus healing the Blind man.*

A Risk Assessment for Junior Church which is completed and reviewed every year was presented to the PCC members, in March, for their approval

There must always be two adults with the children, and we have two main leaders, Sam McGregor and myself (both with DBS). If one of us is unable to attend, then we have several people with a Self-declaration who can assist.

There is now no longer a need to have a PCC Authorisation form, but attendances must be reported to the PCC. In 2024 numbers attending fluctuated. Sometimes we only had one or two and sometimes four or five children but in November of that year our numbers increased with the appearance of the Sham Family.

### **Attendance numbers for 2024/2025**

<b>March 2024</b>	2 children	James, Martha
<b>April</b>	3 children	Gabe, Thea and Martha
<b>May</b>	2 children	James, Martha
<b>June</b>	1 children	Martha

<b>July</b>	7 children	Max, James, Gabe, Thea, Martha, Joe and Quinn
<b>September</b>	1 child	Gabe
<b>November</b>	6 children	James, Joe, Sara, Sultan, Omra, Bushra
<b>January 2025</b>	<b>No Service at AB</b>	
<b>February</b>	7 children	Martha, Max, Lucas, Jasmine, Sultan, Yousra, Omra
<b>March</b>	14 children	Martha, Gabe, Thea, Quinn, James, Joe, Max, Sultan, Yousra, Maddy, Maisie, Mae, Teddy and Milo

With the increase in numbers there is the need for another session per month. An appeal to the congregation brought an offer of help from one of the parents. We hope to begin an extra session in September.

#### **ACTIVITY BAGS FOR USE IN SERVICES**

Activity bags containing clip boards, colouring and activity sheets, crayons and books are available for the children to use during services if they wish.

Gillian and Ann have kindly made some new bags for us as we have on occasions had as many as nine children in the congregation.

The Wednesday volunteers have offered to oversee the replenishing of the bags each week.

Graeme and Ann Williams have kindly donated 4 Doodle Pads, and we are trialling them before purchasing any more.

#### **CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP AND EASTER CRAFT WORKSHOP**

Both workshops have been very well attended and have been enjoyed by children and adults alike. They are busy events incurring a lot of preparation, but we would not be able to go ahead without the help and support of the many helpers who give up their time to make it a very enjoyable experience for the children.

A Risk Assessment for the Easter Family Craft workshop in April was also approved by the PCC.

#### **ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC AT BEAUMONT PARK**

Our Annual Family picnic in July 2024 was cancelled because of rain and then rescheduled but it rained again so we decided to have it in Church. It was a very different event but nonetheless enjoyable. We still managed to have our picnic and games and with music provided by Paul and Anita we even had dancing down the aisle!

The event will take place again on July 13 this year.

Thanks to children's leader, Sam McGregor and all those involved in the children's activities for their work and support.

#### **COMPASSION**

We have had regular contact with Dafne our Compassion child. She appears to be enjoying her time on the project that we sponsor.

Collections have been steady from us and from Berry Brow Methodist Church. Hall Bower have agreed to take South Crosland's Box following their closure. I attended one of Hall Bower's Coffee mornings and spoke to them about the work of Compassion and our involvement as sponsor for Dafne. Thank you to all our congregations for their support in their giving to help Dafne.

Melody Hirst

## **LAY LED WORSHIP**

Every two months the service at St. Paul's, Armitage Bridge has been led by the three members of the Worship Team who have taken these services since 2012 and have now been joined by some members from the South Crosland Worship Team. The inclusion of their music group has enlivened and enhanced our services.

We have followed the Lectionary and some of the themes covered have been:

***Christingle, the Baptism of Christ, using Godly Play material, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Temptation of Christ and Christian Aid.***

We also offer an activity for the children at these services

The Worship Team appreciate the ongoing help, support and enthusiasm of the congregation.

## **ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH & SAFETY – 2025**

Various church members take on safety inspections and subsequent work in their own areas of responsibility and all inspections and maintenance have been recorded centrally and updated as part of the H&S role during 2024/25.

In the last 12 months, 4 risk assessments have been completed by Melody Hirst and reviewed and approved by Sarah Pope. Details of these are as follows:

### **Risk Assessments 2024-2025**

July 2024 – Annual Family Picnic – approved

Dec 2024 – Christmas Craft Workshop – approved

Feb 2025 – Easter Craft Workshop – approved

Feb 2025 – Junior Church Annual Risk Assessment - approved

A full church annual risk assessment is due and this will be carried out in the next couple of months with a full report presented to the PCC.

The list of who is responsible for carrying out the various safety measures as well as the schedule of inspections and testing's is being reviewed and has been circulated to the PCC for comment.

Further guidance on Health & Safety has been issued by the Ecclesiastical Church including an updated self-assessment questionnaire which is to be used for the upcoming annual review. In addition in the last 2 weeks there has been guidance issued on tree maintenance for churches. This is being reviewed and provided to the PCC in coming weeks.

All H&SE policy documents and the risk assessments are available should anyone wish to view these.

Report completed by S Pope – H&S – April 2025.

## **PARISH ENVIRONMENT OFFICER REPORT TO THE APCM**

Since the last APCM, the Environment group at St Paul's Armitage Bridge (which became two overlapping groups in 2023, the EcoChurch group and the "6 Steps to Carbon Net Zero" committee) has been in abeyance mainly because of the demands of the vacancy. The EcoChurch group has the task of pressing onward with our aim of becoming a church that is a good steward of God's Creation together and when we are dispersed. The "6 Steps to Carbon Net Zero" Committee will begin meeting once Rev Fran Nunn has arrived. As the 5th Mark of Mission of the Anglican Church worldwide says, "we will care for creation and renew the life of the Earth".

There have still been regular reports on environmental matters at PCC meetings. Our progress to Gold EcoChurch has been slowed down by A Rocha upgrading the survey questions for Eco Church,

after 5 years. I was pleased to be able to host Rose Gosling, a Gold Assessor for EcoChurch, here in November at St Paul's Church and invited Parish Environment Officers from the other 7 Silver Churches in the Huddersfield Episcopal Area to hear her explain the changes, which came into force in January 2025. Rose stressed having clearly visible signage saying "This is a Silver EcoChurch" outside our church & the priority of having an environmental policy (based on the diocesan model one) In fact, it is the first question in each of the 5 sections (Worship & teaching, Buildings, Land, Community & global, and Lifestyle).

Another Well Dressing took place in June 24 in Armitage Bridge - again a joyful gathering, with more children, and plans are afoot for a third one this year. This is a beautiful tradition, asking God's blessings on our water supply. Issues like water quality, depleted freshwater wildlife, flooding and drought mean that the Holme and its tributaries are at risk in these times of climate emergency. During Creationtide, in September, we held a combined Harvest & Environment Sunday Service, environmentally themed, with music and worship led by members of both St Paul's and Holy Trinity South Crosland.

The magazine Focus continues to include environmental articles and prayers and Sunday morning intercessions usually include prayers for the planet and all its creatures. The EcoChurch group knows that there is a good-sized group of people committed to sustainable living under our church roof.

Thank you to all who have played a part in our environmental journey this year - gardeners, Eco-group, intercessors, Graeme. Big thanks to Chris Storey who was Parish Environment Officer for the year when I was struggling.

Debby Plummer April 2025

### **GARDENERS REPORT ARMITAGE BRIDGE**

A mixed 12 months all in all. The tree that blew down blocking the drive in one of the early storms in 2024 was quickly dealt with and cleared up, our team handled everything except the large trunk which was cut professionally. Stephenson's also took down another tree at the top of the drive that was tested and considered to be dangerous.

Towards the end of 2024 two large branches came down off a couple of our large conifer trees. Managing these ourselves we used the material to make a "dead hedge" barrier running between the carpark and the river.

Using donated wooden pallets we have made several compost bins which take our grass cuttings, leaves and any donated material helping towards our "Eco Friendly" status. Hopefully we can produce some useful compost for ourselves.

Having already captured 2 awards for work already done, we have continued to leave a number of areas for wildlife, planting insect friendly plants and encouraging our fruit trees to produce blossom. Although we do have to cut the grass we are attempting to leave as many dandelions as we can as an early food supply for bees, butterfly and moths etc.

Although it is difficult to control all of the churchyard we do feel that the "Garden Of Remembrance" is looking as good as it has ever done. A lot of effort has gone into this particularly by Maureen, Cath and Lorraine giving the area a weekly clean up. It is one part of the site where we do get a lot of positive comments and thanks from relatives tending their plot.

We have had a slow start to 2025 with Alan's leg injury, even so to date most of the grass has been cut and although we have lost Brian from the team Maureen has become a regular with Mr Sham helping when he can.

Alan Trebble April 2025

## **RINGERS REPORT**

We have continued to be a local centre for learning attracting ringers from various towers including Holmfirth, Meltham, Almondbury and Saddleworth on a regular basis.

Our numbers remain steady with the addition of 1 new member who we have been teaching over the last year.

With no peals being attempted we have rung 6 quarter peals including firsts for Meltham ringer Joanna Martin in Oxford Treble Bob Minor, Holmfirth ringers Cath O`Halloran and Margreit Mulder both from Holmfirth ringing Plain Bob Minor, and our ringer Scott Iveson ringing his first 1/4 peal, again Plain Bob Minor.

Halifax Archdeaconry have also been entertained with their regular monthly Monday evening learners practice, plus the Yorkshire Association have also held training sessions using our bells. Last summer the tower roof etc was inspected and cleaned. A couple of local towers have not done this and have suffered the consequences with water finding its way into the bell chamber and ringing room.

At this time we also installed a small camera in the bell chamber along with a TV monitor in the ringing room which when turned on allows us to watch the bells being rung "live".

Our stock of ropes gets rotated and checked on a regular basis, we did scrap one rope, we don't require a new replacement at this time.

As the services are now back at Armitage Bridge every Sunday we have managed to ring for them all up to date, perhaps not all 6 bells but a noise has been made every week.

Unfortunately, Alan ruptured his Achilles tendon on 1st February 2025 which has slowed us down a wee bit, an inconvenience more on the maintenance side of things. Hopefully we should be able to put this right after Easter.

Going forward Graeme and Ann are arranging a Beetle Drive at the end of April 2025, we have a number of 1/4 peals in the pipeline and Oliver is arranging a peal attempt for the arrival of our new vicar on May 11th.

Alan Trebble April 2025

## **LINK TO THE DIOCESE OF ROYRA, TANZANIA– A BRIEF SUMMARY REPORT**

St Paul's continues its link with a church in the diocese of Royra in Tanzania. The church we link with in Royra is a small village called Sokorabolo. Following the visit last year from Bishop Moses we now receive regular news of progress in the whole Royra area.

News and updates for the last 12 months include the following:

Some ongoing challenges

- There continues to be a large amount of repairs needed across the churches that are already established, especially on roofs
- There is still a need for a more sustainable project across the diocese – although new members are joining there are still some leaving.
- There continues to be poor transport across the region. This is particularly an issue for Bishop Moses and his clergy who rely on their cars for getting around to parishioners and providing their missionary.

Some success stories

- There has been successful growth from 38 parishes to 45 parishes.

- The number of Christians in the region has grown from nearly 7000 to 8000 which is remarkable.
- Church buildings are progressing across the region with 6 new locations
- 25 members of the congregations have successfully been enrolled in colleges with the churches support and funding. This is a very positive achievement given the reduced funding for schooling in the area
- They have successfully set up a 6<sup>th</sup> Diocese general synod across the area
- There has been a passing of a bill to allow women to be ordained

Bishop Moses would like to ask for our prayers for the following:

- The pre school and primary school need further funding if they are to develop in 2025
- Money is needed for new transport for the Bishop as they are now down to one car for all Clergy and this one is also in desperate need of repair.

Bishop Moses has sent regular messages since he returned to Sokorabolo in Sept following his visit to Leeds. The village send their prayers and best wishes to the people of St Pauls. The work remains challenging but he believes in what he is doing and has plenty more ideas to develop the village and surrounding area further. The village have much to be thankful for and are comforted by the ongoing support from the people of St Pauls. We look forward to hearing more about their projects in 2025!

S Pope – April 2025

## **SHCT COMMUNITY WORKER REPORT**

I feel this has been a very rewarding year in many ways. The community (from within and without the Churches) has come together on many occasions, giving time, energy, food, encouragement, and using a massive amount of skills through a variety of events.

### **The Bread and Butter Thing**

In these straightened times, which are difficult for many people, TBBT is proving ever more useful. A real rapport has been built between the volunteers, members and the drivers. This project is doing great things for sustainability and the environment as well as making life more affordable for many people. Helpers are always welcome, even when we seem to have many hands, we may get a curved ball of loose tomatoes or eggs to pack, or volunteers can't make one session. If you or anyone you know, might like to help us unload the van for half an hour on Wednesdays from 11.45, or pack, they would be most welcome.

### **Warm welcome**

Regular donations of delicious soup and amazing cakes has made this venture more popular. I can't thank enough those who regularly take the time and effort to turn up to serve, make food and enable this to carry on. I know many people appreciate it. Once again owing to popular demand and with the agreement of the volunteers we are continuing with a Warm Welcome once a month. Upcoming dates May 13<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>, August 12<sup>th</sup>, September 9<sup>th</sup> and October 14<sup>th</sup>. Anyone with a couple of hours would be most welcome, to participate or to help.

### **Shrove Tuesday**

Having lost our previous pancake maker we were overjoyed when Tony, Cath, and Helen stepped in making wonderful pancakes! Huge thanks to the team and everyone who made fillings and also Angela who spent the day on her feet filling the pancakes. This has become a brilliant community event that everyone enjoys.

### **Pop up sale for the Together Shop**

Thanks largely to Caroline's amazing organizational skills and the enthusiastic band of volunteers the March Pop up shop was most successful. Appreciation to the Scouts who cater. Their contribution is a definite draw. Future dates: 7<sup>th</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

### **Film Café**

Many people have attended the Film Café. We have had Ship to Shore twice, to sing us sea shanties and shown Films which are 'feel good'. I have had many supportive comments for those who sometimes feel lost for somewhere to go.

### **Ark church and Berry Brow flats**

So few people are now living in the flats, The Ark church is focussing on Lowerhouses and ex residents so my services are no longer required.

### **Regular events.**

Crafty Chatterers continues every other week on a Tuesday morning from 9.30 at Berry Brow and I continue to support Newsome Tenants and Residents' association on the first Tuesday each month, although membership of this group has fallen dramatically. I attend Newsome Forum every other month to share our work and glean what is happening in the area. I attend the coffee morning at the Scout hut, and Hall Bower coffee and soup days as well as the rambling group. I enjoy these events but also think keeping up links is very important. I am also taking assemblies at Berry Brow Infant and Nursery School alternately with Tim.

Coffee and homemade cake at Hall Bower the first Wednesday each month (with a chance to pick up the impossible quiz).

Soup at Hall Bower the second Monday Each month

Hall Bower Ramblers who meet on the Third Monday each month (9.30)

Warm Welcome at Berry Brow.

Coffee mornings every Wednesday in the Scout Hut.

Hearts and Hands Community Gospel Choir 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month 5.30. Berry Brow Church.

Coffee morning at South Crosland School on the Second Saturday morning, each month.

I have enjoyed this year and would like to thank the many people who support and encourage me, particularly my line manager, Pam. I pray the next year will be as fruitful.

Carol Waters

### **WORSHIP REPORT**

From the beginning of the year up until September we continued to worship on alternate Sundays between St Paul's and Holy Trinity. Sadly we formally closed Holy Trinity and so Sunday worship has been weekly at St Paul's.

The lay worship team have continues to hold bi-monthly Morning Worship Services accompanied by the music group and with the help of volunteers from the congregation. Since the closure of Holy Trinity the two teams have come together bringing a refreshing dimension to our Sunday worship. We continue to hold regular united services with the local Methodist churches rotating around our three buildings.

Morning prayer continues to be held weekly on Wednesday mornings and the contemplative prayer group continues to meet weekly on Thursday evenings on Zoom in winter and in the Lady Chapel in summer.

We are very fortunate in having the services of two organists who accompany our worship alternate Sundays and the choir has been reinstated at St Paul's with members of Holy Trinity choir joining them enriching the musical component of our worship.

The Anglican/Methodist congregation at Berry Brow is now well established and our clergy continue to lead worship at both Berry Brow and Netherton Methodist churches on a rota basis. From time to time the clergy are also called upon to lead worship at Hall Bower Sunday School. All the major festivals throughout the year have been observed and well attended and in October we were able to celebrate David's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priesting.

Throughout this last year our parish has been in vacancy yet we have continued our worship unbroken with the benefit of our retired clergy and worship group.

On two occasions Archdeacon Bill led our Sunday worship which provided a welcome relief as well as bringing his own unique style to bear in our services.

David Kent

St Paul, Armitage Bridge

Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
0001: Sound System	1,950.00	2,340.00
002: Kitchen	-	-
<b>Total Fixed assets</b>	<b>1,950.00</b>	<b>2,340.00</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
CASH: Cash	-	(69.00)
CBFCAP: CBF Leeds DBF Trust Capital Account	10,081.50	9,855.91
CBFCHURCH: Churchyard CBF Account	-	-
CBFFAB: Fabric CBF Account	17,918.32	17,015.19
CBFGEN: General CBF Account	3,351.59	3,182.66
CBFINC: CBF Leeds DBF Trust Income Account	3,996.92	3,532.92
DEBTORS: Year End Debtors	2,242.90	4,306.00
HSBCBANK: HSBC Bank Account	11,528.00	11,686.90
HSBCBBM: HSBC BBM Account	23,378.10	18,950.68
JAMSTOCK: Jam Stock in Hand	231.00	231.00
NEWSVRG: Newsome Virgin Money	-	-
PREPAY: Prepayments	-	-
TRADSTK: Traidcraft Stock in Hand	40.00	40.00
VRGIN: General Account Virgin Money	615.46	495.46
YORKDGT: David Gilroy Trusr Yorkshire Bank	-	-
YORKFAB: Fabric Account Yorkshire Bank	-	-
Z05: Accounts Receivable	370.00	545.00
<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>73,753.79</b>	<b>69,772.72</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
6699: Agency collections	126.80	635.66
ACCRUALS: Accruals	882.33	848.30
Z04: Accounts payable	-	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,009.13</b>	<b>1,483.96</b>
<b>Net Asset surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>74,694.66</b>	<b>70,628.76</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Excess/(deficit) to date	4,065.90	9,890.76
Z01: Starting balances	70,628.76	60,738.00
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>74,694.66</b>	<b>70,628.76</b>

Represented by Funds		
General (Unrestricted)	53,210.18	46,123.09
Designated	309.20	1,256.90
Restricted	21,175.28	23,248.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,694.66</b>	<b>70,628.76</b>


St Paul, Armitage Bridge

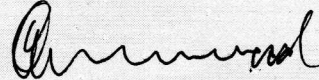
Analysis of Receipts and Payments  
Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Total Last year
<b>Receipts</b>					
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>					
COLLCASH - Collections Cash	4,019.49	-	-	4,019.49	3,323.63
COLLCHQ - Collection Cheque	3.00	-	-	3.00	100.00
COLLGA - Collections Gift Aided	130.00	-	-	130.00	300.00
DONATEGA - Donation Gift Aided	100.00	-	-	100.00	-
DONNONREC - Donations Non-recurring	914.62	220.40	2,059.68	3,194.70	1,448.91
DONRECUR - Donations Recurring	200.00	-	-	200.00	15.00
NSMNC - Newsome Inome	-	-	-	-	33.88
PGCHQ - Planned Giving Cheque	3,974.53	-	-	3,974.53	3,943.53
PLANGIVGA - Planned Giving Gift Aided	14,930.00	-	960.00	15,890.00	14,835.00
TAXREFUND - Gift Aid Tax Refund	4,885.59	-	240.00	5,125.59	4,427.50
ARTIN - Art & Craft Exhibition Income	-	-	4,123.52	4,123.52	3,599.95
FUNDJAM - Jam Sales	316.27	-	-	316.27	207.59
HALLIN - Church Hall Receipts	5,236.00	-	-	5,236.00	5,528.00
LETTINGS - Lettings	7,261.20	-	-	7,261.20	7,450.00
DIVID - Dividends	-	-	273.58	273.58	-
INTEREST - Interest on Deposits	596.35	-	1,093.55	1,689.90	1,513.68
PROFIT - Profit on valuation of Investments	-	-	225.59	225.59	854.30
JUNIOR - Junior Church	-	153.71	-	153.71	-
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds Totals</b>	<b>42,567.05</b>	<b>374.11</b>	<b>8,975.92</b>	<b>51,917.08</b>	<b>47,580.97</b>
<b>Other incoming resources</b>					
CAPIN - Capital Transfer	4,953.53	-	1,185.00	6,138.53	10,487.98
FEESIN - Fees	5,227.45	-	229.00	5,456.45	4,671.00
RENT - RENT	210.00	-	-	210.00	150.00
<b>Other incoming resources Totals</b>	<b>10,390.98</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,414.00</b>	<b>11,804.98</b>	<b>15,308.98</b>
<b>Receipts Grand Totals</b>	<b>52,958.03</b>	<b>374.11</b>	<b>10,389.92</b>	<b>63,722.06</b>	<b>62,889.95</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>					
ARTEXP - Art & Craft Exhibition Expenditure	-	-	4,126.68	4,126.68	1,875.78
HALLOUT - Church Hall Expenditure	4,970.55	-	-	4,970.55	7,737.10
BANKCHGE - Bank Charges	126.82	-	-	126.82	119.03
<b>Cost of generating funds Totals</b>	<b>5,097.37</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,126.68</b>	<b>9,224.05</b>	<b>9,731.91</b>
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
CHARITY - Charitable Payments	2,035.00	-	-	2,035.00	2,058.98
FEEMUSIC - Fees for Musicians	580.00	-	-	580.00	400.00
UPKEEP - Upkeep of Services	1,571.00	-	-	1,571.00	637.87
<b>Charitable activities Totals</b>	<b>4,186.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,186.00</b>	<b>3,096.85</b>

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	
				This year	Last year
<b>Governance costs</b>					
ADMN - Administration Expenses	469.45	-	-	469.45	485.05
CLERGY - Clergy Expenses	-	-	-	-	45.00
COMFUND - Diocesan Common Fund	16,734.00	-	-	16,734.00	15,213.00
INSURPREM - Insurance Premium	3,459.95	-	-	3,459.95	3,291.76
JUNCHURCH - Junior Church Expenses	66.15	-	-	66.15	-
MAGCOSTS - Magazine Costs	207.75	-	477.80	685.55	348.88
REPMAN - Repairs Maintenance	4,757.84	-	110.40	4,868.24	4,253.75
TELEPHONE - Telephone	572.30	-	-	572.30	455.54
<b>Governance costs Totals</b>	<b>26,267.44</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>588.20</b>	<b>26,855.64</b>	<b>24,092.98</b>
<b>Other resources used</b>					
CHYARD - Churchyard Expenditure	109.72	-	131.73	241.45	385.83
Depretn - Depreciation	390.00	-	-	390.00	869.00
DOB - Dobrowski Memorial Garden	-	-	383.00	383.00	-
ELECT - Electricity	1,824.24	-	-	1,824.24	1,800.12
FABEXCEP - Fabric Exceptional Expenditure	3,896.75	1,256.00	5,285.80	10,438.55	7,056.00
GAS - Gas	5,541.60	-	-	5,541.60	3,596.45
JUNOUT - Junior Church	-	65.81	-	65.81	-
NSMEXP - Newsome Church Expenses	-	-	-	-	1,894.15
REFRESH - Refreshments	162.03	-	-	162.03	200.30
WATER - Water Rates Church	343.79	-	-	343.79	275.60
<b>Other resources used Totals</b>	<b>12,268.13</b>	<b>1,321.81</b>	<b>5,800.53</b>	<b>19,390.47</b>	<b>16,077.45</b>
<b>Payments Grand Totals</b>	<b>47,818.94</b>	<b>1,321.81</b>	<b>10,515.41</b>	<b>59,656.16</b>	<b>52,999.19</b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 6 April 2025 and signed  
on its behalf by

I.R.Hales  Chairman

B.N.Greenwood  Treasurer

**St Paul, Armitage Bridge**  
**Receipts and payments**  
**Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024**

Note From 01 January 2024 To 31 December 2024

**CARPARK - Car Park Fund (Designated) Fund**

Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure		0.90
Brought forward balance		0.90
<b>Total carried forward balance</b>		<b>0.90</b>

**BEQ - BEQUESTS (Designated) Fund**

Incoming resources		
Voluntary income		
Donations Non-recurring		
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>		<b>500.00</b>
Resources used		
Other resources used		
Fabric Exceptional Expenditure		
<b>Total Resources used</b>		<b>500.00</b>
Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure		
Brought forward balance		
Transfers to/(from)		
<b>Total carried forward balance</b>		<b>1,256.00</b>

**Junch - Junior Church (Designated) Fund**

Incoming resources		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Junior Church		
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>		<b>153.71</b>
Resources used		
Other resources used		
Junior Church		
<b>Total Resources used</b>		<b>153.71</b>
Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure		
Brought forward balance		
<b>Total carried forward balance</b>		<b>87.90</b>

**HOLYTRIN - South Crosland Churchyard Fund (Designated) Fund**

Incoming resources		
Voluntary income		
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>		<b>65.81</b>
Resources used		
Other resources used		
Junior Church		
<b>Total Resources used</b>		<b>65.81</b>
Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure		
Brought forward balance		
<b>Total carried forward balance</b>		<b>87.90</b>

Note

Donations Non-recurring

From 01 January 2024  
To 31 December 2023

01 January 2023  
31 December 2023

**Total Incoming resources**  
Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure  
Brought forward balance  
**Total carried forward balance**

Total Voluntary income 220.40  
220.40  
220.40  
220.40

**Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro (Restricted) Fund**

**Incoming resources**

Voluntary income  
Donations Non-recurring  
Planned Giving Gift Aided  
Gift Aid Tax Refund

**Investment income**

Dividends  
Interest on Deposits  
Profit on valuation of Investments

**Total Incoming resources**  
**Resources used**

Other resources used  
Depreciation  
Fabric Exceptional Expenditure

**Total Resources used**

Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure  
Brought forward balance  
Transfers to/(from)  
**Total carried forward balance**

**ART - Art & Craft Exhibition (Restricted) Fund**

**Incoming resources**

Activities for generating funds  
Art & Craft Exhibition Income

**Total Incoming resources**  
**Resources used**

Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs  
Art & Craft Exhibition Expenditure

**Total Resources used**

Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure  
Brought forward balance  
Transfers to/(from)  
**Total carried forward balance**

Total Voluntary income	220.40	
	220.40	
	220.40	
	220.40	
<b>Total Voluntary income</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>880.00</b>
	960.00	
	240.00	
<b>Total Voluntary income</b>	<b>3,200.00</b>	<b>880.00</b>
	273.58	
	1,093.55	
	225.59	
<b>Total Investment income</b>	<b>1,592.72</b>	<b>902.17</b>
	1,592.72	854.30
	4,792.72	1,756.47
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>	<b>4,792.72</b>	<b>2,636.47</b>
	5,285.80	479.00
	5,285.80	7,056.00
	7,535.00	7,535.00
<b>Total Resources used</b>	<b>5,285.80</b>	<b>7,535.00</b>
	(493.08)	(4,898.53)
	22,684.18	25,682.71
	(1,948.00)	1,700.00
<b>Total carried forward balance</b>	<b>20,243.10</b>	<b>22,684.18</b>
	4,123.52	3,599.95
	4,123.52	3,599.95
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>	<b>4,123.52</b>	<b>3,599.95</b>
	4,070.68	1,875.78
	4,070.68	1,875.78
<b>Total Resources used</b>	<b>4,070.68</b>	<b>1,875.78</b>
	52.84	1,724.17
	377.51	353.34
	-	(1,700.00)
<b>Total carried forward balance</b>	<b>430.35</b>	<b>377.51</b>

**Dobrowski - Dobrowski Memorial Garden (Restricted) Fund**

**Incoming resources**

Other incoming resources  
Capital Transfer

Total Other incoming resources  
1,185.00  
**1,185.00**

**Total Incoming resources**

**Resources used**

Other resources used  
Dobrowski Memorial Garden

Total Other resources used  
383.00  
**383.00**

**Total Resources used**

Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure  
Brought forward balance

**Total carried forward balance**

802.00

**Churchyard - Churchyard Maintenance (Restricted) Fund**

**Incoming resources**

Voluntary income  
Donations Non-Recurring  
Donations Recurring

Total Voluntary Income

50.00

180.00

**Total Incoming resources**

**Resources used**

Other resources used  
Churchyard Expenditure

Total Other resources used

131.73

318.12

**Total Resources used**

Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure  
Brought forward balance

**Total carried forward balance**

105.35

187.08

**Footbridge - Footbridge Repair And Maintenance (Restricted) Fund**

Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure  
Brought forward balance

**Total carried forward balance**

-

**DGT - David Gilroy Trust (Restricted) Fund**

Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure  
Brought forward balance

**Total carried forward balance**

-

**Clean - To pay for Cleaner Salary (Restricted) Fund**

Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure  
Brought forward balance  
Transfers to/(from)

-  
-  
-

330.00  
(330.00)

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Ecclesiastical Parish of Newsome and Armitage Bridge**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Newsome and Armitage Bridge (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



**Name:** Sally Avery, Fellow Chartered Accountant, ICAEW

**Date:** 27 March 2025

## TREASURER'S REPORT

2024

Looking at the financial performance of St Paul's Church, the main factor affecting the figures apart from inflation, is the sad closure of Holy Trinity, South Crosland. This meant that from September we had weekly services plus an increase in the congregation, with the consequence that giving increased and also expenditure, particular on heating. Our new lighting is helping to hold down electricity costs.

Collections increased by £700, Planned Giving by £1,000, Gift Aid Tax Refund by £700, and the Art & Craft Exhibition was able to donate £2,000 to the Fabric Fund this year. The Church Hall also ran in surplus at £300.

The positive results on the income side are due to the hard work of many people in the congregation and the generous giving culture that has been built up over the years. I must also mention the £7200 income we receive from Letting out the Church. We can only continue to make the building available to the community through the willing giving of time by the keyholders who come at all times and in all weathers to look after our customers and prepare the church for them.

In 2024 our Expenditure included an increase of £1,500 in Parish Share, £600 in maintenance, and £2,000 in Gas. Exceptional expenditure on Fabric included £600 to clear the trunk of the fallen tree in the drive, £1,146 to survey and test the remaining trees in the drive in case of similar deterioration, and £1,680 to fell the diseased tree. We replaced much of the lighting at a cost of £6,540.

As a Church we have donated £100 to National Churches Trust, £200 to Christians Against Poverty, £300 to Forget Me Not Hospice, £35 to British Legion, £100 to Sokorabolo, £500 to Welcome Centre, £500 to the Huddersfield Mission Appeal, and £300 to Disasters Emergency Committee. In addition collections and events for the congregation contributed to donations to Compassion Child, Christian Aid, and The Children's Society which are not shown in these figures.

We begin 2025 with a good balance in our accounts which will be needed in the next few years.

Looking ahead we will be hoping to move from consolidation to expanding our congregation and making sure that the large Parish we sit in knows that we are here for them whether in Newsome, Rashcliffe, Berry Brow, South Crosland, Netherton or, indeed, Armitage Bridge.

This will need funding because, when a congregation increases, our Parish Share costs increase and it take a few years before new members realise what expenditure has to be covered per person. The current membership has always been generous to the Church according to their means. This generosity tends to increase with age, so that the greatest financial contributions come from the oldest members of the congregation. This will not last for ever. We will need to plan to cover any sudden losses, but we do have a buffer in the balances held at the moment.

Another adverse effect will come every year in the Parish Share. In 2025 we will pay £18,408 but our assessment is actually £45,061. The increase is due to an increased average attendance and that we will be the only church covering the cost of a priest. The Diocesan rules are, at the moment, that no

church will be asked for an increase of more than 10% in the Parish Share, year to year. However, for us that means many successive increases of 10% until we reach the Diocesan figure, which will, itself, keep increasing with inflation. This we must also plan to cover.

I think that it is inevitable that we will need a Stewardship campaign in the next five years.

Lastly I will draw your attention to the age of our boiler for the heating system. It was installed in 1990, has been robust but is now aged and not the most efficient at providing heating. The Church Council is researching a suitable replacement, which would be Eco-friendly, and might include solar panels on the roof, and heat would probably be provided by electricity. We are a long way from making a decision but could possibly contribute £20,000 from our balances and seek grant support.

We would still have enough remaining to fund a campaign such as Barnabus.

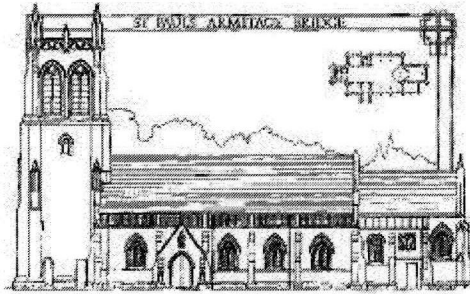
Bruce Greenwood

Treasurer

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# Accounts

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Registered Charity Number 1131703

## THE PARISH OF NEWSOME AND ARMITAGE BRIDGE

(Part of the Emmanuel Team Benefice)

### **Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council**

For the period April 2023 to April 2024

**And**

### **Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### **Incumbent**

Reverend Julie Anderson

(resigned 31 December 2023)

#### **Bank:**

Virgin Money

40 New Street, Huddersfield

HSBC Bank

2 Cloth Hall Street, Huddersfield

Central Board of Finance of the Church of England

80 Cheapside, London

#### **Independent Examiner**

Beverley Thomas

# **The Parish of St John, Newsome and St Paul, Armitage Bridge**

## **NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

*7.30pm Monday 8 April 2024*

*at St Paul's Church, Armitage Bridge*

### **ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDENS**

- 1 Opening prayers
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Approval of the minutes of the last annual meeting held on 24 April 2023
- 4 Election of Churchwardens
- 5 Election/appointment of Deputy Churchwardens

### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Approval of the minutes of the last APCM held on 24 April 2023
- 3 Report on the revision of the Electoral Roll
- 4 Annual Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023
- 6 Churchwarden & Fabric Reports
- 7 Election of 5 PCC members (4 others are within their 3-year term)
- 8 Election of lay members to the Deanery Synod (maximum of 2)
- 9 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 10 Deanery Synod Report
- 11 Safeguarding Report
- 12 Additional Reports
- 13 Any matters of parochial or general church interest
- 14 Concluding prayers

**The Parish of St John, Newsome and St Paul, Armitage Bridge**  
(Part of the Emmanuel Team Benefice and the Local Ecumenical Partnership)

**ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDENS**

Monday 24 April 2023 at St Paul's, Armitage Bridge

**1**    **Revd Julie opened the meeting with a prayer**

**2**    **Present:** Revd Julie Anderson, Antony Crawshaw, Catherine Day, Melanie Farrar, Bruce Greenwood, Rosalie Hampshire, David and Melody Hirst, Katherine Huggett, Revd David and Pam Kent, Naomi Pinkney, Sarah Pope, Revd Canon Debby, Pamela Thomas and Graeme Williams

**Apologies for absence received:** Angela Morton, Gillian Greenwood, Jeremy Plummer, Chris Storey

**3**    **The minutes of last year's meeting** held on 28 March 2022 were approved

**4**    **Election of Churchwardens**

<i>Church represented</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Seconder</i>
Armitage Bridge	Antony Crawshaw	David Hirst	Pam Thomas
Armitage Bridge	Pamela Thomas	Melody Hirst	Bruce Greenwood

No other names were put forward. The meeting was pleased to approve the re-appointment of Pamela and Tony.

**5**    **Election of Deputy Churchwarden:** The post remains vacant

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**1**    **Present:** As above with the addition of Helen and Ian Hales. The attendance of Revd David and Revd Canon Debby - who are not on the Electoral Roll - was accepted by the meeting.

**Apologies for absence:** As above

**2**    **Minutes of the last year's meeting** held on 28 March 2022 were approved

### 3 **Electoral Roll Report 2023**

Melanie Farrar, the Electoral Roll Officer apologised for the error to the reference to Elizabeth Wakefield being on the electoral roll and therefore the total number shown in the Annual Report after the 2023 revision should be 77

Newsome: 23 (Res) + 5 (Non Res) = 28  
(Non Res) = 49

Armitage Bridge: 24 (Res) + 25

The death of John Heeley in October 2022 had reduced the number at Armitage Bridge

Julie said that the numbers shown at Newsome would remain - with only alterations for the death of a member - until a new roll is created for the 2025 APCM.

### 4 **The Annual Report** was accepted after Julie had made further reference to several matters.

- 1 Julie is still recording services once a month and special occasions e.g .Easter
- 2 She felt that worship was going well.
- 3 Website is always kept up to date.
- 4 Confirmed that the times of Sunday service were 9.15am at Armitage Bridge and South Crosland unless a joint service at 10.00am.

### 5 **Treasurer's Report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022**

Bruce Greenwood answered questions related to his report. He explained that there will be apx. £700 forthcoming from the Newsome account to meet the costs of bringing the Church Hall up to scratch in terms of health & safety and security. The only letting from now on will be for the nursery except the Scouts will be able to use it for the pantomime.

Work is being carried out in accordance with the Quinquennial Report for AB. A roofing contractor is still being sought to deal with a cracked tile and guttering. Several businesses have declined the work as they do not want to undertake small jobs.

Bruce and Joyce Garside were thanked for the work carried out in their respective Treasurer roles.

### 6 **The Churchwarden & Fabric Reports** shown in the Annual Report were accepted. Julie expressed thanks to Pamela Thomas and Antony Crawshaw for their valuable work.

**7 Election of a new PCC member (to serve until 2026)**

It was proposed by Melody Hirst, seconded by Melanie Farrar and carried that Catherine Day will become a PCC member and serve until 2026.

Therefore the eight elected PCC members are Catherine Day, Melanie Farrar, Ian Hales, Helen Hales, Melody Hirst, Pam Kent, Naomi Pinkney and Sarah Pope.

David Hirst and Chris Storey will be co-opted at the next PCC meeting.

**8 Appointment of Independent Examiner - Julie Bray was re-appointed.**

**9 Deanery Synod**

The Deanery Synod Report prepared by Katherine in the Annual Report was accepted.

Bruce Greenwood and Katherine Huggett have completed their three year term (2020 – 2023).

Bruce who is Deanery Treasurer will start another term and subject to her circumstances at work Katherine is prepared to do the same. Julie would like us to have another Synod member.

**10 The Safeguarding Report** was accepted as contained in the Annual Report. Julie emphasised that all PCC members must undertake training either online or at Bradley with Revd Ian Jamieson.

As several PCC members are not able to attend the June training session in person Pamela has agreed to contact Rev Ian Jamieson to request an additional date.

**11 Additional Reports:** Thanks were expressed to all those who had submitted the various reports published in the Annual Report.

In her role as Parish Environment Officer Debby spoke to the report she produced about the progress made on environmental matters (*which is attached at the end of these minutes*)

Julie has asked the Bishop of Leeds why every church does not have an Environment Officer. He agreed to follow this up.

**12 Team Rector's Report**

Julie talked through her comprehensive report for 2022/2023. She mentioned that the Baptism Celebration Service is to take place at 10am on Sunday 26 June at AB. There will not be Junior Church on that day as the service will be family friendly.

**13 Any matters of parochial or general church interest:**

Rosalie Hampshire asked Julie about the prospects for her having the services of a curate. Julie said she was in line for a curate but will have to await developments. Julie also mentioned that half the churches in the Deanery now have no clergy.

Julie mentioned that at South Crosland the PCC is considering the possibility of closure as there are insufficient funds to meet the essential expenditure that has been identified. An emergency meeting will be held after the service on 21 May, to discuss the matter with the congregation.

**14 Conclusion**

After thanking Julie and acknowledging the colossal amount of work she undertakes, Rev David Kent suggested that perhaps the time had come for her to recognise the need for consolidating her role rather than taking on further activities and responsibilities. He recommended consideration of the concept that 'less is more' or 'deeper rather than wider'.

After a round of applause for Julie, Debby ended the proceedings with a blessing for all.

Addendum

**Parish Environment Office's Report to the APCM**

**Parish Environment Officer Report to the APCM**

Since the last APCM, the Environment group at St Paul's Armitage Bridge has become two overlapping groups, the EcoChurch group and the "6 Steps to Carbon Net Zero" committee. The EcoChurch group has the task of pressing onward with our aim of becoming an "EcoChurch", a church that is a good steward of God's Creation when we are together and when we are living our individual lives. This is in line with the 5th Mark of Mission of the Anglican Church worldwide, "to care for creation and renew the life of the Earth".

Since the last APCM, the EcoChurch group has met in May, August and February and reports on environmental matters at Armitage Bridge have been made at each PCC meeting. The "6 Steps to Carbon Net Zero" Committee has not yet met.

Following up the 2022 Lent Course "Saying yes to Life" by Ruth Valerio, two Cafe Church meetings looked at what Carbon Footprints are and how we can all work to reduce our carbon footprints and do less damage to the planet and its atmosphere. Some church

members took part in the Big Plastic Count in June. We stopped making EcoBricks, because of the possibility of chemicals leaching into the ground and contaminating it, and recommended that we all reduce the quantity of plastic we buy and minimise the amount that ends in landfill. In the "Big Green Week", during Creationtide (September - 4 October), we held a "Big Green Communion" service, environmentally themed. And nearly 20 of us took part in a local litter-pick on Earthday and collected more than 20 black sacks of rubbish.

The magazine Focus regularly includes environmental articles and Green Christian prayers. This February we included an EcoChurch Environmental Attitudes Survey. This gave all our readers the chance of filling in an anonymous questionnaire about their personal attitudes and lifestyle and how sustainably they live. A good number of questionnaires were returned, either online or as paper copies. The EcoChurch group looked at the results and we were pleased to find that there is a good-sized group of people committed to sustainable living, both at St Paul's and at Holy Trinity South Crosland. It also shows that we must start the EcoChurch journey at Holy Trinity too.

We consider that we are ready to submit our second EcoChurch survey and, subject to accuracy checks, that it will show that we are ready to receive the Silver Award. Thank you to all who have contributed to our environmental journey this year.

Debby Plummer. 12.04.2023

#### **Electoral Roll Report 2024**

Sadly we have lost five long standing members of our church congregations – Peter Foster, Keith Garside, Keith Hodgson and David Wade of St John's Newsome, and Jeremy Plummer of St Paul's, Armitage Bridge.

It is pleasing however that we are able to include five additions at St Paul's: Sally Austin, Oliver Austin, Derek Riley, Michael Robinson and Helen Thornton-Pugh.

The numbers after the 2024 revision are therefore:

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Residents</b>	<b>Non-residents</b>
Parish of N and AB	77	42	35

Every six years a new Electoral Roll has to be produced in place of the existing one. This will be done in 2025 and everyone wishing to have their name entered on the new roll will need to apply for enrolment. In due course application forms will be made available for this purpose.

David Hirst, Acting Electoral Roll Officer

## **Membership**

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

*During the period, the following served as members of the PCC:*

Revd Julie Anderson

Churchwardens

Pamela Thomas Armitage Bridge

Antony Crawshaw Armitage Bridge

Deanery Synod

Bruce Greenwood PCC Treasurer

## **Armitage Bridge elected members**

Melanie Farrar (elected 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Ian Hales (elected 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Melody Hirst (elected 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Pamela Kent (Elected 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Helen Hales (elected 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022)

Naomi Pinkney (elected 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022)

Sarah Pope (elected 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022)

Catherine Day (elected 24 April 2023)

David Hirst (co-opted 22 May 2023)

Chris Storey (co-opted 22 May 2023)

## **Review of the Year**

### **Introduction**

The PCC met six times during the year. In addition two special meetings were held to discuss our brochure and requirements for a new priest, and two meetings with the Archdeacon regarding the Interregnum jointly with South Crosland PCC.

The ordinary PCC meetings are preceded by a joint meeting with South Crosland PCC at which the principal discussion is on Vision and Mission.

We learned in September that our Rector, Julie Anderson, is moving to become Rector of Kirkburton Benefice at the end of the calendar year 2023.

### **Vision and Mission**

Julie took assemblies weekly in the various schools in our Parish. We held a successful Baptism Celebration service followed by refreshments, and games for the children. Our contacts with the schools resulted in our hosting the Nursery School's Nativity Service, and the High School Christmas Concert.

The Junior Church Team organised a picnic in the park at Beaumont Park, and a Burger and Pizza night at Sons of the North.

Debby Plummer held an open air Rogation Service at Stirley Farm and Nature Reserve.

A highlight of the year was the visit of Bishop Moses of Rorya, the Diocese in which our link village of Sokorabolo is located. He was with us for two days and preached at the Sunday Service.

### **Worship**

We worship at St Paul's on the second and fourth Sundays of the month and travel to Holy Trinity South Crosland on first and third Sundays. In six months of the year the Worship Group devise and hold a Morning Worship Service with the help of volunteers from the congregation.

United Services are held regularly and rotated between the Anglican and Methodist churches.

From February 2024 onwards our Services have been moved to 10.00 am as the PCC agreed that this time was more family friendly.

Morning Prayer is held weekly on Wednesday mornings.

The local churches joined together in holding a Service to celebrate the Coronation at Berry Brow Methodist Church, followed by a picnic.

In October we held a well attended Harvest Service in Newsome Scout Hut with the help of the Scouts. Generous gifts of food and cash were passed on to the Welcome Centre.

Our Christmas Services – Carol Service, Nativity Service, Christmas Day Eucharist – were well attended, the latter being Julie's last service before moving on.

### **Risk Management**

The PCC is aware of risks to which the church is exposed and steps have been taken to mitigate such risks, for example by having insurance cover. Sarah Pope is the Health and Safety officer and Ian Hales is the Fire Officer. Safeguarding Officer is Pamela Thomas.

### **Environment**

The church was proud to receive a Silver Award for its work to reduce its effect on climate change and which also includes in the calculations the lifestyles of the congregation.

### **Church Wardens' Report**

As well as the routine maintenance I.e Servicing Fire Alarms, P A testing, Boiler maintenance cleaning and repairing, a lot of additional planned maintenance was completed in 2023 to ensure the church is kept in good repair

Christmas services were well attended it was good to see the carol service was well supported.

We are working through the Quinquennial inspection report.  
We checked the inventory and log book, all found to be in order.

The church yard and grass areas, cremated remains, have all been well maintained by our team of dedicated gardeners.

Due to the closure of St John's we have now the responsibility of the Church Hall.

As church wardens we would like to thank everyone for the help and support over the last year which has enabled our services and the maintenance of the building to continue seamlessly.

Tony Crawshaw   Pamela Thomas  
Church Wardens

### **Safeguarding report**

Helen Pearson continues to work as "Lead Recruiter" for the Benefice with myself assisting as the "Additional Recruiter". Our task in addition to overseeing all Safeguarding Aspects of our respective churches is to ensure timely DBS checks are carried out on people volunteering to work with children or vulnerable adults.

Our PCC members are up-to-date with their safeguarding training, all having completed the 3 safeguarding courses – Basic Safeguarding Awareness; Safeguarding Foundations; Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse training. These are held on-line via the Diocese website. The Diocese continues to not offer face to face Safeguarding Training. However the Safeguarding Officer at St Thomas' Bradley has been approved by the Diocese to carry out training. St Thomas Bradley did therefore run these courses last summer and some of our members took advantage of this.

The Parish safeguarding policy was renewed and approved at March PCC.

Pamela Thomas

### **Annual Report on Health & Safety - 2024**

Various church members take on safety inspections and subsequent work in their own areas of responsibility and all inspections and maintenance have been recorded centrally and updated as part of the H&S role during 2023.

Although risk assessments were maintained during COVID these were paired back due to the limitations on our services. It was therefore decided as part of our commitments in 2023, as we were back operating normally (in general) a full risk assessment would be beneficial to cover all aspects of the Church, its services, and buildings. This was carried out over a series of sessions in June 2023 by Sarah Pope, Melody Hirst and Pamela Thomas. For the Fire Safety this was completed alongside Ian Hales. The following categories were reviewed and a brief note of the outcome is provided below. The outcome indicates if any changes have occurred to the risk gradings since the last full review:

**Personal Safety** – 2 areas resulted in a decrease in risk grade, otherwise no change

**Building (internal)** – No change to risk grades

**Building (Kitchen)** – No change to risk grades

**Building (Electrical Safety)** – 2 areas resulted in a decrease in risk grade, otherwise no change

**Building (External)** – 1 area resulted in a decrease in risk grade, otherwise no change

**Churchyard** – No change to risk grades

**Plant & Machinery** - No change to risk grades

**Manual Handling** - No change to risk grades

**Fire Safety** - No change to risk grades

**Safeguarding** - No change to risk grades

In addition to the full risk assessment the list of who is responsible for carrying out the various safety measures was also review and updated for 2023. The list detailing the schedule of inspections and testing's was also reviewed and updated.

Following new guidance issued by Ecclesiastical Church a new Health & Safety Policy was also completed and approved in June 2023 by the PCC.

In addition to an update on the H&S policy 4 further risk assessment were carried out in 2023 by Melody Hirst with approval from Sarah Pope. Details of these are as follows:

### **Risk Assessments**

May 2024 – Annual updated risk assessment for Junior Church - approved

Sept 10<sup>th</sup> - Annual Family Picnic – approved

17<sup>th</sup> Sept – Big Birthday party for family and friends – approved

March 16<sup>th</sup> – Easter Craft Workshop – approved

All updated policy documents and the risk assessments are available should anyone wish to view these.

Report completed by S Pope – H&S – March 2024.

### **Almondbury & Kirkburton Deanery Report**

The Deanery meets jointly with Huddersfield Deanery. The Deanery met twice during the year.

On 26 October 2023 representatives discussed how the Deanery can help Parishes. Suggestions included, help with finance for growth and so moving the average age younger

in churches. Ensure church closures and reorganisation should be with a positive outlook rather than resigned negativity.

On 29 January 2024 a Zoom meeting was held. Living in Love and Faith was discussed. Many churches have not decided whether to use the prayers, a number do, and a few have decided not to use the prayers.

The future of Deaneries was discussed. Can they help, support, and inspire faith in our communities?

After breaking into groups, the following suggestions were made:

Hear more on the Barnabas project, hear good news stories, encourage more collaborations between churches in the Deanery, have more small group discussions in meetings, many churches would like a Youth Worker but cannot afford one and could Deanery help.

Bruce Greenwood

### **Churchyard Report**

We managed to keep the grass areas fairly well cut throughout 2023 until the bad wet weather set in during the autumn. There was just one area left for strimming which will be done in March 2024 as soon as the weather brightens and the ground dries.

The wet weather continued from November 2023 into January and February 2024. During this period we managed to build three new 'dead hedges'. One is along the drive with the other two along the river bank to the left of the church building. Our intention will be to construct others in the car park along the river making that area a little safer during 2024.

In January we lost a small-leaved lime tree along the drive which came down during a storm. This tree was located between T7 and T8. The trunk snapped and was subsequently found to be diseased. The trunk fell parallel to the drive with the branches and crown falling across the drive blocking access. We managed to clear this ourselves with the help of Alison and Richard Rigby, the trunk being removed by professional tree cutters. These trees are of concern to us but there is a tree preservation order on all the limes in the drive. We continue to work with our neighbours on this issue.

A major undertaking has been to tidy up the Garden of Remembrance. We were concerned with the amount of detritus building up. With the autumn leaves all cleared, broken jars, pots, bottles were removed along with dead flowers etc. and out of date wreaths. It looks much better and brighter.

We have built some compost heaps using pallets and carpets donated to us, hopefully this will eventually produce some useful material for us.

Dog walkers are constantly being reminded to bag and remove their animal's mess. Helen does a weekly patrol of the grounds to remove any transgressions. We have experienced some resistance from one individual which we reported to Andrew Cooper (Councillor).

The only problem at present is the difficulty with the proposed container to store our equipment. Our current storage is either at the bottom of the tower, in the old coke room

underneath, and the cupboard under the stairs, none of which is suitable. We do not feel it is worth replacing any of our aging mowers and strimmers until permission is granted for a secure store outside.

Current team: Helen, Ian, Lorraine, Jean, Frank, Brian, Cath and Alan.

Alan Trebble March 2024

## **Report on Children's Activities for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024**

### **Junior Church report for 2023-2024**

Junior Church meets on the fourth Sunday of the month. The children go upstairs for their activities and return to join the congregation for Communion and a blessing. They share and discuss their work with the congregation at the end of the service.

Because of changes to the service rota during the year there was often not a service at Armitage Bridge on the fourth Sunday of the month so Junior Church could not take place.

In 2023 Junior Church did not take place in the months of May, June, July, and December (the fourth Sunday being Christmas Day). We do not meet in August anyway as many families are on holiday.

Some of the themes covered with the children: Creation, Advent, Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Easter, and the Lost Sheep.

Attendance has decreased somewhat, having only 15 children on the register with an average of 4 per session. However, we do have a small group of regular attendees. We have had more children attending on a few occasions, such as at our joint services.

Sam and I attended a Diocesan day at St. Thomas' Church, Bradley in November, offered by the Youth and Children's Team. We came away feeling positive and enthusiastic to organise events for our Junior Church.

### **Activity Bags**

Activity bags containing clip boards, colouring and activity sheets, crayons and books are available for the children to use during other services if they wish.

There are also books and some toys available at the back of church for their use.

### **Compassion**

Our sponsor child is Dafne who lives in Brazil. We have a collection box in each of our three churches at Armitage Bridge, Berry Brow, and South Crosland.

We have regular contact by letter with Dafne and the children at Junior Church have also written to her.

We hope that through our sponsorship we can make a difference to her life.

Thank you to everyone for your donations and for supporting her.

### **Activities at Lay led Services**

A table with activities (supervised) for the children is available at Lay led services. The activities follow the theme of the service.

### **Pizza and Burger Evening at Son's of the North (Armitage Bridge)**

This event took place on a Friday evening in October. The families of past and present members of our Junior Church attended. It was a very enjoyable evening and lovely to see our past members again. Hopefully the evening will be repeated this year to include other members of the congregation.

### **Annual Family picnic at Beaumont Park**

This was planned to take place in July but was cancelled because of bad weather. It was rescheduled for September and was very well attended. The 2024 picnic will be in July.

### **Nativity**

The Nativity, held on Christmas Eve was very well attended.

### **Possible Future Events**

A Family Easter Craft Workshop in March, a Pizza and Burger Evening in May or September, the Annual Family Picnic in July, a Celebration of Light in November, a Christmas Craft Workshop in December, and the Nativity.

My thanks to children's leader, Sam McGregor and all those involved in the children's activities for their work and support.

Melody Hirst

### **Lay led Worship report for 2023-2024**

Every two months the service at St. Paul's, Armitage Bridge is led by the three members of the Worship Team (Catherine Day, Bruce Greenwood, and Melody Hirst) who have taken these services since 2012.

They have followed the Lectionary and some of the themes covered have been:

Christian Aid, a Season for Everything, Remembrance Sunday, Resolving Conflict, and Noah and the Flood.

We always provide a table with supervised activities for the children. The children played an integral part in the Noah service.

The Worship Team appreciate the ongoing help, support, and enthusiasm of the congregation, including the children, but would welcome other members of the congregation to join the team!

### **Parish Environment Officer Report**

Since the last APCM, the Environment group at St Paul's Armitage Bridge, which became two overlapping groups in 2023, the EcoChurch group and the "6 Steps to Carbon Net Zero" committee, has met less often. The EcoChurch group has the task of pressing onward with our aim of becoming an "EcoChurch", a church that is a good steward of God's Creation when we are together and when we are living our individual lives. This is in line with the 5th Mark of Mission of the Anglican Church worldwide, "to care for creation and renew the life of the Earth".

Since the last APCM, the EcoChurch group has given reports on environmental matters at Armitage Bridge at PCC meetings. The "6 Steps to Carbon Net Zero" Committee has not yet met. In the summer of 2023, A Rocha Eco Church awarded St Paul's their Silver award, which is a cause for celebration. Only 7 other churches in Huddersfield Episcopal Area have Silver awards and none have yet achieved Gold (2 in N Yorkshire have Gold awards). Because of this, St Paul's has been chosen as a pilot church for a new "in person" course on Carbon Literacy, before it is rolled out across our Diocese in Creationtide 2024. This course looks at how carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are raising the planet's temperature and the many ways we can play our parts in controlling this rise. The pilots will happen in the summer months and I will be the tutor. Please consider being part of that pilot group.

Summer 2023 saw the first Well Dressing in Armitage Bridge for about 25 years. This is a beautiful tradition, asking God's blessings on our water supply, and will probably become annual. Issues like water quality, depleted freshwater wildlife, flooding and drought mean that the Holme and its tributaries are at risk in these times of climate emergency.

During Creationtide, on September 24th, we held another Environment Sunday Service, environmentally themed. The magazine Focus continues to include environmental articles and Green Christian prayers and Sunday morning intercessions regularly include prayers for the planet and all its creatures. The EcoChurch group knows that there is a good-sized group of people committed to sustainable living, both at St Paul's and at Holy Trinity South Crosland.

Thank you to all who have contributed to our environmental journey this year.

Debby Plummer. 15.03.2024

### **Ringers/Tower Report**

The ringers held a meeting following Dennis Chaffer ceasing his church activities. Beverley Thomas was elected as Tower Secretary adding her name in lieu of Dennis to the bank mandate.

We have continued to ring all 6 bells for Sunday Service throughout the year, initially for the 9.15 am service which has now been rescheduled to 10.00 am.

There are 10 current members of our team all of whom are members of the Yorkshire Association.

Our other activities included entertaining the Halifax Archdeaconry Guild (they have now reverted to a monthly Monday evening practice), a visiting band from 'down south' and the 'Chiltern Midweek Group'. Our own team rang for the Coronation on 6 May and Remembrance Sunday in November.

The overall number of quarter peals is down, however ringing a successful attempt for Cath Day's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday was a highlight. On a sadder note we rang the bells half muffled in memory of Jeremy plummer, planting a crab apple tree in the churchyard as a mark of respect.

Our Wednesday practice continues to be popular, with many different faces after covid. We continue to teach folk for other local churches including Lindley, Almondbury, Holmfirth and Meltham. We have also helped out with a couple from Saddleworth whose bells were silenced following flooding.

Following the architect's inspection the church has provided new lighting up the tower stairs to replace the old fittings, the clear covers were all broken. The ringers also asked for a new light in the bell chamber and LED lights in the ringing room to replace the old strip lighting. This work was carried out at the end of February 2024. The church paid for this work but the ringers felt that as some of the work was requested by them, a suitable donation would be made.

We currently have 3 ropes away at Ellis Ropes for new tail ends fitting, these ropes along with our other stock should last a number of years before replacement becomes necessary.

The bell chamber was swept and cleaned in November 2023 (Tony helped) . The bells and fittings are regularly checked, a new stay was fitted to the treble bell, otherwise all seems to be in good working order,

Alan Trebble 6 March 2024

### **St Pauls of Armitage Bridge and its link to the Diocese of Royra, Tanzania– a brief summary report**

St Paul's continues its link with a church in the diocese of Royra in Tanzania. The church we link with is in a small village called Sokorabolo where, from time to time we get an update on their news and building projects. Royra has 40 parishes, of which 13 parishes in Royra are linked with parishes in Yorkshire. There are less churches than parishes with more than one parish sharing a church.

In September 2023 we were privileged to receive a visit from the new Bishop of Royra, Bishop Moses Yamo Masala who visited England for a couple of weeks, during which time he spent a day at St Pauls. The Bishop explained that he looks after 6 of the churches in Royra that have links with Yorkshire, one being Sokorabolo. On the last count he confirmed there are 87 members across the 6 churches in Royra.

During his visit the Bishop spent some time telling us about Sokorabolo and the challenges he has faced growing the church since he came into the position in 2021. Delays caused by weather and conditions continue to hamper progress which means the vicarage house is still unfinished and not yet ready for the local pastor to live in yet. They are hopeful this will be finished by the end of 2024 although it has been going on for some time. Repairs are still outstanding for the vicarage that St Pauls sent aid for in previous years however they hope now the new Bishop is in place greater progress can be made on this.

The nursery school continues to grow and with some schools now receiving funding to teach up to GCSE age. Bishop Moses is hopeful this will bring further improvement to the area although he did explain that job opportunities are limited, however he has plenty of ideas to assist with this.

He has sent a few messages since he returned to Sokorabolo in Sept and the village send their prayers and best wishes to the people of St Pauls. He said the work he does is challenging and they have a long way to go but he believes in what he is doing and has plenty more ideas to develop the village and surrounding area further. The village have much to be thankful for and are comforted by the ongoing support from the people of St Pauls. We look forward to hearing more about their projects in 2024!

S Pope – March 2024

## **South Huddersfield Churches Community Worker Annual Report 2023-24**

### **The Bread and Butter Thing**

We have now completed a year of The Bread and Butter thing. This is a heavy commitment for all the volunteers, but they are very willing and even eager to keep it up. The social side is also valued by some of the volunteers as well as the value of reducing waste. The membership is still healthy with new members joining all the time, and some of them enjoy the 'Ready, Steady, Cook!' element of making meals out of the random ingredients. Various social help groups also come to distribute financial help leaflets and sign post a range of useful information.

### **Warm Spaces**

We restarted and re-named Warm Spaces to Warm Welcome in November. I think, thanks in large part to the excellent standard of food offered regular numbers have increased. Thanks to the wonderful people who have regularly provided wonderful food. the numbers enjoying the afternoon have been maintained and many participants have made a variety of contributions, quizzes, suggestions for games and food. Those who can, have also made generous donations. The sessions have been so popular, we are thinking of continuing through Summer once a month. If anyone wants to help with the serving and clearing-up side they would be most welcome.

### **Pop up sale for the Together Shop**

These have continued with the support of very enthusiastic helpers. They have been popular with the public and have raised and enhanced the profile of the 'Together' shop. It has also proved a fund raiser for the Scouts. Again, this is another initiative which is phenomenally well supported by members of the Churches. Heartfelt thanks to all.

### **Film Café**

The initiative of the Film Café has continued with attendance being variable. However, the last 2 Saturdays proved very popular. The last Film Café will be in April and the plan is to re-start in September.

### **Ark church and Berry Brow flats**

Distribution of food continues at Berry Brow Flats. Numbers receiving food declined for a while as clients left the flats but have increased again as the cost-of-living crisis has impacted on the ability of people to meet the increased rents of private landlords. There is myself and one other member of our churches who help. It is interesting combining with another Church group. Since moving to Lowerhouses there is pressure to focus on the work done there, but 'The Ark of Kindness' are a small group of people whose compassion for and commitment to, the residents is most moving in my opinion.

### **The Coronation**

We had an indoor picnic for the King's Coronation on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> following a joint service. Having held 'the picnic' inside, the weather was kind. We had several families who came to join us after the service, and it was another lovely event.

### **Berry Brow Carnival**

This took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> June. It was well attended by the public. Thanks to all the people from the Churches who supported the event whether it was through attending, buying raffle tickets, but particularly Debby who helped on the Racing Pigs stall. All volunteers are welcome, whether to staff a stall, help with cake or provide muscle before and after. The Carnival never makes a profit because we try to provide a lot of free events for the families such as the circus skills and the Falconry display. However, this year's Carnival has had to be cancelled due to maintenance work being undertaken by the football club on the pitch. I try to maintain the face of South Huddersfield Churches Together in the community and support and share publicity as I am able.

I continue to support Crafty Chatterers every other week on a Tuesday morning from 9.30 at Berry Brow and Newsome Tenants and Residents' association on the first Tuesday each month. I attend Newsome Forum every other month. I take assemblies at Berry Brow Infant and Nursery School. It has been an eventful year and I hope next year will prove even more fruitful for the community as this.

Carol Waters, Community Worker

### **Rectors report**

I am writing this report as I was in post for the whole of 2023 and so thought it would be good to add it to the annual report.

You will find most of the activities in the churches have been reported elsewhere so I won't bore you by going over them again.

In 2023 we had some things happen that took us through all the emotional gambit. There was the final service at Newsome Church in March and that was a sad occasion but the great news is that the local councillors are now the proud owners of the building and will be starting work to turn it into a community centre.

In May we celebrated the coronation of King Charles III which was a joyful time.

Sadly we have lost some of our family and we miss them. Mable Blackeney, Margaret Wood, Mavis Pawlikow, David Wade, Keith Hodgson and Jeremy Plummer and then earlier this year Keith Garside and Dorothy Mychajlowskyj. It is always very difficult when those who have been a part of church life die but we continue to pray for their family and friends.

*At the annual meeting last year it was decided we would look into closing the building at South Crosland as it was becoming a financial burden and we just didn't have the money in the bank to fund all the necessary repairs. We made enquiries and it was decided by the PCC that we would pursue this and so we are now in the process of closing Holy Trinity church building. As with Newsome it is very sad but I believe it was the right decision as there are parts of the church that are just not safe to be in as there are big cracks which just keep getting bigger! As Area Dean I am able to help and guide the PCC through the process.*

Then in September I was asked to look at another job, which I did and I was appointed as Interim Priest in charge of 4 churches across the other side of Huddersfield. This was both a time of sadness and joy as I have been very happy here but the challenge of bringing 4 churches together as a new team is exciting.

You are in my prayers and I am sure God has a plan for both you and I as we look to the future.

God bless you all

Rev Julie Anderson

**THE PARISH OF NEWSOME**

**and**

**ARMITAGE BRIDGE**

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

**2023**

## Newsome & Armitage Bridge P C C

### Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds	-	-	-	-	-
Voluntary income	27,352.45	1,075.00	-	28,427.45	30,541.53
Activities for generating funds	13,185.59	3,599.95	-	16,785.54	11,189.69
Investment income	611.51	1,756.47	-	2,367.98	581.82
Incoming resources from charitable activities	-	-	-	-	-
Other incoming resources	15,308.98	-	-	15,308.98	5,365.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>56,458.53</b>	<b>6,431.42</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>62,889.95</b>	<b>47,678.04</b>
<b>Resources used</b>					
Cost of generating funds	119.03	-	-	119.03	113.86
Cost of generating voluntary income	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	7,737.10	1,875.78	-	9,612.88	2,025.83
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3,096.85	-	-	3,096.85	2,889.62
Governance costs	24,092.98	-	-	24,092.98	25,117.09
Other resources used	8,224.33	7,853.12	-	16,077.45	8,274.11
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>43,270.29</b>	<b>9,728.90</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52,999.19</b>	<b>38,420.51</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer</b>	<b>13,188.24</b>	<b>(3,297.48)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,890.76</b>	<b>9,257.53</b>
<b>Transfers</b>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	574.00	1,700.00	-	2,274.00	1,900.00
Gross transfers between funds - out	(244.00)	(2,030.00)	-	(2,274.00)	(1,900.00)
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>					

Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>13,518.24</b>	<b>(3,627.48)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,890.76</b>	<b>9,257.53</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>33,861.75</b>	<b>26,876.25</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>60,738.00</b>	<b>51,480.47</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>47,379.99</b>	<b>23,248.77</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>70,628.76</b>	<b>60,738.00</b>

**Represented by**

**Unrestricted**

General fund	46,123.09	-	-	46,123.09	32,860.85
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**Designated**

BEQUESTS	1,256.00	-	-	1,256.00	1,000.00
Car Park Fund	0.90	-	-	0.90	0.90
Junior Church	-	-	-	-	-
Rashcliffe Churchyard Fund	-	-	-	-	-

**Restricted**

Agency collection	-	-	-	-	-
Art & Craft Exhibition	-	377.51	-	377.51	353.34
Churchyard Maintenance	-	187.08	-	187.08	310.20
David Gilroy Trust	-	-	-	-	-
Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	-	22,684.18	-	22,684.18	25,882.71
Footbridge Repair And Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-
To pay for Cleaner Salary	-	-	-	-	330.00

<b>Total funds</b>	<b>47,379.99</b>	<b>23,248.77</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>70,628.76</b>	<b>60,738.00</b>
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## Balance Sheet detailed

Class and code	Description	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
0001	Sound System	2,340.00	2,730.00
002	Kitchen	-	479.00
	<b>Total Fixed assets</b>	<b>2,340.00</b>	<b>3,209.00</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
CASH	Cash	(69.00)	(69.00)
CBFCAP	CBF Leeds DBF Trust Capital Account	9,855.91	9,001.61
CBFCHURCH	Churchyard CBF Account	-	-
CBFFAB	Fabric CBF Account	17,015.19	16,486.80
CBFGEN	General CBF Account	3,182.66	3,083.83
CBFINC	CBF Leeds DBF Trust Income Account	3,532.92	3,159.14
DEBTORS	Year End Debtors	4,306.00	406.00
HSBCBANK	HSBC Bank Account	11,686.90	12,044.76
HSBCBBM	HSBC BBM Account	18,950.68	13,665.86
JAMSTOCK	Jam Stock in Hand	231.00	231.00
NEWSVIRG	Newsome Virgin Money	-	-
PREPAY	Prepayments	-	-
TRAIIDSTK	Traidcraft Stock in Hand	40.00	40.00
VIRGIN	General Account Virgin Money	495.46	300.46
YORKDGT	David Gilroy Trusr Yorkshire Bank	-	-
YORKFAB	Fabric Account Yorkshire Bank	-	-
Z05	Accounts Receivable	545.00	705.00
	<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>69,772.72</b>	<b>59,055.46</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
6699	Agency collections	635.66	472.69
ACCRUALS	Accruals	848.30	1,053.77
Z04	Accounts payable	-	-
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,483.96</b>	<b>1,526.46</b>

	<b>Net Asset surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>70,628.76</b>	<b>60,738.00</b>
<b>Reserves</b>			
	Excess/(deficit) to date	9,890.76	39,519.54
Z01	Starting balances	60,738.00	21,218.46
	<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>70,628.76</b>	<b>60,738.00</b>
<b>Represented by Funds</b>			
	General (Unrestricted)	46,123.09	32,860.85
	Designated	1,256.90	1,000.90
	Restricted	23,248.77	26,876.25
	<b>Total</b>	<b>70,628.76</b>	<b>60,738.00</b>

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)

		<b>Balance</b>	<b>Previous balance</b>
<b>Tangible Assets</b>			
<b>0001: Sound System</b>			
Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	(447.00)	(447.00)
General fund	Unrestricted	2,787.00	3,177.00
		<u>2,340.00</u>	<u>2,730.00</u>
<b>002: Kitchen</b>			
Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	2,395.00	2,874.00
General fund	Unrestricted	(2,395.00)	(2,395.00)
		<u>-</u>	<u>479.00</u>
	<b>Tangible Assets</b>	<b>2,340.00</b>	<b>3,209.00</b>
<b>Cash At Bank And In Hand</b>			
<b>CASH: Cash</b>			
Art & Craft Exhibition	Restricted	(1,944.00)	(114.53)
Churchyard Maintenance	Restricted	295.40	295.40

To pay for Cleaner Salary	Restricted	1,000.00	1,000.00
Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	3,100.00	3,100.00
Rashcliffe Churchyard Fund	Designated	(135.00)	(135.00)
General fund	Unrestricted	(62,173.35)	(60,426.21)
Agency collection	Restricted	59,787.95	56,211.34
		<u>(69.00)</u>	<u>(69.00)</u>
<b>CBFCHURCH: Churchyard CBF Account</b>			
Churchyard Maintenance	Restricted	(15.00)	(15.00)
General fund	Unrestricted	15.00	15.00
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>CBFFAB: Fabric CBF Account</b>			
Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	17,015.19	16,486.80
		<u>17,015.19</u>	<u>16,486.80</u>
<b>CBFGEN: General CBF Account</b>			
Rashcliffe Churchyard Fund	Designated	5,508.78	5,508.78
General fund	Unrestricted	(2,326.12)	(2,424.95)
		<u>3,182.66</u>	<u>3,083.83</u>
<b>CBFINC: CBF Leeds DBF Trust Income Account</b>			
Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	1,712.99	1,339.21
General fund	Unrestricted	1,819.93	1,819.93
		<u>3,532.92</u>	<u>3,159.14</u>
<b>HSBCBANK: HSBC Bank Account</b>			
Art & Craft Exhibition	Restricted	2,321.51	467.87
BEQUESTS	Designated	256.00	-
Car Park Fund	Designated	(10,999.10)	(10,999.10)
Churchyard Maintenance	Restricted	635.39	758.51
To pay for Cleaner Salary	Restricted	(1,000.00)	(670.00)
Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	(10,657.00)	(6,181.00)
Rashcliffe Churchyard Fund	Designated	(5,223.78)	(5,223.78)

General fund	Unrestricted	75,890.55	70,015.29
Agency collection	Restricted	(39,536.67)	(36,123.03)
		<u>11,686.90</u>	<u>12,044.76</u>
<b>HSBCBBM: HSBC BBM Account</b>			
BEQUESTS	Designated	1,000.00	1,000.00
Car Park Fund	Designated	11,000.00	11,000.00
General fund	Unrestricted	6,950.68	1,665.86
		<u>18,950.68</u>	<u>13,665.86</u>
<b>NEWSVIRG: Newsome Virgin Money</b>			
Churchyard Maintenance	Restricted	150.00	150.00
General fund	Unrestricted	(150.00)	(150.00)
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>VIRGIN: General Account Virgin Money</b>			
Churchyard Maintenance	Restricted	(878.71)	(878.71)
Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	(9,278.01)	(9,278.01)
Rashcliffe Churchyard Fund	Designated	(150.00)	(150.00)
General fund	Unrestricted	30,417.80	30,222.80
Agency collection	Restricted	(19,615.62)	(19,615.62)
		<u>495.46</u>	<u>300.46</u>
<b>YORKFAB: Fabric Account Yorkshire Bank</b>			
Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	3,671.40	3,671.40
General fund	Unrestricted	(3,671.40)	(3,671.40)
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<b>Cash At Bank And In Hand</b>	<u>54,794.81</u>	<u>48,671.85</u>
<b>Debtors</b>			
<b>DEBTORS: Year End Debtors</b>			
Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	613.35	613.35
General fund	Unrestricted	3,692.65	(207.35)
		<u>4,306.00</u>	<u>406.00</u>

**Z05: Accounts Receivable**

General fund	Unrestricted	545.00	705.00
		<u>545.00</u>	<u>705.00</u>
	<b>Debtors</b>	<b>4,851.00</b>	<b>1,111.00</b>

**Investments**

**CBFCAP: CBF Leeds DBF Trust Capital Account**

Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	9,855.91	9,001.61
		<u>9,855.91</u>	<u>9,001.61</u>
	<b>Investments</b>	<b>9,855.91</b>	<b>9,001.61</b>

**Stocks And Work In Progress**

**JAMSTOCK: Jam Stock in Hand**

General fund	Unrestricted	231.00	231.00
		<u>231.00</u>	<u>231.00</u>

**TRAIIDSTK: Traidcraft Stock in Hand**

General fund	Unrestricted	40.00	40.00
		<u>40.00</u>	<u>40.00</u>

**Stocks And Work In Progress**      271.00      271.00

**Agency Accounts**

**6699: Agency collections**

Agency collection	Restricted	635.66	472.69
		<u>635.66</u>	<u>472.69</u>
	<b>Agency Accounts</b>	<b>635.66</b>	<b>472.69</b>

**Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year**

**ACCRUALS: Accruals**

Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	(4,702.35)	(4,702.35)
General fund	Unrestricted	5,550.65	5,756.12
		<u>848.30</u>	<u>1,053.77</u>
	<b>Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year</b>	<b>848.30</b>	<b>1,053.77</b>

**Grand Total**      **70,628.76**      **60,738.00**

## Fund movement summary

	Fund	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Journals	Closing
<b>ART</b>								
	Restricted	353.34	3,599.95	1,875.78	(1,700.00)	-	-	377.51
	<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>353.34</b>	<b>3,599.95</b>	<b>1,875.78</b>	<b>(1,700.00)</b>	-	-	<b>377.51</b>
<b>BEQ</b>								
	Designated	1,000.00	500.00	-	(244.00)	-	-	1,256.00
	<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	-	<b>(244.00)</b>	-	-	<b>1,256.00</b>
<b>CARPARK</b>								
	Designated	0.90	-	-	-	-	-	0.90
	<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>0.90</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>0.90</b>
<b>Churchyard</b>								
	Restricted	310.20	195.00	318.12	-	-	-	187.08
	<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>310.20</b>	<b>195.00</b>	<b>318.12</b>	-	-	-	<b>187.08</b>
<b>Clean</b>								
	Restricted	330.00	-	-	(330.00)	-	-	-
	<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>330.00</b>	-	-	<b>(330.00)</b>	-	-	-
<b>Fabric</b>								
	Restricted	25,882.71	2,636.47	7,535.00	1,700.00	-	-	22,684.18
	<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>25,882.71</b>	<b>2,636.47</b>	<b>7,535.00</b>	<b>1,700.00</b>	-	-	<b>22,684.18</b>
<b>General</b>								
	Unrestricted	32,860.85	55,958.53	43,270.29	574.00	-	-	46,123.09
	<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>32,860.85</b>	<b>55,958.53</b>	<b>43,270.29</b>	<b>574.00</b>	-	-	<b>46,123.09</b>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>60,738.00</b>	<b>62,889.95</b>	<b>52,999.19</b>	-	-	-	<b>70,628.76</b>

## Analysis of income and expenditure

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>						
COLLCASH - Collections Cash	3,323.63	-	-	-	3,323.63	3,551.24
COLLCHQ - Collection Cheque	100.00	-	-	-	100.00	-
COLLGA - Collections Gift Aided	300.00	-	-	-	300.00	120.00
DONNONREC - Donations Non-recurring	768.91	500.00	180.00	-	1,448.91	3,075.45
DONRECUR - Donations Recurring	-	-	15.00	-	15.00	-
NSMINC - Newsome Inome	33.88	-	-	-	33.88	-
PGCHQ - Planned Giving Cheque	3,943.53	-	-	-	3,943.53	4,058.91
PLANGIVGA - Planned Giving Gift Aided	13,955.00	-	880.00	-	14,835.00	15,240.00
TAXREFUND - Gift Aid Tax Refund	4,427.50	-	-	-	4,427.50	4,495.93
ARTIN - Art & Craft Exhibition Income	-	-	3,599.95	-	3,599.95	4,179.07
FUNDJAM - Jam Sales	207.59	-	-	-	207.59	322.12
FUNDNOTE - Notelet Sales	-	-	-	-	-	1.50
HALLIN - Church Hall Receipts	5,528.00	-	-	-	5,528.00	-
LETTINGS - Lettings	7,450.00	-	-	-	7,450.00	6,687.00
INTEREST - Interest on Deposits	611.51	-	902.17	-	1,513.68	581.82
PROFIT - Profit on valuation of Investments	-	-	854.30	-	854.30	-
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds Totals</b>	<b>40,649.55</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>6,431.42</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>47,580.97</b>	<b>42,313.04</b>
<b>Other incoming resources</b>						
CAPIN - Capital Transfer	10,487.98	-	-	-	10,487.98	-
FEESIN - Fees	4,671.00	-	-	-	4,671.00	5,290.00
RENT - RENT	150.00	-	-	-	150.00	75.00
<b>Other incoming resources Totals</b>	<b>15,308.98</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,308.98</b>	<b>5,365.00</b>

Incoming resources Grand totals	55,958.53	500.00	6,431.42	- 62,889.95	47,678.04
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**RESOURCES USED**

**Cost of generating funds**

ARTEXP - Art & Craft Exhibition Expenditure	-	-	1,875.78	- 1,875.78	2,291.83
HALLOUT - Church Hall Expenditure	7,737.10	-	-	- 7,737.10	(266.00)
BANKCHGE - Bank Charges	119.03	-	-	- 119.03	113.86
<b>Cost of generating funds Totals</b>	<b>7,856.13</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,875.78</b>	<b>- 9,731.91</b>	<b>2,139.69</b>

**Charitable activities**

CHARITY - Charitable Payments	2,058.98	-	-	- 2,058.98	2,005.00
FEEMUSIC - Fees for Musicians	400.00	-	-	- 400.00	420.00
UPKEEP - Upkeep of Services	637.87	-	-	- 637.87	464.62
<b>Charitable activities Totals</b>	<b>3,096.85</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 3,096.85</b>	<b>2,889.62</b>

**Governance costs**

ADMIN - Administration Expenses	485.05	-	-	- 485.05	426.83
CLERGY - Clergy Expenses	45.00	-	-	- 45.00	22.61
COMFUND - Diocesan Common Fund	15,213.00	-	-	- 15,213.00	15,758.00
INSURPREM - Insurance Premium	3,291.76	-	-	- 3,291.76	2,992.42
JUNCHURCH - Junior Church Expenses	-	-	-	-	8.06
LOSS - Loss on Valuation	-	-	-	-	1,194.99
MAGCOSTS - Magazine Costs	348.88	-	-	- 348.88	101.50
REPMAIN - Repairs Maintenance	4,253.75	-	-	- 4,253.75	4,212.61
TELEPHONE - Telephone	455.54	-	-	- 455.54	400.07
<b>Governance costs Totals</b>	<b>24,092.98</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 24,092.98</b>	<b>25,117.09</b>

**Other resources used**

CHYARD - Churchyard Expenditure	67.71	-	318.12	- 385.83	211.26
Depretn - Depreciation	390.00	-	479.00	- 869.00	-
ELECT - Electricity	1,800.12	-	-	- 1,800.12	983.72
FABEXCEP - Fabric Exceptional Expenditure	-	-	7,056.00	- 7,056.00	3,779.00

GAS - Gas	3,596.45	-	-	-	3,596.45	2,629.83
NSMEXP - Newsome Church Expenses	1,894.15	-	-	-	1,894.15	160.00
REFRESH - Refreshments	200.30	-	-	-	200.30	58.70
WATER - Water Rates Church	275.60	-	-	-	275.60	451.60
<b>Other resources used Totals</b>	<b>8,224.33</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,853.12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,077.45</b>	<b>8,274.11</b>
<b>Resources used Grand totals</b>	<b>43,270.29</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,728.90</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52,999.19</b>	<b>38,420.51</b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 13 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

C. Day Lay Chair

B N Greenwood Treasurer

### Notes to the Accounts 2023

Calendar year 2023 was a year of transition from a Parish with two churches to a Parish with one church. The accounts include the run off payments we made for St John's until it was formally taken over by the Diocese in February, and the balance of St John's funds, £10,487 were transferred to the account of the Parochial Church Council.

Having taken over responsibility for the Church Hall we have used that balance to cover repairs and delayed maintenance to make sure that all legal obligations were satisfied (fire regulations, health and safety, security). This came to £3,004.

Our other challenge was the increase in costs, particularly in energy. Although we were protected by a fixed price contract until 31 August, the cost of energy more than doubled in our new contract from that date. We have increased letting fees and reduced energy usage by reducing temperatures by 2 degrees.

Congregational giving has held steady with cash collections similar to 2022 and Planned Giving slightly down as the last givers from St John's moved on. The PCC approved the use of the Planned Giving Scheme for regular givers to eventually replace the standing orders we have used until now. Two thirds of the givers have now transferred to the new scheme.

Lettings receipts have increased with new customers trying out the church and an increase in charges from September.

The Annual Art & Craft Exhibition raised £1700 for the Fabric Fund. There were fewer entries but they were of good quality and attracted more visitors than 2022.

Fees paid to the PCC for Weddings and Funerals decreased somewhat as 2022 featured a catch up of postponed Weddings from the Covid era.

In Outgoings, we paid our Parish Share of £15,213 in full. Our remaining regular expenditure held steady apart from energy.

Fabric Expenditure (not regular maintenance) of £7,056 was paid for the removal of moss from the roof, replacing of cracked tiles, and flushing out gutters and drainpipes, replacing them where necessary.

Our charitable activities included Christian Aid Big Breakfast raising £617.50, collections at the Carol and Nativity Services for Children's Society raising £355.76 and supporting a Compassion Child. We made direct donations to NCCA, National Churches Trust, British Legion, Church Army, Christians Against Poverty, Welcome Centre, and Sokorabolo.

We are grateful for the support of the congregation, as our events could not be held without the whole church helping. Likewise, the generous regular giving is enabling us to pay our Parish Share in full. It is particularly helpful to receive monthly payments by either standing order or the Planned Giving Scheme as the church can only hold two services per month, which means two cash collections, but has four weeks expenses per month.

Bruce Greenwood

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF NEWSOME AND ARMITAGE BRIDGE**

I report on the accounts for 2023

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent 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(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;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 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 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**

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

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 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and 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.

BEVERLEY THOMAS

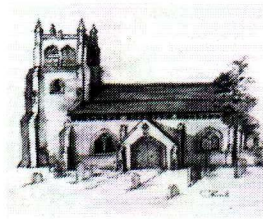
B.T. Thomas 7/3/24



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# Accounts

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*Armitage Bridge*



*Newsome*

**THE PARISH OF NEWSOME and ARMITAGE BRIDGE**  
**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, NEWSOME**  
**and ST PAUL'S, ARMITAGE BRIDGE**  
**(Part of the Emmanuel Team Benefice)**

**Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council**

For the period April 2022 to April 2023

**and**

**Financial Statements**

For the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

**Incumbent:**

Rector: The Revd. Julie Anderson

The Rectory, 42 Beaumont Park Road, Huddersfield

**Bank:**

Virgin Money  
40 New Street Huddersfield

HSBC  
Cloth Hall Street  
Huddersfield

Central Board of Finance of the Church of England  
80 Cheapside  
London

Independent examiner  
Julie Bray

# **AGENDAS**

## **Annual Meeting for the Election of Church Wardens Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 7.30pm**

1. Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of last year's meeting
4. Election of Churchwardens
5. Election/Appointment of Deputy Churchwardens

*To be followed immediately by*

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last year's meeting
3. Report on the Revision of the Electoral Roll
4. Annual Report including Review of the year
5. Treasurer's Report on the Year-end accounts
6. Churchwarden and Fabric Reports
7. Election of PCC members
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner / Auditor
9. Deanery Synod report
10. Safeguarding report
11. Additional reports
12. Team Rector's report
13. Any matters of parochial or general church interest
14. Concluding Prayers

# The Parish of St John, Newsome and St Paul, Armitage Bridge

(Part of the Emmanuel Team Benefice and the Local Ecumenical Partnership)

## ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDENS

Monday 28 March 2022 at St Paul's, Armitage Bridge

**1** **Revd Julie opened the meeting with a prayer**

**2** **Present:** Revd Julie Anderson, Antony Crawshaw, Catherine Day, Melanie Farrar, Bruce & Gillian Greenwood, Helen & Ian Hales, Rosalie Hampshire, David Hirst (Secretary), Melody Hirst, Katherine Huggett, Revd David and Pam Kent, Naomi Pinkney, Sarah Pope, Revd Canon Debby and Jeremy Plummer, Chris Storey, Pamela Thomas and Graeme Williams

**Apologies for absence** were received from Margaret Ackroyd, Angela Morton and June Richardson

**3** **The minutes of last year's meeting** held on 24 May 2021 were approved after a proposal from Ian Hales, seconded by Pam Kent

**4** **Election of Churchwardens**

<i>Church represented</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Seconder</i>
Armitage Bridge	Antony Crawshaw		
Armitage Bridge	Pamela Thomas		
June Richardson	Newsome		

Pamela Thomas is willing to serve as Churchwarden for another year at AB, and Antony Crawshaw will take on additional responsibilities during the year ahead

**5** **Election of Deputy Churchwarden:** No nominations were presented to the meeting and the post remains vacant

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

**1** **Present:** As above. The attendance of Revd David and Revd Canon Debby - who are not on the Electoral Roll - was approved by the meeting

**Apologies for absence:** As above

**Minutes of the last year's meeting** held on 24 May 2021 were approved after a proposal from Bruce Greenwood, seconded by Antony Crawshaw

**3** **Electoral Roll Report 2022**

The report prepared by the Electoral Roll Officer (David Hirst) as shown in the Annual Report, was accepted by the meeting. The total number after the 2022 revision is 78

Newsome: 23 (Res) + 5 (Non Res) = 28

Armitage Bridge: 24 (Res) + 26 (Non Res) = 50

Wendy Wilkinson, Ann & Graeme Williams have been added at Armitage Bridge, but Brenda Newby has been deleted from the Newsome Roll following her death in January 2022

Unless they express a wish to be deleted from the electoral roll of the Parish of Newsome and Armitage Bridge, the previous members at Newsome will remain on the roll

- 4 **The Annual Report** was accepted although Revd Canon Debbie pointed out that the period on page 6 of the Annual Report was incorrect. It should read: Annual Report for April 2021 to April 2022

- 5 **Treasurer's Report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021**  
Bruce Greenwood spoke to his report which is included within the Annual Report

Bruce and Joyce Garside were thanked for the work carried out in their respective Treasurer roles

In response to questions Bruce Greenwood said that the tree report is under consideration; and if substantial flooding causes water damage to the church and/or churchyard, the church will be responsible for any subsequent costs

- 6 **The Churchwarden & Fabric Reports** shown in the Annual Report were accepted  
Revd Julie expressed thanks to Pamela Thomas and June Richardson for their valuable work

- 7 **Election of new PCC members** (to serve until 2025)

<i>Church represented</i>	<i>Name</i>		<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Second</i>
Armitage Bridge	Helen Hales		Antony Crawshaw	Catherine Day
Armitage Bridge	Naomi Pinkney		Gillian Greenwood	David Hirst
Armitage Bridge	Sarah Pope		Melody Hirst	David Hirst

Revd Julie stated that the maximum number of elected PCC members at AB is now nine. She then suggested that Catherine Day be co-opted to the PCC at AB for one year. This was approved

The nine elected PCC members are Melanie Farrar, Ian and Helen Hales, David and Melody Hirst, Pam Kent, Naomi Pinkney, Sarah Pope and Chris Storey

Revd Julie took the opportunity to update the meeting as to the situation at Newsome. She believes formal closure of the church to be imminent

Although several sessions of clearing St John's had taken place, Revd Julie is striving to gain approval for retention of the Fount and Altar, in order to avoid their destruction. The Council is intending to retain the pulpits so that a church identity will continue when the use is changed

- 8 **The DCC has now been terminated**

- 9 **Appointment of Independent Examiner** - Julie M Carter was re-appointed

- 10 **Deanery Synod Report**

No election was held as Bruce Greenwood and Katherine Huggett commenced their three year term in 2020. Bruce continues to be Deanery Treasurer and Helen Pearson (Holy Trinity, South Crosland) is again Deanery Secretary. A Deanery Lay-Chairperson is still required

The Deanery Synod Report prepared by Katherine in the Annual Report was accepted

- 11 Safeguarding Report** was accepted as contained in the Annual Report. Although Pam Thomas is prepared to continue she said she is uncomfortable using Zoom. Melody Hirst offered to help her
- 12 Additional Reports:** Thanks were expressed to all those who had submitted the various reports published in the Annual Report. In her role as Parish Environment Officer Revd Canon Debby had produced a report about the progress made on environmental matters (*which is attached at the end of these minutes*)

**13 Team Rector's Report**

In addition to her comprehensive report for 2021/2022 Revd Julie also mentioned the advice from the Bishop was to deal with one project at a time and to do it well before moving on to other things. In an upbeat view of activities in 2022 she highlighted the Showstopper initiative which is explained on page 11 of the April Focus magazine.

**14 Any matters of parochial or general church interest:**

Revd Julie had interviewed a potential curate, but both parties recognised there was a mismatch between the candidate's aspirations and the circumstances of activities within our benefice

Agreement has been reached with Berry Brow Methodist that their Sunday morning service will commence at 10.30am at the beginning of June. Minor changes are being made to the *Memorandum of Understanding* before it is submitted for approval by Bishop Nick. Netherton Methodists are in an informal relationship with our benefice while Hall Bower is awaiting the outcome of the Newsome/Berry Brow initiative

The Art Exhibition will take place from 16 – 18 June

Graeme Williams asked whether the Diocese is responding to the rising number of Covid cases. Revd Julie said that individual churches have been instructed to take their own decisions in reducing risks to people within their own environment. The Diocese has ruled that churches must not go back yet to using the Chalice for distribution of communion wine

**15 Conclusion**

Revd David thanked Revd Julie for her enormous energy which enables her to keep extending the range of services she provides. *However David expressed concern that she may be overdoing things*

The meeting gave Julie a round of applause before David closed the proceedings with a prayer at 8.40pm

**Please see the addendum on page 4**

Addendum

**Parish Environment Officer Report to the APCM**

Most of our Environment group at St Paul's Armitage Bridge are members of the PCC (ex-DCC). We have been together for over a year but have only met physically twice since the last APCM, because of Covid.

Our main task is to become an "EcoChurch", a church that is a good steward of God's Creation when we are together and when we are living our individual lives. This is in line with the 5th Mark of Mission of the Anglican Church worldwide, "to care for creation and renew the life of the Earth".

Progress we have made so far:

1. We held a **Climate Sunday service** on July 18 to prepare for the COP26 international climate conference in early November. In September, church members contributed the breakfast for the **Young Christian Climate Network** walkers, when they stayed the night at Huddersfield Mission en route to Glasgow.
2. Jeremy and I write articles regularly for **Focus** and we share the Green Christian prayer list with Focus readers.
3. **EcoBricks** made by members of the 3 congregations are being used for our first project, a raised bed of bee-friendly plants at Stirley Farm. It was brought to our notice that chemicals could leach out of sequestered plastic in time, so that food grown in an EcoBrick bed might not be safe longterm. Church members are encouraged to continue washing and drying plastic wrappings and returning them to supermarkets for recycling or using wherever possible.
4. The **Lent Study** for 2022 is a course based on Ruth Valerio's book "Saying Yes to Life". It uses the seven days of creation from Genesis 1 as a model for how humans can be good stewards of Creation now, in a time of climate change. This course is being delivered on Zoom and distributed as paper copy for those who wish to pursue the course in private.
5. The March 2022 **Cafe Church** looks at carbon footprint - how we can live more sustainably as households and as churches.
6. Last year, we achieved the **Eco Church Bronze Award**. This year's goal will be to deepen our commitment to live sustainably and move on to silver.
7. This year, all parishes in this and every diocese in the Church of England are being encouraged to begin the "**6 Steps to Carbon Net Zero**" programme. The Environment group and the Parish Environment Officer commend this programme to the Emmanuel Benefice churches. Our deadline for Carbon Net Zero is 2030. The whole PCC will need to be involved with this. Key lay people are churchwardens and treasurers.
8. In order to achieve the 6 Steps, I recommend that the Environment Groups of Armitage Bridge and South Crosland amalgamate with immediate effect. Our group's role will change to supporting good environmental practice in the areas of caring for churchyards, encouraging biodiversity, supporting family and outdoor worship, attending environmental worship and community events. We will also be modelling good sustainable living and encouraging others to join that personal journey. All these come under the EcoChurch umbrella. The church building is not our brief but the PCC's.
9. **Upcoming key events: Lent Study** Thursdays 7.30pm Zoom; **Cafe Church** 4pm on Saturday 19 March; **building the EcoBrick bed** during Easter holiday period. **World Environment Sunday** June 5th, afternoon outdoor service hopefully at Stirley, followed by **Churches Count on Nature** - in our churchyards during week June 5-12.
10. **Forest Church?** Once a month or once a quarter....

Debby Plummer

## Annual report for April 2022-April 2023

### Electoral Roll Report

Since the 2022 APCM, John Heeley of St Paul's congregation has unfortunately passed away.

The numbers after the 2023 revision are therefore

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Res</b>	<b>Non-res</b>
Newsome	28	23	5
Armitage Bridge	49	24	25
Parish of N and AB	77	48	30

*Melanie Farrar  
Electoral Roll Officer*

### Formal Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

The Council present their report and accounts for 2021/22. They have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number 1131703.

The PCC works, in consultation with the clergy, on matters of general concern and importance to the parish. Among its aim in the parish, is the promotion of the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

### Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

*During the period, the following served as members of the PCC:*

Revd Julie Anderson

Churchwardens

June Richardson Newsome

Pamela Thomas Armitage Bridge

Antony Crawshaw Armitage Bridge

Deputy at AB – Gillian Greenwood

Deanery Synod

Bruce Greenwood PCC Treasurer

Katherine Huggett

### Armitage Bridge elected members

David Hirst (elected 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020)

Chris Storey (elected 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020)

Melanie Farrar (elected 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Ian Hales (elected 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Melody Hirst (elected 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Pamela Kent (Elected 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Helen Hales (elected 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022)

Naomi Pinkney (elected 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022)

Sarah Pope (elected 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022)

Catherine Day (Co-opted 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022)

### Review of the Year

#### Introduction

The full PCC met immediately following last APCM and then have met five times during the year. These five meetings have been preceded by a meeting of the joint PCCs of South Crosland and Newsome/Armitage Bridge.

Business has been conducted in a constructive, thoughtful, supportive and congenial manner. Minutes of these meetings have been displayed at the back of church.

It was agreed by PCC and Newsome/Armitage Bridge PCC at their respective meetings following APCMs last year to trial holding joint PCC meetings to discuss items common to both PCCs (such as Vision and Mission). The objective being to cease the need for Julie to work back and forth between the PCCs to come to decisions on the "common ground" - such as outreach, service patterns, joint services, post covid measures. Each PCC has then met separately to discuss the matters pertinent to their church, such as finance, Fabric and Churchyard.

Our joint focus has been to keep our church buildings and members safe, post the end of legal covid restrictions. To keep connected with our church family and to engage more with the community. Vision and Mission, taking our churches forward is the first and most discussed item on our agenda.

#### Vision and Mission

We have keenly discussed what worship/events we can hold so that the community can come and see who we are. There have been many successes and sadly, some difficulties. The afterschool club at South Crosland, Showstoppers was held in April 2022, and was intended to restart in September, However there were problems including that the afterschool club schedule at school is too congested. It has not resumed.

Armitage Bridge had organised family get together event on Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> but this had to be postponed due to the death of the Queen.

On a more positive note, the South Crosland quizzes restarted in October. A few non church goers have attended. The Wind Band came and gave a concert at South Crosland in September. This was widely publicised in the community and was well attended.

Other social events at both churches are being considered.

### **Worship**

Julie has continued to record Sunday services initially each week and then just the first Sunday of the month. They are available to church members and friends via email and to anyone with access to our website. Those without technology are provided with a service sheet and readings to use at home.

Sunday services are held at Holy Trinity the first and third Sunday of the month and St Pauls the second and fourth Sunday at 9.15am.

Berry Brow has a service 10.30am every week.

On a fifth Sunday and "special" occasions (e.g. The Queens Platinum Jubilee), a joint service including Berry Brow and Netherton Methodists is held rotating around the four churches.

The Morning Worship lay led service take place once a month led by either the Worship Team at Holy Trinity or Armitage Bridge.

Mid-week House Communion Services have been held each Wednesday.

Newsome church building was closed for worship in March. On Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> a final service given by all our clergy and Archdeacon Bill Braviner was held. It was a great attendance including former worshippers who have moved away and relatives of worshippers who have passed away.

Significant occasions were commemorated by our Sunday services. At the end of May, in advance, we celebrated Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee. In complete contrast, in September we mourned the passing of our great and deeply loved monarch.

The joint PCCs have given a lot of consideration to the role of our churches in accommodating the expectations of the community at particular times and to the seasonal services which particularly appeals to them.

Following her remarkable 70 years of devoted service to country and commonwealth, our

beloved Queen Elizabeth II, Defender of the Faith died on September 8<sup>th</sup> 2022. Our churches facilitated the mourning of the community by being open more than usual during the period of national mourning up until her funeral. Her late Majesty and the Royal Family were remembered in prayers in the services on the first Sunday (Sep 11<sup>th</sup>). A service of prayer and reflection was held for her on September 14<sup>th</sup> at Armitage Bridge, and the services on the Sunday before her funeral were of commemoration to her. All were very moving services and brought some comfort to the congregations. In addition, our three churches were open for a few hours during the first three days, when people were welcomed, could quietly sit, pray and remember our late sovereign. They could write their thoughts in condolence books if they so wished. Dozens of people took advantage of this in all our churches, and the depth of love and gratitude towards our great late monarch was very evident in the messages written.

The Harvest Service in October was an appealing service, supported by the scouts and held in Newsome Scout Hut.

After much deliberation, much of our pre pandemic schedule of Christmas services was reintroduced. This included a Christingle at South Crosland the first Sunday in December, the mid week Carol Service at Armitage Bridge, Christmas Eve Nativities at both South Crosland and Armitage Bridge, and the Christmas Eve and Christmas day Communion at Berry Brow and Armitage Bridge respectively. The services were well received and attended. It was good to "be back" and welcome "seasonal" worshippers into our churches again.

It is intended to hold a Baptism Celebration Service on June 25<sup>th</sup> (for families with members baptised in recent years) followed by a social with food.

Throughout the year, worship has taken place with sensible Covid safety measures in place, as agreed by Julie and the joint PCCs with recognition of infection rates, covid anxieties and the guidance at the time.

Communion initially continued to be taken in only one kind. The common cup is discussed every joint PCC. It has been permitted to share the common cup, but we have opted not to. In November it was agreed that we would move to "intinct" the wafer into the wine. This procedure

may only be carried out by the Priest or Assistant (not the communicant). Some churches have moved to sharing the common cup, but we have agreed not to. We have also decided it is still unsafe to share the Peace via physical contact.

### **Prayer and Study Groups**

There is a Morning Prayer Service at Armitage Bridge each Wednesday.

Julie provides daily Bible readings on a monthly basis to all to encourage further Bible study and prayer at home.

During Advent and Lent in person Study groups resumed. These were well received and it was good to discuss Bible passages with people and not "screens"

### **The schools and community**

Julie has been leading assemblies and worship time in South Crosland Junior School and Newsome Junior school each week and is now leading an assembly at Hillside on a monthly basis.

Julie is also on the governing body in Newsome High, Castle Hill, Hillside, Berry Brow Infant and Newsome Junior schools.

### **Risk management**

The PCC is aware of risks to which the church is exposed and steps have been taken to mitigate such risks, for example by having insurance cover. Sarah Pope is the Health and Safety officer. Ian Hales is the Fire Officer and Safeguarding Officer for the Parish is Pamela Thomas.

### **The Safeguarding Officer for this PCC is Pamela Thomas.**

Helen Pearson continues to work as "Lead Recruiter" for the Benefice and I as the Additional Recruiter. Our task in addition to overseeing all Safeguarding Aspects of our respective churches is to ensure timely DBS checks are carried out on people volunteering to work with children or vulnerable adults.

Our PCC members are now required to complete 3 courses – Basic Safeguarding Awareness; Safeguarding Foundations; Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse training. These are held on-line. The Diocese are now offering face to face training and the Safeguarding Officer at St Thomas' Bradley has been approved by the Diocese to run these courses. Dates for them are on selected Saturdays in May, June and July. Rev Ian Jamieson has invited members of Churches to attend them. Some of our PCC members are to attend. If anyone else

wishes to do so, please let me know and we will add your names to Ian's lists.

Posters with safeguarding names and contact details are up in our churches.

*Pamela Thomas*

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

***Please see separate document for the accounts.***

The sad closure of St John's Church, Newsome has affected the accounts of the Parish considerably and makes comparison of the figures for 2021 and 2022 unrealistic. St John's Income was £3664.70 and expenditure £7867.72. The Church Hall (which will continue as part of the PCC) had income of £7777.00 and Expenditure of £4194.28. In 2023 we will be spending up to £500 on dealing with several Health & Safety improvements at the Church Hall and energy costs will increase by about £1,800.

During 2022 St Paul's Church had a normal schedule of events and services which were enhanced by Weddings catching up following the Epidemic.

We exceeded our expectations for Collections and Planned Giving, and fees for weddings and funerals far exceeded the usual amount. The Together shop resumed donations which totalled £2,000. Lettings increased due to an increase in rental charge to £40 per session.

The Art & Craft Exhibition proved to be a big success on its return. It was advertised through Face Book for the first time and not The Examiner. The Exhibition was able to donate £1,900 to the Fabric Fund.

Expenditure for St Paul's Church was as anticipated except for Energy where the figure rose in proportion to the increased use of the Church.

Exceptional expenditure on Fabric included £1,911 on the Quinquennial, Trees, and Bridge inspections. We also spent £498 on the 5 year electrical circuit inspection. There will be further expenditure in 2023 as we work through the inspection reports.

Depreciation of assets is very large this year as all Newsome assets have been written down to nil value as they cannot be resold. We will return to normal figures in 2023.

St Paul's Church has finished the year with satisfactory figures and a good starting balance for 2023. This is due to the hard work of a large number of people and the generous giving of the congregation. I cannot stress too strongly how helpful it is for the Church to receive regular monthly planned giving as it almost covers our

monthly outgoings on Parish Share. It is even more helpful if we can claim Gift Aid. Receiving a known amount each month helps with our financial planning as we know the base income we will receive each month and can plan accordingly. We expect a significant increase in energy costs from 1 September 2023 but otherwise we begin 2023 with confidence.

*Bruce Greenwood  
Treasurer*

## **CHURCHWARDENS REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOOD & ORNAMENTS**

### **St John's Newsome**

As of March 2023 the building is now closed for public worship and is currently standing empty and is the responsibility of the Diocese.

This has come as a huge relief to all those involved as the maintenance of St John's had become really difficult as the building was not being used regularly.

There was a final service to give thanks for all the years the church building had served the community. There were 200 people at that service so it was a fitting goodbye.

*June Richardson.  
Warden.*

### **St Paul's Armitage Bridge**

As well as the routine maintenance i.e., Servicing Fire Alarms PA testing, Boiler maintenance cleaning and repairing a lot of additional planned maintenance was completed in 2022 to ensure the church is kept in good repair

Christmas services were well attended it was good to have the Carol service again.

We are working through the Quinquennial inspection report.

The inventory and logbook are both up to date.

The churchyard grass areas and cremated remains areas, have all been well maintained by our team of dedicated gardeners.

Due to the closure of St John's the responsibility of the Church Hall now lies with Armitage Bridge and we are working to bring it up to a reasonable standard and making sure everything is safe for the playgroup and other users.

As church wardens we would like to thank everyone for the help and support over the

last year which has enabled our services and the maintenance of the building to continue seamlessly.

*Tony Crawshaw and Pamela Thomas  
Wardens*

## **Deanery Synod Report 2022/23**

Bruce Greenwood and Katherine Hugget have continued to serve as Almondbury and Kirkburton Deanery Synod Reps for Newsome and Armitage Bridge this year. 3 synods have been held and all have been joint with Huddersfield Deanery.

In June our new Archdeacon, Bill Braviner addressed Synod and took questions. Bill has been Parish Priest for 26 years. His heart is in Parishes Ministry and believes that the more we do together, the more we achieve. Bill sees his role as supporting that which is happening in the Parishes by assisting (for instance, with the faculty system), by encouraging and by putting a Parish in touch with someone who might be able to help with something.

We were particularly encouraged by the positive vibe about faculties.

It was also brought up that it was currently difficult to get officers in Parishes. Helen Pearson had suggested that the continuing use of on-line training, and the increasing number of courses officers were expected to complete, was a blocking factor. Not everyone uses IT, and not all church buildings have wifi. The Diocese could help by re-introducing face to face training. Matthew Ambler (Huddersfield Lay Chair) is to feed this back to the Diocese.

The September synod was held at St Pauls Armitage Bridge. From the Diocese, Revd Jude Smith, Director of Church Revitalisation, spoke to us about moving our churches forward. Examples of how some churches had re-engaged with their communities were described. It is possible to get help for any initiatives. For instance if your church wanted to start a new group, someone could help set it up.

At the February Synod, a representative from TSL Kirklees (Third Sector Leaders), spoke to Synod about the charity. TSL helps organisations find and apply for small grants for projects. The emphasis is on community projects, not heritage. Therefore you cannot obtain funding for your church building but you could for an activity in church which engaged local people. Both Marsden and Moldgreen churches have taken advantage of help from TSL.

There was an update from Diocesan Synod, the main item being a discussion on the common cup.

An update from February General Synod was given, the main item for debate being the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) initiative. The House of Bishops have produced a draft Prayers of Love and Faith". These could be used at the discretion of the minister in a variety of ways, including blessing a registered same sex civil partnership. It would appear that we are still a way off approving same sex marriage in church.

*Katherine Huggett  
Deanery Rep*

### **Maintenance of the churchyard at Armitage Bridge**

The Wednesday morning gardening team continue to meet and make progress.

We have managed over the last year to improve the areas to the rear of the church. By cutting back the grass, planting a few bulbs and wild flowers, we are slowly bringing these difficult parts of the grounds into some order.

After our discussions last year in regard to the maintenance of the gardens of remembrance, it has proved much easier to keep these areas tidier in appearance. By being able to remove the broken pots etc along with dead flowers. Ian has very kindly erected a couple of signposts for users of these areas.

As we continue to work with our neighbours the gap in the wall on the drive has been restored by professional builders. We are looking at raising parts of the wall for health and safety concerns on the drive. After due consideration we feel that most of it will be too big a job for us to tackle. There is a small section by the wooden bridge however that may well be within our capabilities to increase in height. The other parts will need more thought.

Dog fouling continues to be a problem, albeit the vast majority of the dog walkers show due consideration and respect, as usual it is a minority spoil it for the rest of us.

Our current team of helpers are:- Ian, Helen, Lorraine, Jean, Cath, Brian, Frank, Tony and Alan

*Alan Trebble*

### **REPORTS OF OTHER ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE CHURCHES.**

#### **Children's activities:**

#### **Junior Church at St. Paul's**

Junior Church resumed in May 2022 after Covid restrictions.

We now meet on the fourth Sunday of the month. The children go upstairs for their activities and

return to join the congregation for Communion and a blessing. They share and discuss their work with the congregation at the end of the service. Some of the themes covered: Miracles of Jesus, the Good Samaritan, the Lord's Prayer, Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Harvest, Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter.

Although we have 15 children on our register, we only have a small number of children attending each session. On average it is two per session but we have had more on a few occasions, such as at our joint services.

The Family event planned for September had to be cancelled due to the sad news of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II

#### **Activity Bags**

Activity bags containing clip boards, colouring and activity sheets, crayons and books are available for the children to use during other services if they wish.

There are also books and some toys available at the back of church for their use.

#### **Annual Family picnic at Beaumont Park**

After two years without a picnic because of Covid restrictions, our Family picnic was very well attended with members from all our churches. With fine weather, and the park looking at its best, a good time was had by all!

The event will take place again in July this year. (Date to be announced)

Thanks to children's leader, Sam McGregor and all those involved in the children's activities for their work and support.

*Melody Hirst*

#### **Pastoral care**

There is no formal pastoral care provision at either St Paul's or St John's but it operates on an informal "word of mouth" basis. A small team distribute the Focus magazine, send cards and letters where and when appropriate and visit people at home, in hospital or care homes usually with some home baking for those they visit. Most of the people visited are church members who can no longer attend services for various reasons and they really appreciate a visit and all the news from church. Other local folk are visited too if they request it and we try to support and care for all those who need us.

## **LEP (Churches together in South Huddersfield)/Ecumenical work**

### **Pop up sale for the Together Shop**

Two more Pop up Sales were held. September 24<sup>th</sup> 2022, March 25<sup>th</sup> 2023. These are becoming increasingly popular so it was decided to increase the frequency. For the last one the Churches together made £743 and it was profitable for the Scouts too. Importantly, it is also a valued community event. Three more are booked for this year: 1<sup>st</sup> July, 30<sup>th</sup> September; 11<sup>th</sup> November. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who make this possible, whether the very hard working people in the sorting office or the ones who turn up for the day.

### **Café Church**

Sadly, the celebration and gift day for the first year of the joining together of St John's with Berry Brow Methodist had to be postponed, due to the Queen's passing, until the 19<sup>th</sup> November. Members of the churches and the community got together to make this successful both the cooking of the butties in the morning and the afternoon café church. In October, Hand to Mouth gave a very interesting presentation at St Paul's. It was unfortunate that this was not very well attended as the presenter put a lot of work into the stations and was a late substitute. There was then a very successful Christmas Café church brought to us by David and Pam, in December. Several guests said how much they had enjoyed it. Again, thanks to all the people who make these community events possible.

We have had a moratorium on the Café Church and it was decided to try something a little different in April. We are having a morning Film Café on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments will be served during an /interval.

### **The Jubilee**

In June the Churches together held a very successful, if windy, Jubilee Picnic, to celebrate the Queen's years on the throne. It was a very windy day, but we were lucky with the weather compared to the rest of the weekend and the community came together, with many local people joining us and we had songs from the Hearts and Hands Community Choir. People said they really enjoyed the event, and it was lovely so many attended. Many, many, thanks to those from the all the Churches who helped and massive thanks to Jean Farmer for her truly magnificent royal coach. We are blessed with a wonderful team.

I once again helped with the carnival, for which I am publicity officer and would like to thank everyone for the support they gave with programmes, cakes and in many other ways. It was unfortunate that this year we clashed with the Art and Craft Exhibition, but both were well supported and hopefully neither affected the other detrimentally. Next Carnival June 17<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Following the rise in the Cost of living and particularly energy bills, we decided to offer a 'Warm Space' once a week. Funding was secured from One17 and members of the Churches and community were asked to donate soup or sweet stuff. The response was tremendous, as were the contributions. Although we did not attract as many people as we would have liked, we had a variety of people, who attended regularly for many disparate reasons. I could tell the event was valued by the guests and many of the helpers. Many, many thanks to all the helpers, whether donors or help on the day and One 17 for their funding.

Another initiative which has engaged members of the community was 'The Bread and Butter Thing'. I was contacted by Kirklees Voluntary Sector to see if I could find a suitable space. Eventually, Berry Brow Church was decided upon. Within a fortnight there were 273 members subscribed. Once again we have been blessed with people volunteering. Some weeks I was concerned we might not have enough helpers, but new people have joined and made up the numbers. There has been real camaraderie amongst the group.

I continue to help deliver food to the flats on the first and third Saturday of each month. As the flats are being emptied, and The Ark Church has moved to Lowerhouses and Longley, they are beginning to consider their next steps. All residents have been given information about the Bread and Butter Thing. Some have availed themselves of the service. Storage is still possible at North Light Galleries, but there will come a time when it is not viable to keep going. I have been impressed with the way the Ark Church have made genuine relationships with the residents, to the extent that 3 residents were baptised on Easter Saturday. They visit and are visited by other residents, and the Ark have been a great help in relocating residents. The Christmas dinner, hosted by the Sons of the North and Brookes Mill with the Ark Church took place. I was unable to attend.

Regular events. I support Crafty Chatterers every other week on a Tuesday morning from 9.30 at Berry Brow and Newsome Tenants and Residents' association on the first Tuesday each month.

I continue to network via the Wednesday morning coffee morning at Newsome Scout Hut, and Newsome Forum and Hall Bower Community events.

I have supported Growing Newsome events as well as the following:

Coffee and homemade cake at Hall Bower the first Wednesday each month (with a chance to pick up the impossible quiz).

Soup at Hall Bower the second Monday Each month

Hall Bower Ramblers who meet on the Third Monday each month (9.30)

Coffee mornings every Wednesday in the Scout Hut

Aspire Thursday Afternoons 1.30-3.30

Hearts and Hands Community Gospel Choir 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month 5.30. Berry Brow Church.

Finally I would like to thank the Council for your support. I look forward to continue working in the community and with the churches and hope to explore and enact new initiatives.

*Carol Waters  
Community Support Worker*

### **Bellringing at St Paul's**

Our band of ringers continue to peal the bells for our current Sunday services along with weddings, funerals and special occasions.

2022 being a poignant year, ringing for the Queens Jubilee, then weeks later having to fully muffle the bells to ring for Her Majesty's funeral. The circle will be complete when, like many others we will ring the bells for The Kings Coronation in May.

Since covid the make up of our weekly Wednesday practice has altered slightly, but we continue to attract ringers from other local towers who want to improve their styles or ring more difficult methods. We are still the practice to attend. Interestingly enough female ringers seem to be outnumbering the men by some distance.

Sally Austin along with Andrea and Alex Wain of St. Peters and Ruth Elliot of Almondbury attended a ART (Association Of Ringing Teachers) in

February at Oxenhope. Each now has a learner under supervision using our facilities at St. Pauls.

We have supported both local societies, Halifax Archdeaconry and The Yorkshire Association who have both held meetings, training days and practices over the last 12 months. We have also been involved in restarting regular ringing at Holy Trinity, Holmfirth, where Sally runs the Friday morning practice. Approaches have been made to help with work at St. Stephens, Lindley over the coming months.

There are a number of visiting bands booked in for summer, and we look forward to welcoming them and others wanting to ring our very nice ring of 6 bells.

*Alan Trebble*

### **Parish Environment Officer Report**

Since the last APCM, the Environment group at St Paul's Armitage Bridge has become two overlapping groups, the EcoChurch group and the "6 Steps to Carbon Net Zero" committee. The EcoChurch group has the task of pressing onward with our aim of becoming an "EcoChurch", a church that is a good steward of God's Creation when we are together and when we are living our individual lives. This is in line with the 5th Mark of Mission of the Anglican Church worldwide, "to care for creation and renew the life of the Earth".

Since the last APCM, the EcoChurch group has met in May, August and February and reports on environmental matters at Armitage Bridge have been made at each PCC meeting. The "6 Steps to Carbon Net Zero" Committee has not yet met.

Following up the 2022 Lent Course "Saying yes to Life" by Ruth Valerio, two Cafe Church meetings looked at what Carbon Footprints are and how we can all work to reduce our carbon footprints and do less damage to the planet and its atmosphere. Some church members took part in the Big Plastic Count in June. We stopped making EcoBricks, because of the possibility of chemicals leaching into the ground and contaminating it, and recommended that we all reduce the quantity of plastic we buy and minimise the amount that ends in landfill. In the "Big Green Week", during Creationtide (September - 4 October), we held a "Big Green Communion" service, environmentally themed.

The magazine Focus regularly includes environmental articles and Green Christian prayers. This February we included an EcoChurch Environmental Attitudes Survey. This gave all our readers the chance of filling in an anonymous questionnaire about their personal attitudes and lifestyle and how sustainably they live. A good number of questionnaires were returned, either online or as paper copies. The EcoChurch group looked at the results and we were pleased to find that there is a good-sized group of people committed to sustainable living, both at St Paul's and at Holy Trinity South Crosland. It also shows that we must start the EcoChurch journey at Holy Trinity too.

We consider that we are ready to submit our second EcoChurch survey and, subject to accuracy checks, that it will show that we are ready to receive the Silver Award.

Thank you to all who have contributed to our environmental journey this year.

*Debby Plummer*

## **Rectors report 2022 - 2023**

Well I would like to begin by saying thank you to all those who have helped to put this report together because it has made my job very easy. Most of our activities have been reported elsewhere so I won't bore you by going over them again. Suffice it to say that it has been an interesting year with celebrations and condolences for our lovely Queen as well as for our church family. The loss of some of our church members leaves us feeling sad but the joy of having known them leaves us with some lovely memories. And the sadness we feel at the death of our Queen is countered by the upcoming joy of the coronation of our new King Charles.

The other great sadness is of course the closure of the church building in Newsome. It is sad that we couldn't keep it going but there just wasn't enough in the reserves to keep the building safe and useable. However, looking into the future the building will be taken over by a charitable trust set up by the local councillors who will give it a new life as a community centre. As for the church in Newsome... we are still there, alive and kicking and worshipping in Berry Brow Methodist church. Our partnership with our Methodist friends is going really well and I am delighted to say that Netherton Methodist Church has also joined our weekly rota and we are covering service in all 4 churches on a rota basis.

The work of all our churches continues on a steady path with some things working well and others not quite getting there. The joint PCC meetings are going well and it makes it so much easier to get on with things when any decisions can be made at one meeting. The after school club just didn't take off and so we need to rethink how we engage with young families who don't come to church. Hopefully the planned Baptism Celebration service will give us a springboard to other events.

My role as school governor in most of the local schools is going well with lots of children now recognising me and the assemblies are going really well too.

I am now Chair of governors at Hillside and Vice Chair at South Crosland and Castle Hill. I still believe it is really important for me to be involved in all the schools because it gives me a chance to get to know families through the children.

My other role as Area Dean is also going really well too, but it has become very busy of late as we have a lot of vacancies in our Deanery which means I am helping those churches without clergy to find cover and I am responsible for all the legalities that go with the role of incumbent until they fill those posts.

There have been big changes in the Deanery too with Bishop Jonathon leaving and our new Bishop of Huddersfield being announced as Smitha Prasadam, who comes to us from Copenhagen where she is currently the only Anglican Vicar. I met Smitha when she came to Huddersfield and she seems very nice and I am looking forward to working with her.

Before I talk about what we are planning for the next 12 months I would just like to say a few thank you's. It is at our annual meeting that we have the opportunity to publicly thank those who work so hard to keep our churches open, welcoming and warm.

Thank you to all those who clean the churches and arrange flowers so that they look nice. To all those who help at our services – the welcomers, the readers, the intercessors, the coffee makers – you are all very important in the life of our churches.

Thank you to those who provide music in our services – you are truly gifted and I am so glad

that you share that gift with us and make our worship joyful. As do the members of our worship groups who use their gifts to lead services and spread the good news.

Thank you to our gardeners who work so hard to keep the grounds so tidy.

Thank you to the bellringers who let the community know that we are gathering for worship or celebrating a wedding.

Thank you to all of you who come to church regularly and smile at newcomers and make them feel at home.

I would like to thank all the churchwardens and their helpers, because they make my job easy. They are just amazing.

And finally I would like to thank David and Debby because their help and support is what makes my job possible. They give their time and energy and never complain and I know I have said this before but I really couldn't do my job without them!

So what about the future? Where are we going and how are we going to get there?

The advice from the Diocese is still to start one new thing and do it well. As I said sadly last year's attempt at an after school club failed but we need to think about what else we can do.

We are planning a Baptism Celebration service and will invite all those who have been baptised during my time here. I have plans to run a discipleship course before the summer and an enquirers course in the Autumn.

As for families – I plan to put out an appeal through the schools asking families what we can do that would interest them and what days they think it would work.

We will continue to work with our Methodist brothers and sisters facilitating community events such as Warm Spaces and The Bread and Butter Thing.

I know we all want to see our churches grow but it is only through trying things out that we find what it is that fits for our communities. So please keep praying that we will find the right way to go and be able to spread the Good News of Jesus to all those we know and those we don't yet know!

May God bless us richly in all that we do!

Rev Julie Anderson

**THE PARISH OF NEWSOME**

**and**

**ARMITAGE BRIDGE**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**2022**

**PARISH OF NEWSOME & ARMITAGE BRIDGE****Analysis of Income & Expenditure 2022**

<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
Collections	3671.24	-	3671.24	1471.50
Planned Giving Gift Aided	14680.00	960.00	15640.00	15777.00
Planned Giving Other	4078.91		4078.91	3415.22
Gift Aid Tax Refund	5320.12		5320.12	4393.15
Donations	2755.65	350.00	3105.65	3112.70
Fundraising	323.62		323.62	114.82
Lettings	7137.00		7137.00	4580.00
Fuel Subsidy	650.00		650.00	268.56
Interest on Deposits	178.39	521.74	700.13	5.18
Profit on valuation of Investments	-			1281.84
Church Hall Sales	7777.00		7777.00	3854.00
<b>Incoming Resources from Generated Funds</b>	<b>46571.93</b>	<b>1831.74</b>	<b>48403.67</b>	<b>38273.97</b>
Fees	6337.00		6337.00	2227.00
Rent	200.00		200.00	200.00
Art Exhibition Income	-	4179.07	4179.07	-
<b>Other Incoming Resources</b>	<b>6537.00</b>	<b>4179.07</b>	<b>10716.07</b>	<b>2427.00</b>
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>53108.93</b>	<b>6010.81</b>	<b>59119.74</b>	<b>40700.97</b>

<b>Resources Used</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Charitable Payments	2005.00		2005.00	2000.00
<b>Cost of Generating Funds</b>				
Church Hall Expenses	3928.28		3928.28	3827.17
<b>Other Resources Used</b>				
Clergy Expenses	22.61		22.61	107.60
Administration Expenses	434.75		434.75	741.54
Fees for Musicians	629.00		629.00	450.00
Insurance	6550.40		6550.40	6354.04
Magazine Costs	101.50		101.50	79.14
Repairs & Maintenance	4285.21	3779.00	8064.21	6640.21
Telephone	915.54		915.54	862.50
Upkeep of Services	472.68		472.68	712.15
Light & Heat	5301.35		5301.35	3199.47
Churchyard Upkeep	39.90	171.36	211.26	486.70
Refreshments	58.70		58.70	15.64
Water - Church	780.45		780.45	489.10
Bank Charges	180.61		180.61	152.31
Depreciation	1412.10	7983.03	9395.13	1983.00
Art & Craft Exhibition Costs		2291.83	2291.83	
Loss on valuation of Investments		1194.99	1194.99	
Heat Subsidy to Berry Brow MC	650.00		650.00	
<b>Resources used Outside the Parish</b>				
Parish Share	15758.00		15758.00	15580.00
<b>Total Resources Used</b>	<b>43526.08</b>	<b>15420.21</b>	<b>58946.29</b>	<b>43680.57</b>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF NEWSOME & ARMITAGE BRIDGE**

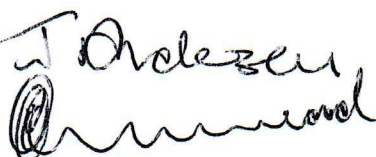
**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021**

	As at	As at
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>44926.00</b>	<b>31/12/2021</b>
Armitage Bridge	3209.00	4078.00
Newsome	0.00	<u>9038.00</u>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>3209.00</b>	<b>13116.00</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Newsome CBF A/c Fabric Fund	0.00	5499.79
Newsome Virgin Money	10487.98	4792.17
AB Leeds DBF CBF Trust Capital A/c	9001.61	10196.60
AB Leeds DBF CBF Trust Income A/c	3159.14	2851.43
AB CBF A/c Fabric Fund	16486.80	16272.77
AB CBF A/c General Fund	3083.83	3043.79
AB HSBC Bank A/c	12044.76	5852.58
AB HSBC BMM A/c	13665.86	5564.82
AB Virgin Money A/c	300.46	0.46
Traidcraft Stock	40.00	40.00
Jam Stock	231.00	231.00
Sundry Debtors & Accrued Income	1121.00	4706.50
Prepaid Expenses		<u>65.00</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>69622.44</b>	<b>59116.91</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Agency Collections	472.69	116.68
Accruals	1053.77	1063.80
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u>1526.46</u></b>	<b><u>1180.48</u></b>
<b>Net Asset surplus</b>	<b><u>68095.98</u></b>	<b><u>71052.43</u></b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Excess /(Deficit) to date	173.45	-3871.48
	71052.53	74923.91
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>71225.98</b>	<b>71052.43</b>

<b>Represented by Funds</b>		
General	44349.73	34273.78
Restricted	26876.25	<u>36778.65</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>71225.98</b>	<b><u>71052.43</u></b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 6 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Reverend J Anderson - Rector



Chairman

B.N.Greenwood

Treasurer

**Newsome & Armitage Bridge PCC  
Fixed Assets**

				<b>2022</b>
<b>Armitage Bridge</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>			
Kitchen	Cost		4790.00	
	Depreciation to 31/12/2021	3832.00		
	Depreciation for 2022	479.00	4311.00	
	Net Value 31/12/2022			479.00
Sound System	Cost		3884.20	
	Depreciation to 31/12/2021	764.20		
	Depreciation for 2022	390.00	1154.20	
	Net Value 31/12/2022			2730.00
<b>Newsome</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>			
	Cost		6938.91	
	Depreciation to 31/12/2021	5415.91		
	Depreciation for 2022			
	Sound System	580.00		
	Other Equipment	58.00		
	Church Hall Boiler	885.00	6938.91	
	Net Book Value 31/12/2022			0.00
	<b>Restricted</b>			
Church Equipment	Cost		7960.69	
	Depreciation to 31/12/2021	5435.69		
	Depreciation for 2022	2525.00	7960.69	
	Net Value 31/12/2022			0.00
Organ	Cost		32800.38	
	Depreciation to 31/12/2021	27869.38		
	Depreciation for 2022	4931.00	32800.38	
	Net Value 31/12/2022			0.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>				<b><u>3209.00</u></b>

**Depreciation Policy**

Armitage Bridge Straight Line 10% pa  
 Newsome Assets written off  
 following sale of church

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF NEWSOME AND ARMITAGE BRIDGE**

I report on the accounts for 2022

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent 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(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;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 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 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**


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

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 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and 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.

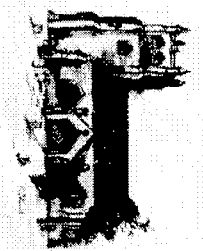
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25/2/23.....

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# Accounts

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Armitage Bridge



Newsome

**THE PARISH OF NEWSOME and ARMITAGE BRIDGE**  
**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, NEWSOME**  
**and ST PAUL'S, ARMITAGE BRIDGE**  
**(Part of the Emmanuel Team Benefice)**

**Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council**

For the period April 2021 to April 2022

**and**

**Financial Statements**

For the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

**Incumbent:**

Rector: The Revd. Julie Anderson

The Rectory, 42 Beaumont Park Road, Huddersfield

**Bank:**

Yorkshire Bank plc

40 New Street Huddersfield

HSBC

Cloth Hall Street  
Huddersfield

Central Board of Finance of the Church of England

80 Cheapside

London

Independent examiner

Julie Bray

## The Parish of St John, Newsome and St Paul, Armitage Bridge

(Part of the Emmanuel Team Benefice and the Local Ecumenical Partnership)

### ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDENS

Monday 24 May 2021 at St Paul's, Armitage Bridge

- 1 **Revd Julie opened the meeting with a prayer**

- 2 **Present:** Revd Julie Anderson, Dennis Calvert, Tony Crawshaw, Catherine Day, Melanie Farrar, Bruce & Gillian Greenwood, Helen & Ian Hales, Rosalie Hampshire, David Hirst (Secretary), Melody Hirst, Revd David and Pam Kent, Naomi Pinkney, Revd Canon Debby and Jeremy Plummer, June Richardson, Pamela Thomas, Alan Trebble and Elizabeth Wakefield

**Apologies for absence** were received from Joyce Garside, Katherine Huggett, Angela Morton, Sarah Pope, Chris Storey and Margaret Sunderland

- 3 **The minutes of last year's meeting** held on 27 October 2020 were approved after a proposal from Tony Crawshaw, seconded by Rosalie Hampshire

- 4 **Election of Churchwardens**

<i>Church represented</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Seconder</i>
Newsome	June Richardson	Melody Hirst	Joyce Garside
Armitage Bridge	Pamela Thomas	Catherine Day	Melody Hirst
Armitage Bridge	Antony Crawshaw	Pamela Thomas	Catherine Day

- 5 **Election of Deputy Churchwarden**

<i>Church represented</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Seconder</i>
Armitage Bridge	Gillian Greenwood	Pamela Thomas	Melody Hirst

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- 1 **Present:** As above. The attendance of Revd David and Revd Canon Debby - who are not on the Electoral Roll - was approved by the meeting

**Apologies for absence:** As above

- 2 **Minutes of the last year's meeting** held on 27 October 2020 were approved after a proposal from Melanie Farrar, seconded by Ian Hales

- 3 **Electoral Roll Report 2021**

The report prepared by the Electoral Roll Officer (David Hirst) as shown in the Annual Report, was accepted by the meeting. The total number after the 2021 revision is 76

Newsome: 24 (Res) + 5 (Non Res) = 29                      Armitage Bridge: 24 (Res) + 23 (Non Res) = 47

- 4 **The Annual Report** was accepted as printed

**5 Treasurer's Report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020**

In commenting upon the accounts Bruce made clear that the financial outcome for the year was achieved because of the monthly standing order contributions made by members of both churches. Many thanks are due to them and it would be greatly appreciated if other members undertook to contribute by standing order

Bruce and Joyce Garside were thanked for the work they had carried out in their Treasurer roles

**6 The Churchwarden & Fabric Reports shown in the Annual Report were accepted**

Revd Julie expressed thanks to June Richardson and Pamela Thomas for their good service, who in turn expressed appreciation for the help they had received from other members of their churches

June Richardson mentioned that the actual cost of boiler repairs at Newsome was £763.24 – rather than the approximate cost of £500 stated in her Churchwarden's Report

**7 Election of PCC members (to serve until 2024)**

<i>Church represented</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Secunder</i>
Armitage Bridge	Ian Hales	Antony Crawshaw	David Hirst
Armitage Bridge	Melody Hirst	Catherine Day	Antony Crawshaw
Newsome	Pam Kent	Melody Hirst	Catherine Day
Armitage Bridge	Melanie Farrar	Helen Hales	Bruce Greenwood

**8 DCC membership**

Gillian Greenwood, Naomi Pinkney and Sarah Pope will retain their DCC status although joint DCC meetings with the PCC will continue for some months. No new DCC appointments are to be made

**9 Appointment of Independent Examiner - Julie M Carter was re-appointed**

**10 Deanery Synod Report**

No election was held as Bruce Greenwood and Katherine Huggett only commenced their three year term in 2020. Bruce has since become Deanery Treasurer and Helen Pearson (Holy Trinity, South Crosland) has taken on the role of Deanery Secretary. A Deanery Lay-Chairperson is still required

The Deanery Synod Report as contained in the Annual Report was accepted

**11 Safeguarding Report was accepted as contained in the Annual Report**

**12 Additional Reports:** Thanks were expressed to all those who had submitted the various reports including the comprehensive explanation of bell-ringing activities at St Paul's (which are a reminder of the presence of the church in the community)

In her role as Parish Environment Officer Revd Canon Debby read a short report about the progress made on environmental matters.

**13 Team Rector's Report**

Revd Julie said that as Area Dean she has joined the Diocesan Synod. She reported that a bid for children/youth work had failed; that Archdeacon Anne will be retiring in October and that the highly praised *Living in Love & Faith* initiative - promoting inclusive church - will cascade down

Rosalie Hampshire expressed her disappointment about the intended closure of St John's at Newsome, believing it should be possible to save the church. Revd Julie replied that too few people were attending the church and even fewer were available to contribute to the workload. Nor was there sufficient income to meet the costs of maintaining the building or paying the parish share

It is now considered unnecessary to hold a public meeting when the circumstances for St John's have clearly worsened and Kirklees Council has undertaken to make community use of the building

Revd Julie went on to explain the intention to bring together the congregations from Newsome and Berry Brow in the Methodists' building. Discussions have taken place and a draft *Memorandum of Understanding* produced for further debate - and clarification of outstanding issues - in conjunction with representatives from the Oakwood Church, Leeds where there has been the successful implementation of a similar initiative. NB: Tim Francis will replace Nancy Ndoho at BB in September

**14**

**Any matters of parochial or general church interest:**

A decision on the possible appointment of curate is awaited

Several members expressed appreciation for the operation of the *Agape* WhatsApp group, which provides a communication forum featuring prayers, photographs and personal comments. It has become a source of comfort and support for them

Our three churches will continue to meet on a three-weekly rota (at 10am) until September. But Revd Julie felt we need to reflect on future meeting arrangements as she thinks that holding traditional services every Sunday is not the way forward

**15**

**Conclusion**

Revd David thanked Revd Julie for her efforts to '*keep the show on the road through thick and thin*'

He was particularly impressed by her ability to understand and develop the use of new technology in order to introduce online communication methods for the benefit of our church members and beyond. He is confident this strength will be advantageous in the future. The meeting showed its appreciation to Julie, David and Debbie

Revd Julie closed the meeting at 8.15pm with a prayer followed by the Grace

## Annual report for October 2020-April 2021

### Electoral Roll Report

Since the 2021 APCM, Brenda Newby of St John's congregation has unfortunately passed away.

There are three additions at St Paul's: Wendy Wilkinson, Ann Williams and Graeme Williams.

The numbers after the 2022 revision are:

	Total	Res	Non-res
Newsome	28	23	5
Armitage Bridge	50	24	26
Parish of N and AB	78	47	31

With the closure of St John's, the Newsome figures are less than meaningful and therefore the total figures are somewhat overstated

David Hirst

Electoral Roll Officer

### Formal Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

The Council present their report and accounts for 2021/22. They have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number 1131703.

The PCC works, in consultation with the clergy, on matters of general concern and importance to the parish. Among its aim in the parish, is the promotion of the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The Parochial Church Council met 5 times together with the DCC for both churches as combined meetings during the period plus a short meeting following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

### Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

*During the period, the following served as members of the PCC:*

Rev'd Julie Anderson

Churchwardens

June Richardson Newsome

Pamela Thomas Armitage Bridge

Antony Crawshaw Armitage Bridge

Deputy at AB – Gillian Greenwood

Deanery Synod

Bruce Greenwood PCC Treasurer

Katherine Huggett

Armitage Bridge elected members

Catherine Day (elected 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019)

Helen Hales (elected 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019)

David Hirst (elected 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020)

Chris Storey (elected 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020)

Melanie Farrar (elected 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Ian Hales (elected 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Melody Hirst (elected 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Newsome elected members

Pamela Kent (elected 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018)

### Church Attendance

Since reopening the churches Sunday attendance has been good and there is still a has had a good attendance on YouTube too.

### Worship

As the pandemic continued throughout the year we have been able to hold in person services with restrictions in place to keep everyone safe. We have continued to hold services alternate weeks at Armitage Bridge and South Crosland at 9.15 and Newsome have now moved in with Berry Brow Methodists and there service it at 11.15am each week. Numbers have been good at most services. Julie has continued to record services every week, as there are those who cannot get out now and it keeps them connected with church. It is available to church members and friends via email and to anyone with access to our website. Those without technology are provided with a service sheet, sermon and readings to use at home. Additional services were recorded in Advent, including another schools Nativity which was shown online and was watched by families – another good outreach!

### Risk management

The PCC is aware of risks to which the church is exposed and steps have been taken to mitigate such risks, for example by having insurance cover. With Newsome getting ready to close it has

appointed Roy Broadbent to continue as Health and Safety Officer until we have a date for the closure. Armitage Bridge appointed David Hirst as Health and Safety Officer for the beginning of

this period and now Sarah Pope has taken on the role. Ian Hales is the Fire Officer Safeguarding Officer for the Parish is Pamela Thomas.

### **The Safeguarding Officer for this PCC is Pamela Thomas.**

Pamela works with Helen Pearson (Safeguarding Officer for South Crosland PCC and lead recruiter for the Benefice) to ensure our volunteers working with vulnerable groups have a current DBS check. Hopefully a training programme will recommence in 2022

Issues raised by the Diocese are followed up by our Benefice Safeguarding Officers.

In 2019 The Church of England issued a new Parish Safeguarding Handbook. Our churches were assessed against it and it was agreed that we have in place all that we should have for the current activities in them. Posters with safeguarding names and contact details are up in our churches.

*Pamela Thomas*

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

**Please see separate document for the accounts.**

This was the second year badly affected by the restrictions due to the pandemic.

We hired out St Paul's for the first time in June and returned to the normal pattern in September.

A couple of people hired the church to record performances for their CV, a possible new source of income.

Our new pattern of services did not begin until 2022 so in 2021 our collections have fluctuated considerably. Generally we receive a high percentage given by card. We are looking into having a 'giving' button and QR Code on the website and Church Near You site, but we would need to create a good narrative for a reason to give rather than just 'Pay Here'.

The PCC figures are badly affected by the decline at St John's.

As expected Plate Collections are down a lot but Planned Giving has held up very well. There is a decline at St John's but at St Paul's several contributors by standing order have increased their giving which is very welcome in this time of high inflation.

We are very grateful for the support from Planned Givers by Standing Order through the pandemic as their continued giving whether we were open

or closed has seen us through this difficult period financially.

Now that the Together Shop has re-opened the churches received a donation of £1,000 each. Lettings have started to rise again and exceeded 2020.

The fees increased as we had a couple of weddings, the remainder being from Funerals.

The Church Hall made a modest surplus against a large loss in 2020.

Repair and maintenance increased by £2,000 due to 2 items. The electricity circuits had persistent problems which our contractors have now eliminated but this took a good deal of time, hence the payments. In addition, now that the church is being used frequently, we have returned the cleaning schedule to normal from September 2021. This costs £2132 per annum in a full year.

St Paul's was able to pay its Parish Share in full but St John's, understandably, paid nothing.

Our other expenses have been as expected.

Moving into 2022 we begin with adequate resources. St John's still has to continue paying maintenance expenses (Insurance, fuel, maintenance contracts) until the property is taken over so their funds will dwindle.

In 2022 St Paul's begins with £19,000 in the Fabric Fund and a further £14,000 in the general accounts. This year we will spend £5,000 on the Quinquennial, tree inspection, electrical inspection and bridge inspection. The Fabric Fund which will cover the costs. We hope for a healthy, active 2022 and a return to normality – we have the funds to see us through until 2023.

*Bruce Greenwood*

*Treasurer*

### **CHURCHWARDENS REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOOD & ORNAMENTS**

#### **St John's Newsome**

When lockdown restrictions eased our services resumed within the covid guidelines. The three-week rota continued with a 10am start, along with the online service. The ACPM was held in May and the Archdeacons Visitation for Church wardens was via zoom.

The decision to close St John's had already been decided, the PCC gave approval.

In August a representative from the diocese inspected the organ with a view to it being placed in another Church.

The last regular service at St John's was on August 15<sup>th</sup>. The three-week rota now includes Berry Brow Methodist church as the congregation of St John's shares services with our Methodist friends. The time remained at 10am but changed in the New Year to alternate services at 9.15am in Armitage Bridge and South Crosland and 11.15am each week at Berry Brow. Some of the small Newsome congregation now attend the Methodist Church.

The plan for St John's church building is for the local councillors to buy it from the Diocese and to turn it into a community centre. In October the Green party Councillors held an open day to show the plans to the public. The councillors are keen to keep many of the historical features of the building and commemorate the church over the years it has been there. The Churchyard is already closed but the cremated remains area will remain open for interment of ashes. The Remembrance Day service at Berry Brow was well attended by the Scout group and members of all three Churches.

In December a lady from the Church of England Church Buildings Board visited St John's to do another survey and prepare a report. This report was then tabled at the January meeting and we are still awaiting the outcome.

Baptisms and funerals continue to be held at St John's. All maintenance and utility bills are ongoing and will continue until the building is handed over to new owners, or we run out of funds.

Julie has organised a clearance project in St John's with people from each church helping.

Up to now there is no official closing date. Once this is known we will organise a final service, inviting the community to come and celebrate the life of the church.

*June Richardson.  
Warden.*

### **St Paul's Armitage Bridge**

As well as the usual routine maintenance i.e. Servicing Fire Alarms and equipment, P.A. Testings, Boiler Maintenance and cleaning gutters, a lot of additional planned maintenance was completed in

2021 to ensure that the church is kept in good repair. And after lockdown a lot of electrical work needed to be done.

Christmas services were well attended, Julie still doing an on line service each Sunday.

After Christmas we started a 9.15 service alternating weeks with South Crosland this seems to be going very well.

We are awaiting a survey report on the trees, there were very strong winds at the start of 2022, We also had severe flooding in February, the river burst its banks the car park flooded and top dressing is gone, but fortunately did not get to the Church its self.

We had the Quinquennial inspection in February and have yet to look at it in detail.

Churchwardens checked the inventory and log book, all found to be in order.

The Church yard has been cleared of brambles, some saplings and low branches, and the ivy and moss on the surrounding walls.

Thank you to everybody who has helped in any way to keep the Church and Church yard safe clean and well maintained.

*Tony Crawshaw and Pamela Thomas  
Wardens*

### **Deanery Synod Report 2021/22**

Since the last APCM we have met three times. These have been a combination for Zoom, hybrid and in person with a live YouTube broadcast! The first meeting was an introduction. A chance to meet people for around the diocese as we were split up into groups of people that we didn't know. As this was my first meeting this was not difficult! From this the need for a central list of people with talents and skills within our churches as well as trades people that have been used before was raised. There was also a discussion around people's knowledge of grant funding.

The second meeting was held at Armitage Bridge. This was a hybrid affair, with the focus being on coming out of COVID. This was harder for all to follow, and the decision was made that next time we would do one or the other.

Finally, our third meeting. This was centered on our impact on the planet and the steps that we

need to take to net zero carbon emissions. The aim is to do this by 2030 for the whole of the Church of England. A presentation was given with an introduction to our impact on the global temperature as well as the impact on people's lives. The scope for having net zero carbon emissions is scope 1 and 2 emissions. This includes our direct burning of fossil fuels (eg using gas central heating, the petrol for the lawn mower, Julie's mileage for church business). This also includes our VA school.

We can also complete the carbon bit on the online parish returns as well as the carbon 360 to look at the carbon of everything that we do!

The last section was on the 6 steps to net zero.

1. Measure and monitor
2. Plan and prepare – Debby has done a lot of this!
3. Essential energy actions – Maintain the building well, think about our electricity source.
4. Essential travel action
5. Carbon offsetting
6. Stepping up and out

Some possible good news on actioning some of this is that we were told that Faculty jurisdiction rules have been adjusted to take into account the environmental guidelines. Comes in on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

*Katherine Huggett  
Deacony Rep*

### **Maintenance of the churchyard at**

#### **Armitage Bridge**

The gardening team have managed to keep going over autumn and winter 2021/22

Our mistake last year was letting the two large plots at the rear of the church building get too overgrown, we did manage to rectify this and concentrated our efforts in cutting it all back with the mowers and strimmers, its paid dividends already, we have managed a trim in 2022 before the bulbs etc came through and we will continue to both keep this area under control and improve its appearance.

A few bushes have been planted down by the rear wall, we are hoping that along with the bulbs planted last spring this area will start to look more attractive. There was signs of knotweed reappearing, this was treated last year and as yet there are no fresh signs of it.

We had the flooding in March 2022. A job this year will be to wall up the gap that's between the fence and wall near the footbridge, hopefully this will help in keeping flash flooding into the carpark at bay.

The front areas have not as yet had a full cut, in part its too wet and the grass hasn't grown as

quickly. Moss is becoming a problem in some of these areas, we intend to reduce the cutting a bit coupled with raking some areas of moss out. See how it pans out.

We have already mentioned about the problems with the Garden of Remembrance regarding the trinkets, bottles etc. Its probably worth mentioning at this point the increase of dog muck around the plot.

The equipment that was at the bottom of the tower stairs has now been cleared into the basement as the architect asked us to do. At present we are using a temporary light but if the storage down there becomes permanent then we ought to think of installing a fixed light.

As things stand the equipment appears to be in good working order, hopefully no major purchases will be required this year.

*Alan Trebble*

## **REPORTS OF OTHER ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE CHURCHES.**

### **Children's activities:**

#### **Junior Church at St. Paul's**

We have not been able to hold a Junior Church for some time due to Covid. However since the restrictions have eased and services have resumed, it has been uplifting to see young faces among our congregation.

Several children have made use of our activity bags which are available to them during the service. We are hoping to re-start Junior Church after Easter.

*Melody Hirst and Sam McGregor*

### **The schools and community**

Julie has started back at the schools doing assembly and these have been well received.

### **Prayer, Study, Youth and Worship Groups**

Julie provides daily Bible readings every month to encourage folk to read their bibles.

During Lent a Bible Study based on Ruth Valerio's book *Saying Yes to life* was held via zoom.

### **Pastoral care**

There is no formal pastoral care provision at either St Paul's or St John's but it operates on an informal "word of mouth" basis. A small team distribute the Focus magazine, send cards and letters where and when appropriate and visit people at home, in hospital or care homes usually with some home baking for those they visit.

Most of the people visited are church members who can no longer attend services for various

reasons and they really appreciate a visit and all the news from church. Other local folk are visited too if they request it and we try to support and care for all those who need us.

During lockdown a weekly delivery of the sermon and hymns for that week has given chance for people to support those who are unable to get out due to Covid19.

### **LEP (Churches together in South Huddersfield)/Ecumenical work**

This has been a bit of a stop, start year for community events.

### **Pop up sale for the Together Shop**

It was delightful to see all the people who came together to make this event prosper. Elizabeth Wakefield was able to co-ordinate with the Scouts, who on the day were so very helpful.

There were many volunteers who did a fantastic job sorting and preparing the goods beforehand, including some amazing ironing done by Pam and Angela, as well as on the day the people who were on hand to display the goods to look attractive and to enable shoppers to find what they were looking for. It was a great success, financially and socially and the event made more than £400. It was such a success it was decided to have a second in the spring.

We had the first (and last) Café church of the year in November. About 20 people attended to listen to Rev Tim Francis entertaining and lively story of determination and resilience on his way to the ministry.

The Christmas Craft Fair in aid of the Carnival was very successful and very well supported. Following the rise of the Omicron variant the relaunch of activities slightly stumbled.

Unfortunately, the Café church in December was cancelled due to illness of some members of the choir and their families.

Assembly at Berry Brow IJNS, with Revs Julie and Tim has paused; I also continue to help deliver food to the flats on the first and third Saturday of each month. The Christmas dinner, hosted by the Sons of the North and Brookes Mill with the Ark Church went well, with up to 80 dinners served and a dozen dinners sent out. Luke and the team managed to raise enough funds, thanks to the generosity of the customers for 200 meals so the surplus went to other food banks.

Café Church returned on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March with a Carbon Conversation with Rev. Debby. It was very successful and we had to add to the tables. Next one Easter Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> for the Ukraine.

I am also chair of Governors at the Federation of Berry Brow and Newsome Schools

Regular events. I support Crafty Chatterers every other week on a Tuesday morning from 9.30 at Berry Brow (next date 5<sup>th</sup> April) and Newsome Tenants and residents association.

I network via the Wednesday morning coffee morning at Newsome, and Newsome Forum. I am publicity officer for Berry Brow Carnival Committee.

I have supported Growing Newsome events as well as the following:

- Coffee and homemade cake at Hall Bower the first Wednesday each month (with a chance to pick up the impossible quiz).
- Soup at Hall Bower the second Monday Each month
- Hall Bower Ramblers meet on the Third Monday each month (9.30)
- Coffee mornings every Wednesday in the Scout Hut
- Aspire Thursday Afternoons 1.30-3.30
- Community Gospel Choir 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month 5.30. The Gospel Choir began rehearsals again in January with a view to expanding its repertoire. As always, we welcome everyone who enjoys singing whatever their level of virtuosity. We have had several interesting projects, recording as backing singers for a University project and performing at the Lawrence Batley Theatre. Hopefully more to come! Choir meets the first and third Sunday each month at 5.30 at Berry Brow MC.

Future possible Events:

### **Berry Brow Carnival**

Hopefully, the next Berry Brow Carnival will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

I have been a member of the Carnival Committee since its inception, 15 years ago. I am passionate about it as it brings the community together. For the last 2 years we have tried to keep the community spirit alive on our Facebook page with virtual quizzes and competitions. This year we are hosting an Easter Bunny Trail on the 9<sup>th</sup> April. (Coffee Morning with Bacon Butties Available.)

need to take to net zero carbon emissions. The aim is to do this by 2030 for the whole of the Church of England. A presentation was given with an introduction to our impact on the global temperature as well as the impact on people's lives. The scope for having net zero carbon emissions is scope 1 and 2 emissions. This includes our direct burning of fossil fuels (eg using gas central heating; the petrol for the lawn mower, Julie's mileage for church business). This also includes our VA school.

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Most of the people visited are church members who can no longer attend services for various

Future possible projects:

I am aware that things are slowly building back and it would be lovely if we could perhaps organise something for the Queen's jubilee and if anyone would like to suggest other joint projects that may go well, please get in touch.

With reference to funds, I am going to research grants so that we can be a more active presence in the community when that becomes possible.

Carol Waters March 2022

### **Choir and music report**

Singing has restarted and it is wonderful to worship in song as well as words!

### **Bellingring at St Paul's**

Our ringing activities continue gather pace as we pull away from the Covid problem. Sunday morning services have all been covered and rung for returning back to 8:45 ringing.

Wednesday practice has proved to be a little more difficult to manage, we get a number of visitors from various towers, trying to accommodate everyone's health and ringing needs is a juggling act.

Dennis Chaffer has regretfully decided he can no longer continue being a member of our band due to health reasons. His contribution over the last 20 years has been immense not only to the ringers but to St. Pauls as a whole. This does mean that various amendments need to be made and the ringers will be having a meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm to ratify the matters arising.

To date this year we have hosted and assisted a training day run by The YACR (Western Branch) continuing in February at Meltham and New Mill in February and at Todmorden in March.

We have a visiting band from Lancaster booked in for their outing in the area on March 19<sup>th</sup> and a peal attempt on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Halifax Archdeaconry have not held their monthly Monday evening practice so far this year, not sure if and when his will resume.

Along with the rest of the building the architect inspected the tower on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of February, it is all in order. His only recommendations being that the top chamber be swept of dust, twigs etc, the fluorescent tubes in the ringing room be exchanged at some point for LED tubes. He was also pleased to see we have cleared the bottom of the tower steps of the sundry gardening items ( which are now stored in the old boiler room ).

Looking forward we are wanting this year to arrange and join in with some ringing for both the Art Exhibition and the Queens Platinum celebrations, apparently on the same weekend.

*Alan Trebble*

### **Rectors report 2020 - 2021**

At the time of writing this report all restrictions in England have been lifted and life is slowly returning to normal. It has been a very difficult 2 years and we need to reflect on what it means for us as a worshipping community to have experienced all the highs and lows that came with Covid19. I don't want to spend time listing them because my highs and lows may be different to yours but I would encourage you to take a moment and just sit quietly and reflect and give thanks for all that God has done.

I am also sure we all have those we would like to thank for their giving generously of their time and talents. And again I encourage you to do that. I would like to thank all those who have given their time to ensure that we are all able to connect with church and worship God. I want to give thanks...

- For the folk who have delivered the sermon each week to those who are still housebound.
- For those who clean the churches and those who do the flowers. For those who welcome people at the door and those who serve the coffee. You all help to make our churches warm and welcoming.
- For those on the worship teams who work so hard to ensure everyone can have an uplifting service once a month.
- For the gardeners who keep the grounds so tidy.
- For the bellringers who let the community know that we are gathering for worship or celebrating a wedding.
- For all those who have helped with the music this year. For those who have stepped as George has been unable to play at Armitage Bridge and for Tony and all those in the music group at South Crosland
- For the churchwardens who have all been brilliant and who make my job easy as I don't have to worry about all the jobs that need doing – they just get on and get them done.

- For David and Debby as they share in the ministry of our parishes – I couldn't do my job without them.
- For everyone who comes to church and encourages me week on week. I always feel very blessed to be here and thank God everyday for each one of you

Before I look to the future I want to update you on St John's church building at Newsome. The proposal to close the church has now gone through all the committees of the Church of England and to my knowledge it has passed through them all and we are now just awaiting a closure date from the Church Commissioners. The local councillors have been working hard to make sure they are ready to start work once we move out.

I have been very busy over the last 12 months with all the local schools and am now back doing collective worship at Newsome Juniors, South Crosland Juniors and now Hillside Primary. I have also taken on the role of Chair of Governors at Hillside which is proving to be a challenging but very rewarding role.

My role as Area Dean for the Almondbury and Kirkburton Deanery has continued to be busy but very interesting as we look to the future and what we can do together to share resources. It has been good to share the load with Helen Pearson and Bruce Greenwood and having joint Deanery Synod meetings makes life a lot easier too.

But what about the future? Where are we going and how are we going to get there?

The advice from the Diocese is to start one new thing and do it well. Once you have established that then move on to one more thing. They have recognised that we are all tired. It has been a tough 2 years and everyone is feeling the strain so if we try to do too much all at the same time we will reach burn out!!

So for us, as a Benefice, the one thing we are going to do is to start and after school activity at South Crosland Junior School. This will be for children and their parent/carer to come and learn about Jesus! We will have bible stories, drama, games, a craft, singing and prayer so it will be church in a different guise. But and it is a big but... I will need volunteers to help me with it. It will be

once a month – on a Thursday – straight after school – starting on 28<sup>th</sup> April.  
If you can help then let me know but if you feel you can't be there then you can help by praying. We all know that prayer works so we need some real prayer warriors who will spend time praying about our work with children and families – and we can all do that!!

For us as churches together we are looking to start a drop in for those who are finding life difficult, especially as the cost of living rises and they don't know what to do. We may be able to offer them a hot meal but we can certainly offer them a warm welcome and a cuppa and a safe space to talk about their woes!! We are just in the planning stages at this time but we will keep you informed!!

So the future is looking good and hopefully we will be out there in the mission field telling people about Jesus and after all that is all God asks us to do. So let's do by our actions and our words and let's pray for "Thy kingdom come"!

May God bless us richly in all that we do!

Rev Julie Anderson

**THE PARISH OF NEWSOME  
and  
ARMITAGE BRIDGE**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**2021**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF NEWSOME & ARMITAGE BRIDGE**

**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021**

	As at	As at
	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Armitage Bridge	4078.00	4947.00
Newsome	<u>9038.00</u>	<u>10317.00</u>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>13116.00</b>	<b>15264.00</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Newsome CBF A/c Fabric Fund	5499.79	5496.92
Newsome Virgin Money	4792.17	5627.86
AB Leeds DBF CBF Trust Capital A/c	10196.60	8914.76
AB Leeds DBF CBF Trust Income A/c	2851.43	2590.92
AB CBF A/c Fabric Fund	16272.77	15304.72
AB CBF A/c General Fund	3043.79	3042.20
AB HSBC Bank A/c	5852.58	5552.87
AB HSBC BMM A/c	5564.82	7564.10
AB Virgin Money A/c	0.46	300.46
Traidcraft Stock	40.00	40.00
Jam Stock	231.00	231.00
Sundry Debtors & Accrued Income	4706.50	5996.00
Prepaid Expenses	<u>65.00</u>	<u>120.00</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>59116.91</b>	<b>60781.81</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Agency Collections	116.68	82.90
Accruals	1063.80	1039.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u>1180.48</u></b>	<b><u>1121.90</u></b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Excess /(Deficit) to date	-3871.48	-2011.54
	74923.91	76935.45
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>71052.43</b>	<b>74923.91</b>
<b>Represented by Funds</b>		
General	34273.78	38912.94
Restricted	<u>36778.65</u>	<u>36010.97</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>71052.43</u></b>	<b><u>74923.91</u></b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 7 March 2022 and signed on its

behalf by

Reverend J Anderson - Rector



Chairman

B.N.Greenwood



Treasurer

**PARISH OF NEWSOME & ARMITAGE BRIDGE**  
**Analysis of Income & Expenditure 2021**

<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>Total 2020</b>
Bequest	-	-	-	11000.00
Collections	1471.50	-	1471.50	2628.04
Planned Giving Gift Aided	14817.00	960.00	15777.00	17601.00
Planned Giving Other	3415.22	-	3415.22	3802.23
Gift Aid Tax Refund	4393.15	-	4393.15	4991.72
Donations	2862.70	250.00	3112.70	1446.30
Fundraising	114.82	-	114.82	239.11
Lettings	4580.00	-	4580.00	3420.00
Dividends	-	268.56	268.56	260.47
Interest on Deposits	2.31	2.87	5.18	109.54
Profit on valuation of Investments	-	1281.84	1281.84	575.82
Church Hall Sales	3854.00	-	3854.00	4598.00
<b>Incoming Resources from Generated Funds</b>	<b>35510.70</b>	<b>2763.27</b>	<b>38273.97</b>	<b>50672.23</b>
Fees	2227.00	-	2227.00	1407.00
Rent	200.00	-	200.00	175.00
Refund of VAT	-	-	-	-
Donation Art & Crafts	-	-	-	366.10
<b>Other Incoming Resources</b>	<b>2427.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2427.00</b>	<b>1948.10</b>
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>37937.70</b>	<b>2763.27</b>	<b>40700.97</b>	<b>52620.33</b>

<b>Resources Used</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>Total 2020</b>
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Charitable Payments	2000.00		2000.00	1750.00
<b>Cost of Generating Funds</b>				
Church Hall Expenses	3827.17		3827.17	5170.29
<b>Other Resources Used</b>				
Clergy Expenses	107.60		107.60	279.67
Administration Expenses	741.54		741.54	641.58
Fees for Musicians	450.00		450.00	470.00
Insurance	6354.04		6354.04	6529.64
Magazine Costs	79.14		79.14	65.84
Repairs & Maintenance	6640.21	-	6640.21	4596.82
Telephone	862.50		862.50	981.28
Upkeep of Services	712.15		712.15	468.24
Light & Heat	3199.47		3199.47	4801.64
Churchyard Upkeep	358.11	128.59	486.70	547.00
Refreshments	15.64		15.64	45.80
Water - Church	489.10		489.10	443.73
Bank Charges	152.31		152.31	193.49
Depreciation	121.00	1862.00	1983.00	2048.20
<b>Resources used Outside the Parish</b>				
Parish Share	15580.00		15580.00	26330.00
<b>Total Resources Used</b>	<b>41689.98</b>	<b>1990.59</b>	<b>43680.57</b>	<b>55363.22</b>

**Newsome & Armitage Bridge PCC  
Fixed Assets**

**2021**

<b>Armitage Bridge</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Kitchen	Cost		4790.00
	Depreciation to 31/12/2020	3353.00	
	Depreciation for 2021	479.00	3832.00
	Net Value 31/12/2021		958.00
Sound System	Cost		3884.20
	Depreciation to 31/12/2020.	374.20	
	Depreciation for 2021	390.00	764.20
	Net Value 31/12/2021		3120.00

<b>Newsome</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>		
	Cost		6938.91
	Depreciation to 31/12/2020	5129.91	
	Depreciation for 2021		
	Sound System	110.00	
	Other Equipment	11.00	
	Church Hall Boiler	165.00	5415.91
	Net Book Value 31/12/2021		1582.00

	<b>Restricted</b>		
Church Equipment	Cost		7960.69
	Depreciation to 31/12/2020	4990.69	
	Depreciation for 2021	445.00	5435.69
	Net Value 31/12/2021		2525.00

Organ	Cost		32800.38
	Depreciation to 31/12/2020	27321.38	
	Depreciation for 2021	548.00	27869.38
	Net Value 31/12/2021		4931.00

**Total Fixed Assets** **13116.00**

**Depreciation Policy**

Armitage Bridge Straight Line 10% pa  
 Newsome Depreciation on the reducing balance: 10% pa  
 Church Organ, Church Equipment, Church Hall Boiler 15% pa  
 Remainder 15% pa

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF  
NEWSOME AND ARMITAGE BRIDGE**

I report on the accounts for 2021

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent 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(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;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 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 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**

- 1 In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:  
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 2011 Act; and
  - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave 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.

 ..... 24/2/22 .....

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