

Registered Charity Number 1131703

THE PARISH OF NEWSOME, ARMITAGE BRIDGE & NETHERTON

(Part of the Emmanuel Benefice)

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

For the period April 2024 to April 2025

And

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Incumbent

Interregnum

(Julie Anderson resigned 31 December 2023)

Bank:

Virgin Money

40 New Street, Huddersfield

HSBC Bank

Kingsgate Centre, Huddersfield

Central Board of Finance of the Church of England

80 Cheapside, London

Independent Examiner

Sally Avery

Newsome, Armitage Bridge and Netherton APCM

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

7.30pm Wednesday 30th April 2025

at St Paul's Church, Armitage Bridge

ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDENS

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

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

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

3. Electoral Roll Report 2025

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

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

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

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

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

David Hirst
Electoral Roll Officer

ANNUAL REPORT

Membership

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

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

Ex officio

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

Armitage Bridge elected members

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

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

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

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

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

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

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

Risk Management

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

Environment

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

Tony Crawshaw and Pamela Thomas
Churchwardens

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

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

The Christmas services were all well attended.

The inventory and logbook are both up to date.

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

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

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

Tony Crawshaw and Pamela Thomas
Churchwardens

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Helen Pearson

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

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

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

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

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

Pamela Thomas/Helen Pearson

SOUTH CROSLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Helen Pearson

JUNIOR CHURCH

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

Where possible we follow the Lectionary readings for that week.

Some of the themes covered with the children:

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

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

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

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

Attendance numbers for 2024/2025

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| March 2024 | 2 children | James, Martha |
| April | 3 children | Gabe, Thea and Martha |
| May | 2 children | James, Martha |
| June | 1 children | Martha |

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

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

ACTIVITY BAGS FOR USE IN SERVICES

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

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

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

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

CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP AND EASTER CRAFT WORKSHOP

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

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

ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC AT BEAUMONT PARK

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

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

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

COMPASSION

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

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

Melody Hirst

LAY LED WORSHIP

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

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

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

We also offer an activity for the children at these services

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

ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH & SAFETY – 2025

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

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

Risk Assessments 2024-2025

July 2024 – Annual Family Picnic – approved

Dec 2024 – Christmas Craft Workshop – approved

Feb 2025 – Easter Craft Workshop – approved

Feb 2025 – Junior Church Annual Risk Assessment - approved

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

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

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

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

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

PARISH ENVIRONMENT OFFICER REPORT TO THE APCM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Debby Plummer April 2025

GARDENERS REPORT ARMITAGE BRIDGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alan Trebble April 2025

RINGERS REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alan Trebble April 2025

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

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

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

Some ongoing challenges

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

Some success stories

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

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

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

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

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

S Pope – April 2025

SHCT COMMUNITY WORKER REPORT

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

The Bread and Butter Thing

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

Warm welcome

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

Shrove Tuesday

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

Pop up sale for the Together Shop

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

Film Café

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

Ark church and Berry Brow flats

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

Regular events.

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

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

Soup at Hall Bower the second Monday Each month

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

Warm Welcome at Berry Brow.

Coffee mornings every Wednesday in the Scout Hut.

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

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

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

Carol Waters

WORSHIP REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

David Kent

St Paul, Armitage Bridge

Balance Sheet detailed

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

Represented by Funds

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| General (Unrestricted) | 53,210.18 | 46,123.09 |
| Designated | 309.20 | 1,256.90 |
| Restricted | 21,175.28 | 23,248.77 |
| Total | 74,694.66 | 70,628.76 |


St Paul, Armitage Bridge

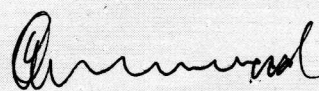
Analysis of Receipts and Payments
Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

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

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

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

I.R.Hales  Chairman

B.N.Greenwood  Treasurer

| Note | From To | 01 January 2024 31 December 2024 | 01 January 2023 31 December 2023 |
|---|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| CARPARK - Car Park Fund (Designated) Fund | | | |
| Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure | | - | - |
| Brought forward balance | | 0.90 | 0.90 |
| Total carried forward balance | | 0.90 | 0.90 |
| BEQ - BEQUESTS (Designated) Fund | | | |
| Incoming resources | | | |
| Voluntary income | | - | 500.00 |
| Donations Non-recurring | | - | 500.00 |
| Total Incoming resources | | - | 500.00 |
| Resources used | | | |
| Other resources used | | - | - |
| Fabric Exceptional Expenditure | | 1,256.00 | - |
| Total Resources used | | 1,256.00 | - |
| Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure | | - | 500.00 |
| Brought forward balance | | (1,256.00) | 1,000.00 |
| Transfers to/(from) | | 1,256.00 | (244.00) |
| Total carried forward balance | | - | 1,256.00 |
| JunCh - Junior Church (Designated) Fund | | | |
| Incoming resources | | | |
| Incoming resources from generated funds | | 153.71 | - |
| Junior Church | | 153.71 | - |
| Total Incoming resources | | 153.71 | - |
| Resources used | | | |
| Other resources used | | - | - |
| Junior Church | | - | - |
| Total Resources used | | - | - |
| Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure | | 65.81 | - |
| Brought forward balance | | 65.81 | - |
| Total carried forward balance | | 87.90 | - |
| HOL YTRIN - South Crosland Churchyard Fund (Designated) Fund | | | |
| Incoming resources | | | |
| Voluntary income | | - | - |

Note

From
To01 January 2024
31 December 202401 January 2023
31 December 2023**Dobrowski - Dobrowski Memorial Garden (Restricted) Fund****Incoming resources**Other incoming resources
Capital TransferTotal Other incoming resources
1,185.00
1,185.00**Total Incoming resources****Resources used**Other resources used
Dobrowski Memorial GardenTotal Other resources used
383.00
383.00**Total Resources used**Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure
Brought forward balance**Total carried forward balance**

802.00

Churchyard - Churchyard Maintenance (Restricted) Fund**Incoming resources**Voluntary income
Donations Non-recurring
Donations RecurringTotal Voluntary income
50.00
50.00
180.00
15.00
195.00**Total Incoming resources****Resources used**Other resources used
Churchyard ExpenditureTotal Other resources used
131.73
131.73
318.12
318.12**Total Resources used**Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure
Brought forward balance**Total carried forward balance**

187.08

Footbridge - Footbridge Repair And Maintenance (Restricted) FundExcess of income and endowments over Expenditure
Brought forward balance**Total carried forward balance****DGT - David Gilroy Trust (Restricted) Fund**Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure
Brought forward balance**Total carried forward balance****Clean - To pay for Cleaner Salary (Restricted) Fund**Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure
Brought forward balance
Transfers to/(from)330.00
(330.00)

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

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed:



Name: Sally Avery, Fellow Chartered Accountant, ICAEW

Date: 27 March 2025

TREASURER'S REPORT

2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bruce Greenwood

Treasurer