



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:

	Total	Residents	Non-residents
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 24th May 2021)

Ian Hales (elected 24th May 2021)

Melody Hirst (elected 24th May 2021)

Pamela Kent (Elected 24th May 2021)

Helen Hales (elected 28th March 2022)

Naomi Pinkney (elected 28th March 2022)

Sarah Pope (elected 28th 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 10th - Annual Family Picnic – approved

17th Sept – Big Birthday party for family and friends – approved

March 16th – 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 80th 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 7th 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 17th 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
Incoming resources					
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
Total income	56,458.53	6,431.42	-	62,889.95	47,678.04
Resources used					
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
Total expenditure	43,270.29	9,728.90	-	52,999.19	38,420.51
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	13,188.24	(3,297.48)	-	9,890.76	9,257.53
Transfers					
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)
Other recognised gains / losses					

Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-

Net movement in funds	13,518.24	(3,627.48)	-	9,890.76	9,257.53
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Total funds brought forward	33,861.75	26,876.25	-	60,738.00	51,480.47
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Total funds carried forward	47,379.99	23,248.77	-	70,628.76	60,738.00
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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

Total funds	47,379.99	23,248.77	-	70,628.76	60,738.00
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Balance Sheet detailed

Class and code	Description	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Fixed assets			
0001	Sound System	2,340.00	2,730.00
002	Kitchen	-	479.00
	Total Fixed assets	2,340.00	3,209.00
Current assets			
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	-	-
TRAIDSTK	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
	Total Current assets	69,772.72	59,055.46
Liabilities			
6699	Agency collections	635.66	472.69
ACCRUALS	Accruals	848.30	1,053.77
Z04	Accounts payable	-	-
	Total Liabilities	1,483.96	1,526.46

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

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)

		Balance	Previous balance
Tangible Assets			
0001: Sound System			
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>
002: Kitchen			
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>
	Tangible Assets	2,340.00	3,209.00
Cash At Bank And In Hand			
CASH: Cash			
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
		<hr/> (69.00)	<hr/> (69.00)
CBFCHURCH: Churchyard CBF Account			
Churchyard Maintenance	Restricted	(15.00)	(15.00)
General fund	Unrestricted	15.00	15.00
		<hr/> -	<hr/> -
CBFFAB: Fabric CBF Account			
Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	17,015.19	16,486.80
		<hr/> 17,015.19	<hr/> 16,486.80
CBFGEN: General CBF Account			
Rashcliffe Churchyard Fund	Designated	5,508.78	5,508.78
General fund	Unrestricted	(2,326.12)	(2,424.95)
		<hr/> 3,182.66	<hr/> 3,083.83
CBFINC: CBF Leeds DBF Trust Income Account			
Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	1,712.99	1,339.21
General fund	Unrestricted	1,819.93	1,819.93
		<hr/> 3,532.92	<hr/> 3,159.14
HSBCBANK: HSBC Bank Account			
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)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		11,686.90	12,044.76
HSBCBBM: HSBC BBM Account			
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
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		18,950.68	13,665.86
NEWSVIRG: Newsome Virgin Money			
Churchyard Maintenance	Restricted	150.00	150.00
General fund	Unrestricted	(150.00)	(150.00)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		-	-
VIRGIN: General Account Virgin Money			
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)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		495.46	300.46
YORKFAB: Fabric Account Yorkshire Bank			
Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	3,671.40	3,671.40
General fund	Unrestricted	(3,671.40)	(3,671.40)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		-	-
Cash At Bank And In Hand		<hr/>	<hr/>
		54,794.81	48,671.85
Debtors			
DEBTORS: Year End Debtors			
Fabric - repair & maintenance of church and enviro	Restricted	613.35	613.35
General fund	Unrestricted	3,692.65	(207.35)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		4,306.00	406.00

Z05: Accounts Receivable

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

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>
Investments		<u>9,855.91</u>	<u>9,001.61</u>

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>

TRAIDSTK: Traidcraft Stock in Hand

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

Stocks And Work In Progress	<u>271.00</u>	<u>271.00</u>
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Agency Accounts**6699: Agency collections**

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

Agency Accounts	<u>635.66</u>	<u>472.69</u>
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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>

Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	<u>848.30</u>	<u>1,053.77</u>
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Grand Total	<u><u>70,628.76</u></u>	<u><u>60,738.00</u></u>
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Fund movement summary

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

Analysis of income and expenditure

					Total	
					This year	Last year
					Unrestricted	Designated Restricted Endowment
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
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	-
Incoming resources from generated funds Totals	40,649.55	500.00	6,431.42	-	47,580.97	42,313.04
Other incoming resources						
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
Other incoming resources Totals	15,308.98	-	-	-	15,308.98	5,365.00

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
Cost of generating funds Totals	7,856.13	-	1,875.78	- 9,731.91	2,139.69

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
Charitable activities Totals	3,096.85	-	-	- 3,096.85	2,889.62

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
REPMAN - Repairs Maintenance	4,253.75	-	-	- 4,253.75	4,212.61
TELEPHONE - Telephone	455.54	-	-	- 455.54	400.07
Governance costs Totals	24,092.98	-	-	- 24,092.98	25,117.09

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
Other resources used Totals	8,224.33	-	7,853.12	-	16,077.45	8,274.11
Resources used Grand totals	43,270.29	-	9,728.90	-	52,999.19	38,420.51

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.M. 7/3/24

