



St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall

Annual Church Report 2023



Our new Curate Rev'd Kate was ordained on 1st July and welcomed to St Wilfrid's on Sunday 2nd July



Welcome to St Wilfrid's!
Reception
Class New
Starters BBQ



Our new memorial to baby loss arrived in Spring 2023

RECTOR'S ADDRESS

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Annual Report 2023 for St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. Having invited all our groups and officers to make their contribution to it; the energy, dedication and service that this report represents is clear. Please do read it carefully and prayerfully, giving thanks to God for all that has been done in His service over the last year.



We have seen an increase in our congregation and the changes to our demographic make-up continue, with more parents and children worshipping with us. Our Ministry team also increased, as Gill White began to exercise her ministry with us as a newly licensed Reader. Early in 2023 we organised a Clothes Bank for the asylum seekers at the Fir Grove and ran Wilf's Place as a place to gather and make friends during the cold weather. Live at St Wilfrid's was back with a full programme and ran a very successful and enjoyable concert series, beginning with the soothing guitar of Craig Ogden and rounding off with cool jazz of the Swing Kings. In May we were asked to be one of the four churches around the Diocese to livestream the launch event for the Diocesan Vision. June saw the arrival of our Curate Rev'd Kate Pwaisiho, who was instantly taken to our hearts, bringing with her stories of the Solomon Islands and her visible love of Jesus and his people. We were able to move away from individual Christening services and once again share the church with multiple families seeking community at St Wilfrid's. We had fine weather for Walking Day and a brilliantly festive Christmas Fayre.

My own 2023 has been rich and varied in ways that I couldn't have predicted, beginning with a time of recuperation at the beginning of the year following a second hip replacement. A new lease of life and additional energy were essential when, in August Bishop Mark asked me to be one of two interim archdeacons covering some of the work of the Archdeacon of Macclesfield, Ian Bishop, who left the Diocese to become the Bishop of Telford in Norfolk. I was surprised to find that the work involved on those two days a week was interesting and exciting, and I began to hear God calling me to do a new thing.

I applied for the job full time and subsequently my Christmas celebrations were somewhat overshadowed by preparation for interviews which took place early in the New Year.

Consequently, this will be the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting that I chair and this the last time I will write my address at the beginning of the Annual Report, as I leave to take up my post as the Archdeacon of Macclesfield. Leaving Grappenhall on 14th April will be difficult, as my life and work here has been a joy and a pleasure. The way in which I have been welcomed and embraced by the church community and the wider parish, allowed to flourish and to lead this spiritual family, has enabled me to put down strong roots. My husband Danny and our girls, Rose and Aphra, have been really happy here, and I would like to thank you all for your love for them and for me.

When I first came to the parish, I wanted to make sure that everyone we as a church came into contact with, through our lives, work, families and neighbours, would know the overwhelming, generous, extravagant and inclusive love of God. That they would recognise in Jesus, our Saviour, an open-hearted welcome, and that the church, which is of course the people not the building, is there for them, for everyone. That as a church we would tell again the Good News that every person is made in the image of God, that 'God hates nothing that He has made', that 'every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future'. This meant that we had to learn, relearn and live again that Good News, knowing that sometimes we would fail, but that if we turned again to God, he would always welcome us back and immerse us in His love.

Together with the PCC, wonderful people who are the crew who steer our ship, we discerned a vision for our church, hearing God's voice saying, 'trust in me', 'I am with you', 'listen', 'follow'. I want to pay tribute to the amazing people who have embraced this vision, helped the church to grow, and been prepared to think of others before themselves, to enable our church to grow and change and flourish.

Now more change is on the horizon and the lessons of the past should give everyone hope for the future. It is important at times of change to lean on God, trusting Him to be in the change and continuing to stay true to the vision He has given us. Keeping Jesus as the focus, and our worship of the living God as the primary purpose and business of the church, is essential. It is hard for me to walk away, it has been a privilege to serve God and you, His people, in this place, and I will miss you all so much. Grappenhall will always have a special place in my heart. But when God calls, we must follow, staying true to His will for our lives, whatever that may bring.

Please pray for me in my new role and thank you for all that you have taught me that has enabled this to happen. I will pray that God will send a new priest to you who will lead you, as you continue to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to Jesus, and in service to this local community, in the name of Christ. Amen.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane".

Rev'd Jane Proudfoot, Rector

CHURCHWARDENS

Church Annexe

The annexe continues to be well used and admired by all those who visit our church. I feel that it has become an asset to *Live at St Wilfrid's*, attracting more people to the concerts because of the facilities we have to offer.

Statutory Regulations

The fire extinguishers have had their annual check.

Maintenance

Church

The annual check of the boiler has taken place and has been passed for another year. There is an ongoing committee looking into the heating alternatives for church going forward. The lighting we currently have in church is currently being looked into. The aim is to introduce led lighting where possible. At the end of the year, we employed Dan Needham as the gardener for the churchyard. In just a few weeks he has had a great impact, helping God's Gardeners with the winter-time jobs.

Parish Centre

The gutters have been cleared. There has been a new return fitted to the front door. There has been new led lighting installed throughout the centre. There are new hand dryers in the toilets. The lights in the toilets and the corridor light immediately outside the toilets have been put onto a sensor so that we are not having the lights left on all the time.

Support

As ever, the work of the church wardens could not take place without the support of many volunteers. We would like to mention especially Les Gregory for his tireless work with the heating systems of church, annexe and parish centre. Also, to Les for his support with our AV system of screens in church. We could not be without his endless help and technical knowledge. We are also grateful for the work taking place in the background putting the PowerPoint presentations together by Jane, Gill and Kate. Colin Pare is another volunteer working in the background with many jobs around the parish centre and annexe car park. Geoff Kelly is always ready for any help we have asked him for. He has continued his work with installing benches and various bird feeding stations. Also, we are supported by many sidespeople, gardeners, cleaning teams, Sunday morning coffee teams and many others who are always willing to give us their support whenever we ask. We are eternally grateful for all the help everyone continues to give us.

Julie Ryan and Linda Stockton



PASTORAL CARE



Due to a knee operation in February 2023, I was absent from church for a while but by May 2023, I started to attend Summerville care home services with Gill and have been able to assist at most of the sessions between the first and second knee operations. It has been wonderful getting to know residents, singing, praying and reading the Bible with them. This further built relationships when the Wednesday morning communion and soup lunches re-started, for attendees from care homes in the area. The feedback from +Mark, as the result of the discernment process in parishes, took place in May 2023. This took the form of linked services in church with the Cathedral and other churches, and it was encouraging to see plans going forward in the Diocese. This activity and surrounding plans were discussed at the Pastoral Workers Forum in June 2023 held at Church House, Daresbury. All Pastoral Workers were encouraged to engage and work with people in the community, especially those who find themselves lodged in hotels awaiting asylum to be granted.

It was an exciting time in July 2023 when Revd Kate arrived in our midst, and I have enjoyed working with her at Summerville and within our ministry team. During July I had a second knee operation and was absent for a period of time.

October 2023 found me able to contribute more fully to activities, and the bereavement café was well attended and appreciated. Margaret Eckersley and Stacey Davidson have been a valued presence during these sessions.

Prayer Friends were able to gather for an afternoon service in October to give thanks for their valuable ministry. We will be holding this short service for them three times a year, which was much appreciated.

The Remembering Service in November was well attended and all those from Bereavement Café were invited. This is a valuable, reflective service and is appreciated by many.

Bishop Sam invited all Pastoral Workers to Frodsham for the day, where we were introduced to the new Wardens of Readers and Pastoral Workers. We also carried out tasks to help the Diocese discern what is needed in terms of further training and what our current challenges are in parishes post Covid. Safeguarding was high on the agenda and will continue to be an essential part of our ministry going forward.

PASTORAL CARE cont...

A team attended the “Leading your Church into Growth” Conference in November, which is now taking us into future plans for the growth and flourishing of St Wilfrid’s Church. The action plan is in place and we have made significant progress since the conference.

It has been most helpful to attend Deanery Synod and Joint Chapter meetings with others in our Deanery, and to have an opportunity to see what is developing within those churches.

It has been a joy to work with our ministry team and to occasionally preach, lead intercessions and read the bible. Listening continues on a regular basis and I hope all meetings and activities I am involved in will be supportive, and will help others come closer to God and our welcoming church family.

Margaret Kitchen Pastoral Worker

September 2023 saw the welcome return of our Holy Communion with lunch



Our Blue Christmas service gave those who struggle with the festive season for whatever reason, an opportunity to reflect in a quieter gentler Christmas service.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Secretary's Report on the Proceedings of the PCC

The notice convening the Annual Parochial Church Meeting has been displayed in the Church for the relevant period. Since the last APCM in April 2023 there have been 5 PCC meetings and 4 meetings of the Standing Committee. On 22nd May at the first meeting after the APCM the following appointments were made:-

Vice Chair	Julie Ryan
Treasurer	Charles Jesudason
PCC Secretary	Marj Cassin
Electoral Roll Officer	Alan Hunter
Thanksgiving / Gift Aid Officer	Geraint Williams
Deputy Wardens	Vacant
Safeguarding Officer	Georgina Reynolds
Trustee to Warrington CofE	
Educational Trust	John Bygate



The Sidespeople were re-elected en bloc. A few vacancies had occurred and approaches would be made to recruit more willing people.

The PCC meets bi-monthly on the second Monday in the month, the Standing Committee meets in the alternative months. The meetings commence with a short act of worship followed by discussion, focusing on a particular subject. Amongst these have been:-

- Charity Giving & Charity Champion – For several reasons we no longer had people looking after our Christian Aid and Children Society giving so there was a need to find volunteer Charity Champions for these. We also needed someone to keep an eye on fundraising for other smaller charities we supported. These voluntary posts didn't necessarily have to be a PCC member. The Rose Queen Title took up fundraising for a charity of their choice and the current Rose Queen, Amy Ryan, had chosen MacMillan Cancer Care. We also supported annually The Broomfield Project (Young People), 'We are the Church' at Creamfields Festival, Eco Church and St Wilfrid's School.
- PCC's Perspective – We gave our perspective on St Wilfrid's to Rev'd Kate. We thought we were quite good at welcoming. It was good to see parents with their children at services and the Annexe had proved to be a great asset for them if required. We had concern at the lack of young adults (20-30 age group) and children from the age of about 8. We now had a more up to date service which was livestreamed. Our main purpose was to encourage people to worship God and to bring people to Christ. Compared to some other churches we were fortunate to have a faithful congregation, but we must not be complacent. We had good links with the School and our vision was to serve our community and to show God's love. We wanted everyone to know that they were welcome.

PAROCIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) cont...

- Roles/Responsibilities following the announcement of Rev'd Jane's appointment as Interim Assistant Archdeacon of Macclesfield for 2 days a week, arrangements were made within the Ministry Team to cover services/school/ nursing homes etc.
- New Volunteers – some PCC members took part in a CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) Webinar. A lot of Churches experienced the same problems, for example, recruiting volunteers, especially after Covid when people who had done voluntary jobs for many years, decided to relinquish their duties. It was good that someone had come along to volunteer after seeing St Wilfrid's on Facebook, they had pruned the trees at the front of the Parish Centre and worked on the cremation plots. All volunteers were greatly appreciated.
- Leading your Church into Growth – PCC agreed to send a team to the 'Leading your Church into Growth' Conference at Swanwick to gain some inspiration and new ideas on how to grow our church.
- Finance – at our last meeting on 12th December, Sharon Taylor-Booth, Finance Officer from the Diocese came during her programme of visiting parishes offering help and advice on finance.
- We have a short refreshment break after the Focus discussion and the meeting resumes for regular updates on Finance, Fabric, Bells/Clock, Electoral Roll, Safeguarding, Pastoral Care/Wellbeing, Eco Church, Deanery Synod, LASW and Bridgewater Churches Together.

On Friday mornings during February and March, in a bid to help people during the energy crisis, volunteers manned the cafe in the Annexe and also a clothes bank in the Parish Centre providing the refugees from The Firgrove with clothing, children's games etc. Some of the refugees came to worship with us on Sunday mornings.

During the year we had two successful and enjoyable fundraising events, an Afternoon Tea on Mother's Day and the Harvest Supper. Many thanks to all those who organised, helped and supported these events.

On 6th May we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III by streaming the service in church on the Saturday and having a small party in the Annexe on the Sunday evening.

On 21st May we had the Confirmation Service taken by the Bishop of Stockport

After her ordination as Deacon on Saturday 1st July, we welcomed Rev'd Kate as our Curate on Sunday 2nd July followed by a lunch in the Parish Centre where we were able to meet with her family and friends.

We had the usual Walking Day/Summer Fair and Christmas Fayre and it was good to see the School and Church working together, raising much needed funds for both School and Church.

Eco Church – we had gained our Bronze Award and were currently working towards our Silver.

Live at St Wilfrid's



After restarting the series in October 2022, we ran a season of 9 concerts in 2023, mixing returning favourites with first time visitors to St Wilfrid's. The first group comprising soprano Kathryn Rudge, accompanied by Duncan Glenday, guitarist Craig Ogden, organ & piano Scott Brothers Duo and Leyland Brass Band all proved as popular as ever.

Our own Pip Clarke, accompanied by Havilland Willshire, gave us a memorable virtuoso recital in April.

The Royal Northern College of Music visited twice with two different singing ensembles.

The October concert required a late change of artiste owing to illness. We were delighted by the performance of Sveta and Slava on cello accompanied by piano. The novelty of their second half items - chosen by an audience poll - proved to be a great success.

The final November event was the almost obligatory jazz offering from the Swing Kings.

Two innovations this season – an (optional) glass of wine at the interval and the ability to purchase tickets by card, rather than cash, both proved very successful.



ST WILFRID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

2023 was yet another busy year in school. We have spent a lot of time revising our curriculum to ensure all subjects taught in our school are exciting, relevant and engage all of our learners.

We then looked at enrichment opportunities within each subject to generate those 'wow' moments for children, the moments that children will remember and things that make subjects come alive. We have had a range of visitors in school including Roman soldiers, artists, authors, theatre companies and guest speakers. All classes go on an educational visit every year and we have looked carefully at our offer to ensure that the children experience different types of visits. Last year there were trips to the Halle orchestra, science museum, catalyst museum, Anglican cathedral in Liverpool to name but a few.

Walking Day and the Christmas fayre were 2 wonderful events which saw the school, church and local community coming together to have fun. These events are both long standing traditions in Grappenhall and can only be done due to the large numbers of volunteers we have which make these events possible. Friends of St. Wilfrid's do an amazing job organising events for the children, parents and the wider community. Their fundraising efforts benefit both church and school. This year Friends have donated money which has bought lots of reading books, playground equipment and has contributed to the refurbishment of the cosy cabin. The cosy cabin is one of our old mobile classrooms and is currently being transformed into a relaxing space for the children at breaktimes as well as doubling up as our specialist music room.



The coronation of King Charles 111. was such an historical event and definitely a highlight of 2023. The Reception children had a very special coronation service of their own. The service was led by Reverend Jane and led us through the whole coronation service and what would happen on the big day when Charles was actually crowned. The whole school was decorated and a celebration tea party was arranged for the children to commemorate this momentous occasion.

Our school vision 'Let your light shine for others to see' Matthew 5:16 remains at the heart of everything we do in school. Our collective worship sessions are centred around christian values and provide an opportunity for quiet reflection and discussion as well as an opportunity to sing and celebrate God's wonderful world.

The world continues to change at a rapid pace and our role is to ensure we provide an environment for our children to feel happy and safe so that our pupils become lifelong learners who are independent, resilient and are equipped for life in the 21st century.



*'Learning
through fun,
faith and
friendship'*



**'Let your light shine for others
to see' Matthew 5 14-15**

Sally Sudworth who did such an excellent job leading to accreditation at Bronze Level handed over responsibility to Jenny Pearce in May as Sally was moving home to the south coast. Since then, many of Sally's recommendations for further action have been followed up. We thank Sally for helping us get started in this important area of growth in awareness of how we can all be better stewards of God's Creation.

Ian and Jenny set up a stand on the School Field on Walking Day. It featured different sorts of pollinators, identification of trees in the churchyard and drawing wildflowers. The leaflets about a local walk were well appreciated and we had a useful discussion with several Parish Councillors about how both organisations are seeking to inform people about the environment.

While many people have commented on how beautiful it is to see wildflowers growing in the Churchyard and appreciate what we are doing to protect the environment, some complaints had also been made. A statement explaining our less manicured approach to churchyard management is now displayed on the noticeboard and in the Annexe windows. After several changes in grounds maintenance contractor we are now very pleased with how Dan Needham has understood how we wish to encourage biodiversity whilst making our churchyard an attractive place for people and wildlife.

Gill conducted a very well appreciated service to celebrate "toilet twinning" with communities across the world. A retiring collection enabled us to Twin all of our new toilets. Children were very pleased to install pictures of toilets that we have funded. God's Gardeners participated in a wild flower survey to identify what is growing in the churchyard and planted seeds to extend the range.

Bird feeders and a bird bath were installed and Geoff undertook the weekly task of keeping the feeders filled. The birds demonstrated their enthusiasm for his efforts.

In October the Co-op provided our "Living Churchyard Project" with over £1000 of funding collected from shoppers' nominations through their community champions initiative. The PCC has agreed to purchase a waterbutt to make use of rainwater from the roof. We also plan to install another feeder and Dan has offered to create a compost bin/insect hotel for grass cuttings and wood fallen from the trees.

Our monthly magazine now has a regular item to raise awareness and increase knowledge about the trees, flowers and birds in our churchyard.

The church heating renewal project is carefully examining all of the ways in which we can reduce energy consumption and phase out our use of fossil fuels. We will be reviewing progress against the EcoChurch criteria to see what we need to do to move to level Silver.



Care UK Charity

CARE UK's activities over the past year included overcoming the challenges of both Cockhedge shops closing following the announcement that they were to be demolished. This left one remaining shop at Riverside. More recently a lease was secured for a shop in Runcorn Shopping Centre, and this has become a useful replacement source of revenue to top up the charity's funds and enable more assistance to be provided for local people in need.

A recent report gave the following summary of activities from the previous month, made possible by the fundraising and from volunteers sorting donations to send out to refugees lodging in hotels.

We provided aid to 86 people – of which 59 were men, 18 women & 9 children. They were for:

- 1 Home Start
- 2 Mental Health team
- 3 Daresbury Park hotel
- 4 Fir Grove hotel
- 5 Holiday Inn hotel
- 6 Paddington House hotel



This really is only possible because of the volunteers' teams in the depot. The main thing we seem to run low on is men's shoes – we never have enough.

Volunteers are the mainstay of the charity, and it is a perpetual challenge to attract and retain regular help. It would be an understatement to say that the charity would not be able to function without their help. More help is needed! If you could spare an hour or two in the Riverside shop, sorting donations for distribution or for sale, or by helping the Homes team to source goods to furnish homes for people referred to the charity by social services, then please pay a visit to the Riverside Store and speak to the staff volunteers.

Alison Collins, CARE UK Charity Trustee



**Harvest Supper,
September 2023**



SAFEGUARDING

The PCC of St Wilfrid's Church takes its safeguarding responsibilities very seriously, regarding the safety and wellbeing of all its members and especially of children and vulnerable adults, as a Gospel imperative.

All PCC members have undertaken Safeguarding training in the last 12 months, including training about child protection, coercive control and domestic abuse. Our Safeguarding Officer, Georgina Reynolds, has worked with church members to update their DBS checks as necessary.

Georgina has worked for the church in this role for 10 years and has decided to step down in 2024. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her dedication to the role and for all her hard work ensuring that St Wilfrid's is a safe and caring place to worship.

Rev'd Jane

We are committed to encouraging an environment of respectful pastoral ministry where all children, adults and especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. The PCC reviews and approves the church's Safeguarding Policy annually to ensure it meets the requirements of our parish and is being effectively implemented. The Safeguarding Policy ad posters with details of whom to contact in case of safeguarding concern are displayed in church, the Parish Centre and there is also a safeguarding statement on the church website. We are all responsible for an are committed to safeguarding.

Georgina Reynolds, Safeguarding Officer.



The arrival of asylum seekers with young families at our local hotel, The Fir Grove, brought about an immediate need to support and reach out with love to our new neighbours, many of whom had arrived with just the clothes on their back.



Music at St Wilfrid's

Church Choir

This year the choir has worked some more contemporary short pieces to compliment the liturgy as well as some music for the major festivals . We are now enjoying the contributions from Pip and Nicki, and Helen and Phil We meet three Fridays out of four to prepare items for key services together with the weekly Sunday music . Although small in number there is a faithful attendance throughout the year and we are always keen to accept new volunteers to add to our happy band.

Guy Pomfret, Organist and Musical Director



We continued to enjoy contributing to worship at St Wilfrid's through music in 2023. Generally, we provide the music for the Family Praise services, which is a joy as many of the worship songs suit guitar accompaniment and lend themselves to uplifting singing.

We have particularly enjoyed introducing some new worship songs into services and have been gratified to receive positive feedback for many of these. It is always lovely to hear that our music has had an impact on the worship in church as it is something that we feel honoured to do.

We are looking forward to continuing to contribute to music at our church and would be more than happy for anyone who also feels called in this way to join us!

Helen & Phil

It has once again been such a privilege for myself and my sister Nikki to contribute through music to the church services throughout 2023.

We have been able to play for family communion about once a month, and also be a part of a number of more sombre services throughout the year.

Three services that stand out for us musically are, the Longest night service on December 21st, where peaceful carols and music help to bring a calm experience for the congregation. Ash Wednesday which is such a peaceful service in the early evening, and which Nikki and I play a little throughout the service and afterwards for people to stay and listen in contemplation. Good Friday, which is such a powerful service with the passion being read, and music interspersed throughout.

We are both so happy to be able to contribute to the musical programme at St Wilfrid's.

Pip & Nikki

Christening Team

"We had a wonderful day at Rafferty's christening with Revd. Jane and the team at St Wilfrid's. It was the perfect way to celebrate his arrival into both the church and the world".

"We all had a lovely time celebrating Bobby's special day. Thanks again to the team at St Wilfrid's for all their help".

Christenings are always joyful services and for the 43 babies and children baptised at St Wilfrid's in 2023, and for their families and friends, they were indeed very special occasions.

Following the pandemic there were various changes to the dates and times of Christening services in 2023. By the end of the year, Christenings were taking place at 12noon on 2 Sundays each month.

The monthly Christening Preparation evenings provided an opportunity for parents to think about why they wanted their children to be baptised, to look at the Christening service, to meet members of the Christening team and the other families whose children were being baptised on the same day.

Members of the Christening team contacted the families before the service and were present at the service. Families were invited to send a photo of their child's christening and write a few words for inclusion in the parish magazine and we're delighted that there was a good response in 2023. Those who had been baptised in 2022 received a specially designed card on the first anniversary of their christening and were invited back to church for Family Praise when they were named in the intercessions.

Gill's work as Parish Administrator meant that she handled all Christening requests and arrangements and ensured that all went smoothly. Owing to ill health, Susan Roach sadly had to relinquish her role in sending out the 1st Anniversary cards and this also became part of Gill's remit. Our thanks go to Susan for her contribution over the years. Screening of the service meant Linda continued her sterling work on "console duty" as well as making sure there was water in the font! Carolyn and I continued to welcome families to the service, read the Bible passage and lead the prayers.

As always, those to be christened were named in the intercessions for that Sunday. And our prayer, in 2023 and now, is that with the support and encouragement of our church family, they continue to grow in faith.

Chris Hunter



Pre-School Praise

Pre-school Praise is held every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. We have songs, stories, craft and snacks and lots of fun. Our services are led by Rev Jane, Gill, or Rev Kate.

During the past year we have thanked God for Fruit , Books, Autumn, Bread, Harvest, Rain, Peace, Baby Jesus, Frost and Snow, Our Church Mice and Easter. We enjoyed our Christmas party where we had snacks and lots of fun!

The children this year are quite young, ranging from new babies to 3-year-olds. Our numbers are steadily growing, and we appreciate the help that the parents, grandparents and carers give us.

The highlight of the year was the graduation service, held in July before the whole congregation on a Sunday morning , when we present the children who are moving on to school with a memorable book and our very best wishes and prayers. The children really enjoyed singing their special songs for everyone!

Pre-school Praise is a great way to introduce little children to God, Jesus and our church family!

Anne Young & Gill White



Grants and Facilities

No major changes were made to the building facilities during 2023 although small changes, such as electrical improvements in the vestry and lighting in the Parish Centre, continue to be made as part of the maintenance programme.

We are very grateful to the Co-op community fund for their grant of £1,017 towards improving biodiversity in the churchyard. Bird feeders and nestboxes were obtained and installed, to the evident satisfaction of our birds.

Jenny Pearce

Women's Group

St Wilfrid's Women's Group appears to have flourished since our move to afternoon meetings after Covid. Our current membership stands at 46 and each year we seem to pick up 2 or 3 new members which shows we are fulfilling a need within the community and means we look forward with positivity.



2023 started with our Annual Lunch at Statham Lodge followed by talks on a wide range of topics including Antarctica, the Epiphany Trust and Tropical Skincare ending in June with another trip to the Grosvenor Garden Centre followed by a cruise on the Dee at Chester with a cream tea.

We re-convened in September with Holy Communion and our AGM. At our October meeting we had an excellent illustrated talk by Irene Thomson from Lowton Hedgehog Rescue and in November Barbara Attwood told us of her heart-warming search to find her birth mother having been fostered at an early age. We drew a close to 2023 with our Christmas get together- mulled wine, mince pies, snacks, chocs and a pot pourri of quizzes, poems, light hearted banter, finishing with Christmas carols.

Barbara Wild



Celebrating the Kings Coronation



BELLRINGERS



Our Ringing Master (Nick Thomson) has been very busy in 2023 running 'taster' sessions for people interested in starting to ring. Some of these were aimed at our school pupils and resulted in 3 pupils starting their ringing journey. They have been joined by 1 other youngsters and 3 more mature people. Having 6 younger ringers certainly reduces the age profile of our band and having 8 learners helps ensure the future of ringing in Grappenhall - although it is a lot of extra work for Nick (and the other helpers).

We rang for 66 services, with just 7 occasions when all 10 bells were not rung. We have 15 ringers on the books presently which enables us to ring all 10 bells except for holidays when everyone seems to go away at the same time. With our new learners, this should increase the Sunday Service band numbers in the near future.

Our new bells still attract visitors on a practice night and we usually welcome between 2 and 4 visitors each week. These visitors help our band to make progress with our 10 bell ringing repertoire. There can be in excess of 20 ringers present on a practice night. We have also welcomed visiting bands to come and ring socially (usually for up to an hours ringing), or to ring Quarter Peals (45mins of continuous ringing) or even full Peals (3hrs of continuous ringing). There were 40 Quarters rung in 2023, mostly by the local band but one was rung by the Ladies Guild (North West region) – yes, an all ladies band. Nick Thomson rang his 2,000 Quarter towards the end of the year. 3 Full Peals were rung, including one to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

Our ringers still go to Stockton Heath to help and strengthen the band there for Sunday Service ringing and on Practice nights. Help is also being given to the Stretton ringers as they have been experiencing a shortage of ringers recently. Their tower is used once a month on their Monday Practice night for special practices aimed at basic method ringing when ringers from Stretton, Stockton Heath and Grappenhall regularly take part, both in a learners role or in a helpers role. Some of our ringers are regularly ringing hand bells and making good progress in their achievements. Events in the tower are regularly reported in the Parish Magazine, in an article entitled Up the Spiral Staircase penned by our Ringing Master Nick Thomson.

BELLRINGERS



We entered a band in the Mid Cheshire Branch 6 Bell Striking contest at Holmes Chapel in May and were placed 1st meaning we represented the Mid Cheshire Branch in the Chester Guild 6 Bell contest for Sunday Service bands. This contest was held at Dodleston (Chester) in September where we were again placed 1st (only just by $\frac{1}{2}$ point). Three of our ringers represented Mid Branch in the Branch 8 Bell Contest held at Barthomley in April where the Branch was placed 1st with just 1 fault. Four of our ringers represent Mid Branch in the Branch 10 Bell Contest held at Stockton Heath in October, the Branch again being placed 1st.

If anyone would like to come and see us ringing and see the new bells, please get in touch with us. New ringers would be most welcome to come and help us keep St Wilfrid's loudest voice heard across the parish. No experience necessary as training will be given.



Mike Thomson
Tower Captain



BIBLE STUDY GROUP

From May to October there were regular meetings either to watch a new episode of the film (still being made) "the Chosen" or to discuss the episode watched the previous week. Both the watching of the films and our discussion afterwards revealed many practical and theological insights into the detail of the Gospel narratives, so that our knowledge of and, above all, our gratitude for our salvation have grown profitably.

With more of the film still being made, we expect to continue this activity during 2024.

It is always to be hoped that more people will be drawn to the joy of seeking a fuller and deeper understanding of God's word to us in the Bible, and it would be very good if our enjoyment of a current film were supplemented by study sessions in specific books of scripture. Our world is, generally, terribly ignorant of biblical teaching, to the serious detriment of both individual and general readiness for things to come, and we would dearly love many to discover and enjoy the unfailingly rewarding benefits of a more thorough and sure biblical grounding of their faith.

John Prytherch



FOODBANK

Foodbank continues to be challenged in these difficult economic times. This has been due to the demand on the needs of more people requiring support from Foodbank with the many increasing costs that many households have to bear. Because of this greater demand there were many empty shelves in the Foodbank warehouse but, due to the generosity of our own congregation and parents of children at the school they are now being filled. We continue to receive donations being left at the back of church. Our Foodbank Sunday and Harvest Sunday donations were very generous this year. When we all have more pressure on where we spend our hard-earned money it is comforting to find that our community supports Foodbank. As we are open every day this makes it easier for donations to be left. I am, as are all the people who are struggling to feed themselves and their families, grateful for any donations you are able to leave. Thank you

Linda Stockton

ADMIN TEAM

2023 has been a busy year in the church office. The beginning of the year saw an increase in admin as we took on extra work to support the church while Rev'd Jane had time off to recover from an operation.

I am very fortunate in having 3 volunteers who assist me, sharing the highs and lows of parish life, amongst the fundraising preparation and seasonal liturgy and resources and general week by week tasks.

The success of *Live at St Wilfrid's* has kept Eileen busy, working hard preparing and printing the publicity brochures and posters.

Ken has done tremendous work in putting all our church yard records to computer files for easy reference, this will help enormously when enquiries come in and will reduce the need to sift through the physical files for plots and records.

I cannot thank those who help me enough for their time, support and dedication in helping the Church Office run smoothly as we continue to serve, managing phone calls and direct enquiries.

Gill White, Church Administrator along with our regular volunteers Margaret Hale, Eileen Waddell, and Ken Southward.

PRAYER FRIENDS

"Pray for one another, so that you may be healed". James 5:16

"Pray without ceasing". 1 Thessalonians 5:17

And that is what Prayer Friends have been doing throughout 2023.



Prayer Friends are members of St Wilfrid's congregation who pray regularly and faithfully for those who have asked for our prayers for any reason whatsoever. All information is given in strict confidence and remains confidential.

Our prayers are always greatly appreciated and valued by those concerned and throughout 2023 we have continued to receive many requests, either personally or through St Wilfrid's Church website, from people facing health concerns or who are troubled or anxious for themselves or a loved one.

Many people also left requests on the prayer tree and in the little books at the back of church as they came to light a candle for a loved one or themselves and these requests were offered on their behalf at Monday Morning Prayer. The requests from the prayer tree were burned on the fire at the Easter Dawn Service.

In October Prayer Friends met together in the Lady Chapel for a short time of worship, reflection and intercession which we greatly valued. These services will continue in March and October 2024.

Please don't hesitate to ask someone if they would like Prayer Friends to support them and then contact Margaret Kitchen, Gill at the Parish Office or me. And if you feel that God is calling you to share in this particular prayer ministry then please do get in touch.

Chris Hunter

MAGAZINE

2023 saw the magazine take on some new features. It now includes a crossword and our children's puzzle 'Mouse Makes' along with regular seasonally appropriate articles and contributions from our community groups. Our new Curate Kate gives us a monthly reflection as she gives thought to church life and our seasonal worship.

We have lost a few of our regular advertisers but have gained new ones over the course of the year and continue to encourage local businesses to contribute.

New regular contributors are encouraged and welcomed to add to our monthly updates.

Gill White

St. Wilfrid's Parish Magazine Grappenhall



Our 2023 Rose Queen Amy
Serving our Community
July 2023
Always a warm welcome
www.stwilfridschurch.org.uk
Printed using recycled paper in line with our commitment to the environment

St. Wilfrid's Parish Magazine Grappenhall



Joseph and Lucy enjoying a special afternoon celebrating Mother's Day with mum Laura.
Serving our Community
April 2023
Always a warm welcome
www.stwilfridschurch.org.uk
Printed using recycled paper in line with our commitment to the environment

£1

Parish Centre

The Parish Centre brought in £2372 from ad hoc bookings in 2023 and £18,811.50 from regular hirers.

We welcomed a new meditation group to the Parish Centre on a Monday morning and also some Friday evenings and weekends. We now have 9 regular hirers using the large hall.

In October, we hired Sarah Young as the new Parish Centre Manager who has taken over some of Gill's role and looks after the bookings, cleaning, invoicing and maintenance of the Parish Centre and the Annexe. Sarah has created a social media account for the Parish Centre which she will be looking to use more and more in 2024.

As part of our pledge to be sustainable, our current cleaning products in the Parish Centre and Annexe are being phased out and replaced with eco-friendly alternatives. Sarah is also looking into ways to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce the use of single-use plastics.

Sarah Young, Parish Centre Manager

FLOWER TEAM

As in previous years our talented flower team have produced some beautiful arrangements to celebrate the various ecumenical seasons of the year. We are glad to welcome two new members to our team, Jackie Acton and Heather Davies. I feel sure that they will be an asset to our team and we all look forward to working along side them.

Our flower team has now got 10 regular members and Sue ,Sylvia, Hazel, and Diane, who is a neighbour of Anne Ongley's, who will help us out on the big festivals of Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, and Christmas . We work in pairs and so consequently decorate the church once every 5 weeks. On Mothering Sunday primrose plants were distributed by the Rose Queen, our Village Prince and their retinues to all the ladies in the congregation. At Harvest time food was donated to the Warrington Food bank and the team decorated the window ledges with flowers which were taken to members of the community that were housebound, sick or bereaved. For Remembrance Sunday members of our team decorated the Church and a large cross was placed outside to be decorated with poppies. At Christmas time the usual 60 wreaths were decorated and sold to raise church funds by the team. The team decorated the church with seasonal arrangements of red gold and white flowers and the tree was lit up to add the final touch . In December we were delighted to be asked to decorate the church and the annexe for Linda and Peter's wedding and reception. Linda requested white roses and red berries which was very appropriate for a Christmas wedding.

We are a friendly group of ladies who take pleasure in having the privilege and enthusiasm to enhance our beautiful church. We would welcome any new recruits –no experience necessary! Please contact Gill or any member of the flower team.

Anne Young
Flower Team Co-ordinator



GOD'S GARDENERS

We are blessed to have such a lovely space, to come and sit in peace and quiet, listen to the birds, think about loved ones and maybe to chat with others who are feeling the same as you.

It's been a year of challenges for us including the inclement weather.

We have been adapting to the changes in the management of the churchyard and looking at how we manage the minimal use of pesticides and trialing out more eco-friendly weedkillers with some success. It has been great to see some wild flowers growing, foxgloves, poppies and varieties of fungi.

It has been very encouraging to engage with other members of the church and working together to achieve the right environment for the wildlife and biodiversity. As you walk around the churchyard you will notice various bug hotels, bird baths and feeding stations.

You may also notice the red ceramic poppies that we have placed on the war graves making them easier to find for people who wish to visit either for family reasons or for those who have an interest in local war graves.

It was lovely this season to welcome a gentleman from the Old Rectory Nursing Home who enjoys gardening. Although in a wheelchair he was able to help out with some gardening tasks.

Into the new season we are looking to place further water butts at back of the church and we will continue with the planting of bee and butterfly friendly plants and shrubs.

We are also pleased to be working with the new contractor for the maintenance of the churchyard and we value the support of Jenny who is great to work alongside with her knowledge and advice about all things 'eco'.

Thanks also to the PCC for their continued support and engagement in how the churchyard is managed .

Carol Harrison & God's Gardeners



Fair Trade Stall

We see it as part of our lives as Christians to actively work for fairly-traded goods which provide a fair price to poorer communities in the developing world and continues to support those communities with education provision and healthcare. To this end, we sell Fairtrade, tea, coffee, chocolate, nuts, jams, and other produce during coffee time after the Sunday 10:00 service. During 2023, we were also able to provide Christmas cards, Advent Calendars and Easter Eggs which all sold very well.

Regretfully, with the demise of Traidcraft (which used to supply most of our stock) at the start of 2023, we have not been able to obtain some of our more popular lines, such as cereals, biscuits, and dried fruit but work is still ongoing to try to identify other Fairtrade suppliers.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us by buying from the stall or from the Warrington Fair4All stall in the market which supplies all our stock.

Warrington's status as a Fairtrade town has been renewed this year and our contribution, together with that of other churches throughout the town are vital to this status.

The Williams family



BRIDGEWATER CHURCHES TOGETHER (BCT)

St Wilfrid's is a member of BCT - an umbrella group of churches of all denominations in the local area. There are 4 Ecumenical Services throughout the year when each church takes a turn to host. These are the Week of Christian Unity, Good Friday (an open air service held outside the Mulberry Tree pub), Christian Aid week and Pentecost. In addition there is also a Christmas Carol Service held in St Thomas' Church, led by a different church each year and last Christmas it was the turn of Broomfields Youth Project.

Stockton Heath Methodist Church held a Vigil and Ecumenical Prayers for Peace on Saturday 11th November.

Hillcliffe Baptist Church promoted Church Warrington's Carol Service on 14th December at Halliwell Jones Stadium when the speaker was J. John.

During the year, changes in clergy took place - Rev Anita Raggett retired as the Vicar of St John's Church, Walton and Rev'd Linda Bishop was succeeded by Rev'd Jeremy Tresise as Minister of Stockton Heath Methodist Church.

Each church makes a small annual financial contribution to BCT and collections taken at Ecumenical Services are usually donated to local charities ie Warrington Foodbank, St Joseph's Centre and Christian Aid. BCT supports the Creamfields Festival and Broomfields Youth Project who work along side the High School and were hopeful of retaining a part time youth worker, partnered with Stockton Heath Christian Fellowship. BYP meet in "The Shack", a building on the Broomfields School site which serves a great demand, especially on Friday nights. John Harper had recently met with the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunack.

During last winter and in view of the energy crisis, many churches provided Warm Spaces where people could meet for a coffee and a small bite. Rev'd Gill Younger of All Saints Daresbury, held a course on Saturdays for Iranian and Albanian refugees, in their own language (the first version of Tim Green's "Come Follow Me"). As well as the Warm Space cafe, St Wilfrid's provided a clothes bank to help those refugees from The Firgrove.

Marjorie Cassin - Hon Sec



We are part of the Great Budworth Deanery, and, for all meetings in 2023, Revd. Jane was the Rural Dean.

The Synod acts as an intermediary between the parochial church councils of each parish in its deanery and the Diocesan Synod. Meetings are called by the Rural Dean and has members from the clergy, lay readers, pastoral workers, and lay members. St Wilfrid's Church elects four lay members as parish representatives of the Deanery Synod at our Annual Parish Church Meeting.

There were three Deanery Synod meetings in 2023 and a special event:

- The February 2023 meeting was at St John's Church, Walton.

The main agenda item was a talk by Ian Bishop, the Archdeacon of Macclesfield on EcoChurch and NetZero. Because of the subject matter, this was open to other church members if they were EcoChurch or Net Zero Champions.

Some of his main messages were:

The Diocese is committed to net zero carbon by 2030. If a church knows it will need to change its boiler it should start saving now.

Technology is improving, and costs are coming down so there are advantages in aiming for work later in the decade. There may also be more grants available in the future.

We need to use our imaginations. We should also involve the parishioners in seeking to change their lifestyle.

He highlighted the Arocha EcoChurch programme which has an awards scheme.

All churches must measure and report the church's carbon energy footprint and report it at the APCM and to the diocese.

A key point is that it affects Mission, particularly towards young people for whom the greatest issue is the environment. If we are active in EcoChurch and NetZero, we will gain their respect.

- Apart from the Deanery Synod meetings, on 20th May 2023, the St Wilfrid's Church hosted one of the "satellite" services for the Vision Feedback Event, on behalf of the Deanery. Archdeacon Mike Gilbertson attended, and we were linked live to the service at Chester Cathedral.

- The July 2023 meeting was held at St Wilfrid's Church, in the Annex. The main business was discussion on the main outputs from the "Diocesan Vision". The meeting broke into groups to discuss some of the major messages and then gave feedback, which on review, I felt may help parish development planning.

There was feedback on recent Diocesan Synods. The potential introduction of "Living in Love and Faith" prayers had caused some tensions. Revd Jane asked that parishes that support these prayers should make their views heard by Bishop Mark, since those parish against them were very vociferous.

- October's meeting was at St Matthew's Stretton. Harriet Roberts, Director of development (vision and strategy) explained the Diocese of Chester's vision going forward.

There were packs for each parish to explain the process which has taken place. It is expected that each parish finds way of implementing the vision to account for their own unique features.

There are resources available to help parishes. Throughout all this we should ask: "does it make a difference to the 1.5 million people we need to reach?" but also recognised that we grow by one person at a time Other insights from the Vision include the need to budget for growth activities, and to review and prioritise. In the case of St Wilfrid's, we are addressing this challenge, using the insights from the Diocese work as we continue to develop our own "Leading your Church into Growth" plans.

- The Deanery Synod meetings also act as an opportunity to share information about new developments and events across the Deanery, and for giving members feedback from the meetings of the Diocesan and General Synods.

Geraint Williams



St Wilfrid's hosted a live satellite link with Archdeacon Mike Gilbertson to a service at Chester Cathedral on 20th May 2023



Walking Day
and Summer
Fair June 2023



WE ARE TWINNING OUR TOILETS



In spring we raised funds
to twin our toilets



Mother's
Day
Afternoon
Tea





A warm welcome at Christmas



Sharing the love of Jesus

stwilfridschurch.org.uk

Printed using recycled paper in line with our commitment to the environment

The Annual financial Report (2023) – 12 February 2024

The Annual Income & Expenditure Statement maintains the same coding categories, Cashflow Statement and the Church Extension Project Designated account.

1. The Role of the Treasurer –

- a. To be **responsible** for the disbursement of funds (restricted & unrestricted) within policies established by the Charities Commission, the Church of England & the PCC of SWC, Grappenhall
- b. To be **accountable to the PCC** – Use CofE guidelines in the Parish Resources website
 - i. To increase transparency by regular reporting of information to the PCC
 - ii. To implement Standard Account Descriptions, thus providing consistent Accounts

2. The Financial Report - The Treasurer's objectives on behalf of the PCC were achieved in full and the Examiner Mervyn Roberts has audited and signed-off the detailed final accounts

3. The Headlines

- a. We have completed the Annexe Project in full within our estimated Budget cost
 - i. We have had £14,500 of Personal Loans for the Church Extension, generously converted into Gifts
 - ii. We now only have personal loans of £35,000 outstanding, to be repaid in 2025
- b. Due to Income of **£202,139**, less Expenditure of **£198,275**, we had a small surplus of **£3,864**
- c. We owe 50% of Christmas Fayre Surplus, which is due to SWC School circa £4,000 in January 2023 from our Reserves
- d. Whilst we appear to have increased our Reserves since last year, however.....
 - i. We are holding a £10,000 Donation for the Parish Centre Car Park, awaiting Planning Permission from WBC
 - ii. We are holding £5,000 on behalf of Creamfields within our Reserves
 - iii. We have allocated £10,000 towards our Heating Project, which is at the 'feasibility study' stage

ST WILFRID'S CHURCH, GRAPPENHALL

4. Cashflow Statement - The Summary by Month

- a. The Cash movements between our Current and Reserve accounts and balances by month, for the year are highlighted
- b. The Natwest current account balance, as of 31 December 2023 was **£5,234**

5. The Income Report – The months January to December 2023

- a. The total Income for 2023 was £202,139
 - i. During Revd Jane's Interim appointment, we received Parish Share Rebate from the Diocese of circa £13,000
 - ii. We claimed and received almost £4,000 in Grants

6. The Expenditure Report – The months January to December 2023

- a. The total Expenditure in 2023 was £198,275
 - i. We reduced our Church Running Costs significantly
 - ii. We managed our Energy costs well and had our Rates fixed for 2 years, until the 31 December 2023
 - iii. Creamfields costs are funded solely by Creamfields Donations from other Churches within the Diocese

7. The Overview of Income & Expenditure for 2023 Year to Date

- a. The Income of £202,139 less Expenditure of £198,275, we had a surplus of **£3,864**

8. The Church Extension Project (Annexe, track, path, and car park) – Activity

- a. The Church Extension Project Designated Account – Activity over 9 years (2015-2023)
- b. Income - Start of Project to date was **£781,905** and our Expenditure from start of Project to date was **£780,557**
- c. Members Loans currently outstanding are £35,000, which are due in March 2025

9. Funds held in our Bank Reserve Accounts as of 31 December 2023

- i. CCLA Deposit account Reserves are currently at £47,678
- ii. CCLA Building Project account balance is currently at £12,219
- iii. CCLA long term Investment cost of £7,916 is currently valued at £37,263

10. The Succession Plan for the future – Whilst reducing single dependency, by simplifying and improving the robustness of existing processes, financial reports and ensuring the separation of control. Therefore, for Business Continuity management, we intend to split a future Treasurer's role into a bookkeeper (to provide our financial & monthly management accounts), including all reports and a Finance Officer (to undertake the remaining part of the Treasurer's role), managing/involving the Bank account payments. This role can be introduced within a few days to a week, should it be required.

11. Thank You – Finally, we take this opportunity to thank Mervyn Roberts, who has signed off the last 9 years accounts 92015-22023), prepared/produced by myself. I take this opportunity to thank Linda for acting as temporary Cashier and simplifying my task, by analysing and Paying into the Bank regularly. Also, to Gill our Administrator, who has under-taken her tasks with the Hire of the Parish Centre, to maintain a high level of Income. Further, the merged Thanksgiving Officer role has now been fully taken over by Geraint Williams.

Additionally, a special thank you to Jenny Pearce, who was instrumental in our huge success in achieving Grant funding, particularly over the last 5 years. Also, to all those who generously contributed, enabling us to complete the Project, without any external loans..... An achievement, that we can all be proud of at SWC, Grappenhall. Finally, a big thank you to Rev'd Jane and the PCC team for their trust and support, for the ongoing financial activities and continual maintenance of our buildings and other assets.

Another successful year for SWC and should there be any questions, please raise them with me directly.


Charles Jesudason (Treasurer) 12 February 2024

St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall

Cashflow Statement 2023

Year	Month	Month Name	Sum of Receipts Value	Sum of Payments Value	Sum of Transfers Value	Monthly movements and Account Balance	Bank Balance
2022	12	December	£33,450.73	£16,357.28	-£655.58	£16,437.87	£22,505.33
			£223,878.42	£210,714.07	-£8,793.58	£4,370.77	
	1	January	£10,433.94	£19,237.59		-£8,803.65	£13,701.68
	2	February	£12,517.94	£12,890.06		-£372.12	£13,329.56
	3	March	£24,864.26	£17,231.95	-£7,000.00	£632.31	£13,961.87
	4	April	£7,194.44	£7,931.66		-£737.22	£13,224.65
	5	May	£13,772.34	£23,365.55		-£9,593.21	£3,631.44
	6	June	£16,312.49	£13,451.15	£10,000.00	£12,861.34	£16,492.78
	7	July	£12,146.47	£19,534.32	£3,250.00	-£4,137.85	£12,354.93
	8	August	£25,118.51	£19,070.30	-£5,000.00	£1,048.21	£13,403.14
	9	September	£18,524.97	£14,850.19	-£4,000.00	-£325.22	£13,077.92
	10	October	£20,442.06	£14,629.70	-£6,500.00	-£687.64	£12,390.28
2023	11	November	£11,624.30	£18,707.42	£3,000.00	-£4,083.12	£8,307.16
	12	December	£29,187.36	£17,375.00	-£14,885.55	-£3,073.19	£5,233.97
			£202,139.08	£198,274.89	-£21,135.55	-£17,271.36	
			£2,271,725.64	£2,348,195.02	£81,703.35	£5,233.97	
			£2,271,725.64	£2,348,195.02	£81,703.35	£5,233.97	

I have examined the accounting records of St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall for the year ended 31st December 2023 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.


Examiner: Mervyn K Roberts (ACA)

Date: 6.2.24.

St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall
Receipts - Financial Statement for Year Ended 31 December 2023

Income	Incoming Resource	Income Account Description	2022	2023
1		Tax Efficient Planned Giving (Gift Aid)	£57,442	£53,269
		Bank - (Gift Aid)	£46,162	£49,904
		Envelopes - (Gift Aid)	£11,280	£3,366
2		Other Planned Giving (Non Gift Aid)	£4,105	£10,540
		Bank - (Non Gift Aid)	£2,931	£8,641
		Envelopes - (Non Gift Aid)	£1,174	£1,899
3		Collections at Services	£15,334	£15,083
		Friends of St Wilfrid's2	£70	£55
		Special Collections2	£2,400	£1,900
		Loose Plate Collections - Fixed Station		£6,282
		Loose Plate Collections - Fixed Station (Gift Aid)		£857
4		All Other Giving (recurring and one off)	£9,502	£7,353
		Donations & Appeals2	£4,220	£3,397
		Flower Fund2	£1,170	£895
		Church Boxes2	£1,336	£1,250
6		Gift Aid Recovered	£16,806	£15,119
		Gift Aid Tax Received - Annexe Project	£2,500	
		Gift Aid Tax Received - General	£12,068	£15,119
		Gift Aid Tax Received - Other	£2,238	
7		Legacies Received	£1,000	£1,000
		Cash Received from Legacies2	£1,000	£1,000
8		Grants Received	£33,893	£3,962
		Grants Received - Government / WBC	£33,893	£2,945
		Grants Received - Other		£1,017
9		Fund Raising	£22,587	£33,318
		Events - General	£415	£3,309
		Events - Special	£3,680	£166
		Events - Annexe	£1,708	£817
		Events - Creamfields	£2,173	£8,310
		Events - Children's Society	£1,131	
		Events - Christingle	£533	
		Events - Christmas Fayre	£12,948	£13,369
		Events - Walking Day		£4,876
		Events - Harvest Supper		£929
10		Income From Investments	£1,493	£2,657
		Interest (Bank/Building Society)2	£656	£1,886
		Dividends	£837	£771
11		Receipts from Church Activities (PCC Fees)	£30,477	£27,383
		Baptisms2	£1,817	£380
		Weddings2	£8,180	£1,352
		Fees Received2		£13,098
12		Receipts from Church Activities (Trading)	£23,152	£27,104
		Book Stall Sales2	£83	£132
		Magazine Sales	£2,680	£2,816
		Annexe - Trading	£294	£1,506
13		Other Incoming Resources	£8,086	£5,351
		Charity Receipts2	£3,686	£303
		Project - Church Extension Donations Personal	£10,400	£12,500
		Project - Church Extension Donations Companies	£4,000	£7,048
		Project - Church Extension Annexe Loan	-£10,000	-£14,500
Grand Total			£223,878	£202,139

I have examined the accounting records of St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall for the year ended 31st December 2023 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.

Examiner: Mervyn K Roberts (ACA)

Date: 6.2.24.

St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall

Payments - Financial Statement for Year Ended 31 December 2023

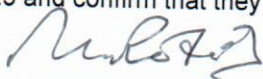
Resource	Resources	Expenditure Account Description	2022	2023
17	Fund Raising Activities (Costs and Payments)		18,176	22,038.85
		DBF Fees paid to Chester	8,075	4,133.20
		Events - Christmas Fayre	3,238	10,612.85
		Flower Fund Payments	1,822	1,300.00
		Events - General	601	2,278.58
		Events - Special	3,239	1,460.98
		Events - Annexe	969	307.49
		Bookstall Fund	127	
		Events - Walking Day	106	1,525.75
		Events - Harvest Supper		420.00
18	Mission Giving & Donations		4,144	11,462.24
		Events - Children's Society	1,141	3.95
		Events - Christian Aid		834.69
		Giving to Wider Missions		500.00
		Events - Christingle		35.00
19	Diocesan Parish Share Contribution		76,302	78,590.52
		Parish Share	76,302	78,590.52
20	Salaries, Wages & Honoraria		11,686	12,117.90
		Salaries, Wages & Honoraria	11,686	12,117.90
21	Clergy and Staff Expenses		7,343	11,539.79
		Rectory - Council Tax	2,443	2,543.57
		Clergy - Working Expenses	1,443	565.17
		Curacy - Rent		6,816.30
		Rectory - House Expenses	2,680	465.00
		Rectory - Water Rates	777	968.24
		Curacy - Expenses		181.51
23	Church Running Expenses		50,501	39,038.19
		Church Running Costs - Other	7,368	6,185.76
		Church Yard Maintenance	6,174	5,243.12
		Church Running Costs - Insurance	5,173	5,884.97
		Church Running Costs - Electricity, Gas & Water	9,328	6,316.28
		Church Running Costs - Upkeep of Services	4,802	2,654.85
		Church Running Costs - Maintenance	5,692	2,377.47
		Printing, Posting & Stationery	2,786	2,045.77
		Church Organ - Fees	3,306	2,418.00
		Church Running Costs - Office Telephone	1,904	1,888.43
		Church - Magazine Expenses	804	1,112.35
		Church Organ/Piano - Tuning	504	804.00
		Church Running Costs - Cleaning	1,972	1,416.08
		Bank Charges	688	691.11
25	Cost of Trading		11,883	14,098.68
		Parish Centre - Maintenance	2,424	3,491.42
		Parish Centre - Electricity & Gas	1,730	1,435.42
		Parish Centre - Insurance	2,023	1,961.66
		Parish Centre - Minor Repairs	4,032	4,974.00
		Parish Centre - Cleaning	1,436	1,378.50
		Parish Centre - Water	404	707.68
		Parish Centre - Trading	531	
		Parish Centre - Other	-697	150.00
26	Governance Costs		302	2,495.15
		Visiting Speakers/Locums	233	1,555.15
		Training - Costs of Trustee/PCC	69	940.00
27	Major Repairs to the Church Building		19	

St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall

Payments - Financial Statement for Year Ended 31 December 2023

Resource	Resources	Expenditure Account Description	2022	2023
27	Major Rep	Church - Major Repairs		
29	New Building Work	Church, Church Hall, Clergy Housing	30,358	6,893.57
		Project - Church Extension Annexe Contractor (Build)	12,500	3,250.00
		Project - Bell Ringers	4,490	136.80
		Project - Church Extension Annexe Fees	3,654	
		Purchase of Fixed Assets for Church purposes	9,066	3,506.77
		Project - Church Extension Annexe Equipment	648	
Ind Total			210,714	198,274.89

I have examined the accounting records of St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall for the year ended 31st December 2023 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.


Examiner: Mervyn K Roberts (ACA)

Date: 6.2.24.

St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall 2022

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

INVESTMENTS

Valuation of Investment at Original Cost

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
32916		32,916	7,916

Market Value:

CBF Investment Fund - 1,648.41 Units: £2,660.53 (£37,262.80)

Central Board of Finance Deposits

Deposit Fund

Friends of St Wilfrid's

Church Annexe Project Fund

47,679	30,848	38,766
12,219	0	0
59,898	7,914	16,202
	38,762	54,968

Cash At Bank

Natwest - Balance as at 31 December

5,234	22,505	18,135
-------	--------	--------

TOTAL ASSETS

98,048	94,183	81,019
--------	--------	--------

REPRESENTED BY

Income & Expenditure Balance b/fwd

Excess Income over Expenditure in year-Deficit

94,183	81,019	323,885
3,865	13,164	-242,866

98,048	94,183	81,019
--------	--------	--------

I have examined the accounting records of St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall for the year ended 31st December 2023 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.



Examiner: Mervyn K Roberts (ACA)

Date: 6.2.24.

St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall 2023

Statement of Funds

Item Description	2023	2022	2021
Closing Balance as at 31 December	Closing Balance	Closing Balance	Closing Balance
Unrestricted Funds			
Natwest Bank - Stockton Heath	5,233.97	22,505.33	18,134.56
CCLA - London			
Deposit Fund	47,678.28	30,847.39	38,765.82
Friends of St Wilfrid's Church		0.00	0.00
Church Building Project Fund	12,219.03	7,914.37	16,202.36
Sub-Total CCLA Funds	59,897.31	38,761.76	54,968.18
Total - Cash Funds	65,131.28	61,267.09	73,102.74

Investments Shares - as at 31 December

CBF Investment Fund	No. of shares	1,648.41	1,648.41	500.00
	MV per share (£)	22.6053	20.6614	23.4181
	Valuation	37,262.80	34,058.46	11,709.05
CBF Fixed Interest Fund	No. of shares	0	0.00	0.00
	MV per share (£)	0	20.6614	23.4181
	Valuation		0.00	0.00

Total Value of Investments

37,262.80	34,058.46	11,709.05
102,394.08	95,325.55	84,811.79

Total Funds Held

I have examined the accounting records of St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall for the year ended 31st December 2023 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.

Examined: Mervyn K Roberts (ACA)

Date: 6.2.24.

Return of Parish Finance
January to December 2023

Parish code (6 digits):	590069	If the form is NOT completed on behalf of the entire parish, please list below the churches included:	Deanery:	Great Budworth
Parish name:	St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall	Grappenhall; St Wilfrid's (609069) - 0405	Diocese:	Chester

INCOMING RESOURCES		RESOURCES EXPENDED		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)		RESTRICTED (nearest £)	
UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)		RESTRICTED (nearest £)	
1	Voluntary income/ receipts						
2	Tax efficient planned giving	£53,269					
3	Other planned giving	£10,540					
4	Collections at services	£15,083					
5	(recurring and one-off)	£7,353					
6	Gift Aid recovered	£15,119					
7	Legacies received (capital value)	£	1,000				
8	Grants (include recurring and one-off)	£	3,962				
	TOTAL Voluntary income:	£	106,326				
9	Activities for generating funds						
	Gross income from fundraising activities						
10	Income from investments						
	Dividends, interest, income from property etc.						
	Church activities						
11	Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)						
12	Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall).						
13	Other incoming resources						
	Any other income/ receipts not already listed						
	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)						
A	Unrestricted	£	202,139				
B	Restricted	£	-				
C	TOTAL	£	202,139				
	PLANNED GIVERS AND LEGACIES						
14	Number of tax efficient planned givers		95				
15	Number of other planned givers		14				
16	Number of new legacies received		1				
	Please refer to the notes on the following pages to help clarify what is included in each section. The item numbers refer to RPF notes, consistent with the guidance provided in PCC Accountability, 2013.						
	Date	12-Jan-23					
	Name	Charles Jesudason					
	Position	Treasurer					
	Telephone or email	charles@jesudason.co.uk					
	Cash and Investment Balances						
31	Cash and deposit balance as at 31/12/23	£	65,131				
32	Investments as at 31/12/23	£	37,263				
	Account basis: on which basis are your accounts prepared (indicate ONE)						
30	Receipts and payments [x]						
	Accruals []						

Looking back across 2023, were there any exceptional circumstances or significant changes that may have led to unusual figures? Please provide details in the box below.

1) The Income & Expenditure values are now back to as expected (prior to the impact of Covid) and the completion of the Church Extension Project in October 2021.

I have examined the accounting records of St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall for the year ended 31 December 2023 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.



Examiner: Mervyn K Roberts (ACA)

Date:

6.2.24.

ST WILFRID'S CHURCH, GRAPPENHALL, ANNEXE EXTENSION - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT

Sum of Payments Value											
Income Account Description	YEAR									TOTALS	
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand	Sections
SWC Legacy - Prior 2015	100,000										
SWC Annexe Personal Donations - Personal			60	3,888	69,212	104,646	75,720	10,400	12,500	100,000	
SWC Events - Annexe		5,000			7,959	8,560	2,892	1,708	817	276,426	
SWC Annexe Personal Loans - (to be Repaid)						64,500	-5,000	-10,000	-14,500	26,935	
St Wilfrid's Church Funding										35,000	
SWC Annexe - Gift Aid Tax Reclaimed - HMRC					16,250	20,433	19,501	2,500		58,684	438,361
SWC Annexe Donations - Companies			9,000	20,000	36,000	14,150	4,000	4,000	7,000	94,150	
Non St Wilfrid's Church Funding					10,000						152,834
Grant - Cheshire Community Foundation					260					10,000	
Grant - Ecclesiastical Insurance						5,000				260	
Grant - Dowager Eleanor Peel Trust						17,900				5,000	
Grant - All Churches Trust						25,000				17,900	
Grant - Garfield Weston						6,500				25,000	
Grant - Beatrice Laing						9,700				6,500	
Grant - Lottery Funding										9,700	
Grant - Joseph Rank Trust							30,000			30,000	
Grant - Grappenhall & Thelwall Parish Council							5,000			5,000	
Reserves - Grant from DCMS to replenish our Reserves							42,000			42,000	
Reserves - CCLA Church Project Fund - Reserve							16,000			16,000	
Grant - Cheshire Community Foundation							10,000			10,000	
Grant - Cheshire Churches Preservation Trust							1,850			1,850	
Grant - Robert Clutterbuck							1,500			1,500	
Grant - Bernard Sunley Foundation Phase 2							10,000			10,000	
St Wilfrid's Annexe Grant Funding											190,710
TOTAL RECEIVED	100,000	5,000	9,060	23,888	139,681	276,389	213,463	8,608	5,817	781,905	781,905
CUMALATIVE BY YEAR	100,000	105,000	114,060	137,948	277,629	554,018	767,481	776,088	781,905		
Sum of Receipts Value	TOTALS										
Expenditure Account Description	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand Group		
SWC Annexe -Reports - Churchyard, Archaeology, Bats etc		150	5,906	2,753	812	12,359	6,602		28,581		
SWC Annexe - Architect's Fees			9,834	29,249	5,130	16,339	16,915	254	77,720		
SWC Annexe - Surveyor, Structural, Mechanical etc - Fees				4,200	23,174	1,200	9,300	3,400	41,274		
SWC Events - Annexe					3,775	0	0	969	147,576		
SWC Annexe Fees - LPWS - VAT Reclaimed from HMRC						-11,719	-9,326		4,744		
SWC Annexe Equipment - Purchases Completed					9,470	1,143	13,520	648	-21,045		
									24,782		
SWC Annexe Contractor (Build) - Grosvenor						153,500	334,001	12,500	8,480		
SWC Annexe Contractor (Build) - Dowhigh (Retention £3,250)							121,250				
TOTAL PAYMENTS	0	150	15,740	36,201	42,361	172,822	492,261	17,771	3,250	780,557	624,501
CUMALATIVE BY YEAR		150	15,890	52,091	94,452	267,275	759,536	777,307		780,557	780,557
											1,349

Handwritten signature

M. K. Roberts A.C.A.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

ACC ST. WILFRID'S, CRAPPENHALL

On accounts for the year
ended

31st Dec. 2023.

Charity no
(if any)

1131723

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust'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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Mervyn Keith Roberts

Date:

6.2.24.

Name:

MERVYN KEITH ROBERTS

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

A.C.A.

(if any):

Address:

215 CHESTER ROAD

GRAPPENHALL

WARRINGTON, WA4 2QB.

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

INCOME GENERATED TO FUND THE CHURCH
EXTENSION ANNEXE HAS INCLUDED A NUMBER
OF PERSONAL LOANS. SOME OF THESE HAVE
SINCE BEEN CONVERTED INTO DONATIONS OR
REPAID. AS AT 31- DECEMBER THERE IS
£35,000 STILL OUTSTANDING WHICH IS
MORE THAN COVERED BY THE CORRESPONDING
CBF INVESTMENT FUND.