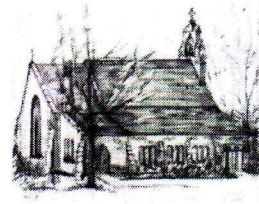


*Armitage Bridge*



*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>Seconder</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 out 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****Incoming Resources**

	<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

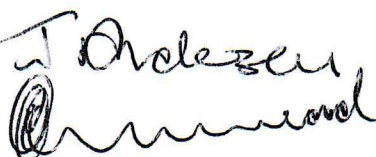
		As at	As at
Fixed Assets		44926.00	31/12/2021
	Armitage Bridge	3209.00	4078.00
	Newsome	0.00	<u>9038.00</u>
	<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>3209.00</b>	<b>13116.00</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
	Newsome CBF A/c Fabric Fund	0.00	5499.79
	Newsome Virgin Money	10487.98	4792.17
	AB Leeds DBF CBF Trust Capital 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>

### Represented by Funds

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**

				2022
<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.

.....

25/2/23.....