

St. Mark's Church
MARSKE in CLEVELAND



Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended
31st December 2023

Incumbent

The Rev'd Julie Smith

Bankers

Santander UK PLC
Bootle

Independent Examiner

Graham Fitzgerald BA FCA DChA
Azets Audit Services
Wynyard Park House
Wynyard
Stockton on Tees
TS22 5TB

The Vicar's Report.

The Parish was in vacancy until 6th August 2023 and I would like to express my thanks to all the people who worked tirelessly both lay and ordained to ensure the worship and mission of St Mark's continued.

I'd also like to express my thanks for the warm welcome my family and I received upon moving to Marske. Beginning this new role in August when things are usually a little quieter gave me the opportunity to settle in and begin to get to know the Parish, the people that worship at St Mark's and the wider community.

It has been a delight to welcome people to Baptism services, to be part of the Messy Church team and to engage with couples preparing for marriage and to meet and worship with the pupils and staff of Errington and Westgarth primary schools.

Through these encounters we are given the opportunity to fulfil the 2nd Mark of Mission- *to teach, baptise and nurture new believers.*

It was good to take part in the Season of Creation during September and October enabling us to engage with the 5th Mark of Mission- *to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*

October also saw us taking part in World Singing Day raising money for Teesside Mind which was a very tuneful and enjoyable way to respond to the 3rd Mark of Mission- *to respond to human need by loving service.*

Through the All Souls and Remembrance services in November we were able to reach out to the wider community in remembering deceased loved ones and those who had given their lives in the service of their country. This also provided an opportunity to engage with the 1st Mark of Mission- *to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.*

St Mark's Church committed itself to be part of the Mother's Union Rise Up Campaign against domestic abuse in November and joined with the Mother's Union in participating in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (25th November-10th December) which is one way of meeting the 4th Mark of Mission- *to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.*

December saw us once again telling the beautiful Christmas story and the wider Gospel message through the Riding Lights production 'Bring it back Mac!', the Christingle Service and the Advent Course and Advent and Christmas Services.

As the church of Jesus Christ we have two stories to tell: the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and the continuing story of what Jesus has done through his church, including what he is doing in our lives now by the power of the Holy Spirit. That is Living Christ's Story.

I give thanks for all that has been done to accomplish this in 2023.

'You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts' (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

Rev'd Julie Smith

St Mark's Mission

At St Mark's Church in Marske we seek to glorify God by creating a community where we live with the love of Christ. As we follow Christ we value;

Inclusion- we respect the individual and embrace people of all faiths.

Relevance- we promote Christ as central to our community, our world and ourselves.

Caring- we share Christ's love through welcome, hospitality, service and stewardship.

Relationships- we build nurturing connections with God, each other and the wider community.

Worship- we provide a space for people to celebrate and grow in the healing love and grace of Christ.

Churchwardens' Report

We started 2023 in vacancy. We were grateful to all our visiting clergy who gave cover so willingly. The Monday evening service was cancelled but all other services went ahead.

We were delighted to welcome Revd Julie Smith and her family as our new Vicar. She moved to Marske with her family in July.

It was good to be able to return to some of our traditional social and fundraising events such as 'Tea on the Lawn' and concerts. We all have a responsibility to maintain our building and this year we started to raise money for the repairs to the tower. Introducing the card machine at the back of church has enabled more people to make contributions. The church depends heavily on all our volunteers- seen and unseen. We thank all our church members for their ongoing support.

Mrs S Sotheran

Mr P Tinkler

Churchwardens

Building and Fabric Report

There has been no work on the fabric of the church this year. All the statutory checks on alarms, electrics and fire extinguishers have been undertaken.

Mrs S Sotheran

PCC Secretary's Report for 2023

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mark's Church had the responsibility of coordinating with the Incumbent in promoting, in the parish of Marske in Cleveland, the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has responsibility for St Mark's Church building, The White House building and St Germain's Tower in St Germain's Churchyard.

Safeguarding Statement

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Membership of the PCC

During 2023 the following served as members of the PCC

Incumbent- Revd Julie Smith (from 6th August 2023)

Churchwardens- Mrs Sue Sotheran and Mr Peter Tinkler

Elected Representatives

Mr Jonathan Bragg, Mr Graeme Cox, Dr Janet Dack, Mrs Elizabeth Fox, Mr Andrew Fox, Mrs Clare Marshall, Mrs Laura Maskery, Mr John Ridgway (until October 2023), Mrs Margaret Tinkler, Mr Jack Thomas, Miss Sue Thompson.

Co-opted Members

Miss Carol Anderson

Deanery Synod Representatives

Dr Janet Dack, Mr Jack Thomas, Mr Peter Tinkler

The PCC met on seven occasions and has been occupied with maintaining the routine activities of the Parish and working to welcome Revd Julie Smith as our new Vicar on the 6th August.

The PCC expressed its wish to the Diocese in January 2023 that the vacancy should be advertised nationally. In May 2023 the PCC also expressed its wish to the Diocese that the Incumbent should be appointed as Vicar rather than as Priest in Charge.

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Meetings- 6th February, 13th June, 19th September 2023.

Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) Revd Adam Reed (Area Dean), Oliver 'Ed' Evans (Lay Area Dean), Bruce Williams (Deanery Financial Advisor), Jack Colin George Thomas (Deanery Secretary), Father Adam Gaunt, Jean Parncutt.

St Mark's Deanery Synod Reps- as above

The Guisborough Deanery is a family of churches. There are 15 parishes from a variety of different and sociological and economic backgrounds, all of which have different and similar challenges of faith and growth. The Deanery spans from Easington in its south, all the way to Coatham and Dormanstown in the north.

General topics of discussion at Deanery Synod meetings focused on the unanimous agreement that greater efforts were needed to be made to foster a more collaborative approach to faith in our Deanery. Efforts were being made to facilitate this.

The general Deanery Synod was a place of sharing good practice for church governance and a way of sharing where assistance could be formed. As a Deanery we nearly met the Deanery running costs which is a significant improvement on past performances, providing enough money to cover the cost of eight full time clergy, there are nine within the Deanery.

Deanery Synod Day was held in the middle of 2023 where all parishes in the Deanery were represented. It was a day whereby faith was embraced and the nature of faith was discussed.

Mr Jack Colin George Thomas

Fundraising

Quiz nights, Tea on the Lawn, Magic Night, concerts by Marske Fisherman's Choir, Rockulele, the Odell Singers and The White Rose Singers were approved by the PCC.

Policies

Policies for Conflict of Interest, Legacies, Ex-offenders and Complaints Procedure were adopted in October.

Standing Committee

This was set up and comprises of Revd Julie Smith, Mrs Sue Sotheran, Mr Peter Tinkler, Dr Janet Dack, Mrs Elizabeth Fox.

Remembrance Sunday

A Remembrance service was held in church at 9.45am preceded by a parade. There was then an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial outside church with the reading of the names and the silence at 11am followed by the laying of wreaths. Approximately 200 people attended the outside part. A trumpeter from Marske Silver Band played the Last Post and Reveille. Scouts and Guides were present.

Repairs to the Tower

There is now sufficient funds in the Tower Fund for us to apply for grants. The repairs are expected to cost in the region of £107 000. The Tower Fund stands at £44 000.

Links with Schools

Both Westgarth and Errington primary schools have held events in St Mark's Church during 2023.

Links with the Community

St Mark's contributed again to Scarecrow Week in May.

'Reindeer Night' was held on Thursday 7th December with the Santa Parade. There were no reindeer due to animal welfare concerns. The church was open for refreshments and the sale of goods and the singing of Christmas music.

Parcels for Eastern Europe

Members of the congregation donated gift filled shoe boxes for families in Eastern Europe.

Redcar Food Bank

Basic foodstuffs have continued to be regularly donated at St Mark's.

Women's Refuge in Redcar

Gifts were provided at Easter and Christmas.

Elizabeth Fox (PCC Secretary)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MARSKE IN CLEVELAND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestric Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2023	Total 2022 £
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023					
Receipts					
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>					
Tax Efficient planned giving		33775		33775	30958
Gift Aid small donations scheme		9251		9251	9133
Collections		4268		4268	5877
Donations		2372		2372	3217
Income Tax Recovered		9059		9059	10585
Heating Grant from York Diocese		0		0	1250
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>					
Christmas Bazaar		2416		2416	2691
Sundry	A	5832		5832	6221
<i>Income from Investments</i>					
M & G Charifund		3515		3515	3413
Rent received from E E		3063		3063	3063
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Wedding/Funeral Fees		9386		9386	12000
Gross Income from Magazine		4264		4264	2722
White House Lets		12636		12636	9634
White House Project		0		0	10006
Tower Fund		10283		10283	6340
Sunday Club		72		72	74
<i>Charitable Giving</i>					
Children' Society & Others			3133	3133	2691
Funerals			1845	1845	3019
TOTAL RECEIPTS		110192	4978	115170	122894
Payments					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Diocesan Freewill Offering		56000		56000	57000
Clergy Expenses		3134		3134	2539
Church Running Expenses	B	26074		26074	29457
Fees (Weddings & Funerals)		2972		2972	4359
Fees (Auditor & Surveyor)		330		330	306
Costs of trading (Magazine)		4435		4435	4349
White House	C	21128		21128	12077
White House Project		0		0	7795
Charitable Giving			5013	5013	5613
Sunday Club		78		78	84
Sundry	D	791		791	1852
TOTAL PAYMENTS		114942	5013	119955	125431
Excess/deficit of Receipts over Payments				-4785	-2537
Bank current account as at 1st January 2023				22983	25520
Bank current account as at 31st December 2023				18198	22983

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MARSKE IN CLEVELAND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2023	Total 2022 £
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023				
CASH FUNDS				
Santander Bank Account	18198		18198	22983
TOTAL CASH FUNDS	18198		18198	22983
INVESTMENT ASSETS				
Lloyds Banking Group 73 Ordinary Shares @ 45.41p	35		35	33
M & G Charifund 117.206 Accumulation Units		35158	35158	33926
M & G Charifund 2067 Income Units		29662	29662	30375
M & G Charifund 2045 Income Units (Parish Funds)	29343		29343	30049
	47576	64820	112396	117366
Creditors				
TotalEnergies - Church	1155			
TotalEnergies - White House	562			

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

a	b	c
Coffees/Raffles 2508	Cleaning 2332	Honorarium 1200
Memorial Book 40	Wine, Wafers etc 488	Cleaning 3818
"100" Club 1330	Gas 7338	Gas 2710
Sundry Functions 568	Electricity 3697	Electricity 1437
Sale Calendars 491	Stationery 853	Ins & Rates 2731
Reindeer Night 133	Insurance 4654	Painting Inside & out 8271
Christmas Cards 282	Organ Service 188	Routine Expenses 961
General Sales 346	Repairs 6029	21128
Riding Lights 134	Dona Percentage 178	
5832	Bazaar 317	
	26074	
d	List of funds at year end	
Concerts 90	Sick & Poor Fund	888
World Singing Day 105	Magazine	-171
F.W.O. Envelopes 140	Tower	24226
Baptism (W/O) 95	White House	-8585
Sundry Expenses 361	Church	1354
791	Sunday Club	486
	TOTAL	18198

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 28th April 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Rev. Julie Smith (Vicar)



Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mark, Marske in Cleveland

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out in the preceding 2 pages

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 there are no other 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.



G Fitzgerald BA FCA DChA
Azets Audit Services
Wynyard Park House
Wynyard Park Avenue
Wynyard
TS22 5TB
29th April 2024

Parish Magazine

We have had another good year with the magazine and a variety of articles which I hope you all found interesting. Once again I need to thank the excellent photographers we have in the village and their generosity in allowing me to use their photographs. There are still some spaces left for advertising but the situation has improved.
Joyce Cawthorne

Sunday Club

We had two children in regular attendance. Our lessons consisted of lighting candles, prayers and taking a collection. A bible reading following the church calendar, bible stories and doing various crafts reflecting the lesson were also included. Throughout the year the children's work was displayed on the Sunday Club notice board, hoping to encourage other children to attend. We donated one week's collection to Farm Africa. We gave the children Christmas and Easter gifts. At the Christmas Fair we had a children's stall with a card game where every child won a gift. There were also toys, books etc for sale. This was well supported.
Sue Thompson & Mary Baker

Children's Society

The highlight of the year is always our Christingle Service when the church is filled with the light from all our Christingle candles. It is good to see so many families gathering for this service which raised £384 for the Children's Society. Thanks go to the team who put the 150 Christingles together and to Anne Boville for playing the piano at the service. The collection boxes held by individuals raised £532.12 for the charity. Our thanks to Barbara who organises this.
Sue Beach

Messy Church

Our team of helpers welcome children from 0-12 years of age with their families. Each session started with worship and a Bible story. Topics included Noah, Easter and Harvest. Craft activities and games followed with tea at the end. Meeting every month except August the team have proved to be flexible as numbers vary from month to month. We always have room for more.
Cynthia Snowball

Marske Bellringers

This year we were able to ring two quarter peals. The first to welcome Julie as our new Vicar and the second to mark 50 years since the bells were hung. We welcomed people to the tower to 'Ring for the King' on the day of his Coronation. We hosted (and entered) the District striking competition. Our latest recruits have made good progress as they progress to method ringing. We have rung for every Sunday 9.30 service as well as for a couple of weddings. We have also organised fund raisers for the repair work on the tower.

Marske Bellringers Accounts 2023

INCOME

Weddings £ 50.00
subs £ 39.00

interest £ 3.00
donations £ 22.50

TOTAL £ 114.50

EXPENDITURE

subs £ 84.00
weddings

£ 84.00

BALANCE

balance at 01/01/23 £ 117.08
increase £ 30.50
balance at 31/12/23 £ 147.58

Electoral Roll

155 people on the electoral roll as of December 2023.

127 residents 28 non residents

David Dack (Electoral Roll Officer)

Safeguarding

All Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and relevant training for St Mark's members who are responsible for regular activities and vulnerable adults have either been completed or members are awaiting suitable training course dates. These checks and training are for Church leaders, PCC members, Churchwardens, Sunday Club leaders, Messy Church Leaders and Choirmaster.

There have been no Safeguarding issues reported this year.

The PCC and Safeguarding Officers have made use of The Parish Dashboard System.

Carol Anderson & Sue Thompson Parish Safeguarding Officers

Mother's Union

From January 2023 we continued to be run by committee. We had a monthly branch meeting on the second Wednesday and a prayer group on the first Monday of the month. Weekly house groups were held during Lent and a Lent Service took place led by Revd Bill Dewing our Archdeaconry Chaplain.

We continue being financially stable. A Spring Coffee morning and the annual Strawberry Tea together raised almost £500 for the Summer of Hope Appeal and this combined with other monies from our monthly coffee mornings in church and other donations meant that a total of £1190 was given to Mother's Union charities over the year.

In September we were pleased to welcome our new Vicar and Mother's Union member Revd Julie Smith to the branch and have appreciated her subsequent regular involvement.

Since October we have done the readings and intercessions on the third Wednesday of the month.

During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence members held a vigil in the square holding placards and handing out information leaflets. Our branch has signed up to the Rise Up Campaign Pledge in support of an end to gender-based violence and the support of victims in our own country and around the world. Each month we collect essential items for the Women's Refuge in Redcar and along with members of our church congregation have donated gifts for these families at Easter and Christmas.

At the end of 2023 we lost a treasured member and branch secretary- Sue Gray.

We go forward with a membership of 37, of which 2 are indoor members. We now have an 'organising committee' of seven and are pleased to report that attendance at meetings has risen.

Jean Johnson (Committee Member)

St Mark's Choir

The choir leads the worship at the 9.30am Sunday Eucharist. The music is varied in style to accommodate a range of musical tastes within the congregation. We aim to sing a short choral item at some 9.30am Eucharist services and at all major festivals.

The Nine lessons and Carols service went ahead as usual together with some guests and members of the congregation singing in the choir. Illness prevented other regulars who love the service from appearing this year. The service was well attended and again clearly attracted visitors who do not regularly attend St Mark's.

St Mark's is fortunate in having a small core of very loyal singers who attend almost all practices and services. We are a small choir and every voice really counts. At press we have nine singers. NB WE URGENTLY NEED RECRUITS IN ALL VOICES in order for us to fulfil our role at St Mark's. We have just one short practice on Monday morning and sing at one Sunday service- not much more commitment than is made by regular members of the congregation already. The **choir** cannot be taken for granted.

We are fortunate in now having two supplementary organists, Debbie Read and Llinos Mary who enjoy playing for us.

All at St Mark's will miss Christyl Bell whose funeral was on November 10th and who proclaimed her faith through the choir she enjoyed so much.

Andrew Fox (Organist and Choirmaster)

Choir Accounts 2023

For the purchase of robes, music, organ and piano repairs etc

Summary

	Petty Cash	Yorks BS
31/12/22		
Brought Forward	£24.19	£4926.96
Income	Nil	£ 263.83 Interest + Coffees
Expenditure	Nil	£ 90.00 Piano tuning and Music from Iona Community.
Balance at 31/12/23	£24.19	£5100.82

Audited by Ian Stoker 18/1/24

The White House

2023 saw the end of our programme of improvements for the White House. We now have a building which is clean, warm and a pleasant environment for our users. Thanks are due to all those who supported the appeal with gifts and time. Due to the pandemic we lost two of our main customers so we now need to increase the use of the buildings so that we can cover our overheads.

All enquiries regarding the White House to-

Mrs K Callaghan 07412656492 thewhitehousemarske@gmail.com

Friends of St Germain's

Our group of 9 volunteers have continued to look after St Germain's churchyard. We have tidied untended interment plots by weeding and removing spent flowers. We have cleared older graves of weeds and laid membrane and gravel/stones to make maintenance easier. The perimeter wall and fences have had the vegetation pruned back.

RCB Council funded a new notice board which is outside the churchyard wall. A daybreak service was enjoyed on Easter Sunday. Our annual Remembrance Service was well attended and appreciated by all who joined us. Marske Fishermen's Choir led our Candlelit Carol Event which was a great success. The Memorial Tree in St Mark's gave an opportunity for visitors to remember their loved ones. Generous donations were collected from these sources. We are grateful to Bede Financial Services and the Library for facilitating our donation boxes. Edith Cockerill made a generous donation from sales of her craft work. St Mark's Ladies Fellowship also donated to our group. Visitors to the churchyard thank us for our work and remark on the beauty of our special landmark.

We have a Facebook page to distribute information. Posters on our events are placed on local notice boards.

Gill Haveron